

THE LAKE CHAFFEE NEWSLETTER

Volume 5(?) Number 8 Late September 2003

Lake Chaffee Newsletter

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Advertisement and distribution: Sandra Moquin

Published 10-12 times a year. Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the association itself. Newsworthy articles or photographs are welcome and may be directed to Gay Leedie 58 Ashford Dr.

LCIA MEMBERS: Please remember & keep up with reading the minutes of ALL meetings that are posted at Chaffee Hall, the Store and on the Web Site:

www.lakechaffee.org. This will keep all members aware & involved with what's happening at Lake Chaffee.

LAKE CHAFFEE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL BAZAAR COMMITTEE will be holding its annual Craft and Bake Sale on Saturday, November 22, 2003 at Chaffee Hall from 9am to 3pm. Registration for tables is on a first-come, first-served basis. Tables are \$15.00 for one table and \$25.00 for two tables. Anyone interested in renting tables or helping in the kitchen please contact Kay Warren @ 487-3744.

On **October 8th from 6:00 to 6:30** the Bazaar Committee will be holding a short meeting for people wishing to volunteer. The monthly board meeting will follow.

WATER LOWERING OF THE LAKE

this year is scheduled to begin Columbus Day weekend, members have asked to keep the water level down to 4 feet until the first frost.

BINGO - Every Saturday night at Chaffee Hall, starting at 7pm. Volunteers are always needed on the floor and in the kitchen. The more volunteers LCIA has the less amount of time the volunteers are asked to work.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

Two important meeting coming up!

Do you want to get involved in something at the Lake? How about the Newsletter or Environmental Committee?

Come to a planning meeting for Environmental Committee on Saturday October 18, at 10am

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Or come to a Newsletter meeting on Saturday October 18, at 11:00. Both meeting are held at Chaffee Hall

SCHEDULE OF NEXT LAKE MEETINGS

The **Charter Revision Commission's** next regular commission meeting is Tuesday October 7th at 6:30 pm.

LCIA Board of Directors meets next on October 8th at 6:30pm. Board meetings are the second Wednesday of every month. Both meeting are held at Chaffee Hall.

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Water quality results for the summer of 2003 are very good. By Robert and Anita Kerstan

In a summer, which can be remembered for the amount of rain that we had, the water quality remained very good. Typically, there are two natural and normal events, which can impact water quality for swimming. The first is a summer of very little rain and a long period of high heat. (Again, this is normal and occurs in most lakes summers during late July and early August,) During a period such as this, the combination of heat and little rain depletes the oxygen level in the lower portion of the lake, and can lead to increased bacteria growth. The second event is having lots of rain; the water flowing over the land into the lake may bring with it extra nutrients like lawn fertilizers which feed weeds and bacteria. The extra rain also keeps the upper levels of the lake moving, aerated and healthy. This summer offered us the best scenario. Water tests for Lake Chaffee indicate that the water quality remained very good throughout the summer. The table below shows (available on the Lake Chaffee website www.lakechaffee.org) values for middle of August of less than 20 per 100 mls, meaning that the testing laboratory was unable to measure the exact level because it was so low. The maximum level is 235 per 100 mls

Water Test Results:

8/12/03 Old Town Cove E Coli under 20/100 ml 235/100 ml
8/12/03 Mother's' Beach E Coli under 20/100 ml 235/100 ml
8/12/03 Main Beach E Coli under 20/100 ml 235/100 ml
7/26/03 Main Beach (left) E Coli 100/100 ml 235/100 ml
7/26/03 Main Beach (right) E Coli 50/100 ml 235/100 ml
7/13/03 Main Beach E Coli 150/100 ml 235/100 ml
6/29/03 Main Beach E Coli 60/100 ml 235/100 ml

Another issue of too much rain is that when the clarity of our water remains very good sunlight can penetrate much deeper into the water and encourage weed growth. This summer the clarity of our lake was greater than 6 feet for most of the summer, especially during the months of June and July. Because of this, the amount of weeds seen in the lake at the end of July and through August can be more. Although the weeds of this summer were at times not fun to swim or boat through, they are not invasive and can be easily dealt with by harvesting them with rakes, or other implements. Obviously, if the roots can be harvested, then there will be even fewer weeds next season. Another technique we have used successfully for quite a few years is to lower the lake water 4 feet until after a good killing frost has happened.

