

Lake Currents

Lake of the Woods Improvement Association

Protecting your lake investment in tough times

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Many lake residents have reported thefts not only on land but also in the water. Over the Memorial weekend there were reports of cars being broken into with various items being taken. Throughout the summer many residents reported that fishing gear and other items were taken from boats in the water and on lifts.

The Lake Association encourages all residents to exercise multiple security precautions to prevent theft and keep our lake a safer place.

- Keep lights on while you are away from home, preferably in the bathroom or other locations where a burglar can't see that the room is empty.
- Give your home a lived-in look by investing in an inexpensive automatic timer that can turn lights and radios on and off at preset intervals.
- Lock it ALL up! Keep ALL entrances to your home locked, including your garage and shed doors. Use dead bolt locks when possible. Keep cars locked when not in use.
- Keep track of your keys. Don't leave keys in boats, sheds or garages. Don't carry an address identification tag on your

key chain.

- Consider having your telephone calls forwarded to another number when you are away. If this is not possible, lower the sound of the ringer and answering machine so they can't be heard outside.
- Invest in a burglar alarm. Many systems notify the police when the an alarm has been set off. You may be eligible for an additional discount on your homeowners policy if you do so.
- Install locking gas caps on cars, jet skis and boats.
- Take part in community watch programs. Report all suspicious activities in your area to the police. You might be able to prevent a burglary or stop one already in progress. Dispatch: (269)657-3101
Emergency: 911

Most lake residents are part time residents. Make sure neighbors have both lake and primary residency phone numbers including cell phone numbers. If possible give an extra key to a trusted neighbor or friend instead of hiding it outside your home. Most burglars know the best place

to find "hidden" keys.

In the unfortunate event that you have become victim to theft it is important you have the necessary information need to claim a loss under your home or auto insurance.

You should conduct an inventory of your personal property so that you have a record of what you own. Following a theft, this inventory can assist you in determining the items that were destroyed or stolen.

Identify the contents of each room including cabinets and closets in your home. Do the same for the garage and shed. Take photos or make a video of your valuables. Identify and date the photos or videos and keep them with your inventory in a fireproof box.

A complete household inventory will provide:

- A permanent record of the contents of your property and their value.
- Serial numbers, manufacturers' names and model numbers to assist in the identification of stolen items

It is a good idea to update your inventory yearly or as you purchase new items.

Did you know?

The state of Michigan has 2 weekends every year that residents and out of state visitors can fish Michigan inland lakes and Lake Michigan for free. All fishing license fees will be waived for both weekends.

Mark your calendars

February 14-15, 2009 and June 13-14, 2009

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Another Summer in the Memory Books

Annual Meeting and Picnic Brings New and Old Friends Together

On Saturday, July 26th, the annual Lake of the Woods Association meeting and picnic was held at Red Woolfe Park. The meeting began at 12:15 with 65 people in attendance. This year's meeting focused on such items as the water quality of the lake and events that happened throughout the summer.

The report on the weed control progress was given by Andy Broekhuizen stating that our water is in very good condition. The Eurasian Milfoil is being controlled and only spot treatments have been required this year.

It was reported by Larry Ralston that 39 new Boating Safety Certificates were issued at the 2008 Boater Safety Course sponsored by the Lake Association.

Congratulations to Max Roznawski for winning the 25th annual Bass Fishing Contest

held on Memorial Weekend. Joe Hillyer reported that due to a low turnout for the fishing contest the Board will examine changing the tournament's format prior to next year's competition.

Elections for three Board seats with terms ending in 2011 were held. Andy Broekhuizen and Wayne Potter were re-elected to the Board and Chris Schaap was elect to fill the third open seat.

Many thanks were extended to:

- Jan and Bob Thoner for helping sell shirts at the meeting
- Cathy and Dick Ives and Carol Mattens for working registration at the meeting.
- Karolyn Drenth and Emily Ferdman for counting the ballots for the Board mem-

ber elections.

- Timber Trails for the use of the grill
- Edna Ralston and all the Board members for their efforts in running the annual meeting and picnic.

