

# POW WOW

## Papakeechee Protective Association Newsletter-Fall 2014

www.lakepapakeechee.org

*The POW WOW is published to provide important and general information to the membership.*

### Message from the President

The August 16 Annual meeting for the Papakeechee Protective Association (PPA) was well attended. The 2015 budget was presented and approved by the membership. Due to maintaining our \$1,000,000 dam to the state's standards, the attendees were shown that the new normal for expenses for the lake and dam are now higher. By properly maintaining the dam we can avoid monetary penalties and additional costs due to lack of upkeep. A common phrase states "pay me now or pay me later"; this applies to dam maintenance as well as to many other areas of our lives.

The membership then passed new wording for three articles in the bylaws and two in the articles of incorporation. The most significant change is that the 2015 lakefront dues increased to \$140 per lot and the non-lakefront dues to \$60. It was noted that during the past year no dues increase was necessary because of the prudent planning by the board. To avoid a dues increase in 2014, we used our cash reserve. With zero cash reserves available, the dues were increased to cover the expenses in the 2015 budget passed by the board. Other changes to the bylaws are listed within this newsletter.

The board reported that a file storage procedure was established and that implementation has begun. This should put records in good order for future boards to more quickly reference PPA historical information needed to carry out the work of the board.

Personally, I enjoyed the 100 year celebration. The fundraising group did a fantastic job in executing this feat. Next year, we will all have to get the lyrics to the new Lake Papakeechee song and belt out our

best rendition of the band's composition **sure to be on the Top Ten charts.**

Lastly, I have noted that properties on the lake that have sold more recently are getting better prices than in the recent past. Some of that is due to the recovery from the Great Recession, but I also believe that now, that the dam is complete, the lake looks beautiful and the water is again up to its normal level.

Steve Herendeen, PPA President

### Association Approved Article & Bylaw Changes

#### **Articles of Incorporation**

##### **Page 4 Article V**

The Executive Officers of said Assoc shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary and a Treasurer to be elected to a two year term by majority vote of the members of the Assoc present at the Annual Meeting. Elections shall be held annually. The President and the Secretary would be up for election in even years and the Vice President and the Treasurer in odd years.

##### **Page 5 Article I Section 2 first paragraph**

For the purpose of raising funds for the protection of Lake Papakeechee property and for carrying out the purpose of this Association as provided in Article II of its Articles of Incorporation and for paying all necessary expenses, each Association member shall pay One Hundred Forty dollars (\$140) annual dues for each lake front lot and Sixty Dollars (\$60.00) for each non-front lot. If an increase in dues for the next calendar year is needed it will be voted on by the Members in attendance at the annual meeting.

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### Bylaws of PPA

#### Page 6 Article II Section 1, paragraph 1

The Executive Officers of said Assoc shall be a President, a Vice-President, A Secretary and a Treasurer to be elected by majority vote of the members present at the Annual Meeting each year to serve for two (2) years or until their successors are elected and their term of office shall begin at the close of the Annual Meeting at which they are elected. A member may hold more than one office at a time except the President shall not also be the Secretary. The President and the Secretary shall be up for election in even years and the Vice President and the Treasurer in odd years.

#### Page 7 Article II Section 5, paragraph 2 & 3

PPA Officers with check writing authority shall be bonded, during the term of office, equaling in amount the maximum of funds that may be in his hands and under his control at any one time during their term of office, said bonds are to be issued by a surety company. The expense of said bonds is to be charged against the Assoc treasury.

No expenditure in excess of **Five Hundred dollars (\$500)** shall be paid out of the treasury unless the same has been allowed by the Board of Directors.

#### Page 13 Article V Section 1 (M)

Annual fishing privilege will be granted to members when they pay their current dues.

*The State of Indiana requires that state fishing licenses must be purchased to fish on Lake Papakeechee; State exceptions apply.*

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### Weed Control/Lake Maintenance

Due to the fact that this summer we had very few weeds, our equipment got a bit of a breather. This past season, the long curly leaf plant which is normally cut in the summer months was very sparse. Although the cutter heads on the harvester are in need of replacing (that is on our agenda for next year), the situation is that with the minimal time the harvester was utilized, it is in good shape and is running great.

Dam maintenance is also going well. We had a bit of vandalism with some sign damage along the wetlands. That issue has been addressed and the signs replaced. Since June 1<sup>st</sup> when we installed the top stop log on the dam drop box, there has been no water from our lake flowing into the spillway. As a result, grass and weed growth has occurred in the spillway. We are addressing the issue, but are trying to not use chemicals.

