

POW WOW

Papakeechee Protective Association Newsletter Fall 2012

www.lakepapakeechee.org

The purpose the POW WOW newsletter is to provide general and specific information to all members of the Lake Papakeechee Protective Association.

Throughout the year the Board of Directors hold monthly, special, and the annual meetings. Members are welcome to attend these meetings, but sometimes that is not possible. The POW WOW is published to provide important information to the membership.

You will find upcoming meeting date and times listed on the PPA website www.lakepapakeechee.org You will also find progress reports for the dam project and other interesting information.

Annual Meeting

The meeting was held at the Papakeechee Center on August 11. Board of Directors for 2012-2013 are listed below. A report on the progress of the dam project was presented and is detailed here. The financials of the PPA were reviewed. Boat Docks were discussed for the West Levee.

2012-2013 Board of Directors

President – Steve Herendeen	574-349-5741
Vice President – John Hart	219-561-1182
Treasurer – Charlotte Hill	574-529-0767
Secretary – Pat Ebetino	260-312-3637
District 1 Rep. – Ron Corson	574-457-6796
District 2 Rep. – Bernie Ebetino	260-639-0046
District 3 Rep. – Larry Clough	260-437-6433
District 4 Rep. – Dave Hewitt	574-551-3902
District 5 Rep. – Steve Longstreet	317-501-6065
District 5a Rep. – Steve Yoder	574-518-1164
District 6 Rep. – Jim Whitehead	574-457-4081

District 7 Rep. – Steve Schwartz 260-856-2971
District 8-9 Rep. – Terry Radtke 574-529-4433

President's Message

The drought weather has helped the construction progress for the dam and levee project. It is anticipated the project will be completed by October 2012 and we can begin bringing up the lake level. The lake level has been lowered since 2007 while the PPA secured the necessary government permits to complete construction.

The financing secured by the PPA has allowed us to proceed unhindered this summer. The dam assessments were estimated based on paying off our financial obligation by October 30, 2018.

In order to assess and monitor the lake's condition now and in the future, we hope to be partnering with Notre Dame to study and evaluate environmental issues and concerns.

Your board of Directors has instituted an updated Billing Procedure for annual dues and dam fees. You will find the procedure in this newsletter.

Have a great year and your Board of Directors thanks you all for your support and cooperation this and prior years.

Financial Review

With the PPA accounting being administered by Link Accounting a formal review was not available at the printing of this newsletter. But, as had been the PPA's process in the past prior to our annual meeting, Jim Whitehead and Steve Schwartz, of the board, reviewed the checkbook and signed the check register.

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Revised Billing and Collection Process

For the 2011-2012 fiscal year, we had two new officers elected: the president and treasurer. During this transition we learned that written procedures basically, were non-existent. As long as past leadership was in place, that was not a problem because they knew their processes thoroughly. But, with leadership transitions, efficiency suffered as we had to re-create and revise past unwritten procedures.

A major stumbling block was the billing process especially related to collections.

Though over 95% of dues and assessments are paid on time, we spend too much time dealing with the 3-5% that are delinquent. After wrestling with this matter for 3 – 4 months, our legal counsel advised the following:

1. We bill our PPA members in January to be payable by April 1st of each year.
2. In March, the treasurer sends a reminder billing to those that are unpaid.
3. On April 2nd, the list of delinquent members is sent to the attorney. A delinquent is anyone not paid in full by April 1st. The attorney then sends a letter informing them that if they do not pay by April 16th, the attorney will file a suit in small claims court.
4. On April 17th, the attorney files a suit in small claims court to collect a money judgment. The total money judgment claim will be for the unpaid amount plus interest and our attorney fees.
5. After the court rules in the PPA's favor, if payment is not made or a procedural supplement plan (i.e. a payment plan through the court) is not followed, our attorney would garnish wages.

We as a board are truly thankful for all of you who pay promptly. It has been a challenge for all

of us to complete a \$1,000,000 dam construction project totally funded by a private lake association. We have met the challenge and we look forward to having our lake back up to its normal level in the near future.

Weed Report

First, I would like to thank everyone for their input and patience each year throughout the weed season. I've been asked, 'Throughout the season, what is my normal sequence of events.'

Sometime close to April, 1, prior to putting any chemicals in the water, I make sure that both the chemical boat and the weed harvester are lake ready, e.g. change oil, check bearings, align cutters, check for oil leaks etc. then make any required repairs.

