

# the Lake Breeze

photo by Jeffrey W. Jackson

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## **President's Letter** *Joel and Connie Bankes*

### **Improving the Lake's Ecosystem**

It's hard to remember a time in our lives when our politics were more polarized than they are today. Even in our small corner of the world at Lake Bloomington controversies arise that leave neighbors on the opposite side of the fence. Although the LBA will continue to help inform members regarding Lake rules and regulations, the LBA will not *endorse* one side or the other in related controversies. Please keep in mind that the LBA is not an advocacy organization.

In 2018 we as a Board have chosen to focus our energies on our social traditions that bring us together and positive initiatives that will help us achieve the following strategic goals:

- *A vibrant community spirit*
- *A safe recreational resource*
- *Improvement in the quality of the Lake's ecosystem*
- *Quality of residential life*
- *Collaborative relationships with other Lake stakeholders*

By the time you read this newsletter the LBA Board will have held a Saturday morning retreat to consider which initiatives we will adopt. Connie and I hope you find, between our traditional social activities and these new 2018 initiatives, something that interests you as well.

We believe it will be challenging for the Board to identify an initiative that contributes to the ecosystem of the Lake. A healthy ecosystem is already a primary concern for several other stakeholder groups and government entities. Can we, the LBA, make a difference on this front? Seems that the first thing to do in considering this challenge is to become better informed. Here is relevant information we stumbled upon to get us started:

- *Wikipedia:* Watershed management is the study of the relevant characteristics of a watershed aimed at the sustainable distribution of its resources and the process of creating and implementing plans, programs, and projects to sustain and enhance watershed functions that affect the plant, animal, and human communities within the watershed boundary.

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• Lake Bloomington, built in 1929, serves as a drinking water supply for the City of Bloomington. The lake totals 635 acres and has 18.5 miles of shoreline.

• The Lake Bloomington Watershed encompasses approximately 70 square miles, or 43,100 acres in McLean County, IL.

• 93.2% of the watershed area is row crop agriculture or pasture land.

• The Village of Towanda and unincorporated community of Merna are located entirely within the Lake Bloomington watershed. The City of Bloomington and Town of Normal are expanding into the southwestern edge of the watershed.

• Numerous partners in this watershed are working to promote conservation practices that address nutrient and sedimentation issues. For example, the City of Bloomington, Pheasants Forever, and the McLean County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) have provided funding and technical support for filter strips.

• The City of Bloomington has undertaken several erosion control measures around the lake, including riprap and plantings.

• The "Friends of Everbloom" promote Lake habitat through restoration and protection of fish and aquatic species. The group also designs sustainability plans for these ecosystems, and works to enhance public awareness of conservation issues.

• A Lake Bloomington Watershed Plan was completed in 2008 by the Lake Bloomington Watershed Planning Committee.

Watershed "best practices" that apply to farmers, the City of Bloomington, Lake residents, and lakeside camps, among others, are available through a simple google search. A sample of these best watershed practice concepts include:

- Nitrogen management
- Streambank stabilization
- Drainage water management
- Buffers
- Stream fencing of livestock
- . . . and several do's and don'ts for those on or near the Lake
  - Maintain septic systems
  - Obey wake signs
  - Do not flush medicines, gas, oil, paint
  - Do not fertilize or use pesticide close to Lake shore/bank

If you are interested in learning more about the management of our watershed there are a number of websites readily available to continue your education – just search under "Lake Bloomington Watershed Management".

Whether one's chief concern is feeding the world while providing for your family, supplying Bloomington residents with quality drinking water, appreciating the Lake as a recreational resource, or enjoying the quality of life on the Lake as a resident – we can all agree on the importance of the health of the Lake Bloomington watershed. The question is what can we, the LBA, do about it?

We welcome your input and hope to see you at our winter gathering as noted in this issue by Neal and Lin Finlen.

- Joel and Connie Bankes

## City Liaison Update

Your LBA Board's City Liaison group meets monthly with Steve Rasmussen, Bob Yehl, Joe Darter and others with the goal of improving communications between our two groups. Here is an update on some current topics.

## Well Project Moves Ahead

The City has completed the first well into the St. Peter Aquifer. It is 2,140 feet deep and has the ability to supply approximately one million gallons a day. The second well is underway – after a break for weather and re-tooling. The City anticipates the second well will also be capable of supplying a million gallons a day. That sounds like a lot until you realize that – while daily demand varies seasonally – Bloomington consumes in the neighborhood of 8 to 9 million gallons per day. The water from the wells will also be expensive water . . . it costs a lot to pull water from 2,140 feet. But, the City believes it has a viable source of quality water to blend with Lake Bloomington and Lake Evergreen water. We should not expect the wells to eliminate the drop in our lake levels, but they will provide an additional source to blend reservoir water and protect against water shortages. The water from these two wells will not be put into service for another year or two. Additional study and permitting is required before the water can be utilized for production.