We have had input from our membership that they have seen children throwing the rip rap stones at the wing wall diffusers and into the 42" concrete tube that runs underneath the lake and sidewalk to the spillway wing-walls. We've pulled numerous stones out of the tube. If the diffusers or tube sustain damage, they will not be cheap to repair.

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Parents and others, please take notice. If you observe, or hear of this happening, please advise the children not to be doing so, and that they are not to play in the area, it is not a playground.

Last winter and spring we had continuous water flow until June 1<sup>st</sup> when we installed the top log. This was done in order to prepare for treatment of the lake for the curly leaf weed kill. This year, to allow for winter storms and snows, we will be pulling the top 12" stop log somewhere around the November 1st timeline.

### **Financial Overview**

In Sept. of 2013, our line of credit was converted to a regular loan of \$400,000.00. After the Sept. payment of \$7,610.00, our new balance is \$334,384.21. We are scheduled to make the final payment in Oct. 2018.

All prepaid dam assessments were calculated to pay through 12/31/17. Since our last payment is October 2018, we will have 10 more payments after the date prepayments are paid to. To all homeowners who prepaid their dam assessment, it looks like there will be a smaller assessment that will be required by everyone to pay in 2018. We will know more as the date gets closer.

If you were at the annual meeting, you already know that the property owners voted to increase the dues (see President's Message). This increased revenue will help cover the cost of dam inspections, reports, repairs and maintenance, that are required to maintain our new dam. These added costs should run around \$12,000.00 per year and are expenses we have not had in the past.

### **Lake Papakeechee Sustainability Initiative (LaPSI)**

To date, LaPSI has conducted the following five (5) tests on the water in Lake Papakeechee and its surrounding watershed: (1) Secchi – evaluate water turbidity or clarity; (2) Dissolved oxygen – key

parameter diagnostic of overall lake health; (3) Coliform – analysis of the microbiological population in lake water, affected by septic system release; (4) Phosphate – a nutrient that can cause excessive algal growth, partly comes from lawn fertilizers; (5) Nitrate – a nutrient that can cause excessive algal growth, comes from agricultural sources. Based on limited data collected to date (~two years), the TSI (Trophic State Index) for Lake Papakeechee is ~50, indicating a mid-mesotrophic state. The trophic state of a lake refers to the biological production, both plant and animal life, that occurs in a lake. The three main trophic classifications are as follows: (1) Oligotrophic – larger deeper lakes with clear water, rocky or sandy shorelines, low phosphorus enrichment, limited rooted plant growth low algal growth and adequate dissolved oxygen throughout; (2) Mesotrophic – an intermediate category with characteristics between the other two groups. (3) Eutrophic – smaller, shallower ponds with mucky bottoms, extensive rooted plant growth and depleted dissolved oxygen in the bottom waters; often tea-colored and sometimes murky from planktonic algal growth.

This past summer, LaPSI was assisted by two undergraduate students from the University of Notre Dame who were partly funded through a Da Vinci Grant from the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts at Notre Dame. In June and July, students, Matthew Williams and Brian Roddy, calibrated new instrumentation and collected and analyzed water samples on Lake Papakeechee and on some of the small lakes and water bodies in the Tri-County Fish & Wildlife Preserve. New data show generally lower Secchi (water clarity) readings this year compared to last for reasons that are unclear at present. New and preliminary data collected from water bodies in the Tri-County Fish and Wildlife Preserve suggest higher-than-acceptable levels of nitrate in these waters, but not in Lake Papakeechee. Dissolved (soluble) phosphorus levels in Lake Papakeechee and in water bodies in the Tri-County Fish and Wildlife Preserve appear low (total phosphorus has not yet measured). These results remain to be confirmed and validated. *E. coli* levels on Lake Papakeechee appear to be very low; it is detected in some locations, but at

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levels that are below the thresholds considered unsafe for human contact.

To read an uncondensed version of this article, visit [www.lakepapakeechee.org](http://www.lakepapakeechee.org).

LaPSI welcomes citizen scientists from the lake community to help with its long-term mission. LaPSI will provide any necessary training. If you are interested in working with LaPSI, please contact Diane Tulloh at [dtulloh@gmail.com](mailto:dtulloh@gmail.com) or phone Anthony Serianni at 574-631-7807.

