

Lake Manitou

Area Newsletter

Volume 4, Issue 1

Publisher Fred Farkas

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

New Additions To The Local Census

February 1, 2015 proved to be twice as nice, like sugar and spice for Cara and Rory Keay with the birth of twins named Molly and William. Congratulations! Nursery rhymes will soon abound. Remember this one? "Mary, Mary, quite contrary, how does your garden grow? With silver bells, and cockle shells, and pretty maids all in a row."

Spring Equinox

March 20th is when day and night in the northern hemisphere are about equal in duration. It is the official date that we say goodbye to Winter and hello to Spring. Each day thereafter brings more light than darkness until the Summer Solstice, June 21st.

Island Planters And Spring Planting

With spring in the air plans are now in progress to continue adding flowering plants to the island as we continue its transformation into an oasis of colorful blooms. If you are

Island (continued)

willing to fill one or more of the planters with annuals please contact our coordinator, Renita at 989 413-1260. If you have flowers around your home that you would like to thin out let us know as we may be able to place them on the island.

Volunteers are also welcome to help with the Island gardening or to adopt a section of the island for your own particular plantings. We will assist you with the logistics and transportation to and from the island. Let's make it happen!

The Aging Process

This past Christmas I was hoping Santa would bring me my first ever super deluxe electronic fish finder with depth and water temperature monitors for my boat. I had dropped enough hints and suggested how useful it would be in hopes of me not shredding another boat prop in shallow water. When I noticed a package under the tree just about the right size with my name on it I was as excited as a child anxiously awaiting Christmas morning. I was sure my wish would be granted. When I opened the package, to my chagrin, it turned out to be a very nice digital electronic blood pressure monitor. He got the electronic part right. Next Christmas I think I'll get Santa a hearing aid.

When I was a child I thought nap time was a punishment. Now, as a grown up, it feels more like a small vacation.

I keep telling myself "I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it" and when I walk into a room for something I'm lucky if I can remember what I went in there for.

Talent Within

You are one of our very talented association residents who can bring lifelong learned skills and most importantly, wisdom to the board. Life's experiences are as valuable as a formal education and we know you have it; otherwise you wouldn't be where you are today. In all my contacts that I make around the lake I feel there is a wealth of experience that can be offered to the board.

A continual changeover of board members is important to ensure that it does not become a monoculture, which is why there is an election of 1/2 the board each year. I am not suggesting in any way that the current board fits this profile or that multiple reelections is negative. I am suggesting that after several two year terms, some may feel they would like to pass the baton on to a new and caring association member.

Being a board member is an opportunity to keep the association moving forward with renewed spirit. It's an opportunity to meet neighbors, collectively find solutions and help decide how the associations' finances are managed. It's a social network and an educational experience. Consider filling a seat on the board this summer. We can assist in transitioning new board members and welcome you.

As The Lake Churns

This spring the Lake Manitou Association will be hiring three people to work regularly scheduled part-time lake work (20 hours/week or possibly more during June and July). Work shifts will be mainly in the mornings, Tuesday-Saturday. Our workers need to be at least 18 years old and willing and able to handle manual labor, operate some equipment and not shy of getting wet or dirty. More information will soon be posted on the Lake Manitou website along with contact information. If you know of someone who may be interested let a board member know.

Throughout last summer we were regularly taking lake water clarity measurements. We also sampled the water in the spring and summer for phosphorus (nutrients)

The Lake Churns (continued)

concentration. The results validate what was already suggested: Too much phosphorus in the lake water. This creates excessive algae and aquatic plant growth and reduces lake water clarity. Three main sources of nutrient input into the lake water are lakeside lawn fertilization, lakeside septic tank nutrient percolation and agricultural runoff. The phosphorus concentration in the lake last spring was twice as high as the summer concentration. This is logical due to spring fertilization of lawns and farm fields which explains why there is such a large amount of algae growth in May, June. What we don't know is the percentage that each source contributes to the phosphorus loading.

When comparing our lake water phosphorus concentrations to 140 other Michigan Inland lakes that submitted water samples last year, Lake Manitou's phosphorus concentrations are nearly the highest of all the lakes.

Our lake management plan includes long term monitoring of water clarity and phosphorus concentrations which will provide us with a continued review of improvement or decline in water quality. We will also focus on remediating the causes of phosphorus loading rather than just treating the symptoms with chemicals as this has not improved water quality over time. We are counting on all of us to work together to protect and improve our water and property values.

