



# Pentwater Lake Association

January 2010

## A COOL SUMMER BUT GOOD WATER QUALITY

*Tom Osborn, Water Quality Chair*

The summer of 2009 will certainly be remembered as a cool summer. In fact, the average temperature for July 2009 was the coldest since records started being recorded in 1895. This meant there were few truly stifling days, but also a fair number of days where going to the beach was maybe not the best option. These climatic challenges, however, did not keep the intrepid PLA Water Quality Group from conducting our summer water quality sampling program. We again sampled Pentwater Lake and its tributaries, both the South Branch and North Branch of Pentwater River, for water chemistry and bacteriology, in early June, mid July, mid August, and early September. In addition to the above four outings, we sampled for water clarity, dissolved oxygen and temperature an additional five times throughout the summer.

All in all, the water quality remains in good shape. With a few minor exceptions, last year's report (Jan 2009) could be slipped into this spot and still be applicable. As always, nutrient loading remains our number one concern. Nitrates and phosphates are fertilizers and big changes in the amount of these compounds in the lake water would likely lead to big quality issues. We did see an increase in nitrate nitrogen levels in the lake and stream samples in 2009 over 2008, but last year we had readings at the lower level of the long term average. The average lake nitrate concentration for 2009 was 0.70 mg/l as compared with an average of 0.47 mg/l for 2008. This is within the long term range, but any upswing tells us to keep an eye on it. The North Branch increased from 0.76 mg/l to 1.03 mg/l, while the South Branch, which historically has higher nitrate levels, doubled from 0.93 to 1.81 mg/l. This is an average of four samples, though, with one very high reading of 3.90 mg/l in July raising the average considerably. The other three samples were in the 1.0 to 1.17 mg/l range, historically normal, so again, we will watch this trend but are not alarmed by one possible outlier.

On the other hand phosphorus increases would alarm us. The relative scarcity of this element in the lake water is very probably what keeps us from having nuisance algae blooms each summer. Available, or soluble reactive phosphorus (SRP, aka phosphate), remains under control, with no lake samples showing detectible SRP in any 2009 sam-

ples. The tributary streams also show little phosphorus contribution, with only three samples showing any phosphate above detection limits, and then barely. Total phosphorus is also measured, due to the possibility that any available phosphorus may be taken up so quickly by algae that water samples don't note an increase even if the algae is flourishing. Total phosphorus samples digest any algae in the sample and include the cellular phosphorus in the sample results. Significantly, total phosphorus results remain the same at all locations for 2009, averaging between 0.02 and 0.03 mg/l.

Low- and no-phosphate lawn fertilizer is now readily available everywhere, so please do us all a favor and consider switching to no-phosphate in 2010.

Our water clarity showed no change for 2009, ranging from a minimum of five feet, as measured with a Secchi disk, to a maximum clarity of about nine feet. There was no apparent seasonal pattern to the clarity readings. No big algae bloom was noted this year.

The dissolved oxygen pattern was the same this year as in previous summers, showing concentrations of above 5 mg/l to a depth of 25-30 feet through June, then quickly being depleted with depth by July. The 5 mg/l crossover occurred between 15 and 20 feet below the surface for the remainder of the summer. The 5 mg/l number is used because it is generally considered a ballpark minimum for cold water species such as trout and salmon. Warm water species, such as bass and bluegill, can handle lower oxygen levels, but by mid July, virtually no oxygen is found in any water below 25 feet in depth.

Our extended coliform sampling continues, especially along the North Branch, and the results are, quite frankly, a bit confusing. The samples from the lake itself showed virtually no coliform for the July, August and September samples, but like June last year, the June 2009 lake samples found elevated colony counts, this year finding 82 per 100 ml in one sample and 238 per 100 ml in the other. This latter level actually exceeds the swimming standard of 200 per 100 ml. The samples from the two tributaries in

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## Message from the President



Obviously the talk of Pentwater and the entire area is the AEGIR Wind Turbine Project proposed for the immediate offshore of Lake Michigan from Little Point Sable to the Ludington Pumped Storage Project.

I wanted to be in favor of it! We can't keep talking about energy independence, but do nothing about it. We can't keep talking about the risks of increasing carbon dioxide levels, yet continue our almost exclusive dependence on fuel-burning electrical plants to satisfy our increasing demand for electricity. I don't want to be a NIMBYist, and depend on solutions that only impact someone else's backyard. And we all know how this area is hurting economically, badly in need of jobs and revenues.

