

LAKE LOUISE NEWSLETTER

FALL 2009

From the ED's Window

In June I was approached by representatives of the Little Traverse Conservancy and the Michigan DNR about the Forest Legacy Program (FLP), a federal program that grants funds to individual states to purchase conservation easements on privately owned land. Given the proximity of LLCC's forested acres to DNR land and another large privately owned tract, the DNR, assisted by the Little Traverse Conservancy, was interested in having LLCC apply to this federal program (yes, it is a competitive process and there is no guarantee that we would be selected...)

for the funding, which goes to the private land owner in exchange for a conservation easement that protects the land from further development. After a thorough investigation of the FLP, the Trustees determined we would apply. The FLP is consistent with our efforts to be good stewards of our land, and to have our land continue to be a resource for ministry. We retain ownership of the land, must maintain a managed forest stewardship plan and timber harvesting, and we retain the right to determine access to our land. In exchange for giving up the right to further develop the

land or the shoreline, we gain the funding to strengthen our operating budget and build our reserves. Our application was filed by the Oct. 15 deadline. The state review process will be completed by November 30, with the federal review process to be completed by mid-winter. We will keep you apprised of our progress. You may find out more about the Forest Legacy Program at: <http://na.fs.fed.us/legacy/index.shtm> and http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-30301_30505_34240-99280--,00.html

-Vaughn Maatman
Executive Director

TIMBER HARVEST:

Timber on approximately 220 acres northwest of the lake will be selectively harvested this season. The tract is one that has not been harvested in some time. Some saw logs will be harvested, but a good portion of the harvest will be directed to removing overcrowded or diseased trees for pulpwood. The goal of our 10-year Forest Stewardship Plan is to manage the forest for sustainable healthy growth of a diversity of species. The timber company that holds the contract for the harvest will be utilizing some LLCC roads, and has contracted to return roads to a good condition. Road conditions and the harvest are monitored regularly by LLCC's consulting forester and LLCC staff. Those who wish to see or discuss plans for the harvest or have questions may contact Vaughn Maatman or Myke Sherman in the office (231-549-2728).

New Lease Available

In response to cottagers who were having difficulty financing a purchase or construction, or refinancing for a project, the Board of Trustees appointed a Lease Task Force made up of cottagers to review our lease and design a new one. The Trustees then approved a new lease to be offered to any new or current cottager who voluntarily wishes to restart the 50-year clock for the lease. The new lease is mod-

eled on the old lease, with three changes. It renews the lease for 50 years, information about the mission and values of Lake Louise have been updated, and it is silent on the issue of alcohol (though the alcohol clause is still contained in the Community's Covenant). In order to make this choice accessible to all, a one-time fee of \$100 will cover administrative and legal fees related to a new lease trans-

action, assuming the leaseholders on the lease remain the same. Interested parties should contact Vaughn Maatman, Executive Director, at 231-549-2728 or vmaatman@lakelouisecommunity.org



Camp

WATER QUALITY:

Tom Gschwind, # 38 on Pioneer Trail works with the Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council to monitor the water quality in the lake. Nine weeks of observation were recorded in 2009, June 27-Aug. 28. July 31 was the only sampling day when the air temperature (72) was higher than the surface water temperature (70). Water clarity tested to 19' on June 27, but decreased to 12' on Aug. 28 due to algae growth. The water level dropped 5" from June 27-Aug. 28. Most of these observations are typical for our lake, though the cold rainy weather was not (we hope...).

CABIN FOR RENT:

Need lodging up north for the weekend? Want to do some skiing? One of the log cabins at the camp can be rented by the night. Fully insulated with a furnace, stone fireplace, private bath, modern kitchen, washer/dryer, 1 bedroom plus a sofa bed in the living room, the cabin will comfortably accommodate two couples or a family. \$95 per night. For larger groups, rooms in the Retreat Center may be available. Give us a call at 231-549-2728 for reservations.



The number of campers was up 3.5%, to 569 at Lake Louise sponsored camps in the summer of 2009, along with 131 deans and counselors, who volunteer for eight days. This was good news in the state with the poorest economy and the highest unemployment in the U.S. The economy was did have a negative impact on the return of the band camp, unfortunately. While some of our camps were down, and some held their own,

three camps were up dramatically. Our middle school camp increased by 50%, the family camp doubled in size, and our elementary camp more than doubled in size. Many thanks to Sandy Smith, who headed up the kids program for family camp, and her team; Millie Janka, Kendall Janka, Elizabeth Sabin, Ruth Jameson, Jean McDonald, Shirley Sharp, Kirk Halsted and Royal Synwolt.

Summer 2010

We had such fun in the summer of 2009 for our 75th, that we decided to repeat some of the activities to bring our community together just for fun in 2010. SAVE THESE DATES!

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| June 26, 5 pm | Cottager Potluck, Retreat Center |
| July 9, 7-9 pm | Get Together at the Public Beach |
| July 10, 9 am | Run-n-Walk (5K), Camp Athletic Fields |
| July 10, 10 am-3 pm | Art at the Lake Festival, Kresge Field at the Camp |
| July 10, 4 pm | Boat Parade |
| TBA | Sailing Regatta |
| Sept. 4, 9 am | Walk around the Lake |

