

# Lake Currents

Lake of the Woods Improvement Association

## New Lake of the Woods Logo Adopted by Association Board

As members noticed when they received their 2009 membership renewal letters, the Association window decals have taken on a new look. Last fall the Board decided to update our image and adopted the colorful lakeside scene depicted on the Lake of the Woods t-shirts. Vice-president Larry Ralston coordinated the manufacturing project with local Decatur business American Graffiti.

In future years when members renew their membership, they will receive only a year sticker to be affixed to the window decal. The process is the same practiced for years with our former LOW decal design.

The Board has also decided to update the six Association roadside signs with the same new design, in an attempt to project a consistent image of our proud lake association heritage to the local community and lake guests.

Look for the new signs to be installed late this spring, following re-painting of the existing post structures.



The sign locations are at the following intersections:

- John St & Red Woolfe Park entrance
- 86<sup>th</sup> Ave & Lake Dr
- 84<sup>th</sup> Ave & Public Access
- 47<sup>th</sup> St & Delta Dr
- CR 352 & Lakeview Dr
- Gaertig Subdivision

You can also show your lake pride by wearing the official logo of Lake of the Woods.

T-shirts, polos and hooded sweatshirts are for sale. Each is a natural sand color with the LOW logo.

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 Assn., Inc  
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.

## Board Seeks Input on Lake Improvement Initiatives

“What projects would our members like us to tackle?” was the question discussed by the Board of Directors at a recent meeting. No clear consensus surfaced, therefore a decision was made to seek input from lake residents on how to best utilize our financial resources.

Currently, the Association has \$15,000 in reserve funds, and the Board wants to invest that money in service or improvement initiatives that will best enhance the quality of our lake. The current annual operating budget is not included in this figure

Please submit lake improvement ideas to:

President Wayne Potter,  
46412 86<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Decatur, MI 49045

or by e-mail to  
[marshway10@yahoo.com](mailto:marshway10@yahoo.com).

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**Did you know:**

**Michigan Law States:**

- The operators of a personal watercraft must carry their boating safety certificate and display it upon the demand of a peace officer.

See page 2 for information on how to obtain your free boaters safety certificate.

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## Boater Safety Course Set for June 13

During the 2008 Boater Safety Course sponsored by The Lake of the Wood Improvement Association 39 new Boating Safety Certificates were issued. The Association is please to announce it will sponsor the 9th Annual Boating Safety Course at the Webster Library in downtown Decatur on Saturday June 13, 2009, from 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM.

The course will be presented by the Van Buren County Sheriff Department in cooperation with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. There is no charge for this course and successful students will be awarded their certificate at the

conclusion of the class.

Michigan Law states: "Boaters born after December 31, 1978 are REQUIRED to have a valid Boater Safety Certificate to operate a watercraft on Michigan waterways." The minimum age for operating a personal watercraft is 14. This course will fulfill that Michigan requirement.

Participants must be 12 years of age. PRE REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED by June 6, 2009 Contact: Vice President Larry Ralston 269-423-8810. Give your Name, Address, Age, Date of Birth and Telephone number. Students are to bring

along a sack lunch and a pencil and paper. We encourage adult participation to brush up on the latest boating rules and regulations.

It is also an excellent educational opportunity for anyone considering the purchase of a boat or present boat owners that have never taken a Boating Safety Course and learned the simple rules of the waterways.

The Lake of the Woods Improvement Assn. is pleased to cooperate with Law Enforcement agencies in order to make the Boating experience safer and more enjoyable for everyone.

## Annual Boat Parade Set For July 4th

Lake residents are encouraged to creatively decorate their watercraft for an evening of fun to help celebrate America's birthday.

Given the fact that this year the holiday falls on a Saturday the Association expects a large turn out. All those who enter are eligible to win one of three prizes for the best decorated watercraft.

Boaters should muster at the north end of the lake between 6:15 and 6:45 pm to receive a parade identification number. The number should be displayed on the boat's port side.

Competition has been fierce in past years, with many "special effects" being added as the entries pass the judges' barge anchored near the public access landing on the lake's west side.



Last years winner.  
The Bathje Family from 86th Ave.

## LOW Doormats Available For Sale

Doormats bearing an aerial view of Lake of the Woods are now available for purchase from the Association. President Wayne Potter unveiled the product at last year's annual meeting/picnic. The mats measure 20x30" and cost \$30.00 each.



Several doormats have already been sold. Contact Wayne Potter at 269-423-4801 or by e-mail at [marshway10@yahoo.com](mailto:marshway10@yahoo.com) to place an order. The mats will also be available at this year's annual meeting/picnic on July 11.

## Annual Meeting / Picnic to be held July 11th

The annual business meeting of the Association and member picnic will be held on July 11, 2009 at the Red Woolfe Park in Decatur, beginning at 1 p.m. The picnic will start following the business meeting.

On the agenda is the elections of three members for the LOW Board of Directors. This year the terms for Joe Hillyer, Roy Pearson and Jan Roeder expire. Any member in good standing is eligible to run.

Please bring a salad or dessert to share for the meal. The Association will provide the meat for grilling and beverages

Items for sale at the meeting/picnic will include: LOW shirts and doormats.

This annual gathering is a great way to meet lake residents you may not know and catch up with those you do. Hope to see you there.

