

Lake Chaffee Chatter

Official newsletter of your Lake Chaffee Improvement Association, Inc.

October 2008

And remember to visit our website: <http://www.LakeChaffee.org>

Message from the President

by Laura Koropatkin, LCIA President

I would like to thank all the members that have expressed their appreciation to board members and myself on moving forward with the needs of achieving what our lake needs and approve on what can be done.

And thanks to all the members that have volunteered over the last couple of months to get our beaches, boat docks, hall and roads up to speed.

With your ideas and help from members, projects can be completed.

Support within a small community is the key.



Mark Your Calendars

- ◆ October 25th - 31st, raking & cleanup of Main Beach. Volunteers should contact Sandra Moquin at 487-3619.
- ◆ **BINGO.** Every Saturday night at Lake Chaffee Hall -- Volunteers needed to help run floor & kitchen.
- ◆ November 1st & 2nd -- lowering of lake water level begins.
- ◆ Saturday November 22nd at Lake Chaffee Hall -- Annual Bazaar fundraiser, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Use this venue to display and sell your crafts, \$15 per table. Food and beverages available. Sponsored by the Bazaar Committee. Contact Kay Warren at 487-3744 to reserve your table.
- ◆ Saturday November 22nd at Lake Chaffee Hall (coincident with the Annual Holiday Bazaar described above) – tag sale fundraiser. Contact Sandra Moquin at 487-3619 to reserve your table for \$15 (two tables for \$25).

Our Bazaar Committee

Making Lake Chaffee a Better Place

by Pauline Backhaus

The “bazaar committee” (it wasn’t called that in the beginning) was formed to raise money for projects that the lake association couldn’t afford or wouldn’t fund on its own.

In the early 1970’s, women from around the lake got together in one home or another once a week to work on crafts, then held a neighborhood craft fair to sell what we’d produced. After each fair, we’d turn the profits over to the association where they were added to the general fund as a donation.

Not seeing the fruit of our labor used for the what we had in mind, we requested that the LCIA board authorize the committee to specify how the funds we raised were to be spent – if not, we weren’t going to fund-raise any more. The board agreed, stipulating that the funds continue to be turned over to the LCIA treasurer who, in turn, would place them in a separate, interest bearing BAZAAR FUND bank account. And the Bazaar Committee forged ahead.

Over the years, we have offered bazaar-generated funds whenever there was a worthy, unmet need. Some of the projects... (continued on page 3)

Lakeside of the Season

If you didn’t spend time boating on Lake Chaffee this spring, you probably weren’t aware of bustling backhoes, bobcats and dump trucks along the southeast shore. And you probably missed this lakeside rebirth that changed a ho-hum waterfront into a true gem.

Tim and Amy Donahue...(continued on page 3)



Recently landscaped lakeside at 20 Armitage Court

**Nuisance Weeds and Algae
What We're Doing About Them**

By Diana Murray – Environmental Chair

As everyone in our lake community is probably aware, the weed and algae problem is of our utmost concern. Chuck Lee of the DEP came to the board meeting of October 8, 2008 to answer our questions. Here is a synopsis of the information we obtained.



Weeds are opportunistic. The sediment from run-off is the perfect medium in which they can thrive. We have many town storm drains which empty directly into the lake bringing sediment and nutrients which are available for nuisance plant rooting and feeding. These plants are nourished primarily by the element of nitrogen.

The algae blooms which are noticeable in the warm months feed on phosphorous. Both of these elements are the primary ingredients in fertilizer and are naturally occurring in decomposing organic matter. I noted on a walk around the lake after draw down last year, where there may be as much as three to four feet of muck. Unfortunately, there is no easy solution to the sediment problem. Dredging is an option but is exorbitantly expensive.

The first step we must take is to find out exactly what types of weeds we have. This can be accomplished through a survey during the summer months. The Environmental Chairperson has been in contact with Greg Bugby of the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station to see if we can get a free survey of the weeds next summer.



Chuck Lee of Connecticut DEP

If there is no availability on their waiting list for next summer we might have to consider hiring a professional limnologist, an expert in the field of aquatic life and lake structure.

Once we have identified the types of nuisance weeds most prevalent, we will be able to form a plan for dealing with them. It was suggested that we hire a registered commercial pesticide application company if we decide to go with the application of herbicides. We are limited in the types of chemicals we can put into the lake because we are in the watershed for the Town of Windham drinking water supply.

Mr. Lee also suggested that we obtain a bathometric map of the lake which would assist us in determining how much sediment has filled in the lake creating the perfect footing in which the weeds can grow.

This problem did not occur overnight and we cannot be expected to eradicate it quickly. We must proceed with caution so that we do not make the problems worse or create new problems

Your Neighbor's Business

Unseen, unheard, yet our Lake Chaffee community is home to more than a dozen businesses permitted under LCIA's Home Occupation Ordinance and Ashford zoning regulations. This is the 1st of a series of articles these invisible enterprises, officially referred to as "home occupations", that are the livelihood of many of our neighbors.

