



Lake Shore Breeze

Spring 2012

Fremont Lake Association

MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Fremont Lake Association will be to improve the water quality of Fremont Lake and its watershed through research, education and actions leading to lake maintenance and improvements; promote activities which enhance the social welfare of its members & provide pertinent information through its Website, Newsletter and meetings as appropriate. ▲

BREUKER'S BEACH

I hear it was a very nice winter at Fremont Lake. Now that spring is here and summer is coming soon it's time to get busy again. Our annual meeting will be Monday May 14, 2012. Prior to this we will be looking for candidates to fill the positions left by our retiring board members. Please contact me if your interested to serve on the Board. 924-0132

We will be surveying the swan situation this Spring to

see if we need to take further action this year.

In the last newsletter we noted that the weed situation had changed in the lake. We didn't find Eurasian Milfoil as prevalent as it had been, so we took a wait and see position for this year. Professional Lake Management is being contracted to survey the lake this summer and we will report their findings in the fall Newsletter. ▲

STATEWIDE SWAN CONTROL PROJECT

(Editor note-This article is a summary of a Grand Rapids Press article on March 4, 2012)

The GR Press headline was "A SWAN THAT DOESN'T BELONG" discussed the DNR conflict of protecting the Trumpeter Swans & the problems created by the invasive Mute Swans. Trumpeter Swans are a native species are the bigger Swan with the all-black beak that co-exists peacefully with humans, other marshland species & waterfowl. Mute Swans are bigger & identified by an orange beak with a black knob at its base. Mute Swans aggressive behavior & damage to the environment have resulted in the eradication projects state & federal agencies.



Swans that increases about 10% annually which means that there will be about 30,000 in 10 years. The current plans call for eradicating 12,000 Mute Swans over the next 10 years with a population goal of 2,000 by 2030. Tom Funke, the Conservation Director of the Michigan Audubon Society, said "we're united with other groups that support the eradication of the Mute Swan on the landscape. The article concluded by stating that's it's not hard to understand some folks aversion to killing the Mute Swans. They are beautiful. But their population has grown to the peril of other waterfowl

Barb Avers, Michigan DNR Waterfowl Expert, said, Michigan has about 15,000 Mute

species & marsh vegetation. ▲

WHITE LAKE MUTE SWANS

Editor note-This article is a summary of a Muskegon Chronicle article on Jan. 29,2012 that discussed the White Lake mute swan culling project

Mute Swans, an invasive species, first were imported to Michigan in the 1920s & have seen their numbers rise in many area lakes. The large white birds have a hefty appetite & have decimated some native aquatic plants that other native animals use for food & habitat. The destruction of the native plants also makes way for invasive plant species such as Eurasian Watermilfoil. Conservationists fear the swans will hurt the many projects around the state to increase the diversity of wetland plants, improve the lake's water quality & create a healthier habitat.

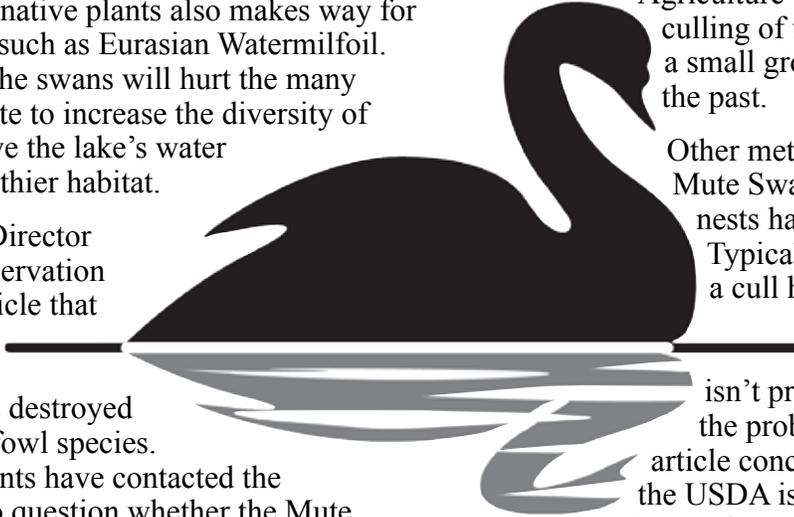
Jeff Auch, Executive Director of the Muskegon Conservation District, said in the article that we spend all that money on restoring habitat & suddenly it's destroyed by this invasive waterfowl species.

