

Lake Currents

Lake of the Woods Improvement Association

May 2008

Volume 1, Issue 2

Did you know?

- ☉ Decatur Celery Days will be held on August 2-3.
- ☉ Members of the public can swim, fish, water ski and boat over the entire surface of an inland lake, but they cannot permanently moor, trespass or wade on the bottomlands of another without permission.
- ☉ Warren Grosvenor was the first LOW Association president in 1980.

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Boater Safety Class set for June 14

By Larry Ralston
LOW Vice President

It doesn't seem possible, but this is the 8th annual Boater Safety Class that our association will sponsor, this year on Saturday, June 14, at the Webster Library in downtown Decatur from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

This is an excellent course for those purchasing a new boat or who have never taken a boating safety course and learned the simple rules of the waterways and safe boat operations.

We are pleased to cooperate with the Van Buren County Sheriff and the

Michigan Department of Natural Resources in bringing this program to our members.

Pre-registration is REQUIRED by calling 269-423-8810 by June 7. 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 Association.

Michigan law states, "*Boaters born after December 31, 1978 are required to have a valid Boaters Safety Certificate to operate a personal water-*

craft (PWC) on Michigan Waterways."

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.

The Association also encourages adult participation to brush up on the latest boating rules and regulations.

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

Annual Boat Parade returns on July 4

Make plans now to participate in the 2008 Lake of the Woods July 4 Boat Parade. Last year over 1000 sightseers watched the parade from the shoreline.

Decorate your boat in any way that would be appealing

and in keeping with the Independence Day theme.

Some nice prizes are in store for the first, second and third place winners.

Decorated boats are asked to muster at the north end of the lake to receive an

entry identification number between 6:30 and 6:45 p.m.

The number should be displayed on the boat's port side to facilitate identification by the judges.

The parade procession will begin at 7 p.m.

Docks carry riparian rights and legal responsibilities

By Clifford H. Bloom

Law, Weathers & Richardson, P.C.
800 Bridgewater Pl, 333 Bridge St NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49504-5320

When they put their dock in the water during the spring, most riparians do not think of all the legal implications regarding the dock and its location. Interestingly, there actually are many factors regarding a dock which could land its owner in court, although that rarely happens.

A dock can normally rest only on the bottomlands of the person who owns the dock. In Michigan, a riparian property owner on an inland lake nor-

mally owns the bottomlands adjacent to his/her lakefront property. Those bottomlands typically radiate to the center of the lake, although it is often difficult to determine what constitutes the center of the lake with irregularly-shaped lakes.

Rarely do riparian or bottomlands boundary lines radiate to the center of the lake at the same angle as the side lot lines that exist on dry land.

Determining where riparian/bottomlands boundaries are located under the water for purposes of dock placement can often be a difficult task, particularly where relatively

small lakefront properties are involved and property owners try to crowd the outer edge of their bottomlands with dockage.

Dock regulations can be found in municipal zoning ordinances or even in standalone police power ordinances. Violation of such an ordinance can constitute either a criminal misdemeanor or a municipal civil infraction offense, depending upon the penalties provision of the ordinance involved.

The use of a dock by more than one family will typically trigger both state and local regulations. At the state

(continued on page 5)

Online tips about how to save money on boat fuel

By eHow Sports & Fitness Editor

With gas prices reaching record highs and making every appearance of staying that way for a while, it is important for a boater to be as economical as possible when making fuel purchases.

Follow a few steps to save money on boat fuel without making any drastic changes to your boating lifestyle.

1. Clean the bottom of your boat. (Reduces friction, saves fuel.)
2. Remove excess weight from your boat. (Causes 2% mpg reduction.)
3. Change the oil and replace the air filter. (Increases fuel-efficiency)
4. Ease on the acceleration and avoid idling. (Why waste fuel?)
5. Try fuel additives. (Some are
6. Buy your fuel in the morning hours. (Gas is considered to be denser with less heat in the air.)
7. Consider investing in a fuel meter or computer. (Gives you instant visual feedback on exactly how much fuel you are burning, allowing real-time adjustments to impact fuel use efficiency.)

