

LOW NEWSLETTER

September, 2005

Did you know...?

- Members Craig & Kitty Morey maintain our web site at lakeofthewoodsmi.org. Check us out, & thank the Moreys.
- A person shall not operate a personal watercraft during the period that begins one hour before sunset and ends at 8 a.m.
- The Michigan maximum speed is 55 mph in all water unless otherwise regulated.
- The Assn. had to chase and re-secure safety marker buoys three times this season, because they broke loose from their anchors. It's against the law to anchor or tie up to any marine marker buoy.

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Special assessment district gets green light for LOW weed control

The initiative for herbicide weed control, paid by a special assessment of LOW property owners is moving steadily forward.

Following a successful petition drive where well over 51% of property owners in Decatur and Hamilton Townships signed in support of a special assessment district, the first public hearing provided enough positive comments to convince both township boards to approve the project.

As of this writing the townships' attorney is making final plans for the second public hearing. Once final approval is given, the annual \$200.00 per property owner fee will appear on the tax rolls. The initial special

assessment district contract is for five years and is renewable without another petition drive.

Timber Trails, Camp Greenwood and LOW Camp have voluntarily agreed to a multiple unit tax assessment.

The tentative date for the first water treatment will be the last part of April or first of May, 2006.

Professional Lake Management of Caledonia, Michigan will be handling the weed control/water quality program. The company was carefully researched by the LOW Assn. Board of Directors as well as by the two respective township boards for its success results and credentials. PLM has

over 25 years experience controlling weeds and preserving aquatic environments. Specific details of the multiple year treatment program are on file with each respective township.

LOW Assn. member Andy Broekhuizen has served as the primary liaison with PLM. He states, "PLM is a very good company with good people with which to work, and they have our lake in their best interest."

Whereas, several lake residents commented that this year's weed problem was not as severe as previous years, PLM is predicting after the treatments begin, everyone should see a marked improvement.

Boat parade reflects lake July 4 spirit

The annual July 4 boat parade contained 18 participants this year. Thanks to High's Marine for enhancing the prize gift certificates.

The judges praised each registered boat for its

"red, white and blue spirit" and selected the following as the top three winners:

1st place

The Carol and Roger Matens family from 86th Ave., Decatur.

2nd place

The Thiele family from Timber Trails Camp.

3rd place

The Marcia and Wayne Potter family from 86th Ave., Decatur.

Fun Facts about Lake of the Woods

(Source: Wallace Fusilier,
PhD, Water Quality Investigators,
Dexter, Michigan)

*LOW has a maximum depth of 34 feet and a mean depth of 14.8 feet.

*It is a 311 acre natural moderately hard water kettle lake with a dam.

*There are approximately four acres of islands in the lake; hence the surface area is 307 acres.

*The lake has 33313 feet of shoreline, not including the shorelines of the islands.

*The elevation of the lake is 751 feet above sea level.

*The longitude and latitude of the 34-foot deep hole is 85 degrees 59.792W and 42 degrees 06.644N.

*There are two inlets. One flows into the lake on the northeast corner and other flows into the lake on the northwest corner.

*The outlet is the Lake of the Woods Drain which flows from the south side of the lake to the North Branch of the Dowagiac River.

*The Dowagiac River enters the St. Joseph River below Niles.

*The St. Joseph River discharges into Lake Michigan at St. Joseph, Michigan.

*The size of the watershed, which is the land area that contributes water to the lake, but does not include the lake, is 4539 acres.

*The lake flushes once every 1.04 years, on an average. This is a high flushing rate for a Michigan inland lake.

*The lake appears to be nitrate rather than phosphorus limited in summer. That means no fertilizers containing either nitrogen or phosphorus should be used no closer than 400 feet from the lake.

*All in all, LOW is a really good quality lake.

Dues reduction being considered by Board

Budget research is underway by the Board of Directors to implement a possible reduction in dues beginning with the 2006 membership year in January. Currently, annual dues are \$40.

The Assn. uses its income to provide numerous services, some of which include...

*membership in the Michigan

Lakes and Streams Assn.

*facilitating boater safety classes

*monitoring lake water quality

*sponsoring bass fishing contest, 4th of July boat parade, annual picnic

Now that the Assn. no longer provides weed cutting for the lake, due

to the proposed herbicide treatment and special tax assessment project, expenses formerly incurred with weed harvesting are not budgeted.

Therefore, a decision on whether and by how much to reduce dues is expected by year's end. Once the Board finalizes its deliberations, members will be notified with their annual renewal notices in January.

Thank you for serving LOW Improvement Association

Three dedicated Board members have stepped down from leadership roles within the Assn. for various reasons. On behalf of the entire membership a special THANK YOU is extended to the following:

Charlotte Martin for her years of faithful service as secretary/

treasurer. Char was the backbone of the organization through choppy as well as calm waters. She will continue serving through 2008 as a Board member.

Billy Satterfield for his passion and zeal as a past president and Board member. He's earned some time to

go fishing and let someone else hold his Board seat.

