



Attention all Lake Ponderosa property owners:

A NEW Boat Ramp Gate!

IMPORTANT - MUST READ!

The new boat ramp entrance gate is here!

As previously explained on the front page of the October Anchor, the existing boat ramp gate was damaged and the operating system was not functioning properly. The electronic open/close card software system was failing to open or close the gate as needed, which caused extensive problems for lake residents attempting to put their boats in/out of the water.

After interviewing companies and soliciting price quotes from several different suppliers LPA Board members voted to hire Barker Security and Lifetime Fence to install a new electronic system and gate. The new system/gate was installed on November 1st, has been tested by the supplier and is expected to be fully operational by this spring.

The new gate was a necessary purchase which benefits lake residents by:

- Helping to keep non-resident boats off the lake
- Reducing the occurrences of exposure to aquatic hitchhikers
- Adding a level of security at the boat ramp (the new system retains card information)

Unfortunately, the cost of the new gate and operating software system was \$17,420. Thanks to prior year annual donations to the "LPA Boat Ramp Gate Fund" that fund had a balance of approx. \$8,000 at the time the new system needed to be ordered, leaving a deficit of \$9,420. In order to get the new equipment ordered and installed prior to the ground freezing (so it would be operational in the spring) LPA Board members voted to temporarily use \$9,420 from the "General Fund" (non-earmarked funds) to pay for the gate, until special donations to the Boat Ramp Fund enable the General Fund to be replenished.

Accessing the new gate.... Please be advised the former white electronic key cards will not work with the new gate system, if you have those cards please destroy them. Early spring each residence will be provided a new four-digit access code to be used once the gate is placed in the closed position, watch all lake mailings (from the LPA or Ponderosa Utilities) for your new code. Each lake residence will be provided their own code, as a reminder this code should NOT to be shared with non-lake residents, similar to the same rules pertaining to the access cards in the past.

Finally, as outlined above, the new gate system was expensive and if the gate itself is damaged a replacement gate costs several thousand dollars to purchase and re-install. Please be careful when pulling your vehicle/trailer through the boat ramp entrance. Turn wide and **DO NOT STOP IN THE PATH OF THE GATE**, carefully pull all the way through. If you happen to hit the gate, or see someone who does, please report the incident to the lake office or an LPA board member. Please be advised, property owners (or their guests) who damage the gate will be expected to pay for any/all repairs. LPA Board members are discussing the possibility of purchasing and installing a camera system to be used to identify individuals involved in any damage which may occur at the boat ramp that was not reported.

If you use the boat ramp, or simply wish to support this major project, please consider a special donation to the Boat Ramp Fund so that the General Fund can be restored. Make a check payable to LPA and mail it to PO Box 751, Montezuma IA 50171. THANK YOU!

Lake Ponderosa Association Board Members

Dedee Lehman
President

319-693-9301
dedeeannah@gmail.com

Steve Koehn
Financial Director

Phone: 515-577-2603
Email: steve.koehn56@gmail.com

Karen McNaul
Vice President/Treasurer

641-623-5026
kmcnaul@zumatel.net

Dawn Gee
Secretary

515-205-9742
dawn@bakerisroofing.com

Tom Bates

319-330-0635
tomkatb@mchsi.com

Susan Hayes

515-331-0232
susan_and_girls@yahoo.com

Vicki Vopava

515-975-9285
vopavav@gmail.com

Barbie Ahrens-Lowry

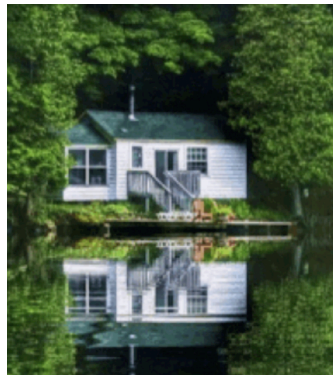
641-623-3009
bjahrens@zumatel.net

Mike Heitmann

Phone: 319-330-1076
Email: heitmanmike@gmail.com

Shane Eickhoff

Phone: 515-333-1154
Email: shaneeickhoff@yahoo.com



Welcome to Lake Ponderosa!

In the past year did you become a brand new homeowner at Lake Ponderosa? If so, and I have been unable to meet with you to deliver your Welcome Bag- please contact me! I have a wonderful bag of goodies, gift certificates and helpful information to share with you regarding our LPA, and our surrounding communities!