## Phosphorus Reminder

When choosing lawn fertilizer, look for a product labeled with ZERO as the middle number. This means the product is phosphorus free. Help protect our Lake.





# Michigan: Something To Do For Everyone

With so much to offer you can make your summer vacations a learning experience for the whole family. Ever wonder what to do when the weather isn't quite right to spend the day on our great lake? Michigan has an array of activities that will keep you busy for days.

The Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery, located at 34270 County Road 652 in Mattawan, MI, six miles west of US 131 offers seasonal tours and educational programs available to the public. The visitor center offers topics of interest to anyone interested in fishing, nature, birding, hiking and green gardening. For more information on available tours and offerings call 269-668-2876 or go online to [www.tinyurl.com/Fishlake](http://www.tinyurl.com/Fishlake)

The Kalamazoo Air Zoo located at 6151 Portage Road in Portage, MI, off I-94 (exit 78), offers a highly charged, multi-sensory atmosphere that goes beyond anything you've ever seen. Everything is designed to help you achieve the total flight experience. For more information call 866-524-7966 (toll-free) or go online to <http://www.airzoo.org>

Binder Park Zoo located at 7400 Division Drive in Battle Creek, MI, off I-94 (exit 100) offers an African adventure and spectacular views of wild animals from elevated boardwalks. You can get nose-to-nose with one of the largest giraffe herds in the country as you explore Wild Africa and hand feed giraffes. For more information go online to <http://www.binderparkzoo.org/index.htm>

Michigan is surrounded by the Great Lakes

offering many recreational opportunities and beautiful destinations.

Warren Dunes State Park located in Sawyer, MI offers three miles of shoreline, six miles of hiking trails and is open year round. The rugged dune formation rises 240 feet above Lake Michigan and offers spectacular views and excellent hang gliding. On a clear day you can see the Chicago skyline from the top of Tower Hill sand dune. For more information go online to <http://www.michigandnr.com/parksandtrails/>

Silver Lake Sand Dunes Area is a Michigan beach town located along Lake Michigan's shoreline just a few miles west of US-31 between Muskegon and Pentwater, Michigan. Silver Lake Sand Dunes are the only sand dunes east of the Mississippi River that allows you to drive and explore them. You can find trucks, dirt bikes, ATV's and Dune Buggies playing in the sand. For more information go online to <http://www.thinkdunes.com/>

Southwest Michigan offers many fairs and festivals to celebrate summer.

Venetian Festival on the St Joseph River is held July 16-19, 2009 The Festival is held in St. Joseph, MI. The Venetian Festival is the largest community celebration in southwest Michigan. With three music stages, fireworks, the River Run, craft show, beach events and unique food items, this family event is not to be missed. For more information go online to <http://venetian.org/index.html>

Van Buren Youth Fair is held July 20-25,

2009 at the fair grounds in Hartford, MI. The annual county fair showcasing exhibits from Van Buren County youth, carnival rides, commercial exhibits, truck pulls and demolition derbies. For more information go online to <http://www.vanburenyouthfair.com/>

The Cass County Fair is held August 3-8, 2009 in Cassopolis, MI. The annual fair features demolition derbies, tractor and truck pulls and many other favorite fair activities. For more information go online to <http://www.casscountyfair.com/>

The Berrien County Youth Fair is held August 17-22, 2009 At the Berrien County Youth Fairgrounds. The annual county fair showcasing exhibits from Berrien County youth ages 5-20. Also enjoy carnival rides, commercial exhibits, "Fair food" and Grandstand entertainment. For more information go online to <http://www.bcyf.org/>

For more information on other events and things to do all year round go online to Michigan's official travel and tourism site <http://www.michigan.org/>

\*\*\*Information provided in this article is for information purposes only, in no way does the Lake of the Woods Association sponsor, endorse or receive compensation for activities listed. Please call (where applicable) or review websites for more information .

## Shoreline landscaping booklets available

A limited number of booklets on ecologically friendly shoreline landscaping have been made available for free distribution to our lake residents, courtesy of the Michigan Lake and Stream Associations.

If you are interested, please contact:

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

Booklet requests on a first-come-first-served basis .

## Safety First

Drowning is the leading cause of unintentional death from injury for those 14 years of age and under in the U.S.

To avoid accidental drowning...

- Supervise all children while they are in, on or near the water.
- Do not allow older siblings to watch younger children in the water.
- Do not rely on floatation devices to protect children.

**In the event of accidental drowning**

**Call 9-1-1**

## The Lake of the Woods Association Thanks...



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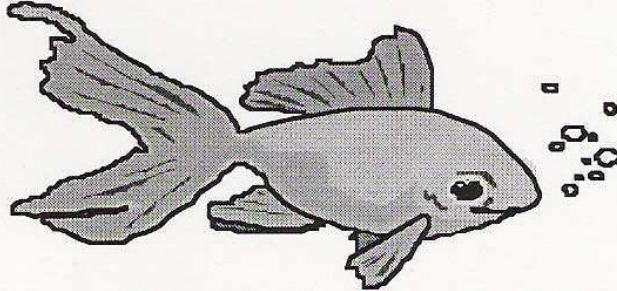
... for its annual support as a business member of our organization. FIRST STATE BANK is *the official bank* for all Lake of the Woods Association financial business



*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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