

POW WOW

Papakeechee Protective Association Newsletter-Spring 2017

www.lakepapakeechee.org

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

POW WOW Distribution

In an effort to reduce POW WOW expenses, we will begin to use email services to distribute our newsletter. Please send us your email address via: papakeechee@gmail.com. The POW WOW will also be available for viewing at: www.lakepapakeechee.org.

Message from the President

It's hard to believe that it has already been more than a half a year since I was elected President of the PPA. Since that time, I as well as your board have been very busy. The board has worked aggressively on planning for the future. They have approved budget for 2017.

Unfortunately, a large portion of the budget is geared to comply with state mandates. Our Dam/Levee is required to be maintained to state standards. These include but are not limited to: \$3,500 for wetlands inspections required by IDEM, and \$6,000 for dam inspections that are required by the DNR. Non-compliance could result in fines, the state taking control of the lake's management, or even the breaching of our dam.

Our Dam/Levee loan is scheduled to be paid off in the fall of 2018. You can read additional information below in the "Financial Overview".

The plant and fish studies have been completed. We currently are in the process of analyzing the collected data. This analysis will help us to determine the best plan of action and take advantage of our effort to enhance, maintain, and to properly care for our plant and fish populations,. You can read more information on this on page 2 and 3 of this issue.

As always, I appreciate all the volunteers who have gotten involved in many of our never ending projects.

Pat Ebetino, PPA President

Mark Your Calendar:

The 2017 PPA Annual Meeting is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, August, 12th. Election for the following will be held at the meeting: Vice President, Treasurer, and representatives from districts; 1, 3, 5, 5A and 7. If you are, or you know of anyone who is interested in running for a position, please let us know.

Saturday, April 22nd (Earth Day) 10:30am – 12:30pm
Meet at the PPA building. Wear boots & gloves. Trash bags will be provided.

Saturday, May 13th, 9:00am, "Wetlands Walkabout". For further information, contact Arleen Corson at: jacorson39@gmail.com, or 574-457-6796.

Board Meetings

Throughout the year, the Board of Directors normally 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

Social Events and Fundraisers!

If you would like to organize an event, let us know at: papalakeevents@gmail.com, or contact John Hart, at: jhartsyracuse@gmail.com

Fishing in our Lake

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

Fish and Plant Studies

As previously reported, The PPA hired Aquatic Control Inc, professional consultants to conduct both fish and plant studies on Lake Papakeechee. On October 20, 2016, a standard survey of the fish community and other physical, biological, and chemical factors directly affecting the fish community was completed. The major objectives of this survey and report were to provide a

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status on the fish community of the lake and provide recommendations to enhance or sustain the sport fish community.

Of the fish collected by the electroshock method, 80% were bluegill and 7% were largemouth bass. The survey indicated an imbalance in the bluegill/bass fishery. An overabundant bass population is over-cropping the bluegill. This condition leads to fewer small bluegill, but the remaining bluegill exhibit fast growth. Overall, the bass population appears to be in average condition, but is overcrowded in the 9-12" class.

The lake has good structure and habitat with abundant native aquatic submersed vegetation, fall downs, and stumps all of which should support quality bluegill, redear sunfish, and largemouth bass. The water chemistry results are normal for lakes in this area and indicate the lake can support a healthy fish population.

The following recommendations, in order of priority, will help protect and enhance the fishery in Lake Papakeeche:

1. Implement a 12-16" slot limit. Under this limit, five (5) bass under 12" and one (1) bass over 16" can be harvested per angler per day. Catch and release of larger fish should be encouraged. This limit will only be effective if smaller bass are harvested.
2. Limit bluegill to fifteen (15) fish per angler per day for the next two years.
3. Limit red ear sunfish to five (5) fish per angler per day for the next two years.
4. Conduct a follow-up fish survey in 2019 to monitor the effects of these new policies and assess the need for additional management methods.
5. Remove all warmouth, common carp, spotted gar, yellow bullhead, and bowfin that are caught. These species are not a significant problem, but are not desirable.
6. Maintain 20-40% coverage of native vegetation with a focus on the control of invasive species.

