

Presented by: Lake Bloomington Association

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President's Letter

Jeff and Cheryl Jackson

Welcome to Spring at the Lake! We all have our personal favorite signs of Spring-the first robin, the first rain, the first green shoot from the garden. At the Lake it means the snowbirds have returned-at least the snowbirds of the waterfowl variety. At our house, that means trying to identify, and verify, as many different species as possible. Many of the birds are old favorites. The North American White Pelicans are always a thrill. But the most fun comes from spotting a bird we have not seen before. At any given time when we are both home, the shout comes from upstairs: "Jeff, weird ducks out back!" Followed by a description of where to look to see them. That prompts Jeff to run for his camera and try to capture a picture that can be used for identification of the latest visitor. If the picture is clear enough for identification-many of these birds are very shy and will not stand still-the fun begins. The books come out and we try to identify just what bird we are looking at. The variety this year has been outstanding, we have seen many birds we have never seen here before. In addition, we try to verify every day that, yes, Mama Eagle is still on the nest. All of these things, the Eagle, the returning Pelicans and the new species we are seeing point to a vibrant and healthy lake. For all of us who live at the Lake, life doesn't get any better than that.

Enjoy the rest of the Spring!



The Lake Bloomington Association is made up of residents and anyone else who enjoys the Lake and works to improve the lake and surrounding community. Anyone can join the LBA -- you don't have to live at the Lake. It's a great way to meet new people who also enjoy Lake Bloomington.

If you are interested in joining the LBA, or have questions or comments, please email us at lakebloomingtonassociation@gmail.com.



News and Views Around the Lake

Winter Socials

More than 30 Lake residents gathered for each of the two LBA winter socials. The meetings at the Green Gables and Lake Road Inn give the frequently housebound year round residents a chance to get out and check in with others. There was a lot of discussion comparing this year to last year, but the only consensus was that winter should be over, NOW!



Lope Across The Lake

The 2nd Annual Lope Across the Lake and Howling took place right before the spring thaw. Neighbors gathered together to enjoy each others company and to howl at the beautiful full moon overhead.



Fishing at Lake Bloomington is open to the public year round.

A cooperative effort between the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the City of Bloomington, the Lake Bloomington Association, as well as local fishing clubs, have helped turn Lake Bloomington into one of Central Illinois' best kept fishing secrets. This ongoing fish stocking and management process provides an opportunity for anglers to test their skills on an abundance of a wide variety of game fish. Walleye, Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Hybrid Striped Bass, Northern Pike, Crappie, Bluegill, and Catfish can all be caught in Lake Bloomington.

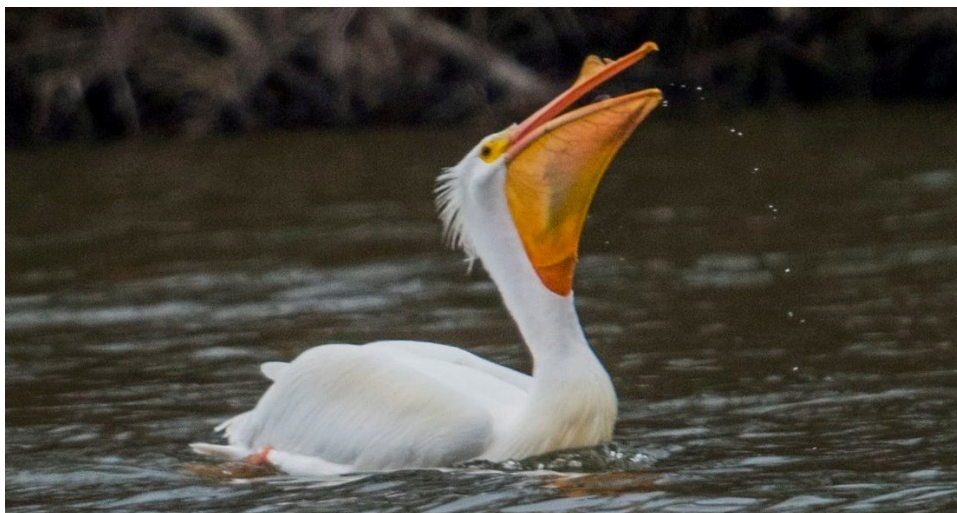
Free fishing pole rental program courtesy of [Friends of EverBloom](#).

