

Ponderosa ANCHOR

www.lakeponderosa.org

March 2024





Who Ya' Gonna Call?

The Anchor has received a "facelift". Inside is a business directory sorted by categories: Community Services, Food / Entertainment, General/Misc., Home / Yard Services, Outdoor / Dock & Lift, and Real Estate.

We hope you find the new enclosed Business Directory helpful and easy to locate the services you need while supporting these local businesses who provide service here at the lake. If you know of a business who would like to advertise in this newsletter, please have them contact a board member. Board member contact information is provided on page 2 of this newsletter.

Mark your Calendars! Here's just a few events planned for this year!



Lake Ponderosa Association Board Members

Dedee Lehman President

319-693-9301 dedeeannlehman@gmail.com

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641-623-5026 kmcnaul@zumatel.net

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Barbie Ahrens-Lowry

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Curt Hodges

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Kevin Smith

515-210-4081 1kfisherman@gmail.com

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Simple steps to prepare your yard for spring:

- Tune up your mower. A cold mower can be hard to start, warm it up by leaving it in the sun for an hour or two before trying to start it.
- Clear debris from lawn and landscape. Pick up twigs, branches, any trash and rake out dead grass.
- Repair bare spots. Water newly seeded areas every day for at least a week, or until the grass reaches mowable height. Mow around the bare patches until then.
- Prevent crabgrass, follow the directions on crabgrass preventer products.
- Around the first time of mowing feed the grass by applying fertilizer. This helps lawns have enough nourishment to plant roots for strong growth.
- Apply fertilizer about three weeks after the grass starts greening or following the first two or three mowings. Apply too early and you risk feeding weeds and creating fertilizer runoff. Water your lawn a few days before applying fertilizer to avoid burning the roots.
- Apply a slow-release fertilizer, this will allow your grass to receive a steady amount of nutrients over an extended period of time. Mid to end of April (weather temps depending) use fertilizer with a ZERO in the middle number, such as 32-0-6. Make sure it has the ZERO in the middle, these are the best for use around lake water.
- Adjust the mower deck and mow high. Tall grass sinks deeper roots and crowds out weeds. Most grass types thrive with a 3 to 4 inch blade height, which is usually the mowers highest setting.
- Edge beds, use a half-moon edger or a sharp garden spade to cut a 2 to 3 inch V shaped trench along your beds. This will show your lawn where it stops and your landscape area begins. Boundaries are important, recut it as needed throughout the growing season.
- Once the soil has warmed, refresh your mulch. Add a 2 to 3 inch layer around your plants, don't put mulch on top of your plants.
- Late spring, thicken a thin lawn by using a spreader to apply grass seed. After applying seed water the lawn every day for two weeks.
- Wipe out dandelions and go after grubs. There are products designed to treat these, apply as instructed.

Source: Scotts.com



LPA Building "Refresh"

Keep an eye out for upcoming renovations to our LPA association building. We are in the process of updating the inside of our Association Building. If you are interested in learning more about it, or would like to volunteer time or contribute to this



exciting new facelift please contact Susan Hayes at 515-331-0232 or susan and girls@yahoo.com

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS DISPLAY CONTEST RESULTS



First Place: Mike and Lanna Princer on Valley Rd (lakeside). Their use of the Christmas theme with multiple Christmas trees and other decorations on 3 sides of their home made them a worthy first place winner! They received a \$50 gift certificate to Sauce'd.

Second Place: Bev Stafford @142 Horseshoe. This display covered 3 sides of her home plus the dock. She received a donated \$30 certificate from Monte Spirits.

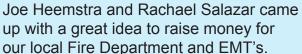


Honorable Mentions: Lance Horbach on Hillcrest decorated his dock. Beautiful! Hirsch's on Horseshoe have some great red and green lights. Mike Durr created awesome snowflakes that reflect on our lake. So many nice displays.





Many of us have felt we have participated in a Polar Plunge this year with our days of below zero temperatures. But several of our lake family actually did take the plunge this December 2023!







After a shift Rachael had worked one night, she wanted to do something that would not only show our appreciation for the support from Pirate customers, but something that also would benefit the community. Rachael said "there's something really fun about knowing that when you work a shift, you are likely to see some of the same faces without fail. These are the people who make work fun."

They reached out to several of their regular customers (with as Rachael says, personalities larger than life) at Pirates, and asked if they would help with a fundraiser, and participate in the 1st Annual Lake Ponderosa Pirates Polar Plunge.