Legislative Update – Invasive Water Weeds by Bruce Fletcher, CFL Director

The Connecticut Legislature has just passed a law making it illegal to own, sell, or transport invasive weeds like milfoil, fanwort, water chestnut, curly leaved pondweed, and five others. These exotic invasives will no longer be sold for backyard water gardens. If these weeds are found on boats or boat trailers going to and from lakes and ponds, the owner will be fined. Connecticut has joined many other states in this type of legislation. The state of Maine regularly inspects boats and trailers at many, many state border points. Connecticut now recognizes that these weeds cost local taxpayers and governments millions of dollars for treatment needed to protect our diminishing irreplaceable recreational and scenic resources

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The Math Corner by Hank Banville

This is not a trick or puzzle but rather an interesting math “coincidence”.

Think of two consecutive numbers (one follows the other)

Square each one (squaring is multiplying a number by itself)

Subtract the smaller square from the larger one. (Save the answer)

Now go back to the original two numbers and add them together.

I hope you got the same answer!

Think it's a coincidence? Try it with another pair of consecutive numbers.

For those who are REALLY into math, try this (OK to use a calculator).

Take any two decimal numbers that differ by exactly 1.0 like 244.3 and 245.3 and square them each, then subtract as above. Now add the two original numbers. Same answer!

If there is a math genius in the house, prove it algebraically. Good luck!

Lakeside Landscaping- by Larry Marsicano

Have you ever considered that how you landscape your property can have an impact on the health of the lake? It's true. As a society, and particularly coming from large urban/suburban areas, we tend to landscape in a pattern familiar to us...with vast areas of turf lawn. These types of landscapes tend to require more care in the form of fertilizers, pesticides, irrigation, and energy in maintaining them. We as a society also tend to over use fertilizers and pesticides, which can ultimately end up in the lake if not carefully applied.

Some lakes promote a “naturalists” approach to landscaping that relies on the model nature provides for us. By reducing lawn area and creating “buffer gardens” homeowners can contribute to the overall environmental health of the lake by increasing groundwater infiltration and filtering pollutants out of the stormwater running over our properties. Other benefits include increasing habitat for desired animal species, such as songbirds, while decreasing habitat for unwanted species such as Canada geese. The Canada goose prefers short-cropped lawns to eat particularly when there is direct and immediate access to the water. By adding areas of native trees, scrubs, and ground covers between the water and house/lawn area, homeowners can reduce the occurrences of geese on the property. * *Editor's note even if geese are not your problem anyone living in the Lake community must consider the impact of your lawn products on the lake.*

Reporting Boating Safety Violations- Contributed by Chuck Lee, CT DEP

Lake residents and boaters alike frequently witness violations of safety or boating laws on Connecticut's waters. Many people are increasingly frustrated because there never seems to be a law enforcement officer present when the incident occurs. In addition, law enforcement personnel find it hard to follow-up on an incident without clear information and or sworn statement. As we all know, boaters are usually on their best behavior when they see a patrolman on the water. Not unlike seeing a State Trooper stationed on I-84.

In an effort to address this dilemma, the D.E.P. Navigation Safety/Boating Access Unit and Law Enforcement Division have worked together to develop a sign and process that empowers the public. The sign, which is being produced now, outlines the reporting process, which will best lead to an arrest and prosecution. The sign provides the D.E.P. dispatch number 1-860-424-3333 and five pieces of information needed:

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1. Date and time of incident.
2. Location and direction of travel of the craft.
3. What they did wrong.
4. Description of operator/passengers.
5. Description of the craft including the hull number.