Available to all ages. Stop in at Parks Office for checkout or call ahead at (309) 434-2161.

When fishing Lake Bloomington anglers must comply with the following rules and regulations:

1. Anyone 16 years of age or older must have a valid Illinois Fishing License.
2. 2 Pole and line fishing only. No Jugs or Trot lines.
3. Fish size and creel limits listed below.
4. Fishing from a boat around private docks is prohibited when swimmers are present and between sunset and sunrise.
5. No littering!

FISH SIZE	CREEL LIMITS
Large and Smallmouth Bass	Minimum 15" 6 per day
Walleye	Minimum 14" 6 per day
Northern Pike	Minimum 24" 3 per day
Hybrid Striped Bass	Minimum 17" 3 per day
White, Black or Hybrid Crappie	No Minimum Length 25 per day
Bluegill or Redear Sunfish	No Minimum Length 25 per day





Nature Near You

EAGLES

We were all shocked, saddened and scared by the news that a bald eagle had been killed in McLean County. Dated pictures confirmed that it was not a Lake Bloomington eagle. The eagle proved to be the female from a nest near the Mackinaw River with live chicks. So far, the male eagle is still feeding the young. The Lake Bloomington eagles nested late this year, and that may have allowed them avoid the snowmobiles.

Please contact the police if you have any information about the shooting of the female eagle. And please stay away from the Lake eagles' nest. Do not approach by water and stay on the road if viewing on land.





Boating Registration

Boating at Lake Bloomington

Recreational boating is permitted at Lake Bloomington. The boat ramp is located in Hubbard Park and can be reached by taking County Road 1750 East to Park View Lane. Turn East on Park View which will take you directly to the boat ramp and parking.

Boaters must comply with the following provisions:

All boats must have a current State and City of Bloomington License.

[Boat License Application](#)

To obtain a City of Bloomington Boat License all applicants are required to show proof of watercraft liability insurance, in the amount of at least \$100,000.00, and evidence of current State Registration. License may be purchased through the mail by downloading the Application from this site and following the instructions on the bottom of the form. A copy of this application will then serve as a temporary license. A City of Bloomington License sticker will be mailed in return. City of Bloomington License are also available by using a self registration box located at the Lake Bloomington Park Office next to Davis Lodge.

Boating and Skiing Rules

Boating at Lake Bloomington

- Boats operating on the Lake must carry all State required equipment -- Personal Flotation Devices for each passenger, a fire extinguisher, whistle or horn, etc. -- and obey all State of Illinois regulations.
- Maximum 40 horsepower limit.
- Maximum speed of 25 mph.
- All boats must obey all posted **NO WAKE** areas. The entire lake is **NO WAKE** from 1/2 hour after sunset until 7 am. A wake is defined as movement of water created by a boat underway that is great enough to disturb a boat at rest. More simply put, if you are moving fast enough that the wave coming from your boat makes another boat in the area bounce or move, you are going to fast and are violating the **NO WAKE** area. At no time can your speed in a **NO WAKE** area exceed 5 mph. Please be aware of the **NO WAKE** areas and do not speed through them.

- Racing is prohibited.
- During skiing hours (noon - 7pm), all boats operating in the area open to skiing shall operate in a counter clockwise pattern and shall make all turns counter clockwise. See skiing below.
- All motorized boats must yield to any sail-powered or muscle-powered craft.
- All passengers must be properly seated when underway. No one should be outside of the gated area of the boat or standing.
- All passengers under age 13 must wear approved Personal Flotation Device while the boat is underway.
- Operating a boat while **UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL OR OTHER DRUGS IS PROHIBITED.**
- Careless or reckless operation of any type will not be tolerated.
- No jet skis, jet-propelled, or air driven craft of any type are allowed.
- Swimming from boats is prohibited.

