

# 2024-25 MLA END OF SUMMER NEWSLETTER



Mirror Lake Association  
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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Aug 24 - Summer Picnic @ Park A

Sept 1 - Poker Run

Sept 29 - Sunday, 2 pm - Annual Association Meeting - Vote new Board Officers

Oct 10 - October Board Meeting - Announce New Board Positions

Dec 10 - December Board Meeting

## ANNUL MLA PICNIC AT PARK A – AUGUST 24

### LAKE COMMITTEE UPDATE

#### Biochar sock end of season procedure:

Thank you to all the Riparians that participated in the biochar sock program. I believe the product performed better than expectations.

If possible please allow the socks to remain in the lake until November 1st. However, I understand that the lake season ends after Labor Day Celebration for many, so please remove them when you feel it's right for you or if possible ask a neighbor if they would be willing to move the socks to their location for removal later.

EGLE requests we remove the biochar socks from the lake during the winter months by November 1st. We will re-install them in early March/April when the ice is gone or when you are available.

This is our first year so please be flexible.

When you remove your dock/boat/lift please place the socks on a clean plastic bag or piece of plastic to keep it off the ground and collecting dirt. The sock and the plastic can be placed wherever you want it. It does not have to be protected from the weather. It should have a chance to air dry to prevent mold. We would like to keep it clean so there is no need to rinse them off in the spring. If they should get leaves or dirt on them you may have to rinse them off prior to putting them back in the lake but please do NOT use any soap - only water.

Please do NOT cut the socks, if you do; please text Doug and we'll figure out how to repair it. You can cut the zip tie holding the two socks together but NOT the white zip tie holding the sock end closed. Lifting two at one time is very hard to do. We will be using a color code zip tie as we go forward to identify the year the sock was place in the lake (to restate: don't cut white zip ties but it's ok to cut black zip ties).

We will **replace** any string that seems weak in the spring. We will **replace** the swim noodles in the spring. The swim noodles don't hold up good with the sun baking them all summer and we don't want to pollute our lake trying to save a few dollars. Also new zip ties will be distributed.

As early as possible in the spring, please install the socks back into the lake. Our team of 5 volunteers will help everyone who needs it as we did this year.

Please text or email me if you want assistance with removal (please indicate where we should place the socks after removal) or if you have questions or concerns.

I am not sure if the socks will stain your dock so please be careful and use a plastic bag.

#### Lake LeAnn Dam Control:

1. LeAnn has 2 dams, 1 is between the North and South lake and 1 is the dam that feeds into Mirror Lake.
2. The lake maximum level is monitored 24/7/365 electronically, by phone, by 2 men who work for Hillsdale County Drain Commissioner. These are the only 2. They do not control the low lake level. The lake level of both lakes is Court Directed and unchangeable without a court appearance. Lake LeAnn is feed by Crystal Lake, by a "levy", and a few streams that contain rain runoff from farms south of the lake. Farms utilize high grade phosphorous, nitrogen and other nutrients to grow crops to feed us all. The extra nutrients flow into the streams and into the Grand River watershed.
3. LeAnn and Mirror lake are part of the Grand River and this fact can not be changed, i.e. the flow from LeAnn will never be stopped.
4. I met with the Hillsdale County Deputy Drain Commissioner 7/15/2024. He gave me a tour of the dam and explained how it worked. It has a main valve that can be manually opened or closed as needed. It also has "spill-over" windows on the east and west sides of the dam, that are controlled manually by added or removing 6" x 36" "boards" made of aluminum. The drain commissioner is the only person who can make changes. Lake property owner can ask for a change in the level but the commissioner only follows the Court Ordered Maximum level.
5. All of the man hours and costs are charged back to LeAnn, nothing is free.
6. If you want to help **our** situation ask your friends who live on Lake LeAnn to stop using fertilizer with phosphorus. Here is an example of the fretizer code; with Phosphorus (30-10-20) without phosphorus (30-0-20).

