

# *Loch Alpine Lore*

## May 2011

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Calender of Events	
May 20 - 22	Young People's Theater Beauty and the Beast
May 21	Loch Alpine Neighborhood Yard Sale
June 13	Loch Alpine Garden Club Garden Walk
July 11	Loch Alpine Garden Club County Farm Park Tour

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### AH, (WET) SPRING

Nona Credille

This is the time for new life, yellow daffodils, eggs hatching and "the voice of the turtle is heard in the land". (I just threw this in as a tribute to Ernie Harwell and the Song of Solomon 12:2. )

Pen and Cob's new cygnets should arrive any day. (Editor's Note: The cygnets have been born.) The first week of May is their usual "coming out". The adult birds returned from the river in early March while the lake was still well frozen. This spring weather has been beastly for the hatching of eggs so I would be very surprised to see the bumper crop which has been Penn's speciality.

The Mutes embarked on their short migration in mid November and just after they left a threesome of Trumpeter swans flew in. It was a cob, a pen, and one cygnet with his brown feathered wings. They rested a short time and I watched as they flew off to see if they would head east-the flyway for our Northern Whistling swans, but they went west toward their wintering grounds beyond the Rockies. This same threesome flew in again in April but since Pen and Cob were already here they flew off quickly. Also, a lone Trumpeter youngster was seen on Bridgeway Lake and he looked like he had been put away wet.

Why, all of a sudden are we seeing the large, raucous Trumpeter in Michigan? Trumpeter swans are native to all of North America, but faced extinction east of the Rockies due to pressures of hunting for their food, feathers and skin. They were rapidly disappearing from this continent until conservation efforts intervened. Early settlers in New England in the 1600's wrote of the big noisy trumpeting swan, "the cygnet is a tasty dish." By the mid 19th century this large swan was only seen in its wintering ground of Idaho, Wyoming, Montana, and British Columbia.

Getting back to why Michigan? Their re-introduction this side of the Rocky Mountains in the 1970's was an attempt by the DNR to place Trumpeter eggs in Mute swan nests in the hope that the strong migrating birds would take with them the other cygnets in the nest which were the lazy Mute swans. The Mute swan was native to central Europe where there was no great need to leave. Winters were not that long or severe and food was not hard to find.

East Jordan (called Swan City) claims to be the recipient of the first pair of Mute swans in Michigan in 1929. In 1953, I saw my first wild swan on Torch Lake and he scared me to death. He came out of no where and I found myself eye ball to eye ball with a bird as large as my puny little boat. I said "hello and goodbye" and left him to his part of the lake.

These European swans loved Michigan's lakes and established themselves around Mancelona, Kalkaska, Cheboygan, Bellaire, Traverse City, and Petoskey. Failure to migrate made them congregate by the hundreds on the Boardman River in Traverse City and by the 1970's with a series of very cold winters, the Boardman would freeze and many swans perished.

It was for that reason that the DNR undertook their "Trumpeter egg to Mute swan nests" experiment. I don't know how many Mute swans are flying around the Rocky Mts. but I do know that since 2000

I have been seeing and hearing the melodious trumpet sounds of this great white bird with the straight neck and black bill.



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### Adopt-A-Hydrant

The Safety and Security Committee has been promoting an Adopt-A-Hydrant program for quite some time. However, many hydrants in the neighborhood are still in need of adoption!! Out of 61 total hydrants in Loch Alpine, 15 have been adopted to date. If you have the time and ability to clear your closest hydrant of snow in the winter to keep it visible, I would love for you to contact me so you can "formally" adopt that hydrant. This would be a great benefit to the community and a very low time commitment for you. I would estimate 0 to 45 minutes per year per hydrant. It's a fun and easy way to help keep our neighborhood and our local firefighters safer. Maybe you'd like to get your kids involved and it could be fun and educational for the whole family! Many thanks to those neighbors who have already adopted the hydrant in or near their yards!! If you'd like to be a part of the program, please contact Mindy Kerr by e-mail at [minkerr@comcast.net](mailto:minkerr@comcast.net), or by phone at 426-5861. Winter will be here before we know it, so thanks in advance for helping out!!

Mindy Kerr  
Safety and Security Committee

### Country Club News



As most folks know, the Ann Arbor Country Club is under new management!

Mike Wikle is now the General Manager / Owner.

With his wife, Nancey Laracey, innovations have been introduced to every aspect of the club.

The Public Can Now Enjoy the Restaurant and LA Pub. Membership is Not Required  
LA Pub Hours Tuesday - Saturday  
Full Menu -- 5PM - 10PM  
Starting Tuesday, May 17, the restaurant will be open for lunch from 11 AM - 3 PM also.

Keep an eye out for Memorial Day specials!

The AACC will be participating in this year's Loch Alpine neighborhood garage sale. The restaurant will also be open for lunch on Saturday, May 21 during the garage sale.