Next is purchasing the chemicals. Avast is the name of the chemical we use to kill off the curly leaf pond-weed (Pot. crispus). Curly leaf is the weed that has multiple jagged leafs on the stems about 4 to 6 inches long and if left untreated, it floats on the water surface. Avast is a systemic herbicide that inhibits the weeds ability to produce carotene. Without carotene, chlorophyll is rapidly degraded by sunlight and the weed dies. Avast weed killer does not harm the fish, pets or wildlife. We add 1 gallon of Avast to 25 gallons of water to the on board tank. Good news was the chemical dropped \$300 in price to \$1500.00 per gallon. Due to the low water level, we used only 5 gallons this year.

When the time is right, at every entrance to our lake, we post a bright yellow sign on utility poles with a the date the chemical is added to the water. We posted about 15 signs this season, also, this year we added 4 bright yellow and orange marker buoys to float in the lake for weed kill to remind people not to use lake water for any irrigation purposes. After 30 days of the Avast applications we remove signs and the marker buoy's, letting everyone know they can now irrigate.

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Normally we apply the chemical sometime around May 1st. However, this year, not having much of a winter and very little ice to slow down the weed growth, we were able to put the chemical in the lake approximately 2 weeks early. When applying the treatment, we follow the shoreline and deliver the chemical equally around the lake. Once the Avast is absorbed into the curly leave weed stems, and into the root system it begins to die. This happens in about seven days. The weed falls to the bottom of the lake and decomposes. As this occurs, gasses form at the bottom of the lake, causing the weed to float to the surface. This process makes it look like the weeds haven't been treated. Then is when a lot of people think, 'When they are going to treat the weeds'?

Now comes the fun part, time to put the weed harvesting machine to work. As we remove the decomposing weeds from the surface and the bottom of the lake we begin to cut some of the newer growth along with large leaf weed that is starting its growth cycle. The large leaf pondweed (*Pot. amplifolius*) is the plant that has 6 to 8 inch long leafs about 1-1/2 inches wide with a 2 to 3 inch stem and sticks above the water surface. It seems to me that in the last 4-5 years we haven't seen as much of this weed as in the past. We try to make it around the entire lake mowing one to two hundred feet from the shoreline to allow everyone a chance to get their boats in the water for happy times. We go back and remove the rest of the weed beds throughout the lake.

Some people ask why we don't start at one end and work across the entire lake. So that everyone can enjoy the lake, we try to balance the mowing at multiple locations until all weeds are removed. Completely empty with the cutters out of the water the harvester moves about 1-1/2 miles per hour, as you lower the cutters the speed is greatly reduced. There are times, due to the wind; we find it very hard to control the harvester. The harvester goes into sail boat mode. Why do we jump from section to section

through the day? The paddles stir up the lake to a point that you can't see the weeds until the bottom settles a bit. The harvester, with no weeds on board can only float in about 18 to 24 inches of water before bottoming out. It can cut as far down as 5 feet in deeper water.

If you have any weed or water concerns, I would appreciate it very much if you would please contact your district representative. He/she will contact me. This makes your director aware of your concerns. I don't text and mow, ha ha!

We checked into outsourcing the water testing and estimates came back at a cost of around \$1500.00. Our county health department is doing our testing free. We're waiting on the results.

As most of us know, know our 30+ year old weed harvester is a unique piece of machinery. Anything we can do to keep from damaging it saves us all money. At the date of this entry 9/5/2012 our water level was 27 inches below the top of our dam/drop box. Around the lake, there are several trees that have fallen into the lake. Some areas have sunken boats and old pier support pipes. For the overall enhancement and maintenance of the lake, it would be greatly appreciated by all, especially the weed harvester operators if these could be removed. As the water levels rises, these items will be harder to see, or remove, therefore harder for the operators to avoid. Also, as the lake level rises, please, so that they can be seen, make sure any pier pipes are high enough above of the water.

Thanks again for all your help, patience, and understanding. I too am looking forward to seeing the lake back up to full level...

Terry Radtke "the harvester guy"

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Dam Project Update

September 5, 2012

At the present time, the West embankment is completed except for possible topsoil, final grading and seeding. A list of final items is being developed to finish it off including adjustments to the rip-rap lining the shore. We will monitor the work to make sure it is completed per requirements. We expect to be done by the end of September.

When the coffer dam sheeting was pulled from around the new outlet structure on the East embankment, the vibration of the operation allowed the center 3 sections of the outlet pipe to set an inch or two. This allowed water to leak through the dam embankment. The engineers and the contractor traced down the problem and repaired it with high pressure grout. Inspections are being done to monitor the alignment of the pipe to make sure it does not settle again.

