

Lake Manitou

Area Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 5

Publisher Fred Farkas

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Winter photo by James C. Farkas

Fireworks 2015

Mark your calendar and make plans for Friday July 3, 2015. The annual Lake Manitou pyrotechnics display will be provided again by ACE PYRO. Roy and Sally Thelen have graciously consented to be Chair persons for the fireworks fund. The grand display is possible thanks to so many generous donations. If you are willing and able, donating early greatly helps the organizers. See the Association website at <http://lake-manitou.org> go to "Events"; then click on "Fireworks".

Neighborhood Watch And Safety Tips

At the October association board meeting Ed Franks proposed that we develop an organized Neighborhood Watch program to help each other remain secure and better protect our homes and property. It is a

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proactive approaches to helping one another maintain our safe and secure community. The key word is "Watch". A heightened awareness to what's going on around our homes and community and reporting unusual or suspicious activities to "Block Captains" or 9-1-1. Your observation skills could help deter crime and identify criminals.

Around Lake Manitou I've found that neighbors are alert to unusual vehicles, persons and unusual behaviors. With a little more neighborly organization we all can ensure continued and improved security. Becoming involved in a neighborhood watch is not time consuming or difficult. If you have an interest in becoming involved as a Block Captain please let Ed or me know.

As you may know, the Association sends out email notifications when new or important information becomes available. Please be sure to forward your email address to Kathy Landes so you can receive timely information, including safety information.

Here are a couple more ideas for you: When going on vacation or extended trips, inform your neighbors of your plans and ask that they keep an eye on your property. Leave your contact information with them and let them know who, if anyone should be at the home.

Smart 9-1-1: Help Shiawassee County emergency responders help you. No one plans to call 9-1-1 but now you can plan ahead. By registering your telephone number (cellular telephone numbers also) and completing an

Safety (continued)

online safety profile, when you dial 911 from your registered telephone number, emergency responders will already know valuable information about yourself, family members, your home, pets and even vehicles. It's private and secure and you control what information is in your profile. There is no fee to register:

www.smart911.com

Severe weather events: CODERED is a service of Shiawassee County Emergency Management and is a telephone notification of approaching severe weather or other public safety concerns. You can register on line for this service through the Shiawassee County website at:

www.shiawassee.net . On the home page find "Departments" then click on "Emergency Management", and then click on "CODERED".

After hour's emergency pet medical care: Here are two of the closest 24 hour animal hospitals: Animal Emergency Hospital (30 miles) 810 238-7557, 1148 E. Bristol Rd. in Burton. Lansing Veterinary Medical Center (34 miles) 517 393-9200. 3276 E. Jolly Rd. in Lansing. It's a good idea to have a plan and know the travel route to take.

As The Lake Churns

The association board has adopted a long term lake water quality monitoring program. CLMP - Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program. The purpose is to regularly measure and monitor several lake water quality indicators to create a factual data base of information to help us determine water quality trends, acute problems and to help us develop strategies to improve Lake Manitou water quality. This past summer we began measuring lake water clarity as well as Spring and Summer Phosphorus (fertilizer) levels in the lake water. Next year we will continue the same monitoring and add testing for Chlorophyll A, dissolved oxygen and temperature. Chlorophyll A measures the amount of algae. The water sample collection process is not difficult. If you have an interest in volunteering to help with our ongoing

As The Lake Churns (continued)

"citizen science" please contact Fred Farkas. Here is a website for more information on the program: www.micorps.org

Natures Corner;

On November 21 and again November 30, 2014, I spotted a mature Bald Eagle flying over Lake Manitou. Because it is so late in the season it suggests that at least one eagle has made a permanent home nearby.

Mycology is the study of Fungi: those interesting mushrooms which can be found growing everywhere.



Many are enjoyably edible as long as they have been correctly identified. The photo (above) is Sulphur Shelf, *Laetiporus sulphureus*. Some say it tastes like chicken! I find it is delicious when pan fried with a little olive oil, dab of butter and some garlic. It has a firm, meaty texture that goes great with a white wine. This past Fall I found it very close by and picked about 3 pounds. (Mushroom hunters never divulge exact locations of finds.) I offered a taste to one of our neighbors but he politely declined.

Of course the most talked about wild mushroom is the Morel (below). But be careful as there is a look-a-like False Morel that will cause ill effects.



Natures Corner (continued)

The unidentified mushrooms (below) are only about 2 inches tall.



All of the mushroom photos were taken around Lake Manitou area this past fall. Here is a website if you want to learn more about mushrooms:

<http://michiganmushroomhunters.org>

Let's Talk About The Green

It's not money, but is directly related to money that we expend yearly to control the green. I've written about it before and it just isn't going away. Hint: It's big, green and slimy just like the creature below.