But, I've come to the conclusion that this wind project is not so much a solution, but is, at best, a trade of one set of problems for another. That's not progress! We shouldn't have to settle for such a poor trade off. And we shouldn't tolerate having it forced on us. NIMBYism—I don't think so. This back yard is way too big, affects too many people, and is too naturally unique to meet the not-in-my-backyard definition.

Wind power does have potential for diversifying our energy supply in a minimally polluting manner, and therefore is considered an environmentally friendly or green energy source. But that certainly doesn't mean that turning offshore Lake Michigan into an industrial zone, packing in up to 200 huge turbines so that the view between the Little and Big Point Sable is totally dominated by wind machines, is green. We don't drill or mine in National Parks, we don't drill off near-shore California or Florida, we resist turning the Sonoma Desert into one big solar array. It can't be considered environmentally friendly to sacrifice one of the finest undisturbed views left in this part of the world—for either environmental or economic reasons. Economically, I can't think that we would risk trading the reputation this stretch of coast has of broad beaches, outstanding views, and world-class sunsets for one of possible tourist pariah. Just having the perception out there that this area is one to avoid could destroy one of our two economic mainstays. The economic benefits to the community from this project have yet to be enumerated or quantified, but I can't imagine they can equal the economic risk and justify the environmental and aesthetic loss we would face.

We do need to strongly pursue alternative energy options, but that doesn't mean we have to accept every one that comes along with a green label. We owe it to ourselves to be picky and careful. And to my mind this one is too grey to be green.

*Tom Osborn, President*

### Officers

President, Tom Osborn  
 Vice-President, Lynne Cavazos  
 Secretary, Norma Oly  
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<u>Until June 2010</u>	<u>Until June 2011</u>
Paul Anderson	Lynne Cavazos
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Until June 2012  
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Water Quality	Tom Osborn
Social	Lynne Cavazos
Membership	Paul Anderson
Publicity	Norma Oly
Newsletter Editor	Charlotte Lindstrom
Website	George Richey
Long Range Planning	Tom Osborn

For more information about a committee or to get involved contact Tom Osborn at 231-869-2140 or [kitosborn@hotmail.com](mailto:kitosborn@hotmail.com)

Website: [www.pentwaterlakeassociation.org](http://www.pentwaterlakeassociation.org)

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June also had extraordinary levels of 1986 per 100 ml in the South Branch and over 2420 in the North Branch. High spring runoffs probably contribute to these early season highs, but these readings were so much higher than any results we have previously or since seen that we suspect a lab issue also. The South Branch results ranged from 26 to 78 colonies per 100 ml in the following three samples, within our historical range.

Because of the high levels we have seen in the North Branch in previous years, we now test for coliform at 11 sites in the North Branch watershed, from the mouth upstream to within the Manistee National Forest in SE Mason County, and the tributaries Dumaw and Cedar Creeks. At the river mouth, at the Monroe Road bridge, we found levels of over 2420 colonies in June, 488 in July, 649 in August, and 210 in September, all of which exceed the surface water contact recommendation. If these levels were found at the Lake Michigan beach, it would be closed to swimming. Curiously, though, the upstream samples demonstrate no definitive pattern and show no obvious source of these high counts. In August and September, our highest count was actually at the river mouth, while in July it was at our mid-stream location, a couple of miles east of Oceana Drive. And there is no clear concentration trend noted, with a peak typically followed by a valley followed by a peak each sampling time, only usually at different

locations each time. We naturally suspect the concentrated hog operations upstream not far from the river, but so far our results have not pinpointed these as definitive sources and we haven't seen elevated nutrient loads in the North Branch. We have discussed this issue with several DEQ water quality experts and have reported the data to them. They have requested our complete data set for the last several years as part of the proposed Pentwater sewage system permit review process, which we have accommodated. None of the DEQ personnel was alarmed by our coliform counts, noting that some streams have unaccountably high levels from apparently natural sources. Wildlife concentrations, soils and drainage ditch runoff, marshlands, and a number of other sources can contribute to coliform levels. None of us have good reason to suspect a human sewage source for the high counts, which is the primary issue of concern with high coliform readings. The DEQ will be sampling the Pentwater River system this summer for water quality and indicator macroinvertebrates and the team leader is aware of our issue. We plan to meet with them when they conduct their studies to discuss this further.

The sampling program will continue in 2010 and we will continue to baseline our lake's water quality. We will also continue our studies of the North Branch and its coliform mystery.

## Getting to Know Board Member Tony Monton



Tony grew up on a farm South of Custer and attended Mason County Eastern School. His family is firmly rooted in Oceana County, because his grandfather started a farm in Weare Township in the 1890s where he raised a large family. His grandfather moved into Pentwater during the 1930s, and he

resided in Pentwater for almost 30 years.

