

THE LAKE CHAFFEE NEWSLETTER

Volume 5(?) Number 6 March 2002

President's Corner

I hope this newsletter finds its way into your house and is read from cover to cover. Our last newsletter included a survey. We received one reply. So we are including the survey again on different color paper. Please take the time to fill it out and return it to us. It will help us in a couple of ways; the Board of Directors will have some guidance from the residents in the activities we plan for the association and it will let the newsletter staff know you read this paper.

At our last Board of Directors meeting, Laura Koropatkin reported several resident complaints about ordinance violations. So at the April Board meeting, April 17th we will have an open forum about our ordinances and enforcing them. Please try to attend the meeting and share your ideas.

Happy Spring

Gay

A word from the Beach Chairperson

I will be having Ward James assisting me in beach safety patrol and general maintenance. Peggy James will also be assisting. I am in the process of continual raking and clean up of the beach in preparation of spring and summer use. Your help too, would be greatly appreciated. A yellow ribbon will be strung across the beach/water line to discourage geese making their deposits on the sand. Please leave the ribbon up when you are not in the water. If you have any further questions regarding the beach and it's rules, please feel free to call me at 487-6515

Regards,

Sandy Moquin

Thank You Letter From Jeff Couture & Stacy Squires 1/2002

Once again, Stacy and I find ourselves for a loss of words when it comes to how our neighbors have been there to help us through our loss. As many of you know, on January 4th, a benefit dance was held to raise our spirits and some money for our rebuilding. It is still unbelievable to Stacy and me how our neighbors have come to our support, much like we are long time family members. The way that we have been welcomed to the community is still unbelievable and very hard to put into words.

At the benefit, Stacy and I, our families and our friends all had a chance to meet many of our neighbors. All of us had a blast with the different members of the community. The music that was provided by "Better Off Blue" and Bob Huntington & the Mansfield Depot" was outstanding. All of us had a great time getting to talk to each other in a very relaxed atmosphere. As you can see at our house lot, we are in the process of starting to rebuild our home. If the weather stays good, we should be moving back in around the beginning of May. Shortly there after, we will be inviting our family, friends and neighbors to an open house party that Stacy and I are calling "WE'RE BACK PARTY!" We will let everyone know when we will be having it.

Stacy and I are still taken back with all that has been done for us. We both realize that the Lake Chaffee community is a special community that we both want to remain a part of for the years to come. We look forward to being active members of the community and doing all that we can for the association. Once again, Stacy and I would like to thank everyone for their support and help.

Sincerely yours

Stacy Squires and Jeff Couture

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Drought Concerns

As you all must be aware the State is in drought conditions. This is very likely going to affect our lake's water quality. Everyone on the lake has a duty to do everything in his or her power to preserve the lake. Two things that come to mind immediately are; Discouraging all geese and ducks from the lake, and keeping your septic system in good working order. We will try to gather more information to pass along about saving our lake's quality.

Welcome Wagon – New Arrivals

We'd like to welcome three new families to Lake Chaffee.

Richard Fournier
323 Ference Rd.

Mitchell and Donna Aiudi
18 View Pt. Dr.

Eugene and Barbara Renna
29 Deerfield Dr.

The Welcome Wagon Committee will be stopping by soon to deliver some goodies, including Lake Chaffee by-laws and homemade treats. If you would like to join the Welcome Wagon Committee please contact Lori Thompson at 429-6285

A Fund-raiser to Benefit LCIA

Laura Koropatkin, her family members and Rich Rodrigue have set a goal of raising \$2000 for the association. They have just finished taking t-shirt orders as their first attempt as a fundraiser. The Board of Directors would like to thank them for their efforts. We appreciate the fact they have kept us informed about their plans. Because they want the money collected to go to a specific area the fundraiser cannot be sponsored by the Board of Directors.

If anyone has fundraising ideas, please feel free to let the Board know. We are always looking for ways to raise money.

Flea Market

Talking about raising money. LCIA will be sponsoring a flea market on Sunday April 7th and April 21st. Look for the ad in this newsletter.

Other Fundraising ideas

Family Fun Day

We are planning a Family Fun Day on Saturday June 8th. This should be great fun. Debbie Coulombe has agreed to chair the committee. It has met twice and will be presenting its ideas

Fund raising continued.

to the Board of Directors on Wednesday. The committee is still looking for members. And will be looking for helpers on the day of the event. Remember your time doesn't cost you anything, but the enjoyment you will get out of helping is worth millions.

