



Pentwater Lake Association

July 2009

TALES OF THE LAST PENTWATER COMMERCIAL FISHERMAN

As told by Lewis Bud Stenberg to Joe Primozych

According to early Pentwater history records, commercial fishing in Lake Michigan existed from the port of Pentwater since 1855. Channel access to Lake Michigan made it viable as a commercial fishing port. It was a risky business and at least seven Pentwater men drowned while tending nets in Lake Michigan. Lewis Bud Stenberg, the last of the Pentwater commercial fishermen, relayed his story as he experienced it with, or was told by, his grandfather, Nels Larsen, his uncle, Frank Larsen, and his brother, Fritz Stenberg.

Over twenty fishing tugs worked the waters off Pentwater. Following are stories of the Larsen and Stenberg boats.

Nels Larsen came to Pentwater in 1910 from Ludington where he lived with his wife Olivia and kids Gertrude and Frank. He built *The Two Brothers*, a 30 foot wooden boat with a 10 HP engine and a sail and set up his business on the west side of the lake just south of the train depot and round house. As business improved and since there was another boat with the same name, Nels decided in 1919 to build a 35 foot tug with a 35 HP Straubel gas engine with a Pentwater mechanical net lifter. The Pentwater net lifters were so popular they were shipped around the Great Lakes. The new boat was called *The Three Brothers*, named for himself and his brothers Emil, a Ludington blacksmith, and Alfred, an Oregon businessman. The normal fishing day for Nels' crew would be out of port at 4 a.m. and back at dockside at 9 a.m. to clean and ice fish packed in barrels to leave by railroad for the Chicago fish markets. When Nels passed away in 1930, his wife Olivia and his son Frank took over the business.

In 1938 Frank Larsen and his mother bought the fish tug *The Pal*, built in Omena, Michigan, by Johnson shipbuilders. *The Three Brothers* was sold to Clyde Cross and later became famous for the rescue of the crew from the *Novadoc*. Frank's sister Gertrude married Art Stenberg and had sons Fritz and Bud. They started helping out with the commercial fishing at ages 12 and 13. But when the second World War broke out, Bud went into the Marines and Fritz into the Navy. Frank Larsen saw things getting worse when his mother died in 1942. She did as much work as a man, and could clean and smoke fish for market and still keep the house. She did her shopping by rowing across the lake to the

stores. Without Fritz and Bud to help, and with the loss of his mother, Frank sold the boat and business to Dan Loncar in 1944. After returning from the war, Bud and Fritz were eager to get back into commercial fishing, and went to work for Loncar in 1946. After two months they decided to go out on their own. Months later *The Pal* went down with three on board in what is believed to be an explosion and fire since charred wooden remains later floated to shore. Only Clyde Smith's body was found down by Holland. One of the crew was a heavy smoker and he is believed to have caused the explosion.

The Stenberg Brothers business came into being in 1946. Fritz and Bud could only afford a 16 ft boat, *The Polywog*. It allowed them to fish along the beaches and out past the present third sand bar. Starting their own business was costly, but they purchased a lot for the boat and a smoke-house and sold their fish from the porch of their mother's house on Sixth Street. To make extra money the brothers loaded five-yard trucks with gravel by hand. Then one of the other commercial fish tugs was put up for sale. The brothers with their uncle Frank purchased the tug, *The Peggy Marie*, along with the business and equipment, and named their new business Stenberg Brothers and Larsen. In 1958 Frank Larsen retired and the business became just The Stenberg Brothers.



The Maggie Lynn

During the next few years the brothers successfully operated *The Peggy Marie* as a commercial fishing vessel. This Ed Peterson, Pentwater built, 40 foot green oak boat

(Continued on page 10)

14th Annual PLA Dinner Meeting, June 26, 2009

Sixty tickets were purchased by PLA members this year for the 14th annual dinner meeting held in the Parish Hall of St. Vincent's Church. Social Chair Lynne Cavazos and her committee put together a fantastic evening of hors d'oeuvres followed by a sailboat-themed dinner and dessert, prepared by Suzanne Hutchings and her staff of the *Safe Harbor Inn* on Rutledge Street. Even the weather cooperated, cooling down nicely from the previous two 90+ degree days.

Members received informational folders, as well as sticky-note pads and pens as table favors. Other pertinent lake information was made available at a table near the entrance.

