

Lake Manitou

Area Newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 2

Publisher Fred Farkas

June 2015



What kind of turtle is this? I found it hiding at the Lake Manitou shore line. The answer is found under *Natures Corner*.

New Neighbors To Our Community

Within the past few months several properties have changed hands and we have new neighbors. Bonnie and Paul Wiese along with son Benjamin have taken up residence at 4799 W. Mohican Tr. and are now officially "the last of the Mohicans", {last house at the end of Mohican Tr.} Their 906 telephone area code is a clue that they have arrived from our Upper Peninsula. Benjamin will be an Owosso senior this fall and the parents are medical professionals. The convenient location and small town atmosphere is what attracted them to Owosso.

Kori and Josh Shook purchased a vacant lot on Cherokee Trail. Both are lifelong residents of the Owosso/Corunna area. They have two daughters 12 and 14 years old. Kori is a real estate Broker/Manager with Century 21/Looking Glass Realty in Owosso. Josh is a residential/commercial designer and builder

New Neighbors (continued)

with Shook Construction based in Owosso.

Jackie and Keith Ellis just arrived at 4879 W. Mohican Trail. Jackie resided at our lake from 1969-1976 and is excited to return. They have a granddaughter who lives elsewhere at our lake and many other relatives around the Owosso/Perry area. Welcome back!

Farewell But Not Forgotten

Our long time resident Gertrude (Gert) Weever has moved away. For 45 years Gert had been our neighbor and friend who truly enjoyed the peace and pleasure of the lake setting, especially the fins, feathers and all things slithering, hopping and crawling. Occasionally she even liked a few of the homeowners. She doesn't mince words when it comes to her opinion. I distinctly recall a day when she telephoned me to comment on the new Lake Manitou Association Logo. She said, "I'm calling about this new logo. I don't really care for it. I like the original logo". Gert felt somewhat better when I mentioned that we would be keeping the original logo attached to the lake signage, boat stickers and that it would be referenced in our telephone directory.

If you get to know her, beneath her hardened shell (probably from managing everything on her own for so many years), you find a very kind and generous person who receives delight and enjoyment in the unfolding miracles in nature throughout all the seasons.

In February 2014, I wrote a newsletter article about one of our lake residents who have what I envision as the personality of Mother Nature but didn't mention who it was. Now you know who I was referring to.

Gert would appreciate hearing from her

Farewell But Not Forgotten (continued)

neighbors and friends. Gert's address is Stoney Creek Village Apartments, 1694 North M-52, Apt. 117, Owosso, MI. 48867. Her telephone number remains the same and is in our telephone directory.

A Gift For Lake Manitou



A few years ago when Ms. Weever heard that we were going to clean up the Island and add flowers she was quite excited and donated many different perennial plants. Upon Gert's recent departure to a new living setting she wanted to offer a gift to our Lake Manitou community for continued development of the island. We now have a wonderful decorative concrete bench for our enjoyment and a remembrance of our neighbor. Thank you Gert.

Mosquito Abatement

Sometimes dubbed the Michigan state bird because they are so large.



This past May, Association Board member Dave Hedges researched a few companies that offer mosquito control service and found us an opportunity for a group discount based on the number of community participants. A number of us signed up for the program

Mosquitoes (continued)

offering eight summer fogging treatments to areas around homes where mosquitoes hide. This year's cost is \$225.00 but with future participants the cost per household could likely be reduced. If you might be interested the company is Eradico out of Lansing their telephone number is 888 479-5900. If you call them mention Lake Manitou Association group discount.

Other Services Available

Last month a delivery truck making a wide turn took out two mail boxes on Apache Path. To the rescue was a local business, Mailboxes And Repairs Plus. Dan Somers specializes in mailbox installation and repairs as well as flagpoles, weathervanes and custom street signs. His telephone number is 989 725-1248.

Another specialized business is the mole hunter, Ed Buchmayer at 989 277-8614. He's the man to call when it comes to eradicating those lawn destroying, tunneling critters. He charges a set up fee and a bounty on each mole.

As The Lake Turns

The 1960's was a time period of accelerated social, philosophical and environmental change. It was an era of awakening to the environmental deterioration being caused by humans. The "tragedy of the commons" is a term, originally used by Garrett Hardin (1968), to denote a situation where individuals acting independently according to each's self-interest behave contrary to the best interests of the whole group by depleting or degrading resources available to everyone.

The same generalization holds true regarding individual self interests contrary to community rules of operation, community group benefits as well as homes and property aesthetics. The founders of the Lake Manitou Association wrote a number of easily attainable basic operating covenants for courtesy and respect of our neighbors. Let us continue to work together toward improvements to our community and

As The Lake Turns (continued)

responsible stewardship of our lake, environment and personal property.

Here's a Lake Manitou home that recently received an entire exterior facelift which looks spectacular!



Aquatic Plant Update

Round two of lake water chemical application will take place this Monday June 22nd (weather permitting) Green color signage will be posted around the lake. Lake water irrigation will again need to be postponed. Please read the sign. The chemical treatment is earlier than what we planned due to rapidly growing E. Watermilfoil and Pond Weeds.