From the look of **41 Lakeview Drive**, you would never know that it is home to a thriving home occupation doing business as **A.C.E.S.**



Sandra Moquin founded "Ashford Cleaning & Errand Services" about five years ago. Today, she services both residential and commercial clients throughout Ashford, Willington and Stafford Springs. And, yes, she does windows!

Need your home cleaned before the in-laws arrive? Want your office done every week? Or a half-a-dozen pizzas picked up for a last minute party? Sandra's A.C.E.S. can be the solution.

New Members (over the past year)

On behalf of the entire Lake Chaffee community, the LCIA Board of Directors extends a warm welcome to new members. We hope to see you at our weekly bingo or at other upcoming events. And PLEASE, if we've missed your name or included it in error, please e-mail laytons@lakechaffee.org to correct the oversight.

- ◆ Melissa Gaudette (122 Lakeview Drive)
- ◆ Matthew Enzor & Jennifer Higgins (29 Union Drive)
- ◆ Sarah Jennings (52 Lakeview)
- ◆ Lavitt, Jonathan P (12 Pine Hill Drive)
- ◆ Emery Bonvoulois (14 Armitage Court)
- ◆ Eugene Smith (261 Ferrence) – SMITTY'S
- ◆ Elizabeth Trosell (52 Union Drive)
- ◆ Joseph & Donna Corbin (15 Circle Drive)
- ◆ Adam Shooks (7 Armitage Court)
- ◆ Falk & Maria Willis (127 Lakeview Drive)



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Bazaar Committee *(continued from page 1)*

...that we have helped with our monies are, in no certain order: tables and chairs for the hall; paving the parking lot in front of the hall; buying window curtains for the hall. We have paid to replace the tile on the floor of Lake Chaffee Hall twice, helped cover the cost of dredging Mother’s Beach and recently paid for replacement of the countertops in the kitchen. And when emergencies dictated, money from the Bazaar Fund has been loaned to the LCIA’s general fund.

Present members of the Bazaar Committee are Debbie Coulombe, Laura Koropatkin, Mary Michaud, Kay Warren, Jack Pirzl and I (Pauline Backhaus). Jack is bonded, state-licensed and responsible for the raffle run each year as part of the bazaar while Kay is currently responsible for managing the kitchen, renting tables and soliciting donated goods for the bake-sale table run by the committee itself.

Membership on the committee is rather informal...you join the committee by coming to the bazaar-planning meetings and helping work the bazaar itself, now usually held on the second or third Saturday of November. Just call any of us to learn when and where you can help and become part of the Bazaar Committee.

This year’s bazaar is on **Saturday November 22nd**.

If you’re a crafter or artisan, if you have products to be sold during the coming holiday season, then Lake Chaffee’s **Holiday Bazaar** is the place you should be. Contact Kay (487-3744) to reserve your space as soon as possible.

Lakeside *(continued from page 1)*

... members of the Lake Chaffee community since November 2005, won approval of Ashford’s Wetlands Commission and

in early 2008 hired a landscaper. Birch Mountain Earthworks of South Windsor, using discarded granite “recycled” from blasting a new home site in Avon, transformed the lakeside of 20 Armitage Court into a stately garden of granite terraces and elegant stone steps leading to the water. First there’s the “sea” wall, 100 feet long averaging 3 feet high. Then the terraces, each tastefully planted with shapely traditional evergreen and deciduous shrubbery.

But wait. There’s more to come. If not before winter, then next spring, Tim and Amy will add a second but lower deck running the full width of the house and a dock using piers that are already in place.

Amy, a professor and head of UConn’s Department of Public Policy at the Hartford campus, was raised in Old Lyme. Tim retired from the Syracuse, New York fire department and is now Northeastern Regional Manager for a car parts distributor.

Recognitions & Thankyous

- ◆ **Ralph Graziola** for mowing the grass at the Main Beach
- ◆ **Brenda & Ed Chisholm** for the used kitchen stove for the hall
- ◆ **Kyle Magowan & Steven Blackmer** for distributing flyers announcing the DEP rep at Oct 8th board meeting
- ◆ **Kay Warren** for aiding Jackie Moquin after Jackie broke her arm in a cycling accident.
- ◆ **Eugenie Bagley, Gay Leedie, Anthony Horn, Rachel Parslow, Kasey Fox, Diana & Phil** for their sponsorship & support of Cara James and Jackie Moquin’s participation in the National Miss Pageant. Cara and Jackie earned Ashford’s ambassadorship in this pageant.



Panoramic view (approximately 170 degree view) of Lake Chaffee's southwest cove. Taken from dock at 147 Lakeview in September 2008, contributed by Bob Layton

Lake Chaffee Board of Directors

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- Debbie Coulombe.....202-4591
- Jacqueline Kennedy unlisted
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