

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION JULY 3RD, 2012

(Rain date for Fireworks & Boat Parade is July 4th).

We're getting bigger & better at celebrating Independence Day with spectacular Fireworks, Colorful Boat Decorations with Enthusiastic Crews, & Patriotic Parties.



The entire lake also appreciated & enjoyed several spectacular Fireworks from Lake residents around the Lake that made prior year's celebrations memorable. The "Community Fireworks" that's

again being organized by Eric Hanson & Scott Crandall promises to be spectacular & appreciated. These "Community Fireworks" are financed by donations from lake residents, community citizens & a \$500 Association contribution.

Please send your donation to Fremont Fireworks Assoc. LLC, c/o Crandall Funeral Home, Box 148, Fremont or include your contribution with your Membership. This will enable Eric & Scott to utilize "Early Bird" pricing for this year's celebration. Last year, Eric started an additional fund raising activity of "Japanese Lanterns" that were sent aloft at 10PM just prior to the 10:15 start of the fireworks. Some students will be selling the Lanterns again this year. Or you can purchase them by sending a check to Box 148 & they will be delivered to you. The price is \$6 each, 2 for \$10. Eric is looking for a donation of an old pontoon boat or swim platform to use for a display out in the Lake. Call Eric at 924-0422.



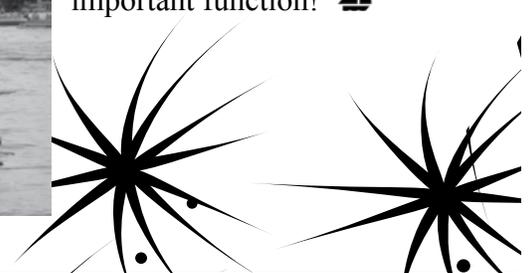
7:30 BOAT PARADE "SALUTE THE MILITARY"

Our Boat Parade continues to be swell as well as swell in creativity & size! At 7:30 the fleet will again "reconnoiter" at the VanBoxel Point to sail around the Lake to "Salute the Military".

To keep our competitive spirit flowing, our distinguished judges will award Prize Winner Ribbons. "Participant



Ribbons" will given be to the entire fleet. We continue to seek judges of integrity & high standards so please let a board member if you are qualified & will serve in this important function! 🚤



1st Place Boat Parade Winners

- 2007 4th of July - Oosterhouse Family
- 2008 Olympics - Cappel Family
- 2009 Honor the Flag - Morehouse Family
- 2010 Pirates of the Caribbean - Saii Family
- 2011 Anything Disney - Saii Family
- 2012 Salute the Military - Your Family???



5TH ANNUAL CHRIS CARIS MEMORIAL FISHING FOR KIDS

This year's event will be on Tuesday, July 10. Members participation in this event have included providing Pontoon Boats, being "expect" guides & providing

encouragement to the kids. Jeannie Caris will be at the Annual Meeting to share last year's event & sign-up volunteers. 🚤

THE MAYBE NOT SO ACCURATE HISTORY OF FREMONT LAKE

By *Kenneth J. Krapp*

Editor Note: TX are in order to Ken, one of our "seasoned" Lake residents, for this informative & interesting article

A brief history About ten to thirteen thousand years ago, there was a mile-thick glacier located over the region that was to be called Michigan. As it made its way toward Ohio, the glacier carved out some really big gouges and some smaller ones – right through the bedrock – and ground it into sand and gravel. As the earth went through global warming that ended the Ice Age, the glacier melted, leaving rivers and lakes behind. Some of these bodies of water have sand and gravel bottoms and some have marl (a clay and calcium carbonate substance). It is theorized that marl-bottom lakes may also be a remnant of an inland sea that was present before the time of the glaciers. Fremont Lake is marl-bottomed with the only sand to be found at the public beach where it was hauled in by the city.

Some personal recollections I moved to Fremont in 1947 with my parents and older brother, Bill. They had been in the grocery business for years and wanted to retire to the country and build a resort to rent cottages and boats. My folks purchased four acres on the south side of Fremont Lake (on Wilcox Drive off of 64th Street). I was 14 at the time and thought I was in heaven living on the lake and going to school in Fremont – a far cry from my earlier years in Toledo, OH.

Before building our first cottage in August we had to clear the land of swamp willows and brush to even get to the lake. It was the same for all the people who bought lots in Claymont Park. Most of us hired Mr. Meuwenberg, who had an excavating company, to dredge the lakeshore and fill in the swamp to create a nice, dry grassy lawn. We also displaced a variety of wildlife including water snakes, muskrats, frogs and turtles. This would be unheard of today as natural habitats cannot be changed without a permit.