Last year, in both spring and summer, Aquatic Control Inc. conducted invasive species and Tier II aquatic plant surveys on the lake (submerged plants only). The results will be used as a baseline to compare the vegetation community in future surveys. Aquatic vegetation is an important component of a healthy aquatic ecosystem because it provides cover for fish, food for wildlife, can help stabilize shoreline sediments, and through filtration,

can improve water clarity. Without an abundant plant community, it is likely that Lake Papakeeche would be dominated by filamentous or planktonic algae. However, some species can create problems for lake users and the ecosystem if left unchecked. These nuisance species are usually non-native or invasive species.

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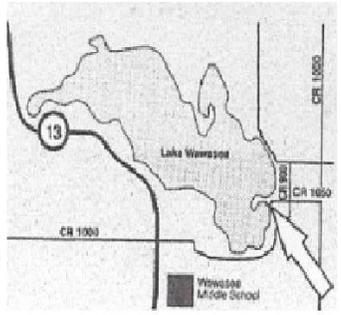
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Only one invasive species, curly-leaf pondweed, was detected in the 2016 spring survey. This is somewhat surprising given the amount of invasive milfoil and starry stonewort thriving in public lakes in the surrounding area. The lack of a public boat ramp probably reduces the likelihood of these invasive species finding their way into the lake. In addition, annual fluridone (herbicide) treatments probably keep invasive milfoil in check, since it is susceptible to low doses of this herbicide.

Vegetation mapping showed that 85.5% of the lake area contained plants - with a severe curly-leaf pondweed infestation in the spring of 2016. Curly-leaf pondweed can produce dense mats that hinder recreational activities and potentially compete with beneficial native vegetation. The association is managing lake vegetation with Fluridone treatments. Vegetation controls appear to be limiting nuisance invasive species and maintaining good native species diversity and abundance. Summer surveys found no submerged invasive species. The lake currently contains a diverse and abundant native plant community.

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Weed Control/Lake Maintenance

Due to the weather, last summer we had more weeds, than the prior year. Overall, we feel that we have a good process in place, however, as always; we will be closely monitoring the lake's vegetation growth and taking any additional action that is needed. It has been noted that in some areas of the lake there is an over abundance of lily pads, and other top floating vegetation. We are researching to determine the best process to deal with the problem.

Weed treatment will take place, sometime around May 1st. Signs and buoys will be posted around the lake. There is no danger to humans. However, for 30 days after application, do not use lake water for lawn irrigation. To ensure safe harvester movement around the lake, please remove from the lake all unused pier support pipe, pier section, and any item that is not being used. Our harvester is approaching its 40 year old mark to replace it will cost upward in the \$85,000.

Paul Erst and Chris Vitale made a new 9" stop log for the spillway. Their labor was donated but they will be compensated for the materials. This will be a big improvement over the temporary wooden stop log that we've been using.

Mowing and General Maintenance

We are looking to find someone who has equipment that is capable of safely mowing grass on the downstream slope of the levee. The slope is very steep, and we estimate that it would need to be mowed six or seven times a growing season. Please let us know if you have equipment capable of doing the job, and are interested.

Terry Radtke feels that he can do a majority of the maintenance work that we outsource. In the future, if a job is something that he is able to do, and we are getting estimates, he will also provide an estimate to the board. This arrangement should be better for the PPA in that it should be less expensive, and the work will be done in a timelier manner.



Wetlands Progress and Inspection Summary

Arleen Corson, one of our longtime members is a certified Indiana Master Naturalist. She has taken on the responsibility of coordinating, maintaining, and providing for the general health of our wetland area. She has been very active organizing the volunteers and overseeing the work done there. She has labeled plants of interest and directed our efforts to eliminate plants which are undesirable.

As stated above in the "Mark Your Calendar" section, a wetlands area "Walkabout" is scheduled for May 13th, at 9:00am. Anyone interested may join Arleen. In conjunction with the walkthrough, and taking into account the guidelines and recommendations provided by Williams Creek, which deals with our open water, purple loosestrife, and cattail issues, she will be surveying the area and evaluating each situation. Unfortunately, due to the fact that the loosestrife is abundantly growing throughout the surrounding area, the loosestrife will always be a problem. To accommodate the open water issue, we may need to move some native plants out of our mitigation area to back where they belong (She's sure there will be enough to go around). For a better understanding, she has cross referenced our report, and identified acronyms and codes. To help you identify plant varieties, a list of newly found native vegetation will be provided.

