

Lake Currents

Lake of the Woods Improvement Association

Celebrating 30 Years

Throughout the summer, various events were held to help celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Lake of the Woods Improvement Association.

The first event occurred during the annual 4th of July Boat Parade, the theme for this year's parade was centered around the Lake of the Woods Improvement Association's 30th Anniversary. The Grand Marshall of the Parade was Warren Grosvenor, the Association's first and longest serving President. 19 boats helped celebrate the anniversary.



The Mattens Family: Mother Nature says thanks for protecting her lake for 30 years.

The next event was held at the annual meeting and picnic on July 10th. The theme was to "give back" to the members for all of their support to the organization over the years. Once members arrived and registered at the meeting, they were presented with a reusable shopping bag with the Lake of the Woods Association logo imprinted on it and a floatable boat key chain also with Lake of the Woods imprinted on it.

All who attended were invited to participate in the "I'm a Lake Saver" candy guessing game. The winner won a reusable ice tea pitcher that was full of candy.

As the annual meeting began, all guests were instructed to look at their name tag. All name tags were numbered and the 30th man and the 30th woman were presented with their choice of a Lake of the Woods baseball hat or sun hat.

During the meeting Vice President, Roy Pearson presented service certificates to the four men that have served as President of our Association, Warren Grosvenor, Billy Satterfield (absent), Bill Kiss and Wayne Potter (absent).

"The Golden Pen" award was present to Charlotte Martin, retired secretary/treasurer of the Association for her many years of service and dedication.



Andy Broekhuizen

The final service recognition was presented to Andy Broek-

huizen for serving on the Board of Directors for all 30 years that the Association has existed. During his service Andy has worked to improve the water quality and recreational value of our Lake.

In keeping with the theme of "giving back" during the picnic anyone who had a "30" on the bottom of their lunch plate also won their choice of a Lake of the Woods baseball hat or sun hat.

The Association provided 2 specially decorated cakes for dessert.



The final event was held on Labor Day Weekend. On September 5th, free ice cream cups were given out from a pontoon that was anchored in the middle of the lake from 2-3 p.m. Unfortunately Mother Nature did not cooperate and the turn out was low due to the colder temperatures and rain that weekend.

Thank you to all the volunteers who made the celebrations a success.

Volume III Issue III

September 2010

Did you know:

Volunteers continue to keep the lake clean and beautiful.

We are always looking for fresh new ideas and a helping hand. Remember, the association is a group effort and without the help of a lot of people the lake would have been infested with weeds and possibly immovable.

Please contact any board member to volunteer.

Inside this issue:

Annual Meeting/Picnic Highlights	2
4th of July boat parade results	2
Friends of the Lake:	3
Walleye Restocking	3
2010-2011 Contact Info	4



Annual Meeting and Picnic

On Saturday, July 10th, the annual Lake of the Woods Association meeting and picnic was held at Red Woolfe Park. The meeting was called to order by Vice President, Roy Pearson at 1:00 PM with 71 people in attendance. This year's meeting focused on the Associations 30th anniversary, general updates of the association and events that happened throughout the summer.

The report on the paid memberships to date was given by Secretary/Treasurer, Roger Mattens. To date there are 150 memberships in the Association. Last year at the same time there were 148 paid memberships and in 2008 there were 161.

The report on the weed control progress was given by Andy Broekhuizen. Due to the early warm water temperatures, the algae blooms have also arrived early than usual. He reported that Professional Lake Management had treated areas of the lake for weeds and algae as needed this season and they are pleased with the way our lake has responded to the prescribed weed control program.

Larry Ralston reported that 33 new Boating Safety Certificates were issued at the

2010 Boater Safety Course sponsored by the Lake Association. He also announced that another Board member would be facilitating the class in cooperation with the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office next year because he was not seeking reelection on the Association's Board.

Elections for three Board seats with terms ending in 2013 were held. Bill Kiss, Roger Mattens and Jim Neubauer were elected for a 3 year term. A special election was held to fill the seat that was vacated when Clarence Kooy resigned last year. Sandy Eich was appointed last year to fill the first year of the term. Sandy was officially elected by the association members to complete the remaining two years of the term.



Many thanks were extended to:

- High's Marine for donating their time and services to install, remove and store the water buoy markers used by the Association.
- Sandy Eich, Carol Mattens and Karolyn Drenth for working the registration table at the picnic.
- Jan and Bob Thoner for helping sell shirts and floor mats at the picnic.
- Craig and Kitty Morey for all their work on the 30th Anniversary Committee.
- Brittany Morey for handling the "I'm a Lake Saver" guessing game.
- Dan Buenz for conducting the 50/50 raffle.
- Veronica Bartholomae and Marcia Ellis for counting the election ballots.
- All the donors for the door prizes given away at the picnic.
- All the board member for their efforts in running the annual meeting/picnic.

Hope to see you at next years picnic.

19 Boats Participate in Annual 4th of July Boat Parade

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

This years parade had 19 boats with a common theme of the 30th anniversary of the Association and the traditional patriotic red white and blue.



Grand Marshall: Warren Grosvenor

All participants were eligible to win one of four prizes donated by High's Marine

and the Lake Association.

1st Place: The Bathje Family boat from 86th Ave. Theme: "Decatur or Bust" featured a Conestoga wagon followed by a Native American in a canoe.



