

the Lake Breeze

photo by Jeff Jackson

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President's Letter

Boats and floaties are being put away, summer gatherings are giving way to crisp days and cool nights. Nature's paint box of colors is here at our lake and fall has rolled in like a warm fleece blanket. Mark and I are so happy to be serving as your presidents for the Lake Bloomington Association. We are joined by a wonderful slate of officers and directors. You'll see a full listing of our new board later in this newsletter.



We'd love to meet you or hear from you about ideas, issues and concerns. Call us, or come to a board meeting. This is YOUR association. We all look forward to serving you in the coming year.

As we begin our terms as president, we wanted to again share with you the LBA "Areas of Focus." They are a good reminder of the goals and purpose of our association:

FOCUS

1. Develop Community Spirit
2. Maintain Membership
3. Promote Safety
4. Protect the Lake
5. Improve Surroundings
6. Facilitate Collaboration

Our fall dinner was a great show of community spirit! We had well over 100 members come out for an evening of great fun and camaraderie. And there is so much going on to improve the surroundings of the lake. Take a hike to North Park to see the beautiful prairie grass and several new trees. There are more plans in the works and more information in this newsletter about North Park.

We are talking about a new way to maintain membership in our association. In the past we've sent your membership renewal with our fall and spring dinner invitations. This led to confusion for many about whether or not they were paid up each time one of those invites came in. In January, we will be mailing a membership renewal and would like all residents to pay their membership prior to the spring dinner. We think this once a year solicitation for membership will be more efficient and less confusing for everyone. And it will give you an opportunity to provide that fireworks donation early so we're sure we can have another big booming Fourth of July at the lake.

Our partners at the City of Bloomington have been busy too. The residents of White



Owl and Nighthawk now have a brand new water main. The city and their contractors did a great job of keeping the mess to a minimum and completing the project in a timely fashion. Our city partners are one of the architects of the North Park project and they continue to maintain our parks and common areas through the seasons. The new dock ordinance should help resolve some of the confusion about access to our lake. Please plan to attend the special meeting the city has arranged on November 15 at 6:00 p.m. at Davis Lodge to answer all your questions. See Joe Darter's city update for more details.

We are also planning to refresh our Strategic Plan in January and we'll be sure to send each of you a copy of the new plan with our mission, vision and goals.

For now, enjoy the changing seasons. Fall is a good time to think about changes in our lives too; to reflect on the past and to look forward to the days ahead. Look for some time to take a walk on the inter loop or wander the paths at North Park during the fleeting days. Reach out to visit with your neighbors, give some extra time to your loved ones. Enjoy our lake, our neighbors and each other during this beautiful season!

Carol and Mark Csanda

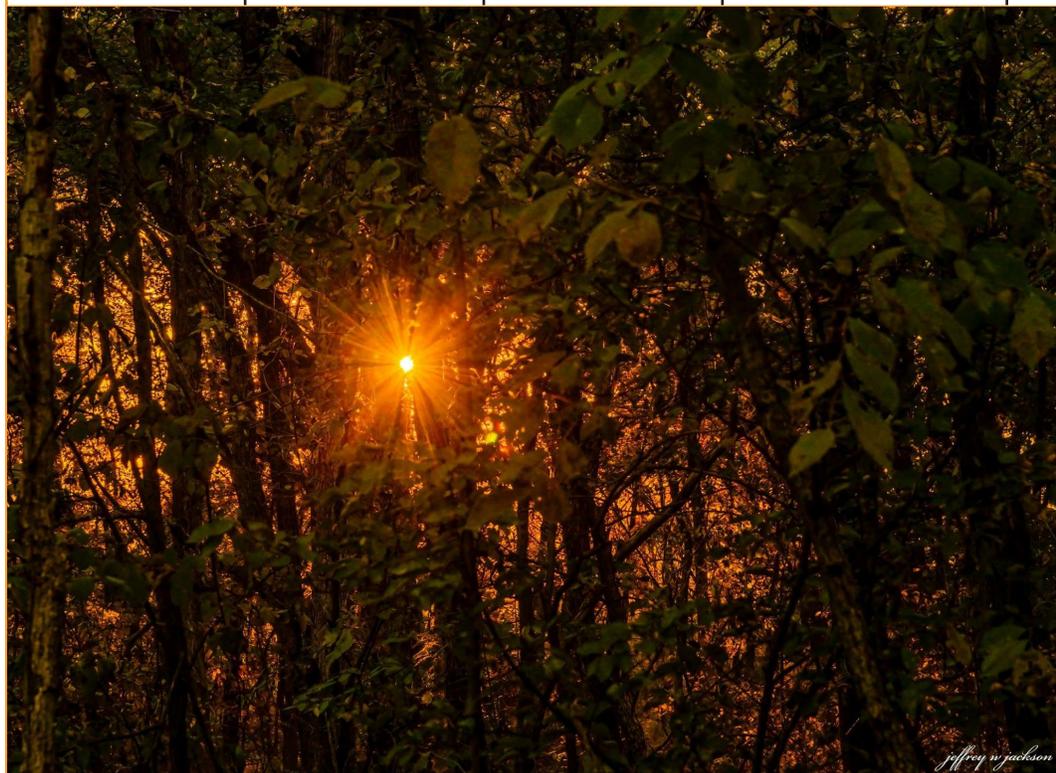
New LBA Directories Are Here!