President Jerry Saylor welcomed members and guests and a lovely invocation was given by Juanita Pierman. After the buffet dinner, the business meeting was called to order at 7:20 p.m. and Jerry introduced the nine board members, noting that he and Don VanZile were term limited this year. The 2008 Annual Meeting minutes were posted and approved. The Treasurer's report was reviewed and accepted (see condensed report on page 3), and the 2010 budget presented.

Jerry thanked outgoing member Don VanZile for his service to the organization and introduced the three nominees for positions on the new board: Tony Monton, Tom Osborn and Joe Primozych, whose terms will end 6/30/12. The nominations were closed and the slate was unanimously elected.

Water Quality Chair, Tom Osborn reported on this year's activities including water samplings, and thanked his committee members for their time and assistance. Pentwater Lake remains stable, but the curious issue of high coliform counts noted on the North Branch of the river is being studied. Eurasian milfoil treatments by the Lake Improvement Board will begin at certain areas of the lake on June 30th. Social Chair Lynne Cavazos reminded members about the Strawberry Shortcake Social which takes place on August 13th at the Village Green at 6:00 p.m. She asked those interested in helping to call her or any board member.

At 7:45 p.m., Lynne introduced Senior Chief Tom Rau, US Coast Guard (ret.), the evening's speaker, who spoke on "*Boat Stupid Tricks: A Call for Mandatory Boating Education.*" Tom amazed the audience with true stories of avoidable recreational boating accidents, injuries and deaths, and the photos were unbelievable. He explained safety practices that would have saved these vessels and lives including: calling the Coast Guard, wearing life preservers, having whistles, mirrors, strobe lights and reflective tape on

jackets, reducing speeds when entering harbors using GPS devices, not getting near large vessels, observing weather conditions, etc. He noted that 90% of boaters with problems have had no boating education and Congress has not mandated it, as is done for driving automobiles. Members gave him a resounding round of applause at the end of his presentation.

Five copies of Tom's book, *Boat Smart Chronicles*, were given away as door prizes. Winners were Bill Bullard, Sue Bainton, Sally Barsley, Denny Owens and George Richey. Members were able to purchase copies of the book at discounted prices and Tom signed each one at the end of the evening.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. and the new board met briefly to elect officers for the coming year. They are Tom Osborn, *President*; Lynne Cavazos, *Vice President*; George Richey, *Treasurer*; and Norma Oly, *Secretary*. The next board meeting will take place on Tuesday, July 21st at 7:00 p.m. at the Village Hall.

Many thanks to Lynne's committee and to set-up and clean-up volunteers Paul & Joyce Anderson, Lynne Cavazos, Denny Owens, Caroline Denlar, Ken & Charlotte Lindstrom, Kareen Monton, Hank & Norma Oly, George & Suzanne Richey, Jerry Saylor, and Kathy & Chuck Timmer.

Norma Oly, Secretary



Tom Rau, speaker—assisted by Lynne Cavazos, Social Chair

Treasurer's Report

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CASH RECEIPTS AND
DISBURSEMENTS AND FUND BALANCE FOR THE
YEARS ENDED JUNE 30

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
Receipts:		
Dues	\$ 5,150	\$ 5,325
All other	2,642	466
Total receipts	<u>7,792</u>	<u>5,791</u>
Disbursements:		
Water Quality Comm.	282	2,002
Newsletter	1,353	1,345
All other	3,369	4,053
Total disbursements	<u>5,004</u>	<u>7,400</u>
Receipts over (under) disbursements	2,788	(1,609)
Fund balance:		
Beginning of period	<u>15,996</u>	<u>18,784</u>
End of period	<u>\$18,784</u>	<u>\$17,175</u>
Represented by:		
Cash	\$22,367	\$21,117
Less advance payment of dues and subscriptions	<u>(3,583)</u>	<u>(3,942)</u>
	<u>\$18,784</u>	<u>\$17,175</u>

Number of members at year end: 215

Officers

President, Tom Osborn
Vice-President, Lynne Cavazos
Secretary, Norma Oly
Treasurer, George Richey

Board of Directors

<u>Until June 2010</u>	<u>Until June 2011</u>
Paul Anderson	Lynne Cavazos
Charlotte Lindstrom	Norma Oly
Kathy Timmer	George Richey