I will be setting up a date in early June at the LPA building to try and catch those of you whom I have not found at home! Be watching for information on that date on our FB page and posted signs by LPA building. *Susan Hayes- LPA board member, Welcome Chairperson*

LPA Calendar of Events:

Ice Fishing Tournament

Sunday, February 19th

Lake Clean-Up Day

Saturday, April 1, 2023

Rain Date: April 8th

Lakewide Garage Sales

Memorial Weekend - May 27th

LPA Annual Meeting

June 10, 2023 @ 10:00am

Association Building

Kids Fishing Derby

Saturday, June 17, 2023

Lake Ponderosa Fireworks

Saturday, July 1, 2023

Lake Ponderosa Association Board Meetings

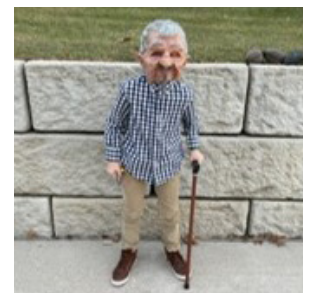
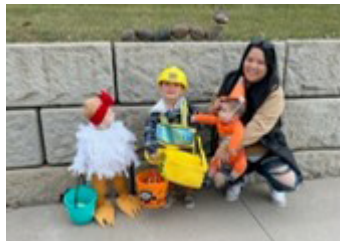
Lake Association Board meetings are held in the Association building, located at 175 W. Woodland Rd., beginning at 7:00PM, the second Thursday of the following months: **January, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, and October**

All lake property owners are encouraged to attend the meetings. The board members would like to hear your ideas, suggestions, feedback and/or concerns during the Open Forum portion of the monthly meeting. Hope to see you there!

Another successful trick or treat at the lake...

Lots and lots of kids and adults came out and showed off their costumes. They enjoy trick or treating at the lake because they can ride in a ranger, gator, golf cart or vehicle and get LOTS of goodies.

A BIG thank you to all who participated and to Jeanne Diers for organizing the map again this year for us. Look for the announcement in the Anchor for the 3rd annual trick or treat night. Here are just a few of the many costumes we saw this year at the lake:





First Annual Ice Fishing Tournament 2023

Join us on
Sunday February 19th

Registration: 7:00 am to 7:45 am at Boat Ramp
(LPA Liability form must be signed by adult or guardian)

Start Time: 8:00 am

End Time: 1:00 pm

Weigh in: 1:30 pm

Entry Fee: \$100 (2 Anglers per team) Cash only

(At least one team participant must be a landowner)

10 Best Panfish (Any combination of Bluegill and Crappie)

(No frozen fish will be weighed, largest fish will be weighed in case of a tie for total weight)

Ice fishing decal must be visible (subject to inspection)

(Decals can be purchased at the Ponderosa Utilities Office prior to the event)

PAYOUTS (1st Place 50%, 2nd Place 30% and 3rd Place 20%)

(50% of the entry fees to be paid to the winners and 50% will go to the LPA Fish Lake Management Fund)

If you would like to sponsor the Ice Fishing Tournament,
please contact Jimmi Brown (402) 689-6263 for more details.



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Update from the Lake Beautification Committee:

- Lake maps will be available at all or some of the entrances before Memorial weekend.
- Perennial exchange will be one of the last weekends in April at the Association Building. Specific date will be announced on the Lake Ponderosa Facebook page.
- **Save the Date – May 27th 9:00AM** - Children’s Rockin’ Garden will sponsor another rock painting activity. We will need adult volunteers and/or older grandkids to help.
- Trash pickup continues all year – thanks to those of you who are continuing to pick up trash!
- Three Decorating Contests with volunteer judges: (details on how to enter will be announced soon)
 1. Before the Fourth of July weekend any home, dock or lakefront can enter the contest for the Fourth of July.
 2. In the fall, you can enter to decorate the area around your mailbox. Of course, we will make sure it works for the postal worker.
 3. At Christmas time, we want to see the lake homes lit up!
- Solar deck lights on some of the causeway posts.
Need a “Causeway Crew”! More information to follow.


Next meeting will be **April 14 at 4:00PM**. Everyone is welcome.

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Important Reminder: 911 Signage



The Lake Ponderosa Association encourages all lake residents to purchase a 911 roadside address sign. These signs are very helpful to emergency service and delivery drivers to assist them in locating the address provided quickly and accurately. Please consider purchasing a 911 sign even if you currently have your address numbers displayed on your home or mail box, those may be difficult to see during poor visibility (night, fog, etc.). The blue/white reflective roadside signs will assist these drivers, and your family/friends, in finding your home.

