

LOW NEWSLETTER

MAY, 2006

Did you know...?

- The 2005 LOW water quality report can be found on our website.
- The Michigan DNR has installed a new dock at the LOW public access to help boaters better launch and trailer boats.
- Michigan has slipped to #2 in the US behind Florida for the number of registered boats.
- There are 3 Board of Directors seats up for election at the July 22 annual meeting. Any member in good standing may run for one of these seats. Gary Douglas, Joe Hillyer and Jan Roeder are finishing 3 year terms and may run for reelection.

Inside this issue:

Report from MLSA's 45th Annual Conference	2
Fire Department needs lake access	3
July 4th boat parade planning begins	3
Professional Lake Management 2006 water treatment begins	3
Current membership list	4
Clean Boats, Clean Waters tips	5
Annual meeting & picnic date announced	5
LOW t-shirts available for sale	6

6th annual safe boating course set

The LOW Improvement Association will sponsor its sixth annual Boating Safety Course at the Decatur Webster Library, Saturday, June 17, 2006 from 8 am to 3:30 pm.

The course will be presented by the Van Buren County Sheriff Department in cooperation with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The Assn. has helped over 150 people successfully complete this course by learning the rules of Michigan waterways and safe boating practices.

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

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." The minimum age for operating a PWC is 14. This course will fulfill that Michigan requirement.

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 also an excellent educational opportunity for anyone considering the purchase of a boat or for present adult boat owners who have never

taken a Boating Safety Course. The Assn. encourages adult participation to brush up on the latest boating rules and regulations.

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED by June 10 by calling 269-423-8810. 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.

The Assn. is pleased to partner with law enforcement agencies in order to make the boating experience safer and more fun for everyone. LOW is patrolled by the marine division of the Van Buren County Sheriff Dept.

Anglers prepare for Big Bass Contest

The 23rd annual "Big Bass Contest" will be held Saturday, May 27 at LOW, beginning at 12:01 am and ending at 6 pm. The Assn. will again be sponsoring the contest in cooperation with Timber Trails Campground. The registration fee is \$5.00.

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 pm at Timber Trails. The same person can't win both prizes.

An additional fee of \$3.00 will enter you in 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!

45th annual MLSA Conference held April 28-30 in Big Rapids

by
LOW Association First Lady,
Marcia Potter

On the beautiful last weekend in April, Wayne and I were privileged to attend the Michigan Lake and Streams Association Conference in Big Rapids, Michigan, just 45 minutes north of Grand Rapids. Big Rapids is the home of Ferris State University and is located on the banks of the pretty Muskegon River.

Before we even attended any sessions, we knew the conference was going to be interesting. The program listed a diversity of topics, and the speakers had impressive credentials and were all experts in their field. All of them were always friendly and willing to answer our questions.

It was difficult for us to choose which sessions we wanted attend, because they all sounded great. Neither one of us has a background in most of the sessions that were presented, so we were a captive audience and absorbed the information like a sponge.

As delegates for our LOW Assn. we wanted to glean as much information as possible that would benefit our Decatur riparians.

The first day I attended the Michigan Invasive Plant Council symposium. This peaked my interest, because the garlic mustard plant was the focus of the meeting. Garlic mustard is a plant that is growing in our woodlands and on our properties around the lake. It spreads rapidly and will take over native plants and trees if it is not eliminated. It has no natural predator, so hand pulling is the best method to eradicate it.

While I was learning about nasty plants, Wayne was attending "Ground water, well water and well-head protection" and "Your Association's Insurance Coverage Alternatives."

Saturday, we learned about "Marine Safety," "Collaborating Partnerships" and "Clean Boats, Clean Water — Michigan's new aquatic invasive plants." (See page 5 for how you can help with this project.)

Sunday, we didn't leave the conference until we

sat in on Dr. Donald Garling's discussion on "Inland Fisheries." One unique thing we learned was the bait recipe for carp, a fish that fights as excitingly as salmon. If you are seriously interested in the recipe, let me know.

