

the Lake Breeze

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Photos by Pamela Cather, Diane Shouse, Paul Lawrence



President's Letter

Happy New Year to all of our Lake Bloomington friends and neighbors!

As we navigate our way through the short days and long nights of this time of year, we are reminded of something written by American novelist Paul Theroux: “Winter is a season of recovery and preparation.” It does seem that once the hustle and bustle of the holidays comes to an end, the slow lull of the cold winter sets in and gives us a chance to reset and look forward. Here at our lake, the quiet stillness of the frozen water and the song of the wind through the leafless trees is the perfect background for this endeavor. We are here to let you know that your LBA Board has been actively engaged in this process of “recovery and preparation” these past several months.

The board gathered in November at the Davis Lodge for our biennial strategic planning session. The result of our in-depth discussions were several updates to our LBA Strategic Plan, whose purpose is to provide direction and focus to our efforts to continually improve our lake community. The 2025 Strategic Plan is included in this newsletter for your information and review.

After a break for the holidays, the board met again in early January to begin planning and implementing the various initiatives outlined in the strategic plan. One of the items addressed in January was our LBA budget for this year, and a budget proposal was debated and ultimately approved. That budget is outlined in full in this newsletter. It is that time of year to once again ask that you renew your membership in the LBA, and provide whatever extra support you can for our annual 4th of July fireworks and other year-round lake activities. You will find more information on the need for renewal, as well as the 2025 LBA Membership Form, later in this newsletter.

As we glide through these frigid winter days, we would like to mention several things to consider and events on the horizon. First, as we all know, the water level of our lake is down considerably during these winter months. One of the advantages to this situation is that it exposes things along the shoreline that otherwise are unseen when the lake is full. While the board sponsors our

spring and fall clean-up days each year, those only address cleaning up around the perimeter and roadways of our lake. This time of year, we have the opportunity to also do some clean-up along our shorelines, and we would encourage our lake residents and friends to take a look around and, if safe to do so, maybe remove any trash or debris that may be noted. If you happen to become aware of a particular area that may need attention, please feel free to contact us or any LBA Board member and inform us of the need. We will then, if safe to do so, organize an additional winter clean-up to take advantage of the low lake level.

Second, as one of the many benefits of LBA membership, the board will be providing updated copies of the LBA Directory this spring. We try very diligently to provide accurate information in the directory, but of course the accuracy relies on the information we are provided by you, our members. With that in mind, if you have any updates or corrections to your contact information, please make sure that you include these updates in your 2025 membership application, or you can e-mail them to us at lakebloomingtonassociation@gmail.com, or provide them directly to any board member. Board member contact information is contained in the Fall 2024 Lake Breeze newsletter. The new directory will be going to the printer before the Spring Dinner, so please send any updates or corrections by April 15th.

And finally, as we near the end of this quiet winter season, it is time to come out of hibernation and gather with other lake neighbors at the annual LBA Winter Social! This year's event will once again be held at the Lake Road Inn. The social will begin at 5:30 PM on Thursday, February 13th. Appetizers will be provided. This is an excellent opportunity to catch up with friends and enjoy good conversation and delicious food. We encourage all to attend!

Stay warm friends!

Traci & Bob Freitag

LBA Co-presidents

Welcome TO OUR NEW RESIDENTS IN 2024

The Carmicheal family

IN 2024 WE ALSO MOURN THE LOSS OF OUR AMAZING LAKE RESIDENTS

Jim McCalla

Jane Solomon

David Waibel

Bob Lipic

Paul Young

Save the Date!

Spring is coming and so is the
Lake Bloomington
Association Spring Dinner.

Mark your calendars for
Thursday, May 8th.

Please stay tuned for
additional information.



Lake Bloomington Association 2025 Strategic Plan

Vision

Lake Bloomington is a jewel of a lake
that draws people together
and provides a beautiful place to live
with safe recreation and enjoyment for all.

Mission

The Lake Bloomington Association's mission
is to foster community spirit by
working together to improve
the quality of life of the residents,
the environment of the lake,
and the relationships with the lake community.

Focus

1. Develop Community Spirit
2. Grow Membership
3. Protect the Lake
4. Improve Surroundings
5. Facilitate Collaboration

Goal 1: The Lake Bloomington Association (LBA) will contribute to the ongoing development of a vibrant community spirit by hosting social events and conducting communication activities.