Tony majored in economics at Michigan State University, and he graduated from the University of Notre Dame Law School in 1976. Tony and his wife, Kareen, moved to Pentwater in 1976, and he joined Walter Urick in the practice of law. In 1980, Tony was elected as Oceana County's prosecuting attorney, and he served in that position until elected circuit judge for the 27<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit (Oceana and

Newaygo counties) in 1988. Tony is currently serving in his fourth six-year term as circuit judge.

Tony is involved in many civic activities: member of the board of directors for Memorial Medical Center; president and member of the Hart Public Schools Foundation; member and past president of the Pentwater Service Club; and member of the Hart Lions Club. He has served on the board of directors for the Community Foundation for Oceana County, and he was member and past president of the Hart Area Jaycees.

Tony has enjoyed the many recreational opportunities that the Pentwater area offers. In the summer, he enjoys sailing his sailboat "Ariel" in Lake Michigan; in the fall, he hunts deer; and in the winter, he is involved in downhill and cross country skiing.

Tony's wife, Kareen, is a counselor at West Shore Community College. His son, Brian, has followed his dad's footsteps into the legal profession as a practicing lawyer in Hart with the Law Offices of Jim Prince.

# News Around Town . . .

Lynne Cavazos

## Art On The Town is Moving

The *Art On the Town Gallery* has moved out of its location at 165 Hancock Street in Pentwater. The gallery is temporarily out of business and needs to find a new location. If you have any suggestions regarding a location for the gallery, please contact Judy Seeley at (231) 869-2691.

## Caesar's Palette at New Location

Looking for *Caesar's Palette*? - you will find them at their new location at 108 Hancock Street. The owner's, Henry and Mary Thiele, are delighted to have a more visible location for their arts and crafts store. It will be open through the winter months from 11:00 am-5:00 pm on Friday and Saturday. *Caesar's Palette* offers a complete selection of arts and crafts supplies for your painting, calligraphy, and origami projects, plus selection of crystals and semi-precious gems for beading and all of the supplies needed for jewelry projects. They carry a wide range of "how-to" books and a variety of children's art supplies. In addition to the arts and crafts supplies, *Caesar's Palette* features original artwork and crafts from local artists. Be sure to check out the pre-estate ring collection which includes an amazing assortment of rings for sale.

## Northern Lights Opening Soon at Pentwater Place

*Northern Lights*, an exciting new store located in Pentwater Place across from the Village Green will be open for business on the Pentwater retail scene in May 2010. *Northern Lights* brings an eclectic mixture of personally handcrafted bath and body products, and spotlights locally made candles in its introduction of "All Things Luminary" which includes decorative candles, granite oil lamps, fire pots, and other unusual art objects that "Light the Night". Among its offerings will be elegant and whimsical tea and spice blends from Michigan and around the world, and an assortment of glass and iron art that can adorn cabins to castles. Offering space for local artists to showcase their works of art will round out this distinctive and inspiring place to shop! *Northern Lights* promises to delight all of your senses! Owners Chris and Roxanne Wypych, 42 Second Street Unit 2, Pentwater Place.

## Breakfast at Cenzo's

At their market on Sixth Street owners Lisa and Kevin Henley proudly offer a full range of groceries, liquor, beer and wine and complete deli service. Cenzo's wants to stock all your grocery needs, and if they don't have what you're looking for, will do their best to get it. If you do not feel like cooking, take advantage of delicious meals made fresh from scratch daily. Customers are welcome to stay and eat in the bistro area by a warm cozy fireplace. The latest addition: Belgian waffle buffet with fresh fruit and fluffy scrambled eggs served daily from 8:30-10:30 am.

## Winter Special at the Pedicure Station

Take a break from the wintertime weather in Pentwater and give your feet a treat. The *Pentwater Pedicure Station*, operated by

Robin Rodriguez-Wells, is open for business through the winter months in the Red Roof Condominiums behind Charlie's Marina on East Lake Street. Clients who visit *Pedicure Station* will enjoy a relaxing pedicure in one of Robin's luxurious massage chairs. There are two massage chairs so bring a friend. In addition to pedicures, Robin also offers manicures and sculptured nails. In addition, the Station has a full line of nail care products, lotion scrubs, nail polish, and self-tanning products. Gift baskets and gift certificates are available for that special someone. Specials on pedicures are offered during January, February, and March of 2010. *Pentwater Pedicure Station* is open 9 AM to 5 PM, Monday through Saturday. Call Robin to make an appointment during the winter months. She can be reached by phone at (231) 869-5200.