During the conference there were several vendors and information booths. We picked up many informative pamphlets and brochures. We will have many of these brochures at the LOW Assn. Annual Picnic on July 22 for your perusal. We will also put together a notebook for member use as a reference manual. Please feel free to give us your concerns and/or questions. We may not be able to answer them all, but hopefully, we can direct you to the appropriate resources to find an answer.

The conference was certainly worth attending, and we met many new Michigan riparian friends.

(Post in cottage or on boat)

IN CASE OF **SUSPECTED DROWNING** IN VAN BUREN COUNTY

1. *Do not panic.*
2. *Immediately mark location with bouy or anchored boat.*
3. *Call the Sheriff Dept. **9-1-1***
4. *Give precise directions to your location. **DO NOT** hang up until dispatcher tells you to do so.*
5. *Go to main road to direct the emergency vehicles and drivers*

Lake receives 1st Sonar weed treatment

Professional Lake Management applied the initial Sonar herbicide treatment to help control weeds on LOW, Tuesday, April 25. Residents may have noticed the yellow postings surrounding the lake, announcing the type of treatment, date applied, DEQ permit number and applicable restrictions.

This treatment restricted swimming until April 26 and irrigation with lake water until May 25. In simple terms this means DO NOT use lake water on your lawn, flowers, seedbeds, vegetable gardens or areas to be planted until after May 25. All residents are encouraged to

be mindful of subsequent PLM posted signs throughout this recreational season and heed restrictions and dates as they apply to future treatment products used.

The 2006 treatment schedule was mailed to all LOW residents within the special assessment district and is available on the LOW Assn. website for review.

Only products approved by the State of Michigan and the federal government are being used to treat LOW. Questions should be directed to Andy Tomaszewski at PLM, 616-891-1294, 8 am-4 pm, M-F.

Seasonal Clean Water Tip:

Do not dump grass clippings, leaves or yard waste into the lake. This not only pollutes the water but also adds nutrients which feed the weeds.

*Remember,
our weed control program
needs everyone's help to
achieve success.*

Thanks!

Fire Department needs lake access

The Decatur/Hamilton Township Fire Department has decided not to install dry hydrants around LOW as originally announced in 2003. Instead, the department has purchased a "0" loss tanker.

According to Fire Chief Jack Conklin, this type of tanker is more efficient than dry hydrants in retrieving water to fight fires.

A dry hydrant is a pipe that goes into the lake water at strategically designated sites and remains under the ice in the winter.

Chief Conklin states that the department is in need of a few lake residents on the north and south sides of LOW to grant permission for the new tanker truck to access the lake via their property. Given

the weight of the truck, stable ground is a requirement.

Also, the truck needs to be no more than 40 feet from the lake water source to maximize the drawing strength of the tanker.

Any LOW Assn. member who is willing to volunteer property as a water access site should contact a Board member or Chief Conklin.

Planning begins for July 4th LOW Boat Parade

The LOW Assn. will again sponsor the annual July 4 Boat Parade around the lake, beginning at 7 pm. All decorated boats are welcome to help celebrate America's birthday, but only Assn. members are eligible to win one of the prizes for the three best decorated entries.

Boaters should muster at the north end of the lake to receive a parade identification number between 6:15 and 6:45 pm. The number should be displayed on the boat's port side.

Lake residents are encouraged to creatively decorate their watercraft for an evening of fun prior to the

fireworks display that will be presented at dusk.

Competition has been fierce in past years, with many "special effects" being added as the entries pass the judges' barge, anchored near the public access landing on the lake's west side.

LOW Assn. Membership List

(as of May 1, 2006)

