

The Bear Lake Library offers the public bestsellers as well as videos, magazines, DVD's, CD's, and audio books. We also have 7 computers for public use as well as having wireless service for people with their own laptops. There is no charge for this service. We just concluded our Summer Reading Program. We had 55 children signed up for Summer Reading, and they read a total of 1,362 books!

BEAR LAKE LIBRARY

Submitted by Marcella Guinan, Branch Manager

Please mark your calendars for Friday, September 15 at 11 am when Carol Shively will be here to host a story hour and do a craft with the children.

Library hours are: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Fridays 11 am to 5 pm and Thursdays 1 pm to 7 pm.

For further information about all Manistee County library activities and other information, the comprehensive website is manisteelibrary.org.

COUNTY HIGHLANDS GOLF COURSE

Submitted by Jack Sawka

Ed Walburn, President of the Board for the Bear Lake Golf Association, reports that County Highlands is absolutely beautiful this year as a new feature of long heather surrounds many fairways.

Many can enjoy that beauty at very reasonable prices. Seniors can play 18 holes with cart from 12 noon to 4 pm, Monday through Thursday, for just \$25. And the Fall Special beginning September 15 allows unlimited golf for three consecutive days for just \$70. Knock yourself out with 36 holes for three days!

The BLGA is embarking on a major fund raising activity to finance the construction of a new irrigation system for the golf course. The old system is about 40 years old and in need of constant repairs. Board member Dave Adams chairs the subcommittee for this fundraising activity. If anyone would like to donate or buy a brick engraved with your name and embedded on the cart path to the first tee, Contact Dave Adams.

We hope you enjoy the first issue of the *BEAR LAKE BULLETIN*.

It will reach all those who are served by the 49614 Post Office as well as property owners who are not year round residents of Bear Lake.

The purpose of the *Bulletin* is to convey information about area news and issues.

Let us hear from you. Your input is welcomed.

VISION BEAR LAKE
P.O. Box 164, Bear Lake, MI 49614

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BEAR LAKE BULLETIN

**News of the Community
by the Community**

Published Quarterly by Vision Bear Lake

September 2006

BEAR LAKE'S EURASIAN WATER MILFOIL NEEDS TO BE CONTROLLED

Article submitted by the Bear Lake Property Owners Association

At the Bear Lake Property Owners Association's (BLPOA) first summer-speakers event, Tom Rozich, head DNR fisheries biologist for our region, warned us that we ought to be very concerned about our Eurasian water milfoil (EWM)! It is a disruptive plant that crowds out native weeds, chokes the water for boaters and swimmers and consumes oxygen that fish need. Mr. Rozich said, "You have to manage it, you can't eradicate it. I recommend you hire a consultant to manage it NOW."

Judging from other lakes' experiences, the longer we delay treatment, the more locations the Eurasian water milfoil will takeover! After being cut off by a boat motor, a piece of milfoil can reestablish roots where ever it sinks to the bottom. EWM has no known effective natural enemies. Since the milfoil plant uniquely saves nutrients over the winter, it is the fastest plant to grow in the spring. Because it overtakes the native weeds and forms a massive canopy over them, the result is stunted or non-existent native weed beds necessary for normal fish habitat.

Everyone who enjoys the lake will want to learn about the dangers posed by Eurasian Water Milfoil, and express their support for control efforts to our community leaders. For more information, see http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/plants/weeds/aq_ua004.html

To help, Jim Eaton and Don Raiff, BLPOA officers, have embarked on a process of documenting the location of our current milfoil beds, and sharing this information with our community leaders. While most of the current milfoil beds have been found in 5-12 ft of water on the west side of the lake, a substantial milfoil bed was located just off the middle grounds in 15ft of



water. The leaders of our government entities, as well as our local clubs, have been asked to discuss how they will participate and to help educate our citizens about the dangers of Eurasian Water Milfoil.

Information is being gathered from other lake communities (e.g. Lake Cadillac and Houghton Lake) and weed-control professionals, which have dealt with EWM, as to possible treatment plans and likely costs. In the next few months, hopefully, treatment plans can be finalized. Even then, it may take several years to get the existing patches under control.