In addition, anything that could help the officer should be provided, including photos or video. Typically, an officer will contact you soon after you call the incident in and arrange to meet with you to take a statement. This process may require someone to sign an affidavit and possibly act as a witness in court, however, if you are willing, you too can take an active role in discouraging illegal activity on our waters. Contact R. Michael Payton, Supervisor Navigation Safety/Boating Access Unit 860-434-8638

The NALMS conference is coming to Foxwoods- by Gay Leedie

The North American Lake Management Society is holding it's 23rd International Symposium Nov. 4-8 2003. I have registered for the Friday and Saturday Lake and Stewards package. I hope to bring back lots of valuable information relevant to our lake community. If you are interested in attending you can get more information on their web site nalms.org

Beaver sightings on the lake – from Lake Chaffee.org web site

Bob and Laurie Layton reported seeing small beaver in the lake on June 11th and again August 17th (island & SW cove respectively). Where will he build his lodge and where will he get the small trees and brush needed for its construction?

On September 9th, Gary and Linda Smith (Shorefront) wrote, "The beaver has decided to take down trees in our yard. On August 28th noticed a tree down. Upon inspection it was from the "Beaver". Today... the next tree in line has been taken down by the "Beaver"... Any suggestions before we loose all our trees?"

Beach Chair Report by Sandra Moquin

Since school started the main beach has become the hang out for area youth, many not from the association. With the increased number of youth hanging around vandalism is on the rise. Signs have been destroyed, and the area has been trashed with an increase in litter. The State Police have been asked to patrol more often. We are asking the parents of the youth to allow hem to hang out at your house instead. If your child has friends from outside the association stopping by, they should not use the main beach as their hang out. It is considered loitering.

Grass Roots Knowledge About Non-point Source Pollution-by John W. Deering

What is the responsibility of our society to protect the watershed, ground water, and water quality of this earth? That is not a \$64,000.00 dollar question it is a \$64,000,000.00 dollar question. Why do I use that figure? Richmond, Virginia spent \$140,000,000.00 dollars in a flood protection project to protect a 64,000,000 million-acre drainage basin that flows into the James River that discharges through the City of Richmond. The cubic feet flow of water per second is 660,00 during a maximum storm event. Can anyone imagine what would happen if everyone placed his or her **landscape debris** in a public right of way for a rain event to take away and transport it through that drainage?

The term "debris" in the dictionary refers to building rubble, broken rock, litter, and trash.

Leaves, grass clippings, stick, and wood-chips are landscape debris. Add road sand to those

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items and there is a serious problem going into the drainage system during a rain event and discharging into a watercourse.

No landscaping debris from a residential yard or commercial land use activity should be blown, raked or placed in any Town, City or State right of way because it would be collected by a rain event and transported into a drainage system, appoint source discharge into a watercourse or body of water.

We need to address all the accumulative issues such as natural erosion, road sand, gutter erosion on rural roads along with residential yards and commercial parcels of land during a maintenance activity and municipal and state road maintenance. Most important is that we address this issue from a non-adversarial position. Are more ordinances, rules, and regulations needed? I would hope not. But again how can we arrive to a memorandum of understanding to achieve that.

In closing I will address the real issue that exists in our daily lives; it is money. Money controls everything, and the decision that has to be made is how are we going to control non-point source pollution and protect our water supply.

Announcements

Two Lake residents are running for the Town of Ashford Boards.

Deanna Soja of Ashford Drive is running for a seat on the Board of Finance. And **Tony Horn** of Lake View Drive is running for an Alternate seat on the Board of Finance. The local election is Tuesday November 4th; our polling place is Ashford Town Hall.

There's room in the Newsletter for your announcements. Are you trying to sell something, why not advertise in the Newsletter? Or do you have some other newsworthy article you want to pass along to the residents at LCIA? It simple to do, just mail your item to 58 Ashford Dr. or e-mail to MGALeedie@AOL.com. The next issue will be out just before Halloween!

FUND RAISING We are having a can/bottle drive throughout the winter months and are asking the members to save your cans/bottles. Bring your bags full of cans/bottles for our first collection to Chaffee Hall on October 25th, place them in the garbage cans provided, or John Noll has also volunteered to go around and pick them up if you place the bags at the end of your driveway. So lets all get started now! *Look for signs with more details closer to the collection date.*