Until June 2012

Tony Monton
Tom Osborn
Joe Primozych

Committees

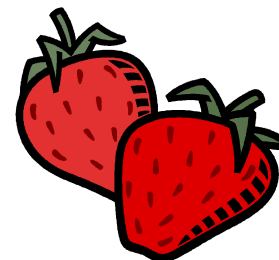
Natural Resources	Paul Anderson/Ron Steiner
Water Quality	Tom Osborn
Social	Lynne Cavazos
Membership	Paul Anderson
Publicity	Norma Oly
Newsletter Editor	Charlotte Lindstrom
Long Range Planning	Tom Osborn

For more information about a committee or to get involved
contact Tom Osborn at 231-869-2140 or
kitosborn@hotmail.com

DON'T FORGET OUR STRAWBERRY SOCIAL!

Thursday, August 13

Our annual strawberry shortcake social will be held during the Homecoming Weekend in Pentwater. This delicious treat will be sold at the Village Green on Thursday evening beginning at 6:00 while the crowd gathers for the special concert of the combined Village and Clown Bands that kicks off our big Homecoming Weekend festivities.



Pentwater Village Council

Juanita Pierman, President
Jim Alfredson
Jay Bryan
Alvin Docter
Jared Griffis
Don Palmer
Marilyn Sullivan

Jim Miller, Village Manager
Dick Hutchings, Marina Manager

Pentwater Township Board

Charles Smith, Township Supervisor
Barbara Burke, Clerk
Janice Siska, Treasurer
Mike Flynn

County Sheriff's Department

Marine Deputy Tim Simon

Dues are Due

Membership dues are \$25 for the 2009-2010 year. If you have not done so already, it is time to renew your membership.

If you also want to receive the quarterly *Michigan Riparian* magazine, you can include its \$8 subscription fee in your check by increasing the amount to \$33. New members can join by completing the membership application form on page 11 in this newsletter and returning it with a check.



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:

April 21 Sedimentation Control at Big Sandy Bend. Joe Primozich reported that the PLA is working with Mark Kelly of the Soil Conservation District to seek federal funding for this project. It has also been determined that the Pentwater Lake Improvement Board has monies available. Joe has talked with Village Manager Jim Miller about the geological studies that will take place near Big Sandy Bend to determine if the property is suitable for the village sewer expansion. If the village does purchase the property, access to the river area will be allowed for the sedimentation control project.

Purchase of new boat by the Sheriff's Department. Marine Officer Tim Simon reported on plans to purchase a new aluminum chambered search and rescue boat at a cost of \$135,000 to \$138,000. It has twin 275 HP Yamaha four-stroke engines, a trailer, an inflatable collar, can accommodate two critical care patients at the same time, and includes complete communication equipment. With grant funding and the sale of the current Boston Whaler, there is still need for \$7,000 to \$10,000 to meet the cost. The board voted to contribute up to \$6,000 from the Pentwater Lake Association.

PLA Website. George Richey reported continuing progress on the new PLA website.

May 19 Sedimentation Control at Big Sandy Bend. Joe Primozich reported that discussions are continuing regarding funding for this project.

Apache Hills Seawall Reconstruction. Paul Anderson and Jerry Saylor met with a representative of the Michigan DEQ at the site of the substantial erosion of two waterfront lots located in the Apache Hills subdivision due to breakdown of the former seawall. Marine life has been established in the eroded area. The MDEQ has refused to permit building a new seawall at the same location as the original one, but has agreed to permit 45 degree angled walls to be built from the existing walls on either side of the property to avoid further erosion. This sends an important message to all riparians that (1) if you have a seawall keep it maintained, and (2) very few new seawalls will be permitted in the future. Many more restrictions will apply and riprap will be the preferred type of erosion protection.

Dinghy Dock. Dean Gustafson called attention to the fact that the new fishing pier to be built at the foot of Fourth Street will crowd out the present dinghy dock. He suggested that the dinghy dock be moved to the foot of Third Street. The Board passed a resolution to be sent to the Village supporting moving the dinghy dock.

Donated Membership and Dinner Tickets. The one-year membership and two annual dinner tickets donated to the silent auction at the Wine and Art by the Water event sponsored by the Pentwater Women's Club in May were won by Bill Bullard.