### New Lore Editor Needed



It's time to pass the baton! I've been editor of the Lore since the October 2005 issue. It's been a fun and interesting 5 years. Lore Editor is a volunteer position that requires about 40 hours per issue. There are usually at least 4 issues per year. As I've done it, the editor position requires collecting items to include in the Lore, using desktop publishing software to layout the Lore, creating a PDF for the printer and sending a PDF to the Loch Alpine webmaster, picking up the printed newsletter from

the copy center, bundling copies for distribution to Loch Alpine volunteers and then delivering the Lore bundles to distributors around the neighborhood.

I'll help whomever steps forward with the first couple of issues. Contact me at [lochalpinelore@hotmail.com](mailto:lochalpinelore@hotmail.com) if you would like more information or if you want to volunteer to be the new Lore editor.

Marcia Wallin

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### Loch Alpine Garden Club

Do you enjoy gardening and good companionship? Come join us!  
The Loch Alpine Garden Club meets the second Monday of the month at 10:00 AM.

We have interesting guest speakers, fun workshops, and we also go on field trips. We support community projects such as the butterfly garden at the lake and have worked on many other projects throughout the years. Our diverse programs are designed to appeal to everyone. Please call Chris Rochman 426-5736, Pat Lee 424-9849 or Judy Gerl 426-2934 for information and to answer any questions.

Note: You may be interested in our June and July meetings and we would love to see you. Monday June 13 at 10:00 AM we will have a Garden Walk outside Loch Alpine. Call Chris, Pat, or Judy for driving arrangements and information.

Monday July 11 at 10:00 we will tour the County Farm Park.

We will meet at the  
Ann Arbor Country Club parking lot at  
9:15 AM to car pool.

Call the above people for any  
further information. Join us!

#### **DID YOU KNOW?**

*Funds raised within the Loch Alpine Garden Club serve many needs. For example, the Club donates monies toward school scholarships through the auspices of the WORLD GARDENING organization.*

*Additionally, in the past years our Club has contributed over \$1,000.00 to needy services in our local community. All are welcome!*



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### **Lakes Committee Report**

#### **Aquatic Weed Management**

Savin Lakes Services will again manage our aquatic weed problem this season. Initial treatment will be in May. Watch for neon-colored signs announcing treatments. We hope to have these in place a week before each treatment is done or email residents.

#### **Invaders Be Gone!**

Rock Park and Playground Park Beaches were both fenced against geese by Wes Daining following last year's plan. Gates permit easy access.

Phragmites on the shorelines are under the watchful eye of Wes also. These invasive plants are taking over playground beachfront; he plans to get them under control this season.

#### **Water Quality**

On April 16, Larry Bowman taught us to build rain barrels, a way homeowners can contribute to water quality (and save money). View his rain barrels from the lakeside path around Bridgeway (upper) Lake. A copy of the instructions (including materials list) are available by request from Larry Bowman @ [bomania@umich.edu](mailto:bomania@umich.edu).

#### **Cooperative Lakes Monitoring Program**

We've signed on as a self-testing site for the 2011 season, May-Sept. A total phosphorus test in spring and another in summer will show whether or not we are reducing this unwanted contribution to the Huron River, as will weekly tests for water clarity, performed by Lois Maharg and Roy McCauley.

#### **Erosion**

We are keeping an eye on Lane 10 (a storm water and wetland inlet to Greenook lake), Rock park retention basin, Sylvan Dr. at Woodland, and Bridgeway at Greenook, as well as other sites in the neighborhood. Grounds, Lakes and Roads Committees should be involved in finding permanent solutions that prevent erosion and protect lake water quality.

Lara Treemore Spears and Wes Daining have been evaluating conditions and making recommendations to the LAIA board.

#### **Growing Together**

Cooperative plantings with the Garden Club are being discussed for shoreline areas on both Bridgeway & Greenook Lakes. Also, Gordon Sheill recently shared information and a slide show about rain gardens at a Garden Club meeting. Rain gardens are used throughout Washtenaw County to convert storm water that otherwise cascades into culverts and streams into a useable resource on residential and community properties.

Some important considerations for homeowners this spring:

- Zero-phosphate fertilizers are what most lots need. Consider a soil test to be sure. Here is a link to local testing:  
<http://www.ewashtenaw.org/government/departments/extension/>
- Pull invasive Garlic Mustard as soon as you spot it: before it seeds! Here is a link for recognizing this destructive plant:  
[www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/alpe1.htm](http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/alpe1.htm)

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### Yard Sale Tips

Are you ready for the neighborhood yard sales?

#### Before the Sale

• Look through the boxes and pockets of everything you are about to sell to make sure you aren't selling an heirloom by mistake!