All agreed to participate, and our lake family really came

together for this fun, COLD event! Several members of our Fire Department were on hand for the event, as three of the participants took the jump into the frigid water of Ponderosa! Over \$2250 was raised for our local department!

Thank you Joe and Rachael for your idea! Thank you Doug, Jessie, Sara and Jim for being such great sports! And thank you to our Montezuma fire and rescue and EMT's who keep us all safe throughout the year. (Joe and Rachael intend on having the 2nd annual plunge this year- date TBD.)



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Pella Redemption Center

We have a great group of individuals who regularly volunteer their time to sort, bag and organize our donations to head to Sheri's business. This is a weekly activity at least in our warm summer months. However, we still have cans and bottles coming in during our blustery cold months! This year we are so blessed that Sheri volunteered to have her staff come pick up our cans so we do not have to stand out in the freezing cold sorting them (we are still unboxing and sorting glass occasionally). This is such a huge gift to us!

Over the past few years, many redemption centers have closed, but even as things get tighter and expenses get higher- Sheri noted that they are still growing. She has lobbied to retain the can redemption in our state and has been featured on Channel 13 news. She realizes so many groups count on the money they receive from redeeming.

Sheri is currently looking for new businesses and fundraisers to work with. They offer

pickup services anywhere in a 60- Mile radius of Pella. She notes It's usually cheaper for them to pick up than for you to drive to the center. Call 641-628-2026 and ask for Sheri for more information or you can call Sheri directly 641-774-6866

And again A HUGE THANK YOU to Sheri and crew for helping us during these blustery months!



A Friendly reminder.....

DO NOT share your boat ramp access code with anyone. The purpose of our gates, and personal codes is to keep our lake private. Sharing your code with others increases the risks of non-lake members putting their boat on the lake. The LPA board is currently working on a camera system for our boat ramp, which will help increase the security of the lake and watch for non-stickered vessels entering the water as well as being able to review videos of potential damage to the gates, docks etc.



Doing Your Spring Pantry Clean Out?

Been gone all winter, and wonder if the food you left behind that you are coming back to is safe?

Food Labels: Sell by, Best Before, Use by. Exactly what does it mean? There are no uniform descriptions used on food labels for dating in the United States. As a result, there are a wide variety of phrases used on labels to describe quality dates:

- **Best by** when a product will be of the best flavor or quality. Most products will last beyond the best buy date if stored properly.
- **Best if used by** the last date recommended for the use of the product while at peak quality. It is not a safety date, unless if used on infant formula.
- **Sell by** tells the store how long to display the product for sale.

Except for infant formula, if the date passes during home storage, a product should still be safe and wholesome if handled properly until the time spoilage is evident. The USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service has a lot more information on this topic on their website: www.fsis.usda.gov/foodsafety/safe-food-handling-andpreparation/food-safety-basics/foodproduct-dating



Boat Ramp Security Cameras

The LPA has made significant investments over the years in the boat launch area, including entrance/exit gates, docks and signage. With the recent investment of over \$17,000 in the entrance gate alone and the history

of damages not being reported, the decision was made to install security cameras.

The board worked with Eddie Pierson Business Account Specialist with MCG, Jake DeGard Service Manager with American Business Phones and Ponderosa Utilities to have security cameras installed. The cameras oversee the entire boat launch area including the can cages. When damage occurs we will now have the ability to recall camera footage including license plate information to hold individuals accountable. We all understand accidents happen, if you accidentally damage lake community property please come forward and take responsibility.





The Year of the Dragon / Private Dredging

This year on Saturday, the 10th of February marked the start of the Chinese New Year, heralding new beginnings and promises of hope for the coming months ahead. It is the year of the Dragon!

Happiness and prosperity are sought by all, but not guaranteed. But for those who believe....really believe, well, then as the saying goes, 'May you live in interesting times!' Seize the day, risk it all, and do not be afraid to fall!

If you would ask me what defines a dredge and what dredging is, in terms of our Lake Ponderosa, I'd offer this synopsis. The dredge is an Ellicott 300SL Swinging Dragon Cutter Suction Dredge.

It is a free-floating cutter suction dredge with a hull-mounted, centrifugal pump powered by a 375 HP John Deere marine engine. The cutter head is hydraulically powered and dislodges the material so it can enter the suction tube to be discharged out the back of the dredge into an 8" HDPE pipe to the sediment retention pond so as to settle out by gravity and water flow.