Allred, Steve & Karen	Hillyer, Joe & Laura	Ralston, Lawrence & Edna
Allsop, Jeffery & Borden, Pam	Hughes, Dale V. & Dawn A.	Reynolds, Flora K.
Anderson, Robert & Connie	Ives, Richard & Catherine	Richardson, James & Cynthia
Arendash, Luke & Katherine	Iwan, Matthew & Linda	Richter, Robert & Janet
Baker, Nancy & Wenclaff, Don	Janicki, Harry & Maybelle	Ritchie, Timothy & Stacy
Bakker, John & Carole	Jareckas, Ronald W.	Rodgers, Mary
Barker, William C. & Arlene J.	Jenkins, Earl & Ruth	Roeder, Janet M.
Bartholomae, Earl & Veronica	Johnson, Robert & Connie	Rohrback, James & Vicky
Beenes, Martin & Sandra	Johnson, Sharon	Romano, Rocco & Cheryl
Bellino, Michael & Laura	Karolewski, Joseph & Christine	Sabbe, Donald & Joan
Bird, William & Anne	Kirschbaum, Robert R.	Sabbe, Michael & Patricia
Blue, William & Dixie	Kiss, William & Elizabeth	Sampsell, A. Leo & Picklo, Sandy
Boersma, John & Darlene	Kooy, Clarence & Helen	Satterfield, Billy & Sharon
Bowles, John	Kooy, Edward & Susanne	Schaap, Christopher & Julie
Broekhuizen, Andrew & Harriet	Kreykes, George & Diane	Schaap, Ronald & Janice
Buenz, Daniel & Julene	Krum, Gordon & Opal	Schackle, Richard & Barbara
Burke, John & Sharon	LeBarre, Michael & MaryAnn	Schneider, Max & JoAnn
Chillo, Donald & Sherrill	LeCompte, Gary & Patricia	Sheehan, John & Patricia
Ciarlette, David & Judy	LeCompte, Gregory & Jane	Shepard, Robert & Pamela
Clem, Douglas & Sheryl	Lindbloom, Joseph & Cheryl	Sikkenga, Allan & Sharon
Cousineau, Jack L.	Lindemulder, Caryl	Siple, Katheryn M.
Craft, Kenneth & Darlene	Linklater, William & Corliss	Smit, Clarence & Joanne
Creagan, James & Lisa	Loumbas, John & Elaine	Smith, Alan L. & Doris A.
Davia, Thomas & Jean	Lynch, Loretta	Smith, Joan A.
De Vries, M. Richard & Janet R.	Malburg, William & Janice	Smith, Marian
Deuel, Mandy	Manno, Carl & Patatricia	Stanek, Thomas A.
DeWitt, Willard & Helen	Manuszak, Gloria L.	Stipak, August & Ethyle
Douglas, Gary & Deb	Martin, Dale	Sweeney, Tom & Mary Ann
Drenth, Donald & Karolyn	Martin, Richard & Charlotte	Thomas, LaVona L.
Drenth, Ronald & Judith	Matkaitis, Gerald & Ruth	Thomas, William J. & Elizabeth
Eich, Sandra	Mattens, Roger & Carol	Thoner, Robert & Janice
Essig, Delwin & Sandra	McNicholas, Michael & Katherine	Thornton, Carmi A.
Falduto, Robert & Jodi	Morence, Robert C. & Pam O'Leary	Umphrey, Darren
Filipoff, Douglas, Jan & Nowak, F.	Morey, Craig & Kitty	Vick, John & Jayne
Fuller, Walter & Beverly	Nejman, Frank & Terry	Vining, Errol & Joann
Fulwiler, Scott & Sallie	Neubauer, James & Grose, Mary	Watkins, John & Jacqueline
Gluszczuk, George J. & J. Karen	Neubauer, Jeffery & Claire	Webber, Don & Connie
Godwin, Joseph & Elizabeth	Neubauer, John & Sharon	Wesaw, Harry & Jodi
Grosvenor, Warren & Joan	O'Conner, Barbara M.	Wexler, Ron & Daryel
Grube, Marvin A.	Panico, Dominic & Laural	Wolf, Paul & Donna
Grunden, Jeffery & Billie	Pearson, Roy & Ellis, Marcia	Wolkowitz, Donald & Jo Ann
Hardin, Dayna	Pignatiello, Victor V.	Yike, Dennis & O'Brien, K.
Heinrich, Raymond & Jane	Pitera, Richard & Mary Ann	Yunker, Keith & Donna
Henk, James P.	Plewa, Jean A.	Yunker, Kelly & Theresa
High, Mark	Potter, Wayne & Marcia	Zebus, Edward & Lois Ann
High's Marine, Attn: Mark High	Raffae, James & Martha	

If your neighbors are not listed, please encourage them to join!

