

# Lake Currents

Lake of the Woods Improvement Association

## New Year, New Name, New Look

Happy New Year for the Lake of the Woods Association. We hope that everyone had a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

The Lake of the Woods Association Board of Directors would like to extend its warmest thanks to all those who submitted entries into the "Name the Lake of the Woods Newsletter Contest".

All Lake of the Woods members were asked for their suggestions to name the newsletter back in September 2007. 14 names were submitted for the Lake of the Woods Board of Directors to vote on.

During the December 2007 board meeting the judges voted for the new name of the newsletter. Lake Currents submitted by Bill and Anne Bird was the

winning name.

Bill and Anne are newer members to the Lake of the Woods Family. They purchased their home two years ago as a place where their families could enjoy the lake activities and as a home to eventually retire to.

When asked how they came up with the name Anne being a retired Earth Science Teacher replied, "Currents, streams of water, are constantly moving through lakes. Knowledge of currents help in navigation and fishing. In the same way the news about the happenings at the lake are also constantly flowing and changing. Since it is helpful to be up to date with the flow of information, we need to know the current lake news."

Congratulations to the Bird Family for their winning name and thanks to all who participated.

## Save the Date

Mark your calendars to save the following dates:

May 24: Bass Fishing Contest

June 14: Boater Safety Class

July 4: Decorated Boat Parade

July 19: Annual Meeting & Family Picnic

The website will be updated with details as they become available.

## Special Assessment Reduced for 2008

Lake residents will see a 25% annual reduction in their special assessment for weed control of Lake of the Woods, beginning with the December 2008 property tax bill.

For most tax payers paying the \$200.00 per unit fee, this will result in a \$50.00 per year savings.

At the request of the Lake of the Woods Association Board

of Directors, the Hamilton and Decatur Township Boards approved the special assessment reduction last fall.

The lake association Board had learned from the Professional Lake Management Company that Lake of the Woods is responding to the weed control program better than anticipated, and all the projected budget expenses will not be needed.

After reviewing the projected 2008 special assessment income and the fund balance from 2007, a reduction was recommended to each township taxing authority.

The action of the lake association Board supports the philosophy that a special assessment should not exceed regularly evaluated budgetary expenses.

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### Did you know:

- *Weather Permitting, buoys are installed the first weekend of May.*
- *Michigan ranks first in state boat registrations*
- *Michigan has more than 11,000 inland lakes and more than 36,00 miles of streams..*

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## It's time to renew your Lake of the Woods Association Membership

The Lake of the Woods Association 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 promote the boater safety classes, sponsor lake and community activities, such as the annual picnic, the 4th of July boat parade, the local fireworks display, the Memorial Day bass fishing contest. The association dues are also used to

advocate improved water quality and vegetation control. Expenses formerly incurred for weed harvesting are now covered by the Special Assessment Tax District. Dues help sustain membership in the Michigan Lakes & Streams Association which assist lake, river and stream, and watershed associations and individual riparian property owners in their management of their investment in waterfront property.

Please take a few minutes to review your renewal form and return it with any changes and your check or money order for \$10.00 in the enclosed self-addressed envelope.

We ask that you please encourage your neighbors to join the Association because we all enjoy the lake. Remember the cost of your annual membership is less than a tank of gas, a dinner or movie.

Thank you for supporting the Association.

## www.lakeofthewoodsmi.org

As many of you already know the Lake of the Woods Improvement Association website is up and running. It's hard to believe it has been in place for 4 years. The website is used as a communication tool to keep members up to date on lake happenings and share the beauty and joy of our lake.

Are you planning on buying a new boat or jet ski this year? Why not try selling your old one on the classified section of the website. As the snow and ice melt did you

find a set of keys or someone else's missing treasure? Contact the webmasters to add the item to the lost and found section of the classified.

Do you have beautiful pictures of the lake? Did your 3 year old son or daughter catch a 10 lb fish? Share your photos with other lake members. Send your photos in .jpg format to the webmasters to add to the website.

All these services are available for free with your Lake of the Woods Membership.

To take advantage of these services contact:

Webmasters: Craig & Kitty Morey via email at:

webmaster@LakeOfTheWoodsMI.org

## Protecting your home against theft.

There have been many reports of theft in the Lake of the Woods Area. A determined thief can break into any home, but you can take steps to make entry a lot more difficult for them.

**Invest in a quality door:** Door security begins with the door itself and the frame it fits into. Weak door assemblies can be broken with a single kick, popped open with a jimmy bar or even pried out -- frame and all from the wall.

**Install deadbolts:** Deadbolt locks provide the best protection for the least amount of money. To be effective, a deadbolt lock should have at least a one-inch throw (meaning the metal bolt extends at least an inch past the edge of the door). Doors with glass panes present a special security problem because a thief can break the pane, reach inside and unlock the door.