Clear water flows out from the retention pond at the opposite end from the discharge pipe through the weir structure back into the lake. The ladder (forward facing arm that houses the suction tube and cutter head assembly) of the dredge swings back and forth to the desired cutting depth while the dredge is held fast by (3) vertical spuds(poles) that anchor the dredge during operations.

The cutter head is a basket configuration which rotates (CCW) relative to the operator's point of view. The cutter head has a metal grate that screens out larger particles and the dredge pipe will be floated behind the dredge, attached via flexible discharge hose for up to 100' with marker buoys, and then submerged the rest of the way to the retention pond going under roadways through culverts.

The mud gets dug out of the Lake, pumped through the pipeline, settled out in the retention pond, dried, and hauled away. Wish it was that simple! Thank you for all of the support.

Mark my words, and heed my warnings....for here, very soon at our beautiful Lake Ponderosa, there be a Dragon!

John Ahrens Advanced Dredging Services, LLC 641.990.2014 eunoeo007@gmail.com

LPA Pancake Breakfast & Bake Sale

Saturday, May 25th 7AM - 10AM

Lake Association Building, 175 W. Woodland Rd. Dine in or carry out

Please consider making baked goods and donating them to the LPA Bake Sale! We would love to have some pies, cupcakes, cookies, bars, bread, etc. Individually wrap the baked goods (if applicable), label with a price and drop them off at the Association Building on Friday, May 24th 5-6PM or 7AM on Saturday.

To volunteer, contact Sunni Kegebein at (319) 427-1592 or by email: kegebeins55@gmail.com





Treasurers Corner

Another year has come and gone. See the following for significant LPA financial highlights for the ended December 31, 2023. Overall, LPA revenues were \$86,175 (\$75,757 in 2022) and expenditures were \$68,366 (\$70,290 in 2022). Overall fund balance was up \$17,809.

Fund by fund comparisons follow:

BUDGET Unrestricted Fund - Available Balance \$44,042. The prior year's balance was \$37,841. In 2023, in addition to expected spending, the unrestricted fund absorbed \$10,132 of expense for boat ramp upgrades and security.

Restricted Boat Ramp Fund – Available Balance \$55. The prior year's balance was negative \$8,923. In 2023, The board approved to move funds in the amount of \$4,573 from the general fund to cover the shortage in this fund.

Restricted Contingency Fund – Available Balance \$42,137. The prior year's balance was \$41,407. There was no significant expense in 2023.

Restricted Fireworks Fund – Available Balance \$57,202. The prior year's balance was \$55,013. Fireworks spending was \$23,293 for the 2023 display.

Restricted Fish Management Fund – Available Balance \$5,594. The prior year's balance was \$2,851. Fish stocking expense in 2023 was \$3,095.

Restricted Fishing Derby Fund – Available Balance \$1,893. The prior year's balance was \$5,834. 2023 spending was higher this year celebrating the 25th anniversary of the event in the amount of \$5,380.

Restricted Lake Beautification Fund – Available Balance \$1,801. The prior year's balance was \$892. 2023 spending was \$711.

Overall Fund Balance - \$152,724. The prior year's balance was \$134,915.

We continue to encourage property owners to make voluntary donations beyond the annual membership fee to the unrestricted fund, or target donations to the fund of your choice to keep the LPA viable. Thanks to everyone for their donations of both money and time to make our Association successful.



The Lake Association Board may have open board member positions becoming available in June.

If you:

- Love living here at the lake (full or part time)
- Enjoy supporting this community and special events
- Have time to attend most of the 9 monthly board meetings. (Second Thursday Jan, Mar, Apr, May, Jun, Jul, Aug, Sep, Oct. at 7PM)
- · Willing to help with other LPA tasks as needed
- No experience or special skills required

Please consider joining the LPA Board! If you would like more information please contact the board President, Dedee Lehman, (319) 693-9301 or dedeeannlehman@gmail.com.



26TH ANNUAL KID'S FISHIN' DERBY Saturday, June 15th, 2024

Association Boat Ramp

Derby Fishing Time: 9:00am - 11:00am

Weigh-In: 11:00am - Noon

Lunch will start at 11:00am AWARDS AND PRIZES AFTER WEIGH-IN!

The derby is open to kids up to 14 years old. At least one adult who is 21 years old and a lake property owner or guest must accompany kids. Individual anglers can fish from shore or in a boat and there can be more than one angler per boat. Anglers will be fishing for TWO Categories, Crappie/Bluegill and Catfish. Trophies will be awarded for 1st and 2nd place for the heaviest total weight of 5 fish of each of the two categories and for Small Fry (smallest fish of all species). Only Bluegill, Crappie, and Catfish can be caught. NO BASS OR WALLEYES!