LOW annual meeting & picnic to be held on July 19

The annual business meeting of the Association will begin at 12 noon, Saturday, July 19 at the Red Wolfe Park. Once the meeting is adjourned, the potluck picnic will begin. All members are encouraged to attend and share your voice in our organization.

One of the annual meeting agenda items is the election of three members to the Board of Directors for a

three year term. This year the terms of Andy Broekhuizen, Charlotte Martin and Wayne Potter expire. Any member in good standing is eligible to run for the Board.

Members must attend the meeting, however, to vote in the election and on other issues that come before the assembly.

> Door prizes will be provided by nu-

merous, generous Decatur merchants.

- > LOW shirts will be on sale. (See article on page 5.)
- > The picnic luncheon meats, buns and beverages will be provided.
- > Members are asked to bring a salad or dessert to share.
- > The shared fellowship is provided free of charge!

LOW 2008 Paid Memberships

(as of April 30, 2008)

Allred, Steve & Karen
Allsop, Jeffery & Borden, Pam
Arendash, Luke & Katherine
Athey, Jeffery & Jennings, Tegan
Bakker, John G. & Carole L.
Barajas, John & Rosalinda
Bartholomae, Veronica C.
Beenes, Martin & Sandra
Bird, William C. & Anne M.
Blue, William & Dixie
Boersma, John & Darlene
Broekhuizen, Andrew & Harriet
Broekhuizen, Garrett & Evelyn
Buenz, Daniel & Julene
Burke Jr., John T. & Sharon A.
Burza, Donald G. & Patricia A.
Butt, Richard & Judith
Chillo, Donald F. & Sherrill
Ciarlette, David G. & Judy M.
Cousineau, Jack L.
Craft, Kenneth & Darlene
Creagan, James H. & Lisa
Curran, Joseph J.
Davia, Thomas D. & Jean E.
Deuel, Mandy L.
DeVries, M. Richard & Janet R.
DeWitt, Willard & Helen
Dowsett, Timothy J.
Drenth, Donald E. & Karolyn
Eich, Sandra
Erickson, Kurt E. & Florence S.
Essig, Delwin & Sandra
Filipoff, Douglas, Jan & Novak, F.
First State Bank of Decatur
Fuller, Walter & Beverly
Gale, Randolph & Carrilou
Godwin, Joseph & Elizabeth
Grosvenor, Warren & Joan
Grube, Marvin A.
Grube, Jane
Grunden, Jeffery L. & Billie S.
Haas, Raymond J. & Margaret M.
Hardin, Dayna -- LOW Camp
Heinrich, Raymond & Jane
Henk, James P.
High, Mark
High's Marine, Attn: Mark High
Hillyer, Joe E. & Laura J.
Ives, Richard & Catherine
Janicki, Harry F. & Maybelle
Jareckas, Ronald W.
Jenkins, Earl & Ruth
Johanson Jr., Carl U.
Johnson, Robert L. & Connie
Johnson, Sharon
Kachnowski, Jerome C. & Linda
Karolewski, Joseph & Christine
Kirschbaum, Robert R.
Kiss, William & Elizabeth
Kooy, Clarence & Helen
Korchak, Leo J. & Carlene R.
Kreykes, George A. & Diane J.
Krum, Gordon & Opal
LeCompte, Gary & Patricia A.
LeCompte, Gregory & Jane
Lindbloom, Joseph & Cheryl
Lokanc, John J.
Loumbas, John A. & Elaine F.
Lubbers, Larry & Jackie
Lynch, Loretta
Malburg, William J. & Janice M.
Manno, Carl J. & Patricia M.
Manuszak, Gloria L.
Martin, Charlotte
Martin, Dale W.
Matkaitis, Gerald A. & Ruth
Mattens, Roger A. & Carol A.
Morey, Elaine
Neubauer, James & Grose, Mary
Neubauer, Jeffery & Claire
O'Connor, Barbara M.
Panico, Dominic G. & Laural A.
Pearson, Roy L. & Ellis, Marcia
Penning, Brad
Pignatiello, Victor V.
Pitera, Richard & Mary Ann
Plewa, Jean A.
Potter, Wayne & Marcia
Raffae, James J. & Martha A.
Rajzer, Brian M. & Emelee A.
Ralston, Lawrence R. & Edna M.
Reynolds, Flora Kay
Richardson, James & Cynthia
Richter, Robert A. & Janet M.
Rodgers, Mary & Patterson, Mark
Roeder, Janet M.
Rohrback, James & Vicky
Romano, Rocco & Cheryl
Sabbe, Donald & Joan
Sabbe, Michael A. & Patricia
Sampsell, A. Leo & Picklo, Sandy
Schaap, Christopher J. & Julie A.
Schaap, Ronald & Janice
Schackle, Richard J. & Barbara A.
Schafer, Ronald F.
Schneider, Max D. & JoAnn
Schultz, Daniel E. & Margaret M.
Sheehan, John & Patricia
Sheeley, Harold B.
Shepard, Robert W. & Pamela M.
Sikkenga, H. Allan & Sharon A.
Siple, Katheryn M.
Smit, Clarence & Joanne
Smith, Alan L. & Joseph A.
Smith, Dorothy A.
Smith, Joan A.
Smith, Marian M.
Smith, Michael L. & Kathryn L.
Stanek, Thomas A.
Stepnitz, Stanley E.
Stipak Jr, August & Ethyle
Sweeney, Tom R. & Mary Ann
Thomas, LaVona L.
Thomas, William J. & Elizabeth
Thoner, Robert & Janice
Thornton, Carmi A.
Tohtz, John T. & Fabrie, Stacey
Vick, John A. & Jayne A.
Vining, Errol L. & JoAnn
Watkins, John W. & Jacqueline M.
Webber, Don & Connie
Wesaw, Harry J. & Jodi L.
Wesaw, Ronald G. & Audrey E.
Wexler, Ron & Daryel
Winkler, Daniel & Lori
Witvoet, John & Audrey
Wolf, Paul A. & Donna C.
Wolkowitz, Donald & Jo Ann
Yunker, Keith E. & Donna M.
Yunker, Kelly & Theresa



