

# Lake of The Woods NEWSLETTER

February 2004

Volume 1 Issue 1



## DRY HYDRANTS

Fire Chief Barney Ives reported that they have one dry hydrant ready to go and one of the department volunteers, volunteered to use his equipment to install it. Tentative plans are placing it between two homes on the large channel; the homeowners have already given their ok. If you're picturing a regular fire hydrant, let's change that picture a little. A dry hydrant is a pipe that goes down into the ground makes an L underground and runs into the lake. When the fire department needs to fill their pumper truck, they run a hose into the pipe and pump water into the trucks holding tank, they don't have to waste time breaking through the ice or drive all the way back to town. The Fire Department is still looking for spots on the east and south sides of the lake. If you'd like to see your insurance rates go down and have water readily available for the pumper trucks in case there's a fire in your neighborhood, why not contact one of the Association officers. Some place on Lake Drive and on 86<sup>th</sup> Ave. would be excellent locations; the lake front isn't too far from the road so the fire department could use their hose from the truck to the hydrant. This installation will not be unsightly nor will it detract from your lakefront. One will more than likely go in at the public access and on the north side on the fire departments right of way at the end of 47<sup>th</sup> Street. If you want to be the lucky property owner to get a hydrant installed, let us know. This is one way you can support your Association, and the only work involved for you is picking up your phone and calling one of the Association Officers to let them know you have a place for the hydrant.

## OUR NEW WEB SITE

[www.lakeofthewoodsmi.org](http://www.lakeofthewoodsmi.org) This is the address of our new site for those of you that haven't visited yet. The site was created for the Association by Craig & Kitty Morey. Don't visit just once, things will be updated and added as we go along. They welcome any suggestions, complaints or input from members about what they'd like to see on the site. You'll find a place on the site that tells you how to contact them. When things are happening around the lake we'll try to get the information on line for you. We have a Decatur business, the Mousse Lodge, advertising for the first time to support the Association, and your support would be appreciated. When you make an appointment let them know you saw their advertisement on the LOW website. If you were at the picnic, you'll remember that Mary Luth, the owner, was one of the businesses that donated prizes, so let's support the Mousse Lodge.

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## FROM YOUR VICE PRESIDENT

A reminder about the safe boating class to be held June 19<sup>th</sup>. Watch the paper, our web site and the store windows downtown where signs will be posted with all the details.

Larry feels you can take pride in being a member of the Lake of the Woods Improvement Association. Many members have asked how their annual dues are spent and he's made a list of the services provided:

- Weed cutting and control on the lake during the summer season.
- Maintenance of the weed cutting boat, conveyer and dump truck.
- Partial sponsorship of the annual Jul 4 fireworks display.
- Constant monitoring of water clarity by use of the Secchi Disc.
- A pro-active stance in local government issues that would impact the lake.
- Sponsors of the "BIG BASS CONTEST" each Memorial Day weekend.
- Purchase, placement and maintenance of all control and hazard buoys.
- Active membership in the Michigan Lakes and Streams Association.
- Annual services of a certified Limnologist, to monitor water quality.
- Sponsors of the annual July 4, decorated boat parade.
- Newsletters on a timely base, to keep everyone informed about Association activities and coming events.
- Sponsorship of the annual SAFE BOATING COURSE, in cooperation with the Van Buren County Sheriff and Michigan Department of Natural Resources. (If you haven't already taken this course, put it on your calendar)
- Annual members picnic with free food and drink and games for kids and adults.
- Participation in the annual SWIM-A-THON, as patrol boats to safeguard the participants.

When you add up all the programs and benefits provided, you have to admit it's a pretty good "bang for the buck". Encourage your neighbors to become members and help preserve our most vital natural resource.

## MEMBERS AND THEIR ASSOCIATION (From your Sec/Treas)

It's been in previous letters and the definition of member hasn't changed. Most people join organizations to become a part of it. Becoming a part of any organization implies that the member will work to help make that organization stronger. Right now as a best guess, out of 140 plus, paid members there are only 20 or 25 of those members actually active in this Association. Your Board is sure that there must be more than those 20 or 25 people with an hour or two that could be devoted to 'their Association'. Take the picnic for example; the same 8 or 10 people have been doing all the work for the last two years. They haven't complained, but wouldn't it be nice if a few more helpers showed up and learned the ropes? They might even take over the picnic for a year or two so the present workers could enjoy the picnic too. Wouldn't that be a hoot???? We need volunteers to visit members and non-members around the lake, to talk up the benefits of having an Association that works to keep the lake as free of weeds as possible. Speaking of weeds, that was no mean task this last summer, as fast as the weeds were cut it seemed as if they were growing up behind the weed cutter. While we're talking about the weed cutter, Jr. has had a few nibbles from several parties that might like to sign on; we've got our

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fingers crossed. We've had several offers of help from week-enders and we appreciate that, but the cutter can't be out cutting on week-ends. We need to get new help firm up; otherwise the ad for help goes in the paper for at least the whole month of April. If you're retired and living here on the lake, looking for a little something to do, why not give Jr. a call and sign up. He and Bob will take you out and let you get a taste of Captain and Mate so you can make up your mind if running the weed boat is for you. It's not a 9 to 5 job or even 5 days a week. When the weeds are high, the sun is out and the wind is down, any day between Monday and Friday, its look out weeds here we come. Not only that, you get paid to have all that fun. So come on, call Jr., 423-8377 and sign up for the time of your life, I kid you not, you'll firm up, brown up and feel 10 (count 'em) years younger. For that initial run bring your life vests, if you sign on we provide them.

## FROM YOUR MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

I really don't want to repeat that same old plea that's in every letter, but come on guys, here we are almost at the end of February and we only have 12 paid memberships. The Association is like any other business, there are bills to pay, weed cutter salaries and parts for the cutter, insurance and on and on. It's kind of important to know early on what our income will be so we can budget expenses throughout the year. We've even entertained eventually buying a different weed cutter, not new, but gently used. At this point in time it's only a dream.

## MISCELLANEOUS

We received our Secchi Disk report from Michigan Lake and Stream Association from readings taken by Jr Kooy and his wife, during the 2003 summer season, as follows:

No. of readings	Min.	Max	Mean	Median	Deviation	(Transparency)
11	6.0	21.0	11.2	9.0	4.85	42

We haven't received the report from Water Quality Investigators yet.

**As promised, listed below are the paid members as of this news letter.**

**(N) for new member**

Mr. & Mrs. B. Edenfield

Mr. & Mrs. R. Hanna

Ms. V. Hathcock

Mr. & Mrs. W. Linklater

Mr. & Mrs. R. Martin

Mr. & Mrs. L. McCurrie

Mr. & Mrs. C. Morey

Mr. & Mrs. L. Ralston

Ms. Jan Roeder

Mr. Ron Shafer

D. Umphry/A. Easton

Mr. & Mrs. Don Wolkowitz (N)