

S.O.S. DUNES NEWS

Save Our Sand Dunes

S.O.S. DUNES NEWS IS PUBLISHED INTERMITTENTLY BY PRESERVE THE DUNES, INC.

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NEWS BRIEFS

APPEAL HEARD

On April 10, 2002 the State Appellate Court heard oral arguments in Preserve the Dunes suit against the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality and TechniSand. The case was placed on an expedited calendar because TechniSand was given permission by the Hagar Township Board to begin mining.

Those attending the hearing came away believing that our arguments were much more convincing than those put forward by the DEQ and TechniSand. We hope that a ruling will be made very soon. TechniSand has already started operations at the Nadeau Site.

As reported in our last issue the agreement between the mining company and the township was the result of court ordered mediation. In that issue we outlined why the agreement was flawed and will in all likelihood fail to even protect the citizens of Hagar. Of course it will also allow the first new mining of protected critical dunes since the sand dune mining law was amended in 1989 to prohibit mining of these areas with only two exceptions — neither of which applies to TechniSand.

TOUR OF ROSS PRESERVE

At 2:00 PM on May 25, Chuck Nelson, Director of Sarett Nature Center will lead a guided tour of a portion of Ross Preserve. It will feature the wetlands behind the back dunes and will start at the west end of 38th Avenue in Covert. See the map to the right. Chuck always gives a great tour and this one promises to be a fascinating one.

DUNE FORUM

Preserve the Dunes is joining the Sierra Club, West Michigan Environmental Action Council, and Lake Michigan Federation in sponsoring a forum on the dunes entitled "Vanishing Lake Michigan Dunes." Speakers will be announced soon. The forum will be held on June 10 between 7:00 PM and 9:00 PM at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids. A separate mailing will provide more details.

BEACH & DUNE ECOLOGY WALK

At 10:00 AM on July 6, Chuck Nelson will lead a walk along the beach focusing on dune creation and dune ecology. It will begin from the Hagar Township Park on the Blue Star Highway, south of Lake Michigan Beach.

DONOR'S LIST

The success of Preserve the Dunes has been made possible by the grants and gifts that have been made over the past four and a half years. The legal battle has been expensive. Without the donations received victory could never be achieved. We should also note that PTD has very little overhead — a phone, a post office box, office supplies printing and mailing expenses. Clerical time, the web site, and "staff" time is all volunteered or donated.



Special appreciation is due the Brickman Foundation and the Pritzker Foundation, whose generosity and support have been critical.

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Please return this response form to support the goals of Preserve the Dunes.

We need to tell elected officials and government employees how many residents and property owners support these efforts. This measure of support is critical to successfully protecting the dunes and restricting sand dune mining. Only your name and address are necessary.

If you can also contribute financially, the funds are needed to continue our struggle to preserve the dunes through distribution of information, keeping our state representatives and local officials informed, and ensuring that the laws governing sand dune mining are enforced.

Preserve the Dunes, Inc. — Response Form

Mail the completed form to Preserve the Dunes, Inc., Post Office Box 581, Riverside, MI 49084-0581

I want to preserve the dunes of southwest Michigan and am concerned about the expansion of sand dune mining.

Name(s)		
Home Address		Michigan Address (if different)
City, State, Zip		City, State, Zip
Telephone 1	Telephone 2	Telephone
Fax	eMail	Fax

Annual Membership Form

In addition, enroll me(us) as a member for 2001. <input type="checkbox"/> Individual (\$6) <input type="checkbox"/> Family (\$10) I have also included a contribution in the amount of \$	Please contact me to work on the following committees: <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Affairs <input type="checkbox"/> Finance/Fund Raising <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter <input type="checkbox"/> Public Hearings <input type="checkbox"/> Memberships	Membership dues underwrite the expense of keeping members informed about efforts to preserve the dunes and monitor sand mining activities in Berrien and Van Buren counties. <u>Checks should be made payable to West Michigan Environmental Action Council/Preserve the Dunes Fund.</u> Contributions are tax deductible.
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Additional support has been made possible through a grant from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation which has supported newsletters, office expenses, aerial photography, etc.

SUPPORTERS REACH 1000+
 The number of members and registered supporters has increased to over 1020 individuals. It is important to continue to add to our list of supporters — so if you have not yet signed up please do so. Send in the form on page 3.

MORE DONATIONS NEEDED

If we win the suit, which we expect to do, it is very likely that TechniSand will appeal to the Michigan Supreme Court. We will need your continued financial support to continue this fight.

There will continue to be the need for monitoring of permit applications, and continuing sand dune mine operations. These require time. They require vigilance. But they also cost money. Please renew your membership and contribute again to these important efforts.

Thank you for your past contributions and support.



Mining of Critral dunes at Nadeau Site has begun. Nadeau Pit is in the background.

“Those dunes are to the Midwest what the Grand Canyon is to Arizona and the Yosemite is to California. They constitute a signature of time and eternity. Once lost, the loss would be irrevocable.” — Carl Sandburg

The printing and mailing of this newsletter was made possible by a grant from the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation.

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