June 16 PLA Website. George Richey advised that the website is in the final editing process and soon will be completed. Then he will be trained to make additions and corrections himself so that we can keep it updated. It is a large improvement over the previous site and can be viewed at: pentwaterlakeassociation.org.

Purchase of New Boat by the Sheriff's Department. The new boat has been delivered and is expected to be in the water for the 4th of July weekend. A photo is planned for sometime after the Fourth, and members of the PLA will be included as contributors.

Sedimentation Control at Big Sandy Bend. The search for funding is still continuing.

Pentwater's Artist Palette

Our Continuing Series on Pentwater Artists, by Norma Oly

Some of you may be familiar with the legend of Cuchulain (kook-oo-lin), an ancient Irish mythical warrior whose one eye bulged out when he was whipped into a battle frenzy to save Ireland from its enemies. But after reading this story of the brave knight for the first time, Muskegon artist-educator Tim Norris was inspired to paint his own version of the mythical character. "I nick-named the painting 'Kook's Eye' ", says Tim with a grin, "and always thought it would make a great name for a gallery some day." Well that day has come, and Tim Norris and his wife, Patti Opel, have done just that - opened a brand new gallery and studio called *Kook's Eye* at 42 W. Second Street, #4, across from the Village Green. It is also right next door to the new location of Chris Hammock's Studio and Gallery. Tim's painting of 'Kook's Eye' is on full display in their new gallery which specializes in Michigan artists and their paintings, drawings, jewelry, furniture, books and unique items.

Patti and Tim have been a team ever since they met at graduate school over twenty years ago at Northern Illinois University. "We are kind of unique artists," explained Patti, "in that Tim and I often collaborate on the paintings we do." Their most current series of collaborative works consists of nine large acrylic canvases which are currently on exhibit at Western Michigan University. "The paintings will soon go on to Adrian College for a showing," states Patti, "and we hope to exhibit them here in Pentwater in the fall." They both work mainly in acrylic and mixed media, and Patti likes to work on collages. Many of their paintings have been purchased by regional universities, and they currently have larger works hanging at Albion College, Grand Valley State University, Western Michigan University and Muskegon Community College. In their past twenty years together, Patti and Tim have had showings all over the Great Lakes region including Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan and Indiana.

The couple also currently teach art classes at Muskegon Community College, including art education, drawing, painting and design. Having received their Master of Fine Arts degrees from NIU and gotten married, they

moved back to Michigan where Patti grew up. "I'm from a small town called North Adams in Hillsdale County, which no one has probably ever heard of," says Patti, "and received my BSA degree from Western Michigan." Tim grew up in Downers Grove in the Chicago area, and received his undergraduate degree from NIU. "We love this part of Michigan, half way between both of our home towns," she says.

"Ever since we were first married, we have been taking trips to the southwestern coastal cities along Lake Michigan. We have always thought of Pentwater as a wonderful art draw, similar to Saugatuck." When they found the available spot on Second Street earlier this year with room enough for both a gallery and working studio, the couple decided to try to make their dream come true. "Because we both teach all year and are parents to a thirteen year-old son, we opened at the end of June, just in time for the Friday Gallery Stroll," states Patti. "We won't have regular hours this first year," she says, "but we'll be in town as often as possible, mostly on the weekends." Tim and Patti plan to be open during the week whenever they can, but can also be reached at their in-home studio in Muskegon any time at (231) 719-1914 or by email at pattipatio@aol.com. "Coming to Pentwater always gives us the feeling of going to a vacation destination, almost as though we have our very own vacation studio!" Patti grins.

It hasn't taken this talented and hard-working couple very long to be part of the community. In May, they generously donated an item to the Pentwater Women's Club Wine Tasting event at the Yacht Club. "As educators ourselves, we are always excited about opportunities to support students and were glad we could contribute," they explained. Tim and Patti also have a motto for their new studio and gallery: *Ignite your eyes with art!* If you enjoy reading about early mythology, "Google" the word *Cuchulain* and read the story of the brave Irish warrior...you will never forget about "Kook's Eye!" We are so happy to have Tim and Patti join the wonderful artist enclave here in Pentwater!



News Around Town . . .

Lynne Cavazos

New Owners at House of Flavors

The House of Flavors has changed hands, from Ron and Wanda VanderZanden who owned it for 25 years, to John and Roxanne Tabor of Pentwater. This is a family business with the Tabor's daughters, Kaity and Kelly, assisting in a variety of ways to help make the new adventure a success. Cliff Litwiller, a local teacher, is also working with the Tabor family.