## Recycling Option

The City is working to restore recycling in some fashion at the Lake. They are talking with our current contract waste hauler about providing curb side recycling. This would be a fee-for-service (a relatively small fee) – those that want curb side recycling could choose to add that service and would be billed by Republic.

In an attempt to bring Winter to an end, we will gather together on **Thursday, February 22** to prepare for Spring and all of the fun that follows!!

Arrangements have been made with the **Lake Road Inn** for our Winter Social Event with hors d'oeuvres provided by the Association for your enjoyment.

We would start at **5:30** and extend into the evening with some fine fellowship. Please pencil us in on your calendar. All the best! -The Finlens (K-167)

**LBA**  
*Winter Gathering*

## Dock Update

Action on docks continues to inch toward a conclusion. The City Staff are talking with alderman with the goal of having the council decide on the status of the un-permitted docks. At this time, Staff is working to facilitate a meeting between interested alderman and interested citizens. After these small-scale input sessions, the Staff will take the topic to the council where the council can form a consensus on action.

## Brush Piles and Pick Up

One of the Lake's best assets is its trees. But the limbs, brush and leaves from these trees piles up in our designated dump sites. No one likes these unruly piles. After a recent complaint, the city worked to clean up the pile on Nighthawk. But they are looking for a better solution. A previous location at the fill site west of the spillway is actually zoned residential and can't currently be used for this purpose. But the City has been working to clean up and stabilize this area. Currently drop off locations are at - north end of Nighthawk, Sunset and Teepee, and adjacent the Davis Lodge. The City asks to please make sure that only yard waste is dropped off at these locations. Please do not drop off any food products (especially pumpkins or garden waste) or household garbage. The City is asking for ideas: can you suggest an area where we could pile our brush that would be less intrusive to our neighbors?

## Services, Fees and Budgets

Feel like we are getting fewer services from the lease fees we pay to the City? Would you like to work with the City to find ways to secure more services and prioritize the services lake lessees receive? Interim City Manager, Steve Rasmussen would like to talk to people that lease at the lake who have an interest in these topics. If you would like to help, contact Steve at:  
[srasmussen@cityblm.org](mailto:srasmussen@cityblm.org)

## Flu Season

*From the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website*

People who are very sick or who are at high risk of serious flu complications & get flu symptoms should be treated with antiviral drugs as soon as possible.

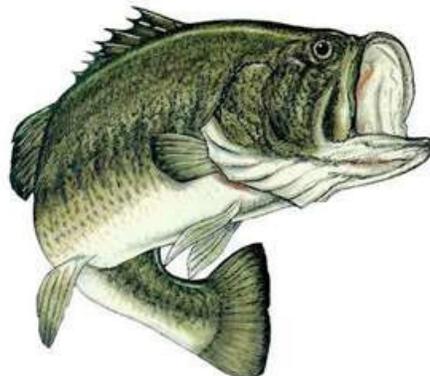
The flu also can make chronic health problems worse. For example, people with asthma may experience asthma attacks while they have the flu, and people with chronic congestive heart failure may experience a worsening of this condition triggered by flu. List below are the groups of people who are more likely to get serious flu-related complications if they get sick with influenza.

### People at High Risk for Developing Flu-Related Complications

- Children younger than 5, but especially children younger than 2 years old
- Adults 65 years of age and older
- Pregnant women (and women up to two weeks postpartum)
- Residents of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities
- Also, American Indians and Alaskan Natives [1.1 MB, 2 pages] seem to be at higher risk of flu complications

### People who have medical conditions including:

- Asthma
- Neurological and neurodevelopmental conditions [including disorders of the brain, spinal cord, peripheral nerve, and muscle such as cerebral palsy, epilepsy (seizure disorders), stroke, intellectual disability, moderate to severe developmental delay, muscular dystrophy, or spinal cord injury].
- Chronic lung disease (such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease [COPD] and cystic fibrosis)
- Heart disease (such as congenital heart disease, congestive heart failure and coronary artery disease)
- Blood disorders (such as sickle cell disease)
- Endocrine disorders (such as diabetes mellitus)
- Kidney disorders
- Liver disorders
- Metabolic disorders (such as inherited metabolic disorders and mitochondrial disorders)
- Weakened immune system due to disease or medication (such as people with HIV or AIDS, or cancer, or those on chronic steroids)
- People younger than 19 years of age who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy
- People with extreme obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 40 or more)  
Calculate your Body Mass Index or BMI



