

# the Lake Breeze



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## **President's Letter**

Let us introduce ourselves to the great residents of Lake Bloomington. We are the new LBA presidents, Bob and Traci Freitag. We are thrilled to be living in this amazingly beautiful setting. We raised our family on a small farm in Carlock and then felt called to move to the lake about five years ago. It didn't take us long to adjust to the serenity that Lake Bloomington offers. We have two of our own children, three beautiful grandchildren, several foster children, their families, and annual summer Normal Cornbelters baseball players who also enjoy our lake home. In addition to the water activities, we absolutely love being surrounded by kind and helpful neighbors. We have found that Lake Bloomington breeds wonderful friendships.

Our Fall Dinner and LBA Annual Meeting were once again held at the El Paso Golf Club on September 15th. As in the past, Lane Vance, the manager at El Paso, did a great job in setting up our dinner and his staff prepared a wonderful meal for all who attended. It was wonderful to see so many of our members in attendance, and in all there were 106 thoroughly enjoying the evening. Our speaker for the evening, Terry Brown, gave an enthusiastic talk about his love for our lake, as well as our sister lake, Lake Evergreen. He also shared with us the love for our lake that is being instilled in so many young people through the Illinois State High School Bass Fishing activities. We are so grateful to Mr. Brown for sharing his passion with us. We would also like to give a huge shout-out to LBA Board members Paul Lawrence, Helen Ogar, Shannon Duvendack and Matt Stuckel for all of their hard work in planning, organizing and hosting the dinner. Finally, another big round of applause to Rick Mehall for stepping in at the last minute to fly solo and emcee the dinner and meeting after his lovely and capable wife Lynette became ill and was unable to attend. Thanks, Rick!

The LBA Annual Meeting was held at the Fall Dinner. A new slate of officers and board members for the 2022-2023 terms was nominated and approved by the membership. We would like to recognize and thank those board members who have completed or retired from their terms, all of whom have given of their time and talent to serve the members of our lake community. Thank you to departing members Carol Csanda, Dale Strassheim, Dave and Julia Turner, Steve and Debbie Bennett, and Mark Oostman. We would also like to welcome our new board members: Rick Hamm, Leroy Shouse, Mark Schuler, and Matt and Diana Matigian. Please see the chart below for the full list of your 2022-2023 LBA Board members.





*Our dog, Ranger, enjoying fall at the lake!*

The LBA Board of Directors will be holding what has become our annual strategic planning session at Timber Pointe Lodge on Saturday, January 21, 2023, beginning at 9:00 AM. At this session, we will discuss the various initiatives and activities undertaken by the LBA in the past year, and ways in which we can continue to improve the quality of life in our lake community for all of our residents. Any LBA member who is interested is welcome to attend.

Though we are just entering the peace and solitude of the winter season at Lake Bloomington, we are already looking forward to spring, and our LBA Spring Dinner. So, save the date for this fun annual event, which will be held on May 11th at Timber Pointe Lodge. More information will be sent in the near future.

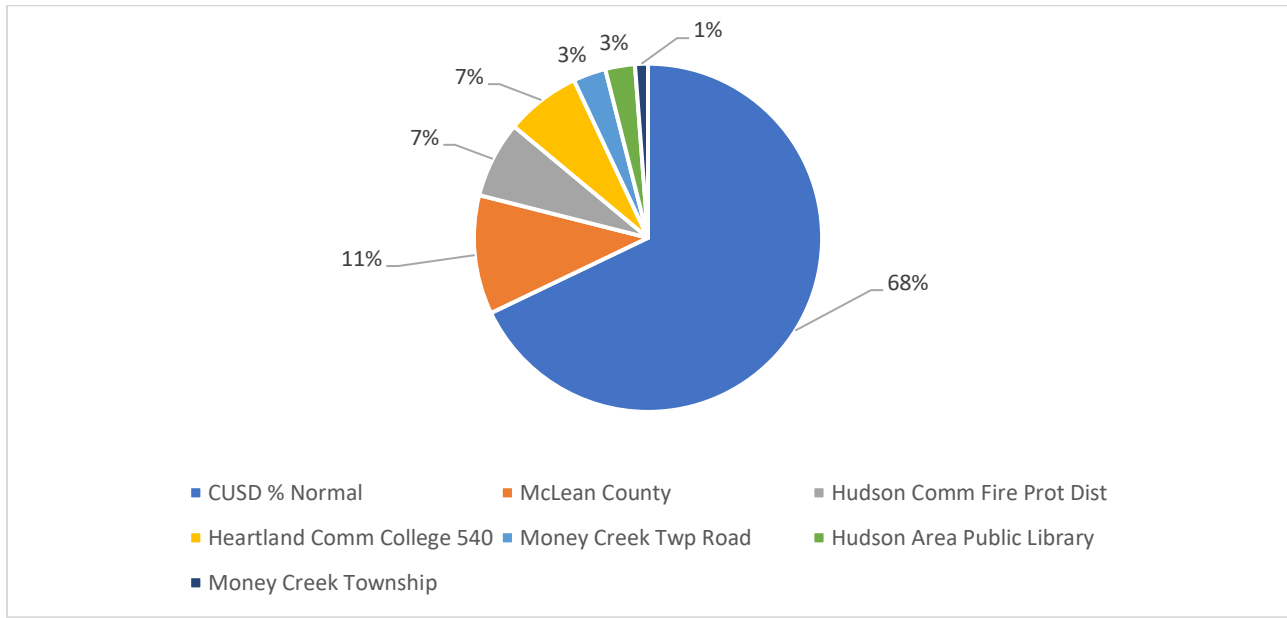
As incoming LBA co-presidents, we hope to continue to nurture and strengthen the relationships that have been built with the city and our local camps. The past board members have done such a great job with these connections. We look forward to meeting each of you at the future events that are sponsored by the LBA.

