

LOW NEWSLETTER

September 2007

Did you know...?

- Lake Association members can place an ad on the LOW website to sell an item for free.
- High's Marine donates half the total of the winning gift certificates for the 4th of July Boat Parade. Many Thanks to High's Marine.
- Since the Association has been presenting the boater safety courses and educating boaters, we have reduced the number of boating related accidents by 70%.

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The Board of Determination votes unanimously to deny the petition to clean out Fritz Drain.

The Van Buren County Drain Commissioner, Joe Parman, set a public hearing on Tuesday, August 14, 2007 at 2:00 p.m. in the Hamilton Township hall, in Decatur, MI to hear all interested persons and evidence and to determine whether the Fritz Drain on the west side of Lake of the Woods should be cleaned out.

The Board of Determination voted unanimously to deny the petition to clean out Fritz Drain.

THANK YOU to the overwhelming number of Lake of the Woods Association members who attended the meeting to express opposition for the drain opening.

Only one of the five required petition signers attended and spoke in support of the proposal.

THANK YOU, also, to members who submitted e-mails, expressing opposition. Your names and addresses were read into the record at the meeting as expressing opposition via the LOW Secretary, acting as your proxy.

The unified voice of Lake of the Woods Members was heard loud and clear. It is evident that our organization values the lake water quality and are not willing to allow additional potential environmental risk factors associated with opening the Fritz Drain to jeopardize the significant im-

provements achieved over the past two years through the efforts of Professional Lake Management and our LOW Special Assessment District.

Minutes of the meeting are on file in the office of Joe Parman, Van Buren County Drain Commissioner, Administration Bldg, Suite 301, 219 E. Paw Paw St., Paw Paw, MI 49079 for anyone interested in reading the transcript of the meeting's proceedings and comments made.

Remember your opinion does make a difference.

Lake of the Woods Board reduces dues for 2008

At its July 21, 2007 meeting, the Lake of the Woods Board of Directors voted to reduce the annual dues for the Association to \$10.00. The new fee is effective with this 2008 membership year.

Dues help to sustain membership in the Michi-

gan Lakes & Streams 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, the Memorial Day bass fishing contest and to advo-

cate for improved water quality and vegetation control. Expenses formerly incurred for weed harvesting are now covered by the Special Assessment Tax District

Please encourage your neighbors to join the Association.

Another great summer comes to an end.

LOW Members enjoy good food and friendship at Annual Meeting and Picnic

On Saturday, July 21st, the annual Lake of the Woods Association meeting and picnic was held. The meeting began at 1PM with 66 people in attendance, by the meetings end 85 people were present.

This year's meeting focused on such items as the very good condition of the water quality, the continuing challenges of the geese and other water fowl for many lake residents.

It was reported that 44 new Boating Safety certificates we issued at the 2007 Boater Safety Course sponsored by the Association. This is the largest class yet.

Lake boaters were asked to observe the No Wake signs that have been posted near the channels and areas affected by boat wave action in order to protect the shorelines.

Bill Kiss, Roger Mattens and Larry Ralston were re-elected for another three year term on the LOW Board.

Many thanks were extended to:

- Marcia Ellis and Roy Pearson for decorating the stick person for this year's Chamber of Commerce contest.
- Jan and Bob Thoner for selling shirts at the meeting.

- Craig and Kitty Morey for taking pictures and maintaining the website.
- All the Board members for their effort in organizing the meeting and picnic.
- Thank you, to all those that brought a salad or dessert to pass. And to all who have donate their time to the association.

We look forward to see everyone again next year at the meeting and picnic.

Longest Lake of the Woods Resident (as registered at the Annual Meeting)

The Association would like to recognize the lake's longest, living resident as registered at the annual meeting.

Elaine Morey was recognized as the longest lake resident at the picnic with over 45 years of residency.

Honorable mentions include:

40-45 years of residency: Gordy & Opal Krum, Bill Barker and Harriet

Broekhuizen

35-40 years: Craig Morey, Bob Kirschbaum, Larry Kirschbaum, Warren & Joan Grosvenor

30-35 years: Connie Johnson, Wayne & Marcia Potter, Joe & Chris Karolewski

25-30 years: Bob & Jan Thoner, Fran Novak

20-25 years: Dick Shackle, Helen Kooy

15-20 years: Lavona Thomas, Dan Buenz, Richard & Judith Butt, Roger & Carol Mattens

10-15 years: John Boersma, Joe Hillyer, Gary Douglas, Kitty Morey, Roy Pearson

The association wish all many more years to come.