- Expect early birds. If you really don't want them, consider putting up a "NO EARLY BIRDS" sign.
- Have lots of coins and small bills available to make change.
- Decide on your policy about accepting checks.
- You might want to use a fanny pack or carpenter's apron rather than a box to hold the yard sale money so that you can move around more easily.

#### Pricing Tips

- As a general rule of thumb, price items about a quarter or third of what they would cost new.
- Make it easy for yourself to total items - price things evenly!
- If you don't have time to price everything individually, signs are helpful, such as "all books .25 each" or "anything on this table .50". You also can offer the customers a deal, example: books .25 each or 5 for \$1.

#### Selling Tips

- If an item lacks obvious charm, consider listing good selling points or flaws on a sign: "Lawnmower \$5 - As is. Has fuel leak but starts."
- Consider grouping like items together, tools with tools, kitchen items with kitchen items, to make it easy to browse
- If you have lots of clothes or small toys you are trying to get rid of, consider having a "fill a bag for a set price" kind of deal. Make sure you have a supply of bags.
- If you are trying to sell something rather

highly priced, see if you can find a picture of it in a catalog, online or on eBay. Make a sign with the picture and price and tape it to your item.

More tips available at  
[www.yardsalequeen.com](http://www.yardsalequeen.com)



The Young People's Theater is presenting it's spring production of Disney's Beauty and the Beast at the Power Center for the Performing Arts, May 20th through May 22nd.

There is a cast of 92 talented young people, ages 5 through 18, including 7 children from the Dexter school district (3 from Loch Alpine!)

This production promises to be YPT's best to date - you won't want to miss it! Tickets are available through [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com).

More information is available on the YPT website, [youngpeoplestheater.com](http://youngpeoplestheater.com).

### Loch Alpine Play Group

The play group is scheduled to meet on Fridays at 10 AM at the park. Please contact Dara Beck for more information 424-1540

Would you like to take a turn as the contact person for play group?  
Contact Dara!



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## Advertisements

Advertising space available at very reasonable rates in the Loch Alpine Directory. Advertising space may be purchased by 1/4, 1/2, or full page at the following prices:

1/4 page ad: \$ 50.00  
1/2 page ad: \$100.00  
Full page ad; \$150.00  
Back cover: \$250.00

If interested, please include a check made payable to LAIA along with your camera ready artwork to:

P.O. Box 72, Dexter MI 48130.

Are you interested in improving your skills in French or Spanish, or learning one of those languages from scratch?

I am retiring at the end of June as a French and Spanish language teacher in the Northville school district and would like to tutor students as well as adults in those languages. I am a Loch Alpine resident and you can reach me, Suzanne Murray, at 734-253-2193 or e-mail me at [painfrançais@gmail.com](mailto:painfrançais@gmail.com).



Wish to sell 4 matching contemporary bar stools. Asking \$25.00 each or best offer



If interested please call Barb at 426-2460.

### Affordable Guitar Lessons in your own home!

Have you always wanted to learn how to play the guitar?

- Beginner lessons taught on acoustic guitar
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- Your guitar or mine
- Experience teaching kids

-Call Loch Alpine resident Alex Kerr at:  
734-904-5000



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### Annual Loch Alpine Garage Sales

The Loch Alpine Garage Sales are scheduled for Saturday, May 21, 9 am – 2 pm.  
The optional preview sale is on Friday evening, May 20, 6 pm – 9 pm for Loch Alpine residents only.  
No rain date, so let's hope for better weather than last year. And the year before that...

If you wish to have your sale featured on the neighborhood map, please fill out the form below, include a \$5 registration fee, and return to me by Wednesday, May 18. The fee will cover the cost of newspaper ads, signs and fliers. You may also include a short list of featured items to lure shoppers to your sale. Please keep this list brief!

The Boy Scouts will come through the neighborhood to pick up leftovers, starting at 2 pm. You can leave items out on your driveway for them to pick up. It will take them several hours to get through the neighborhood. If they miss your house, please call me for information on how to arrange for pickup at a later date. If you want a record for tax purposes, have a list of donated items for them to sign. The Scouts will not accept: old tires, non-working appliances, furniture with worn upholstery, most clothing (they may take children's clothing if it is in good condition.)

Questions? Contact: Sue Inderhees 426-8543, 3779 W. Loch Alpine Dr.

Garage sale registration form

Send a \$5 registration fee, cash or check; checks payable to:  
Sue Inderhees, 3779 W. Loch Alpine Dr., Ann Arbor, MI 48103

I will have a drop box on the front porch. You can also leave forms in my mailbox on Dawson Drive.  
Please include your lot number so I can more easily find your house on the neighborhood map.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

LOT NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

BRIEF (80 characters max) LIST OF ITEMS FOR SALE:

Check if you want to participate in the Friday evening preview sale, May 20.

Check if you will leave items out for the Boy Scouts.