Auch said some residents have contacted the conservation district to question whether the Mute Swan population really is out of control & whether

other methods – such as relocation – might be used to reduce their numbers.

The culling projects are funded by federal dollars, are overseen by officials from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture's Wildlife Service Dept. The culling of the Mute Swans are performed by a small group of people who have done it in the past.

Other methods of reducing the number of Mute Swans, such as destroying eggs & nests have been tried with little success. Typically, those methods help only after a cull has been held. Another suggestion has been to relocate the birds to another lake. Such an approach isn't preferable because it just moves the problem to a different location. The article concluded with stating the intent of the USDA is not to totally eliminate the Mute Swans from our wildlife, but to get them to a sustainable level. ▲



FREMONT LAKE PARK AND CAMPGROUND IMPROVEMENTS

Editor note: Bryan Greusbeck, Fremont City Manager provided this article

Construction is well underway at the Fremont Lake Park and Campground. In March, City contractors completed concrete walkways to improve pedestrian safety along the street and installed sewer lines in the new part of the Campground.

“If the weather continues to improve, we should be able to install water and electricity to the new campsites,” said Bryan Gruesbeck, City Manager. “Ideally, we would like to move campers into the additional lots by mid-summer.”

The improvements appear to be an important part of the City's strategy to highlight the area's natural features as a key asset.

“Fremont Lake continues to be something that attracts people to the Fremont area,” added Mayor James Rynberg. “Many of my friends who live elsewhere return every year to Fremont because we have this beautiful lakeside park and amazing campground. We

want to keep in improving it as a way to welcome people to our City.

In 2011, The Michigan Department of Natural Resources awarded a \$180,000 grant to the City to help expand the Fremont Lake Park Campground, add trails and walkways to the picnic and beach area, improve barrier-free access for swimmers as well as improve accessibility in the Campground bathhouse.

The campground expansion includes the addition of approximately 32 lots north of the existing campground area and upgrades to the restroom facility. Additionally, the Town & Country path will be extended along the west side of

Daisy Creek to the lake as well as along the north side of Park Drive to the Swirl concession area. A path will also be extended south from the Swirl along the east side of the beach area, leading to a barrier-free “swimming ramp” for wheelchairs. ▲



**FREMONT LAKE ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL MEETING 5/9/11 7PM SHERIDAN TOWNSHIP HALL**

Meeting opened at 7PM. Board Members in attendance; Bruce Essebagers, Stan DeKuiper, Gary Breuker, Kurt Lowdermilk, Nels Johnston, Dean Morehouse & Norman Knorr. Absent; Erich Heger & Luke Pfeiffer. 42 Members & guests attended.

– Minutes of the 5/10/10 Meeting accepted.

– Stan DeKuiper submitted a report of Income & Expenses since the 2010 Annual Meeting. The Membership Dues received during the last year totaled \$1,625, Fireworks Donations \$950, Interest \$318 & Expenses totaled \$1,557. The current Balance is \$14,702. Additional Membership Dues were received at the Meeting. Report accepted.

– Gary Noble from the Muskegon River Watershed Assembly (MRWA) & Dean Morehouse reported on this Project the 1st Initiative we've taken to accomplish the recommendations of the 2009 GVSU / AWRI Project to evaluate the water quality of Fremont Lake. Thanks are in order to the organizations funding the Program; The Fremont Area Community Foundation, resources available to (MRWA) & funds of the Fremont Lake Association. Gary indicated that the value of the plants is \$7,000 & 2 classes of students are volunteering to help with the plantings. The 34 property owners participating in the Project will pick-up their plants from the Morehouse home on May 21.

– Tom Moore indicated he is continuing the Surveys he has conducted the last few years & reported to the DNR. Tom indicated that volunteers are needed to continue these efforts.

