

STONE LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARD UPDATE

NOVEMBER 2023



Photo by Sheila Pedersen

Happy Fall, Neighbors!

The Stone Lake Improvement Board, in its commitment to keeping riparian owners informed of happenings on our beautiful Stone Lake, is happy to present our current newsletter. Each edition will carry information directly related to the health of Stone Lake. If you haven't done so already, feel free to catch up on our inaugural edition, which contains historical information about the lake as well as interesting facts. This, and all future editions, can be found on the Village's website at www.cassopolis-mi.us. If you would like to receive future editions directly to your inbox, please email us at stonelakeimprovementboard@gmail.com and your request will be filled.

Recently, the Stone Lake Improvement Board met for a recap of 2023's activities and plans for 2024. Here are the highlights from the 2023 season:

- 33.5 acres of mechanical harvesting and 8.5 acres of herbicide treatments were completed to continue with the eradication of invasive and other lake weeds and maintain the progressive improvements of prior years. Initially, only 26.5 acres were included in the allotment for the year, but it was expanded to include 7 additional acres, thanks to a Stone Lake neighbor who generously offered to donate funds for additional areas to be harvested. These additional acres connected the previously planned harvest areas on the southwest side of the lake, as well as near the public beach.
- After the initial herbicide treatment, .75 ($\frac{3}{4}$) acres of milfoil were discovered and treated.
- Late in the summer, a detailed plant community survey was conducted and a water quality sample was taken. Both assessments showed great results. The water quality samples revealed a macrophyte dominant lake, meaning that the water in Stone

Lake is remarkably clear. There is up to 21 feet of visual depth in the summer! Weeds do grow deeper in this water, but they also help with the clarity of the water.

Plans for the 2024 season include the following:

- Lake weed assessment will be done the first week of May 2024.
- Initial chemical treatment is to take place on May 12 or 13, depending upon the weather. This will include the public beach and boat dock area. Even though the chemicals used are not harmful to the public, there will be one-day swimming restrictions in place. This is because the lake water should not be agitated during the application process in order to get the best results. The Village will have social media and website updates along with signage being placed 10 days prior to remind the public of the restrictions.
- The second lake survey will be completed around mid-June to determine the treatment area for harvesting.
- The harvest will be done mid-to-end of June to have the lake best presented for the 4th of July holiday and to remove weeds before they drop their seeds.
- Resident areas will continue to be prioritized to better utilize funds.



PROGRESSIVE AE is the firm that was hired in 2017 to oversee the chemical treatment and harvesting of Stone Lake. By using their expertise and extensive knowledge of contractors, they have brought in the services needed to eradicate the lake's invasive weed species. If you would like to learn more about Progressive AE's Water Resource Group and the work that they do, please visit their website at www.michiganlakeinfo.com as well as www.progressiveae.com/expertise/water-resources/.

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MEMBERS OF THE STONE LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARD

Ted Gogol, Chairman of the Board *

Mary Howie, Cass County Commissioner

Jeff VanBelle, Cass County Drain Commissioner

Jackie Collins, Village of Cassopolis Representative

Susan Carpenter, Riparian Owner & Newsletter Editor

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You can reach members of the Stone Lake Improvement Board by emailing
STONELAKEIMPROVEMENTBOARD@GMAIL.COM

Someone will respond to you at their earliest opportunity.

TO MINIMIZE EXPENSES, NEWSLETTER WILL **ONLY BE SENT VIA EMAIL**, SO **PLEASE SHARE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS WITH US**. THE NEWSLETTER WILL ALSO BE ACCESSIBLE THROUGH THE VILLAGE'S WEBSITE AT **CASSOPOLIS-MI.US**. CLICK ON THE **"GOVERNMENT"** TAB, THEN **"STONE LAKE IMPROVEMENT BOARD"**.



**Wishing you and yours a beautiful holiday season
and a blessed 2024!**