

LOW NEWSLETTER

May 2007

Did you know...?

- To solve a floating lily pad problem, Professional Lake Management recommends residents dig out the plant roots by a shoreline where the lily pads have become a nuisance.
- The Board of Director seats currently held by Bill Kiss, Roger Mattens & Larry Ralston will be up for election at the next Annual Meeting/ Picnic on July 21, 2007. Would you like to run?
- Two new no-wake buoys for the lake's west bay, near the public access have been purchased with your membership dues.
- Your lake association has numerous residents who volunteer to help with various projects throughout the year. THANK YOU to all who do!

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Professional Lake Management shows optimism for 2007 season

Dear Lake of the Woods Property Owners:

In 2006 Sonar A.S. (fluridone) was applied to LOW at a selective rate for Eurasian watermilfoil (exotic/invasive species). The goal for 2006 was to achieve a lake-wide reduction of Eurasian watermilfoil. Based on a late summer survey, that goal was achieved.

For 2007 the management focus will shift to monitoring and maintenance.

Any new areas of Eurasian watermilfoil growth will be addressed immediately on a spot treatment basis. Native plants will be evaluated as well.

Keep in mind that a

healthy lake needs a diverse population of native species. Management of native species should focus on reducing their abundance only where they are causing a significant recreational nuisance.

Our company will also continue to monitor the water quality and overall plant community in 2007.

Thank you for the opportunity to work on LOW. Be sure to give us a wave if you see us working by your property in 2007.

Sincerely,

Andy Tomaszewski

PLM Ecologist &

Southern Lake manager

Fritz Drain causes local controversy

A proposal by Van Buren County Drain Commissioner Joe Parman to the Hamilton Township Board to clean up a one-mile portion of the Fritz Drain into LOW was tabled at the March Township meeting to allow more study and public input.

Fritz Drain is a natural runoff from agricultural fields on the west side of LOW. In its current state it helps filter nutrients from farm fertilizers, thus reducing nutrients from entering the lake and contributing to weed growth.

Residents should be "storm-water" savvy

Storm-water is rain that falls onto surfaces like roads, sidewalks, parking lots and roofs. When it falls, it washes everything in its path to storm drains.

Some pollutants are particularly dangerous to surface waters, like fertil-

izers and pesticides from your lawn, oils and anti-freeze, trash and litter, soil, leaves and grass clippings, and pet waste. All of these things can wash into ditches or piped drainage systems and into lakes, rivers, streams or wetlands.

The best prevention is elimination of potential hazards. Don't over-fertilize your lawn, don't dump waste into catch basins or the lake, repair leaking vehicles, and wash cars on lawns.

Please protect our water!

Register now for annual safe boating course

The LOW Improvement Association will sponsor its seventh annual Boaters Safety Course at the Decatur Webster Library, Saturday, June 16, 2007 from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

The course will be presented by the Van Buren County Sheriff Department in cooperation with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

There is no charge for the course, and successful students will be awarded a Michigan Boaters Safety Certificate at the conclusion of the class.

Any time after May 25, PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED by calling 269-423-8810 by June 9.

Give your name, address, age, date of birth and telephone number. Participants are to bring a sack lunch, note paper and a pencil or pen. Refreshments will be provided by the Assn.

Michigan law states, "*Boaters born after December 31, 1978 are required to have a valid Boaters Safety Certificate to operate a personal watercraft (PWC) on Michigan waterways.*"

Course participants must be at least 12 years of age. If a person 12

or more AND his/her parent or legal guardian have obtained a boating safety certificate, special PWC regulations apply.

This is an excellent educational opportunity for anyone considering the purchase of a boat or for present adult boat owners who have never taken the course. The Assn. encourages adult participation to brush up on the latest boating rules and regulations.

LOW Assn. is pleased to partner with law enforcement agencies in order to make the boating experience safer and more fun for everyone. Call NOW to register!

Search for the LOW longest, living resident begins

While in some circles it may not be polite to ask a person's age, in this case it could bring fame and fortune. Well, O.K., only 15 minutes of fame and a modest prize!

The Assn. would like to recognize the lake's longest, living resident at the July 21 annual meeting, thank him/her for setting a good example of neighborly living, listen to some stories of the "*good ole days*" and present him/her with a free 2008

membership in the Assn.

