

THE LAKE CHAFFEE NEWSLETTER

Volume 5(?) Number 7 June 2003

Presidents Corner by Gay Leedie

Once again I'm amazed at how fast the time went. With the cold and snowy winter we had, I feel like I hibernated through winter. And as wet as this spring has been I am getting impatient for some of our long awaited projects to be completed. It is always frustrating to see such little and slow progress being made. I am sure you are like me and want to see change right away. Being president has taught me to be grateful for baby steps. I am grateful to our Board of Directors. Their willingness to meet and work together has meant a lot to me. I think Lake Chaffee is a great place to live and raise a family and I am hopeful we can make it better. I hope the events we plan are well attended and inspire even more events to take place. I encourage everyone to check out our web site- <http://www.lakechaffee.org> Thank you to Robert Layton of RDN Associates for maintaining the site.

Welcome Wagon – New Arrivals

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

Linda G Adcock	Jeffery & Nancy Magowan	Raymond & Barbara Raymond
Mark J Bonczek	David Marel	Zachary Sherry
Elaine & Thomas Burns	Rachel & David Meikle	S. Ireland
Robert & Susan Corriveau	Matthew & Amy Shaw	Michael Kasper
Michael Zahar	Alicia Zigaro	Martin Lemelin

A copy of Lake Chaffee by-laws and ordinances will be dropped off to you soon.

We have lost our Welcome Wagon Chairperson. For old-timers or new neighbors, if you would like to join the Welcome Wagon Committee please contact Gay Leedie 487-3754.

People we had to say goodbye to this year

Deaths:	Relocated:		
David Brown	Bill & Lori Thompson	Nancy Depold	Janis Sousa
Evelyn Fernandez	Shirley Bond	Ron & Denise Doty	Dorothy & Charles Toth
	Ron Cerrate	Eric & Ingrid Hanka	William & Frances Weigand
	Carl Craig	Christopher & Tiffany Holmes	Richard Wetherbee
	Deborah Dennis	Charles & Laurie Sklener	

If we had reporters

This space could have had an article about someone on the Hall of Fame plaque if the Newsletter had a reporter to write the article.

Big Thank you(s) to Rich Rodigue, Laura Koropatkin, and all the Grant Klan

They built the new raft for the main beach. I am sure everyone that uses it this summer and for many summers to come will be forever grateful for your hard work and dedication to the lake.

Charter Revision Commission

The commission plans to have an **informational hour** at each of the three annual meetings. The first one June 22, at 1pm is to **gather questions and concerns from the association members**. Enclosed is a list of questions the community has asked members of the commission and a summary of the commission's work so far. Please bring your copy of the charter, by-laws and ordinances to the meetings. The other public hearings will be July 20, and August 17 after the Election and Budget meetings.

THE LAKE CHAFFEE NEWSLETTER

Volume 5(?) Number 7 June 2003

A whole week-end of fun

Friday June 20, 9pm to whenever. Meet your neighbors at Chaffee Hall for drinks and fun. Join us in meeting new friends, and catching up with old neighbors.

Bring your own drinks and appetizers. Set-ups and paper products will be provided.

Saturday June 21, noon Meet at Boat Launch with a decorated floating craft.

Bring your canoe, rowboat, windsurf, paddleboat, raft or any other non-motored lake worthy vessel, and join us in a parade of boats.

Saturday at 6pm meet at the main beach for hot dogs and chips. A campfire will follow on the island or at main beach. What could be a better setting for all the stories of the past at Lake Chaffee?

Sunday at 1pm meet your neighbors and bring your questions to the Charter Revision Commission. At **2pm** we will move into the annual meeting of LCIA. The association can only get better if you get involved.

Summer get together

Pre-school moms and dads meet together for morning walks. Or maybe meet at main beach to have children play together. Times and days will be set during the June 19-22 weekend.

Crafts will be held at the beach one day a week. Kids look for the sign in front of the beach for days and times.

A reminder of the rules

?? No feeding Geese

?? No one is permitted on the islands past sunset

?? No fires or camping are permitted on the islands without the approval of LCIA Board of Directors or their agent.

?? Non-registered motor vehicles are not permitted on association roads.