Initiatives:

- Hold monthly board meetings.
- Continue to maintain an active website and Facebook page. Expand the use of Facebook with regular information about Lake activities and ongoing social and club events.
- Establish a “Meet Up” group through Facebook.
- Produce quarterly newsletters (Lake Breeze) to be distributed to all association members.
- Acknowledge deaths of lake residents & share positive lake news.
- Encourage participation and appreciation of our natural surroundings through guide-led Nature Walks.
- Coordinate Dock Concerts (June, July, & August).
- Host social and educational events throughout the year, including:
 - An annual Winter Social event
 - An annual Spring dinner
 - A Fourth of July celebration, with fireworks and a pontoon parade.
 - A Fall dinner and annual LBA meeting

Goal 2: The LBA will engage existing membership and encourage new members to join.

Initiatives:

- Maintain an accurate membership database.
- Solicit for annual membership dues in the first quarter.
- Membership Committee will contact all new residents with membership, safety, and other lake living information.
- Continue to be a forum for member communication.
- Produce and distribute a biennial membership directory.
- Explore outreach to area businesses and other entities to promote the LBA and LBA activities.

Goal 3: The LBA will participate in the protection and improvement of the quality of the Lake’s ecosystem.

Initiatives:

- Host seasonal clean up around the lake.
- Collaborate with Friends of Everbloom, the Parklands Foundation, the Audubon Society, and the Ecology Action Center. Support their ongoing initiatives.

- Continue the Chlorine Tablet program to promote timely chlorination of resident septic systems.
- Collaborate with the City of Bloomington and McLean County Soil and Water to educate our residents on ways to contribute to improving the quality of the watershed.

Goal 4: The Lake Bloomington Association will improve the physical surroundings of the Lake and support the investment made by homeowners of the Lake community.

Initiatives:

- The beautification committee will ensure that flower beds are planted and maintained.
- Establish beautification/gardens guidelines and responsibilities.
- Work with the city to maintain the flagpole and ensure flags are replaced as needed.
- Maintain address signage around the lake.
- Collaborate with the city on improvements to the surrounding areas of the lake.
- Seek and support city/resident cooperation directed at improving the condition and maintenance of interior lake roadways.

Goal 5: The LBA will foster a strong, collaborative relationship with Lake Bloomington stakeholders including the City of Bloomington, the McLean County Board, Friends of Everbloom and the Lake Camps.

Initiatives:

- Continue to provide a liaison to the city and ensure that a city representative is invited to all LBA activities.
- Promote our city's involvement around the lake to positively contribute to city/member relations.
- Continue our ongoing relationship with the McLean County Board.
- Establish a liaison to the two township road commissions which serve our lake community, Hudson Township and Money Creek Township.
- Continue to be supportive of the needs of Timber Pointe Outdoor Center and East Bay Camp and support the Timber Pointe Yacht Club. Explore use of the camps' recreational facilities.
- Explore creation of recreational facilities (for example, pickleball courts/tennis courts) around the lake for all to enjoy.

Approved by a majority vote of the Lake Bloomington Association Board on January 9, 2025.

2025 Lake Bloomington Association Membership Form

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: _____

Annual Dues: \$ 25.00

Fireworks Donation: \$ _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Please send the above form along with your payment 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**

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
- 4th of July fireworks and festivities
- Lake Bloomington landscaping care and maintenance
- Various service and beautification projects
- Social events
- LBA Membership Directory

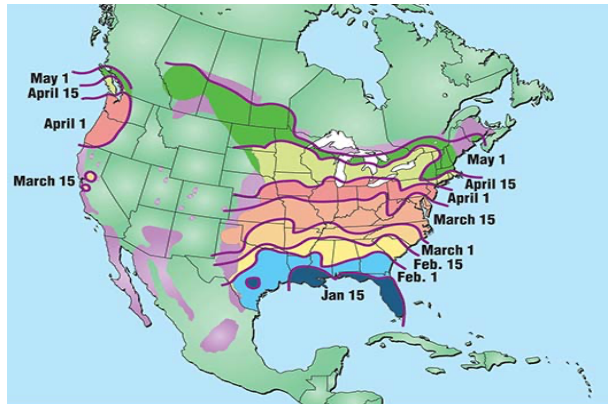
– Annual Membership Dues payment is requested in January of each year –

Revised 1.17.25

WHERE ARE OUR PURPLE MARTINS.....