1st Place Winners: The Bathje Family

2nd Place: The Reynolds Family boat from 86th Ave. Theme: "The Tiki Hut" featured a large sized Tiki hut and hula dancers.

3rd Place: The Mattens Family from 86th Ave. Theme: "Mother Nature says thanks

for protecting her lake" featured Mother Nature, fish and 30 birthday candles

4th Place: The Neubauer Family boat from Lake Drive. Theme: "Celebrating 30 years" featured a huge birthday cake atop the canopy of their pontoon boat.



4th Place Winners: The Neubauer Family

The Association would like to congratulate the winners, thank all those that participated and High's Marine for donating half the prizes. It's not too early to plan for next year.





Friends of the Lake: Timber Trails RV Park

The third, in a three part series of Friends of the Lake is Timber Trails RV Park.

Donald Drenth was an area contractor building and remodeling homes. He always loved the outdoors and camping. There was a small family campground near Ludington that inspired him to develop Timber Trails. At that time there were no campgrounds in this area. Don owned 36 acres of pasture land and woods on Lake of the Woods, the perfect spot for a campground

In May of 1968 the campground was completed and opened. There were 75 campsites with electric and water and a few primitive sites for tents. There was an office and bathhouse. At that time a large trailer was 28 feet and rarely did you see a Motor Home. In the later 70's 32 more campsites were added making a total of 107 licensed campsites. Recreation included a sandy beach, swim area with rafts, a playground, baseball field, shuffleboard, basketball court, volleyball, horseshoes and boat rentals; paddleboats, canoes, and fishing boats.

Weekend vacationers and seasonal campers enjoyed the lake, boating, fishing, bon fires in the evening, and meeting new people with many friendships lasting throughout the years. Many times the

children who camped here came back as adults with their families. Many of our campers bought property and reside on Lake of the Woods.

Don and Karolyn both enjoyed owning the campground. We met wonderful people, it was an enjoyable career. In 1996 we were fortunate to find buyers Gary and Debbie Douglas who were experienced in managing a campground. They are doing a wonderful job with Timber Trails. We are enjoying our retirement in the home we built adjacent to the campground.

In 1995 after managing a retirement park in Florida my wife and I became interested in looking for a campground to buy. After a couple months of looking we were getting discouraged and not finding any campgrounds that met our buying criteria. We had just about given up when the realtor called us and wanted to send us a video of a park she thought we would like. After watching the video I jumped in the car and drove all night to meet with Don and Karolyn. I liked what I saw and felt very comfortable dealing with the Drenths, so in 1996 we moved to Decatur.

On May 1st of 1996, we were amazed to see seasonal campers coming in to set up their campsites as early as seven in the

morning. Our first summer was just observing how the campground worked and what changes would need to be made. The 2nd year we decided to build an exit road to eliminate some of the congestion at the office. One year later, we put in electronic gates for both the exit road and the entry road. A couple years later it was time to install split rail fencing, plant a few trees, level the corn field and plant grass. In 2000 we added 30 seasonal sites and built new roads. After 4 years of running the potty pumper I thought it was time to install sewer lines with the first phase completed in 2004. Phase 2 of sewer lines were completed two years later with the addition of another 15 sites. In 2007 we put up a nice steel building for storage and is used as a storm shelter in the summer.

It has been an enjoyable 15 years and have seen children grow to adults and now having their own children. Fifteen years ago we started selling candy for a nickel or a dime; candy is now \$.75 or a \$1.00 and camping has just about doubled. The one thing that still hasn't changed is people and their families taking advantage of all that Timber Trails has to offer.

**Article submitted by Timber Trails RV Park

Thank you

On behalf of the Lake of the Woods Board Members and the entire Association, a hearty thank you is extended to Larry Ralston for his many years of service to the Lake Association.

His most recent term ended and he has chosen not to seek re-election

During his service, Larry has worked with the Van Buren County Sheriff's Office to facilitate the annual boater safety course.

Best wishes and many thanks to Larry.

Reduction in SAD

On August 10, 2010 The Hamilton Township Board unanimously approved the request from the Association to reduce the Special Assessment District assessment by \$25 per unit. The request was also approved by the Decatur Township Board during the September meeting.

With the help of concerned residents, the special assessment district and continual monitoring from Professional Lake Management our lake will be enjoyed by many for years to come.

Restocking the Lake

During the month of October Laggis Fish Farm will deliver Walleye fish from Gables, MI. to increase the Walleye population in the lake. The Board of Directors had previously approved up to \$5000.00 for the restocking of the lake at the board meeting held in May.

The initiative is another way the Association is trying give back and be responsive to requests received from members when posed the question of what to do with the Associations savings reserves.



*Lake of the Woods
Improvement Association*

www.lakeofthewoodsmi.org

Craig and Kitty Morey
Newsletter Editors/Webmasters
P.O. Box 188
Decatur, MI 49045-0188



*Servicing Lake of the Woods residents
since 1980!*



2010-2011 Contact Information

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

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

Roger Mattens
46292 86th Ave
Decatur, MI 49045
269-344-5224
WeAre4ND@att.net

Vice President: Craig Morey
45284 Shore Drive
Decatur, MI 49045
847-223-6516
craig@themoreys.net

Sandra Eich
46253 Lakeview Dr
Decatur, MI 49045
269-423-7103
sandyatthelake@comcast.com

Jim Neubauer
46938 Meadow Lane
Decatur, MI 49045
jneubauer@catching.com

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