The East embankment has been prepared for placement of the articulated mat overtopping protection, which has been stacked near the front of the site. These armorflex flexible concrete block mats are now being placed. The embankment will be topped with a concrete walkway. To finish up, final grading and seeding will be done. We expect to finish by the end of September 2012.

Boat Docks

The P.P.A. board has established a committee to research the possibility of constructing and placement of community boat docks on both the East and West dam's (levee's), to provide better lake access for members with non-lakefront lots. This committee is chaired by John Hart.

In order to construct any dock's on the dam sections we must meet very specific guidelines set forth by the D.N.R. They must be designed

by an engineer, and approved by the P.P.A. board. The main topics ahead will be.

1. Dock design to fully comply with D.N.R. and P.P.A. demands.
2. Cost of construction and maintenance.
3. Placement of the dock's.
4. Liability for accidents and injuries.

We are in the very early stages of discussion. Design, fact finding, and all decisions for this project will require P.P.A. board approval. This will take months to development.

Fall Clean Up

Arlen and Ron Corson provided this article

The circumstances this year, here on Lake Papakeechee, have allowed us to see lake bottom as never before. We have taken advantage of the situation to clean our beach and rid the obnoxious weeds, plants without personality as I like to say.

We separate the vegetation as follows: sticks in one pile, leaves in another and seaweed left to dry. Please consider picking up all the sea weed vegetation such as lily pads, spatter dock, loosestrife, eel grass, curly pond weed, chara and coontail to name a few, that can escape the harvester. They will surely will root and grow again especially if they are perennial. <http://www.in.gov/dnr/4620.htm> is a site to evaluate risk assessment for invasive aquatic plants. Loosestrife is the most virile. All parts of the plant should be left to dry and then burned, especially the seeds. We have several species of loosestrife on our lake. Gooseneck with white curving downward flower and swamp with a blue flower are prevalent.

I only use Killzall (labeled safe for aquatic control), for weed control, which I purchase at Claytons. The other alternative is to pull the weed roots by hand or with a strong garden rake.

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Chemical treatment is used sparingly and only on land. It is 55% glysophate (kills all vegetation) and I use dawn detergent as a surfactant. Mixing the treatment is not easy because of the foam from the surfactant. Killzall is marked safe for aquatic use. From previous written information about calibrating a solution for use on noxious plants here is some information that may be useful to you. If you can find glysophate without any inert substances you should use it 2ppm in water and 3ppm on land. This is my formula. I use a household hand 1 quart bottle sprayer that you can buy almost anywhere.

Any vegetation with green growing leaves and is rooted to the earth can be subject to a systemic herbicide. When applying the chemical be sure to wear protective clothing and eye protection. This formula is for Killzall: Add to the quart household spray bottle, 1/4th teaspoon Dawn detergent as a surfactant, 3/4 teaspoon herbicide Killzall, and fill the remaining bottle with water. Allow space at the top for the pump and tube. It will produce a slow kill. It may be just under a week before you notice any changes. Throughout the growing season, the application may need to be applied monthly.

Other herbicides that are labeled concentrates can be applied with the above formula. When in doubt follow the directions on the label. Ortho makes WEEDBGON, for broad leaf weeds and WEEDBGON for woody shrubs that work on Autumn Olive and Winged Burning Bush also KLEENUP® which contains 5% glysophate and 95% inerts. The inert contents are what are suspect in genetic mutations.

Please consider recycling all you collect from your yard or beach clean-up projects. We shred our leaves and recycle them into usable mulch. I mix shredded leaves in a 30 gallon garbage can using approximately 25 gallon of leaves, 1 gallon of manure (cured horse manure is best, duck manure from Maple Leaf has no weed seeds) and 2 cups of bone meal. It can be put back into a black 30 gallon bag and left to cure, turn the bag occasionally.. By next season it is a seasoned mulch and ready for use.

I mulch with seaweed at the water's edge. We like to grow tomatoes and they do well with seaweed mulch, if we can keep the squirrels from eating them. This formula came from Shadow Garden at Wilmot. Bugs Rider at North Webster uses duck manure from Maple Leaf mixed with his mulched leaves. Bug's mulching system is open air on the ground.

Board Member Resigns

Jon Korejwa resigned as Vice-President (VP) of the PPA in July. Jon and his wife Ronalee are spending more time in Texas. The Board felt the VP job would be better served by a permanent PPA member. Jon was VP for 10 years.

PPA Board Meeting

A meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 13th at 8 a.m. in the Papakeechee Center building.