

# Lake Manitou

Area Newsletter

Volume 8, Issue 2

Publisher Fred Farkas

November 2017



Enjoying a fun filled day of water activity this past July at Lake Manitou. These are Gwen Ordway's Great Granddaughters.

## *Automatic Notice Of Severe Weather*

Recently one of our neighbors asked how they can stay apprised of approaching severe weather such as a tornado or damaging severe winds. Early warning is especially important if it's late at night when the household is asleep. Shiawassee County offers the CODE RED program which is an automated telephone call to you in the event of approaching severe weather. The Shiawassee County website home page has an online registration. Our Lake Manitou Association website home page has a website link to Shiawassee County. Once there, under "How do I", click on Register for CODE RED. If you need assistance is registering I would be glad to help. Fred (734) 417-1276.

## *Neighbors Make All The Difference*

Last April Sue and Doug White at 2091 W. Manitou Dr. put their home up for sale the very same day that Juan and Mary Mundaca were driving through our community. Was it coincidence or by design? The deal was sealed in May.

Pictured are Juan, Mary and Micah Mundaca.



Juan and Mary lived in California for 11 years. Juan is originally from Peru and he served 9 years in the U.S. Marine Corp. After more than two years in the City of Owosso, they found their home at Lake Manitou. Son Micah will be 3 in December. Mary is originally from Williamston Michigan and is involved with real estate and property management. Interestingly, their home towns have the same telephone area code; 517.

The Seward home at 4932 Ottawa Ct. was purchased by Paul Mikhjian this past June. Paul has been employed more than 2 years at Crest Pontoon Company in Owosso as a Regional Sales Manager. Originally from

## *Neighbors* (continued)

Rochester Hills Michigan, Paul had been a hardware sales manager working in Grand Rapids when he was recruited for his job by Crest's parts purchasing manager. Having an affinity for water, boats and lake homes, Paul is very happy to be here. Paul's brother Christopher resides at the same home and is employed at Crest.

In just the past three years 15 Lake Manitou properties have changed hands. Including our two families mentioned above, we have welcomed The Wedel family (new construction), the Edington's' (new construction), Williams' (new construction), Ellis', Ms. Baldwin, Lemieux/Schomish family, Feltons', Millers', Ms. Mowatt, Rose family on Apache Path, Hudeceks', Dusos', Irishs' and Ms. Bulemore. Good information has it that there is another pending home sale which will make 16 homes.

## *Board Members*

New to our Association Board as Directors are: Dan Cody, Eric Lemieux and Roy Thelen. Our new Vice President is Patti Sidebottom and Kathy Landes is our new Treasurer. Continuing board members are: Chris Hannah, President, Sandy Morrill, Secretary, Director's Dave Gagnier and Brian George.

Roy is a long time resident who served on the board many years ago. Welcome back! Dan Cody has an entire life experience here as this is his childhood home. I'm sure he has some memories of Association business as his father was a board member many years ago.

Eric purchased a home here two years ago and has a genuine interest and concern for improving our water quality.

A big thank you to departing board members Laurie Bateman, Dave Hedges and Ed Franks for all of their dedicated effort in promoting the best interests of the Association over the past several years. I am no longer a board member but will concentrate my efforts toward lake water quality through improvements to the Hardy Jennings Drain. Everyone who might be interested in helping with this effort and water quality testing is welcome.

## *Lake Manitou Memories*

At the end of July this year I happened to stay at the Whaleback Inn in Leland Michigan which is northwest of Traverse City. In talking with the owners Scott and Tammie Koehler I learned that Scott grew up here at Lake Manitou. His parents, Ron and Sue Koehler and their four boys lived on W. Mohican Trail from the mid 1970's until 1992. Scott's best memories of the lake were swimming and fishing.

In 1992 Ron and Sue purchased the Whaleback Inn and in 2000 Scott and Tammie acquired the Inn. Scott's parents now reside in Fort Myers Florida.

By the way, the accommodations at the Inn are very pleasant. [www.whalebackinn.com](http://www.whalebackinn.com)



Scott and Tammie Koehler

This past September I was talking with an associate of Friends Of The Shiawassee River, Sarah Baker (31) whose maiden name was Morrow. Sarah had resided on Hickory Hollow (just south of us off Garrison Rd.) until she was in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. She has many fond memories of swimming, boating and tubing on Lake Manitou as several of her friends lived here, one of which was Ashley Johnson.

## *Fireworks*

Thank you to all who made a financial donation to the 2017 fireworks display. All reports from neighbors were that the fireworks display was spectacular. 66% of lake residents donated and we surpassed our goal of \$5,400. The remaining balance will be applied to next year's display. A neighbor has already made a donation for 2018.

## *Oakland University Research*

On October 7<sup>th</sup> Oakland University grad students again collected water samples from Lake Manitou from near Waugh road. At their university lab they will analyze the samples for algae and microcystin bacteria.



Pictured are Ryan McWhinnie (left) and Karie Altman (right).

Karie is a doctoral student with the goal of becoming a professor of biology. Her primary research is amphibian disease ecology.