We will also give away many great prizes, so everyone can be a winner!

Please do all you can to keep fish alive if you are not going to keep them. If you use a stringer, never hook through the gills, only the mouth.

To volunteer, contact Sunni Kegebein at (319) 427-1592 or by email: kegebeins55@gmail.com

There will be no same day registration. All entries must be received no later than June 5th, 2024. Please complete and submit the following form. There is no cost to participate in the Fishin' Derby however please consider making a freewill donation to be put towards stocking fish in the lake. Anglers must be present to collect his or her t-shirt and gift bag.

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

This form is needed so we know how many prizes to buy. To pre-register by email, please email this form to: **kegebeins55@gmail.com**, **or phone Sunni at (319) 427-1592** or drop off at the lake office. Freewill donations can be mailed to: LPA, P.O. Box 751, Montezuma, IA 50171 or brought to the boat ramp the day of the Derby.

Sponsor's Name		Address		
Phone		-		
Names and Ages of Kids				
Name (First and Last)	Age	Name (First and Last)	Age	



P.O. Box 751 Montezuma, Iowa 50171 PRSRT STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID GRINNELL, IOWA 50112 PERMIT NO. 276

"NEW FORMAT - READ ME!"

Jet Ski Class

If you have a young adult wanting to get certified in our onsite Jet Ski Course to be held on Saturday afternoon, June 8,2024, please contact Susan Hayes at 515-331-0232 or Kevin Smith at 515-210-4081. The class will be limited to 15 participants, and it is highly encouraged that a parent or grandparent attend the course with them.



Some pre- requisites need to be completed online first. Please consider this! We want to keep our kids and everyone safe while having fun on the lake! Here are the links to the online course for lowa. Both links go to the same page so you only have to choose one. I wanted to provide both for your choice on the URL you wanted to use.

<u>Boat US Foundation-Free Iowa Online Course</u> (www.boatus.org/iowa/) https://www.boatus.org/iowa/

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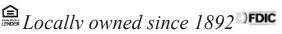
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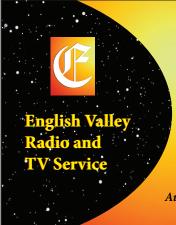
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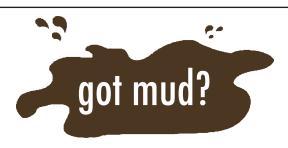
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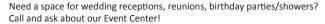
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Recently Joined McNaul Real Estate. Native to Lake Ponderosa.

Jessie Talbert, REALTOR® jessietalbert13@gmail.com 641-990-6109





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Connie Durr - Broker durrconnie@gmail.com 641-891-3973 or 623-2700



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YOUR AD HERE!

We hope you find the new enclosed Business Directory helpful. If you are a business who would like to advertise in this newsletter, please contact a board member. Board member contact information is provided on page 2 of the newsletter.





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275 Center Point Dr



148 Valley Rd



227 W Woodland Rd

Lake Ponderosa Properties For Sale!



107 Sunrise Ln Lake Ponderosa

\$235,000 - Over 1,700 fin sqft is sure to impress! This 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom home comes fully furnished. Need storage? Huge storage space in basement that has room for both boats and UTV's. Your 10 feet access has a new dock and is ready to enjoy! Call Today!



107 Crabtree Rd Lake Ponderosa

\$729,000 - This lake front 2 bedroom, 1 ½ bathroom, over 1744 square feet home features 85 feet lake front with a beach and can easily be turned into a 3 or 4 bedroom home. The loft area, additional lake toy storage, and so many windows with unobstructed lake views make this home a showstopper. Let's take a look!



342 Center Point Dr Lake Ponderosa

\$375,000 - This Lake front 3-bedroom, 1 bathroom home with a 2 stall garage is affordable and partially remodeled. Your almost 60 feet lake front offers room for your lake toys and a great area to swim. There's so much more to share, so Call Today!



161 Horseshoe Dr Lake Ponderosa

\$310,000 - This 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom lake home with a spacious garage/shop sits directly over an access. The large composite deck allows you to see your 10 feet access and lakeview. Must see!

Hello Lake Ponderosa Community,

Thank you for a good 2023 and all the Open house visits. I definitely love what I do and Lake Ponderosa. Last year the market had a lot of unknowns and definitely slowed down its momentum from the previous years. Good

news, since December, of 2023 we've been experiencing more interest from buyers, more sales in what appears to be a more settled market.

