

# LOW NEWSLETTER

JANUARY, 2007

## Did you know...?

- Lake of the Woods Camp first opened on June 30, 1934, thanks to Mr. & Mrs. I. Louis Greenberg of Chicago.
- In Michigan, there is no "right to a view," although there may be local zoning regulations which help preserve lake views which may be blocked by a neighbor's fence or house.
- The Van Buren County Sheriff's Dept. was unable to provide a list of 2006 marine patrol citations for publication in this issue.
- The village and township of Decatur were named for Commodore Stephen Decatur, ranking captain of the US Navy and renowned as the hero of Tripoli before his 26th birthday. He was killed in a duel in 1820, more than 17 years before Decatur Township was organized.
- In Michigan you cannot get a boater safety certificate online. You must take a boater education program and exam conducted by an administrator, in a classroom setting, in order to receive a boating safety certificate.

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## PLM weed program set for 2007

by Ecologist,  
Andy Tomaszewski,  
Professional Lake Mgmt.

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The 2006 season was a very successful year in regards to Eurasian watermilfoil control on LOW. Our goals for last year were to control/reduce Eurasian watermilfoil throughout the lake and promote a balanced aquatic ecosystem of native plants.

Based on surveys that were performed on the lake, our goal was achieved with a substantial decline in Eurasian watermilfoil density. Future lake management goals will focus on monitoring the balance of aquatic weed growth.

Once Eurasian watermilfoil is found it will be addressed via spot herbicide treatments. If Curlyleaf pondweed, algae and/or native plants become excessive we will implement management techniques to provide balance in these areas.

In April/May 2007 Professional Lake Management will survey the lake AVAS to determine exact areas of Curly Leaf pondweed and possible Eurasian watermilfoil growth. Curly Leaf pondweed will be treated with Aquathol K and Hydrothol 191.

If any Eurasian Watermilfoil is found, it will be treated with Navigate (2,4-D), Renovate 3 and/or Reward and Cutrine-Plus. Algae treatments

will be performed on an as needed basis. Treatment areas will be based on the spring survey.

The water quality program consists of two samples, occurring in the spring and late summer. Parameter such as secchi disc, pH, D.O., conductivity, alkalinity and nutrient sampling of total nitrogen and total phosphorus give PLM the ability to monitor lake trends more efficiently.

This information will enable PLM to include the tropic status of LOW. The program also tests for Fecal bacteria (E. Coli) in mid-summer which determines water safety for swimming and the condition of the lake.

## It's time to please renew your membership

The LOW Improvement Assn. membership cycle runs from January through December each year. On page 3 of this issue you will find the annual membership form.

If there is no change in your membership data from 2006, simply submit

the smaller tear-off strip with your check.

Dues help to sustain membership in the Michigan Lake & Stream Assn., to promote boater safety classes, to sponsor lake and community activities (like the annual picnic, the 4th of July

boat parade, the local fireworks display, and the Memorial Day bass fishing contest) and to advocate for improved water quality and vegetation control. Expenses formerly incurred for weed harvesting are now covered by the Special Assessment Tax District.

## Lake & Stream Leader's Institute announced

Michigan Lake and Stream Associations, Inc. and Michigan State University are organizing the Lake and Stream Leader's Institute "Class of 2007." Earlier Institute classes were held in 2002 and 2005.

The Institute provides an educational experience that will improve participant's understanding of local water resource management planning and program implementation. Past participants have included property owners, concerned citizens, drain commissioners, organization representatives and state and local government personnel.

The Institute's Class of 2007 will be limited to 30 participants.

The Institute is conducted in five seminar sessions. The first seminar session will be held at the Ralph A. MacMullan

Conference Center on Higgins Lake on Saturday, May 19. The next three sessions will be held concurrently on August 2,3&4 at the Kellogg Biological Station, near Kalamazoo. The last session and graduation dinner will be held at the Bengel Wildlife Center in Bath, north of Lansing on Friday, September 14.

Meals and lodging are provided as part of the registration fee. Institute participants must commit to attend all sessions, prepare an applied project and complete assigned homework.

The registration fee will be \$245 (\$150 for students). Participants will have to pay their own travel cost to attend the sessions and anticipate some expenses for their chosen applied project. The registration fee should not be sent with the application.

