

POW WOW

Papakeechee Protective Association Newsletter-Spring 2016

www.lakepapakeechee.org

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

Message from the President

As winter passes by, I continue to enjoy weekend evenings on the lake. After a recent snowfall, as I stood down by the lake in the dark, I reveled in the beauty and the quiet. That said, I am looking forward to spring and anticipate getting my dock and boat into the water.

This year and last the board has continued to make solid progress on our dam debt (pun intended). On October 2013, we finalized our \$400,000 bank loan arrangement and repayment schedule. By the time you receive this we should have an estimated remaining balance of 200,000. The loan will be paid off ahead of schedule either by late summer, or early fall of 2018.

The board has worked to get the summer water level right. Some like it higher, some like it lower and some think it is just right...sounds like the Goldilocks fable. I think we are closer to a workable procedure that should address "normal" water level. But as you all understand when dealing with nature we have to continue to adjust to the hand we are dealt. Terry (dam operator) has been diligent in his work in this matter.

Lastly, in November the board began looking into hiring out a lake study of our lake's plant life and a fish study. At the annual meeting, we heard people encouraging us to pursue this. We decided to act on this as discussed later in this newsletter.

I look forward to seeing you on the lake.

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

Annual Spring cleanup day – scheduled for April 2, 2016, 10 AM to 2 PM. Skip the gym and get some exercise that benefits the entire community. If you have a grabber stick or poking stick, bring it along. Meet at the PPA building. Residents able to volunteer should contact: Mark Laurent at mdlaurent@aol.com, Diane Tulloh at dtulloh@gmail.com or Jan Laurent at 260 433-2636.

Residents are challenged to exceed the 800 pounds collected last year.

PPA Building Gets New Roof



Many of you may have noticed the new roof on the PPA Building. This past winter, during a heavy rain storm the building's roof sustained a substantial amount of damage. Fortunately, for replacement of the entire roof, our insurance policy covered all cost, minus a deductible of \$1000 and \$247.00 to replace some rotted ply-wood.

Fish and plant studies planned

The PPA has hired Aquatic Control Inc, professional consultants to conduct both fish and plant studies on Lake Papakeechee. The cost for the project (\$5,090.00) has been entirely covered by donations from both LaPSI, and the fundraiser which was held last year, at the Lake Papakeechee 100 year celebration. The fish study will be

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done this fall and the plant study will include samplings taken both this spring and next fall. The fish study will be done by electrically shocking the entire lake shoreline and shallow areas (onlookers must stay at least fifty (50) feet away from the electro fishing boat). At the same time they will be analyzing the basic water chemistry, e.g. dissolved oxygen, temperature profile. Surface water will be tested for pH, alkalinity, hardness, and ortho-phosphate. Aquatic Control biologists will conduct an evaluation of the aquatic vegetation in our lake. In conjunction with the use of mapping software and GPS units, the survey will be conducted using methods described in IDNR's Tier 2 procedure manual. This will allow for a detailed delineation of the vegetation communities within the lake. Maps of invasive plant beds, species lists and other data will be provided. Detailed reports will be issued. They will include graphs, tables, a summary and recommendations for the preservation and improvement of the fish and plant populations.

Monetary Donations Needed

Like most of our association members, you may not be in a position to volunteer your time helping with all the routine and emergency activities that are constantly being performed in order to keep our lake and its surrounding landscape in such pristine condition. Each year brings many opportunities for you to help in a monetary way. If you desire, you can donate either to the general fund, or specify how your donation is to be allocated. Several areas of need have been identified. Just to mention a few, these include common pier construction and maintenance, stocking of the lake with desired fishes, PPA building and grounds upgrade and upkeep, LaPSI projects, PPA mailings, and unbudgeted expenses. If you are interested in donating funds to the PPA for any of its planned projects, or any of its unplanned and ongoing expenses, please contact your district representative, or any of the PPA officers.