Arleen has visited the area through the winter. On a recent visit she was disappointed to find few ephemerals,

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as well as some bittercress, winter cress, marsh marigolds (they do not look like garden marigolds). They may have still been sleeping.

Dam/Levee Inspections

Terry Radtke completed our portion of the 2016 Dam/Levee inspections. There were only a few maintenance items. During the December dam inspection, when lake was frozen, he noticed a few dozen rip-rap rocks were removed from the shore line on both the east and west dam. The rocks had been thrown onto the lake ice. If anyone sees someone doing so, please ask them to stop. The rock has been placed there to prevent erosion. Sometime, at an added expense to the membership, in order to pass our state mandated inspections, they will have to be replaced. In addition, he reported that it looks like some patch work material may have broken loose inside the tube outlet of the spillway. He won't be able to check it out until spring when we stop the water flow in preparation for the weed control chemical application. The turtle crossings will also need to be groomed.

As in past years the state mandated dam inspections will continue to be performed. First and second quarter inspections are scheduled to take place in the months of March, and June.

Lake Papakeechee Sustainability Initiative LaPSI

LaPSI's studies on Lake Papakeechee began in 2012 when Professor Anthony Serianni (professor biochemistry the University of Notre Dame and Lake Papakeechee homeowner) approached the PPA Board to seek permission to establish a science-based program to monitor and document the chemical and biological health of the lake and its immediate environs. During 2016, LaPSI members worked with the PPA Board to complete fish and plant surveys.

In the future, LaPSI will work independently from the PPA Board, and plans to operate as non-for-profit organization. All findings and activities by LaPSI will be shared with the PPA board. As time and funds allow,

we plan to continue the following activities:



Collect technical data on our lake (e.g., dissolved oxygen, temperature, turbidity, microbiological load, nitrogen, phosphorus and pH); water sources entering the lake

1. Monitor aquatic plants;
2. Attend workshops (e.g., Hoosier Riverwatch, Clean Lakes, Purdue University's Watershed Leadership Academy, etc).
3. Communicate and network with other lake organizations (e.g., Wawasee Area Conservancy
4. Foundation, Center for Lakes and Streams, and Tippecanoe Watershed Foundation, etc.)
5. Host speakers and research, and apply for external grants.

If you would like to get involved, please contact any of the following LaPSI members: Ann or Anthony Serianni (574 631-7807), Jan or Mark Laurent (260 433-2636 or jlaurentmusic@gmail.com), Jody or Marc Hedges (260, 615-9977), Charlotte Hill (574 529-0767), Diane Tulloh (317 670-9991), or Virginia Surso (260 856-2098 or virginiasurso@gmail.com).

WNIT Interview

Recently, the TV show "Outdoor Elements," interviewed LaPSI members Dr. Anthony Serianni and Charlotte

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Hill. The interview focused on the history of Lake Papakeeche and the formation of LaPSI. Anthony shared his specific interest in collecting data. While he and Charlotte discussed how the PPA and LaPSI are addressing environmental and economic issues that affect lake sustainability. She also described how the group is monitoring for invasive plants. Following segment about animals at Potato Creek State Park), you can see the interview at: wnit.org/outdoorelements/e/february-26th-2017.html.

Financial Overview

The dam and levee assessment principal due continues to decline. After the March 2017 payment, our new balance is \$100,213.42.

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, or ebetinob@gmail.com. Space is limited, so now would be a good time to secure a spot for your ad in our 2017 fall edition. Please support the businesses that advertize, and let them know that you saw their ad in the POW WOW.

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.

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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). As well as helpful information concerning our association and lake, the PPA Covenants & Bylaws, are available for access on the site. Below is a list of the current PPA officers and board of directors.

PPA Officers and Board of Directors

President – Pat Ebetino	260-312-3637
Vice President – Dave Hewitt	574-551-3902
Treasurer – Sally Whitehead	574-457-4081
Secretary – Candace Wallace	574-529-0751
District 1 – Paul Garl	574-354-1830
District 2 – Bernie Ebetino	260-639-0046
District 3 – Larry Clough	260-437-6433
District 4 – Steve Herenden	574-349-5741
District 5 – John Hart	219-561-1182
District 5a – Linda Minnick	574-834-2159
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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