The Tabors have added some new items, with their best-seller being Chicago Style hotdogs. Two other favorites are Mrs. R's home baked cinnamon rolls that are sliced and grilled, and homemade soups made by long-time Pentwater resident Ike Griffis, also known as Mrs. Wooden-shoe. Her soups are so popular the Tabors have difficulty keeping the pot full.

The House of Flavors will stay open until September and then will decide about remaining open through the fall.

Cosmic Candy has Expanded

Cosmic Candy has expanded to include a seating area and a birthday room. The store now offers 3,700 square feet of candy, ice cream, and goodies. The owners, John Nagel and Greg Lopers, are beginning their fourth year in Pentwater. The owners are excited about the addition and are enjoying the new space. They have added more flavors of taffy, 16 flavors of Hudsonville Ice Cream, and almost 100 flavor combinations of soft serve. In addition, they still offer nostalgic candy, over 30 flavors of popcorn, cinnamon nuts, shaved ice, new frozen lemonade, and 100 varieties of glass bottle pop.

Pentwater Sandpiper

This is the first business to be located on the ground floor of the condos at Hancock and Sixth Street. The Sandpiper, owned by Evert Slentz, is temporarily in the north end of the building. The store specializes in clothing, kites, jewelry, and decorative items. Later in the summer the store will move next door and include an Ice Cream Parlor. For now, the Sandpiper will be open on weekends, with additional hours being added later in the summer.



Rent a Moped

LZ Motorsports is a new business in town opened a month ago by owner Rick Holman. The shop is located on the main street between Durand Wine Company and Max & Chloe's and sells and rents mopeds by the hour or day. They also sell an assortment of items that campers and visitors might need.

So far business has been good. As long as the weather cooperates, Holman is looking forward to a busy summer providing residents and visitors with a new method of travel.



Newly Remodeled – Cenzo's Fresh Market and Spirits

Cenzos' Market, owned by Lisa and Kevin Henley, is offering new daily lunch specials, which include grilled brats, ribs, chicken, and a delicious pulled barbecue pork sandwich. Stop by for a quick picnic on their outside tables or pick up a "to go" lunch or supper on your way to the beach. The Market is conveniently located for boaters to pick up lunch before going out on Pentwater Lake or Lake Michigan. The Market is open from 8:00 am to 11:00 pm for convenient shopping.

Chloe's Closet has Moved

Chloe's Closet has moved from Gull Landing to the Birdland Building and is now an extension of the popular Max & Chloe's store. The Closet features discounted sale merchandise. Both stores, owned by Patty French, feature clothing, jewelry, and accessories for women of all ages. Specialty items include unique sportswear, summer wedding wear, and shoes.

News Around Town (continued)

Olive's Gourmet Deli & Market Place (formerly Lakeside Deli)

This new deli and market place, owned by Tom and Shelly Doran, opened for business on June 29th and is specializing in deli sandwiches, pizza, and bake goods. They will also offer a wide variety of gourmet groceries, fresh olives, and gourmet cheeses. The store will be open seven days a week from 6:00 am to 10:00 pm and is conveniently located near the marina on Hancock Street.

Go Go Green Cab Company—An Environmentally Friendly Way to Travel

This unique new transportation service is owned and operated by Ike Hoekwater and his son Aaron Hoekwater. The Go-Go Green Cab offers rides for tips. You can be picked up and dropped off or enjoy a round trip to a local destination. The Green Cab travels within town going east as far as the Hexagon House, north to the tennis courts, and west to the beach. Ike and Aaron provide the human power to the cab, which offers zero emissions and a relaxing way to get where you want to go without the hassles of traffic and parking.



The Go Go Green Cab Company will be open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays when weather permits. You can contact Go Go Green at (231) 629-2907 to schedule a ride.



New Landscaping above the Village Green

As you enter the Village Green from Hancock Street, notice the new landscaping and cement work that was completed earlier this spring.



The area had become unsafe due to tree roots pushing up the sidewalk. The village removed the trees and replaced them with two new Linden trees. New cement work was completed and dyed and stamped to look like bricks. Notice also the compass stamped at the top of the stairs.

