

Loch Alpine Lore

February 2007



Calendar of Events

	Loch Alpine Events
March 3:	Winter Celebration Ann Arbor Ice Cube 12:30 PM
March 3:	New Neighbor Welcome Ann Arbor Ice Cube 12:30 PM
May 1:	Next Lore Issue
Dexter Library Events	
February 19:	Book Discussion for adults "The Glass Castle: A Memoir" by Jeannette Walls 7:30 PM (registration required)
February 22:	Financial Planning Workshop "Reverse Mortgages for Seniors" 7:00 PM
February 24:	U of M Museum of Natural History Presents: "Stormy Surprises: When Weather Goes Wild!" Hands-on Science Program about Global Warming Ages 6 – 11 with Parent 10:00 AM (Registration Required)
March 17:	U of M Museum of Natural History Presents: "Backyard Meteorology: Forecasting the Future" Hands-on Science Program about Global Warming Ages 6 – 11 with Parent 10:00 AM Pizza Party at 11:30 a.m. for All Participants (Registration Required)
March 19:	Book Discussion for adults "On the Road" by Jack Kerouac 7:30 PM (Registration Required)

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Get your skates on! Or just mingle with your neighbors!

The Loch Alpine Winter Celebration is being held at the Ann Arbor Ice Cube on Saturday, March 3 from 12:30 to 3:30 PM. Skating is free. So is mingling.

The Ann Arbor Ice Cube is located at 2121 Oak Valley Drive. For those of you new to Ann Arbor, the Ice Cube is a fantastic ice skating facility with 3 ice rinks. More information and directions about the Ice Cube are available at: <http://www.a2ice3.com/>

Welcome New Neighbors

Have you recently moved to Loch Alpine? If so, you are invited to collect fabulous New Neighbor gifts and information packets at the Loch Alpine Winter Celebration being held at the Ann Arbor Ice Cube on Saturday, March 3 from 12:30 to 3:30 PM.

Need to find out more about Loch Alpine?
Check out the web site: www.lochalpine.org



Loch Alpine Playgroup Schedule Winter - Spring 2007

Karla Grossman 424-3084 790 N. Whitman	Friday, February 23, 2007
Dara Beck 424-1540 4730 Whitman Cr.	Friday, March 2, 2007
Mary Newton 426-5311 4850 Gifford Ct.	Friday, March 9, 2007
Laurie Blodgett 424-3063 4360 Sunderland	Friday, March 16, 2007
The Tree House- Chelsea	Friday, March 23, 2007
Karla Grossman 424-3038 4790 N. Whitman	Friday, March 30, 2007



Please contact
Karla Grossman
424-3038 for more
information.



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Autumn Bon Fire, BBQ, and Newcomers' Welcome

by Barbara Bowman

barbarawebsterbpwman@hotmail.com

We discovered the value of rain dates during the November 2006 Loch Alpine BBQ and Bon Fire. It turns out that we're a pretty flexible group and had a decent turnout despite the weather. Of course, constant rain the day before made fire start up a little slow, but the intrepid pyromaniacs of Loch Alpine will not be denied. After ignition, a BBQ luncheon was provided by Smokehouse Blues of Ann Arbor.

A warm hello was given to LA Newcomers Beth Jackson, Mark Froelich, and the Frasier family of Holly Way. This year we are embedding our Newcomers welcome event into our already scheduled events so that more of us will be able to expose ourselves to the new residents. After all, they signed the mortgage, it's too late for them to back out now. (Just kidding, just kidding.) At the BBQ our new friends picked up their fabulous LA gift baskets which were put together by the Shade of the Olive in downtown Dexter. They also had a chance to meet Francyn Chomic from the Newcomers Welcome Service who brought phone books, Dexter maps, Walking Maps, and Dexter Area Chamber of Commerce Directories for Oldstayers and Newcomers alike. Newcomers who missed out on meeting her at the Bon Fire can contact her at 734-649-4517, or at the Dexter Area Chamber of Commerce (734-426-0887) to inquire about a welcome packet with free coupons.

Since it was so much colder than last year, only the hardiest residents (mainly band member parents) were on hand to enjoy the tender tones of the Junior Mints. This year the female members were attired in authentic Junior Mint band apparel acquired on ebay by costumier and flautist, Kate Fitzsimons. Other band members mesmerizing the audience

included Derek Fead on Bass Guitar, Jodie Friedman on Flute, Alex Maser on Trumpet, and Ali Bowman on Trombone. Once again, the Mints were led by musical maestro and legendary local rock musician, David Swain. In the adverse conditions of a cold November afternoon, David's parents continue to inspire. I hope I'm not giving away David's age, but his parents must have at least 40 years of devoted concert attendance under their belts as they follow their son's career. Wow! It's a high standard, but judging by the sweet smiles on their faces, it's also a pleasure and it looks like it keeps you young. Rock on Swains!