We moved into our first cottage by October and built a garage workshop on top of the hill. During the winter we built 10 boats for the boat livery. We called our place "Hidden Acres" because you couldn't see it until you drove to the edge of the hill. There was another boat livery across the lake, on the North side, owned by Rollo Martin and his wife. He was an interesting old timer and

I used to run my boat over there and sit on the porch and talk with him for hours. The other boat livery on that side of the lake was "The Shack" owned by the Emmons family. They had a store near where the boat launch is currently located in the lakeside park/campground. They sold bait, some groceries and rented boats. Mr. Emmons also trapped turtles – very large turtles – the lake was full of them at the time.

During the 40s and 50s, the lake also was populated with muskrats and black water snakes. There were many local people trapping muskrats for their fur. I remember there also were many fox and mink farms in the area at the time, so the fur trade was still going strong up until the end of the 1950s. So, where did all those snakes and muskrats go? Well, as the southwest and south side of the lake became developed and the lakeshore cleared, the wildlife lost their homes.

Fishing in Fremont Lake The fishing in Fremont Lake was good in the 40s and 50s – lots of perch, bluegills, bass, crappies, gar fish (pike) and carp. The Conservation Club members used to net carp during the spawning season and later the Archery Club would go out at night with lanterns on the bow of a boat to shoot carp until the wee hours. We put the carp in cardboard boxes donated by Gerber, to be used as fertilizer. The carp kept multiplying in spite of all our efforts and by the 60s and 70s there were so many carp they were stunted to a 10" average. They were so plentiful that they couldn't get enough



oxygen from the water and had to rise to the surface at night to suck air from above the water. You could hear them on a calm night – it was pretty weird. The Fremont Lake Association decided they had to do something about the carp situation and called in the DNR to do a fish survey. The DNR asked for volunteers to help net the whole lake with gill nets to see how many game fish were left. After one week of

netting and counting, the DNR determined that there were hardly any game fish left and a complete fish kill was in order.

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The DNR decided that December 1981 would be the best time so that the cold water would cause the dead fish to settle to the bottom instead of floating to shore and causing a big stink – and it worked. By the next spring there was no mess at all to clean up. This was followed by a fish planting program including trout, hybrid bluegills, perch, walleye and bass. No crappies or bullheads were to be reintroduced to Fremont Lake. However, there were a couple guys from Indiana that had been coming up to the lake for years just for crappies. When they heard that none were being planted, they brought some up from home and planted them – so now we have crappies. I know some bullheads were planted as well. Game fish have done well overall except for trout.

After restocking of the fish, the Lake Association decided to do something about weed control. All property owners within 500 feet of the lake were assessed a special tax by the township to pay a licensed applicator. He sprayed paraquat and copper sulfate around the lake whenever needed during the summer of 1982. The trout apparently didn't like that – the DNR found dead trout at the bottom and did not replant – they went to the more robust walleye fingerlings instead.

Other changes over the

years Fremont Lake has gone through many changes since 1947. Every spring the lake would flood from all the runoff from the lakes and streams that drain into the lake. I remember in the spring of 1948 my friend Warren Johnson and I paddled a rowboat all through the woods on the south side in two feet of water. Today there are houses located in that same area. This annual flood must have been a nuisance for years and in the spring of 1949 a nice flood-controllable dam was built and put into operation at the outlet on the southwest side of the lake. They started by dredging Brooks Creek south of 64th Street and took out all the oxbows and cut a nice channel for a free-flowing drain. No more spring high water. However, during the summer dry spells someone would remove some boards from the dam to water cattle downstream. That would lower the lake level and leave residents' docks high and dry. So, the Lake Association went to White Cloud and had a judge issue a court order to regulate the level at 746.59 feet above sea level in summer and lower it a foot in the winter. The dam is now managed by the Drain Commission.



There also used to be an island in the northwest corner of Fremont Lake. You could actually get out of your boat and walk on it. Now it's two or more feet under water. What happened to it? One story is that someone forgot to take the boards out of the dam before winter and the ice shaved the vegetation off. The other story is that the weed killer got it. Maybe it just sank. Who knows? Anyway, the island is gone and we miss it.

Human Bones In and Near Fremont Lake During my research at the Fremont Public Library, I found a newspaper article dated June 26, 1947 about human bones discovered near the west side of the lake. They were found by Bill Levy while excavating for an oil tank. The bones were in a “rude” grave about 18 inches deep and upon examination by the coroner were determined to be a young female. The appearance of an arrowhead and crude iron implement in the grave resulted in a hypothesis that this was an Indian woman buried sometime before the arrival of white settlers to the area. A full copy of the article is available at the Fremont Public Library.

