

# Lake Petersburg

## Spring 2017 Newsletter



Photo by LPA member Eric Mace

Office Hours  
Monday: 1 pm - 4 pm  
Wednesday: noon - 6 pm  
Friday: 9 am - 2 pm  
1st Sat. each month 9 am - 2 pm

**Sewer Emergency:** 217-632-0000  
**Lake Ranger:** 217-652-9112  
**Lake Patrol:** 217-341-4534

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## Note from the Board President

In January we welcomed three new board members (Denise Guttery, Pat Seaney, and Wayne Wynn) and thanked three others (Ron Cooley, Tom Lawton, and Ron Sczurko) for their dedication to Lake Petersburg. Tom Lawton served on the LPA board for 14 years. His knowledge and constant willingness to always help will be missed. Joe Turek was elected for a second term. This is the first time in LPA history that somebody has run for two consecutive 4 year terms.... Thank you Joe! This Board is organizing and working to continue to enhance and preserve our community. The knowledge and experience of the remaining members combined with the enthusiasm of the new members will serve our Association very well over the next two years.

At our first meeting, I asked each Board member to outline a list of goals for the next 12-24 months. The response was overwhelming. This group wants to get things done! During 2017 you will see improvements in the building permit process, the lease transfer process, financial planning to replenish our reserves, and a plan to address the remaining 60-ish septic tanks that need to be abandoned along with other various tasks. In addition, routine maintenance work around the property including the dam and coffer dams will continue.

It is nice to see people utilizing the lake assets with this early spring. Please follow the rules and be respectful of your neighbors and others in our community. The rules exist not only for our safety but also to protect our property and property values. We all have worked hard to be able to live in this community so let's work together to preserve it.

Looking forward to a fun and safe summer on beautiful Lake Petersburg,

*Ellen Lipe-Fliss*



Photo by LPA member Eric Mace

## Roz Sczurko Passed Away

On Monday, Jan. 30, 2017, at Memorial Medical Center we lost a "Friend" of our Lake Petersburg community, Ron Sczurko, 66, passed away.

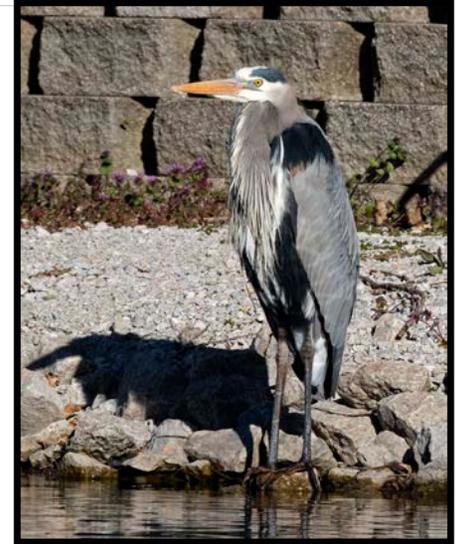
Ron was an avid fisherman long before he and his wife Linda moved to Lake Petersburg.

He was an avid Chicago Cubs fan, and enjoyed fishing, teaching, and spending time with his grandchildren. After spending many hours fishing the lake and prodding from his friends Ron decided to run for the Lake Board. Even though he came 1 vote short he didn't give up (Cubs fan) and was elected to the Board in January 2013 and served until December 2016.

He served on various Board Committees but the Fishing Committee was one that he always volunteered to serve on and through his efforts over the past several years the fish population has grown substantially at the lake.

Ron received his bachelor's degree from Western Illinois University and his master's degree from UIS. He began as a teacher in Farmingdale and went on to become the principal for the Middle School and High School in Pleasant Plains. Following that he became the principal of New Berlin Grade School. After retirement he went on to be a special education aide in the New Berlin School District.

He will be missed for his friendship and his leadership on the Board and his commitment to keeping Lake Petersburg the best place to live, entertain and play but most of all fish.



*Photo by LPA member Eric Mace*

## Lake Maintenance Report

Our Lake Ranger and crew have had a busy winter. On the coldest days they serviced our tractor and mowers in preparation for the mowing season and rebuilt septic pumps. On the warmer days they cleared brush out of some of the cofferdams.

During March and April the maintenance crew will be clearing brush on the dam near the North Shore entrance and also the spillway from the dam to Route 97. As we were preparing for another season of brush pick up we were informed by New Salem State Park that they will no longer accept our yard waste of branches and shrubbery for burning. Fortunately we purchased a chipper, which will allow us to shred the branches into mulch. If you would like some of this mulch contact the office and we will make arrangements to meet your needs.

There is a new turnaround on Peach Road by the boat ramp. When you drive down to the ramp to launch or take out your boat you will notice a new side road on the right before you get to the old turn around. Stay to the right and travel on the new road. Circle around to the left so that you are headed back out on Peach Road then you have a straight shot at backing down the boat ramp. Later this Spring/Summer we will be adding additional rock to the road. Please don't park in the old turnaround since that might block other people from using the new turnaround. Later this summer the Menard County Road District will widen and seal a portion of the road from the turnaround to the boat ramp.

