

LMA
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LAKE MORaine ASSOCIATION
SPRING 2019 NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Lake Moraine Friends! It's spring? The ice was off the lake much earlier this year, and some enjoyed getting out to their camps and on the lake during the brief period of nice weather. The season has started, but we are on hold until it quits raining and warms up! The prognosis is ultimately for a hot, dry summer. I can live with that! PLEASE come to the first general meeting on May 25. As always, 9:30 coffee, 10:00 meeting.

We have some important information to relay to the lake population.

Jim Ford will be in attendance selling his book. BUT, you pay whatever you want to pay and JIM IS DONATING ALL PROCEEDS TO LMA!!! Jim feels grateful to the LMA for helping him over the years and this is an effort to give something back.

We are all sad this spring that Wesley Wendt is missing. He was a tremendous friend to the lake and the association. We are considering ideas for some sort of tribute to him, and some way to preserve the memory of his contributions. If you have ideas let us know.

Our volunteers are hard at work on social events, water testing, lake level monitoring and communicating. My heartfelt thanks to all of you. There is always room for more volunteers! Lake Stewardship Administration, Newsletter anyone???!?

Best thing since we returned from FL - we saw an Indigo Bunting (that's a small bird y'all!) in the side yard. It was stunningly bright blue. We'd never seen one before so we had to look it up. Has anyone else seen any unusual wildlife? Our lone loon has been prowling this end of the lake. It turns up for a couple of weeks every spring and fall.

I'm excited for summer to arrive, and I'm sure all of you are too. I have been helping my cousin clean out decades of accumulated toys and stuff from his family's camp. He had a bunch of photos digitized, and we spent some time perusing these and reminiscing. So many memories our parents made possible by having camps here. We are carrying on the tradition of fun times at this wonderful lake as are all of you.

Have a great summer!

Ann

Our most recent Board of Directors meeting was in November

Items of Interest:

Lake Treatments:

We will be treating the upper basin for Eurasian Milfoil this year. We were going to do so last year, but our contractor (Solitude) messed up the application with the DEC. They are not charging us for this year's application. After considering our options, SONAR will be used as it has in the past as the most effective (cost and impact to milfoil) option we could find.

We have permits in hand for copper sulfate treatments for algae treatment in June and late summer. We have been fortunate that we have not needed to use our permits in late summer for several years, and hope this continues.

Lake Stewardship:

Once again we will rely on help from the Town of Madison to tackle our lake stewardship program. Last year the Town of Madison worked with us to provide insurance for their employees and a payroll program whereby we can reimburse the workers for their time at the boat launch. This is an educational effort for boaters, to help prevent the spread of invasive species. The program brings in enthusiastic workers, who are capturing some statistical information on boat traffic in and out of the lake. The information they collect about invasives is sent to DEC via the internet where it is compiled into a report and we are included in statistics for the state.

LMA Treasurer:

Our treasurer is Bob Carroll. Please submit your \$20 membership fee to Bob at 3162 Lake Moraine Rd, Hamilton, NY 13346 or in person at the general meeting.

Septic System Upgrades:

There is now a \$300.00 rebate from the Lake Moraine Association to any riparian landowner toward the cost of a newly installed burn/compost toilet. Reduce the need for expensive holding tank pump outs!! There is a pre-existing condition and anyone interested should contact Kevin Walsh at 315-263-8850. The rebates for septic cleanouts are also still in effect. Let's take advantage of them.

Reminders:

Boating safety courses are **required** for young drivers and **ALL** PWC (Personal Water Craft, or wave runner/jet ski) operators, regardless of age. For the online course go to <https://www.boat-ed.com/newyork>. Much easier than when I took the course at Morrisville College for several weeks at age 14.

Never swim in or let pets drink or swim in algae blooms. We have been much more fortunate than other NYS lakes that have experienced large HARMFUL ALGAE BLOOMS (HABs). Governor Cuomo has earmarked significant funding to address this problem. Scientists are hard at work but have not found the cause of the blooms. Our copper sulfate treatments are likely helping our situation, as is our healthy plant population (yes, they are good for some things!).

Check out our Facebook page!

<https://www.facebook.com/LakeMoraine>

Looking Ahead:

Socials at the White Eagle Lodge run from 5-7 and are scheduled for:

June 15

August 23

2019 Fourth of July Boat Parade

Thursday, July 4th at 3:00

There is no rain date. As has happened in the past, please plan on lining up your boats by the dam and be ready to go at 3:00. If you have any suggestions as to how to make the parade safer and more fun for all, please don't hesitate to email the new parade coordinator, Kate Smith at ksmith@fmschools.org.

We will miss Earl Ewing's spunk and spontaneity, and we thank him for all of his efforts and dedication of so many years of leading our wonderful parade, as the unforgettable Uncle Sam!

Ladies of the Lake (LOL!!)

The first meeting will be Thursday, May 30, from 1:00-3:00, at the Myers camp (4755 East Lake Road)

The second will be Thursday, June 13, from 1:00-3:00 at Hap Slocombe's camp (5571 E Lake Road). More to come!

DID YOU KNOW?

(Submitted by Diane Fenton)

We had a possum visit us regularly all winter. It was eating the seeds that fell out of the bird feeder. We would see it in the middle of the night only when we were prowling around unable to get back to sleep.

Opossums get a bad rap as garage invaders and "creepy looking" animals that wander up onto our porches at night. They're not the cutest, in fact, some go as far as calling them ugly. The reality is, opossums are incredibly useful, and typically misunderstood. Here are a couple fascinating opossum facts (and yes, the "o" is silent) that will make you think before you shoo them away from your yard!

Outside of Mexico, the Virginia opossum is the only known marsupial to make its home in North America - although there are several other species of opossum that can be found in other parts of the world. Marsupials are a fairly small class of animals that raise their young in a pouch, and include kangaroos, wombats, koalas, and opossum.

Opossums are voracious eaters that will try anything they find, something you know quite well if you've ever found one pawing through your garbage bins. Ticks, particularly the black-legged ticks like deer ticks that are responsible for the spread of Lyme disease, appear to be a top item on the opossum's menu. Several years ago, biologists from the Cary Institute put opossums and other species, like chipmunks, squirrels, mice, and catbirds to the test, giving each animal 100 ticks to eat. Opossums ate far more ticks than any other animal, leading scientists to estimate that just one opossum eats, on average, 5,000 ticks each year. The more you know....