Update on the Fishing Pier – End of 4th Street

As of June 30th, the village has been granted a permit by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality to begin constructing a fishing pier at the end of Fourth Street. Bids will be requested in July and the village is hopeful that construction can begin later that month.

Update on the Tree Replacement Project

During 2006, Pentwater lost 72 trees due to the high winds. With the help of donations from everyone, the village has been able to raise approximately \$10,000 dollars to replace the them. Thus far, 47 trees have been planted, more than half of what was lost.



Hopefully, with additional donations, the village will be able to complete the replacement project. If you are interested in participating in the Tree Replacement Project, you can pick up a form at Village Hall. A tree can be planted in memory of a loved one, in commemoration, or to beautify the Village of Pentwater. Any amount of donation can be given. The cost of a tree is approximately \$200, which covers the purchase of a three-inch tree, a bladder for watering, and planting.

REPORT ON THE APRIL 2009 MLSA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

George Richey

This year's conference theme was "Respecting the Past, Embracing the Future". This theme was selected for the conference since some long time officers of the Michigan Lake and Stream Association (MLSA) have retired from the organization. Former Executive Director Don Winne, the Director of Operations, Treasurer Pearl Bonnell and the Data Base Administrator Bruce Bonnell all have served the MLSA for over 30 years. With their retirements and the changes in staff, the Three Rivers and Long Lake offices of the MLSA are being consolidated and moved to Stanton, Michigan. The *Michigan Riparian* and the MLS Foundation offices will also be located at the Stanton location.

There were many interesting presentations at the conference, but those supported by the Muskegon River Watershed Assembly (MRWA) provided the widest appeal. The MRWA was established in 2000 as a nonprofit organization to preserve, protect and restore the natural, historic and cultural resources of the Muskegon River Watershed. The Muskegon River is the second longest river in Michigan and has its origin in Roscommon County. Its watershed covers over 2,700 square miles and is a "cool water" system, which means it can support both cold and warm water fish. The Pentwater River watershed is also a cool water system. Therefore, the extensive research, conservation projects and environmental studies completed by the MRWA and sister organizations, such as the Muskegon Watershed Research Partnership (www.mwrp.net/), can benefit similar efforts directed at the Pentwater River Watershed. One of the important results of this research has shown that land management choices will largely determine the river's future. How decisions are made (1) in controlling the rate of urban sprawl, (2) maximizing forest cover, (3) maximizing farmland preservation in an ecologically sound manner, and (4) the establishment of rigorous riparian setback rules, will impact how the river reacts to climate change and increasing river flows. Further information about the MRWA and the results of their research, programs and ongoing projects can be found at its web site, www.mrwa.org.

Keeping the cottage in the family and the family in the cottage is a common goal of many cottage owners. According to attorney David S. Fry of Blakeslee, Fry and Scales, problems arise because real estate law gives power to each owner of a share of the cottage, including the power to force the sale of the property. Also real estate law does not provide clear rules for sharing the cottage or its expense. A solution to this problem is to change the ownership of the cottage so that real estate law doesn't apply. Cottage succession planning can provide an agreement that describes how a cottage will be passed on to future generations. Mr. Fry recommends transferring the cottage to a limited liability company (LLC). In the agreement the owner writes the rules, including who can become an owner, how cottage expenses are shared and how the cottage schedule operates. A framework can be created for shared use of the cottage that minimizes the opportunity for future family conflict. An excellent resource on this topic is "Saving the Family Cottage, A Guide to Succession Planning for your Cottage, Cabin, Camp or Vacation Home", by Stuart J Hollander, Esq. Also, Mr. Fry can be reached at www.bfslegal.com if you would like further

information on the advantages and limitations of a limited liability company.

One of the seminar sessions involved the testing for E. coli bacteria in our lakes and streams. Randy Cook, a biology instructor at Tri County High School (Howard City, MI) and a MLSA Water Quality Educator, presented information on how to test for and measure the amount of E. coli in water samples. Randy's chemistry and physics classes conduct hands on labs using state of the art technology and materials that Randy has acquired through numerous corporate and foundation sponsorships. The 3M Company, which developed and manufactures Petrifilm E. coli/Coliform Count (EC) plates, has supplied these plates to Randy for his high school class work. Randy distributed some of these Petrifilm EC plates to the seminar attendees so that they could return home and do local lake and stream testing. While this is an effective and simple way to measure for coliform and E. coli bacteria, these plates do not tell what strain of E. coli is present. Tom Osborn, the Pentwater Lake Association's President and Chair of its Water Quality Committee, has recently used the Petrifilm EC plates to detect the evidence of E.coli in both branches of the Pentwater River. Tom has also provided water samples to a test lab for more detailed analysis.