Grinder Sale

The other fund raising idea is a grinder sale. We are hoping to relieve busy families of the burden of preparing dinner during baseball season. We will take grinder orders and deliver them around the lake or at Ashford Memorial Park. Order forms will be coming out in the April edition of the newsletter. If you want to help make grinders let us know.

Gay 487-3754 Emmy 429-0711

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Request for Donations

The Lake Chaffee Association has talked about having a Fun Fair June 8th. In order to make the Fair financially successful we have written a letter to Connecticut businesses asking for financial

donations or products that we could raffle. If you know of any businesses that might be interested in making a donation to the Lake Chaffee Association, please contact Lori Thompson at 429-6285.

Letter to the Editor 2/12/02

I'm responding to your request for contributions to the newsletter.

Actually, this is my second contribution because I noticed that one of my jokes appeared in the last edition. I hope your readers enjoyed it.

Last October, my wife and I purchased a summer cottage on Shorefront Drive and have been working on the property inside and out. Would you believe 240 wheelbarrows of muck hauled out to make the beach "swim able" after years of neglect? In the Spring, we'll be repairing the dock, and painting or siding the exterior of the house.

I cut out an ad that appeared in our local (Monroe) newspaper that showed an older couple relaxing on lawn chairs on their deck, overlooking a tranquil scene and holding hands. I have it posted on the refrigerator door as a goal. SOMEDAY!

The day after the closing, my wife and I went up to start cleaning up. She's the original Mary Poppins-"spit-spot". Somehow, I was able to convince her to take time out to go around the lake in the canoe. The day was extremely calm and the lake was like a mirror, reflecting the fluffy clouds. As we glided along in silence, I remarked to her that this is why I wanted a place here, serenity.

Kathy, my wife, has a slight problem with a canoe- it's her back. Sitting unsupported for an extended period of time gives her a backache. At a local tag sale, I picked up a collapsible seat that hunters use for hunting deer, thinking that it might work great in a canoe. It worked like GANGBUSTERS! There were no complaints, even after our 45-minute ride around the lake. Her only remark was that, sitting up so high, she felt like Queen Liliuokalani of Hawaii, with her servants doing the paddling.

That's it for now. Possibly in the future, if the Editor agrees, I could contribute a monthly math oddity or problem in what I would entitle "Math Man". I'm a recently "re-retired" engineer who has been tutoring mainly high school kids- still doing it back home and loving it! Don't worry- no calculus! We shall see.

Bye for now. If you see us working out there on your walk around our lovely lake, please stop to say hello. If you don't I WILL!

Hank Banville, 3 Shorefront Drive

(Note from Editor; Hank we would love a regular feature from you. Please check out the next note from editor about our e-mail address.

Note from Editor; We appreciate everyone's contribution to the newsletter. To make it easier for you to submit articles we have set up an e-mail address it is president@lakechaffee.org Articles will be opened by a PC with Millennium Edition Windows. The paper is written in Word and saved as Word 6.0 so if you can make your articles compatible to that system it would be appreciated.

Flea Market

Sunday April 7
Sunday April 21
9am – 3pm
Chaffee Hall
Lunch served
Baked Goods and
Tag Sale items for sale

RDN Associates

Source of web-integrated marketing communications

Web site design & maintenance
Web-based product development & interface

Robert W. Layton

E-mail: rlayton@rlayton.net Voice: (860) 429-2417
<http://www.rlayton.net> Mobile: (860) 208-0804

Family Fun Day

Saturday June 8th
10am – 3pm
Chaffee Hall
Food, Games,
Prizes, Entertainment
Fun for the Whole Family

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Preschool Playtime Ideas For Children Ages 2 through 5

The months of March and April are wonderful times to begin talking about the weather and springtime with your young child. Focus on the color Green, which signifies new growth...a leaf on a tree, shoots of grass, the tips of leaves from the bulbs you planted in the fall. You can enjoy these new experiences with your child by singing songs, playing games, and planting your own garden. Below are some ideas adopted from "Fun with Mommy and Me" by Dr. Cindy Bunin Nurik.

Weather is often unpredictable this time of year, but chaotic weather signals that springtime is near. Help your child become aware of wind and the weather by either purchasing a kite to fly in the wind, or making one of the kites listed below:

- Paper Bag Kite: Punch four holes in the top of a paper bag – one in each corner – and add paper ring reinforcements. Create two handles using lengths of string about 30 inches long. Cut another piece of string and tie it to the two loops you created. Glue crepe paper or ribbon streamers to the bottom of the bag as kite tails. When finished, hold on tightly to the string handle and let the wind catch the kite. When the bag fills with air it will float and flutter behind you.
- Streamer Kites: Colorful crepe-paper streamers tied to a short stick provide endless fun for a toddler on a windy day. This streamer version is easier to handle than a full-size kite but it flutters just as happily in a strong breeze. A preschooler with two long streamers will be twice as happy when a gust of wind blows by.