Send a check in the amount of \$35.00, payable to the Lake Ponderosa Association and mail to the Lake Ponderosa Association and mail to PO Box 751, Montezuma, IA 50171. Please note "911 Sign" in the memo of the check. Include your full name, lake address and your phone number.

Once you receive your sign it should be placed within a few feet of the driveway close to the road. Sign should be perpendicular to the road and visible from either direction. Please call 811 for line locates around 48 hours prior to installation.



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A LOOK at the BUDGET

Treasurers Corner

The LPA has six restricted funds which are funded with donations that the member has designated as to how the donations should be used. These are contributions in excess of the annual membership fees. Additionally, the Unrestricted Fund is funded by each member's annual fee, as well as voluntary donations that the member has designated as unrestricted, and advertising donations from local businesses. The LPA would not be able to function without these generous donations. A big thank you to each member that has contributed. A brief description of each fund and the current fund balance follows.

Unrestricted Fund - Current balance \$37,800. This is the fund from which all expenses are paid, aside from the expenses attributable to one of the six restricted funds. The expenses paid by this fund includes the association building overhead, expense of producing the anchor and other membership mailings, entrance signage, buoys, emergency siren, water testing, web site, insurance, and anything else that comes up. Additionally, if there is a shortage in any of the restricted funds, the Unrestricted Fund must cover that shortage. The Unrestricted Fund has expended funds to cover the negative balance in the Boat Ramp Fund which brings our available balance down to \$28,900. The dollars in this fund will dwindle for the remainder of the year until replenished with next years dues and donations. For reference, historically, this fund spends approximately \$30,000 annually.

Restricted Boat Ramp Fund – Current Balance- Negative \$8,900. This fund is to cover any expense related to maintaining the boat ramp area. The new entrance gate system has been installed at a cost of \$17,400, hence the shortfall in this fund. The unrestricted fund has expended the funds to cover this shortfall. It is expected that the Boat Ramp Fund will replenish the Unrestricted Fund as donations are made. A surveillance system would be the next targeted expenditure for this fund with a cost in the \$7,000 - \$9,000 range. We welcome any donations to this fund as we feel it is very important to the privacy our lake.

Restricted Contingency Fund – Current Balance \$41,400. This fund was established to cover unforeseen big-ticket items to protect our lake and properties. For example, several years ago, roughly \$50,000 was expended to prevent hog confinement facilities from being built in the area. Thankfully, we see nothing on the current horizon, but it is prudent to have a substantial nest egg in case an issue arises.

Restricted Fireworks Fund – Current Balance \$55,000. This fund covers the annual fireworks display. In addition to members voluntary donations, this fund benefits from the can and bottle donations and all the hard work by volunteers to turn cans and bottles into cash. Currently, this fund is well-funded, but that could change if Iowa decides to curtail the bottle redemptions, as well as the escalating price of fireworks. We expect the fireworks show in 2023 to be in the \$30,000 range.

Restricted Fish Management Fund – Current Balance \$2,800. This fund covers the expense of improving or maintaining our supply and quality of fish in the lake. This fund is normally spent down each year to stock the lake. The more we receive in donations, the more we can do to improve the fishing quality of the lake. This fall 1,500 walleyes were added to the Lake at cost of \$4,000. We are due for a fish survey in the spring of 2023. For reference, our 2021 survey cost \$1,800.

Continued on Page 9

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Continued from Page 8

Restricted Fishing Derby Fund – Current Balance \$5,800. This fund covers the expense of hosting the annual Kids Fishing Derby, attended by approximately 200 kids each year. Typical expenses paid from this fund include a gift bag for each child, food for the event and prizes for the kids.

Restricted Lake Beautification Fund – Current Balance \$900. This is our newest fund, established in 2021. Expenditures include anything to improve the appearance of the lake such as work on our entrances, the causeway, the boat ramp area, cleaning up trash and many other projects.

Thanks to everyone for their donations of both money and time to make our Association successful.

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ICE THICKNESS AWARENESS

Fun can be found year round at the lake. Many lake owners wait anxiously for winter activities. Whether you are waiting to ice fish, ice skate, or snowshoe, ensuring your safety on the ice is a high priority! The following recommendations come from an article posted on WHO13 website.

