

Lake Manitou

Area Newsletter

Volume 9, Issue 1

Publisher Fred Farkas

April 2018



What's got long legs and a wing span longer than six feet? It stands in shallow water when hunting for a meal. See the back page.

Life On The Lake

Looking out over Lake Manitou as the sun rises on a clear morning, the shadows of dark water give way to shimmering light reflecting off the ripples created by a light breeze. On other days, the lake surface appears as reflective as a mirror when there is no air movement, and at other times its surface is continually churning and folding as the wind moves it about. As the sun moves higher in the sky throughout a cloudless day the water becomes a brilliant blue color from the reflection of the blue sky. By evening, its morning appearance returns, only to begin another cycle the following day.

If you are observant, you might catch a view of an Eagle, Osprey or Blue Heron, Mink, Fox, Deer or Coyote. Distinct circles can be seen at the water's surface as fish inhale insects.

We are fortunate to have a window on the

Life On The Lake (continued)

water, being able to view the peaceful and entertaining cycles of daily life around the lake. These are the gifts unique to a lake environment that can provide a natural sedative for the mind and soul. "Each day is a gift. Untie the bow".

Welcome To More New Neighbors

Since last November we have had more turnovers of homes in our community. Long time resident Dale Espich decided it was time to downsize and sold his home at 4900 Ojibwa Trail. Our new neighbors are Robert and Kathy Gould who are Owosso natives. For years they have spent time between Owosso and Swainsboro, Georgia and have decided to return permanently to our area. Kathy is a retired dance instructor and Bob is a retired accountant. Bob also proudly served as a Marine in Vietnam.

The Landes Family at 4720 Waugh Road sold their home last month and has relocated to Saginaw after 14 years at Lake Manitou. They enjoyed the friendly lake community atmosphere and because of it, they hope to purchase a future lakeshore home. Our new residents are Jerry and Darlene Walden.

Leslie Fayling-Stolte has a sale pending at 2039 Smith Park Drive. You may not recognize the name Stolte as Leslie married Daniel Stolte last year. Leslie has resided at the lake for 15 years and is a niece to the late Forrest Cummings, one of the founders and builders of

New Neighbors (continued)

Lake Manitou. Leslie and Daniel are headed to a recently purchased northern Michigan lakeshore home.

A vacant lot at 1790 Cherokee Trail changed hands this past January. The Shook's sold the lot to Jeffery and Josi Sherman. The Sherman's have been in the local area 16 years, residing on Lake Drive, which is on the other side of Garrison road, adjacent to our lake. They have been interested in our community for many years and have plans to build a home on the lot.

In less than four years, 21 properties have changed hands within the Lake Manitou Association. Welcome to our newest residents!

Questions ??

Are you interested in how our association dues/assessment money is spent? Are you interested or concerned about our lake water quality? Do you have an interest in helping preserve and improve our lake community?

Due to several unforeseen circumstances, there are 3 vacant board positions and your attention is necessary. All you need is an interest in helping maintain and improve our community. Contact any of the following board members: Patti Sidebottom (734) 516-8142, Sandy Morrill (989) 729-8558, Eric Lemieux (810) 223-2964, Roy Thelen (989) 277-6627, Dan Cody (989) 277-4538, Brian George (989) 413-9140, Fred Farkas (734) 417-1276. Fred was appointed last fall to fill a vacant seat and is on the board until this summer's elections.

Good Eats

Did you know that we have three Owosso restaurant owners residing in our association? All three serve delicious foods in a casual atmosphere.

The newest is O Town Café at 101 N. Washington where the energetic owners, Steven and Amber Cohen began serving last July 29, 2017. They expertly prepare specialty sandwiches, soups and meals with fresh ingredients at a fair price. In fostering a helping hand, if it so moves you, you can pay any additional amount forward to help cover

Good Eats (continued)

the cost of someone else's meal that is financially less fortunate. It is the true meaning of Christianity.

Another self styled down home restaurant is BJ's at 1900 E. M-21. Bea Brent has been serving family style meals for many years. The daily specials on the board are as numerous as the printed menu. The meals and service is top notch.

What might almost be a historical monument (founded in 1936 in California), is the young man in red and white overall's holding a hamburger. The Big Boy Restaurant is located at 1709 E. M-21. The franchise owners are Patrick and Ann Murphy along with their two sons, Mike and Chris. They have been carrying the franchise banner since 2004. If you're looking for a bit of history with good taste, you can't go wrong.

Stop in for a good meal and support our neighborhood entrepreneurs. Bon appetit!

Annual Yard Sale - Lake Manitou

It's a monstrous event that attracts large quantities of buyers. We've even had people decide to move here after coming through the community on the sale day. Often times, some of us who are trying to sell and reduce household belongings, end up buying our neighbors treasures.

Please contact Mary Jo Forsythe at (989) 723-4742 well in advance of the sale date to have your address included on the official sales map that is distributed to shoppers as they arrive.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 16, 2018 from 9am-5pm. See all about it on the Lake Manitou Association website. At the home page, click on Events, then Yard Sale.

Nature's Corner

Native plants are generally defined as plants that are indigenous to a geographic area prior to 1800's. Native plants of the area are hardier, have deeper root systems to hold soil in place and contend well with the localized weather conditions. If you are interested in obtaining plants and seeds native

Nature's Corner (continued)

to our area you only have to travel a short distance to Designs by Nature, located at 9874 Chadwick, Laingsburg, (517) 651-6502.

More specifically, if you want to explore native shoreline plants, Wild Type at 900 N. Every road, Mason is where to look. (517) 244-1140. www.wildtypeplants.com.