Most of us have been taught to "listen to your elders," because we can learn a few things. Whereas, the LOW Assn. has been listening to the needs of lake residents since formed in 1980, it still has a lot to learn.

So, if you are willing to step up to the plate, reveal your birth date and when you first settled on LOW, we

want to meet YOU at the annual meeting. By reviewing the list of current paid members in the Assn., found elsewhere in this issue, you may find the name of our most senior neighbor. Ask that person if he/she is willing to share some heritage with the rest of us.

We all have planted roots around the lake. Let's see who has the deepest one.

Fritz Drain cleaning causes ecological controversy

(continued from page 1)

The LOW Assn. was not informed of this proposed initiative. After learning of the proposal, the Assn. wrote Parman and Hamilton Township Supervisor Carl Druskovich, requesting that any decision on the drain be postponed. LOW Assn. contends that more time is needed to adequately research the consequences to the lake of cleaning out

the drain. The last time any work was done on the drain was in 1987.

Given the contract with Professional Lake Management Company for controlling exotic and native weed growth in the lake as well as monitoring water quality data, it is imperative that PLM be involved in any dialogue which could affect the scientific protocol designed for our lake.

At the Township's April meeting the request was tabled indefinitely or until the following conditions are met: 1) Five property owners near the drain must petition for the work to be done; 2) PLM would have to be involved; 3) specific cost figures, rather than estimates, would have to be submitted; and 4) a majority of supporters would be needed at any and all public hearings.

See 2007 Tentative Water Treatment Schedule posted elsewhere on the LOW web site.

LOW PAID MEMBERSHIPS

(as of April 30, 2007)