– Bre Graybill from PLM along with Board Members Bruce & Gary reported on the process to establish a Tax Assessment District for the entire Lake to control Eurasian Watermilfoil & Algae. A committee will be developed this summer to pursue this Project.

– Gary discussed a DNR program that will enable us to reduce the number of Mute Swans on the Lake. Copies of a newspaper outlining this Project were distributed. Norm reported for Eric Hanson that this year's display cost will be about \$6,000 with \$1,000 of that for the insurance premium. He thanked the Association as well as individual members for their contribution. Eric thanks the Association & individual Member for the donations & indicated that they are still short of this year's \$6,000 goal. Norm said this year's theme will be "Anything Disney". The events will be on Sunday, July 3 at 7:30.

– Ryan Vannier - Michigan State Univ., Department of Geological Sciences Analysis gave an informative & interesting presentation of sediment borings taken from the deepest parts of the Lake that outlines the lake's geologic & environmental history. This survey was one of only 42 lakes that MSU/DEQ has conducted. The analysis of the data takes 2 years & this survey was conducted on June 18, 2009.

– Nels Johnston reported that a Website (fremontlake.net) has been established. It's our intent to include the By-Laws, Annual Meeting Minutes, Project Report & selected links. Norm Knorr reported that we plan to publish 2 Newsletters a year. Spring issue prior to the Annual Meeting & a Fall Issue. Our mailing list is about 240 with a cost of \$1.25 to \$1.50 per copy.

– Bruce reported the Caris family will hold this event on Wednesday, July 6 & will be needing Members to again provide pontoon boats.

2012 - Erich Heger, Kurt Lowdermilk, Stan DeKuiper

2013 - Gary Breuker, Nels Johnston, Norm Knorr

2014 - Eric Anderson, Lou Meeuwenbeg & John Sella elected

Thanks were extended to Bruce, Dean & Luke whose terms expired in 2011.

– A discussion on the future use of our funds included continuing to invest in projects to improve water quality or environment, provide matching funds to secure grants & communication activities.

– Monday, May 14, 2012 7PM. Adjourned at 9:38 Norm Knorr – Sec'y 





Fremont Lake Association

c/o Sheridan Township Hall
PO Box 53
Fremont, MI 49412
www.FremontLake.net

Annual Meeting Monday

May 14, 2012, 7 PM

Boat Parade & Fireworks

Tuesday, July 3, 2012, 7:30 PM

Board of Directors

Board of Directors
Gary Breuker – Chair
Stan DeKuiper – Treasurer
Norm Knorr – Secretary / Editor
Lou Meeuwenberg
Kurt Lowdermilk
Eric Anderson
Nels Johston
Erich Heger
John Sella



FREMONT LAKE ASSOCIATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS & ACTIVITIES

- 2007.....FLA reestablished & By-Laws adapted
- 2007.....Present - Member conducted Water Sampling sent to DNR/DEQ
- 2008 - 2009 Water Rescue & Safety Demonstrations
- 2008Ice Mountain Water Quality Grant application (not awarded)
- 2008- Present ...Chris Caris Memorial - Fishing for Kids Activity
- 2009.....Purchase & Install Signage at City & Twp. Launch Sites
- 2009.....GVSU/AWRI Survey of Water Quality & Lake Inlets
Funded by Fremont Area Community Foundation (FACF) Grant
- 2009.....MSU / DEQ Survey of Deep Water Sediment Core Samples
- 2010.....By-Laws amended
- 2010.....Website established * * * FremontLake.net * * *
- 2010.....DNR stocking of 41,343 Walleyes
- 2010.....Property Owner Weed Control contracts began with PLM
- 2011.....Shoreline Restoration Planting with Muskegon Watershed Assembly
Funded by FACF, Muskegon Conservation District & Association Funds
- 2011Swan Control Project implemented in cooperation with USDA
- 2011.....Interview with Price & Co. to improve Fremont Lake's water and ecological health.
- 2011.....Preliminary evaluation to consider establishing entire Lake Weed Control Project
- 2011.....Annual Fireworks Contributions and Boat Parade 