Coontail is a common aquatic plant that has appeared early this year. It is a free floating long strand with a bushy tip giving it the appearance of a raccoon tail. It may form a thick mat on the water surface in some areas but within 3 to 4 days the mat should sink. Strands of it will be floating or come to shore and is easily raked up making good garden compost. This aquatic plant has historically been in our lake and is not considered an invasive plant. The lake maintenance crew will be evaluating whether or not to control its growth next year. There are benefits and drawbacks to everything we do and our goal is to use the best management practices to find a reasonable balance between lake habitat, leisure activities and aesthetics.

Natures Corner

Have you noticed that there haven't been

Natures Corner (continued)

any geese flying lately? That's because adult geese shed (molt) their wing feathers to make way for new growth. The annual event coincides with the birth of goslings which can't fly until they grow their flight feathers. The birds stay close to the water's edge as the lake is the safest place while they can't fly.

Some residents have been reporting sightings of Red Fox families in and around the community. Leaving them alone will assure that you and your small pets won't be bothered by them. Several free roaming neighborhood cats have been unharmed and unhampered in their travels while sharing the same turf.

Other observant residents have noticed Northern Brown Water Snakes around the shores and yards which is normal as they are searching out food and a location to lay a brood of eggs. They are non venomous and unless you step on it or completely startle it, they should be headed the opposite direction from you with just a little prompting.

Speaking of eggs, just recently one of our neighbors was quite surprised while turning soil in her flower beds and unearthed a brood of small eggs. After some internet research she believes they were the snake variety rather than turtles. I wonder what a snake omelet tastes like.

Another neighbor just witnessed a snapping turtle come to shore, dig a hole in the sand, laid a clutch of eggs and then buried them. Depending on weather conditions it takes 45 to 90 days for eggs to hatch. Interestingly the turtle is staying very near the eggs, possibly to try to protect them from predators.

What species of turtle is on the first page? One of our residents called it a rubber backed turtle. In fact its shell is very pliable compared to other turtles. It's a Spiny Soft Shelled Turtle. The Michigan DNR website lists all of Michigan's turtle species. At the DNR website, search Michigan turtles.

RT Sail Boating

When I was informed of this sport I first

RC Sail Boating (continued)

asked, "What's R C"? I learned it is Radio controlled model sail boating. Neighbor Brian Cerveny is awaiting his Laser brand RC sailing model which will measure about 3' long by 5' high. He envisions the Lake Manitou Yacht Club and would look forward to other residents joining the fun for Regatta's and Pylon races. It's your chance to learn new terminology such as boom sliders, jibs and rudder tillers. I understand that Brian enjoys astronomy so don't be surprised if on some clear and starry night he's out navigating his RC sailboat around the lake by the position of the stars. For information on Laser model sailboats try this website: www.sailrc.com or contact Commander Brian.

Thank You Neighbors

It is great that so many neighbors have the ability to help out with a donation to the Lake Manitou Fireworks fund, many of which did so early this year. A \$100 in donations was generated from yard sale proceeds thanks to Kristy and Dan Flynn, Sue Hansen, Sandy Morrill and Howard and Patti Sidebottom. As of June 19th we are still in need of \$1,300. Donations can be made to any Board Member with a check written to Lake Manitou Association. It is with hope that whether you donate or not, that everyone will have the chance to enjoy the July 3rd show as this is a special Lake Manitou tradition begun many years ago. Thank you to everyone!

Island Flowers By Renita Mikolajczyk

Thanks to the efforts of many of our community members, the island now has a fresh summer look with flower boxes popping with color. We doubled the number of planters from last year, an achievement that would not have been possible without the help of our neighbors.

Those who adopted planter boxes are Jean and Allison Anderson, Laurie and Mark Bateman, Fred and Maureen Farkas, Sylvia Hachenski, Dave and Sandy Hedges, Renita Mikolajczyk and Sandy Tyrna and Sandy and Dan Morrill.

Island Flowers (continued)

Those who sponsored planters include Jan and Ed Franks, Joe, Marlene and son Joe Bergin, Chris Harrand and Kathy Gilroy, Charlie Jones, Howard Sidebottom and Andrea and John Tuttle. Just a small amount of involvement can produce big results. A most gracious thank you to all!

The island perennials are doing well and the many varieties of Day Lilies will be blooming in just a few weeks. Any interested parties are welcome to help at any time with pulling tall grasses that are growing up in and around the perennials.

In Memory Of Our Neighbor

On June 19th Cecilia Loraine Lavigne passed away and is now at peace and rest after two years of struggling with Vascular Dementia. Lori and Bill have been married 60 years, 30 of which have been at Lake Manitou. Funeral arrangements will be at Nelson House in Owosso. Condolences to all the Lavigne's.

Thoughts To Ponder

"I've learned That when you harbor bitterness, happiness will dock elsewhere."

"To ignore the facts does not change the facts."

"Life is a gift. The problem is most people return it unopened."

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 September 2015.

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".

Until next time, happy trails to you.