

# **POW WOW**

## **Papakeechee Protective Association Newsletter-Fall 2015**

www.lakepapakeechee.org

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

### **Message from the President**

The Annual meeting for the Papakeechee Protective Association (PPA) was held on August 15. We expect to have the Dam loan paid off by October 2018. The board made an extra loan principal payment of \$15,000 in 2015. The current dam assessments will continue at the same level through 2017 and then be reduced in 2018. This past year Terry Radtke has again done a good job of maintaining the lake and dam. As a result of his record keeping, we saved over \$1,500 due to the lower cost of inspections. Our members have done a good job of paying their dues and assessments in a timely manner. It makes the board's work easier and lowers expenses when we can avoid legal costs due to collecting on delinquents.

A few major topics brought to the board's attention by association members were:

1. High water level issues
2. Weed clogged bay along E Koher by the tube
3. Lesser quantity of fish catch reported, Carp problem
4. Weed cutting and dumping policy

To get the full scoop feel free to talk to your district representative.

Steve Herendeen, PPA President

### **Fishing in our Lake**

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

### **Mark Your Calendars: Annual Spring Clean Up**

**When: Saturday following Easter  
April 2, 2016 10:00 am - 2:00 pm**

**Where: Begins at PPA Building**

Residents are challenged to exceed the 800 pounds collected last year. If you can help, contact Diane Tulloh at dtulloh@gmail.com or Jan Laurent at 260 433-2636.

### **Weed Control/Lake Maintenance**

Mid-spring, we chemically treated the lake. As a reminder, please, before clearing weeds from the levee rip rap, we ask that you coordinate with Terry Radtke. He can be reached at cell phone # 574-529-4433.

This past summer we had very few weeds, and our equipment got a bit of a breather. The situation is that with the minimal time the harvester was utilized last season, it is in good shape and is running great. Grass and weed growth in the spillway is being monitored.

### **2015 Biennial Dam Inspection**

It's hard to believe that more than two years have gone by since the reconstruction of our dam. But it's true and so the state mandated dam inspection was performed this year. Each dam in the state of Indiana must undergo an inspection by a qualified licensed engineer at the expense of the dam owner and a report must be submitted to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

On April 7, our engineering firm, Earth Exploration Inc., was on site to review all of our documented self inspections and view the dam. Terry Radtke as the Dam Operator performs inspections following a procedure that is documented in our Management and Maintenance Plan each quarter. Additionally, Jim Whitehead maintains the grass on the embankments. During the mowing sessions over the course of the summer any

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issues that Jim sees are passed on to Terry. Terry then performs corrections, or works with the Board of Directors to obtain funds to correct any issues that have been found.

Another item that the engineers were interested in was the community pier that has been added to the west dam. We had to obtain special permission for this pier and conform to a set of specifications set out by the DNR. This was all carefully documented for the engineering firm and reviewed at the time the inspection occurred.

This was our first biennial inspection but with the effort that went into the self inspections and the corrections that have been accomplished we passed it without difficulty. Our records were meticulously kept and the actual tour of the dams turned up no items of concern from a dam safety viewpoint. We have some areas to watch from a maintenance perspective and maintenance will be a continuing effort. The bottom line is that our dam still has a 'satisfactory' rating which is the highest rating that can be achieved.

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### Financial Overview

As reported at the annual meeting as of 6/30/15. Our income for the last fiscal year was \$160,383.01 and expenses were \$152,819.02. The balance in our checkbook was \$106,686.00. We had a substantial cost increase for the chemicals we use to treat the lake, but saved money on harvester expenses. Due to the fact that we were able to provide organized and well documented reports to the inspectors, we saved money on the dam inspections. Our Dam/Levee assessment began in 2008. This year, we paid an extra \$15,000.00 in principal on the loan, bringing the balance down to \$263,220.00. The final dam payment is scheduled for 10/1/2018. We hope to be able to make the final payment a few months early.