Annual 4th of July Boat Parade shows lake spirit.

The annual Lake of the Woods boat parade attracted thousands of onlookers both on shore and water.

This years parade had 16 decorated boats with various patriotic themes.

1st place: The Thiele Family from Timber Trails Campground. Theme: Michigan Lighthouses including live sailors.



2nd Place: The Mattens Family, 45296 86th Ave. Theme: In God We

Trust with Peace Doves.

3rd Place: The Neubauer Family, 45412 Lake Dr. Theme: Baseball, America's pastime.

Congratulations to the winners and thank you to all those who participated.

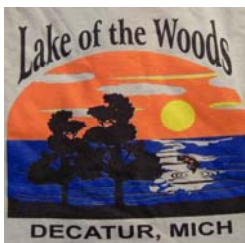
See the LOW website for photos of all who participated.

Lake of the Woods shirts make great gifts.

Trying to figure out what to get for that hard to buy for someone? Why not a new Lake of the Woods shirt.

T-shirts, polos and hooded sweat-shirts are on sale now. Each is a natural sand color with a colorful logo, representing lake life.

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



T-shirts sell for \$10.

Design is on front of t-shirt .

Polo shirts will sell for \$15. Hooded sweatshirts will sell for \$20. Design is on left breast area for polo and sweat-shirt.



To place an order by mail: please send a check or money order to:

LOW Improvement Association
P.O. Box 188,
Decatur, MI 49045

Please include the type and size of shirt desired. Also include a \$5.00 per order shipping fee.

Contest Corner

Would you like to win a Lake of the Woods T-shirt? Enter the "Name the Lake of the Woods Newsletter" Contest.

All entries must be submitted by either email to craig@themoreys.net (subject title LOW Contest) or mail submissions to LOW Improvement Association, P.O. Box 188, Decatur, MI 49045.

The Board of Directors will review all submissions and decide on the winning name. The winner will receive a LOW t-shirt.

All entries must be received by November 30, 2007. All decisions of the judges are final.

Good Luck and look for the new newsletter in January 2008.

Fall Clean-up and Winterizing Tips

Fall and winter are beautiful seasons at Lake of the Woods, but if you don't use your cottage in the winter, these tips may help ensure that it is ready when spring returns.

Outdoor Tips:

- Disconnect hoses from outside pipes to prevent freezing and breaking of pipes.
- Check your roof for loose or damage shingles and make necessary repairs to prevent leaks in the spring.
- Rake leaves to prevent mold from growing on your grass in the spring. **Please do not rake leaves into the lake.** This pollutes the water and encourages weed growth.
- Check for damage after removing boats, pontoons, jet skis and lifts.

- Drain gas out of lawn mowers and other lawn equipment..
- Do not take your boat out of the water until you are ready to winterize it. Water can remain in the lower unit of the in-board/outdrive until it is flushed in the winterizing process. This water can freeze and do damage to your boat in a matter of hours if the temperature falls below 32 degrees. IF your boat remains in the lake it is much slower to freeze.
- Lock all doors and window of cottages, sheds and garages to prevent theft and vandalism.
- Make a list of items that need to be fixed in the spring so you can buy the parts over the winter. Don't forget to include the model or part number of the item to be repaired on your list
- Check batteries and working order of all smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, a neighbor may hear them go off in your absence.

Indoor Tips:

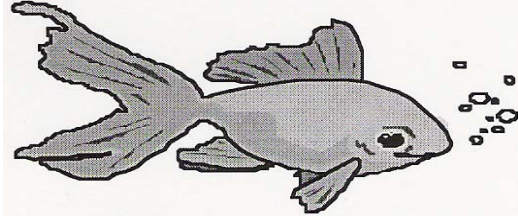
- Unplug appliances from wall in case of lightening strikes or power surges.
- Remove all food that could attract pest.
- Do a final cleaning for the year. Stains that sit for any length of time are harder to remove.

- Give your phone number to neighbors incase they need to reach you about your property.

One last tip:

- Post pictures of the lake on your refrigerator or at work to remind you what you have to look forward to in the spring and check the website often for upcoming events.

LAKE OF THE WOODS
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Servicing Lake of the Woods residents since 1980!

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lakeofthewoodsmi.org

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In Memoriam

Earl R. Bartholomae, 85

A long time Lake of the Woods resident on Fritz Dr. and supporter of our Association, passed away August 25, 2007.

He was the beloved husband for 61 years of Veronica and resided in Des Plaines, IL for 56 years.

His lake neighbors will miss his smile and quick wit.

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