Application forms and the status of remaining space available in the upcoming class may be obtained from the MLSA web site [www.mlswa.org](http://www.mlswa.org) or the MSU Extension Water Quality AoE web site [www.msue.msu.edu/waterqual/lakeleaders.html](http://www.msue.msu.edu/waterqual/lakeleaders.html).

Applications will be evaluated as they are received and acceptance notices mailed out within two to three weeks of submittal. Applicants will continue to be accepted until the class limit is reached.

If you have questions about the Institute please contact:

Howard Wandell  
Dept. of Fisheries and Wildlife  
332 Natural Resources Bldg.  
Michigan State University  
East Lansing, MI 48824-1222

## We all should practice eco-friendly boating

Clean water is the foundation for enjoyable boating. Every action from an individual boater has a major impact on the water, marine life, and the near-shore and shoreline ecosystem and inhabitants.

Sea Lamprey, Eurasian Ruffe, Spiny Water Fleas, Zebra Mussels, and Round Goby are destructive and aggressive invader species, looking for a ride to a new lake or stream. People, boats, and fishing gear easily transport these pests.

Prevent the spread of exotic species, which cause severe habitat alteration and degradation, with a thorough inspection of your boat and fishing gear. Clean all mud and plant debris from your boat's hull, trailer, propeller, motor, bilge, live well, and anchors before leaving the boat launch. Properly dispose of collected material.

Use suitable facilities for fish wastes. Recycle fish wastes by using in compost and gardens. State regulations prohibit the dumping of fish wastes into surface waters.

Be a responsible boater and help protect our precious and fragile environment. For more information, visit [www.michigan.gov/deg](http://www.michigan.gov/deg).

### It's the Law

On Michigan lakes **the public** (any or all) have the following rights:

- \* Right of access to the water (except on private lakes).
- \* Right to boat and fish on the entire surface of the water, and to temporarily anchor while engaged in these activities.
- \* Right to swim in the entire body of water.

### In Memoriam

**Richard G. Martin**, a long time member and active supporter of the LOW Assn., passed away December 19, 2006 in Bronson Hospital, Kalamazoo. He was married to Charlotte (Hagens) Martin, former Secretary/Treasurer of our organization.

Charlotte survives along with three daughters, one son, three grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

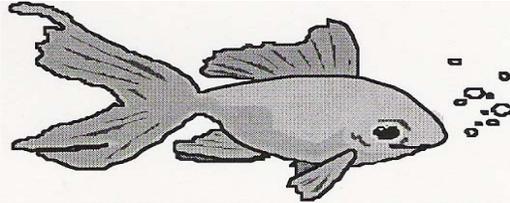
The Association extends its deepest sympathies to the family for your loss.



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

Roger A. Mattens  
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## **“Hydrella” is latest Invasive species**

Sue Vomish, Michigan Lake and Stream Associations Region 3 vice president, has shared the following alert for our area. The Indiana DNR and DEQ has found Hydrella in a lake in Rochester, Indiana, which is only about 50 miles from here.

Hydrella is yet another invasive species coming into our inland lakes. The impact of this species is still being identified and studied.

What we do know is that both the Indiana and Michigan DNR and DEQ are working to keep Hydrella from coming across the state line. Your LOW Assn. Board will keep monitoring this situation.

Thanks, Sue, for the “heads up.”

## **Proper landscaping can help protect Lake of the Woods**

The Michigan Lake & Stream Associations suggests the use of a *greenbelt* or *buffer strip* along the shoreline of residential property.

A properly designed greenbelt serves many purposes:

- It protects the shore from erosion.
- It provides cover for small birds and animals.
- It slows water runoff.
- It prevents contaminants from entering the water.
- It can be aesthetically pleasing.

This choice to “go natural” will improve the appearance of property and requires almost no maintenance.

A buffer does not need to be a wild jungle. It can consist of native plants planted in a way that is both functional

and appealing. To prevent beach erosion a shoreline needs plants that grow to the water’s edge or in the water, where incoming waves wash against the plants instead of eroding soil.

In the water, cattails, yellow or white pond lilies, or arrowhead help absorb wave energy, minimizing erosion. On land, almost any native plant that grows at the water’s edge is appropriate. Bush junipers will grow well on the shore, preventing erosion and providing small animal habitat.

Should you desire beach access for swimming, use only a portion of your frontage for the actual beach. It does not require a large open space to have access to your boat. In the water, remove only those plants that interfere with boating or swimming. Leave a substantial portion for water habitat.