### Lake Papakeechee Sustainability Initiative (LaPSI)

LaPSI, a group of lake residents exists for the benefit of and to serve the members of the Papakeechee Protective Association. It serves as a key environmental information resource to promote a healthy, vibrant and sustainable ecosystem at Lake Papakeechee and its environs.

Working with the board, LaPSI is establishing relationships with a variety of Lake and Environmental organization that can provide resources and advice. These include Clean Lakes, Center for Lakes & Streams at Grace College, Hoosier Riverwatch, Turkey Creek Sewer District and Wawasee Area Conservation Foundation (WACF).

#### Current LaPSI Projects:

- Invasive Aquatic Plant Monitoring – In June LaPSI began participating in the Clean Lakes Invasive Aquatic Plants Monitoring Program. To date, volunteers have not found any plants on the Clean Lakes "watch list" such as

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Hydrilla. The fact that we are a “no-motor lake” with very little transfer activity may be reducing our chances of acquiring these invasive weeds. If you do transfer a kayak, canoe or other boat from one lake back into Lake Papakeechee, please rinse off any debris. For a map showing identified plants, go to lakepapakeechee.org. If you are interested in assisting with this project, contact Charlotte Hill at cjohill@hotmail.com.

- Testing Activities – LaPSI is continuing to test our water - as well as the water coming in from the Fish and Wildlife Area. Tests include: E-Coli, dissolved oxygen, water clarity, nitrogen, phosphorous, and temperature. Only one of six sights tested showed a very minimal positive reading for E-Coli. This site was at the entrance from the Fish and Wildlife area from Hammond Lake. Our testing is an ongoing effort and several years of data will be required to establish reliable conclusions.

- Disposal of Cut Weeds - We are continuing to work with the board on investigating the benefits and cost of removing and disposing of weeds that are cut by the harvester.

- Good Homeowner Practices – Please see the enclosed brochure that we developed concerning good homeowner practices.

If you are interested in learning more about how you can assist with LaPSI activities, please contact Diane Tulloh at dtulloh@gmail.com .

### Ron Corson Recognized For Service To The PPA

Forty plus years of service to an association is quite an accomplishment. The PPA recognizes and appreciates that. For that reason, during the annual meeting, an American Flag was presented to Ron.

Throughout the years, Ron served on the Board of Directors, and also from 1978-2002 as Association President. In addition, during that time, he also gave many hours volunteering wherever, and whenever needed. Although he just recently resigned from the Board, he remains active serving as our “Resident Historian”, and also maintains our vast file storage system of present and historical association records.



### Wetland Mitigation Area

As part of the construction permits from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management and the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the Papakeechee Protective Association was required to establish a 0.24 acre wetland mitigation area. This is a new wetland area. Since the 2014 inspection we have had Moore & Moore expand the mitigation area to meet the size requirement in our permits. It is near the existing state identified wetland areas which consist of the three old fish hatchery ponds just north of the dam adjacent to Hatchery Road. The permits require that for at least five years the PPA must have annual inspections of the area and that the area eventually pass all stipulated criteria.

The permits contain descriptions of the plant life that is allowed in the area. To ensure that the area contains a correct mix of species, the inspections require us to have the land and the plant life monitored. Certain species are listed as controlled invasive, Some are not allowed and for others, their numbers must be limited.. The inspectors actually get down on the ground and spot check square meter areas. They count and catalog plant species at various points.

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The first two inspections in 2013 and 2014 identified several deficiencies. In our efforts to pass the inspections and to comply with the requirements of the permits, we have expended considerable energy, resources and funds.

One of the things that the inspection firm found was that Cottonwood and Willow trees were sprouting in the mitigation area. Both are classed as invasive. The inspectors could see that in the existing wetland area immediately adjacent to the mitigation area, mature trees were growing. They suggested that in order to remove the source of the seeds, which are compromising the mitigation area those trees be removed. We took the suggestion under advisement, but since the association budget did not provide for it we could not see how to accomplish it.