## A New Police Chief for the Village

Former Mason County Sheriff Laude Hartrum is the new Police Chief for the Village of Pentwater. He was recommended to the Village Council as the best candidate for the position. "It was a unanimous recommendation," according to Village Manager, Jim Miller. "Laude interviewed the best, has great experience and knows the area and law enforcement. He has a lot to offer Pentwater. " Laude Hartrum officially became the new Chief in January taking over for retiring Chief Mike Schuitema.

## Pentwater Arts Council

An exciting new non-profit corporation has been formed to promote and encourage the arts in the Pentwater area. The Pentwater Arts Council will work closely with the community to make Pentwater and the surrounding area even more of a "cultural magnet." If you are interested in becoming a member or have any questions or suggestions, please contact any of the following board members: Patric Sullivan, President; Jim Ege, Vice President; or Trustees Neil Lemme, Maxine MacLeod, and Mary Stiphany. Email: pentwaterartscouncil@yahoo.com

## Dredging of Pentwater Channel

The Luedtke Engineering Company of Frankfort was awarded the contract to dredge shoaled materials from Arcadia, Leland, and Pentwater harbors during the summer of 2009. The three dredging projects were funded by the 2009 Omnibus Bill. A decision was made to save the money from last year and postpone the dredging of the Pentwater channel until the summer of 2010. Jim Miller, Pentwater Village Manager, has been told that the dredging will happen potentially this coming summer. All of the dredge shoal material will be placed on the nearby beaches.

## Fishing Pier and Dinghy Dock will be Ready!

The new fishing pier located at the end of Fourth Street will be ready for use in the spring/summer of 2010. The base part of the pier is in place and the two additional sections moved over by the marina for storage. The Village hopes to get a grant for lighting and for bubblers in order to keep the pier in place

## News Around Town (Continued). . .

throughout the winter. It is the intention of the Village to reinstall the dinghy dock north of the fishing pier.

### New AG Outlet on Monroe Road

A Benzonia-based agricultural equipment manufacturer and supplier has expanded into Oceana County with its third outlet. The new Gillison Variety Fabrication outlet is located on a 10 acre site on Monroe Road between the US-31 expressway and Oceana Drive. The company has had a strong customer base in Oceana County for a number of years and now there is a permanent base here set to open in January of 2010. The new facility will carry all of the Gillison's equipment lines. The initial 7,800 square-foot building will house a showroom and a parts and repair department. Major product suppliers include Massey Ferguson, Bush Hog, Brillion, Hesston, and Sunflower. The company has hired four people to operate the store. Dave Dillingham will be the Manager of the new outlet.

### Proposed Boardwalk Project

The Pentwater Downtown Development Authority (PDDA) is proposing to build a boardwalk between Charlie's Marina and Snug Harbor. It would be 8 feet wide and built in the "green space" along the Business 31 roadway. The estimated cost for the project

is \$200,000. The PDDA is in the process of submitting grant applications for funding to the Natural Resources Trust Fund and the Coastal Fund Source. Two-year permits have been received from the Department of Environmental Quality and the Corps of Engineers. If funding can be obtained, the project would be completed in 2012.

### Update on the Pentwater Wastewater Expansion Project

The Village of Pentwater has encountered another roadblock in its efforts to gain approval for its new wastewater treatment system. The Village had planned to locate a rapid infiltration system adjacent to the Pentwater River. However, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) in Lansing has determined that any system used by the Village must meet a zero phosphorous input level back into the river. According to Village Manager Jim Miller it may not be possible to meet the zero phosphorous level requirement with the rapid infiltration system being considered. The DEQ has given the village more time to evaluate the new requirements, revisit previous proposals and explore additional types of systems that can meet the DEQ requirements.

## Bottomed Out????

*by Paul Anderson*

Have we reached the bottom of the real estate market here in the Pentwater area? This question has probably crossed your mind more than once in the past year or so. It is a topic of many coffee gatherings and cocktail hours. I don't pretend to have a crystal ball that is any clearer than the next "expert," but being in the industry in the Pentwater market, I have a closer look at the subtle changes that can occur within the market on a month to month, week to week, and even sometimes on a day to day basis.