Skiing at Lake Bloomington (Including tubing or related activity)

- Skiing is allowed from noon to 7 pm only.
- Skiers must wear approved jacket type Personal Flotation Device.
- At least two people qualified to operate the boat must be aboard while pulling a skier. One to act as an observer.
- Skiing within 100 feet of any dock, shore, raft, buoy, or other watercraft is prohibited.
- Boats may pull only one person at a time.
- Skiers must start from the water, not from the shore or docks.
- Only the person actually skiing or preparing to ski shall be in the water at any time.



Lake Run Saturday May 2nd

The first Lake Run, a loop around Lake Bloomington, was held in 1982 and had 224 finishers. The race became an annual event, added a shorter loop and continues to grow each year (1,100 participants in 2012). 2014 marked the 33rd anniversary of this local favorite running event. In addition to the standard age group classifications, the race has **footpounder classes** for men over 220 lb and women over 190 lb, as well as footpounder light: 190-219 lb (men) and 150lb – 179lb (women).

In 2014 the Lake Run added an **1/2 Marathon distance** to the race line up. The 1/2 marathon course will feature the best of both inner (4.37 mile) and outer loop (7.44-12K) courses. All races have chip timing and race results posted within hours of the completion of the event. Great post food, beer tent with more than one beer option and awards ceremony. **DOOR PRIZES FOR 2015, Mountain Bike From Vitesse Cycle Shop, and HP Slate from Hewlitt Packard!! Must be present to WIN!!**

Electronic sign up is available and highly encouraged. [Sign up now.](#)

[LAKE RUN-2015](#) Paper Entry Mail in form. Register before April 15th.

In addition, walk up registration and packet pickup will be at Multi-sport expo in uptown Normal, Illinois on Monday April 27th from 5-8:00pm and again on Friday, May 1st at Often Running in Normal from 4:00-8:00pm. Race day registration starts at 7:00am to 8:15 AM. Race start time is 8:30am for the 1/2 marathon and 12k. 9:00 am start for the 3 mile walk and 4.37 mile run.

Partial Proceeds of this event will benefit [Marcfirst](#) and local charities.



Fireworks Donations

We will once again ask for your donations to pay for the annual fireworks display. Without your donations, it cannot happen. Please complete the form below to help support and continue this great tradition at the Lake!

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Amount enclosed _____

Send to Bill Yowell PO Box 223, Hudson, 61748



Lake Bloomington and Lake Evergreen Watershed Social Assessment

The Mclean County Soil and Water Conservation District, in collaboration with Illinois State University, has received funding from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IL-EPA) to conduct a watershed social assessment, with an emphasis on the Lake Bloomington and Lake Evergreen Watersheds. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has acknowledged that non-point source (NPS) pollution is the leading source of water quality degradation. One significant source of NPS pollution in urban and suburban areas is fertilizer and pesticide runoff from turf grass lawns, which has been associated with a variety of water quality concerns such as algal blooms and contaminated groundwater. Other practices such as the use of water-intensive and fertilizer-hungry non-native landscaping, removal of buffer strips around waterways, excessive use of impermeable pavements, and failing septic systems can increase pollutants that enter the groundwater and contribute to NPS pollution. Locally, Lakes Bloomington and Evergreen provide source water for over 80,000 residential customers and recreation opportunities for a growing population, yet this residential population has been largely absent from outreach or educational activities in relationship to the current watershed management plans and efforts to reduce NPS pollution. As the urban population continues to grow, NPS pollution from lawn care practices and increasing use of impermeable surfaces will only rise in concern. Securing safe and adequate water resources for the future is also going to demand greater attention and planning. In light of these concerns, the assessment has identified five primary goals:

- Evaluate urban resident's general level of knowledge and concerns of water quality and the effects of their activities on water quality and the practices they currently use that effect water quality (BMPs).
- Evaluate onsite waste system knowledge and practice (ie: septic systems).
- Evaluate knowledge of and opinions of water conservation activities on water quality and quantity.
- Provide critical data to direct future outreach and education efforts.
- Provide vital social data to inform an update of the current watershed management plans to more directly address social aspects of watershed management for the future.

