

The Holiday Breeze

Presented by: *Lake Bloomington Association*

President's Letter

Greetings: We know many of you will be reading this from a much warmer climate than the one we are currently experiencing here at the Lake. We hope all of you "snowbirds" enjoy safe travels and a wonderful winter away from home.

For those of us who overwinter at the Lake, we must suffer the many gray days and frigid nights. But the drab brown and bare trees also provide us with great views of local wildlife and a completely different variety of snowbird. The nesting Bald Eagles are present nearly every day and can frequently be spotted near their nest. Other water birds have been visiting on their way south, giving us a changing population as the weather gets colder. We like the bright spots provided by the many woodpeckers, the blue jays and cardinals.

Your Lake Association has planned two socials to help us pass these next few dark winter months. The get-together at Green Gables will be on January 26, 2014, and on March 16, 2014, we will gather at Lake Road Inn. E-mail reminders will be sent before each of these events.

As new Presidents of the Lake Association, we seek input from you on how the Association can better serve your needs. Please contact us, or any Board Member if you have any suggestions, questions, or comments you want to share. Our number is 726-1418; e-mail is Jwjrns@gmail.com.

We hope you continue to enjoy the holiday season wherever you are, and enjoy a healthy and happy new year.

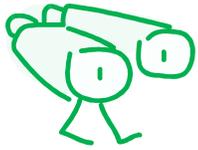
Sincerely,

Jeff and Cheryl Jackson

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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

With the turning of the leaves, Lake Bloomington Homeowners Association added new color to the adopted cabin at Timber Pointe. On October 5th – Gaye, Jim Aaberg, Jim Raymond, Diana and Don Parks completed the exterior painting of the Aptly named Raccoon cabin for the inhabitants in the crawl space and as reported previously, the Lake Bloomington Homeowners Association adopted this Cabin at Timber Pointe. Contributions from both the Association and Private Homeowners allowed us to complete:

- Water supply and sewage lines
- New 3 piece bathroom
- New water heater
- New foundation wall and footings
- New floor joists and sub floor
- New laminate and vinyl flooring
- 3 new windows
- New paint and trim
- New beds, sofa and desk
- New rear deck
- New A/C Unit.
- New exterior paint



Jim Raymond, Diana Parks and Gaye Aaberg working hard



Before



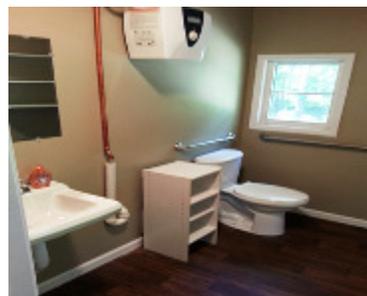
Before view of interior floor area



After



After view of Living area



After view of bathroom addition



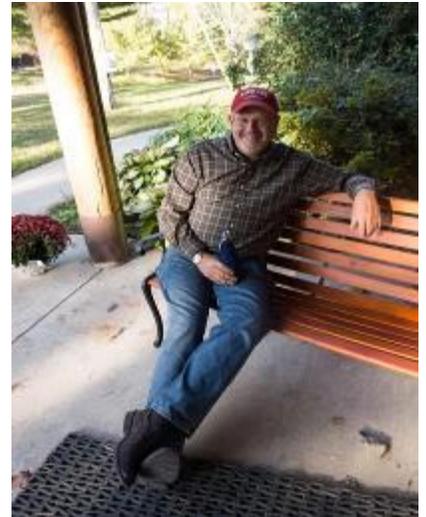
News and Views Around the Lake

Pottawattamie Area Garage Sale

An annual event was born in September, 2008. For the last 6 years there has been a huge garage sale (or flea market as some call it) hosted by Barb and Terry Beverage each fall. Prior to 2008 there were smaller sales as well, but when Barb and Terry moved permanently to the lake, lots of folks joined in and most recently there have been as many as 8 families involved. The fun starts on Thursday nights when everyone pulls up in their cars and trucks and begins unloading tables, boxes, and just generally lots of stuff (some call it 'treasures'). They've done it so many times that everyone pitches in and knows just what to do. Then the sale is held on Friday and Saturday. The weather is usually good (but not always) and there are many repeat visitors to the sale and often folks ask when the next one is going to be. One of the more memorable sales was the time that the house next door was torn down the very day of the sale. Everyone had a front row seat to watch the event. The best part is the camaraderie and fun that everyone has. From the food that everyone brings for breakfast and lunch, to the annual Friday night happy hour, it is just generally a good time. Of course, good times are common here at the lake.