Weed Control/Lake Maintenance

Again this year in mid-spring, we will chemically treat the lake. Please watch for more detailed information, on our web site; lakepapakeechee.org. Signs around and buoys will be placed around and in the lake. As a

reminder, please, before clearing any weeds from the levee rip rap, we ask that you coordinate your efforts 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 situation is that with the minimal time the harvester was utilized last season, it is in good shape and is running great.



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Wetlands Inspection Report November 2015

The third year of monitoring at the mitigation area indicates that appropriate wetland hydrology is established, and that the herbaceous vegetation is dominated by wetland plants. The hydrology of the sites is more than adequate. Re-grading activities have succeeded in increasing the site area and in satisfying the performance criterion pertaining to wetland area.

While invasive species management actions have reduced invasive plant cover since 2014, invasive species cover still exceeds the levels specified in the performance criteria. Aggressive invasive species management actions are required until these species are controlled as per the performance criteria for the site. Williams Creek recommends continuing with the current schedule to eradicate invasive species at the site.

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In the first few years of monitoring wetland mitigation sites, it is not uncommon for cattails to colonize a site that has suitable hydrological conditions. Invasive species management is critical to ensure that the performance criteria can be met after the five years of monitoring.

January 19th Teleconference with Dr. Gary Lamberti of Notre Dame University

So that we could perform a ball park calculation of the phosphorous and nitrogen content of the cut weeds, Diane Tulloh and Larry Clough spoke with Dr. Lamberti. He provided them with some rule of thumb information on plants. If we assume that the normal weed harvest is approximately 200,000 pounds annually, the phosphorous content would be approximately 125 pounds and the nitrogen content approximately 2,000 pounds.

In addition, a discussion of alternatives was had. One idea was removing the weeds from the lake to a site on our property where they would be dried, and then burned. The nitrogen would be eliminated by the fire but not the phosphorous. The site would have to be carefully selected so that the phosphorous would not be drained by ground water to locations that would be environmentally harmful.

Biennial Dam Inspections

Each year the state mandated dam inspections continue to be performed. As previously stated, 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.

In addition, each quarter, Terry Radtke (Dam Operator) will continue to perform additional inspections. Terry will follow a procedure that is documented in our Management and Maintenance Plan. He will work with the Board of Directors to correct any issues that arise. As always, we will continue to keep the membership informed of the status of these inspections.

Financial Overview

As reported at our March board meeting as of 2/29/16. To date, our income for the fiscal year is \$52,262.90 and expenses are \$26,843.64.

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Lake Papakeechee Sustainability Initiative (LaPSI)

Editor's note: This article was written by Mark Laurent

On behalf of Lake Papakeechee residents and the PPA Board, members of Lake Papakeechee Sustainability Initiative (LaPSI) continue their effort to monitor and improve the environmental quality of Lake Papakeechee.

Activities during 2015 included:

- Continuing water testing of the lake. Testing includes water clarity, E. coli, phosphorus and dissolved oxygen. Ongoing long-term testing is essential to understand the quality of the lake and how it changes over time.
- Production of a brochure on activities that resident can promote (native planting) or avoid (phosphorous fertilizer) to improve lake quality. The brochure is available for download at lakepapakeechee.org/resources/sustainability.

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- Weed survey to document the types and location of weeds in the lake. Thanks to Charlotte Hill for conducting training. If you want to volunteer for this continuing effort, contact Charlotte.
- Working with the board to research the costs and benefits of alternative methods to remove harvested vegetation from the lake. LaPSI and Board member had a conversation with Dr. Gary Lambardi, a Notre Dame faculty member and expert on lake management.