To achieve these goals, a random sample of 1,000 residential households from within the watershed will be selected to complete a household survey during spring 2015. Households that are within the watershed or receive their source water from Lake Bloomington and Lake Evergreen will be the targeted population. This includes residential households in the Village of Hudson, the Village of Towanda, north Normal and the City of Bloomington. The survey will be administered in person during the last three weeks in May 2015 by Illinois State University students. An on-line version will also be available for anyone who was not selected at random but still wishes to participate. For more information about the project, please contact Dr. Joan Brehm, jmbrehm@ilstu.edu, tel: 309-438-7177 or Jackie Kraft, Jacqueline.Kraft@il.nacdnet.net, tel: 309-452-0830.

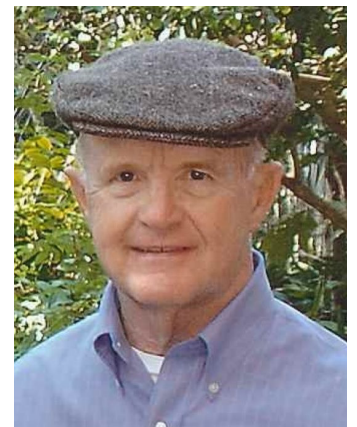


Friends We Have Lost



Frances "Jo" Oehler was born on July 28, 1923 and passed away on Sunday, January 18, 2015. She is survived by her husband Ed. She is also survived by two children, Beth (Roger) Yoder and Gary (Sue) Oehler both of Hudson, eight grandchildren, fourteen great-grandchildren and one sister Margaret Brooks of Gulfport, Mississippi and one daughter-in-law Shellie Oehler of Hudson. She was preceded in death by one son Jeff Oehler, one brother and two sisters.

James Malay, 77, of Lake Bloomington died at 11:32 a.m. Saturday (Jan. 24, 2015) at his home. He is survived by his wife, Elaine; daughters, Susan McNary, Julie Friedmann and Karen Compton; son, Jim Malay; sons-in-law, Bill McNary, Ed Friedmann and Spencer Compton; daughter-in-law, Alicia Malay; as well as grandchildren, Molly, Kathleen, Maggie, Ryan, Ellie, Nora, Meghan, Nell, Liam and Sarah.



Verne W. Erdman, 92, of Chenoa, passed away at 6:22 p.m. Sunday (Feb. 22, 2015) Verne was born Sept. 7, 1922, in Bloomington. He married Mildred L. Smith on June 8, 1946, in Decatur. She preceded him in death on Dec. 31, 2011. Survivors include his sons, Richard (Merline) Erdman, Sterling; James (Susan) Erdman, Chenoa; and Steven (Gina) Erdman, Barrington; daughter-in-law, Jan Erdman, Webster Groves, Mo.; 13 grandchildren, six great-grandchildren; and two brothers, Myron (Neta) Erdman and Ronald (Dorothy) Erdman, both of Chenoa.

Marlin "Jeff" Jeffrey Poole, 53, of Carlock and Lake Bloomington, passed away Friday (Dec. 26, 2014). Jeff was born March 3, 1961, in Normal, the son of Marlin B. and Mary Brown Poole. He is survived by his parents, Marlin B. and Mary Poole, Lake Bloomington; his two children, Lindsey (Jeff Boitnott) Poole, Mackinaw, and Alex Poole, Carlock; his sister, Kelly (Kevin Kane) Poole, Ames, Iowa; and fiancée, Shannon Duwendack, Lake Bloomington.





Upcoming Events

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Lake Run	May 2rd	8:30 am
LBA Annual Spring Dinner	May 7th	5:30 pm

LBA Annual Spring Dinner

Thursday May 7th
 At Timber Pointe
 5:30-6:30 Social Hour, 6:30 Dinner
 Meal catered by Famous Daves
 \$18 per person, BYOB
 Make your reservations by May 6th
 Complete the following form and send it to
 Jim & Gaye Aaberg, 3204 Rusty Lane, Bloomington, IL 61704

Name(s) _____

of people _____

Amount enclosed _____

The Lake Breeze

The Lake Breeze Newsletter is published on a quarterly basis and sent by email to all registered members of the Lake Bloomington Association. Articles, photos and items of interest for the Lake Breeze should be submitted to lakebreezemail@gmail.com. ———Lake Breeze editors Sandy Schroeder and Julie Smith