The following action rhyme is called "The Wind"

Feel the strong wind, it almost blows me down

(bend over, almost falling)

Hear it whistle through the trees and all around

(cup hand to ear)

Try to see the wind as it howls and blows,

(hand over eyebrows)

But what the wind looks like? Nobody knows!

(shrug shoulders, palms up)

Planting a garden together is another wonderful activity for the spring, but let children begin by doing simple tasks. A two-year-old might not be able to plant seedlings, but she can help water and put stones in the bottom of pots for drainage. Try to find books at the library about gardens, such as The Tiny Seed by Eric Carle, Garden by Robert Maass, The Carrot Seed by Ruth Krauss, or Flower Garden by Eve Bunting.

The following song "We Plant The Seeds" is sung to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell"

(Child's name) plant the seeds,

(Name) plants the seeds.

Hi Ho, the dairy-o,

(Name) plants the seeds.

Alternate verses:

The sun comes out to shine, (hold arms up)

The rain begins to fall, (fingers flutter down)

The seeds begin to grow. (stand on tiptoe and put hands in the air)

(Name) digs them up, (pretend to use a shovel)

Now we get to eat. (pretend to eat).

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Enhancing Your Backyard For Wildlife – By Melissa Sikes

Its coming to that time of year again, time to start cleaning up the yard for Spring. Some of us might have gardens, or plans for gardens, and thoughts of what to plant are beginning to invade our minds every warm day. Consider the fact that many of us put up bird feeders to attract birds to our yards in the winter. Why not take it a step further and provide some low-cost, low-maintenance plants that will serve the same purpose all summer long and make your yard look beautiful?

Gardening for wildlife doesn't mean attracting deer, skunks, raccoons, or other not so welcome wildlife. Certain plants can be attractants for butterflies and other fascinating pollinating insects, hummingbirds, as well as other nectar and berry feeding birds. When considering planting, you will want to plan a garden with a diversity of plants, and not just one kind. You also want to plant a variety of perennials as well as annuals. Be sure to check growth heights, water and light requirements, and spreading potential when deciding where to place certain plants.

Some perennial plants specifically for butterflies include: all types of Asters, Butterfly weed (*Asclepia tuberosa*), Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia*), Black-eyed Susan, Coreopsis, Coneflower (*Echinacea*), Ox-eye and Shasta Daisy, Joe Pye Weed, Lupine, Pot Marigold (*Calendula*), Sweet William (*Dianthus*), Sunflowers, Verbena, Veronica, and Yarrow. Some annual plants specifically for butterflies include: Cosmos, Dahlias, Impatiens, Marigolds, Mexican Sunflower, Petunias, Spider Flower (*Cleome*), and Zinnias.

Some plants specifically for Hummingbirds include: Bee Balm (*Monarda*), Bell Flower (*Campanula*), Blue Flag Iris, Cardinal Flower (*Lobelia*), Coral Bells (*Heuchera*), Day Lilies, Fox Gloves (*Digitalis*), Heliotrope, Jacob's Ladder, Morning Glories, Snap Dragons, Petunias, Phlox, and Salvia.

Some wild bird friendly berry producing bushes you could plant include: Bayberry (*Myrica*), Blueberry (*Vaccinium*), Choke Cherry, Flowering Dogwoods (*Cornus*), High-Bush Cranberry (*Viburnum*), Rose, Spicebush (*Lindera*), and Winterberry (*Ilex*).

On the flip-side, there are some common plants you can buy, and many an un-informed landscaper would use, that are harmful to the natural environment. These plants are referred to by wildlife experts as invasive exotics and should never be planted. If you do have these plants in your yard, please consider replacing them with some of the above-mentioned plants. These harmful plants seed rapidly in wooded environments and often create monocultures, out-competing native plants and food sources, and typically provide no benefit to wildlife what so ever. They also have no natural control agents, due to the fact that they are exotic. These plants include: Autumn Olive, Burning Bush (*Winged Euonymus*), Garlic Mustard, Japanese Barberry, and Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum*). Of all of these "bad plants", the most commonly planted is Burning Bush. People seem to like the red leaves this shrub has in the fall. Consider planting Blueberries instead. Our soil is wonderful for Blueberries, and in the Fall this shrub has brilliant red leaves, too.

