



Green Tree Frog

LET'S HAVE FUN WITH FROGS

By: Cindy McGarry

Frogs need our help. In recent years the frog population in the U.S. and Michigan has been on the decline - we need to find out why. Is it water quality, fertilizers, development of wetlands or changes in water levels?

TNN is looking for volunteers to help establish a survey route to monitor the decline of the Anurans (frogs and toads) in our area. The study also monitors ecosystems and habitat. We will start small to learn. The first year's goal is to create 3-4 routes to be monitored 3 times a year, early spring, late spring, summer.

Please volunteer to help establish a route, or monitor an established one. Send your contact information to me, cindy@mcgarryhome.com. We will form a small steering team to share ideas and develop a plan of action; I will personally coordinate the area along Joe Marks Trail. Volunteers are needed near:

Birch Lake – Inwood Harbor
Paradine- McGuire Creek
Birchview Drive
Joe Marks Trail

This is a great opportunity for getting your families, neighbors and summer visitors involved in the environment. Aquatic organisms such as frogs and toads act as a barometer of water quality because they are sensitive to even the slightest change.

Please visit the DNR wildlife division Frog and Toad Survey for detailed information – start by listening to audio training file on the web site. http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10370_12143_12194---,00.html

NEW TNN WEBSITE *ON-LINE*:

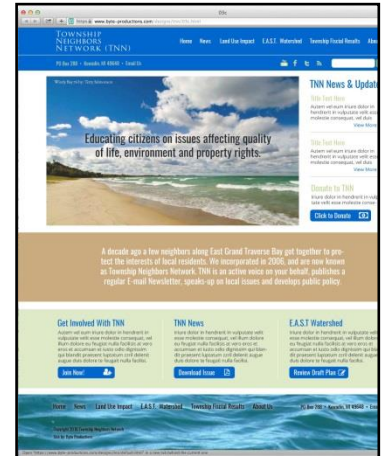
Better serve Milton Township, Elk Rapids Township-Village, and Torch Lake Township - between East GT Bay & the Chain of Lakes. We are literally an island. The TNN website provides a bridge to 'Antrim Island' nestled along L. Michigan, East Grand Traverse Bay.

www.townshipneighborsnetwork.com – helps with solutions that reflect the values and interests of TNN members and the community.

Optimized Search Engine & More Great Content:

High performance - Tells the TNN story - Great user experience - More authentic TNN brand - Web authority - Case studies and photos - More downloads - Attracts people with new posts.

The TNN website nurtures connections



CARE AND FEEDING OF YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM

By: Mike Moyer

Your septic system treats human waste at home in an under-ground tank for solids and a network of pierced pipes for water.



There are five must do actions to maintain your septic system for long, trouble-free performance.

1. Keep out trees & roots
2. Don't kill the 'bugs'
3. Keep the 'bugs' healthy
4. Clean the filter if present.
5. Pump out every 5 to 8 years

Pump - out waste should be treated - not land disposed.

Use a pump-out service that teaches septic system care & guarantees transport of septic waste to a treatment plant.

Land disposed human waste can run off into streams and lakes (we have data).

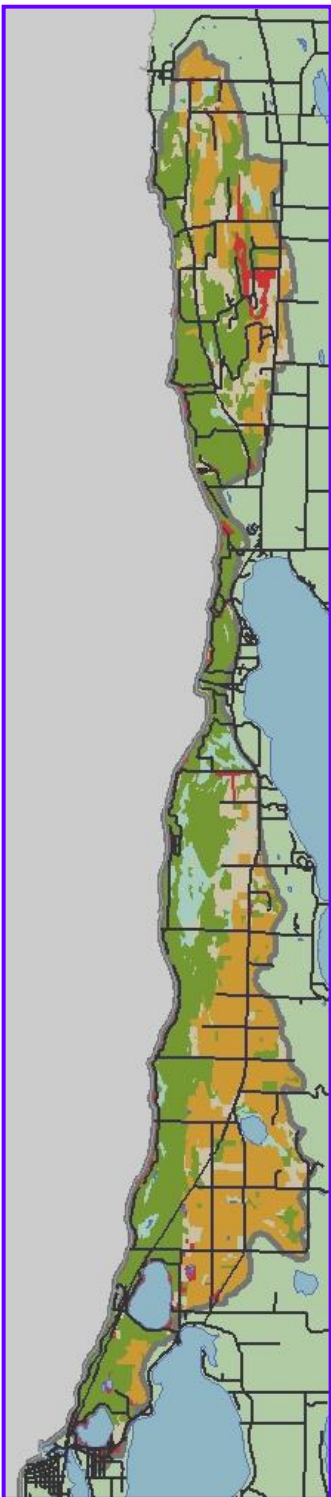
My neighborhood uses Walt Steuer Pumping which is passionate on keeping septic systems healthy. None of six neighbors, who thought they had to pump-out, needed it after inspection. All had to kill tree roots. (Walt Steuer Pumping sells monthly DIY root killer packets (231-946-2462).