Please watch for my New Listings, Open Houses, Anchor full page ads and Welcomes on the Lake Ponderosa Association Community Facebook Page.





Chris Behun

641-521-7091
chrisbehun.iowarealty.com

Lake Ponderosa Home Office and Brokerage Office 736 N 3rd Ave E, Newton



Karen McNaul Broker/Owner Cell: 641-891-8902 Email: kmcnaul@zumatel.net



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RECENTLY JOINED McNAUL REAL ESTATE, NATIVE TO LAKE PONDEROSA.



Jessie Talbert Realtor Cell: 641-990-6109 Email: jessietalbert13@gmail.com



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for your trust in me!



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LAKEWIDE SPRING CLEAN-UP WEEK APRIL 6 - 13, 2024

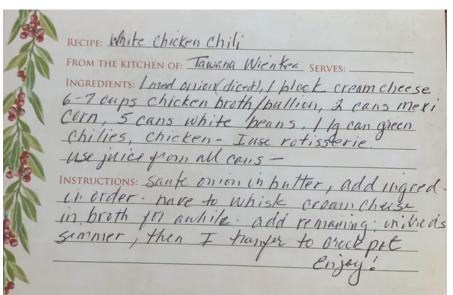


We Take Pride in our Lake!

2024 Lake wide clean-up will be for the week of April 6th-13th. There will be garbage bags and a dumpster at the lake office.

This year lake clean-up will be one full week so more volunteers can participate. Thank you to everyone who participates and takes pride in beautifying our lake. We appreciate you!





Twana's White Chicken Chili (gluten free option)

Everyone has that "secret family recipe" don't they? Well it's always exciting when one is revealed.

This past October, the second trivia night was held at our Montezuma Country Club. The chili meal was provided by many volunteers. It was not a cook off, but there was mention of one chili that was clearly many peoples favorite! I was able to get the cook to reveal her recipe! Thank you Twana Wienkes for sharing

this! Here you go everyone" Twana's White Chicken Chili (gluten free option).

On a side note, the Montezuma Country Club will be holding their next Trivia Night the first weekend in May. The Public is welcome, and we look forward to a fun night of activities, so get your team of 6 together and "may the 4th be with you" during the competition.

Lake Ponderosa Association 2024 Annual Membership



Please support the Lake Ponderosa Association!

Enclosed please find the 2024 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 "fish management" and "general donations" which would be used on projects such as technology needed to accept payments via the LPA website. We are working to accept online payment in 2025.

In 2023 your \$35.00 membership dues helped to accomplish all of these important activities necessary to keep our lake safe and enjoyable.....

- ✓ Boat ramp entrance gate purchased new entrance gate system
- ✓ Boat ramp area purchased and installed camera system
- ✓ Boat ramp docks repaired both docks
- ✓ Contingency Fund funds held in reserve to respond to urgent situations
- ✓ Association Building replaced water heater, maintenance, upkeep
- ✓ Communication Anchor newsletters, LPA website support
- ✓ Fireworks work with the vendor to create the fireworks show
- ✓ Water Quality Testing trained individual takes samples and tests for clarity, nitrates
- ✓ Ecoli Testing individual takes samples and sends to the University of Iowa hygienic lab for testing
- ✓ No Wake Buoys repaired and replaced buoys
- ✓ Events: Kids Fishing Derby, pancake breakfast, jet ski class, etc.
- ✓ Fish Management manage fish population and annual re-stocking
- ✓ Financials manage budget/expenses, insurance, contingency fund, etc.
- ✓ Lake Beautification plant exchange, entrance signs, roadside improvements, etc.

Please consider supporting these and other valuable activities by completing the enclosed 2024 Lake Ponderosa Membership Form and returning it along with your membership dues and donations. Please note, the LPA is separate from Ponderosa Utilities. Fees paid to Ponderosa Utilities do not include the paid LPA membership.

Thank you for your continued support of the Lake Ponderosa Association!

Check out the Lake Ponderosa Association website: www.lakeponderosa.org

2024 LAKE PONDEROSA MEMBERSHIP

AME:		
AILING ADDRESS		
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mail Address		
heck here if you would like to r	eceive the Anchor via e-mai	il 🔘
ANNUAL LPA MEMBERSHIP		\$35.00
ENERAL DONATION (to be use	ed where most needed)	
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TOTAL AM	OUNT ENCLOSED	
lease send your check and this	s completed form to:	
Lake Ponderosa Associ P.O. Box 751 Montezuma. IA 50171	ation	
OMMENTS		

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