**P.O. Box 132
Caledonia MI 49316
Phone 616-891-1294**

2008 Tentative Treatment Dates

1. Please review the scheduled date(s) and types of treatment(s) listed below.
2. If weather conditions and/or Professional Lake Management feels treatment is not necessary, we will notify your lake board and reschedule treatment. On the day of treatment, your lake frontage will be posted if restrictive herbicides were used.

Lake of the Woods has been scheduled for the week of:

WEEK OF:	TYPE OF TREATMENT:	WEEK OF:	TYPE OF TREATMENT:
4/7/08	Water Quality Sampling	7/21/08	Spot Weed & Algae Treatment & WQ
5/12/08	Survey	8/18/08	Optional Algae, Water Quality & AVAS Survey
5/21/08	Weed Treatment		
6/23/08	Spot Weed & Algae Treatment		

The property owners in this area are planning to have the waters chemically treated to control lake weeds and/or algae. This notice is being circulated in accordance with Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) procedures. A permit for the treatment has either been secured or will be secured from the DEQ before the work is begun.

We treat each lake according to a schedule or season plan, established with the cooperation of your lake association, lake board or residents on the lake. Due to the uncertainty of weather, the treatment schedule is approximate. Please watch your shoreline for the posting of the 11 x 14 inch, yellow, red or green signs. The signs will indicate the date of the treatment, the products used, and any restrictions on the use of treated water for swimming, watering lawns, etc.. One or more treatments involving water restrictive products may be applied. There may be spot treating of vegetation involving water restrictive products throughout the summer.

In the event that you see us spraying for algae control with copper based products, signs may be posted stating there is no restrictions. The purpose of this requirement by the DEQ is to let you know that we treated your waters and there are no restrictions. The signs used for algae treatments will be "Green" and the signs for restrictive products will be "Yellow" or "Red". Please be aware that only products approved by the State of Michigan and the Federal government are being used. We have experienced **no adverse effects on people, fish, wildlife or domestic pets since applying these products**. We anticipate using one or more of the products listed below. Please read the restrictions. Again, the restrictions that apply to the products actually used in a particular treatment will be found on the signs posted on the day of treatment.