Allred, Steve & Karen
 Allsop, Jeffery & Borden, Pam
 Arbo, Avon & Holmes, Michelle L.
 Arendash, Luke & Katherine
 Athey, Jeffery A.
 Bakker, John G. & Carole L.
 Bartholomae, Earl R. & Veronica C.
 Bathje, Donald L. & Lynda M.
 Beenes, Martin & Sandra
 Bird, William C. & Anne M.
 Blue, William & Dixie
 Boersma, John & Darlene
 Bowles, John
 Broekhuizen, Andrew & Harriet
 Broekhuizen, Garrett & Evelyn
 Buenz, Daniel & Julene
 Burke Jr., John T. & Sharon A.
 Burza, Donald G. & Patricia A.
 Butt, Richard & Judith
 Butt, Shirley A. or Dennis S.
 Chillo, Donald F. & Sherrill
 Ciarlette, David G. & Judy M.
 Craft, Kenneth & Darlene
 Creagan, James H. & Lisa
 Curran, Joseph J.
 Davia, Thomas D. & Jean E.
 Deuel, Mandy
 DeVries, M. Richard & Janet R.
 DeWitt, Willard & Helen
 Douglas, Gary & Deb
 - Timber Trails
 Drenth, Ronald J. & Judith A.
 Eich, Sandra
 Erickson, Kurt E. & Florence S.
 Essig, Delwin & Sandra
 Falduto, Robert D. & Jodi
 Feather, William & Mildred
 Filipoff, Douglas, Jan & Novak, F.
 First State Bank of Decatur
 Fuller, Walter & Beverly
 Fulwiler, Scott L. & Sallie A.
 Gale, Randolph & Carrilou
 Gluszczyk, George J. & J. Karen
 Graziano, Joseph S.
 Grube, Marvin A.
 Grube, William W. & Jane
 Grunden, Jeffery J. & Billie S.
 Haas, Raymond L. & Margaret M.
 Hardin, Dayna -- LOW Camp
 Heinrich, Raymond & Jane
 Henk, James P.
 High, Mark
 High's Marine, Attn: Mark High
 Hillyer, Joe E. & Laura J.
 Hughes, Dale V. & Dawn A.
 Ives, Richard & Catherine
 Janicki, Harry F. & Maybelle
 Jareckas, Ronald W.
 Jenkins, Earl & Ruth
 Johnson, Robert L. & Connie
 Johnson, Sharon
 Kiss, William & Elizabeth
 Kooy, Clarence & Helen
 Korchak, Leo J. & Carlene R.
 Krum, Gordon & Opal
 LeCompte, Gary & Patricia A.
 LeCompte, Gregory & Jane
 Lindbloom, Joseph & Cheryl
 Lindemulder, Caryl M.
 Lumbas, John & Elaine F.
 Lynch, Loretta
 Malburg, William J. & Janice M.
 Manno, Carl J. & Patricia M.
 Mansfield, Guy & Tammy
 Manuszak, Gloria L.
 Martin, Charlotte
 Martin, Dale
 Matkaitis, Gerald A. & Ruth
 Mattens, Roger A. & Carol A.
 McCurrie, Mary Lou
 Morey, Craig & Kitty
 Morgan, James T. & Kathy
 Nejman, Frank E. & Terry
 Neubauer, James & Grose, Mary
 Neubauer, Jeffery & Claire
 Neubauer, John J. & Sharon T.
 Newell, Terry W. & Linda K.
 O'Connor, Barbara M.
 Panico, Dominic & Laural
 Pearson, Roy L. & Ellis, Marcia
 Penning, Bradley S.
 Pignatiello, Victor V.
 Pitera, Richard & Mary Ann
 Plewa, Jean A.
 Potter, Wayne & Marcia
 Raffae, James & Martha A.
 Raines, Robert & Karen
 Rajzer, Brian M. & Emelee A.
 Rajston, Lawrence & Edna
 Reynolds, Flora K.
 Richardson, James & Cynthia
 Ritchie, Timothy & Stacy D.
 Rodgers, Mary & Patterson, Mark
 Roeder, Janet M.
 Rohrbach, James & Vicky
 Romano, Rocco & Cheryl
 Sabbe, Donald & Joan
 Sabbe, Michael A. & Patricia
 Sampsell, A. Leo & Picklo, Sandy
 Schaap, Christopher J. & Julie A.
 Schaap, Ronald & Janice
 Schackle, Richard J. & Barbara A.
 Schafer, Ronald F.
 Schubert, Albert J. & Jeanne
 Schultz, Daniel E. & Margaret M.
 Sheehan, John & Patricia
 Sheeley, Harold B.
 Shepard, Robert W. & Pamela M.
 Sikkenga, H. Allan & Sharon A.
 Siple, Kathryn M.
 Smit, Clarence & Joanne
 Smith, Alan L. & Doris A.
 Smith, Dorothy A.
 Smith, Joan A.
 Smith, Marian M.
 Smith, Michael L. & Kathryn L.
 Stanek, Thomas A.
 Stipak Jr, August & Ethyle
 Sweeney, Tom & Mary Ann
 Thomas, LaVona L.
 Thomas, William J. & Elizabeth
 Thoner, Robert & Janice
 Thornton, Carmi A.
 Tohtz, John T. & Fabrie, Stacey
 Umphrey, Darren
 Vick, John A. & Jayne A.
 Village of Decatur,
 Attn: Martin Super
 Vining, Errol L. & JoAnn
 Wesaw, Harry J. & Jodi L.
 Wesaw, Ronald G. & Audrey E.
 Wexler, Ron & Daryel
 Winkler, Daniel & Lori
 Witvoet, John & Audrey
 Wolf, Paul A. & Donna C.
 Wolkowitz, Donald & Jo Ann
 Yike, Dennis & O'Brien, Kermit
 Younker, Keith E. & Donna M.
 Younker, Kelly & Theresa
 Zebus, Edward & Lois Ann

Thank you for supporting
 our lake organization!

New LOW shirts to be available at annual business meeting

Showing the special spirit that surrounds LOW has long been a tradition as seen in the previous shirts available through the Assn.

Thanks to the efforts of Dan Buenz, Char Martin and past Board of Directors members over the years, T-shirts displaying the beauty and fun found at LOW have been for sale.

This year, a new style of clothing option becomes available for lake residents and supporters.

T-shirts, polos and hooded sweatshirts go on sale at the annual meeting. Each will be in a natural sand background with a colorful logo, representing lake life.

T-shirts will sell for \$10. Polo shirts will sell for \$15. Hooded sweatshirts will sell for \$20.

The clothing supplier is a local Decatur business, The Locker Room, which also provided assistance in designing the new artwork.