## 2022-2023 LBA BOARD MEMBERS

Officers and Directors	2021-2022	Phone Number	Address
Immediate Past President	Rick and Lynette Mehall	309-826-6004 309-826-6024	24655 Iroquois Ln. Rmehallram@yahoo.com mehalllh@gmail.com
President	Bob and Traci Freitag	309-531-7787 309-825-1002	24444 Ron Smith Mem. Hwy. bobfreitag125@yahoo.com tracifreitag@yahoo.com
Vice-President	Shannon Duvendack and Matt Stuckel	309-256-5498 309-287-4847	18253 Hiawatha Ct. shannonduvendack@gmail.com mattstuckel@gmail.com
Treasurer	Helen Ogar and Paul Lawrence	309-826-2404 309-824-8551	25147 White Owl Ln. hogarlaw@hotmail.com judgepaullawrence@gmail.com
Secretary	Craig and Tria Bouas	309-261-1839 309-825-5634	24831 Nighthawk Rd. craigbouas@yahoo.com triabouas@gmail.com
City Liaison	Mark Csanda	309-530-1685	25227 White Owl Ln. mark.scanda@gmail.com
Lake Breeze Editor	Michael Randitsas	309-868-2628	m.randitsas@gmail.com
Membership	Lezlee and Jeff Dillon	309-453-6325	18340 Kickapoo Ln. lzb1530@yahoo.com jeff.dillon@fballianceins.com
Third Year Director	Terry and John Hoffman	309-275-0458 309-824-1553	24621 Iroquois Ln. hoffee3322@hotmail.com
Third Year Director	Cathy and Brad Wallace	309-287-9019 309-287-4049	25097 Eagle Point CBDKJ@hotmail.com 13Bradwallace@gmail.com
Second Year Director	Rick Hamm	309-287-0877	25652 Sunset Lane Rhamm1963@outlook.com
Second Year Director	Leroy Shouse	606-584-5328	25272 Hiawatha Ln, leeroyshouse@yahoo.com
First Year Director	Mark Schuler	309-212-3075	markcschuler@gmail.com
First Year Director	Matt & Diana Matigian	708-955-5353	25250 Hiawatha Ln. mmatigian@blueworldam.com dmatigian@aol.com

## McLean County Tax Bill – Where Do Your Taxes Go?

In the Lake Bloomington area, a home with a Fair Market Value \$628,440 has a Net Taxable Value of \$209,460. The 2021 Property Tax payable in 2022 is \$16,619.47 and is distributed between seven taxing districts.



Taxing District	Tax Rate	Tax Amount
CUSD % Normal	5.614470	\$11,282.84
McLean County	0.914040	<b>\$ 1,836.85</b>
Hudson Comm Fire Prot Dist	0.587100	\$ 1,176.84
Heartland Comm College 540	0.576350	\$ 1,158.23
Money Creek Twp Road	0.251310	\$ 505.03
Hudson Area Public Library	0.227810	\$ 457.81
Money Creek Township	<u>0.098960</u>	<u>\$ 198.87</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8.27004</b>	<b>\$16,616.47</b>

The portion of the tax, \$1,836.85, that supports McLean County is split among twenty different funds/programs for the following purposes described in the table below. Many of these programs are required by Statute.

