

POW WOW

Papakeechee Protective Association Newsletter-Spring 2015

www.lakepapakeechee.org

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

Message from the President

It won't be long until spring arrives with increased activity around the lake. In anticipation of warmer weather in addition to putting in piers and watercraft, we will be doing lawn work, landscaping and cleaning up the waterfront. I am glad to see so many of you take pride in the appearance our lake and your homes.

For 2015 the PPA board has plans to maintain the quality of our lake and its fishery at levels to which you have become accustomed. The board will continue to balance water quality, fish habitat and adequate oxygen levels in the lake with lake appearance and enjoyment.

Because this winter was less severe than the previous, I anticipate receiving more complaints concerning lake weeds. Compared to last year, more sunlight penetration should mean more weeds. Last summer, the weed beds I normally fish were hard to locate.

We will have both a wetlands inspection and a DNR inspection of our dam and its waters. The board spends many hours preparing for these upcoming events. Afterwards we deal with remedies needed to fix deficiencies if any. Many thanks go to Terry Radtke, Jim Whitehead and Larry Clough for their input and hard work.

I look forward to seeing you on the lake.
Steve Herendeen, PPA President

Mark Your Calendars!

Annual Association Dues and the current year Dam/Levee Assessment is due by April 1st.

Weed Control/Lake Maintenance

Again this year, we are planning to chemically treat the lake sometime in early May.

Please, before going out to clear weeds from the levee rip rap and to make sure that your effort will be advantageous, we ask that you coordinate with Terry Radtke. He can be reached at cell phone # 574-529-4433.

Last summer we had very few weeds, and our equipment got a bit of a breather. The cutter heads on the harvester are in need of replacing and are on our agenda of things to do this year. The situation is that with the minimal time the harvester was utilized last season, it is in good shape and is running great.

Dam maintenance is also going well. Grass and weed growth in the spillway is being monitored. We are addressing the issue, but are trying to not use chemicals.

Biennial Dam Inspection

It's hard to believe that two years have gone by since the reconstruction of our dam. But it's true and so, the state mandated compliance inspection is upon us. At the expense of the dam owner, each dam in the State of Indiana must undergo an inspection by a qualified licensed engineer, who must submit a report to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Within the next few weeks, our engineering firm, Earth Exploration, will review all of our documented self inspections and the corrective actions performed for any deficiencies that have been found. Each quarter, our Dam Operator, Terry Radtke, performs the inspections by strictly following a procedure that is documented in our Management and Maintenance Plan. Additionally, over the course of the summer, during the mowing sessions, Jim Whitehead who maintains the grass on the embankments, reports to Terry any issues that he sees. Terry then makes the needed repairs, or corrections. If the issue requires a sizeable expenditure, the Board of Directors becomes directly involved and determines the

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best way to correct the problem, and then allocates funding for the project.

Another item that the engineers will be interested in is the community pier that has been added to the west dam area. In order to construct for this pier, we had to obtain special permission and conform to a set of specifications mandated by the DNR. The pier will also be reviewed at the time of the biennial inspection. This will be our first biennial inspection. With the effort that has gone into the self inspections and the corrections that have been completed, we hope to pass without issue.

Financial Overview

Balances as of December 31, 2014.

- Operating Fund: \$18,096.18
- Dam Fund: \$25,658.36
- Total: \$43,754.54
- LaPSI \$ 6,176.65
- Lake City Bank – Dam Construction Loan balance due on principal: \$315,910.28

Lake Papakeechee Sustainability Initiative (LaPSI)

Lake Papakeechee Sustainability Initiative (LaPSI) will be busy again this summer. LaPSI will continue to monitor dissolved oxygen, phosphorus, nitrogen, secchi and E. coli in our lake as well as in the lakes in the Fish and Wildlife area (because the water in these lakes is one of our primary water sources.)

A natural shoreline buffer of native plants is one of the best ways to protect a lake. Shoreline plants filter sediment, fertilizer and chemicals - keeping them from getting into the lake. They provide food and shelter for fish and wildlife and can slow or prevent shoreline erosion. They can also keep non-migratory fowl from invading your yard.

Fishing in our Lake

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

New LaPsi Projects

Invasive Weed Monitoring Program: **(Volunteers needed)** The board has responded to interest generated at last year's annual meeting regarding the disposal of cut weeds. In order to address this issue, we are going to begin an in-depth study of the aquatic plants in our lake. Last summer several LaPSI members attended the "Clean Lakes Aquatic Invasive Weed Monitoring Program." This program is being implemented across the state by volunteers who identify the plant species in their lakes reporting any unknown and/or invasive species to the CLP Laboratory for identification.

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We would like to begin this program at Lake Papakeechee this Spring. We are asking for volunteers who would be willing to help with this endeavor. It would involve attending one training session (tentative training date is Saturday, May 30, 2015, at 1:00 p.m. The volunteers would then sample aquatic plants in the immediate area in front of their homes and report which plants they find. LaPSI will eventually have enough information to present to the Board. The information should identify plant species and abundance to help the Board determine the chemicals needed to treat unwanted plants.