I hope you will consider enhancing your yard for wildlife, as we all benefit from creating beautiful habitats. If you would like further information about gardening for wildlife, please contact Melissa Sikes at

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487-7242. Or you can take a class at CTDEP Sessions Woods Wildlife Management area in April or call 860-675-8130 for more information.

Plant Sale

Cub Scout Pack 92 is holding their annual flower sale

March 29th, 30th 9am to 4pm, and March 31st 9am to 12 noon,

In front of Ashford Town Hall. Contact Peggy James at 487-6515 with any questions.

Bucket Brigade?

Submitted by Bob Layton

Neighbors who regularly pass down the south end of Lakeview Drive may have noticed the variety of coffee cans and buckets hanging from the trees at #147. You may have even recognized their presence as an amateurish attempt to participate in the late winter New England ritual of mapling (is that what it's called?).

But did you ever wonder exactly how much syrup someone got from tapping trees in their yard?

I tapped all five maples in our yard -- at least I hope they were maples -- a mixture of what I believe to be white (sugar) maple, red (swamp) maple and perhaps a third, unidentified variety. Most maples will produce usable sap, but sugar maples are preferred because they produce more sap and sap with a higher concentration of sugar than the others. And with only a few trees, I couldn't be too choosy.

Each tree can support 1 tap (purchased from Agway for about a buck a piece) per foot of tree diameter. I pushed the envelope by using 1 per 6 inches of diameter on most of the trees...in case you wonder why our trees look a little anemic later this year.

After 6 weeks, I have slightly more than 5 quarts of dark, very dark (but flavorful) maple syrup.

In between, I collected over 40 gallons of sap and various mixtures of sap with rain & and melted snow, pieces of bark, ants, moths and other thirsty little critters...and God knows what the squirrels might have done when they stopped by for a drink!

But boiling the stuff kills off anything, right?

To make 5 quarts of syrup from 40+ gallons of sap *only* took \$70 of propane and constant monitoring of buckets and the barbeque grill for six weeks. I would have used the kitchen stove, but several years ago, before moving to the lake, I boiled off sap on the kitchen stove...and peeled the paper off the walls throughout the house. To improve upon the very inefficient use of the grill, I pretty much ruined my wife's 6-quart Revere ware pot and a stainless steel cake sheet. But, I did get 5 quarts of syrup, right?

You might want to try this yourself sometime. Just remember to keep an eye on the boiling process, especially toward the end when the syrup can quickly turn into a volcano of sticky foam. If it turns into



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a dark brown mass suitable for paving, you've taken too much water out and need to put some back in. It's also recommended that you keep a few pair of nylons or other fine hosiery around for filtering the final product – you might want them laundered first.

And don't worry about the gritty stuff settles to the bottom... As the nylons remove most of the bug parts, the foreign matter that's left over is thought to be fine grains of calcium or other mineral that precipitates when you remove 97% of the water.

And did I say that I got nearly five quarts of syrup?

Editor's Note Sugaring can be done until red maples bloom, after that you get very bitter syrup.

Girl Scout Cookies Booth Sale

Brownie Troop 1052 will be selling Girl Scout cookies

On April 6th and 7th at Bubba T's. (you can never have too many GS cookies)

LCIA Survey The LCIA Board is interested in finding out more about what the residents like and dislike. Please take a few minutes to answer this survey and return to us, by mail PO Box 306 Stafford Springs CT 06076 or leave at Bubba T's or drop off to any board member.

How long have you lived on Lake Chaffee? _____

Do you live year-round ___ summer only ___ weekends _____ other _____?

Do you own _____ rent _____?

Have you attended LCIA meetings in the past?

Would you attend a LCIA monthly meeting? _____ Why /why not

When thinking about your LCIA tax dollars, list items in level of importance to you #1 being the most important, use each number once.

_____ Road Work

_____ Lake Maintenance

_____ Police Security

_____ Social Activities

_____ Other – list other items

Do you think your tax, \$50 a year is too high _____ too low _____ just right _____?

What programs would you like to get involved in?

What kind of music do you like?

How old is everyone in your household?

How often do you - Swim in the lake

Fish the lake

Check us out online at www.lakechaffee.org

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Boat in the lake

Skate on the lake

What after school activities are your children involved in?

What is your vision for LCIA?

Do you like Bingo?

What suggestions do you have for the Board to raise more money?

What can you do to facilitate that?

Flea Market April 7th and April 21st. What better way for you to get rid of your extra stuff as you spring clean?

Table Rental Form Mail to Emmy King 127 Lakeview Dr. Ashford CT 06278

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Date of rental _____

Number of tables _____

Enclosed \$ _____