# Annual Fireworks on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, Rain date July 4<sup>th</sup>



Photo by LPA member Eric Mace

Since being started by former Lake Petersburg member Richard Morris years ago, Lake Association members have enjoyed the annual July fireworks on the lake. This has not been a Lake Petersburg board activity, and as such former LPA member Terry Taylor has organized the event for the past several years. Terry has recently moved off of the lake and will no longer be able to continue. For 2017, Ron Cooley and Drew Stevens have volunteered to organize the event.

More information on the event along with how to volunteer or donate will be forthcoming.

## Boat and Trailer Stickers – Dues - Fees

**BOAT STICKERS:** All boats anywhere on LPA owned or leased land (**including at docks and on boat lifts**) must display a valid Lake Petersburg boat sticker. **Boat stickers for 2017 must be displayed by May 15<sup>th</sup>.** Stickers for 2016 are valid through May 14, 2017. In accordance with lake regulations the stickers must be displayed on vessels, not just purchased. Location of stickers is adjacent to or near the state registration numbers, not on windshields or in other less conspicuous locations. **When getting your boat sticker this year, please bring a copy of your boat registration.**

**TRAILER STICKERS:** All utility trailers and boat trailers on LPA owned or leased land must have a current sticker displayed. Utility trailers may be stored at the storage lot. You may obtain a 3-day pass to keep your utility trailer on your leased property by calling the office.

**HOMEOWNER DUES:** All LPA homeowner dues for 2017 are \$250 and are due by May 15<sup>th</sup>.

**RENTAL, DREDGING, SEWER FEES:** Due by July 31<sup>st</sup>.

## License Plate and Boat License Renewals

Secretary of State has stopped sending out license plate renewal forms. So it is up to the car and trailer owner to get their plates renewed. You can get your car/plate renewal at Driver's facilities, some Springfield banks, or online. The Registration ID and PIN are required and are located on the current registration card or Renewal Notice you received by email. If you do not have a current registration card, please call the Public Inquiry Division at 800-252-8980 to obtain your Registration ID and PIN number. If you are not replating, you should receive your renewal sticker in five to ten business days if you order on line.

<https://www.ilsos.gov/LicenseRenewal/>

Motorized and non-powered Watercraft renewals are made thru IL DNR.

<http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/boating/Pages/HowToRegister.aspx>

# Lake Patrol and Boating Rules

1. **All vessels must display lights at night.** A quote from DNR regulations: "Sailing vessels less than 7 meters may carry an electric torch or lighted lantern showing a white light to be displayed in sufficient time to prevent collision. Vessels under oars must have ready at hand an electric torch or lighted lantern showing a white light to be shown in sufficient time to prevent collision."
2. **FAST BOATING HOURS:** Boating hours remain the same as in the past. Fast boating hours are from **10:00 a.m.** until **8:00 p.m.** or **official sunset, whichever occurs first.** All other times are NO WAKE.
3. **NO WAKE AREAS:** No wake buoys mark the entrances to NO WAKE AREAS. Boats must slow to "NO WAKE SPEED" before they reach the buoy.
4. **NO WAKE DEFINITION:** Section 4.5 of the Rules and Regulations states boats must operate at idle speed in NO WAKE zones. (Obviously an object moving on the surface of the water is going to disturb the water, but if that disturbance reaches the shore... You are making a wake and need to check your speed.) Boats must also operate at idle speed during NO WAKE times regardless of the area of the lake. The NO WAKE rules are in place for safety reasons, noise control during quiet times, and for the protection of our shoreline. Unfortunately, this is likely the most violated rule on the lake. Lake Patrol will be watching this closely. In addition, all residents are encouraged to report violators of the NO WAKE rules by photographing violators and submitting them to Lake Patrol personnel on duty or other board members.
5. **SPOTTERS:** Please remember, a spotter is required for skiing and tubing. A rear view mirror is not sufficient.
6. **ORANGE FLAG REQUIREMENT:** The operator of any watercraft that is towing a person, such as a water skier or tuber, must display a bright orange flag measuring not less than 12 inches per side. The flag must be displayed from the time the person to be towed leaves the boat until that person returns to the boat at the conclusion of the activity.
7. **SWIMMING OFF BOATS IS PROHIBITED.**
8. **BOAT STICKERS:** All boats anywhere on LPA owned or leased land (**including on docks and boat lifts**) must display a valid Lake Petersburg boat sticker. **Boat stickers for 2017 must be displayed by May 15<sup>th</sup>.** Stickers for 2016 are valid through May 14, 2017. In accordance with lake regulations the stickers must be displayed on vessels, not just purchased. Location of stickers is adjacent to or near the state registration numbers, not on windshields or in other less conspicuous locations. **When getting your boat sticker this year, please bring a copy of your boat registration.**
9. **MINIMUM FISH SIZE:** There is now a daily creel limit of no more than 25 crappies of any size. The Alabama or Multi-rig lures will be limited to two (2) baits.
10. **Boat length restrictions:**
  - Motor driven boats-20 feet maximum
  - Hull type deck boats-22 feet maximum
  - Pontoons-28 feet maximum
  - Canoes, paddleboats and rowboats-no restrictions
11. **Non-resident boats** are not allowed on the lake. The owner will be requested to remove the boat from the lake immediately. Refusal will result in a call to the sheriff and the owner charged with trespassing.
13. **ADDRESS ON DOCKS:** All lake residents are encouraged to post their address on their docks.
14. **SPEED LIMIT:** 40 MPH
15. **LIFE JACKETS:** Please remember you must have an appropriate life jacket in the boat for every person on the boat. Illinois law requires anyone under the age of 13 must wear a life jacket while aboard any watercraft.