There are many factors that affect the values of real estate, the biggest of which is supply and demand. Here are some of the things that I have seen to indicate an upward change in the local market:

1. An increase in homes selling, buyers looking, and values holding or increasing. A spike in activity doesn't necessarily mean a continued upward swing. It could be just a short term spurt. But we have seen a significant increase in Pentwater this past year (especially during the summer) compared to the same period in 2008. This is a sign of better things down the road.
2. Higher selling or asking prices compared to recent appraisal values. Usually asking/selling prices will increase 6 to 9 months before appraised values. Prices in Pentwater are holding steady and selling prices this past summer were averaging around 12% below the asking price, which is better than the 15 to 20% in 2008.
3. A reduced number of foreclosures and short sales and a shorter marketing time from list to sale. The total number of foreclosures and short sales has decreased in the last quarter. Legal notices of foreclosures in the local paper dropped from 2.5 pages to less than one page this last week. In Oceana County marketing time of low to medium priced properties has dropped from one year to six to nine months.
4. The number of summer visitors in Pentwater, Silver Lake and Hart. The number in 2009 was off the chart, as estimated by talking with local merchants and the feel of the amount of traffic and people on the sidewalks.

So for the outlook on the future I would say that if we haven't reached bottom we're very close. The old adage of "location, location, location" has a new twist of "price, price, price." Pentwater will always draw people. Once they get the sand in their shoes they can never get it out, will return for years and may eventually buy a cottage. The demand is as strong as it ever was – just put on hold for now. When buyers regain confidence in the economy they will be back again buying like crazy.

# Lake Michigan Offshore Wind Turbine Farm

By Paul Anderson

“The facts, Ma’am, just the facts.” Those of us who are at a “gentle age” will remember police Sgt .Joe Friday from the hit TV show “Dragnet” saying that he just wanted to know what the facts are of a certain case – not what the witness thought, felt, or imagined they saw or heard. Following are the facts that we have heard from the developers up to the present time:

1. Two companies are exploring the possibility of a mega wind farm: Scandia Wind LLC from Minneapolis, and Havgul Clean Energy of Norway.
  2. The mega wind farm will cover approximately 100 square miles (10 miles x 10 miles).
  3. The northeast corner of the footprint will be approximately 3.7 miles off the coast of Mason County by the Ludington Pump Storage facility.
  4. The southeast corner will be approximately 1.5 miles off Little Point Sable.
  5. The size of the turbine generators will be either 5 or 10 megawatt units.
  6. The goal for the total generating capacity is 1,000 megawatts.
  7. The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality have joint jurisdiction of Lake Michigan bottom lands and control any sort of development or construction in the water.
- \* Promise of jobs for the area.
  - \* Clean, green energy.
  - \* Possible elimination of need for more fossil fuel power plants, reducing CO2 emissions.
  - \* Extra revenues for the State of Michigan through riparian leases.
  - \* Help for Michigan to meet mandated clean energy percentages.

## Con:

- \* Possible decline of property values due to impacting the view of Lake Michigan.
- \* Possible negative impact on tourism, resulting in negative cash flow for local tourist-oriented businesses.
- \* Aesthetic impact on lake views and perception of this section of Lake Michigan coastline being less favorable as a tourist destination.
- \* Possibility of an accidental oil spill.
- \* Navigational hazard.
- \* Impact on commercial and sport fishing, bird migration, bats.

The next public forum meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on January 18 in the Shelby High School auditorium. There will a second meeting in Mason County the next evening, January 19, at 7 p.m. in the Peterson Auditorium located at the Ludington High School. Everyone is urged to attend one of these meetings and voice an opinion either for or against. This is an important issue facing our community.



No matter what you personally think about the proposed offshore wind farm, there are always two sides to an issue, and this one is no different.

## Pro:

- \* Promise of royalty or other revenues to the area.

For additional information and photographs, go to [www.scandiawind.com/AegirPresentations.html](http://www.scandiawind.com/AegirPresentations.html)

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You know that indestructible black box that is used on airplanes? Why don't they make the whole plane out of that stuff?

- Anonymous

## Pentwater's Artist Palette

*Our Continuing Series on Pentwater Artists...by Norma Oly*



Mother and daughter artists Maggie (Margaret) and Jenny (Jennifer) Saylor, are very much alike in their love

for the creative arts, but are unique in the art forms in which they choose to work and express themselves. Both women are multi-talented and multi-faceted, as is husband and dad, Jerry, known fondly to Lake Association members as our recent past president.

Maggie has always loved to use her sewing machine - first, to create clothing, and then on to exquisite quilt-making. "As a quilter, I've made everything from quilted placemats to large wall hangings," Maggie says, "and I still manage to do about one large quilt per year." But more recent venues have led her into stitching deluxe purses, beach and tote bags, shopping bags and she has even created her own style of train duffle bags, all with the most colorful, durable and beautiful fabrics. "I order many of my fabrics from shops in New Era and Montague, as well as some from Kentucky," Maggie notes. Her stitching is so perfect and her above-garage studio is filled with bolts of gorgeous material and stand after stand of wonderful purses and bag creations. "I do make items on consignment and for one or two shows each year," Maggie says, "but I mostly make the bags because I simply *love* to sew. I especially enjoy making purses while we're away in Florida during the winter time, because they are short projects compared to quilting and they are easier to make in one or two sittings."