BETTER yet, tell them to stop using all fertilizer within 25 feet of the shoreline. Allow the grass to grow for 2 feet at the shoreline (cut out a small beach area for easy access). You will be surprised that native flowers/plants grow on their own with no planting needed and they have been mowed all these years! The tall grass will also stop the geese from walking up to your nice green grass to eat!

Of course, remind them to have there septic tank checked and pumped and corrected if needed. There are low low interest loans from the government to make repairs.

7. I have an open invitation to call or email the commissioner anytime if have a question or concern about the LeAnn's North dam or issues Mirror Lake.

**8. I plan to meet with the drain commissioner and LeAnn after the Labor Day Celebration to discuss the possibility of installing biochar socks on Lake LeAnn side of the dam in hopes of cleaning some of the lake water prior to it moving through our inlet.**

More to come...

Unfortunately, the bottom line is we have no control over the Lake LeAnn dam and the water coming into Mirror Lake. The lake levels and water flowing into Mirror Lake are by court order.

Thank you and I'll see you at the annual picnic!

Doug Collins

734-968-1700  
[doug.collins@comcast.net](mailto:doug.collins@comcast.net)

## MLA Picnic - Saturday, August 24

### HAWAIIAN LUAU THEMED

**9 am - noon: Fishing Tournament**

(Looking for someone to coordinate this, if interested, please let me know.)

**3 pm: ShuffleBoard Contest - Park A**

(Thank you to Bob Kellogg for coordinating.)

**6 pm: - Hawaiian Luau - Hamburgers & Hot dogs provided.**

Please bring a side dish or dessert.

Sign-up genius link sent in email or text Lorri Britsch at 419-966-3085 to add to the list. [CLICK HERE](#)

**6 pm - 9 pm: Music provided by Steve Tucker**

•Prize for best dressed with Luau theme.

•Bring quarters for horse racing game!

Hope you can join us for the fun!

~ Lorri Britsch (MLA Parks Committee)

### Good News about schools of fish in Mirror Lake

We have seen an increase in the number of schools of fish around the lake. Large schools have been seen in the shallow parts of the west channel/finger and at the shorelines around the lake. This is partly due to the number of riparians that took the time to clean the leaves from the shoreline, giving fish fresh sandy lake bottom to spawn.

We also think the biochar choking back the SSW (starry stonewort) has increased the space for fish to move around to escape predators.

Thank you to all the riparian who raked their shoreline or hired the work done.

If you haven't visited the beach lately please check it out. The swim area looks amazing.

Lake Committee

## NEW BOAT LAUNCH SET TO OPEN BEFORE LABOR DAY WEEKEND

### NOMINATIONS FOR NEXT BOARD

Are you interested in joining the Board in September? The MLA Board has 2 spots opening in September and we are looking for members who would like to join. If you are interested, please email [secretary@mirrorlakemi.org](mailto:secretary@mirrorlakemi.org)

### MIRROR LAKE POKER RUN!!!!



DATE: Sunday Sept 1st

TIME: 2:00 – 3:00

COST: \$10 per paying players

You can include multiple paying players per boat if you wish.

- Stop by the host houses between 2:00-3:00 and get one card (envelope) per house. Your boat should have 5 cards (envelopes) for a poker hand when you complete the run.
- Cards will be on the host house's dock or in the yard.
- Meet at Park A at 3:00 to reveal poker hands.
- **Do not open the envelopes, wait until we meet at Park A**
- Optional-Host houses might have a treat for you to indulge in when picking up the cards.
- Worst hand gets \$10.
- Best hand gets remainder of pot.
- Bring a snack and beverage if you choose.

**Host Houses:**

Please let me know if you can be a host location.

All attendees will contact me by August 28<sup>th</sup> so I know exactly how many are playing.  
[Bob Kellogg=bobkellogg11@gmail.com](mailto:BobKellogg=bobkellogg11@gmail.com)

### ANNUAL ASSOCIATION MEETING

Sunday – Sept 29 @ 2 pm, Doors open at 1:45

GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH

12240 E. Chicago Rd., Jerome, MI 49249

- Voting for 2 new board members