In a separate incident, Ralph Sparrowgrove, who lived on the south side of the lake, was messing about in his boat near Harwood's Cove on the east side of the lake when he found human bones lying on the bottom. He thought they might have been Indian bones, but no formal investigation was done. This

was sometime in the mid-70s.

Other Ancient Oddities It was not unusual to find animal bones along the outlet on the south side of Fremont Lake, especially after the channel was re-dredged in the late 60s or early 70s. I remember my kids bringing home deer, fox and cow skulls on occasion. But one spring day while walking near the outlet after the winter ice had melted, I found a very unusual bone that had apparently been pushed up on shore, by the ice, from deeper water. I gave the bone to the property owner, Mr. Jolman, who called Professor Flanders from Grand Valley College (now Grand Valley State University). Professor Flanders took the bone to Michigan State University and it was determined to be a mastodon bone. It was preserved and is now part of a museum collection.

Professor Flanders later brought some students up to the same area near Brooks Creek and found evidence of an Indian settlement west of the creek. That would

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explain why my wife, Marie and her sister Frances found so many arrowheads and spear heads along the edge of the creek after it was originally dredged for the dam project in 1948.

On another occasion, my son David Krapp found shells, under the old bridge over Brooks Creek on 64th Street,

with holes bored in them. Surprisingly, these were sea shells, not fresh water shells. How did sea shells get in the bottom of Brooks Creek? Well, we asked our friend, Aldon Nyson who had a lot of written material on hand regarding Indians of this area. These documents indicated that there were

trade routes between Michigan and the Southeast and Southwest regions of the United States. What did traders want from Michigan? Pure copper – and we had plenty of it from the Upper Peninsula. It is assumed that Indians in the area of Fremont Lake may have traded copper for necklaces of seashells. There is also a theory that in pre-glacial times, the area that is now Michigan was covered by the sea (which has now receded to Hudson Bay). The presence of salt water shells in fresh water could also be explained by that, with the holes being either simply worn away portions of the shell that would occur naturally in the water over time, or of being hand bored by Indians who found them nearby and used them for adornment or trading.

Weeds, Birds and other Chemicals During the 60s we had very few birds around Fremont Lake. We had been spraying for mosquitoes every summer and using chlordane around the house. This was a common practice



by many homeowners around the lake at the time. Then came the book “Silent Spring” by Rachel Carson in 1962. She got the attention of environmentalists by drawing awareness to the bad effects of using DDT and other pesticides. We figured out that by killing the pests we were keeping away the birds, their natural predators. Now, after years of no pesticide use we have so many

Canadian geese, sea gulls and swans that they have become a nuisance to some Fremont Lake residents. And, so the pendulum swings...

Zebra mussels have also found their way to Fremont Lake. They like to eat algae. As a result, the water is clearer which lets the sunlight penetrate deeper so now we have more weeds like Asian milfoil, curly leaf and other stuff.

I have acquired a copy of the 2010 report done by the Grand Valley State Annis Water Resources Institute, a part of the MSU Extension Service, and a report from the Water Environment Federation – both thanks to Ryan Coffey. The Annis report will be left with the Sheridan Township office for anyone who is interested in the details of the study.

Conclusion So, here we are in 2012 with a lake that is better than it was but still has some issues that need our attention. Look at what’s been done so far: the city has a wastewater and sewage plant south of town, Gerber has a waste treatment facility north of town, there are sediment ponds in the area, and there are sewer lines on the north side of the lake that someday will be extended the rest of the way around. We put in a dam to control the lake level, we killed the carp and we are in the process of controlling the weeds, phosphorus and nitrogen. And so it goes. There is always something, but it is still a slice of heaven to me. 🚤

2012 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Fremont Lake Association reorganized several years ago to address our Mission Statement that defines our purpose is to enable Members to more effectively manage a multi-million dollar asset that we all currently share & enjoy for the Common Good as well as improve our personal Return on Investment for the future. To this end, we’ve accomplished several projects & activities by using Association funds as direct payments, seed money &/or matching funds of the grants we’ve been able to ob-

tain.. In addition, our communication goal is to maintain a website & send this Newsletter to about 250 stakeholders in the Lake at least 2 times a year. The cost of mailing the Newsletter is about \$1 each copy. While our dues are voluntary, your involvement is needed to enable the Association to continue the effort to improve Fremont Lake. Dues are \$25.00 per calendar year. Please complete the enclosed Membership Form & return to Post Office Box 53.