Special thanks to John and Lisa Larkin and Ryan Esposito who helped us prepare our new Lake Bloomington Association Directories. We distributed them at the fall dinner. If you weren't there and would like one, please get in touch with John or Lisa Larkin or any LBA Board member in your neighborhood. See the listing in this newsletter for phone numbers and addresses of LBA Board members.

One per household, please.

LBA Officers and Directors 2019

| Office | Name | Phone | Address |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>President</i> | Mark and Carol Csanda | 309-530-1685 309-826-6950 | 25227 White Owl Ln. |
| <i>Vice President</i> | Ryan and Lisa Esposito | 309-275-4361 | 17302 Walden Rd. |
| <i>Treasurer</i> | John and Lisa Larkin | 309-200-3497 309-208-3585 | 17391 E 2475 North Rd. |
| <i>Secretary</i> | Cathy Strader | 309-826-1680 309-826-4104 | 25105 White Owl Ln. |
| <i>Immediate Past President</i> | Joel and Connie Bankes | 309-530-4143 309-533-9282 | 25130 Arrowhead Ln. |
| <i>City Liaison</i> | Dale Strassheim | 309-726-2468 309-532-1756 | 24843 Nighthawk Ln. |
| <i>Third Year Director</i> | John and Elizabeth Binning | 309-287-7880 309-287-7200 | 25239 White Owl Ln. |
| <i>Area Captain Coordinator</i> | Lezlee Dillon | 309-453-6325 | 18340 Kickapoo Ln. |
| <i>First Year Director</i> | Rick and Lynn Mehall | 309-726-2611 309-826-6024 | 24665 Iroquois Ln. |
| <i>First Year Director</i> | Bob and Traci Freitag | 309-531-7787 309-825-1002 | 24444 Ron Smith Mem Hwy |
| <i>Second Year Director</i> | Neil and Lynn Finlen | 309-452-1470 309-310-2174 | 24602 Ron Smith Mem Hwy |
| <i>Second Year Director</i> | Helen Ogar | 309-826-2404 | 24147 White Owl Ln. |
| <i>Third Year Director</i> | Craig and Tria Bouas | 309-261-1839 309-825-5634 | 24831 Nighthawk Rd. |
| <i>Lake Breeze Editor</i> | Michael Randitsas | 309-868-2628 | |



Dear Leaseholders,

Tenant Meeting:

The City of Bloomington will host an informal meeting on November 15, 2018, at 6:00 pm at the Davis Lodge to discuss the new dock permitting and construction standards ordinance that was recently passed by the Bloomington City Council. A presentation will explain how the new ordinance will be implemented and how this change will affect existing structures, as well as explain how the new ordinance will govern future construction at the Lake. After the presentation is complete, City officials will be available to answer questions and receive feedback.