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Tax Rate</b>	<b>Tax Amount</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
Bridge Matching Fund	.04249	\$85.39	Levy used to fund County Bridges & Culverts, 10% of Township Bridges and 50% of Township Joint Culverts
Childrens Advocacy	.00318	\$6.39	The Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) where children are brought when there has been an allegation that a child may have been sexually abused, seriously physically abused, a witness to a crime and/or the victim of human trafficking.
Cooperative Extension	.00717	\$14.41	Levy distributed to the University of Illinois Extension Service including 4H programming
Corporate Fund	.24441	\$491.17	Levy used for governmental services/departments such as County Administration, Auditor, County Clerk, Circuit Clerk, State's Attorney, Law Enforcement, Public Defender, Coroner, Building and Zoning, Court Services, Assessor, etc.
County Highway Fund	.07498	\$150.68	Levy used for maintenance of 366 miles of County highway
Developmentally Disabled Persons Fund	.01873	\$ 37.64	Levy provides funding to local agencies that serve Developmentally Disabled individuals
Federal Social Security	.06845	\$137.56	Social Security expense for employees
Law & Justice Center Lease Bond	.06056	\$121.70	Debt Service for expansion of Law & Justice Center/Detention Facility
Government Center Lease Bond	.01195	\$ 24.01	Debt Service for construction of new Animal Control Shelter and elevator replacements (total of 13) in Law & Justice Center and Old Courthouse.
Health Department Fund	.09206	\$185.00	Levy used for Public Health services
Historical Museum Fund	.00148	\$ 2.97	Levy distributed to the McLean County Historical Museum
Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund	.06668	\$134.00	Retirement Fund for employees
McLean County Matching Fund	.03749	\$ 75.34	Levy used for the County's matching portion on Federal & Motor Fuel Tax Projects

(Public Building Commission) Law & Justice Ctr Add'l Rental	0.05106	\$102.61	Funds Levied for Operations and Maintenance of County Buildings
(Public Building Commission) Government Center Add'l Rental	.01242	\$ 24.96	
(Public Building Commission) Old County Courthouse Add'l Rental	.00515	\$ 10.35	
Public Building Commission Lease Animal Control	.00246	\$ 4.94	
Public Building Commission Lease Juvenile Detention Center	.00828	\$ 16.64	
Tort Judgment	.10084	\$202.65	Levy used for jail medical services and insurance and civil division employees
Veteran's Assistance Commission Fund	.00420	\$ 8.44	Levy provides temporary emergency assistance to veterans for rent or mortgage payments, utility payments, and transportation to VA medical centers
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>.91404</b>	<b>\$1,836.85</b>	

## PURPLE MARTINS AT LAKE BLOOMINGTON

by Anne Colloton

In autumn of 2021, Carol Csanda, Janet Wisser and Joe Darter promoted an informational gathering at Davis Lodge for those interested in developing the Purple Martin population around Lake Bloomington. Several Lake Bloomington residents, Debbie and Larry Hopkins and Diane and LeRoy Shouse, already keep Purple Martin houses successfully. They were at the gathering and added to the presentation by Audubon representatives, Matthew Winks and Bill Davison.

Winks and Davison discussed how Purple Martins rely on humans for support; drawings of Purple Martin colonies near human settlements of indigenous people date from the 1700's. They gave a brief overview of the care of Purple Martin houses/gourds and the importance of supporting the bird colonies because the population has begun to decline. The local J.W.P. Audubon chapter purchased gourds for the nests, Joe Darter installed them at North Park and Winks assures us of his support. I signed my name to the list.

In early April the group met at North Park and Matthew Winks explained how to take care of each colony, a set of 6 gourds. The colonies hang from poles set securely in the ground in 3 different locations. Each pole has a metal protector to keep predators like snakes or racoons from climbing up.

Janet Wisser, who is instrumental in helping us, has placed a thin layer of pine straw in each gourd to encourage Purple Martins, their typical first layer in a nest. Kathy Yellinek keeps our records, using the same calendar template Janet uses to monitor bluebird nests at several sites around the Lake. It becomes three of us, Kathy Oncken, Kathy Yellinek and me, taking turns, checking on the gourds each day, texting the results and Kathy Y. recording them.



What are we monitoring? At first, we keep the gourds clear and ready for Purple Martins to create a nest. As predicted, the invasive species, House Sparrows, arrived. Sparrows were brought here from Europe, are prolific breeders, producing two to three broods a summer and are not on the protected wildlife list. Purple Martins have one brood a summer and Sparrows will peck the eggs and even kill Purple Martin chicks. We check almost every day, remove the large amount of dry grasses and twigs Sparrows use for nests and never give them time to produce a brood.