## Lake Monitoring Program: Water Clarity

Lake Petersburg participates in the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP) operated through the Illinois EPA. There are three levels associated with this program and we are currently measuring the water clarity (Tier one).

Due to budget cuts, the program manager has been unable to travel to lakes to conduct training in Tiers 2 and 3. Twice a month

from May to October Lake Petersburg utilizes a secchi disc to determine the depth of clarity in three designated areas of the lake. Those numbers are then entered into the VLMP database. No official reports are required or requested.

Former board member Tom Lawton continues to over see this matter and work with the program manager at the Illinois EPA. Tom will inform the board of the average depth when information is available.

## Special Thanks & Volunteers Needed

The Lake Board would like to thank Margaret Stier Santos for improving and maintaining the flower-beds at the entrance sign, lake office, and the 5-6 acres of prairie grass. She does a fantastic job at getting volunteers and supplies donated so there is essentially no cost to LPA.

If interested in helping, please contact the LPA Office or Margaret at 217-741-6129.



Photo by LPA member Eric Mace

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## Check out Shambolees

Shambolees Golf Course is open for lunch Wednesday - Sunday 11-2. Just a few of the menu items on those days include burgers, tenderloins and chicken tenders. Stop by for their chicken dinners on Wednesday nights and fish/chicken dinners on Friday nights -- serving both nights 5-8. Video gaming is also available!



## Things to Remember

- No burning on association owned property or in ditches adjacent to association owned property. Burning is legal on members' own leased property.
- Members of the association who mow part or edges of association owned property need to be very careful not to mow over the lidded sewer pits. The mowers are tearing up the straps holding on lids, leaving the lake with a huge liability if someone steps/falls in the pits.
- Follow the 30-mile per hour speed limit on lake roads.
- Fences cannot be built on member-leased property, except around in-ground swimming pools. You may be required to remove them.
- No dog or cat shall be left running at large-any found running at large may be reported to the Menard County Animal Control – 8am-5pm, Monday-Friday at 217-632-7302 or emergency assistance after hours at 217-632-2273.
- The erection or maintenance of any sign, bill, poster, the posting or placing of any advertising poster, placard or card or the distributing of any advertising matter by handbills, or otherwise is prohibited. Signs posted by or authorized by the Board and two real estate signs displayed on the individual's property – one on the Lakeside and one on the roadside are allowed.
- Dumping of yard waste, leaves, branches, grass clippings, garbage, etc. in Lake or Dredge Pond Area or on Lake Property is prohibited.
- When getting your boat sticker this year, please bring a copy of your boat registration.
- Members now need to obtain a special permit if they have hired contractors who need to access the ramp. Applications for Contractor's Special Equipment Boat Ramp Access are available in the office. Make sure you have obtained appropriate building permits for the work you are having completed.
- Building permits expire one year from the date of issue.
- Call LPA office to schedule monthly brush pick-up on the first Tuesday of the month.



*Photo by LPA member Eric Mace*

## Railsplitter Triathlon – June 17

The Railsplitter Triathlon is an Olympic distance race starting at 7:30 am, June 17, 2017. It includes a 9/10 mile swim in a private lake, a 24.8 mile loop bike ride through rolling hills and a 6.2 mile run through Lincoln's New Salem State Historic Site with a run down the main-street of an 1800's pioneer village. For more information – visit the website - <http://triharderpromotions.com/railsplitter/>

## Lake Petersburg on Facebook

Don't forget to "LIKE" the Lake Petersburg Facebook page – you can stay updated on all lake activities and news. Send your messages via Facebook if you have questions.

## Lake Board Meeting Dates

All Lake Board meetings are open to members. They are the second Monday of each month at 7pm at the Lake Office.

April 10<sup>th</sup> • May 8<sup>th</sup> • June 12<sup>th</sup> • July 10<sup>th</sup> • August 14<sup>th</sup> • September 11<sup>th</sup> • October 9<sup>th</sup> • November 13<sup>th</sup> • December 11<sup>th</sup>



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## Lake Petersburg Board of Directors

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