This past Spring I was in receipt of a lake resident complaint suggesting that the lake looks worse than he's ever seen it and as a result of the algae in the water he can no longer swim in the lake. I certainly empathize with our neighbor because we all experience the same seasonal temporary water quality phenomena. As it turned out, the algae was at his shore only a few hours before the wind direction changed and it blew over to my shore. Of course this event has been ongoing for years, even when he was on the board.

We have two general types of algae. One is a powdery type that suspends itself in the water column or may look like a green surface scum at the shore. The second is a filamentous type that can be quite thick and looks like a green mat at the shore line, sometimes called mermaids hair.

Historically, algae were managed with

The Green (continued)

copper based products such as Copper Sulfate or Cutrine. In the two years prior to this year we used 150 gallons of algaecide each season around the shoreline throughout the entire summer. This year we began a significantly different approach to lake management and we applied only 31 gallons of algaecide early in the summer and then manually raked and scooped the remainder. By July 10th algae was mostly controlled having just a few small localized "hot spots" to contend with. We reduced chemical algaecide use and saved money which can be viewed as a win win. While opinions may be varied, overall it appeared as though there was no significant increase in algae by using less chemical resulting in about the same water quality as in previous years, or some may say that water clarity and quality improved this year.

You might be wondering how much money was spent in additional labor to rake and scoop. Even with the new labor intensive effort, our total labor cost this year was less than in past years.

In all fairness to Mother Nature, she does receive credit for cooler water temperature and generally more mild summer air temperatures which does slow algae growth.

Lake management costs will vary year to year depending on a host of variables but we are committed to using fewer chemicals whenever possible and we will continue to explore alternative best management practices and restorative lake ecosystem efforts to help reduce nutrient loading which causes algae to proliferate.

ML&SA Conference

Michigan Lake and Stream Association's is sponsoring an educational and informational conference. It's open to all persons interested in protecting and preserving Michigan's waters. There will be distinguished speaker presentations, educational information, vendors of lake maintenance products and much more. It will be held Friday and Saturday May 1st and 2nd, 2015 at Boyne Mountain Resort. For more information visit www.mymlsa.org

Departed Neighbor

On Wednesday September 24, 2014 our good neighbor Jeffrey Carpenter passed away at 57 years young. He was married 38 years to his wife Joann. It is with heavy hearts that he departed this earthly world without forewarning but in doing so, he has left his family with many cherished memories. It's a reminder that we are here only a short time and that each day of life is a gift.

Injured And Recovering Neighbors

Since last September a number of our neighbors have had more than their share of illness and injury. Jim Marsh unexpectedly extended his northern Michigan vacation when he suffered a heart attack and underwent quadruple bi-pass surgery at a Traverse City hospital. Sandy Tyrna acquired some nuts and bolts after surgery three months ago when she severely broke her leg. Wendy Cervany is recovering (thankfully ahead of schedule) from a recent knee replacement. Leslie Fayling (now nick named one-is-not-enough) is still wearing braces after breaking an arm and a leg while carrying firewood into the house. Gert Weever recently underwent back surgery. Our dear neighbor Madge Uehlein, for many months now, continues to struggle with cancer. Best wishes for speedy and full recoveries and a much better outlook this coming new year.

For Sale

Our Association website has added "for sale" items under the caption "Member Advertisements". You can now list personal items for sale by sending an email message to webmaster@lake-manitou.org. Thank you to Lloyd Fayling who suggested the idea.

The first sale item was listed December 7th and it sold on December 8th.

New Association Logo

A Logo is a specific symbol or picture that easily identifies an organization or a product.

The Association recently partnered with a

New Logo (continued)

graphics design class at Baker College to come up with a fresh new professional logo that is representative of Lake Manitou.

Adjunct Professor Angela Ariss divided the class into several groups, each group working on their own design concept after having a tour of our lake via pontoon boats this past October. The groups then went to work in designing and presenting their logo to several board members who then had the difficult task of selecting just one. The winning design was by Chris Riley and Mike Masters.



Thanks to Baker College and the graphics design class. All of the logos were award winning.

"Courage is the capacity to confront what can be imagined."

Newsletter Banner

The new banner at the top of this newsletter is compliments of the Baker College Graphics Design class. Thanks again to Mike Masters and Chris Riley who provided the design.

Just So You Know

The purpose of this newsletter is to inform, educate, enlighten and entertain. It is privately funded and not an official publication of the Lake Manitou Association.

Your thoughts, opinions and suggestions are very much appreciated. Contact Fred Farkas at 734 417-1276.

You can find this newsletter in color on the Lake Manitou Association website <http://lake-manitou.org> Click on "About Us" then click on "Newsletter".

The newsletter is now published quarterly and the next edition is scheduled for March 2015.

Until next time, happy trails to you.