If you would be willing to participate in the Invasive Weed Monitoring Program, please by May 18, 2015 contact LaPSI through coordinator Diane Tulloh at dtulloh@gmail.com or Charlotte Hill at rjohill1@hotmail.com .

LaPSI, along with the Board, will also begin studying how best to dispose of the harvested cut weeds and whether other methods of disposal will be cost effective.

Wetland Mitigation Area

If you were driving by the dam last November, you might have noticed some work going on in the wetlands area. This was part of the ongoing effort to comply with our building permits from the various state and federal agencies that allowed the reconstruction of our dam in 2012.

By the summer of 2011, we had obtained three permits allowing us to start the reconstruction. The permits were issued by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM). Subsequently, in order to get started in 2012, we also had to obtain a permit from the Kosciusko County Soil and Water Conservation Dept.

In particular, the IDEM permit dealt with the fact that the construction called for us to fill in approximately an eighth of an acre of existing designated wetland composed of about half of the old hatchery pond nearest to the dam. IDEM required us to mitigate our action by establishing an additional area of new wetland adjacent to the ponds referred to as a mitigation wetland. The requirement to remain legal and compliant with our permit is that the mitigation wetland be approximately a quarter acre in size.

Last August, Williams Creek Consulting performed a second inspection of the area. After talking with WCC the year before, over the last year, in order to control invasive species in the mitigation area, we have been very proactive in managing the area. We've had volunteers perform a controlled burn and selectively spraying of herbicide in the existing wetland area. Just to illustrate the point, the 6 page IDEM permit is very precise. It specifies in detail how much open water is allowed in the mitigation area. IDEM dictates how much of the area is allowed to be covered in cattails, i.e., no more than 15%. There are myriad other requirements



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too numerous to detail within this newsletter. Our management activity has been aimed at increasing our likelihood of meeting all of the requirements. This year Williams Creek surveyed the area and informed us that our mitigation wetland does not meet the minimum area as specified in the IDEM permit. So in November, to meet the specifications and based on a drawing from Williams Creek, we had the flooded area enlarged.


How did this happen? In order to create the flooded area so it would flood evenly, it was necessary to excavate to a certain elevation. Evidently some of the planned area is just enough higher to prevent adequate coverage. We are talking about elevation differences of just a few inches over a large, spread out, and irregular shaped area of ground. Unfortunately at the time of planning, no one noticed the variance. At that time, there was plenty of water from artesian wells coming into the site. It looked viable as a wetland mitigation area.

Terry Radtke, John Hart, Jim Whitehead and Larry Clough have been volunteering their time for interfacing with the consultants, controlled burning, herbicide treatment, planning and obtaining estimates for the ongoing effort. In the next couple of years, utilizing suggestions from Williams Creek, more work will need to be done. The Williams Creek's report indicates that our wetland mitigation area being just two years into a five year process looks very much like most other mitigation areas do at this point of development.

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.

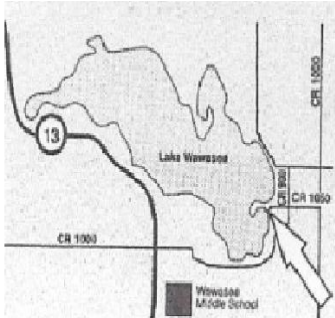
For pricing and information, contact Bernie Ebetino at: (260) 639-0046. Space is limited, so now would be a good time to secure a spot for your ad in our 2015 spring edition. Please support the businesses that advertize, and let them know that you saw their ad in the POW WOW.

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Safety Lock Box Program

The Syracuse Fire Department is initiating a Safety Lock Box Program. In an effort to assist emergency teams in reaching residents during an emergency, at your request, the Syracuse Fire Department will install a 2" by 4" lock box onto the top of your side, or back door jam. The box will hold a master key and emergency information containing name, phone number and any other critical data. Should you require emergency assistance, and if you are unable to answer the door, the above mentioned resources will be available to police, fire, or EMS personnel. All information is completely confidential and available only to emergency response units. If you are interested, please contact the Syracuse Fire Department at: (574) 457-4100.

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Social Events and Fundraisers!

Last August 16th, there was a big turnout for the Lake Papakeechee 100 Year Anniversary Social. Food, local entertainment, games and some real fun was enjoyed by many. Through the various activities, and the luncheon over \$1,900 was generated and donated to the association. The popular Papakeechee T-shirts and mugs are still available to anyone interested. Contact: [eventsonpapakeechee@gmail.com](mailto:events@papakeechee.org)

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

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.lakepapakeechee.org

Welcome to Lake Papakeechee

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.lakepapakeechee.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 – Paul Garl	574-354-1830
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