City staff has worked hard to create a process that is comprehensive and provides stability to the tenants of Lake Bloomington. It is the desire of the City that this comprehensive ordinance will provide some peace of mind to our tenants that may be wondering about the future of the Lake. The City of Bloomington strives to provide safe, quality water for our 80,000 residents and customers while at the same time providing a beautiful, safe, and tranquil area in which to live and recreate. We hope that this ordinance will showcase our commitment to a long-term future for tenants and the general public to continue to enjoy Lake Bloomington.

Lake Bloomington Pumping:

The decision to pump from Lake Bloomington is exclusively based on water quality and operational conditions. Recreational opportunities provided by the reservoir are secondary to the primary purpose of providing clean, safe drinking water and therefore do not drive source selection or operational levels. The same is true for Evergreen Lake. The Water Division is a highly regulated entity that is governed by state and federal regulations. Only when water quality regulated parameters are met, does the City of Bloomington decide which reservoir to draw its water from.

Water Main Replacement:

The City is wrapping up the water main replacement project on the west side of Lake Bloomington. Hopefully, by the time this letter is published, crews will already have repaired roads and driveways. We ask for your continued patience as we work to bring this worthwhile investment to a successful close.

Public Works Merger:

The City of Bloomington Water Department will be merging with the Public Works Department. The official date of the merger is October 22, 2018. By merging the two departments into one, the City will gain greater efficiency while reducing cost to our taxpayers.

Our operations at Lake Bloomington will remain unchanged. While our name may have changed, our commitment to maintaining the highest possible standards for our reservoirs, to our tenants, and the beautiful surroundings that we all call home is steadfast. Like you, the City of Bloomington is invested in the long-term health of the Lake Bloomington community.

I hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving and a peaceful Christmas season!



WHAT'S GOING on at NORTH PARK?



The North Park Nature Area (NPNA) planning began in the summer of 2016 at a Friends of EverBloom (FOE) board meeting. President Jerry Martoglio expressed concern about the loss of many ash trees around the lake. The board voted to proceed with planning and funding of an Oak Savannah. With help from 15 local businesses, the City of Bloomington (COB) and the Lake Bloomington Association, the vision was born. The plans were big and it was estimated to be a 7 year plan. The initial planning sessions kicked off with representation that included Joe Darter (COB), Rick Twait (COB), David Lamb (COB arborist), Jerry Martoglio (FOE), Jackie Kraft (SWCD), Lisa Larkin (LBA), Ryan Esposito and others. North Park Nature Area was born as the first collaborative project involving the LBA, FOE and COB.

In October 2017 the first 8 flagship trees (4 Red Oaks and 4 American Heritage Oaks), were planted near the west side entrance. Four of those trees were donated by FOE and four by the COB. Kickapoo Creek Nursery installed the trees and secured them. The COB purchased and installed signage. 64 dying ash trees were removed by the COB.

It was decided that in 2018, Lake Maintenance crews would create pathways through the park and let the natural habitat grow to see what species of plants the park already had established. Particular concern was given for the invasive species Autumn Olive and Japanese Honeysuckle. We are pleased that only a small percentage of the area has shown signs of those species. A controlled burn in the spring is planned so that the deer may use the area to bed down this winter.

In October of this year 10 more trees were installed. Five were donated by the FOE and five by the LBA. Lake resident Nate Green, owner of Green Concrete and Remodeling, transported the trees, dug the holes, and planted the trees. RE/MAX Rising and Green Gables provided the materials and labor to secure the trees. We are very grateful for the involvement of all who truly want to help make Lake Bloomington better for the future. Teamwork makes the dream work.

The collaboration continues next year with the LBA, COB and FOE all donating more funding and volunteers. There are plans to establish pollinator seed beds in spring of 2019 and 2020 in order to help attract more bees, butterflies and hummingbirds to the area. More trees will be planted. Updating some of the playground equipment is also in the works. There will be a workday in the spring in which the LBA and FOE will be painting some of the shelters and railings around the park. Some other ideas that have been discussed are the addition of a small dog park, adding a workout aspect to the park, installing informational signage to educate the public, the addition of fishing piers and many more. What other ideas do you have for North Park Nature Area? Contact an LBA board member with any ideas you might have; we'd love to hear from you.