Help needed for “Clean Boats, Clean Waters”

(The Michigan Riparian, Feb. 2006)

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) such as Eurasian water milfoil and zebra mussels are bad news for boaters and others who enjoy Michigan's many wonderful water recreation opportunities. Fortunately, most Michigan boaters want to help prevent the spread of AIS. However, many are not familiar with the few simple steps they should take.

Clean Boats, Clean Waters is a new volunteer education program designed to assist Michigan boaters with keeping their boats free of invasive species and to help protect their equipment and our waters

from the havoc caused by invaders.

For information on how to become involved with the 2006 pilot program, visit www.miseagrant.umich.edu/cbcw, call the *Clean Boats, Clean Waters* coordinator at 517-353-9723 or e-mail cys@msu.edu.

Through this initiative, volunteers are trained to organize and conduct a boater education program in their community. Adults and youth teams educate boaters on how and where invasive species are most likely to hitch a ride into water bodies. Volunteers perform boat and trailer checks for invasive species,

distribute informational brochures and collect and report any new water body infestations. The program is being sponsored by the Michigan Office of the Great Lakes and being conducted by Michigan Sea Grant.

For now, some tips include the following: Before entering and/or leaving any lake, inspect and remove any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting. Drain water from equipment (boat, motor, trailer and live wells) before transporting. Dispose of unwanted live bait in the trash. Spray, rinse and dry boats and recreational equipment to remove or kill species that were not visible when leaving a

Association by-laws to be available at annual meeting

Have you ever wondered what publication guides the actions of our association and its Board of Directors? The answer can be found in the official by-laws of the LOW Improvement Association.

Thanks to the efforts of our first president, Warren B. Grosvenor and secretary, Janet Schuring, this document was adopted by the origi-

nal Board of Directors on September 24, 1980. Since then it has functioned as the framework to support the mission of the organization.

The by-laws were amended only once in 25 years by the general membership. That was on July 21, 2001.

Some members refer to the by-laws, regularly. Some members may

never have seen the document. Others prefer to leave such details to the Board and could care less.

Regardless in which category you fall, copies of the by-laws will be available to any member at the annual meeting on July 22. Please feel free to take home a copy for your personal files. An informed member is a powerful member!

Annual meeting & picnic to be held July 22, 2006

Mark your calendar now for the LOW Assn. annual meeting and picnic to be held July 22 at the Red Woolfe Park. The business meeting will begin at 12 noon, and the picnic will begin when the meeting is adjourned.

As part of the business items on the

meeting's agenda, elections will be held for three seats on the Board of Directors. The term of service is three years.

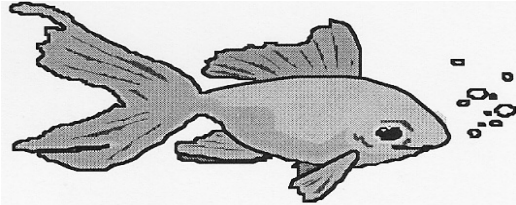
The Assn. provides the picnic lunch and beverages and asks those who attend to please bring a salad or dessert to share.

In addition to the opportunity to share fellowship with your neighbors, this annual gathering is a great way to meet lake residents you may not see often and to make new friends. There will again be games for the younger children as well as raffle chances on prizes donated by our very supportive Decatur merchants.

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

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

First Class Postage



*Serving Lake of the Woods residents
for over 25 years!*

We're on the Web!

lakeofthewoodsmi.org

LOW t-shirts available for only \$10.00

Show your lake spirit this summer by proudly wearing a LOW t-shirt. Our current inventory has limited sizes available for the reduced price of \$10.00, which includes shipping.

In 50/50 there are 4 MED, 11 LG and 13 XL. In 98% cotton there are 13 LG and 10 XL.

There is a clearance special on 11 size SM 100% cotton shirts with a sunset design (not shown) for \$5.00 each, which also includes shipping.

Send orders along with prepayment to the Association address noted above. Remaining shirts will be available for purchase at the July 22 picnic.