We had a skeleton crew stay after dark to make sure the last coals were safely put to bed without incident. Chris Schroeder, Tom Holland and Gregg Heidibrink checked in on a regular basis to make sure things were under control. The Friedman family (mainly Josh) assisted the Bowman family (mainly Larry) in playing with the fire until it was finally extinguished. By the way, I advise you to keep an eye on young Josh Friedman. He's hard worker! He even makes it look like fun, (luckily I'm old enough to know better). Just wait until he's old enough to handle power tools. Hey Josh, when you start your handy-guy business, I'll be your first customer.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the person who made sure the ashes were gone before the first snowfall. Thanks to Gregg Heidibrink for raking up the ashes and making them disappear without a trace.

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Autumn Bon Fire, BBQ, and Newcomers' Welcome continued -

If I didn't know better, I would have thought the ash fairy had visited. And if there was such a magical thing as the ash fairy, she would leave new grass where the ash had been. Check back in the spring and see if it doesn't happen that way, or it could be Gregg tricking us into believing in the ash fairy again. (By the way, this last sentence is a sign that I've officially lost it, good thing my term is expiring next month.)

The LA Quiz Board made it's debut at this party and will make another appearance at the Skating Party



in March. Here's a hint if you're ever stuck on a quiz question, particularly about the swans, seek out our unofficial historian and swan expert Nona Credille. None knows like Nona knows!

The pre-fire clean-up this year was a family affair. Thanks to Hope Luongo and sons

Patrick, Richard and Daniel. Their leaf gathering and depositing will help make for good compost in the spring. Bill, and Ann Hubbard and their son Nick were another example of a family that gathers sticks together gets glory in the Lore together and passes along a great work ethic to the next generation. Intrepid and long time cleaners uppers included Gregg Heidibrink, along with Nona and Hugh Credille as well as LAIA Board Members: Nyle Stierna and Tom Holland. Also putting in time were Bill Ager, Lorie Friedman and Maryann Griffith. Thanks also to those I may have missed. Together, we made a big pile so that we could burn it later. It doesn't get any better than this.

Finally, thanks to everybody who came down to the Park and to everyone who comes to any of the LA social events. It wouldn't be social or an event without you!

Neighborly Advice:

Backing up your computer

Marcia Wallin 426-1214 lochalpinelore@hotmail.com

It is estimated that only ten percent of all computer users back up their data.

Why worry about computer backup? Accidents happen! Your computer data files can accidentally be deleted or become corrupted. Hard disks don't last forever. They inevitably experience mechanical failure. Operating system problems can require professional intervention for data recovery. If your data is on a laptop, PDA or iPod is it especially vulnerable to theft and accident.

The photo below shows the sight you can't normally



see; a hard drive in operation inside its sealed case. On your hard drive, data is stored as a magnetic field on a thin layer of oxide film. A hard drive

is just a high tech refrigerator magnet!

What files should you back up? An easy rule of thumb is to make sure that you always have at least two copies of everything that is important!

In addition to text documents, this could include your digital photos, email address book, financial information, web browser bookmarks and video that you've transferred from your digital cameras.

Secondly, how should you back up your data? Options include CDs, DVDs, external hard drives, thumb drives and network storage. Floppy disks, which were once the most common option will very likely be obsolete in a few years. Furthermore, floppy disks have a limited storage capacity. Read more about your backup options at: <http://www.microsoft.com/athome/security/update/wherebackup.mspx>

Whatever backup method you choose, do it regularly and keep your backup secure.

If your data is important, put your backup in a safe!

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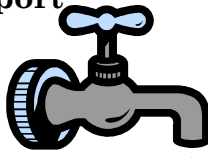
LASA Representative Report

Neil Gerl 426-2936 neilgerl@umich.edu

LASA Sewer Line Cleaning

The ice storm of January 2007 had a huge impact on many of us but our sewer and water system continued to provide uninterrupted service thanks to our plant operators Dave and Dan. Our back-up generator was in operation more than 30 hours and required multiple refueling efforts. At the same time, tower/well controls were iced over and required almost constant manual control to maintain water pressure. A "pat on the back" to Dave and Dan once again for handling extreme weather conditions for 30 hours during the power outage.

Mineral material blocking sewer lines: A section of Loch Alpine sewer line was blocked due to a collection of mineral material. The exact location of the entry to the sewer could not be determined but chemical tests indicated that the source on the contamination was most likely building mortar or ceramic supplies. The costs of clearing the blockage and property damage were approximately \$20,000. LASA needs everyone to help prevent improper disposal of non-organics in our sewers. **No paint, plaster, or building material is allowed to be discarded into our sanitary sewer systems by anyone.** If you have any questions, call Dave Ruhlig at 426-4545.



Don't Dump it down the Drain!

Neil Gerl 426-2936 neilgerl@umich.edu

DO NOT introduce cooking grease or other heavy fat concentrates into your disposal. It is also requested that you dispose of oils, paints, and chemicals in the proper solid waste trash system. It is obvious that failure to heed this advice costs each of us money and could endanger our rivers. One of our major expenses each year is to clean sewer lines and the treatment system of materials that should have been disposed of in the proper land fill instead of our sewer system. If you have any questions, call Dave Ruhlig at 426-4545.