**Don't forget windows:** Windows and sliding glass doors also should be secured. Look for locks specifically made for different window styles at your local hardware store or home center. You also can secure a sliding glass door with a broomstick or piece of 1" x 2" lumber laid in the door track when the door is closed.

**Light up:** Outside flood lighting reduces your risk of burglary by highlighting the exterior of your home at night. You can choose from lights that remain on all night or motion-sensitive lights that come on only when someone approaches your home. Motion-sensitive lights save energy and could catch a would-be thief by surprise. Timers on inside as well as outside lights give the impression that someone is home, even if you're not.

**Sounding an Alarm:** For greater peace of mind, consider investing in a profes-

sionally installed alarm system. Alarm systems come in many shapes and sizes, at prices that range from a few hundred to several thousand dollars. Many installers also charge monthly monitoring fees, which should be taken into account when you shop for a system.

**Keep trees and shrubbery trimmed:** Overgrown vegetation gives a burglar more privacy.

**Keep your garage and shed doors locked:** Thieves like attached garages because, once inside, they can unobtrusively force the door to the house.

Ask a neighbor or friend to check on your property if you are going to be away for an extended period of time.

The most important suggestion of all is report any suspicious activity you see.





## Open letter from Professional Lake Management

Dear Lake of the Woods Property Owners,

The 2007 season was a very successful year in regards to exotic plant control on Lake of the Woods. In 2007, the focus of management shifted to monitoring the lake and immediately addressing any new areas of exotic plant growth. Some Eurasian watermilfoil (exotic species) was found in 2007 but at extremely low levels. The majority of treatments in 2007 focused primarily on Curlyleaf pondweed (exotic species) in the spring and algae control throughout the summer. Algae treatments were conducted primarily in the channels or other areas of poor water movement. Channels and stagnant bays provide optimal conditions for excessive algae growth and often require frequent treatments.

In 2008, we will continue to monitor Lake of the Woods for exotic plant growth and address them where found. Based on 2007 conditions, we anticipate that algae treatments will be needed every 3-4 weeks in the channels. We also expect that native plants will continue to re-establish in areas previously dominated by native plants do not grow at nuisance condi-

tion Eurasian watermilfoil. Native plants are an important component to a healthy lake ecosystem and should be promoted to provide bottom stabilization and fish habitat. While most s allow them to grow excessively. We will monitor the native plant community throughout the 2008 and make management recommendations if native plants are causing nuisance conditions. Species type, abundance, and location will have to be evaluated to determine whether herbicides or mechanical harvesting is the most feasible management strategy.

Thank you for the opportunity to work on Lake of the Woods and I look forward to working with you this summer. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Andy Tomaszewski, Ecologist  
Southern Regional Manager  
Professional Lake Management



Professional  
Lake  
Management  
*“Integrated Solutions  
For the 21st Century”*

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## Wintertime fun on the Lake: Ice Safety

Winter sports such as ice fishing, sledding, snowmobiling and ice-skating are popular activities with many Lake of the Woods residents.

With these activities come safety precautions. Ice can be very enjoyable but very dangerous. Ice on the lake is affected by many aspects of nature, such as wind and temperature. The strength and thickness of the ice should be known before any activities take place on it.

To determine what activities can safety take place, a rough rule of thumb is

Walking: 2 inches of ice\*

Fishing: 4 inches of ice\*

Snowmobiling: 5 inches of ice\*

\*Inches of new clear ice.

Never check ice or rescue a victim of ice failure alone, because you could go from rescuer to victim in a matter of seconds.

Always check the ice before going out on it. Be aware that ice thickness and strength can vary from location to location. Remember the old saying...

**Thick and blue, tried and true.**

**Thin or crispy, way to risky.”**

Children playing on or near ice should never be alone and should always be under adult supervision.

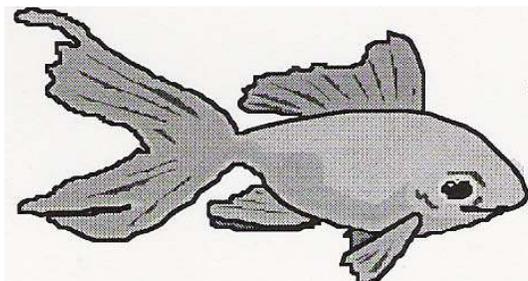
Bundle up, be safe and enjoy the winter activities our great lake has to offer.

(These thicknesses are merely guidelines)



*Lake of the Woods  
Improvement Association*  
www.lakeofthewoodsmi.org

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*Servicing Lake of the Woods residents  
since 1980!*



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