### Mark Your Calendars!

LaPSI has two speakers on tap for all Papakeechee residents to learn more about how to keep our beautiful lake clean.

**Saturday, Nov. 1 – Nate Bosch**, Director of the Center of Lakes and Streams at Grace College, will share how the center works with local organizations in efforts to make the lakes and streams of Kosciusko County cleaner.

**Saturday, Feb. 28 – Martha Ferguson** of Riverview Nursery at Leo/Cedarville will discuss the use of native plantings to cleanse run-off before it enters our lake.

### **Both events will be held:**

**Where:** The Kiwanis Room of the Syracuse Community Center

**When:** 10:00am – 12:00pm



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### 100 Year Celebration a Success!

There was a big turnout this past August 16th for the Papakeechee Lake 100 Year Anniversary Social. Food, local entertainment, games and some real fun was enjoyed by the many who toughed-out the annual association meeting, only to return to fill the Papakeechee Building to near capacity.

Fundraising opportunities abounded for Papakeechee, including a 50/50 raffle, crafts, Papakeechee themed T-shirts, mugs, and even Papakeechee cookies. Through the various activities, the luncheon committee generated a total of over \$1,900. The hope is that the Board will use the funds toward an appropriate system that once they have been cut, remove weeds from the lake.

The popular Papakeechee T-shirts and mugs are still available to anyone interested. Simply reach out to [eventsonpapakeechee@gmail.com](mailto:eventsonpapakeechee@gmail.com) expressing your interest.

Over 40 people also attended the early evening presentation on Papakeechee area history hosted by

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Ron and Arleen Corson. Ron, our local historian, archivist, and all around lake trivia expert, fascinated attendees for over an hour on subjects from the ice age through the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Thanks to all attendees, the organizers, merchandise donors, as well as the many volunteers which included musical performers, presenters, food prep and setup/take down.


If you had a good time at this year's social and/or would like to organize an event for next year, let us know at: [papalakeevents@gmail.com](mailto:papalakeevents@gmail.com) , or contact John Hart, Vice President of PPA at: [jhartsyracuse@gmail.com](mailto:jhartsyracuse@gmail.com)

### Advertize Your Business In The POW WOW

We accept business ads on a first come, first served basis. This is a great opportunity to let your neighbors know of the many services available within the membership and the surrounding area. For pricing and information, contact Bernie Ebetino at: (260) 639-0046. Space is limited, so now would be a good time to secure a spot for your ad in our 2015 Spring edition. Please support the businesses who advertize, and let them know that you saw their ad in the POW WOW.

### Board Meetings

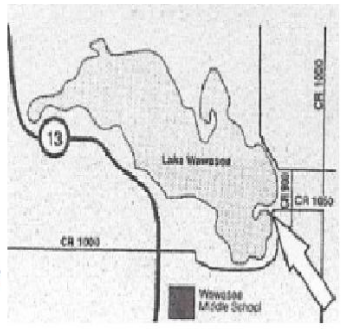
Throughout the year, the Board of Directors hold monthly and sometimes special meetings. Members are welcome to attend. You will find upcoming meeting dates and times, as well as other interesting information on the PPA website: [www.lakepapakeeche.org](http://www.lakepapakeeche.org)

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### Welcome to Lake Papakeeche

New association members, on behalf of the Board of Directors of the PPA, welcome to our lake. Be sure to visit the PPA website, ([www.lakepapakeeche.org](http://www.lakepapakeeche.org)) To obtain a copy of the PPA Covenants & Bylaws, please contact PPA Secretary, Pat Ebetino. Below is a list of the 2014-2015 Board of Directors.

President – Steve Herendeen	574-349-5741
Vice President – John Hart	219-561-1182
Treasurer – Sally Whitehead	574-457-4081
Secretary – Pat Ebetino	260-312-3637
District 1 – Ron Corson	574-457-6796
District 2 – Bernie Ebetino	260-639-0046
District 3 – Larry Clough	260-437-6433
District 4 – Dave Hewitt	574-551-3902
District 5 – John Hart	219-561-1182
District 5a – Steve Yoder	574-518-1164
District 6 – Jim Whitehead	574-457-4081
District 7 – Steve Schwartz	574-457-6778
District 8-9 – Terry Radtke	574-529-4433

**Papakeechee Protective Association**  
**P.O. Box 261**  
**Syracuse, IN 46567**