In 5 years we hope North Park Nature Area can be a place for grade school level students to field trip and learn about the outdoors. We hope that both lake residents and others can come and enjoy a day at the park. It takes planning, hard work and funding, but the most important ingredient is teamwork. Bringing people together to focus on a common goal and move in a common direction is what made Lake Bloomington such a "Jewel." We are happy to be united in this effort and show the world how bright our "Jewel" can shine. ♦

Little Free Library at the Lake

Many lake residents have noticed the Little Free Library located at Carver's Corners. It looks like a little wooden house on a post, and there are free books inside!

These mini libraries were started in 2009 by Todd Bol of Hudson, Wisconsin when he built a small schoolhouse on a post, filled it with books, and put it at the end of his driveway. The response was positive and he was asked to make more which he did and gave away to neighbors and colleagues. Soon the University of Wisconsin-Madison took note, and together they erected the first public Little Free Library on a bike path in Madison in 2010.

This nonprofit organization, which encourages community and the love of reading for all ages, has since spread quickly across the globe. In 2018 there are 75,000 registered libraries in 85 countries worldwide.

In addition to the Little Free Library at Carver's Corners, there are many scattered throughout McLean County with 17 in the Bloomington-Normal-Downs area.

With the onset of cooler weather and the possibility of sitting by the fire with a good book, please take a few minutes to stop and browse through the one at the lake. The concept is simple: take a book, leave a book. If you have books that you think you'd like to donate, please do



Happy
Reading!

so! Return the books if you wish or pass them on in another way. If you move to warmer climates during the winter you may want to check the Little Free Library website (littlefreelibrary.org). It is a great website with a map of library locations as well as sponsorships, history and programs associated with Little Free Libraries.

White Pelicans Visited in the Fall

The American White Pelicans have been a common sight at our lake in the spring from mid-March until the end of April. This year they visited us in fall as well. This fall we had as many as 60 visitors either at Evergreen Lake or Lake Bloomington. In spring they stay around 40 days, the fall visitors stay slightly less than that. They have been a beautiful addition to our lake habitat. In spring you'll see them in breeding colors while the fall visitors have a dull cast to their bills. As of mid-October, our pelican friends were on their way back south. Our two lakes appear to be nice rest stops for these beautiful birds. Look for them again in March, 2019.

Special thanks to Jeff Jackson for this amazing photo of the White Pelicans. Jeff has delighted and amazed us with his many wonderful wildlife photos. Check out our Lake Bloomington Association Facebook page (www.facebook.com/lakebloomingtonassociation) to see more of Jeff's handiwork.



Jeffrey W. Jackson



Fall Dinner

Trivia Contest **WINNERS**

The first ever Lake Bloomington Trivia Contest was held at the Fall Dinner at El Paso Golf Club. We'd like to congratulate the winning teams for their expert knowledge of all things Lake Bloomington! Each winner received a gift card for dinner at the El Paso Golf Club.



FIRST PLACE TEAM

Brian Lockenvitz
Lisa Lockenvitz
Brad Wallace



SECOND PLACE TEAM

Anne Bliss
Roger Stevenson
Neil Finlen
Lynn Finlen
Julia Davis
Bob McDonald



THIRD PLACE TEAM

Bob and Traci Freitag

**Here's a sample question
to test your knowledge of
the Lake history:**

*What can still be found at
the bottom of the main basin
of Lake Bloomington?*

- A. A Seabee Seaplane
- B. A Steam Engine
- C. A WWII Duck
- D. A Crane Barge
- E. None of the above

Answer: A Steam Engine

Fireworks Donations

The City of Bloomington is no longer contributing to the cost of our fireworks show. Please help our annual fireworks display tradition continue by donating.

Please complete the form below to help support and continue this great tradition at the Lake live on!

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

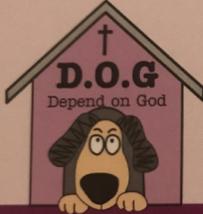
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Your Ad
~~**HERE**~~

\$25 for a 3.5x2in size. Proceeds go toward the fireworks fund.



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.