Sizes will range from medium to XL in each style. Special order sizes will be available by contacting The Locker Room, directly.

After July 21, mail orders will be handled through the Assn. mailing address. The cost will include the price of the shirt plus a \$5.00 per order shipping fee.

Optimist Club to host Cardboard Box Boat Race in July

The Decatur Optimist Club will sponsor the second annual *Cardboard Box Boat Race* on Saturday, July 28 at the Red Woolfe Park beach. Last year's event was a huge hit with lake residents and community members, alike.

Details on registration, race rules, boat construction guidelines and race time may be obtained by contacting ...

Tim Ritchie at 269-423-9290

...or by asking any Decatur Optimist Club member.

Reserve July 21, 2007 for annual meeting & picnic

The annual business meeting of the Assn. will begin at 12 noon, Saturday, July 21 at the Red Wolfe Park. Once the meeting is adjourned, the potluck picnic will begin.

Part of each year's annual meeting is the election of three members to the Board of Directors for a three year term. This year the terms of Bill Kiss, Roger Mattens and Larry Ralston expire. Any member in

good standing is eligible to run for the Board.

The Assn. provides the picnic luncheon meats, buns and beverages and asks those who attend to please bring a salad or dessert to share. Last year's food was delicious, thanks to the wonderful cooks within our membership.

While those attending may annually look forward to the games for

younger children or the door prize raffle, provided by numerous, supportive Decatur merchants, what everyone comments about the most is the opportunity to share fellowship with our lake family. Many residents refer to this annual get-together as a *lake family reunion*, where they can visit with lake residents they may not see often. The gathering is a perfect way to also make new friends. See you there!

July 4th LOW Boat Parade continues annual tradition

Fun, patriotism and friendly competition are the hallmarks of the annual July 4 Boat Parade around LOW, beginning at 7 p.m.

Given the fact that the holiday falls on a Wednesday this year, the Assn. hopes many boaters will still participate.

As always, decorated boats are welcome to join in the celebration by mustering at the north end of the lake to receive an entry identification number between 6:15 and 6:45. The number should be displayed on the boat's *port* side.

This year the Board of Directors has

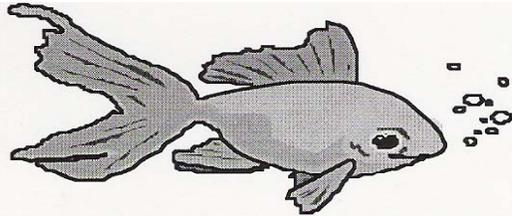
voted to allow all entries to be eligible to win one of the three prizes. Previously, only Assn. members were eligible to win.

Lake residents and/or guests are encouraged to creatively decorate their watercraft for an evening of local goodwill and American pride!

**LAKE OF THE WOODS
IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION, INC**

Roger A. Mattens
Secretary/Treasurer
P.O. Box 188
Decatur, MI 49045-0188

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LOW Bass Fishing Contest Returns

The 24th annual LOW Bass Fishing Contest will again officially kick off the summer fishing season on Saturday, May 26. Competition fishing begins at 12:01 a.m. and ends at 6 p.m.

Facilitating the contest again this year is Gary Douglas from the Timber Trails Campground. Assisting him are LOW Board members Joe Hillyer and Bill Kiss. The registration fee is \$5.00.

Bass Contest participants may register at Timber Trails or Warner's Do-It Center in Decatur.

FIRST PRIZE is \$25.00 for up to five largest bass by weight.

SECOND PRIZE is \$15.00 for one largest bass by weight.

The fish must be alive and will be weighed together. Weigh-in is at 6 p.m. at Timber Trails. The same person can't win both prizes.

For an additional fee of \$3.00, anglers may enter the "**WINNER TAKE ALL**" contest (judged by total weight of up to five fish), with all monies going back to the winner.

Good luck to all entries!

Check out Marcia Potter's display from the April 20-22 MES Assns. Conference at our July LOW Annual meeting.

Additional Bass Fishing Contests set for LOW this summer

The National Bass Anglers Association is sponsoring three bass fishing contests on LOW this season. They will be held on June 28, July 19 and August 9.

Competition fishing is scheduled from 6-9 p.m..

More information can be found on the web at www.nbaa-bass.com.