Jane Herbert, MSU Extension, District Water Quality Educator, presented a seminar on People, Fish and the Implementation of Michigan's New Water Use Laws. She focused on groundwater withdrawal management and regulation in Michigan and the role of the Michigan Water Resources Conservation Advisory Council. The Council was created in June of 2008 to evaluate the use of our state water resources. The Council is administered under the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and was designed to help draft legislation regulating large water users. The Council, which meets monthly, has 21 members and is made up of stakeholders and researchers/scientists who assist the state in the implementation of the water use laws. The Council also makes recommendations to the legislature on new legislation that it feels is necessary to protect the Great Lakes and Michigan's inland water resources. A major goal of the Council is to get the new online "Water Withdrawal Assessment Tool" up and running. This new tool should aid in preventing adverse water resource impacts within a designated watershed. One of the concerns is the impact of reduced water flow on fish survival due to changes in water temperature and stream habitat. A Council subcommittee is also looking to find another way to measure the relationship between groundwater withdrawals and the ecosystem. More information on the topic of groundwater withdrawal can be found at the Michigan DNR web site at www.michigan.gov/dnr.

This is a brief sampling of the many interesting seminars at the conference. Further information about the MLSA and its programs can be found at its web site at www.mlswa.org.

Guide to Recyclable Materials

Pentwater Village and Pentwater Township

Provided by Waste Management Services

PAPER

Acceptable Items

- Newspaper (including glossy inserts)
- Typing, writing and computer paper
- Discarded mail flyers
- Envelopes (including windowed)
- Magazines and catalogues
- Telephone books
- Brown paper bags
- Corrugated boxes
- Paperboard boxes (shoe and cereal boxes)

Preparation

- Place paper items in brown paper bags
- Remove any staples, strapping or paper clips
- Cut corrugated cardboard into 2' x 2' pieces and bundle
- Remove all plastic liners from paperboard boxes
- Do not place in plastic bags or corrugated cardboard boxes

Non-Acceptable Items

- Wrapping or tissue paper
- Napkins, tissues, paper towels, or wax paper
- Used paper plates or any paper with food or food stains
- Paperboard boxes with plastic windows
- Wax coated or freezer boxes

METAL

Acceptable Items

- Steel and tin cans
- Aerosol cans
- Aluminum foil and cans

Preparation

- Rinse clean
- Remove labels
- Make sure aerosol cans are completely empty; remove caps

Non-Acceptable Items

- Bakeware and utensils
- Pots and pans
- Hangers

- Car parts or scrap metal
- Paint cans and propane cylinders
- Foilbacked paper, gum wrappers
- Siding, window frames and doors

GLASS

Acceptable Items

- Clear, brown, green and blue glass bottles and jars

Preparation

- Remove lids and discard
- Rinse clean
- Remove any metal rings, plastic or foam labels (paper labels do not need to be removed)

Non-Acceptable Items

- Dishes or ceramics
- Light bulbs & broken windows
- Mirrors

PLASTIC

Acceptable Items

- Plastic containers with the #1-7 symbols
- This includes milk jugs, water bottles, detergent and shampoo bottles, butter tubs, plastic yogurt cups, microwave food trays, plant flats, flower pots, etc.

Preparation

- Remove and discard caps
- Wash all food residue, heavy soil, grease or soapy liquids from containers

Non-Acceptable Items

- Bottles that contained automotive fluids or hazardous materials
- Styrofoam cups, plates, peanuts, packaging, etc.
- Plastic bags such as garbage, food storage, dry cleaning, etc.
- Plastic film

(Village residents can get a blue bin for recycling from the Village Hall.)

Scientists are trying to produce life in the laboratory, but it shouldn't be difficult if the laboratory assistant is willing.

