

Lake Manitou Area Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 4

Publisher Fred Farkas

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Photo by Renita Mikolajczyk

This newsletter is in color on the Lake Manitou website: <http://lake-manitou.org>. Look under "About Us".

A Great Day On Lake Manitou!

A visiting guest took the time to write a note to us about their experience at the lake. Here's what she had to say:

Lake Manitou Residents, Hello from Oklahoma!

I was visiting the Hedges during the 4th of July holiday. The fireworks display on Manitou Lake was spectacular! All of the neighbors were so friendly and welcoming. I had a great visit in your little part of the world.

Thank you,
Mary Hallman

Fireworks

The fireworks are funded entirely by donations with 100% of the money earmarked for the show. \$5,263.00 was collected for the fireworks thanks to 30% more people donating this year, due in large part to the door-to-door collection efforts from a number of committed volunteers. Donations ranged from \$250.00 to \$5.00 with an average donation of \$81.00. We also received donations from very kind residents who knew they wouldn't be home as well as several friendly off-lake area residents. Thank you to everyone who contributed to such a wonderful show!

We've begun our collection efforts for the 2015 fireworks show and it would be greatly appreciated if you are able to contribute sooner than later. Checks can be made out to Lake Manitou Association and dropped off to any Association Board member, Dan Cody or Roy Thelen.

A fireworks fund raising suggestion was made that residents might contribute goods to a yard sale and all proceeds from the sale would go to the fireworks fund. The sale would be on the day of our community wide yard sale. We would need a coordinator, a residence location and volunteers to help receive setup and sell the goods. If you have an interest in helping organize this please let a board member know. Any other suggestions would be greatly appreciated. Contact any board member.

Island Botanical Garden

This summer the island has come to life with a variety of flowering plants donated by many neighbors. Thanks to a tip from one of our good neighbors, we were fortunate to come upon a very large number and variety

Island Botanical Garden (continued)

of Lilies, all of which were transplanted to the island by a group of neighbors. Others donated annual plants for the planters placed around the perimeter. The island is also proudly displaying our American flag thanks to the effort of Dave Hedges and the help of Howard Sidebottom.

If you have extra perennials around your home that you want to thin out or remove please consider donating them to our island. If you would care to help maintain the island garden or would like more information on how you can help please contact Renita Mikolajczyk at 989 413-1260.

Thank you to everyone who has donated flowers or helped transplant flowers.

Crooked Tree Nursery

A very big thank you is in order for locally owned Crooked Tree Nursery and the owner Eddie Louch. Mr. Louch graciously offered to receive free of charge all those lake weeds that we have been racking up from around the lake shore all summer. By removing shoreline weed accumulation we effectively reduce detritus that would accumulate on the lake floor. By removing dead lake weeds it also reduces nutrients in the water which would otherwise promote further weed growth and it helps reduce shoreline algae growth. We have removed 45 pickup truckloads of aquatic plant debris to the nursery.

Crooked Tree Nursery is a full service, locally owned nursery and landscaping company located at the corner of M-52 and Bennington road.

www.crookedtreenursery.com 989 472-4408

Natures Corner



Photo by Renita Mikolajczyk; 2014

Natures Corner (continued)

The Green Heron makes its summer home around Lake Manitou shores. If you've noticed, they particularly like to nest within the dense foliage of the White Cedar tree tops on the Hansen's property. This year there seemed to be a larger than normal population of parents and young around the lake. The adult is about 19" tall and the long sturdy beak is a sure indicator that it eats mostly fish. Most of them have already departed for the southern coast of the United States for the winter.

The Ingenious Red Fox

One of our neighbors has recently been observing a Red Fox family in our area which reminded her of a story of the sly and cunning behavior of fox. Quite possibly the story originated from near the shore of Lake Superior in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

On a warm and sunny day the youngster was quietly exploring in the woods near a clear fresh water lake. The air was filled with the unmistakable earthy fragrance of leaves and pines as the sun's warmth radiated through the forest canopy. Crickets and song birds were in surround sound and from afar a woodpecker could be heard hammering away at a tree in search of insects.

In the distance the youngster first heard the crunching of dry leaves as something was approaching in what sounded like a trot. Not afraid, but inquisitive, the youngster stood quietly and soon a Red Fox appeared. Unaware of the youngster, occasionally it stopped to scratch itself, appearing to be bothered by a bad case of fleas. From the forest floor, the fox took a bent stick into its mouth. It held the stick in its mouth pointing it up and above its nose. Then, ever so slowly the fox made its way into the cold clear lake water still holding the stick in the same position above its nose. As the fox continued to submerge itself further and further into the water the fleas began moving further and further up the body of the fox to stay out of the water. Soon the fox was entirely submerged except for the end of the stick

Red Fox (continued)

which now had all the pesky fleas clinging to it. Satisfied that all the fleas were now on the stick the fox dropped the stick into the water and swam to shore leaving all the fleas behind.