Each year around the end of August, our purple martins begin their 5,000 mile migration to the warmer climate of South America.

As we all look forward to spring returning to our lake, the purple martin landlords look forward to seeing our purple martin scouts return. The scouts are the oldest birds, male or female, that are the first purple martins to return to their nesting site from the previous year. The map below shows the time frames when the scouts begin to arrive across the U.S.



Images from the Purple Martin Conservation Association



PURPLE MARTIN LANDLORDS

Purple martin landlords or stewards conduct nest checks at least weekly to see what is going on within their martin house. During a nest check, a landlord will lower the house and look inside each of the rooms. This helps catch any issues going on within the house.



* Purple martin nest



* House sparrow nest

During a nest check, remove any nesting material or eggs from house sparrows to ensure they do not take over the purple martin house. Document when your purple martins begin building nests, the date they begin laying eggs/when they lay their last egg and when the chicks begin to hatch. After the chicks hatch also monitor for any infestations like mites, wasps or spiders that may harm the chicks. Monitor when the eggs begin hatching, to

track when the purple martin chicks will begin fledging/ flying from the nest. Lowering down the house midday or during the afternoon is preferred. Avoid lowering during the early morning, evening, or bad weather. Attached is a link to a sample nest check sheet from the Purple Martin Conservation Association (PMCA) here.

LBA LANDLORDS

Diane and Leroy Shouse inherited their purple martin house when they bought the Cheeseman's home in 2008. Diane said, she knew Marsha took great care of her martins, "Marsha put mints on their pillows." To help build their understanding on how to care for their purple martins, their go-to website is the PMCA <https://www.purplemartin.org>

Diane shared being a purple martin landlord requires time and effort. Her biggest problem to date has been dealing with mites brought into the nest by the parents, which can be detrimental to the babies. For Diane, being a purple martin landlord is like being part of a miracle. One day they arrive from so far away, have their babies and then they're gone and then like clockwork they come back the next year. One season their nest box fledged 55 purple martins!

Nancy Brady has had a Purple Martin house since the early-mid 1990's and Marsha

Cheeseman got her interested in purple martins too. She enjoys watching them each morning and evening when they are most active and most vocal. Last year Nancy had 4 nests and fledged 12 chicks. Nancy is diligent about keeping a close eye on her house and she has sparrow traps to keep the sparrows from invading her house. The Oncken's have piggybacked off Nancy's success and put up a purple martin house in 2022. This past year they fledged 14 chicks.

Larry Hopkins has had a purple martin house on Iroquois Lane since 2014. He reports that 2024 was his best year, with a fledging count of 21 chicks. In the spring Larry has fun trying to attract purple martins to the nest box. He plays the purple martin dawn song recording that imitates a male martin singing in the early morning in order to attract other martins to his nesting site. Larry enjoys seeing the martins flying around and listening to them chatter.

The Lissner/Rohde nest box on Navajo Lane had 5 active nests this past year with 21 fledglings. This box was originally erected by Jane Kiper, who lived at the lake for 44 years.

Kathy Yelinek, Anne Colloton and Kathy Oncken have served as landlords for the purple martin poles at North Park that were provided by the Grand Prairie Bird Alliance (formally JWP Audubon

Society). Kathy Y documented we started observing purple martins in early April, they began building nests the beginning of May, and we had 24 successful fledges.

Janet Wiser has been a strong advocate and supporter of our native birds around the lake by helping to educate landlords, monitor nest boxes and help to control the house sparrow population.

If bird houses are not monitored, at least weekly, it is critical to block the entrances to deter house sparrows from building nests. This will prevent the house sparrow population from increasing; they can rebuild nests as soon as they are removed and a pair of house sparrows can produce up to four broods a season.

Please reach out to Janet Wiser jlpwiser@yahoo.com or Kathy Oncken keoncken@gridcom.net if you would like to learn more about our efforts to support our native birds at the lake.



LBA Winter Social

**Please join your
neighbors at**

**The Lake Road Inn on
Thursday, February 13th**

5:30 PM

**Your LBA will provide
appetizers.**

**Come hang out
and meet some
new friends.**



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Bloomington, Normal, Danvers and Surrounding Communities



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.