Efforts continue in 2016. Planning activities include:

- A comprehensive vegetation survey and fish survey has been authorized by the Board. The survey will be conducted by Aquatic Control. Funding is provided through a combination of money from PPA, the Centennial celebration, and donations from Omicron Inc, owned by lake Resident Tony Serianni. The vegetation sampling will occur in May and August 2016. The fish survey will be conducted at night in Fall 2016, using a powered boat and electro-shocking techniques that stun but don't kill fish. Results will be available February 2017.
- One or more speakers on lake management issues.
- LaPSI members also are developing relationships with other governmental, educational and lake management groups in the area, such as Wawasee Area Conservation Foundation (WACF), Hoosier Riverwatch and Turkey Creek Sewer District.
- Continue water testing of the lake. Testing includes water clarity, E. Coli, phosphorus, nitrogen and dissolved oxygen.
- Continue resident lake weed survey to document the types and location of weeds in the lake.

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

Tips For Spring Property Clean UP:

Editor's note: This article was written by Joyce Arleen Corson, a Kosciusko Master Gardener and Indiana Master Naturalist.

Each year, here at Lake Papakeechee, we find the need changes to groom the vegetation that has grown in and around our properties. With basic clean up we separate the vegetation as follows: sticks in one pile, leaves in another and seaweed left to dry. All parts of the purple loosestrife should be left to dry and then

burned, especially the seeds. We have several species of loosestrife around our lake. Gooseneck, not to be

confused with lizard tail (native), with white curving downward flower and swamp, or willow, with a blue flowers are prevalent. There is also a loosestrife, perennial, that grows in my garden with yellow racemes growing on the un-branched spike. It is considered harmless and a calm addition for the garden.

I only use Kilz·All (labeled safe for aquatic control), for weed control, which I purchase at Claytons, North Webster. Chemical treatment is used sparingly and only on land. It is 55% glysophate (kills all vegetation including roots which makes it systemic) and I use dawn detergent as a surfactant. Mixing the treatment is not easy because of the foam from the surfactant. From previous experience about calibrating a solution for use on noxious or not, plants here is some information that may be useful to you. If you can find glysophate without any inert substances you should use it 2 ppm in water and 3 ppm 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 that 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 Kilz·All: Add to the quart (32 oz) household spray bottle, 1/4th teaspoon Dawn detergent, or less depending on foam, as a surfactant, 1/2 teaspoon herbicide Kilz·All. Fill the remainder of the 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 for those plants missed the first time..

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, will not kill grass and WEEDBGON, with Triclops Herbicide (or other purveyors) for woody shrubs that work on autumn olive, winged burning bush and bush honeysuckle. These three shrubs are destroying the understory in our forests and should be eradicated. KLEENUP® contains 5% glysophate 95% inerts. Inerts are suspect in genetic mutations in some situations.

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Please consider recycling all vegetation you collect from your property cleanup projects. Ash from burning leaves or wood may be useful as potash and distributed sparingly on gardens. 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. Nitrogen, phosphorus (phosphate) and potash are three natural occurring elements required for thriving plant life. The numbers on your fertilizer bag represent these three elements in the listed order.

Always read the label and safety features of equipment. Follow directions carefully. Ingredients, as in any commodity will impact the living in one way or another. Good luck to you ending with a beautiful landscaped property

dates and times, as well as other interesting information on the PPA website: www.lakepapakeechee.org

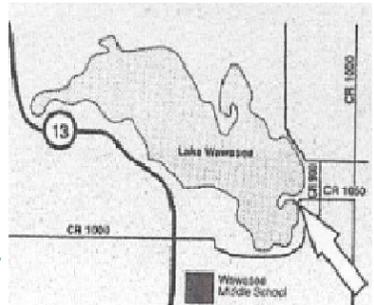
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Advertise Your Business In The POW WOW

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, or ebetinob@gmail.com Space is limited, so now would be a good time to secure a spot for your ad in our 2016 fall edition. Please support the businesses that advertize, 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, or contact John Hart, Vice President of PPA at: 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

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, or contact PPA Secretary, Pat Ebetino. Below is a list of the 2015-2016 PPA 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

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