

Residents Of Thurston School Area Oppose Nature-Study Pond Plan

A proposal to make the Thurston School pond into a nature study area is opposed by a group of residents who live nearby.

Ronald L. Somerville of 2477 Antietam, a spokesman for residents opposing the proposal, said the plan to turn the existing water area into a nature study center has limited merit because of the large number of built-in contradictions.

Somerville said that the water area, four to five acres in size, is stagnant, polluted, insect-breeding and a safety hazard.

Somerville said that a recent analysis by the county health department showed the Thurston swamp contains a significant level of coliform bacteria

characteristic of fecal contamination.

Insects and especially mosquitoes are already plentiful, said Somerville, and can be counted on to multiply as the summer progresses. Any mosquito control program would undoubtedly have an adverse effect on bird life, Somerville

St. Thomas Junior High Band Scores

The 66-member St. Thomas Junior High School Band, Morris J. Lawrence Jr. directing, received a straight "A" rating at a music festival held at Notre Dame High School in Detroit last week.

Five Class B senior and junior high schools competed in the festival, which was sponsored by the Detroit Archdiocesan Band and Orchestra Association.

The 66-member St. Thomas group performed so well that an encore was asked of it.

maintained.

Opposing residents also feel the algae-filled pond constitutes a safety hazard to small children playing in the area. The pond, said Somerville, is deep enough to cause accidental drowning to small children playing in the area. Somerville said there is also a question of liability. In case of accidental death, Orchard Hills homeowners or the school district could be liable, he said.

Residents opposing the proposed aquatic nature study area also say the existence of the pond deprives the children of a playground and a possible Junior High School.

Residents maintain the pond effectively cuts off access to a wooded area which could much better be utilized as a nature

study area.

Somerville said because of the wooded area adjoining the swamp, "the desirable features of a nature sanctuary can be retained without having to tolerate the many undesirable aspects that accompany the swamp."

Hay Fever-Asthma Relationship Noted

CHICAGO — Dr. James E. McLean, of 944 Raymond, an associate professor of internal medicine at U-M, told the American College of Allergists last week of a study of the patterns of allergies in a community in which nearly every resident over 6 years of age was investigated as to individual and family medical history.

The study showed that there is a correlation between hay fever and asthma, as allergists had suspected for years. This was the first such evidence on a community-wide basis. McLean noted, however, that hay fever does not necessarily lead to asthma.

Fulton To Talk

The Stony Creek Square Club will hold its annual "Wives' Night Out" dinner at 6:30 p.m. May 9 at the Stony Creek Grange Hall.

Douglas J. Fulton, outdoors columnist for The Ann Arbor News, will be the featured speaker.