TREE ROOTS seek septic fields. 'Capillary' roots from up to 100 feet away enter cracks, field pipes, crevices at tank lids & connections. If untreated, such roots form a thick mat which plugs drain-fields and pools sewage on the ground near the septic tank. I learned the hard way - the pump truck could not suck the large root mat through its hose. A man had to climb down in the tank and chop the root mat in small bits. Yuck! Copper sulfate root killer (available in hardware stores) is the answer. Just flush these blue crystals (1 cup = 1 pound) down a toilet every month or flush two pounds in spring and fall. Read the label - follow safety directions.

DON'T KILL THE BUGS. These airless bacteria break down waste in tank – liquids drain into the soil where oxygen using bacteria to break down harmful molecules. Avoid bleach, anti-bacterial agents and disinfectants in your septic system. Oil and grease are tough for the 'bugs' to digest so minimize them.

KEEP THE 'BUGS' HEALTHY - so they can digest human waste, grease, food, scum, extra soft TP, anti-bacterial soap, oils, and medications excreted by the body. Feed the 'bugs' monthly with enzymes or bi-weekly if you are seasonal. (Walt Steuer Pumping sells monthly DIY enzyme packets (231-946-2462). (Continued on page 2)

E.A.S.T Sub - Watershed
Elk Rapids to Norwood

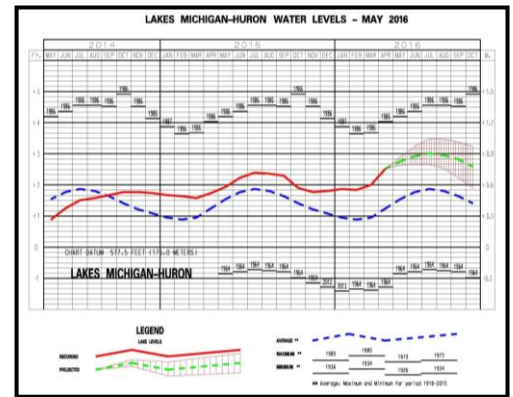


MAY 2016 LAKE MICHIGAN – HURON WATER LEVELS

Source: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Monthly Bulletin

Lake Michigan water is up again - will reach 1 foot above average in July. TNN has reports of storm surge damage to East Bay beaches and docks.

High water increases sand motion parallel to and just off shore. Sand moves south and deposits in ER Harbor among others. Sand pumping will be required this year. Discussion is ongoing whether pumped sand should replenish beaches or be moved inland.



ER HARBOR FISHERY HABITAT RESTORATION

BY: Eric Crissman, Harbor Master

Elk Rapids Harbor Commission discussed a potential fishery habitat restoration inside the harbor. The project adds gravel in the Elk River channel to improve fish spawning. Randy Claramunt MDNR Fisheries Biologist was present and supports a project to potentially improve populations of a variety of fish.



He also proposed MDNR as project leader to assist with grant funding and State/Federal permitting. Village of Elk Rapids Harbor Commission is excited to partner with MDNR and others to improve the fisheries habitat in the Harbor's Elk River channel.

CARE AND FEEDING OF YOUR SEPTIC SYSTEM (Cont'd)

If you have a newer tank, **clean the filter** - hose it off once a year in summer. If this is not done, the flow through the septic system gets sluggish or plugged.

PUMP OUT YOUR TANK EVERY 5 – 8 YEARS.

Follow all steps below with faithful discipline to keep your septic system healthy or a long time. My neighborhood uses Walt Steuer Pumping which sells monthly DIY root killer and enzyme packets. Phone 231-946-2462

5 MUST DO ACTIONS

1. Keep out trees & roots
2. Don't kill the 'bugs'
3. Keep the 'bugs' healthy
4. Clean the filter if present.
5. Pump out every 5 to 8 years

BE SURE PUMPED WASTE IS TREATED – NOT LAND DISPOSED