Around April 15th, Kathy Y. sent us a photo-possibly a Purple Martin nesting in Colony C, Gourd 6? It is textbook- a few green leaves and a twig or two on top of the pine straw. Sparse, clean. No other signs of Purple Martin nesting in the other colonies is present. We were warned we may not get a nest at all; often juvenile Purple Martins do not breed their first year on their own, but we have a nest!

Ten days later, we saw the first white egg, sitting upon a few leaves and twigs. The birds lay one egg a day, to a maximum of 6. Six eggs! Our emoji's jumped up and down with excitement.

Now, the countdown to hatching has begun. The incubation period is typically 15-16 days. Fifteen days later, over a period of three days, the eggs all hatched. Midwifery was a breeze for us.

Now, the hard work begins. The featherless baby birds have huge mouths, open all the time, waiting for food. Their parents feed them insects, keeping a constant flight pattern of catching food, feeding, catching food, feeding.

We are on high alert, ready to help if a chick falls out of the nest or keeping watch for mites, tiny black bugs that kill baby Martins. Once the eggs hatched, we had 28-30 days before the chicks fledge (fly for the first time). On a check during a brief spell of 90-degree weather, I took a photo and the baby birds look hot, and kind of, well, dead. Anxiously, I text this photo to the group, and it is determined we must do something to relieve the birds from the heat. Chicks die from overheating.

Kathy Oncken leapt into action and devised a type of umbrella shield to put over the gourd to protect the chicks. She sends photos of her creative engineering to all of us, Janet and Matthew included. We do not know what repercussions the birds may experience with the umbrella shield. Will the parents not return to the nest? How do we place the shield above the gourd? We look at the forecast; rain is predicted. But what if it doesn't rain and the heat continues? We wait. The weather changes, the temperatures drop, we lose one baby bird. The parents remove it from the nest.

We take photos of the babies to document the changes. They grow rapidly, adding feathers and within two weeks, look remarkably like-their parents! As the hatchlings got close to fledging, Matthew suggests we stop checking the nest because baby birds can accidentally jump out. He says, "If this happens, pick up the baby bird, put it back in the nest and let the parents take care of it." We stop checking the nest. A few days later, Kathy Y. goes over to watch the nest and sees baby birds flying around the nest. Happy emoji's again.

There are multiple considerations in

taking care of a Purple Martin nest. In our first experience we got lucky. We only lost one chick and none of our other fears came to fruition. Our Purple Martins, in their first nesting experience, were excellent parents.

In late August, the Purple Martins are on their way to South America, so we took down the gourds, cleaned them and Joe Darter will store them until next April, when the process begins again. We hope our first-year parents will return to their first home, as they typically do, and bring their children with them to expand our colonies.

If you are interested in joining us, we welcome you. If you are interested in having a colony on your property, we welcome that or if you have a Purple Martin house and would like to reactivate it and need some help, we will help you. If you do have a house and are not keeping it for Purple Martins, we would prefer you close it up so that House Sparrows do not use it.

**Interested?**  
Email our beloved leader, Janet  
Wiser at [jlpwiser@yahoo.com](mailto:jlpwiser@yahoo.com)



# Lake Bloomington Association Membership Form

[www.LakeBloomington.com](http://www.LakeBloomington.com)

please print

Name(s) in membership: (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # (1) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell #(2) \_\_\_\_\_

Lake 911 Address if different from above: \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Phone#: \_\_\_\_\_ Do you live at lake full time? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Email Address: (1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

Please include your Email address if you want to be informed of LBA events and receive the LBA Newsletter.

Special notes or comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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Annual Dues: \$ 25.00

Fireworks Donation: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Please send the above along to:

Lake Bloomington Association  
P.O. Box 223  
Hudson, IL 61748

**Note: Each family or individual in a multi-ownership property should sign up for their own membership if they wish to receive their own Lake Breeze & Directory.**

Please make checks payable to: **Lake Bloomington Association**

**OR Pay online with Pay Pal on our website <http://www.lakebloomington.com> (click on buttons).** If paying on line, be sure to email [lakebloomingtonassociation@gmail.com](mailto:lakebloomingtonassociation@gmail.com) with your membership information or changes, if any.

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The \$ 25.00 annual Lake Bloomington Association (LBA) membership dues are used to further the primary objective of the LBA, which is the improvement of Lake Bloomington and the surrounding community. Your dues pay for:

- Lake Breeze Newsletter Subscription
- 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks and festivities
- Lake Bloomington landscaping care and maintenance
- Various service and beautification projects
- Oktoberfest and other social events
- LBA Membership Directory

**– Annual Membership Dues payment is requested in January of each year –**



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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).