State Police will be enforcing our ordinates

Many citizens have complained and the board of directors is frustrated about ordinate violations. The board has been in contact with the State Police about this problem. The State Police will be issuing tickets and collecting the fines for violation of LCIA ordinates reissued March 2001. If you have misplaced your copy of ordinances please contact Gay Leedie for a new copy.

Craft Fair in August

Lake Chaffee Improvement Association will be sponsoring a craft fair

August 10, 2003 from 10am to 2pm

Support the Lake by dropping by the air-conditioned Chaffee Hall

Tag Sale in July

Rent a table at Chaffee Hall. Sunday July 13, 2003 from 9 to 2

Space cost \$10.

THE LAKE CHAFFEE NEWSLETTER

Volume 5(?) Number 7 June 2003

Where volunteers are needed:

- ?? Bingo - kitchen help from 5-7 one Saturday a month
- ?? Bingo - floor worker from 7-10 one day a month
- ?? Environmental Committee - meet with others that want to promote the Lake's environmental needs. Put together an environmental fair. Gather information to share with the community. Work with State and local officials on issues concerning the lake.
- ?? Charter Revision Commission - meets once or twice a month
- ?? Muscle power to help with work at the two beaches, the Hall, the boat dock and boat ramp. We will be setting up work parties to make the many improvements and repairs the association's properties need.
- ?? Newsletter Committee - help is needed in every aspect of the paper from editors to reporters to distribution support.

Thank you for your donations

I know we have thanked you once in our last mailing, but it cannot be said enough. Thank you for the extra money you sent in with your taxes this year. We had to eliminated \$3000 from our road budget last August and could only restore it if we had enough donations. You answered the call and we are able to do some much-needed roadwork. All the dirt roads are getting graded. Brush will be cut back on some roads. Potholes will be filled on Shore Front and Armitage Court. Parts of Westford Dr. and Union Dr. will see some much needed repair work done. And any money left over will be put towards finishing paving Amidon Drive.

Dumping Leaves

Please be reminded that you cannot dump your leaves, grass clippings or anything else on other people's property. The owner of the property from next to the firehouse, to past the stop signs on Old Town Rd has been issued tickets for illegally filling in wetland areas. He got the tickets because others at Lake Chaffee use his property as their dumpsite. It is not fair to him and it is not good for the lake to have the wetlands filled with rich organic matter. Excessive organic matter shortens the life of our lake.

A Word From the Beach Chairman by Sandra Moquin, Beach Chairperson

On May 3rd I had advertised for a beach clean-up volunteer group for 9am to 11am. Only 2 people showed up. I appreciate the help of Gay and Mike Leedie in assisting me that day and to Linda Parent for the raking she had done the day before. Please folks, if you want to get involved, meet your neighbors and be part of the community efforts in keeping this a clean beach area, show up when we have beach clean-ups. On May 3rd the three of us worked 3 hours equaling 9 man-hours. We accomplished raking the top of the area near the road. If we have 100 people for 3 hours (300 man-hours) we could get a lot done. If we all could give just a little we'll get a lot more back. If you cannot find the time (times are rough these days and very busy), I understand, in the mean time if you could remind each other to help by not littering the area, this would be a great help. I look forward to seeing you at the beach this summer.

Watch for Invasive plants in our lake

C. caroliniana and *M. heterophyllum* are invasive plants that have been found in local lakes. If you launch your boat in our lake after using some other waterway, please be sure you have washed it off thoroughly to prevent the spread of uninvited plants and animals.

THE LAKE CHAFFEE NEWSLETTER

Volume 5(?) Number 7 June 2003

Suggested Plants for Wet Areas

Are you having trouble deciding what to plant in your wet areas? Many of us have less than ideal conditions for general gardening. Wet areas for years have been considered troublesome. The State and Federal government regulate wetlands and other wet areas; by filling, damming, draining them you are violating environmental laws. Do some research. Determine how many hours of sun the area gets or how deep the shade is. Next, try to determine how wet the soil is. Does the area stay wet all year or only in the spring? How deep is the water table during the wettest and driest times? How often and how long does water stand on the surface? Investigate wetland areas near you with similar characteristics to see what is growing there. Never collect any plants from the wild! Use local suppliers. Plan for varying bloom periods. Plant in zones; different wetland plants have different degrees of wetness tolerance. I have listed plants for wet area gardening in both meadow and woodland areas. Although there are many non-native wetland plants, it is important to use primarily natives. Not only does this give us the ability to replace some of our native wetland area lost through development, but also our natives are hardier and require less attention. Wetland plants need very little fertilization; in fact, over-fertilization will only cause invasive species to take over our gardens. Never plant purple loosestrife, this specie has invaded and overtaken many natural wetland areas in the Northeast. Have fun creating your own wetland garden!