- At least four inches of clear ice is recommended by the DNR for fishing and if you're going to be using a snowmobile or ATV you'll need five inches of ice.
- New ice is usually stronger than old ice.
- Don't go out alone – if the worst should happen, someone will be there to call for help or to help rescue.
- Let someone know where you are going and when you will return.
- Check ice thickness as you go out – there could be pockets of thin ice or places where ice recently formed.
- Avoid off-colored snow or ice. It is usually a sign of weakness.
- The insulating effect of snow slows down the freezing process.

Lake
Ponderosa
Ice Fishing
Permit
54

Have YOU Purchased Your Ice Fishing Stickers Yet?

Residents who are at the lake in the winter months observe a large number of ice fishing shacks on the lake and several parking locations being utilized for ice fishing. Unfortunately, we have no way of knowing if these people are residents of the lake or not. Similar to boating and ATV stickers, which identify resident vehicles, many feel the presence of an ice fishing sticker may make a difference. While it won't stop everyone, it may deter some of the more conscientious non-residents and at least make them more visible.

The Lake Ponderosa Association is recommending that all lot owners who wish to ice fish purchase an ice fishing sticker. The fishing sticker can be put on any person's fishing bucket, where it would be very visible from a distance. When ice fishing on the lake or from shore, this sticker can be easily seen and identifies you as a lot owner.

The ice fishing sticker can be purchased for \$5.00, one per household, a one-time sticker. If you purchased a sticker last year, there is no need to purchase another one. Make checks payable to: Lake Ponderosa Association and mail to PO Box 751, Montezuma, IA 50171.

Resident Name: _____

Lake Address _____

Phone # _____

Stickers can also be purchased at the lake office.



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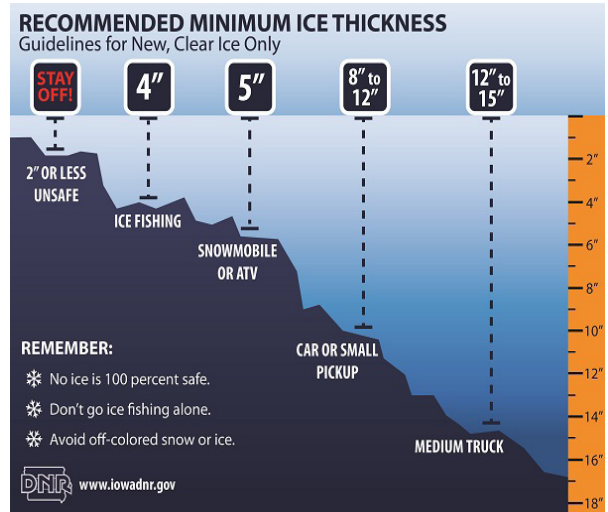
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Please keep in mind these Ice Safety Tips.

- There is no such thing as 100 percent safe ice.
- New ice is usually stronger than old ice.
- Ice fishing is a social activity, don't go out alone. If the worst should happen, someone would be there to call for help or to rescue.
- There could be pockets of thin ice or places where ice recently formed, so check ice thickness as you go out.
- Avoid off-colored snow or ice. It is usually a sign of weakness.
- The insulating effect of snow slows down the freezing process.

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- Ice picks
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“ICE EATERS” OR “BUBBLERS

“How thick is the ice?” One of the most popular questions we see and hear being asked during the wintertime here at the lake. Another important question should be “what type of ice eaters or bubbler should I buy, and how should it be set?”

Some quick guidelines:

- Buy a unit with an inline thermostat or a thermostat installed in the control unit. (this allows devices to be shut off when temperature is above 32 degrees and helps control the amount of unwanted increase of open water significantly.)
- Use a timer, again this will help control the amount of open water.
- Look for units that you can control the angle or direction unit is pointed. Pointing towards the shoreline helps control the amount of open water.
- Depth placement is another aspect that helps control the wanted amount of open water. Placing units at the top of the water increases the amount of open water.

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- Place flashers on your unit to provide safety for those using the lake at night- i.e. nighttime ice fishing people or snowmobilers- to assure they stay safe distance from your dock and your open water.

Sometimes getting your aeration device set at the appropriate level takes multiple adjustments. We ask that you invest the time to use it properly and respect the use of the lake by others during the winter months. There IS a happy medium, to protect your lifts, docks etc., but also to protect those doing winter activities- please consider the impact you have on others as a result of what you do.