An extra special thanks to the local business that generously donated prizes for the picnic:

- Decatur Lumber
- Do It Best Hardware
- High's Marine
- Rajzer's Farm Market
- Super Wash

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

17 Boats Participate in Annual 4th of July Boat Parade

The annual Lake of the Woods 4th of July boat parade was enjoyed by many both on water and shore.

This years parade had 17 boats with many themes including a space shuttle, various Presidents of the U.S and Political Candidates urging lake residents to vote in the upcoming elections and many boats showing their patriotic red white and blue spirit.

All entrances were eligible to win one of three prizes donated by High's Marine and the Lake of the Woods Improvement Association.

1st place: The Bathje family from 86th Ave. Theme: Disney Salutes the USA. The pon-



toon boat was decorated with many Disney characters and included the famous Mickey Mouse Ears.

2nd place: The Henk Family from Delta Drive. Theme: Team USA Clean Sweep the 2008 Olympics. The pontoon boat was deco-

rated with various athletes and the Olympic Rings.

3rd place: The Younker family from Shore Drive. Theme: Rockin' the 4th of July. The pontoon boat featured live music, musicians and singers with a giant inflatable guitar.

The Lake Association would like to congratulate the winners and thank all those that participated and High's Marine for donating half the prizes. It's not to early to start planning for next years parade.

See the LOW website for photos of all who participated.

Thank You for Many Years of Service

On behalf of the Lake of the Woods Board Members and the entire Association a special thank you is extended to Charlotte Martin for her many years of service to the Lake Association.

Charlotte has been on the board since 1988. She held the position of secretary / treasurer for many years and has seen many changes take place within the association

and around the lake. Charlotte has worked with 4 different Board Presidents and various Board Members. Her most recent term ended this year, and she chose not to seek re-election.

Charlotte has been the backbone of our organization for many years and is responsible for recruiting new members year after year. Best wishes and many thanks to Charlotte.

Free for Members

As a paid member, you may list items for sale on the website's classified page for free.

Email questions and/or ads and pictures to: webmaster@LakeOfTheWoodsMI.org

On the Website, you will find a list of current paid members, upcoming events, pictures, past newsletters and more. Check us out at www.lakeofthewoodsmi.org





Easy Steps to Keep our Lake Clean

While this summer season found Lake of the Woods less clogged with weeds and algae thanks to the treatment protocol managed by Professional Lake Management, there is an area that has become more polluted by boaters. That area is the shallow island on the east side of the lake.

Boaters find this location ideal for wading, socializing and picnicking. Unfortunately, litter has become an unwanted byproduct. Beverage bottles and cans, bottle caps, Styrofoam cups, plastic ware and other debris have been found on the ever-eroding island shoreline and shallow water bottomlands.

The Lake of the Woods Association seeks to protect and preserve our lake as it is an irreplaceable part of nature. We invite you to join us in our efforts to help protect our lake. We ask that when you go out boating that you take care of our natural resources because we all have an interest in our lake.

Boats, anglers and others that enjoy our lake can follow these steps to cleaner boating.

- Establish a boat rule that no trash gets thrown overboard.
- Reduce the amount of plastics and packaging you take onboard.
- Place all trash in a bag or container to avoid going overboard.
- Fill your gas tank out of the water as much as possible. If the need to fill your tank in the water, know the size of your tank to avoid spillage.
- To prevent the spreading of Zebra Mussels and other destructive invaders, remove all plant debris from boat and trailer before leaving the boat launch and dispose of properly.

On the Shore there are also many ways to protect our lake.

- Don't rake leaves or grass clippings into the water
- Don't burn leaves, grass clippings or logs too close to the water.
- Use phosphorus free fertilizers.
- Don't feed the geese or ducks.
- Keep septic systems properly maintained and have them inspected regularly and pumped when necessary.

If everyone works together, we can protect the beauty and cleanliness of all parts of our lake. Clean water depends on your actions, make a commitment to do your part to keep our lake beautiful for today and future generations.