Clean, Drain and Dry - Watercraft

Clean boats. Clean waters. Help stop aquatic hitchhikers! A very common way to spread invasive aquatic plants and animals is by moving a watercraft from one lake to another without a thorough cleaning, draining and drying. Zebra Mussels and Quagga Mussels easily attach themselves to water craft, anchors and anchor ropes and are easily transplanted from lake to lake in this manner.

It is recommended that watercraft be power washed with hot water and a bleach solution. Be sure to drain all water from the boat and trailer and air dry for at least five days before launching into another lake.

By taking a few simple precautions we all can help stop the spread of invasive species. Please help keep unwanted invasives from Lake Manitou as "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure". Here is a website for more information: www.miseagrant.umich.edu/cbcw

Boat Launch Access

We are experiencing some unauthorized non-resident watercraft on the lake and after careful evaluation the Association Board has decided to lock the boat launch access site after the 2014 boating season. The boat launch will be open for two weeks in the Spring and two weeks in the Fall. Dates will be forthcoming. Aside from those times, the gate will remain locked and arrangements will need to be made with a board member to gain access. A sign will be posted at the gate with contact information.

Second Generations

The Lake Manitou area is a unique oasis with its gently rolling contour and picturesque lakes. Its appeal and charm has given rise to several second generation families who continue to enjoy the ambiance of Lake Manitou. Sally Thelen (Scollon) and Roy purchased

Second Generations (continued)

Sally's parent's home after her parents passed away. Charles Ross purchased his parents' home in the same manner. Judy Marsh (Duffey) grew up here watching her father and Uncle develop the lake and surrounding area.

We also have two generations of Griffin's, Keay's and Cody's enjoying individual homes on the lake. I should mention there are several others, who as youngsters, had been visiting friends at the lake and now reside here.

Caring Neighbors and Departed Neighbors

On June 12th Ross Hansen (69) passed away after a brief struggle with cancer. He was an avid fan and alumni of MSU and married 46 years to his loving wife Sue.

Marilyn Mann, 70 (Duffey) passed away September 2nd at her sister and brother-in-law's home (Judy and Jim Marsh). Marilyn and Judy are daughters of the late Murl and Mildred Duffey and nieces of Forrest and Eva Cummings. It was the Duffey's and Cummings who developed all of the lakes in the Lake Manitou area.

Within the Lake Manitou area we have several families who are caring for loved ones who are ill or aged and need assistance. It is difficult to witness the effects of a disease, severe illness, dementia or Alzheimer's but comforting to have a safe and familiar neighborhood and home with family and friends. Family support and commitment means so much to those in need. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all those who are suffering and in need.

"The Clock of Life is wound but once, and no person has the power to tell just when the hands will stop at late or early hour. Now is the only time we own; love, live, toil with a will. Do not wait until tomorrow, for the clock may then be still." Author unknown.

Lake Manitou Calendar

A great suggestion has been proposed but we need a volunteer coordinator to handle the

Lake Manitou Calendar (continued)

project. It has been suggested that we submit our best photos from around Lake Manitou of the various seasons. Twelve photos would be selected and the 2015 Lake Manitou calendar could become a reality. What a great Christmas gift for the new year. If you have an interest in handling this project contact Fred Farkas.

More To Be Thankful For

Over the past several months many neighbors have stepped up to assist with some of the initiatives of the association. Dave Denard donated several pieces of electrical equipment to the work pontoon boat. Wendy Cervany has offered journalism expertise for this newsletter. Audrey Thayer and Gwen Ordway helped develop this year's election ballots. Roy Thelen has offered to be the Chairman for the 2015 fireworks donations collection. The Sidebottom's donated several lake signs and a new buoy. The Franks purchased a generous gift certificate for the family that donated the entire lot of island Lilies. The Jones and Hedges donated gift certificates for the summer election prizes. Renita Mikolajczyk has offered to be the chair person for the Island rejuvenation project. The Bergin family and Gert Weever, along with many others have donated plants for the island. Steve Marsh and others helped move plants to the island. Scott Dysinger has donated several pieces of equipment for lake maintenance. The Woodworth's have offered to donate several items to the island project. Board members are receiving more suggestions and input. Your help and support is gratefully appreciated. There is always an open invitation to all association members to attend meetings, offer input and to become a board member. What about you? Check out the website for more information: <http://lake-manitou.org>.

"From what we get, we can make a living; what we give, however, makes a life."

Carp Fishing Tournament Winners

For the second year in a row the Lake Manitou Carp tournament winners remain the same. Dylan Springsdorph (top photo) caught the most carp to win the \$100 prize.



The longest carp (36") was brought in by Matt Opansenko (below) who skillfully utilized his bow fishing technique and received \$100.00.



The carp became local organic garden fertilizer and you should have seen the size of the vegetables!

Free Electronics Recycling

Saturday October 4, 2014 from 9am-noon. The Shiawassee County Conservation District is accepting home or office electronics such as televisions, batteries, cell phones, VHS players and tapes as well as computer components and accessories.

More information can be found at www.shiawasseeccd.org or telephone: 989 723-8263 ext. #3.

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.

Until next time, happy trails to you.