Eurasian Milfoil

(From Don Renton) Eurasian Milfoil, a non-native invasive plant species, exists in the lake in a large area (about .5 acre) near the boat launch, and in four small patches, all in the east end of the lake (one patch east and north of the launch along Pioneer Trail, two patches north and south along the channel, and one patch north of Horner Island). The plant is capable of overwhelming native vegetation, and in a worst-case scenario, becomes so thick it prohibits the use of motorboats. During the summers of 2007 and 2008 Eurasian Water Milfoil weevils were introduced and we continue surveying and monitoring the infestation and the effects of our control efforts. Currently, the boat launch and channel sites are somewhat reduced in area and display reduced vigor. Live beetles (from the weevils) were found on the boat launch and channel sites. The goal is to achieve a balance between Eurasian Milfoil plants and weevils that stabilizes the plant population at a level compatible with the overall ecology of the lake. We would like to establish, train and supervise a small group of volunteer snorkel capable swimmers to physically remove and dispose of small infected areas of Eurasian Milfoil, and help with conducting the annual reconnaissance and monitoring surveys as conditions require. Interested volunteers should contact Vaughn Maatman at the office; 231-549-2728 or vmaatman@lakelouisecommunity.org

Common Lake Louise FAQ's

Are there any limits on how many weeks I can rent out my cottage?

Yes. The lease stipulates that a cottage can be rented for no more than 6 weeks in a season. If one wishes to rent more than 6 weeks, approval of the Board is required.

Is it true I must get permission to cut down a tree?

Yes. The trees are rooted in land owned by LLCC. Call the office (231-549-2728) before firing up that chainsaw. No tree should be cut within 30' of the shoreline without permission, or elsewhere on your lot if the tree is greater than 6" in diameter, unless it is dead or endangers people or structures. Get permission! The staff is reasonable, but have one of them come out and take a look before simply cutting a tree down.

Lake Louise has building regulations?

Yes. The regulations are in line with township and county regulations, but if you wish to change the footprint of your cottage, add a garage or storage building, the staff in the office needs to see the same set of drawings one uses to acquire a building permit. Copies of the Community's building regs are available from the office.

My neighbors and I would like to get lot boundary markers installed. How do we do that?

When the "new" cottager lease was approved in 1984 the Board of Trustees indicated that no lease transfer could take place and no construction would be approved until adjacent cottage owners agreed on lot boundaries and had those boundaries marked with concrete monuments. This was reaffirmed when the Board approved the LLCC Building Regulations in 2007 and 2009. We invite any cottage owners to have permanent, ground-level concrete monuments installed. Staff will establish boundaries with you and your neighbor(s), install the monuments, mark them with GPS, and record the boundaries in your lease files. Cost: \$125. Contact Myke Sherman, Operations Director, at 231-549-2728.

Who do I contact to have our information updated in the Cottager Directory?

Give us a call at the office; 231-549-2728

How can I add my name to the Cottagers' Council email list?

Call Kathy Gilbert, Cottage Council President, (off-season 616-940-2746) or the office (231-549-2728). The list was created to improve communication and is used to communicate important information to cottagers. To protect your privacy and respect use of your electronic address, emails will appear as if they are addressed to you alone. Your email address does not appear to other recipients.

How can I help the camp or retreat center?

Volunteer, show up at an LLCC events, give a child or grandchild a camp scholarship for Christmas (sign up by Dec. 31, 2009 and receive a discount), convince your church or organization to host a retreat or other event at the retreat center, come to Sunday worship, buy a Lake Louise shirt at the camp store and wear it, urge your church to support summer camp, learn about the ministry, send a donation, help out with Family Camp, invite your neighbors to join you in supporting this ministry. Choose one (or more) of the above.

So...what this about a Capital Campaign?

In June 2009 we launched a capital campaign. Phase I, for 1.1 million dollars, is designed to add a Program Development Specialist to the staff, expand camp and retreat programs, increase scholarship support, redevelop and expand the trail system, build three cabins, refurbish existing buildings, add a playground for little kids and an outdoor adventure initiative for bigger kids, and redevelop the waterfront. Much of the work will be done with volunteers, beginning with a new lodge construction in 2010. We'll be glad for your help, so stay tuned for more information and opportunities!

ASHLEY WILLIAMS:

At this writing we are searching for a new Head Cook/Food Service Coordinator for Lake Louise. Ashley Williams, who has been at Lake Louise for 6.5 years, and is known by many of you, will be moving to Lake City and re-starting her education in Criminal Justice. Thank you, Ash, for your service!

MEMORIAL GROVE:

In an area to the east of Strong Chapel and the Memorial Garden we have begun a Memorial Grove of northern evergreen trees. An evergreen tree common to northern Michigan forests, along with a small, simple brass plaque with the name and the years of birth and death, may be dedicated to a family member, or as one cottager has done, to one's parents. Four trees were planted and dedicated in 2009. Another five trees were planted this fall and are ready for dedication. (Plantings take place in the spring and the fall.) Arrangements are handled by Lake Louise staff. A \$250 fee defrays expenses related to the purchase, delivery and planting of the tree, the plaque and perpetual care. The Grove is not part of the Memorial Garden, but is a companion to that effort, and continues in one location what has been a long-time practice at the camp. If you are interested in a tree, contact Vaughn Maatman, LLCC Executive Director.

**LAKE LOUISE CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY,
CAMP & RETREAT CENTER**

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Louise's Conservation Corp

Every Wednesday morning for eight weeks in the summer a group of men from around the lake show up at the camp to volunteer for any number of tasks that Myke Sherman, our Operations Director, identifies for the week. Additionally, a number of cottagers staff our Camp Store mid-day during the week. We want to extend a special thanks to Doug Vogel, Kay Melvin, Chappy Marvin, Bob May, Brad Campbell, Dwight & Gloria Finley, Don & Barb Renton, Doug & Jean McDonald, Jane Seaton, Meredith & Pauline Rupe, Millie Janka, Ruth Jameson.

