

*UPDATE ON LAKE IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE - January 2010 *

The Joint Township Paw Paw Lake Advisory Committee met on December 2nd to receive a first report of findings from the lake studies conducted by J. F. New and Spicer groups. These studies were an updated vegetation survey and a survey to reveal the extent and composition of sediment throughout the lake.

To no surprise, Eurasian Watermilfoil continues to be the most invasive and densest weed in the lake. Even though the early summer weed treatment reduces it greatly, it regrows by late summer. New/Spicer believe that a more effective weed management program is necessary. They are developing information on options to be considered.

The sediment survey revealed that there is sediment throughout much of the lake. More important, the sediment contains very high levels of phosphorous, which is the principal agent for weed growth. New/Spicer believe that something must be done to remove phosphorous or prevent the phosphorous in the sediment from releasing into the water column. They are looking into various methods to do this.

New/Spicer will report more of their analysis and information about options for dealing with the concerns in the Spring of 2010. In addition, they will conduct a study of dissolved oxygen levels in the lake during the Summer of 2010.

Once these are completed the Committee will be in a position to present a report to the Townships' Boards. At that point the first of two public hearings may be scheduled. The first hearing will deal only with possible plans and total costs. The second hearing will cover the special assessment, including who will be assessed and how much the assessment will be for individuals. The entire process will take time, but it is vital that it be done thoroughly and correctly. So, please be patient.

For 2010, the Paw Paw Lake Association will be managing the same weed treatment program as in the past.

The New/Spicer report information is available at <ftp://ftp.spicergroup.net> <<ftp://ftp.spicergroup.net/>> and will soon be available on the Coloma Township web site www.colomatownship.org <<http://www.colomatownship.org/>> and the Watervliet Township web site www.watervliettownship.org <<http://www.watervliettownship.org/>>. *To access the Spicer information, log on to [ftp.spicergroup.net](ftp://ftp.spicergroup.net) <<ftp://ftp.spicergroup.net/>> and use the User Name: guest@pawpaw and the Password: pa\$\$word.*

We will continue to update you. If you have questions, please contact Rick Rasmussen or Mary Spessard at: rick@swmichiganstore.com <<mailto:rick@swmichiganstore.com>> or mस्पेसार्ड@comcast.net <<mailto:mस्पेसार्ड@comcast.net>>.