

Lake Currents

Lake of the Woods Improvement Association

Michigan's Recreation Passport

Michigan's Recreation Passport is one way you can show your support for outdoor recreation and help preserve green spaces for future generations.

The Recreation Passport has replaced motor vehicle permits for entry into Michigan state parks, recreation areas and state-administered boating access fee sites. This new way to fund Michigan's outdoor recreation opportunities

also helps to preserve state forest campgrounds, trails and historic and cultural sites in state parks, and provides park development grants to local communities.

Michigan residents can purchase the Recreation Passport (\$10 for motor vehicles; \$5 for motorcycles) by checking "YES" on their license plate renewal forms, or at any state park or recreation area. Non-resident motor vehicles must

still display a valid nonresident Recreation Passport (\$29 annual; \$8 daily) to enter a Michigan state park, recreation area or state-administered boating access fee site; these can be purchased at any state park or recreation area, or through the Michigan e-Store at www.michigan.gov/estore. To learn more about the Recreation Passport, visit www.michigan.gov/recreationpassport or call (517) 241-7275.

2012 Winter Free Fishing Weekend

Michigan offers some of the finest freshwater fishing in the world, with more than 3,000 miles of Great Lakes shoreline, more than 11,037 inland lakes, and more than 36,350 miles of rivers and streams.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources' Fisheries Division aims to engage as many individuals as possible in our state's plentiful recreation opportunities, and strives to create special opportunities to do so - including our annual Free Fishing Weekends. Conducted each winter and summer, these events allow anyone to enjoy Michigan's premier fishing for FREE! As part of these weekends, all fishing license fees are waived for two days with residents and out-of-state visitors allowed to enjoy fishing on both inland and Great

Lakes' waters for all species of fish during their respective open seasons. Please note all regulations will still apply during that time.

The 2012 Winter Free Fishing Weekend will be held Saturday, February 18 and Sunday, February 19.

To encourage involvement in Free Fishing Weekends, organized activities are often offered in communities across the state. Simply visit www.michigan.gov/freefishing

Please join in this year's efforts and help get more individuals of all ages out fishing. Become a part of the tradition that is the annual Free Fishing Weekends- a time to get together and have some fishing fun!

Van Buren County

Event Name: Winter Fishing Days, Ice Fishing 101
Location: Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery, Mattawan
Date: February 18, 2012
Time: 11 a.m., 12 p.m., 1 p.m.

Details: Youth ages five to 16 are invited to come learn the basics of ice fishing and get a chance to test out their new skills on the ice! The program includes both an indoor and outdoor portion. Ice fishing portion of the program is dependant upon ice conditions and subject to cancellation. Participants and chaperones should dress appropriately for weather conditions. This event is free, but pre-registration is REQUIRED as space is limited.

Contact: Shana Ramsey, 269-668-2876, ramseys2@michigan.gov

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Did you know:

February 18-19 Free Fishing weekend.

June 9-10: Free fishing weekend.

June 16: Boater Safety Class

July 4: Annual 4th of July Decorated Boat Parade

July 14: Annual Meeting & Family Picnic.

Please check the website for more information.

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It's time to renew your membership

It is time to renew your membership for 2012. The Lake of the Woods Association Board of Directors has announced that annual dues will remain at \$10.00 for the 2012 membership year.

Your \$10 for dues helps to promote the boater safety class, sponsor lake and community activities, such as the annual picnic, the 4th of July boat parade and the local fireworks display.

Additional benefits include the Lake of

the Woods website that includes news, photos, calendar of events and lots of great information.

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.

To those of you who have been faithful members we thank you for your contin-

ued support, and we ask that you please encourage your neighbors to join the association.

As you can see, the Lake of the Woods Improvement Association is involved in many activities to help maintain the quality of the lake now and for future generations.

Please do your part by joining us with your membership.

(Tear Here)

2012 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Lake of the Woods Improvement Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 188 Decatur, MI 49045-0188

Please return this entire form with your membership renewal.

Below is the information we currently have on file for you. If it is incorrect, please note any changes.