Gary Moore volunteered to remove without charge, the Willow and Cottonwood trees along the eastern and northern edges of the ponds to prevent them from seeding our new mitigation area. Along with Gary and several Moore & Moore employees, John Hart, Larry Estep and Paul Erst volunteered to help with this arduous task that took up most of a 4 week period.

As required to meet the specifications of our permits, we purchased a unique mix of seed, called Sedge Meadow Mix. Also as specified by the inspection experts, we purchased over 400 seedlings. Both were purchased from specialty nursery located near Muncie, IN. Terry Radtke and Larry Clough volunteered to drive down and pick up the supplies. The seed mix was used to reseed the newly excavated area.

On May 23, volunteers Georganna & John Hart, Arleen Corson, Diane Tulloh, Jan & Mark Laurent, Barb, Paul Erst, Steve Herendeen, Kendall Floyd, Steve Schwartz, Jody & Mac Hedges, and Diane & Larry Clough met at the wetland mitigation area for planting the seedlings. As the mitigation area consists basically of a mucky bottom covered in 2 to 6 inches of water, boots were needed to wade through the area and footing was tricky. A huge, work intensive effort was required. It was hot, sweaty work but the job got done. By noon, all 400 plus seedlings had been planted. In an effort to try to discourage geese from congregating and eating the seedlings, yellow tape was strung around the area, and also, various people spent time waving their arms in an effort to shoo the geese.



The plants seem to have survived and appear to be doing well, possibly because of the wet summer.

Because information was that it was the most favorable time for herbicide application, we waited until August 8 to treat the cattails and purple loosestrife. Again a group of volunteers showed up on Saturday morning for a weed herbicide session: Georganna, John, Arleen, Paul Erst, Paul Garl, Mark, Diane and Larry. Due to the fact that only certain species needed to be killed, the targeted plants were required to be individually wiped. For example, we wouldn't want to harm the newly planted seedlings. All targeted plants had been wiped by noon. Within a few days it was apparent that many of the cattails and purple loosestrife were turning brown. In spite of all of our efforts, coverage was not 100%. Even though more will need to be done, overall, the operation was very successful.

On August 18, Williams Creek Consulting representatives were on site for the annual inspection of the wetland mitigation area. In addition, the US Army Corps of Engineers sent a representative to observe firsthand the condition of the area. The basic result of this inspection is that while we still do not pass the criteria, Both WCC and the USACE agree that this wetland looks like it is on track to pass in due course. They said it looks very much like most new wetlands they see that are in their third year. We have most of the necessary elements for a wetland. The primary issue is that we have unwanted species and will have to continue efforts to control the number of cattails and to eradicate species like the purple loosestrife.

There are no shortcuts for this project and it is going to require some work for some time.

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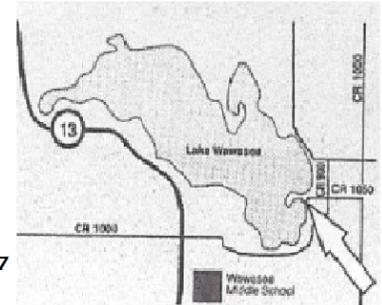
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### Advertise Your Business In The POW WOW

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 2016 spring edition. Please support the businesses that advertise, and let them know that you saw their ad in the POW WOW.

### Social Events and Fundraisers!

If you would like to organize an event, let us know at: [papalakeevents@gmail.com](mailto:papalakeevents@gmail.com), or contact John Hart, Vice President of PPA at: [jhartysyracuse@gmail.com](mailto:jhartysyracuse@gmail.com)

### Board Meetings

Throughout the year, the Board of Directors holds 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](http://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](http://www.lakepapakeechee.org)) to obtain a copy of the PPA Covenants & Bylaws, or contact PPA Secretary, Pat Ebetino. Below is a list of the 2015-2016 PPA Board of Directors.

<b>President</b> – Steve Herendeen	574-349-5741
<b>Vice President</b> – John Hart	219-561-1182
<b>Treasurer</b> – Sally Whitehead	574-457-4081
<b>Secretary</b> – 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**  
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