RENT THE ASSOCIATION BUILDING

The Association building may be rented by any LPA dues paying member for \$100.00 plus a refundable deposit of \$65.00. Cost to non dues paying members is \$135.00. The deposit will only be refunded if the building is left in the same or better condition as before you rented it. The Association building is located at 175 West Woodland Road, Montezuma, IA 50171. For additional information please contact Tom Bates at 319-330-0635.



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UPCOMING *Mark Your Calendars*
EVENTS



**LAKE PONDEROSA
ASSOCIATION** 

Ice Fishing Tournament
Sunday, February 19th

Lake Clean-Up Day
Saturday, April 1, 2023
Rain Date: April 8th

Lakewide Garage Sales
Memorial Weekend - May 27th

LPA Annual Meeting
June 10, 2023 @ 10:00am
Association Building

Kids Fishing Derby
Saturday, June 17, 2023

Lake Ponderosa Fireworks
Saturday, July 1, 2023

**Lake Ponderosa Association
Board Meetings**

Lake Association Board meetings are held in the Association building, located at 175 W. Woodland Rd., beginning at 7:00PM, the second Thursday of the following months: **January, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, and October**

All lake property owners are encouraged to attend the meetings. The board members would like to hear your ideas, suggestions, feedback and/or concerns during the Open Forum portion of the monthly meeting. Hope to see you there!

Lake Ponderosa Association 2023 Annual Membership



Please support the Lake Ponderosa Association!



Enclosed please find the 2023 LPA Membership Form. The LPA would like to thank you for your paid membership and any additional financial donations you are able to make. **This year we are encouraging donations to help fund the new boat ramp gate (Boat Ramp Fund) and the Fish Management Fund. Both are in need of additional financial support.**

In 2022 your \$35.00 membership dues helped to accomplish all of these important activities necessary to keep our lake safe and enjoyable.....

- ✓ Boat Ramp – new entrance gate and operating system
- ✓ Fish Management – fish population, habitats and annual re-stocking
- ✓ No Wake Buoys – repaired and replaced buoys
- ✓ Contingency Fund – increased funds held in reserve to address future negative impacts to the lake community (ex. hog confinements)
- ✓ Association Building – maintenance, upkeep and cleaning
- ✓ Lake beautification – trash removal, lights on causeway, flags on entrance signs, perennial exchange, children’s events, etc.
- ✓ Communication – work to keep property owners informed of issues and information about the lake via the Anchor newsletter and LPA website
- ✓ Educational courses – guest speakers and events at the Assoc. Building
- ✓ Fireworks – organize event, secure vendor, sort and redeem cans/bottles (supported by volunteers)
- ✓ Water Quality Testing – gather water samples and test for clarity and nitrates. Ecoli testing is analyzed by the University of Iowa Hygienic Lab
- ✓ Tornado Siren – transitioned testing/upkeep to Poweshiek County
- ✓ Organize and lead events: Kids Fishing Derby, pancake breakfast, etc.
- ✓ Financials – manage budget/expenses, insurance, contingency fund, etc.
- ✓ Welcome Bags – put together and distribute bags to new lake residents

Please consider supporting these and other valuable activities by completing the enclosed 2023 Lake Ponderosa Association Membership Form and returning it along with your membership dues. Thank you for your continued support of the Lake Ponderosa Association!

2023 LAKE PONDEROSA MEMBERSHIP

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

LAKE ADDRESS _____

HOME PHONE # _____ CELL PHONE # _____

Email Address _____

Check here if you would like to receive the Anchor via e-mail

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ANNUAL LPA MEMBERSHIP	\$35.00
GENERAL DONATION (to be used where most needed)	
KIDS FISHING DERBY	
FISH MANAGEMENT & STOCKING	
FIREWORKS DONATION	
BOAT RAMP GATE REPAIR/REPLACEMENT	
CONTINGENCY RESERVE FUND	
LAKE BEAUTIFICATION	
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED	

Please send your check and this completed form to:

Lake Ponderosa Association
P.O. Box 751
Montezuma. IA 50171

COMMENTS _____

Ice fishing stickers can be picked up at the lake office for \$5.00. Phone: 641-623-3009 or email ponderosautil@zumatel.net

Cost is \$8.00 if you request your sticker be mailed. *One sticker per household.*

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THE LAKE PONDEROSA ASSOCIATION

Thank You!

2022 Lake Ponderosa Association Membership

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