Thank you for your continued support of YOUR lake association!

The suggested dues amount is again \$10.00 for this year

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Registering Your Vessel

Lake of the Woods is home to many in-state and out of state residences who own various types of watercrafts. The following is the guideline for when and how you must register your watercraft with the state of Michigan.

All operators are required to obey laws that regulate your vessel's registration, titling, and operation. You must have a Michigan Certificate of Number (registration) and validation decals to operate your vessel legally on public waters in Michigan. The only exceptions are:

- Privately owned rowboats 16 feet or less in length
- Privately owned non-motorized canoes or kayaks
- Vessels registered in another state or country using Michigan waters for 60 days or less

All watercraft with a motor must be registered including electric and inflatable vessels.

The Certificate of Number and validation decals are obtained by submitting the proper application and fee to any Secretary of State branch office.

The Certificate of Number (registration card) must be on board and available for

inspection by an enforcement officer whenever the vessel is being operated.

MICHIGAN REGISTRATION WATERCRAFT		TERRI LYNN LAND, Secretary of State	
Expires on:	03/31/11	MC 3717 ZW	
Year:	98	Four Winns	20 04
Fee:			\$42.00
Hull Identification Number:	FWN67689B698		Wayne
County Code:			XX
Material:	Fiberglass	3	Open
Use:	Pleasure	Code 1	Fuel Gas
Owner's Complete Name and Address:	John Doe 1430 Southview Lane Livonia, MI 48152		
Owner's Signature:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Registration must be in possession of operator whenever the vessel is in use.		
MI-1C	2		

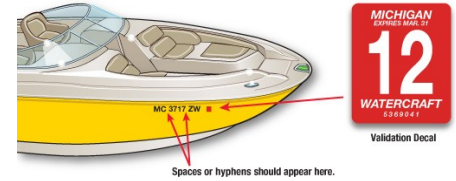
The registration number and validation decals must be displayed as follows

- Number must be painted, applied as a decal, or otherwise affixed to both sides of the bow as high above the water line as practical.
- Number must read from left to right on both sides of the bow.
- Number must be in at least three-inch-high BLOCK letters.
- Number's color must contrast with the color of the background and be distinctly visible and legible.
- Letters must be separated from the numbers by a space or hyphen: MC 3717 ZW or MC-3717-ZW.
- No other numbers may be displayed on either side of the bow.
- Decals must be affixed on each side

of the vessel and placed three inches after the last character of the registration number

Where To Title and Register

The Certificate of Number and validation decals are obtained by submitting the



proper application and fee to any Secretary of State branch office. You can find your closest branch office:

- By calling 517-322-1460
- On the Internet at www.michigan.gov/sos

Where To Renew Your Certificate of Number

A Certificate of Number is valid for three years and may be renewed:

- Over the Internet at www.michigan.gov/sos
- At any Secretary of State branch office

Information taken from the State of Michigan DNR boating handbook website. For additional information visit www.michigan.com/dnr

Michigan Department of Natural Resources

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations.

The Michigan DNR's website is an excellent resource for rules and regulations for all outdoor activities including, fishing, hunting, boating and snowmobiling.

Additional items that can be found on the website include:

- Outdoor events and activities calendar.
- Map of Parks, Forests and Trails: search for the perfect campsite, fishing

spot or discover new pathways for hiking and biking

- Information on Endangered and non-game wildlife
- Information on Forest and Land Programs
- Education and Outreach Programs.

No matter what the temperature is outside there is always something to do or learn from the Michigan DNR.

For additional information visit www.michigan.com/dnr

No Power Loading

Boaters should winch their craft onto boat trailers instead of powering their boat onto the trailer. Boat ramps throughout the state are being badly damaged by boaters who power their boats onto the boat trailer. The strong current created by the boat's propeller causes severe erosion and wash out at the end of the ramp. This condition, in turn, can also cause damage to boat trailers.

The Department of Natural Resources is attempting to repair as many of the damaged ramps as possible, but the best solution to the problem lies with the boater who refrains from this practice.



*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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