

Briefly, the shoreline study shows signs of erosion at the point. This was reconfirmed by meetings with forester/certified arborist Mike McDuffie, and local nurseries Barker Creek Nursery, Cyman Gardens, and Messiah Greenleaf. All noted the need to protect our point and made recommendations to help preserve our shoreline. All stated that it takes many years to make these changes. The recommendations are part of the report at the website. Not all of the recommendations will be acted upon and the Board must approve any project that is undertaken. The purpose is entirely conservation, not beautification. You can't make Torch more beautiful, but we want to conserve it for future generations.

In addition, the Board created a committee called **Property Use** and Planning (PUP) to address long term planning needs for the buildings and land at TLYCC. The Board requested that PUP work on implementing some of the recommendations of the shoreline study, especially those that address erosion on the north and south shores, reseeding grasses within the 'yard', and caring for our trees. PUP works with the Board, the House and Grounds Committee and the Zippers. Again, only projects approved by the Board are being undertaken.

This summer, the results of the shoreline study were presented to the Zippers at a June meeting. In July, the results were part of a Family Night "Trees 'R Us" event and were discussed at a Friday "Walkabout the Point" for Yacht Club members. In August, the results were presented as part of the Lunch and Learn given by Mike McDuffie-"Trees at your shoreline--how to care for them and how to choose a new tree."

What is shoreline?

Briefly, we will always have a rocky beach, and the rocks will always be moved by the ice of **the lake**. Soil and grasses are not so easily moved by the ice which 'rolls over' this soft barrier of soil and grasses. So the rocks are not our actual 'shoreline'....the dirt and grass are!

The shoreline is the actual line where the soils/grasses end and the rocks begin. The soil and grasses, shrubs and trees are our 'yard' and they protect and hold our 'Point.' Our shoreline is eroding in certain places and we have less 'yard' than we had 15 years ago.

Not convinced? An example of the erosion:

If you look at your photo of 2003 of the entire group of us on **Fourth of July**, you will note at the top of the photo that Jim Johansen is scratching his head (thank you, Jim, for giving us this 'marker').

Look just above Jim and you will see that in this photo the yard extends to encompass the two birches on the **north shore**. If you go to the yacht club today, you will see that the yard has receded and **the birches** are now surrounded by rocks and not grasses. The rocks are easily moved by the winter ice. The best way to protect against further erosion is to protect our trees and natural grasses and bushes. These hold the soil.

Proposed project:

The proposed project is to create an 'island' of plants surrounding the birches. It entails burying coils of natural fiber and soil and planting them with native plants to hold the soil. The cost of the project is estimated at \$2,400 and local nurseries will be asked to bid on it. Because the project is not part of normal operating costs for the club, we are asking for donations to make it happen.

Here's our need:

We need to correct some of these problems in erosion. The first phase will cost \$2,400. We have an

anonymous donor willing to cover \$1,200 of this if we can raise the other \$1,200. That means if you give \$25, it really counts for \$50. If you give \$50, it counts for \$100. We need to raise the money by **Labor Day** so that the proper permissions and permits can be obtained and the planting done before winter. We will keep you posted about the developments of this project.

Please consider donating to the shoreline project we describe. Checks can be made out to TLYCC. In the 'memo' line put "Shoreline" and send to PO Box 279, **Bellaire, MI 49615**. Thank you for thinking long-term about our point. If the project costs less, then we will have some monies for the next project that is approved by the Board.

The project was designed by members of the PUP committee in consultation with Heidi Lange, **Soil Erosion** expert for **Antrim County**. The project will require getting proper permits and permissions and PUP members will take care of these. It takes about 6-8 weeks to accomplish this. The planting will take place in the Fall. You can see the project design-SITE C-at the tlycc.com website. We hope you will join with us in the project.

What has happened so far?

This summer, we 'rested' the north shore by decreasing foot traffic there. We moved Sailing School off of the north shore to the greenbelt on our southeast shoreline (it was also a more protected area for new sailors and we had 38 kids participate in Sailing School this year). The Zippers did fewer grass mowings (this allows grasses to shade their roots and not 'burn out' in thin rocky soil). We left only two boat lifts on the north shore: Safety First and Bill's sailboat. And even though we were 'at capacity' with the WYMA regatta, we did not use the north shore for sailboat storage/launching (thank you again, Amy Keller).

Other projects underway:

- Mike McDuffie is treating our ash at the swim beach to protect it against Emerald Ashborer
- An additional shade tree clump will be planted in that area in the fall
- Zippers Ed McDuffie and **Roy Nichols** measured the yard so that we can track possible further erosion (thank you!)
- Wood chipping over the exposed roots of the Tennis Court Maple
- Yard will be reseeded in the fall

Need more information? Your PUP members are: **Sallie Foley** (smfoley@umich.edu, **734.223.9079**), Ian Hickman, Peg Comfort, Terry Malone, Rob Nissly, Spencer Powell, Erica Collins Schultze, and Sheila Wicha.