

Lake Manitou

Area Newsletter

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Publisher Fred Farkas

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A salute to Memorial Day 2016. Nola Hansen is pictured enjoying a hot and sunny Memorial Day at Lake Manitou. Nola is the daughter-in-law of Sue Hansen. Sue enjoys, and frequently entertains her family and grand children.

Anthropogenic Change

Environmental changes created by or influenced by human activity are an everyday occurrence. Chemical spills on land and water, depleting of fish populations, introduction of invasive plant and animal species, effects of industrialization byproducts, carbon footprint, toxic algae blooms, and the list goes on and on. These changes can be seen globally and locally.

The news is that given an opportunity, in many instances nature can counter act some of these influences and recover relatively well for the short term, but over time bioaccumulation begins to make it more difficult. We see direct evidence of this seasonally in Lake Manitou water quality. Influenced by human activity,

Anthropogenic Change (continued)

unusually high levels of dissolved phosphorus entering the lake water provide nutrients for excessive algae and aquatic plant growth. Lower levels of phosphorus give us clearer water and less algae and aquatic plant growth.

Ongoing water testing of the Hardy-Jennings Drain is proving that during spring thaw and most rain events, large amounts of detrimental soil and phosphorus (non point pollution) enter the lake. Our lake channel that receives water from the drain is markedly less clear and always several shades greener in color than the main bodies of water. Algae flourish throughout the channel. In addition to the drain, other sources of phosphorus include septic tank leeching and lawn fertilizer runoff.

Shoreline Rescue Service

As with lawn and yard maintenance, shorelines in some areas of the lake occasionally need a little care and cleaning of some plants and algae if you want that flawless water reflection. Our goal is not to chemically eliminate aquatic plants, but to manage them by thinning and removing algae mats. A healthy lake environment has a variety of aquatic plants.

Two enterprising resident young men are interested in raking areas around shores and property lines to help control aquatic plants and algae growth for a reasonable fee. A few hours of cleaning your shoreline can make a substantial improvement. The entrepreneurs each have their own business. Joe Ross 413-5761 or Calvin Cody 277-6642. Contact them to find out what they can do for your shoreline.

Salute To Parenting And Family

I've noticed, and maybe you to, there are a number of families around Lake Manitou with very active youngsters who are involved in sports and other organized activities. Many grandparents that I know are also actively involved in supporting, encouraging and following the grandchildren's participation. It makes for hectic on-the-go schedules and sacrifices for all but the rewards are great.

Aside from the children's physical and mental development through participation there is another, most important element being taught in which there are no written game plays or music score. It is the tightly woven fabric of family bonding as parents and grandparents nurture and encourage the child's development. Long after the children are no longer participating in those events, they will always recall the family support. When they are parents and grandparents they will be encouraging the same family support.

Septic Tank Pumping Service

One of our residents writes after having their septic tank recently pumped: *I found R&D reputable and the price couldn't be beat. I paid them to dig. Well worth it. They mentioned they'd done your tank, so you met the men. I hope you had the same thoughtful experience as I did. My Septic tank absolutely needed emptying!*

Residents are having their septic tanks pumped and inspected. Some might prefer their long used company while others are utilizing R&D Septic Pumping.

R&D is offering a discounted price of \$200.00, up to 1,500 gallons during the months of June, July and August, 2016. There is an additional fee for digging. Keep your system functioning properly, save money in costly repairs and help keep phosphorus and nitrate byproducts out of the lake. Call to make your appointment, and mention Lake Manitou Association: 810 638-7490. Information is also on our website: www.lake-manitou.org

Lily Pads Or Not



Depending on your perspective, lily pads can be picturesque on the lake water surface or they might look like a blemish. Lake Manitou has the White Water-Lily. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) does not permit general eradication of them as they are a native aquatic plant and an integral link in the water ecosystem. They offer shade to lake water inhabitants, a resting place for dragon and damselflies, which might just become a snack for an alert fish. They offer a buffer to temper the effects of a blazing hot sun. They are a floating egg bank depository for many air and water breathing insects. The roots help soak up phosphorus and nitrogen from the water and lake floor. The root system helps stabilize the lake floor from being churned up.

If you break the stem or leaf in attempt to kill it, it will only cause the roots to spread, and next season there will be more stems and leaves. To remove a lily pad, the roots (tubers) must be carefully dug out of the lake floor, best done by hand so you can feel the entire root system. The tubers may break off and float to the water surface. Be sure not to let these float away as they will root elsewhere.



Residents Jim and Jill Woodworth (seated in the center of the boat) was host to friends on Memorial Day. Their friends were treated to hot sunny weather and abundant fishing.

The Thing I Like Most About Spring

By Noah Feinauer:

The thing I like most about spring is I like to go fishing. I am going to tell a story about me catching a carp. First, I will tell you what a carp is. It is a bottom feeder that goes around and eats stuff on the bottom of the lake. Plus they can grow up as big as 40 inches! Now, I will tell you the story. I was down by my lake fishing for carp. About 30 minutes later I hooked a carp. The carp was basically pulling my poll down in the water. About 10 minutes later, I got it in. It was 38 inches long.