Daughter Jenny grew up watching her mom work, and while she also loves using her hands to create objects d'art, "my best art form is metal working," she states, although you couldn't tell that by the beautiful two-foot stained glass sailboat scene hanging in her parents' front window. With an undergraduate degree in metal working from the University of Iowa, Jenny also earned an M.A. in Business and is in her fifteenth year of teaching art at West High School in Iowa City. She spends the school semesters teaching metal working and jewelry, stained glass, ceramics, sculpting and painting classes, and "I also enjoy doing about two art fairs per year. Every December the Eastside artists, a group of about twenty to twenty-five of us in the area, get

together for a holiday show and this is where I display and sell most of the custom jewelry I make and design during the year," states Jenny. "I also loved doing a show this past summer in Pentwater with my mom and friend, Becky Taylor."

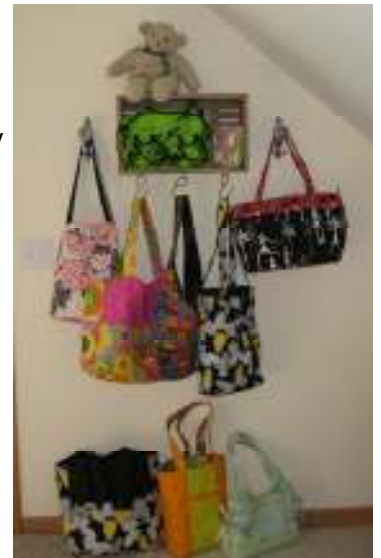
While Jenny and husband Brady spend most of their time working in Iowa City and tending to their two mastiffs and four cats, they also love to return to Pentwater two or three times each year for extended visits. "We are really beach bums at heart," Jenny states with a grin, "and we've been coming to Mears State Park with my folks since we were kids." Maggie and Jerry met while in high school and after he graduated from Kalamazoo College and obtained his PhD. from Duke University, the couple spent twenty-five years in Moline, Illinois where Jerry worked for the John Deere Corporation. He first came to Pentwater to fish with his oceanographer brother Jim (Emily) and he and Maggie would



take sons Chris and Tony along with daughter Jenny to Mears State Park for summer vacations. "We bought a place in Apache Hills fifteen years ago," recalls

Maggie, "and when Jerry retired in 2001, we renovated the cottage and moved to Pentwater permanently. We love having the kids and our three grandkids visit us, and after all, what is there *not* to love about living in Pentwater," she exclaims.

While the mother and daughter art duo have not yet put their outstanding works in local galleries, they do take custom orders and can be reached at Maggie's phone in Pentwater (231.869.5295). With my own fetish for jewelry, purses and shoes, I'm so happy to be able to shop right here in Pentwater with such a delightful mom and daughter artist team...now who can I find to create unique shoes?



## Pentwater in the Ice Age

*As told to Joe Primozich by Bud Stenburg, Charles Reed and Clark McKeown*

As the village of Pentwater grew in the late 1800's, the demand for ice to sustain its summer residents brought about a "Pentwater Ice Age." The development of ice boxes, the precursor of the modern refrigerator, created a new luxury. The five foot tall, two door ice boxes had the top door for block ice and the bottom door for storing perishable foods. A delivery boy looked for a sign on the door of the house indicating the amount of ice needed.

The ice age began out of the need for Pentwater businesses, homes, and cottages to have blocks of ice for keeping their food cold. Pentwater was a perfect location because it had first, a source of thick clean ice located close by on the west side of Pentwater Lake across from the marina; and second, from the lumbering camps and local saw mills, a source of the sawdust needed as insulation to keep the ice frozen year round. In poor ice years due to mild winters or constant surging Lake Michigan waters, the ice was cut from nearby Bass Lake. So the two foot blocks of ice varied in thickness due to ice conditions. A minimum of sixteen inches of ice allowed wagons and later trucks to come out on the ice and load up to haul the block ice away. Cutting ice continued for 80 years up to the early 1940's. Even though the saw mills closed by the early 1920's as the logging era ended, the sawdust was recycled each year for reuse into the early 1940's when the last block of ice was cut, stored, and delivered.