OctoberFest 2013





Thanks to the efforts of Rick Twait, the residents of Lake Bloomington now have their own recycling bin. The bin is located in the parking lot next to the boat ramp. This recycling is single stream so no sorting required. The bin opens from the top, which can make it difficult to dump containers. So be careful. We encourage everyone to take advantage of this ecological opportunity.



Friends of EverBloom

FOE volunteer of the Year Award Winner

The Friends of Everbloom established the Jim Rutherford volunteer of the year award to recognize the efforts of a volunteer who helped with FOE projects. The award also recognizes the efforts of Jim Rutherford who spent his career looking after the watersheds of Evergreen Lake and Lake Bloomington. Many of us have learned a great deal from Jim Rutherford and he has made your lakes better through his efforts. There were several great candidates this year.

The Board selected Eric Varner as the Volunteer of the Year. Eric volunteered numerous hours to FOE projects and was always willing to lend a hand when needed. Congratulations Eric on your award and thank you for your hard work. Without the efforts of numerous volunteers, some on the board and some not, FOE would not be able to accomplish its goals.

Nature Near You

Snow Birds

The leaves are not all that are missing from the trees around Lake Bloomington in late Fall. Many birds leave, too, migrating to other warmer climates. My Field Guide to Birds of Illinois shows 65 varieties of birds we can expect to see around the lake during the winter. What we lose in quantity, we keep in quality.

For example, a pair of Bald Eagles can be spotted at various times around the lake. A three-year-old juvenile eagle has also been photographed recently. As you probably know, these eagles feast primarily on fish, but supplement their diets with carrion and the occasional duck.

We also retain most species of our woodpeckers during the colder months, such as the Downy, Hairy, Red-Bellied, Pileated, and Red-Headed woodpeckers. A family of Red-Headed woodpeckers resides in the trees across the road from the Green Gables along NightHawk road. Red-Bellied woodpeckers dot the inner-loop road landscape, primarily between Riley Starkey Park and Thornapple road. Downy and Hairy woodpeckers reside around the lake, and several families of these birds appreciate Wayne and Linda Steffen's feeders.

There are many other "winter birds" to look for, including the owls, cardinals, jays and finches. You might consider starting a list of the birds you see this winter. I am interested in trying to document the varieties who remain around Lake Bloomington during the winter months.

Jeff Jackson



Photos by Carolyn



Photos by Sandy Schroeder



Lake Bloomington Association Membership Form

www.LakeBloomington.com

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #'s: _____ Indicate: Home Work, Cell

Lake 911 Address if different from above: _____

Lake Phone: _____ Full Time? Yes No

Email Address(es): _____

Please include your Email address(es) if you want to be informed of LBA events and delivery of the LBA Newsletter. This will NOT be used or distributed for any other purposes.

Comments: _____

Dues: \$ _____

Extra Fireworks Donation: \$ _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Please send the above along with your \$ 25.00 Annual Dues to:

*Bill Yowell, Treasurer
P.O. Box 223
Hudson, IL 61748*

Note: Each family or individual in a multi-ownership property should sign up for their own membership if they wish to receive their own Lake Breeze & Directory.

Please make checks payable to: **Lake Bloomington Association**

The \$ 25.00 annual Lake Bloomington Association (LBA) membership dues are used to further the primary objective of the LBA, which is the improvement of Lake Bloomington and the surrounding community. Your dues pay for:

- Lake Breeze Newsletter Subscription
- 4th of July fireworks and festivities
- Lake Bloomington landscaping care and maintenance
- Various service and beautification projects
- Oktoberfest and other social events
- LBA Membership Directory

– Payment of annual dues is requested in January of each year –

Upcoming Events

Winter Social

Green Gables

January 26

Spring Social

Lake Road Inn

March 16



*On behalf of the
Lake Bloomington Association,
we would like to wish all lake residents,
families and friends...*

Happy Holidays!

The Lake Breeze Newsletter will be 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