Noah is 12 years old and resides in our community. His fishing experience at Lake Manitou was printed in the Argus Press, April 12, 2016.

MDEQ Visit

On June 14th Lake Manitou received a visit from Marcy Knoll Wilmes who is an Aquatic Biologist in the Water Resources Division of the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) in Lansing. As an Aquatic Biologist, she works as the program manager for MiCorps, develops standards for the protection of water quality, monitors water quality of Lake Michigan watersheds by sampling biota, and writes reports based on sampling results. She received her Master's of Science degree in Aquatic Ecology from Central Michigan University.

As the manager of Michigan Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program (MiCorps), Ms. Knoll Wilmes was here to evaluate our lake water collection methods for water sampling and data collection that we provide to the MDEQ to assess our water quality. The collected data is available on the MiCorps website <https://micorps.net/lake-monitoring/>. The Lake Manitou Association has participated in the program since 2014.

Another website of interest to lake water quality is the Michigan Shoreland Stewards Program which promotes natural shorelines to improve water quality. <http://www.mishorelandstewards.org/>. You can find links to native shoreline plants and the Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership.

Lake Manitou Board Positions

Several Board positions will be available in this regular summer election cycle as President Chris Hannah, Secretary Sandy Morrill and Director Charlie Jones are not running for reelection. Ed Franks is running for reelection and Kathy Landes is undecided.

All of these board members have served several years with the best intentions of the Association for the present and future. A most gracious thank you is in order for all of them.

Natures Corner

Maybe you've noticed that Lake Manitou has been receiving visits from both Eagles and Osprey over the past three months. Both species of bird are excellent at fishing. The Osprey will circle, flutter above an area and then drop straight down into the water with open talons to catch fish. Using powerful wings it then flies up and away with its catch. Eagles will circle and swoop in at an angle with open talons rather than crashing into the water to make their catch. Both species of birds have likely nested nearby and will be here for the summer. Keep a look out for them!

What's the difference between a Mute Swan and Trumpeter Swan? Which one is an invasive species?



Mute Swan (male)



Trumpeter Swan

The Mute Swan is an invasive species introduced to the United States from Europe in the 1800's and is the world's most aggressive waterfowl. They are a danger to native wildlife and humans and cause severe damage to wetland habitats. The Mute Swan has an orange color bill and the males have a distinctive bump on their bill. The Michigan native Trumpeter Swan has an all black color bill. The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) website will give you all the facts: <http://www.michigan.gov/dnr>. Search Mute Swan.

New Neighbors To Our Community

As evidenced by the number of Lake Manitou homes and property trading hands in the last year (6) and the year before (4), the housing market is making a rebound. Three homes and three lots are currently listed for sale.

Welcome is in order for two of our newest arrivals to our community. First, the residence at 4911 Chippewa Ct. is now owned by Michele and Brian Felton. It was previously owned by Tom Weigel. The Felton's had been carefully looking for just the right location around Lake Manitou for more than a year. They found the home just after a sale sign went up. Brian lived in Owosso since the 70's and Michele, who is a native of Madison Heights, Michigan, had lived in Florida many years. The timing of their meeting, courtship, marriage and finding the perfect home on the lake could be a sign of divine intervention.



Michele Felton (right) touring the lake with friend Cathy on Memorial Day.

Candace and Eric Lemieux very recently purchased a home at 4855 W. Mohican Trail as the Rinn's departed for a southern state. It is sad to see our neighbors and friends move on but at the same time there's an excitement for our new neighbors turning the page to a new chapter of life and adventure. Stop by and say hello to our neighbors.

Boat Motor Gasoline

Neighbor Greg Cole thought we might want to know that boat motors run best when using what's called "recreational gasoline" which is alcohol free. I just purchased it for \$3.88/gal. at Stechschulte Gas and Oil located at 917 E. Main St. (M-21) at Gould St. in Owosso. Telephone 723-8831. Also selling it is Coffield Marathon, located at 707 N. Saginaw St., Durand 288-4711.

Artisan Crafts In Our Neighborhood

Our local resident Dave Denard Jr. designs unique wood products such as cutting boards and salad utensils. The type and cut of the wood is carefully selected to bring out the beauty of the natural grain. Girlfriend and partner Emily Josling works with crystal, rare stone jewelry and thoughtful decorations. You can find them Saturday mornings at the downtown Owosso Farmers Market. Emily and Dave's products can be found on the web at www.MysticalMakings.com or on Facebook: Mystical Makings.

Stop by their table at the market and see what they have to offer.

Electricians

Brothers Bryan and Ben Thomas (THOMAS BROTHERS ELECTRIC) (989) 413-0114. Licensed/insured and they have 30 years of electrical experience between them. They opened their local Owosso business about a year ago.

During our June 11th community yard sale, Bryan and his family happened to stop by my home to see what was for sale. Noticing the business logo on his shirt, my wife asked if he would take a look at an electrical outlet that I tampered with (translated; that means tried to repair without success). Bryan was glad to do so and in five minutes it was a working outlet. Some things are best left to those who are well trained and licensed. The Thomas brothers are courteous, friendly and fair.

You Know

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

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.