When more than one product is used, the most strict, longest limits will be posted. These restrictions are designed to allow for the safe use of these products. Please do not encourage anyone to use the waters while these restrictions apply.
If you have any questions please contact us during office hours. (8:00 am 4:00 pm M-F)

The X indicates what product and restrictions apply to your water body.

X	PRODUCT/ACTIVE INGREDIENT	RESTRICTION
X	Navigate, Aquakleen/ 2,4-D	24 -hour restriction on swimming Irrigation of lawns, grasses, and turf – NO RESTRICTION Irrigation of crop, non-crop, & ornamentals – indefinite unless assay indicates 100 ppb or less Potable water – indefinite unless assay indicates less than 70 ppb
X	Renovate 3, OTF/ Trichlopyr	24 -hour restriction on swimming Irrigation of established lawns & grasses – NO RESTRICTION Irrigation of ornamentals, crops, and non-crops – 120 days or until assay indicates a non-detectable level
X	Reward/ Diquat dibromide	24 -hour restriction on swimming 1 -day animal consumption of treated water 3 -day restriction of domestic water use and irrigation of turf & ornamentals 5 -day restriction on crop irrigation
X	Hydrothol 191/ Dimethylalkylamine salt of Endothol Aquathol K/ Dipotassium salt of Endothol	24 -hour restriction on swimming 14 -day restriction for irrigation, agricultural sprays, & domestic purposes
	Sonar A.S., Sonar P.R., Sonar S.R.P., Sonar Q, Avast/ Fluridone	24 -hour restriction on swimming 7 -day restriction on established tree crops 30 -day restrictions on irrigation of crops, turf, plants, seedbeds, or areas to be planted. (Please refer to website for restriction updates)
X	Nautique/ copper carbonate Komeen/ copper as elemental	24 -hour swimming restriction
X	Shade/ water dye – tracer Copper Sulfate/ Pentahydrate Cutrine Plus-Ultra, Captain, Algimycin, Earthtec, Formula F-30/ copper as elemental Cygnat Plus/ D,1-limonene & alcohol ethoxylated fatty alcohol PolyAn/ anionic poly acrylamide polymer AquaPrep/ enzymes & non-ionic surfactants Nutrisorb/ gram negative, naturally occurring bacteria	NO RESTRICTIONS
	Green Clean Pro, Phycomycin/ sodium carbonate peroxyhydrate	24 -hour swimming restriction
	Shade/ water dye – treatment	24 -hour swimming restriction
	Aquapro, Rodeo / Glyphosate	24 -hour swimming restriction

*Certified Applicators: Lynn Benedict, Jason Broekstra, Audry Buist, Jaimee Conroy, BreAnn Grabill, Steve Hanson, Jake Hunt, Nate Karsten, Pat McLamara, Stephanie Mervau, Casey Mickelson, Lucas Slagel, Jeff Tojan, Andy Tomaszewski, Jacob Ware.

Docks, Rights & Responsibilities (continued from page 2)

level, the MDEQ has taken the position that any dock utilized by more than one family can constitute a "marina" for which a state permit must be obtained from DEQ. At the local level, use of a dock by more than one family is generally considered a multi-family use which is only allowed in certain zoning districts.

The presence of a dock raises potential issues of liability. People can get hurt diving off a dock, running into docks with boats, or having some other dock-related calamity occur. Accordingly, it is very important for the riparian property owner to carry

adequate liability insurance for the lakefront property which expressly includes coverage for the dock (as well as any other structures such as shore stations, floating rafts and boats). Given the litigious society in which we live today, liability limits of \$300,000 or even \$500,000 could very well prove inadequate.