Ice storage buildings popped up wherever there was a need. Commercial fishing boats needed ice to pack the catch and ship locally or as far as Chicago by rail, wagon, or truck. The storage buildings varied from one 12 by 20 feet owned by Art and Ford Reed, to one 30 by 24 feet owned by Fritz and Bud Stenburg. The Reed ice building is still standing in the backyard of nephew Charles Reed at 285 South Clymer, but the sawdust is gone. All ice houses were around twenty feet tall. Charles remembers going with his dad on weekends to help his uncle sell or barter fresh fish with the farmers east of town.

The best memory Charles had was in July digging out hidden snowballs in the sawdust and surprising kids by having snowball fights. It would take the Reeds three to four weeks to fill their ice building between hunting, trapping, and checking their nets. Their boat, the Topper, was an open twenty foot boat with a six cylinder motor. They would set their nets close to shore and beach their boat where the nets were set, like at the McKeown's on the North Beach where a road end provided drive up access. Bud and Fritz Stenburg relied on farm boys to help get their ice. They brought stake trucks to haul ice and had the muscle to cut and move ice blocks. Meals were hardy and the day ended with a round or two of good cheer. Other places that needed help putting up ice were the South Beach, Cozy Camp, Larson's, and Ed Sayer's. Ed was the biggest commercial deliverer of ice. His building existed south of the Brass Anchor and all the way to the corner. Ed had young drivers, like Howard Schrupf, who delivered block ice to resorts and homes on the North Beach. Wagons or later trucks used this road to deliver ice, groceries, and people up to the 1940's.

When ice cutting time came, the five or six foot, two or single handed ice saws were sharpened, and tongs for grabbing the ice and moving it were gathered with ice shavers to shape the blocks. The hard work of putting up ice was made easier in later years when the Stenburgs had a gas driven conveyor belt to bring ice out of the water and on to the bed of a truck. Also, in later years a conveyor belt up and over Hancock Street allowed ice to be loaded, uninterrupted by business traffic, into Ed Sayer's ice storage building. The shavers were used to chip ice and pack the fish in boxes being sold locally or barrels being shipped even to Chicago. Fisherman risked the chance of not getting paid, as the word of Chicago dealers as to whether or not the fish had spoiled would determine if you got paid or not. Times were changing and by 1942, putting up ice in Pentwater became another story in its ongoing history.



Bud Stenburg holding an ice saw



The Reed ice house

## On The Agenda

The executive board of the Pentwater Lake Association meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Pentwater Village Hall. Meetings are always open to our members. Matters discussed at recent meetings include:

- October 20      **2010 Annual Meeting.** The Social Committee has reserved the Parish Hall at St. Vincent’s Church again for our annual dinner meeting on June 25, 2010.
- PLA Website.** New photographs and the October 2009 Newsletter have been added to our website (www.pentwaterlakeassociation.org).
- November 17    **2010 Annual Meeting.** Clifford Bloom, who writes the legal column for *The Riparian*, has agreed to be the speaker at our dinner meeting next June.
- Fishing Pier and Dinghy Dock.** The new fishing pier is being installed. The Board continues to be concerned about there being sufficient space to reinstall the dinghy dock next spring. It has been removed for the winter.
- December 15    **Boardwalk Proposed for Sixth Street.** Doug Osborn of the Pentwater Downtown Development Authority (DDA) attended the meeting to advise the Board on the current status of the project to install an eight foot boardwalk along Sixth Street between Charlie’s Marina and the Snug Harbor Marine. The cost will be \$200,000, 40% of which must be local funds. DEQ and Corps of Engineers permits have been obtained, but the Michigan Department of Transportation has denied a grant request due to lack of funds, although it does approve the project. The DDA is seeking funding from other grant sources and financial support from the Pentwater Lake Association and other local groups.

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**Membership Application**                      **PENTWATER LAKE ASSOCIATION**                      **Membership Application**  
P.O. Box 825  
Pentwater, Michigan 49449

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Local Address:

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address:

Street \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s): Local ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Mailing ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues:	Yearly Family Membership (one vote), from July 1 through June 30	\$ <u>25.00</u>
	Subscription to Michigan Riparian Magazine, published quarterly ( <b>optional</b> ) \$8.00	\$ <u>.00</u>
	<b>Total (Make check payable to Pentwater Lake Association, Inc.)</b>	<b>\$ <u>.00</u></b>