## Big Bass

According to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources the top 5 Largemouth Bass caught on Lake Bloomington in 2017 tournaments:

1. 6.53 lbs
2. 6.40 lbs
3. 5.86 lbs
4. 5.82 lbs
5. 5.78 lbs

## What If You Fall In The Ice? *(from Minnesota DNR)*

What should you do if you fall through the ice? **First, try not to panic.** This may be easier said than done, unless you have worked out a survival plan in advance. Read through these steps so that you can be prepared.

**1. Don't remove your winter clothing.** Heavy clothes won't drag you down, but instead can trap air to provide warmth and flotation. This is especially true with a snowmobile suit.

**2. Turn toward the direction you came.** That's probably the strongest ice.

**3. Place your hands and arms on the unbroken surface.** This is where a pair of nails, sharpened screwdrivers or ice picks come in handy in providing the extra traction you need to pull yourself up onto the ice.

**4. Kick your feet and dig in your ice picks to work your way back onto the solid ice.** If your clothes have trapped a lot of water, you may have to lift yourself partially out of the water on your elbows to let the water drain before starting forward.

**5. Lie flat on the ice once you are out and roll away from the hole** to keep your weight spread out. This may help prevent you from breaking through again.

**6. Get to a warm, dry, sheltered area and re-warm yourself immediately.** In moderate to severe cases of cold water hypothermia, you must seek medical attention. Cold blood trapped in your extremities can come rushing back to your heart after you begin to re-warm. The shock of the chilled blood may cause ventricular fibrillation leading to a heart attack and death!

Safe Ice Thickness\*

Ice Thickness	Permissible Load	Ice Thickness	Permissible Load
3 inches.....	Single person on foot	12 inches.....	Heavy truck (8-ton gross)
4 inches.....	Group in single file	15 inches.....	10 tons
7½ inches.....	Passenger car (2-ton gross)	20 inches.....	25 tons
8 inches.....	Light truck (2½-ton gross)	30 inches.....	70 tons
10 inches.....	Medium truck (3½-ton gross)	36 inches.....	110 tons

\*Solid, clear, blue/black pond and lake ice

Slush ice has only half the strength of blue ice. The strength value of river ice is 15 percent less.

What is happening at

## NORTH PARK

...where have all the trees gone?????

The City of Bloomington is turning North Park into a new North Park Nature Area with native oak and hickory trees and plans to plant an Oak Savanna. It will be a nature reserve for both plants and people.

Thanks to help from city officials and arborists, 65 dead ash trees and four dead cherry trees were removed in the park. They did a great job to not disturb any memorial trees planted there. So far, Kickapoo Nursery has planted eight flagship trees, four Red Oak and four American Heritage Oak. The city has dedicated funds from tree removal fines and donations from Friends of EverBloom.

Social historian, Bill Kemp, reported that areas surrounding and including Lake Bloomington were once beautiful forests filled with native trees before the lake was dug in the late 1920's. Hundreds of trees were removed to make way for the lake. In fact, many of those oak and hickory trees were moved to Miller Park in Bloomington.

The Savanna will eventually include the entire 22 acres of North Park. Larger trees will be planted lake side. Smaller trees will be planted roadside. The plan is to let prairie grass grow in the open areas and to mow winding paths through the tall grasses. The playground, covered picnic spots and firework launching area will be trimmed as usual. The winding path is planned to continue through the Savanna from the eastern part of the park to the historic bridge by the spillway. A sign will be installed to help keep the public informed as this project proceeds.

Once established (3-5 years) an annual burn will be held. It will not damage the hard oaks.

In addition, the city is planning to clean up the cove area of North Park to encourage fishing.

### STOPPING BY WOODS ON A SNOWY EVENING

*by Robert Frost*

Whose woods these are I think I know.  
His house is in the village though;  
He will not see me stopping here  
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer  
To stop without a farmhouse near  
Between the woods and frozen lake  
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake  
To ask if there is some mistake.  
The only other sound's the sweep  
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep,  
But I have promises to keep,  
And miles to go before I sleep,  
And miles to go before I sleep.

# 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: \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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\$25 for a 3.5x2in size. Proceeds go toward the fireworks fund. More information.  
lakebreeze.editor@gmail.com



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](mailto:lakebloomingtonassociation@gmail.com).