TALES OF THE LAST PENTWATER COMMERCIAL FISHERMAN

(Continued from page 1)

was powered by a 90 HP Graymarine motor, and had a Pentwater net lifter powered with a Wisconsin gas motor. The boat had to be lifted out of the water every spring at Ludington for repairs from ice damage during the winter. For additional income to make life a little easier, an ice machine was purchased, producing up to a ton of ice a day at dock side. One winter the village let them dry their nets in the basement of the Village Hall, provided they would open the channel turn bridge themselves, saving the village money by making it unnecessary to hire someone to do this at night. There had been controversy over the turn bridge since 1944 when a father and daughter drove through the stop chain at night from the north side and drowned in their car in the channel. In 1949 the bridge was taken out, so the brothers' agreement with the village only lasted one year.

In 1950 *The Peggy Marie* was sold for a bigger tug, *The Maggie Lynn*, which was to be the last boat owned by The Stenberg Brothers. It was purchased from a Chicago fish producer and was a 44 foot steel boat built in 1940 in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, by the Grover Brothers and had a diesel engine. A lake crossing at night in the middle of winter brought it to Pentwater. Running a diesel tug was new to the brothers, but they caught on, and the boat completed five trips across Lake Michigan out of Pentwater to Manitowoc. Three of the trips were for repairs and two were with University of Michigan scientists, who would stop often to take water temperature readings and bottom samples. The bottom of the lake is not sand but a blue gray clay. Hard material for a glacier to cut. The carferry lane was littered with clinker ash and debris thrown off the boats. On the first repair job in Manitowoc, a local oil field welder, George Pratt, welded an extra storage tank in the bilge of the boat. He asked Bud to stand on the deck with a fire extinguisher in hand. Bud later admitted he wondered if he would have held on to the extinguisher when he was blown through the roof of the tug.

The last lake crossing repair trip of *The Maggie Lynn* was made at night in a blinding snow storm. At 8 a.m. the clouds cleared enough for the brothers to spot the grain elevator and get them into the channel. Fritz did a great job navigating that night with only a compass. Then on the return trip, the plug was left out. An hour out of Wisconsin, Bud opened the engine room to find water being thrown around by the engine, which was then shut down immediately and the plug put back in. The bilge pumps saved the boat which would otherwise have sunk.

Lake Michigan showed its power at times, creating some close calls. The natural current in front of Pentwater is from south to north, and on the Wisconsin side is north to south. When storms approach the current can be increased due to high/low pressures being created on the water surface. Net lifting becomes more involved or confusing as nets are twisted by the current. At times the boat would be grounded at the mouth of the channel into Pentwater and have to sit there until the waves could pick it up and push it in. There were some close calls. Once on coming into the channel in a northwester, a huge wave developed sideways to the boat and shoved it at the south pier. Luckily it was a glancing blow and the boat bounced off into the channel. Another time in the winter coming into the channel with a load of fish, the ice pack was heavy and they chose to ride up on the ice to break it. The lake was rough and when they hit the ice pack full throttle they only rode half way up the ice pack. They waited for the next wave and when it hit it knocked the gate door open and sent ice and water on deck and into the tug. However, the wave also pushed the boat completely up on the ice. They shoved the ice out, closed the door to the cabin, and the bilge pumps saved them. The boat sat in the channel mouth until the ice gave way later that day and they motored into dock to unload their catch.

Lightning was another threat. Once lightning hit the exhaust pipe of *The Peggy Marie* and started a roof fire on the wooden boat, but it was quickly put out. Another time lightning hit *The Maggie Lynn* next to the lifter door and ran down the hull of the metal boat.

There was another scare on *The Maggie Lynn* when the nets got caught in the prop of the tug. Pat McMahan, the hired man, stripped off his clothes and went overboard with a knife to cut the net out. As Bud said: "He was a real man."

In 1964 the state cut back on commercial fishing licenses and the Stenberg Brothers sold *The Maggie Lynn*. Fritz went to work at Misco and Bud at DuPont in Muskegon. The boat is still working out of Muskegon today. Bud is now 88 years old and works carving decoys out of his home in Pentwater. He has no regrets about his 30 years of commercial fishing, and gives his family a lot of thanks for their support and a lot of credit to hired hands George McDonald and Pat McMahan, who stuck with Bud and Fritz through the years on the lake.

Published and distributed by

Pentwater Lake Association
P.O. Box 825
Pentwater, MI 49449



Scenes from the PLA annual dinner meeting