Meadow (sun)

Sweet Flag	Horsetail	Blue Flag	Wool Grass
New York Aster	Dwarf Horsetail	Soft Rush	Canada Goldenrod
Swamp Aster	Joe Pye Weed	Cardinal Flower	Ruffleleaved Goldenrod
Tussock Sedge	Coastal Joe Pye Weed	Great Blue Lobelia	Virginia Spiderwort
Lurid Sedge	Boneset	Meadow Phlox	Blue Vervain
March Marigold	St. John's Wort	Pickerel Rush	
Turtlehead	Slender Blue Flag	Duck Potato	

Woodland (Shade)

Maidenhair Fern	Wild Geranium	Small Solomon's-seal	Interrupted Fern
Wild Columbine	Corel Bells	Great Solomon's-seal	Royal Fern
Wild Bleeding Heart	Dwarf Crested Iris	Sensitive Fern	Woodland Phlox
Marsh Fern	Virginia Bluebells	Cinnamon Fern	Foam Flower

Tree/Shrubs

Serviceberry	Summersweet	Fetterbush	Swamp Azalea
Red Chokeberry	Red Osier Dogwood	Spicebush	Swamp Rose
Red Maple	Dwarf Bottlebrush	Bayberry	Bald Cypress
River Birch	Bottlebush	Black Gum	Highbush Blueberry
Ironwood/Hornbeam	Inkberry	Swamp White Oak	Northern Arrowwood
Buttonbush	Winterberry	Pin Oak	
Fringe Tree	Virginia Sweetspire	Coast Azalea	

Guarding America's Bounty

Here is a list of invasive plants that **should not** be planted

Tropical Soda Apple	Purple Loosestrife- this has been planted around the Lake.	Phrag		
Cogon Grass	Japanese Knotweed	Kudzu	Giant Hogweed	Air Potato
Norway Maple	Burning Bush			

If you have any in your yard please destroy. If you spot any in areas around or in the lake let us know.

THE LAKE CHAFFEE NEWSLETTER

Volume 5(?) Number 7 June 2003

Tag sale

July 13,

Chaffee Hall

9am –2pm

Isn't it time to get rid of all that extra stuff you keep around? Make a few extra dollars and support the Association at the same time. If you have items that you want to get rid of but don't want to man a table for yourself you can donate your unwanted items to LCIA and we will put them up for sell at our table. Just call us to pick-up your items.

Table Rental Form Mail to Emmy King 127 Lakeview Dr. Ashford CT 06278 or call 429-0711

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Number of tables _____

Enclosed \$ _____

Notes of Interest taken from CFL News (CT Federation of Lakes inc.)

Each load of clothes washed, produces four times the amount of lint captured in a drier after one load. This is a large amount of lint discharged into your septic tank and possible into your leaching fields potentially fouls them. You can buy lint filters (e.g. <http://www.laundry-alternative.com/septic1.html> . Concrete septic tanks with rebar are the best, lasting about 35 years. Steel tanks last just a few years. Plastic/fiberglass tanks are good too.

Canada Geese drop about 1 1/2-lbs. Of solid waste daily

Connecticut has recognized 2,076 lakes and ponds.

There are 110 CT lakes with a state boat launch.

Garbage disposals shorten the useful life of leaching fields

Water softeners can ruin leaching fields in 5-10 years

Gravel driveways can be better than asphalt hardtop because precipitation will percolate into groundwater through porous gravel

The single largest cause of lake eutrophication is storm water runoff and erosion

And final... Consider This by Bruce Fletcher taken from CFL News

Lakes are the Kidneys and Bladders of the watershed because everything in the watershed drains into the lake. Lakes and ponds are also like mirrors because they reflect what we do in the watershed.

Year-round residents, seasonal residents and day visitors control the destiny of any lake. What we do now and in the future matters to the lake's health and to the property values around the lake.

"The solution to pollution is reducing your contribution." If not now, when? If not you, who?