Bill Kiss for guiding the Assn. through the recent weed management and special assessment project as president. His diplomacy and high energy level will remain on the Board till 2007.

Annual safe boating course reaps benefits

The Safe Boating Course sponsored by the LOW Assn attracted 19 participants from Southwest Michigan on Saturday, June 18 at the Webster Memorial Library.

The 6 1/2 hour course was conducted by Deputy Devon Krueger of the Van Buren County Sheriff Marine Division and included material for safe boating practices of personal watercraft operators and basic rules of navigation and rules of the waterways for all boaters. All candidates successfully completed the course requirements and were presented with their Safe Boating Certificate.

Deputy Krueger said, "I wish every lake association would promote such a course. Since we have been presenting these courses and educating boaters, we have reduced the number of boating related accidents by 70%."

Since initiating this free program to the public in 2001, the LOW Assn. has helped over 150 students graduate and improve boating safety on the lake.

Mark your calendar now! The date for the 2006 Safe Boating Course is **June 17, 2006**, from 8 am to 3:30 pm, at the Webster Memorial Library in Decatur.

Big Bass Contest winners recognized

The 22nd annual LOW Assn. Big Bass Contest was held Saturday, May 28 on the lake. Thanks to Gary Douglas for coordinating this event. The top two winners are listed below.

First: Eddie Stopper,
Camelot Campground
Second: Luke Gritter

Volunteer service unifies Board of Directors

Three of the nine Board of Directors members are elected at each annual meeting for a three year term. Below are the 2005-'06 members with the year their term expires.

Term expires 2006

Gary Douglas, 84981 47 1/2 St.
(423-7311)

Joe Hillyer, 46597 Delta Dr. (423-

8873)

Jan Roeder, 46211 Lakeview Dr.
(423-9222)

Term expires 2007

Bill Kiss, 83686 Fritz Dr. (423-6592)

Roger Mattens, 46296 86th Ave.
(269-344-5224)

Larry Ralston, 46948 West Dr. (423-

8810)

Term expires 2008

Andy Broekhuizen, 82495 47th St.
(423-7698)

Charlotte Martin, 47494 84th Ave.
(423-8692)

Wayne Potter, 46412 86th Ave.
(423-4801)

Board of Directors elects 2005-'06 officers

The new LOW Assn. officers were elected at the August 27 Board of Directors meeting in Decatur.

Serving for the coming year as president is Wayne Potter. He and his wife, Marcia, live on 86th Ave. Wayne was newly elected to the Board at the annual meeting/picnic.

Reelected as vice president is Larry Ralston. He and his wife, Edna, live on West Drive at the end of the outlet channel. Larry has facilitated the annual boater safety class for several years.

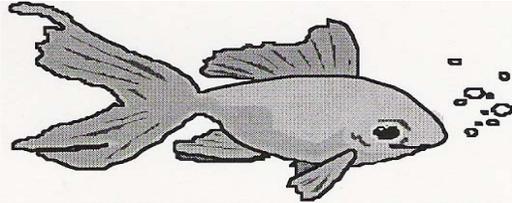
The new secretary/treasurer is Roger Mattens. He and his wife,

Carol, live on 86th Ave. Roger will use his Richland, MI address for official Assn. correspondence.

The officers and the Board of Directors volunteer their time and efforts in service to the entire membership for the common welfare of the lake community.

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

Roger A. Mattens
Secretary/Treasurer
7132 Hazelwood Ave.
Richland, MI 49083-9727



It takes you to keep our lake clean, safe & beautiful.

We're on the Web!

lakeofthewoodsmi.org

Annual picnic provides fellowship, fun, food

Every fourth Saturday in July the annual LOW Assn. picnic is held. This year's gathering was on July 23 with over 90 in attendance.

A few years ago it was decided to also hold our annual business meeting on the same day to encourage greater membership participation.

This year's meeting focused on the special assessment district for weed control project. (A summary of the project can be found on page 1.) Also discussed were issues of concern to lake residents.

The election of three Board members takes place at the annual meeting, and Andy Broekhuizen, Charlotte Martin and Wayne Potter were elected to three year terms.

Following the meeting the fun be-

gan with brats, salads, soft drinks and an assortment of desserts. The picnic provides an excellent opportunity to visit with lake neighbors you may not see on a regular basis.

Games and prizes were provided for the children who attended.

Thank you to High's Marine, Charlotte Martin and Larry Ralston for donating adult prizes for our raffle drawings. Thank you, also, to the Board of Directors who facilitate this yearly event and to the members who donated the delicious desserts.

Mark your calendar for next year's picnic and business meeting on **July 22, 2006**. With your support, Lake of the Woods will continue to be an inviting, safe, clean and beautiful community of water lovers.

Old weed cutting equipment is sold!

After the old weed cutter gave up the ghost in 2004, Gary Douglas was kind enough to store it on his Timber Trails property until a willing buyer could be found.

Thankfully, Larry Jackson bought all the Association's weed harvesting equipment and vehicle for \$1700. Our headache has become someone else's treasure.