Grilling Safety Alert

Methamphetamine cooks are buying propane tanks from the exchanges at Wal-Mart, gas stations, grocery stores etc, and emptying them of the propane gas. Then they fill the propane tank with anhydrous ammonia, which they now have a recipe to cook Methamphetamine. After they are finished with the propane tanks, they return them to the store. The stores refill the tanks with propane gas, unknowing to them the improper substance that was inserted in the tanks, and then sell them to their consumers. Anhydrous ammonia is very corrosive and weakens the structure of the tank. It can be very dangerous when mixed with propane gas and hooked up to a grill, recreation vehicle, etc.

CAUTION!!! The brass valve in a propane cylinder will be damaged if it comes in contact with anhydrous ammonia. This deterioration will lead to cracking of the valve body or its components and can ultimately result in a violent, unexpected expulsion of the valve from the cylinder, causing personal injury or death.

A blue-green stain on any brass portion of a service valve is evidence that it may have been in contact with anhydrous ammonia. The Pungent odor of ammonia on or near the cylinder is also an indication. If you suspect that a cylinder contains or has contained anhydrous ammonia, exercise extreme caution and restrict access to the area.

Immediately contact your Fire Department, Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Unit or the nearest office of the United States Department of Justice Drug Enforcement (DEA) for information on properly disposing of the cylinder.

****NOTE:** Sherwood valves contain a green coated valve stem, Additionally, a green thread sealing compound is used on some valves. These valves should not be confused with those that have been exposed to anhydrous ammonia.

Thank you to Bob Richter, Lake of the Woods resident and Chicago Firefighter for this safety alert.

Lake of the Woods Shirts for Sale

Did you have a family reunion at the lake this summer? Why not a Lake of the Woods shirt for everyone to remember the good times that were had.



Lake of the Woods shirts make great gifts.

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

T-shirts sell for \$10. Design is on front of t-shirt. Sizes range from medium to XL.

Polo shirts sell for \$15. Hooded sweatshirts sell for \$20. Design is on left breast area for polo and sweatshirt. Sizes range from small to XL in each style.

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

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

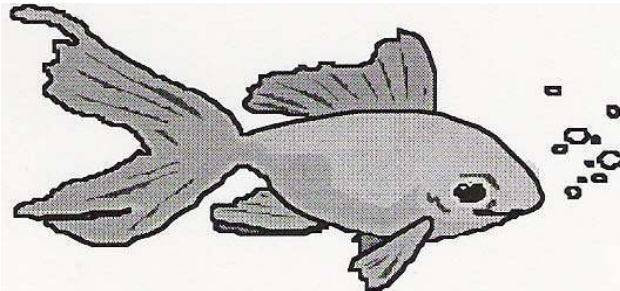
Please include the type and size of shirt desired. Also include a \$5.00 per order shipping fee.



*Lake of the Woods
Improvement Association*

www.lakeofthewoodsmi.org

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



*Servicing Lake of the Woods residents
since 1980!*



2008-2009 Contact Information

President: Wayne Potter
46412 86th Ave
Decatur, MI 49045
269-423-4801
marshway10@yahoo.com

Andy Broekhuizen
82495 47th Street
Decatur, MI 49045
269-423-7698
ahbroek@yahoo.com

Roy Pearson
455 Austin Blvd
Decatur, MI 49045
269-978-4690
roy4619@comcast.net

Vice President: Larry Ralston
46948 West Drive
Decatur, MI 49045
269-423-8810
spdsk8@btc-bci.com

Joe Hillyer
46597 Delta Drive
Decatur, MI 49045
269-423-8873
laura62986@hotmail.com

Jan Roeder
46211 Lakeview Dr.
Decatur, MI 49045
269-423-9222
roederpotluck@btc-bci.com

Secretary/Treasurer: Roger Mattens
46292 86th Ave
Decatur, MI 49045
269-344-5224
RMattens@aol.com

Bill Kiss
83686 Fritz Drive
Decatur, MI 49045
269-423-6592
wrkengineering@aol.com

Chris Schaap
46641 Lakeview Drive
Decatur, MI 49045
269-436-1270
Chris@BlueSkyHomeSales.com