You can find the 2014 Lake Manitou lake report on our website under Lake/Water.

Lake Management Plan

We will be working to manage several aquatic plants throughout spring and early summer and dependent upon their growth, we may need to have three separate lake treatments. Each aquatic chemical application requires a separate sign posing. The first application will be in early May as we will control an invasive aquatic plant called Curley Leaf which covers only about an acre. The second treatment will be in early June for the invasive Eurasian Watermilfoil and algae

Lake Management Plan (continued)

which may cover up to 16 acres. The third application will be in July for the control of Naiad, Pondweed and Eurasian Watermilfoil.

Mosquitoes

Sometimes they are dubbed the Michigan State bird because they are so large. A family cabin in northern Michigan we once owned was nick named *Mosquito Junction* for good reason.

You know they will again be swarming and filling the skies around our lake community from about mid May until the last week of June, after which they will be only an occasional nuisance.



I distinctly recall last June near dusk when one of our good neighbors was out walking the neighborhood seeking donations for the fireworks display. His face, head and arms looked more like a dart board stuck with darts as the mosquitoes were relentless.

Natures Corner

Humming Birds are the ambassadors of peace and delight throughout the summer months in Michigan.



As you know they are energized by sweet sugary flower nectars and zip about like a high speed race car. If your surroundings are quiet enough you can hear their distinctive soft wing beat and subtle high pitch chirp as they

Natures Corner (continued)

maneuver every which way. Insects are their primary source of protein which makes them a voracious insect eater. They are also important flower pollinators as they move from flower to flower.

By adding certain types of flowers around your property and a feeder you can easily attract these friends while at the same time adding colorful flowers to your landscape, naturally help reduce insects and improve flower pollination. Here's a website with excellent information on everything about hummingbirds: www.hummingbirds.net.



The Wildflower Association of Michigan is a great place to find ideas for plantings around your property.

www.wildflowersmich.org. The website contains oodles of information and ideas for you to consider if you are thinking about adding some color to your property as they do attract colorful songbirds, butterflies and of course, hummingbirds.

Invasive Plants

Plants that have been introduced from other countries will many times crowd out native plants and spread profusely. This can happen on land or in the water.

One invasive that I've noticed in some neighbor's yards is Japanese Knotweed. It has a hollow sturdy stalk and can grow 3'-10' tall. It blooms white color flowers in August/September and the berries and stems are a dark purple color in the fall. Cutting it causes it to spread further the next year. Spraying with an herbicide most times does not eradicate it as the root systems (rhizomes)

Invasive Plants (continued)



is one that keeps spreading. The entire root system needs to be dug up or try cutting the stalk about 3" above ground and immediately carefully pour into the hollow an ounce of herbicide that contains glyphosate or imazapyr. The cuttings need to be placed in a plastic bag. If you're not sure if you have the plant you are welcome to contact me at the telephone number at the end of the newsletter. This summer I will also keep watch around the lake and try to let you know if you have it on your property.

Another invasive is Purple Loosestrife.



Left unattended, it will rapidly spread and overtake shorelines or low wet areas. It grows up to 7' tall and blooms in July with purple long stalk flower spikes. It too has the Rhizomes' root system. The lake crew has been digging this out from shorelines when it appears. Herbicides are not recommended due to the possibility of contamination to fish and other shoreline inhabitants.

Another noxious invasive weed that is growing nearby is Garlic Mustard. It's named for the smell it produces when the leaves are crushed. It will quickly take over an area and crowd out native flowers and grasses. This plant is best removed by hand pulling, including the roots and is taking hold in Kiwanis Acres to our north.

Invasive Plants (continued)



Here's a website for more information on these and other invasive plants:
www.michigan.gov/invasivespecies

Our Neighbors And Friends

On February 19th Roy Thelen's sister, Ruth Thelen, age 58 passed after battling a progressive illness.

For the past several months Diane and Dave Gagnier had been providing family comfort and care in their home for Diane's father, Gerald Becker 95 yrs. old. On February 20th he passed away.

On February 19th our good neighbor Joan Marroso was stricken with a sudden serious illness but is now on the mend.

Sooner or later we all experience a struggle with daily living as we face illness, upset, unrest, inevitable aging, unwanted change and the prospect of death of family, friends and oneself. You are not alone. It is these difficult experiences that allow us to appreciate life itself. You are cared for and in the thoughts of many.

Let us not look back in anger, nor forward in fear, but around in awareness of those in need and count all of our blessings.

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.

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

Until next time, happy trails to you.