Lore invites submissions

The next issue of the Lore will be printed in early May. Please consider contributing to the following columns:

- * Loch Alpine Yard Sale tips
- * Neighborly Advice - on a topic of your choice
- * Pets of Loch Alpine - photo and brief bio
- * Spring landscaping tips
- * Architecture in Loch Alpine
- * Photos of Loch Alpine and residents

Please send submissions to
lochalpinelore@hotmail.com



One generation plants the trees,
another gets the shade.

Chinese Proverb

Ice Storm
January 15-17, 2007

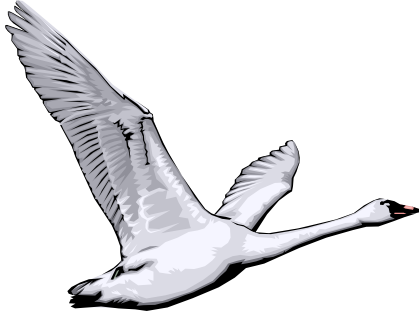
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WIND AND FOG

Nona Credile 426-3495

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Two forces of nature that are anathema to large, flying birds are howling winds and pea soup fog.

By the end of September, Pen and Cob Friendly had two cygnets left and they were just learning to fly when a large Mute pen and her half-Mute and half Whistling cygnet appeared. I called the Big Mama and Muteling. Pen and Cob thought it wiser to get out of their way and flew to the river but each day they would return to see if the coast was clear to come back, but alas, the visitors, like some relatives had hunkered down for an extended stay.

One pea-soup, Sunday morning the Friendlys made their daily check-up but couldn't see a cable over Boyden Creek-now they are down to a threesome. Big Mama and Muteling were still pigging down on the diminishing cuisine of Greenook but decided to check out Bridgeway's fare.

Now I have discussed how tricky it is for inexperienced and unsuspecting birds to fly from Greenook to Bridgeway. There are 3 options when approaching Bridgeway. Option 1 is to fly over the wires, option 2 is to scoot under them, and option 3 is to hit them head on. Big Mama, because of the wind, was forced into option 4. On option 4 you skip 1, 2, and 3 and hit the big Willow tree instead. The tree won out.

Muteling wandered around Bridgeway for days, looking and calling for Big Mama. When she didn't appear he left and I saw him tagging along behind a Mute foursome on the Huron River. By next summer he will have shed his brown feathers but will always have his Whistling swan black bill.

The pair that are on Greenook today, January 10, appear to be Pen and Cob. They keep checking out their island nest site but after the copious December rains it is entirely under water-then again-what isn't?

THANKS SWAN PEOPLE

Hugh and I are grateful to the "Swans" for presenting a bench and plaque at the playground in our honor. We love the benches and it warms our hearts and our bottoms to be the recipients of such a kind gesture.



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Advertisements

LOCH ALPINE DAY AT HORSE 'N AROUND RANCH

-a wonderful opportunity for Loch Alpine Residents and friends-

The ranch is owned and operated by Dexter school bus driver Sherri Richardson. She is willing to offer residents of Loch Alpine (and your friends) a special opportunity to check out the ranch.

Get a 35 minute western style lesson and a 45 minute ride for a total of \$25 per rider (this is a \$50 value). Riders of all ages and abilities are welcome. This opportunity allows you a chance to meet Sherri and some of the other ranch helpers (many are also area school bus drivers) and to check out some of the fun activities offered in the summer camp. This special Loch Alpine day will be held in late April or May.

Summer Horse Camp for Loch Alpine residents and friends:

Beginner & intermediate riders will meet on Monday or Tuesday (day to be determined closer to summer) 8am-4pm from early July to mid August. Camp activities may include: riding lessons & rides, learning how to saddle a horse, safety around horses & the barn, swimming, field trips to a vet hospital, watching horses being shod and over night camping out with a horse.

Summer camp: 8 sessions in a 6 week period is \$205 if you enroll with payment by June 10. Enrolling after June 10 is \$280.

An overnight counts as 3 sessions.

Session 1=day 1 from 8am-4pm;

Session 2=day 1 from 4pm-11pm;

Session 3= day 2 from 8am-4pm — sleep time is not counted as a session



The fun doesn't stop at the end of summer— during the fall the ranch offers : Horse Olympics, Overnight at Hell Creek Ranch, Rodeo Trip, Annie Oakley Reenactment & Chuck Wagon dinner, Trick or Treating on Horseback and Caroling on Horseback.

Special Days and Overnight activities are usually priced at \$25 or less (all inclusive)

There's always something fun to do at Horse'N Around Ranch

Please call Theresa Kreske, Loch Alpine Resident, to save your spot.

424-3020

A Loch Alpine carpool will be arranged for the summer camp.