## 2010 Pentwater Events Calendar

<b>Feb. 13</b>	Valentine Wine Walk – 2 pm	<b>Aug. 1</b>	St. James Church Annual Chicken Dinner - Noon
Feb. 13-14	Free Fishing Weekend	Aug. 12-15	Pentwater Homecoming Celebration
Feb. 13&20	Winter Fest – 4th Annual (2 weekends)	Aug. 12	PLA <sup>4</sup> Strawberry Shortcake Sale – Village Green - 6 pm
Feb. 20	Spa-a-thon at ETC. Salon - C.O.V.E. Benefit	Aug. 12	Les Bailey Memorial Band Concert , Village Green - 7 pm
Feb. 20	4 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Beer Tasting Event – 2 to 5 pm	Aug. 13	Sand Castle Contest – State Park 8 am
<b>April 3</b>	Recycling Center Opens - Wed & Sat 10-6	Aug. 14	Homecoming Grand Parade – 4 pm
April 3	Easter on the Village Green – Noon	Aug. 14	Fireworks at Dusk – Charles Mears State Park
<b>May 16</b>	PWC <sup>1</sup> Wine Tasting/Silent Auction – PYC from 2-5	Aug. 15	OCHS <sup>2</sup> “Pleasant Afternoon” - Mears 1-4 pm
May 26	Pentwater Historical Society Spring Dinner	Aug. 21	Annual Merchants’ Sidewalk Sale
May 28	Annual Spring Plant Sale - Garden Club 9-12	Aug. 25	Pentwater Historical Society Summer Dinner
May 28	Last Friday of the Month Gallery Stroll 6-9	Aug. 27	Last Friday of the Month Gallery Stroll 6-9
May 29-31	Memorial Day Fishing Tournament	Aug. 28	Wooden Boat Show & Parade - Pentwater Yacht Club
May 31	Memorial Day Parade – 10 am		
<b>June 6</b>	Start of Summer Party – Pentwater Residents 5-8	<b>Sept. 5</b>	End of Summer Party - Behind the Village Cafe
June 11-13	Asparagus Festival & Parade, Hart	Sept. 11	C.O.V.E. <sup>3</sup> Benefit 5K/10K Beach Run/Walk
June 12	Pentwater Community Wide Garage Sale 8-5	Sept. 11	Wine & Art at the Harbor - Snug Harbor Marina
June 12-13	Free Fishing Weekend	Sept. 25-26	Fall Festival Arts & Crafts Fair
June 19	OCHS <sup>2</sup> Post Card Show – Old Town Hall, Mears 10-2		
June 19-20	Spring Fest Arts and Crafts Fair	<b>Oct. 9</b>	Oktoberfest: Games, Auction, Chili/Streusel Bake-off
June 21	Pentwater Junior Sailing Program - Weekly Lessons in Sailing thru 8/27 Contact: Sue Bainton 869-8641	Oct. 10	One Sky One World – Kite Flying at Mears State Park
June 24	Pentwater Civic Band Concert - 8 pm Thursdays on the Village Green thru August	Oct. 20	(approx. date) Village Leaf Pick-Up Begins
June 25	Pentwater Lake Association Annual Dinner	Oct. 30	Halloween on the Green - Village Green at Noon
June 25	C.O.V.E. <sup>3</sup> Benefit Golf Scramble	Oct. 30	3 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Spooktacular & Parade - Cenzo's 4 pm
<b>July 3</b>	Annual Pie Contest and Auction – Village Green	Oct. 30	Recycling Center Closes at 6 pm today until April 2011
July 3	Pentwater Fireworks at Dusk – State Park	<b>Nov. 27</b>	Festival of Lights Weekend
July 10	Annual Fine Arts Fair – 9 to 5 Village Green	Nov. 27	Pentwater Tree Lighting with the Arrival of Santa on the Village Green at 5 pm
July 17	Garden Walk - Pentwater Garden Club		
July 17	OCHS <sup>2</sup> Vintage Clothing Exhibit Opens - Old Town Hall, Mears	<b>Dec. 1-31</b>	Christmas in the Village – Downtown Pentwater
July 24	Whitey Wegner Memorial Take A Kid Fishing Day	Dec. 4	Christmas Craft Fair 9-4 School Gym
July 30	Last Friday of the Month Gallery Stroll 6-9	Dec. 4-5	Merchant Open Houses – Downtown Pentwater
July 31	Library Used Book Sale – Friendship Center	<b>All Year</b>	Bingo Every Friday Night 6:30 pm VFW Hall
July 31	Antique Fair on the Green - Details: Silver Hills Antiques		

<sup>1</sup> PWC - Pentwater Women's Club

<sup>2</sup> OCHS – Oceana County Historical Society

<sup>3</sup> C.O.V.E. - Communities Overcoming Violent Encounters

<sup>4</sup> PLA - Pentwater Lake Association