What if there is no local ordinance in your jurisdiction which limits dock length and the DNR chooses not to act regarding the length of a particular dock? Can a riparian install a dock as far out into the lake as he/she wishes, so long as it is located en-

tirely on that person's bottomlands? Assuming that no state or local enforcement action occurs, an unreasonably long dock could still violate the common law doctrine of riparian rights. Pursuant to that doctrine, a neighbor or nearby riparian can sue another lakefront property owner if the offending party does anything on or at the water which unreasonably interferes with the reasonable lake usage rights of the nearby or neighboring riparian.

(Edited & used with permission from)
THE MICHIGAN RIPARIAN
Michigan Lake & Stream Associations, Inc.
Three Rivers, MI 49093

Bass fisherman prepare for May 24 annual contest

By LOW President Wayne Potter

When Memorial Day weekend rolls around you know it's time for the annual Bass Fishing Contest on LOW, with this year's event set for Saturday, May 24. This is the 25th time our organization has held the contest.

The times for competition fishing have changed this year, beginning at 6 a.m. and ending at 3 p.m. Weigh-in is

at 3 p.m. at Timber Trails Campground. The fish must be alive and will be weighed together.

Anglers may register at Timber Trails or Warner's Do-It Center in Decatur. There is a \$5.00 entry fee.

FIRST PRIZE is \$25 for up to five largest bass by weight. SECOND PRIZE is \$15 for one largest bass by weight. The same person can't win

both prizes.

For an additional entry fee of \$3.00 you can enter the "Winner Take All" contest (judged by total weight of up to five fish), with all monies going back to the winner.

Thanks to Gary Douglas of Timber Trails and Board members Joe Hillyer and Bill Kiss for coordinating the event.

LOW shirts & sweatshirts help display lake pride

The newly designed LOW T-shirts, polos and hooded sweatshirts unveiled last year are proving to be a popular way to display your lake pride. Each design has a natural sand background with a colorful logo, representing lake life.

The shirts will again be on sale at the annual meeting/picnic on July 19 as well as at the Decatur Celery Days on

August 2-3.

T-shirts sell for \$10; polo shirts are \$15; and hooded sweatshirts (no zipper) are \$20.

Each style comes in unisex sizes M, L & XL.

Items may also be ordered through the Asso-



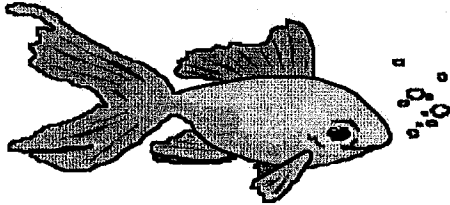
"I love wearing my LOW shirt almost as much as I love my puppy!"

ciation mailing address at P.O. Box 188, Decatur, MI 49045-0188. Please include your name and address, the cost of the desired shirt(s), plus a \$5 per order shipping fee, payable to Lake of the Woods Improvement Association.

Lake of the Woods Improvement Association, Inc.
www.lakeofthewoodsmi.org

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

First Class Postage



Serving Lake of the Woods residents since 1980!

Spotty weed problems require monitoring

Despite the efforts of the Professional Lake Management staff to control *exotic weed growth* in Lake of the Woods, there may be spotty areas where weeds may be resistant to the treatments. If a resident notices such an area, please contact our PLM liaison, Andy Broekhuizen.

Andy resides at 82495 47th St. and can be reached by e-mail at ahbroek@yahoo.com or by phone at 269-423-7698. He will contact PLM on your behalf and request an evaluation of the identified problem area.

Residents are reminded that *native weeds* are healthy for the ecosystem. They are good for the fish and the water.

After evaluating any problem area, PLM and the Association Board will determine if the weeds are exotic or native and whether additional treatment and/or harvesting is warranted. When all residents monitor the lake, we work together to control the weeds and maintain the highest possible water quality.

*The LOW Association offers
special thanks to
High's Marine &
Warner's Do-It-Center
for your continued, generous
support!*

Boat for Sale

Smoker 15' "Bass Catcher"
with trailer & spare wheel,
'06 Mercury 15 hp,
electric 4 stroke engine,
anchor mate, trolling motor,
Hummingbird fish finder,
navigation lights, live well
& bilge pump. Excellent
condition. Ready to launch.
\$3200.00 or best offer.
Call 269-423-8810