Fireworks Date

This year's fireworks are scheduled for Saturday, July 7, 2018. ACE-PYRO, Inc. a Michigan based company will again provide our aerial extravaganza. The pyrotechnic master is Jon Nash of Nash Nursery in Laingsburg. The event is completely funded by donations and again, this year our goal is \$5,400. Donations can be made to any Association board member with a check made out to Lake Manitou Association. Coordinators are our neighbors Roy Thelen and Dan Cody. The backup rain date is July 8, 2018.

Calls For Help!

On February 21, 2018 one of our neighbors was walking about their backyard taking advantage of a mild sunny afternoon. The ground warmed enough to be soft and somewhat unstable causing our neighbor to fall, breaking an ankle. Not able to stand or make it back into the home and no one close at hand, all that could be done was to call out, "HELP". It just so happened that across the lake, a Maurer's Heating and Cooling crew was working outside and heard our neighbors' calls. Thanks to Shawn and Brian, they stopped work and circled around the lake until they found our neighbor in distress and gave much needed assistance. Thank you to Maurer's Heating and Cooling.

Maurer's Heating and Cooling company is an Owosso based family owned business and the owner, Kevin Maurer is also a Lake Manitou Association resident.

As The Lake Turns

This year's association dues/assessment is \$250.00 as the board is increasing algaecide chemical use attempting to better control

As The Lake Turns (continued)

algae. Herbicide chemicals for aquatic plant control will continue to be the primary means, but we will be experimenting with suction harvesting of aquatic plants. Suction harvesting will remove the plant and roots which decreases decaying biomass that generates nutrients.

It is also important that the Association continues our investment efforts in the mitigation of contaminants entering the lake through the Hardy Jennings Drain and to be vigilant that lake shore home owner septic systems are not failing and leaching into the lake. We must find a means to greatly reduce the causes of excessive amounts of nutrients and soil entering our lake. For too many years we have treated only the symptoms through the use of algaecides, herbicides and other methods, attempting to control algae and aquatic plants. If we don't address the causes, we will continue to spend more and more money to temporarily control the symptoms of algae blooms and excessive aquatic plant growth.

Our lake water is a high quality resource that we must protect and improve for healthy and safe recreation. The quality of lake water also maintains our property values and provides a pleasant visual and mindful tranquility to the area.

Water quality monitoring and testing will continue this season in the Hardy Jennings Drain and in our lake.

If you plan to alter your shoreline please first consult with the DEQ for their requirements to safe guard the lake water. A permit from the Shiawassee Environmental Health Department is also required. If you plan on landscaping or disturbing land between the lake and your home first consult with the Shiawassee Environmental Health as an Erosion Control Permit may be required to help protect the health of the lake.

The DEQ contact is Carol Valor, (517) 284-6670. Shiawassee Environmental Health is (989) 743-2392.

The Lake Manitou website contains more information under Permits:

www.lake-manitou.org

As The Lake Turns (continued)

Last season ice completely covered the lake December 21, 2017 and departed February 26, 2018. The season before that, the dates were just a few days different.

Community Concept

If you like the thought of less heavy truck traffic and truck noise, want to enhance community aesthetics and reduce road surface wear, and save yourself a few dollars, then consider the concept of one refuse company coming through our area one day a week. It's a "WIN, WIN" for everyone. Currently, somewhere in our community we have four different refuse companies on four different days resulting in trash at roadside four days a week.

Since 2013 one company, one day concept has been advertised and written about for the good of the entire community. In 2013 bids were requested from refuse companies to obtain the lowest cost. Specialty Salvage of Owosso has the best price and they come through the neighborhood on Monday morning. They guarantee the lowest price. They also offer a bag tag program at \$1.00 per bag. Some of our neighborhood families (with two or three persons) are paying only \$48.00 a year for refuse pickup. Call Specialty Salvage at (989) 725-8062 and tell them you are in the Lake Manitou Association. It's good for the entire community.

College Scholarship Fund Raiser

Brad Van Pelt attended Owosso High School and was an exceptional athlete. He went on to play baseball, basketball and football at Michigan State University where he earned several prestigious sports honors and as a result, in 1972 a college scholarship fund was set up in his name at Owosso High School. After college Mr. Van Pelt played 14 years in the National Football League earning more awards.

Mr. Van Pelt stayed connected to Owosso and owned a 9 hole golf course called Club 10. He died unexpectedly in 2009 at age 57.

Today, the scholarship still exists and as a

Fund Raiser (continued)

tribute to Mr. Van Pelt's legacy, a scholarship memorial fundraiser is being held at the location of the golf course that he once owned.

The golf course is now an outdoor fitness center named Fortitude, located at 4377 S. M-52. On April 28, 2018 there will be a 5K/10K trail run. Registration forms and details of the event can be found on line at <https://runsignup.com/Race/MI/Owosso/BradVanPeltMemorialRun>. Join in the run fun or stop by for the festivities, food and entertainment for a local cause! The MSU mascot Sparty will be on hand to cheer for everyone.

Diving Solutions, LLC

If you are in need of underwater work or need assistance with placing or taking out your dock, try Diving Solutions, LLC. The local company is owned by an Owosso resident, Jesse Tabor. (989) 413-2066.

Our Neighbors

April 4, 2018 was a sad day as our neighbor Greg Cole (60) passed away. Condolences to Ellen and the family. It's a reminder that there are no guarantees of life expectancy.

"Don't count the days. Make the days count". Mohamed Ali.

Photo From Front Page

The Great Blue Herons average life span is 15-20 years. They can move through the water without making a ripple while hunting for fish which is their primary food source.

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.

"Kindness should be a natural way of life, not the exception". Author unknown.

Until next time, happy trails to you.