Ryan has been the field team leader collecting water samples each month this summer. Working on his Masters degree in science, he is contemplating reaching for a Ph.D. Ryan credits his educational impetus on his parents who, at an early age, instilled the value of higher education. He gravitated toward conservation and his fondness for animals partly from watching television episodes of Steve Irwin who was a zookeeper, conservationist and television personality. Once in college at Oakland, Ryan gained more inspiration from professors as well as other aspiring students while working in the research lab. Ryan's philosophy is that higher education will lead to an interesting and fulfilling career rather than just having a job.

## *Water shed Water Quality*

Kieser and Associates, an environmental science and engineering firm have completed a report for Lake Manitou Association that has compiled lake water quality data obtained in the last 4 years and historical data obtained

intermittently between 1993 and 2002. There were no water quality studies done between 2003 and 2013.

The purpose of bringing the data up-to-date is to have a report with current factual and relevant information to understand what continues to negatively influence surface water quality in our area. Additionally, the report focuses on suspended sediment and E. coli bacteria loads entering from the Hardy Jennings Drain as well as in-lake harmful algae blooms.

The Association's goal is to partner with all stakeholders who influence the watershed and our vision is to work together for substantial improvements in surface water quality.

At our board meeting September 18, a resident spoke passionately about how well the lake was managed previous to 5 years ago and how clear the lake water was, and feels that we are now going backward with the current management. "We grew Curly Leaf Pondweed like crazy and cut it with a harvester". The explanation was that the plant absorbed the phosphorus, keeping algae blooms away, and that cutting removed plants so they wouldn't decay and create more phosphorus. The resident's theory was persuasive but without factual data and it is not an accepted lake management practice.

Curly Leaf pondweed is an invasive aquatic plant and is restricted from being propagated in Michigan as well as many other states. A diverse variety of native aquatic plants are far more effective in a lake ecosystem. Selective memory caused the resident to forget that limnologists noted regular algae blooms in the lake and lifelong residents can attest to regular algae blooms.

Mechanical harvesting has drawbacks and, as with aquatic chemical treatments, should be left to professionals.

The Kieser and Associates report is on the Lake Manitou Association website: [www.lake-manitou.org](http://www.lake-manitou.org) Click on Lake/Water, then Lake Studies, then Kieser & Associates. You'll need the Association password.

## *Nature's Corner*

The Association website home page has an

## *Nature's Corner* (continued)

article under Current News titled Twice As Nice and it shows photos of rainbows over Lake Manitou taken on two different dates this summer. Michele's keen observation gave her an opportunity this summer to photograph a third rainbow over our lake. That's something special! "Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take – but by the moments that take our breath away." Author unknown.

## *Composted Aquatic Plants*

For the past 5 years we have been able to compost our manually harvested aquatic plants at Crooked Tree Nursery and Landscape located at the corner of M-52 and Bennington road. Owner Eddie Louch has been very gracious in composting our aquatic plants and this year the maintenance crew removed 29 pickup truck loads.

The maintenance work crew is Joe Bergin, Roy Thelen, Russ Friess and Fred Farkas. Less and less labor hours are spent as the current work crew has more personal responsibilities, which means lakeshore residents will need to do more individual cleaning and disposal in the future.

## *As The Lake Churns*

This year two lake shore septic systems in our community have been replaced. After years of use, soils surrounding the drain field lose its ability to adequately filter phosphorus, nitrogen and biological pathogens, which can then migrate into the lake water.

This past summer a septic system survey was sent to 80 lakeshore residents in an effort to, as accurately as possible, quantify the negative influence that those systems might have on our lake water. 36 residents (45%) did not respond, even after a second request. Of the 44 homes responding, 31 have systems older than 11 years. Kieser's recommendation is that lake side septic tanks should be pumped every two years or less to keep the system operating as efficiently as possible. Our community needs to be unified if we are to succeed in making improvements.

## *As The Lake Churns* (continued)

It's was a very dry summer and fall. All of the stop logs in the spillway, which hold back Lake Manitou water from exiting, were in place from July 29 until October 14, (11 weeks) which is a very long time compared to the last five years which averaged about 2 weeks each year.

Algae blooms were not as prevalent this season due to the lack of rainfall which would have carried more phosphorus laden water into the lake. Having mentioned that, we still had several blooms throughout the season and as of this writing algae is still persistent.

What's your guess as to when and how long ice will completely cover the lake this year? Last season ice completely covered the lake on December 15, 2016 and departed February 22, 2017. The longest: November 15, 2014 thru March 30, 2015.

## *Our Neighbors*

Along the journey of life the road holds unforeseen mishaps, untimely misfortunes, illness and premature death, all of which can be emotionally difficult to comprehend or understand. In recent months several residents have been diagnosed with cancer. Others have experienced acute illness. Some have experienced the sudden loss of a loved one. While there is no comfort in the distress that is caused, have faith that recovery and healing is also life itself. Others walk the same path and many are thinking of you and your journey.

## *What's This Newsletter All About?*

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

"Those that know patience, knows peace."  
"Worse than being blind is having sight but not vision." Authors unknown.