

Lake Chaffee Chatter

Official newsletter of your Lake Chaffee Improvement Association, Inc.

February 2009

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

Holiday Bazaar Success

Once again, the Holiday Bazaar was a successful community happening and fun-raiser. Table rentals, kitchen, bake table and incremental raffle ticket sales generated about \$800 revenue. Congratulations to Jack Pirzl, Kay Warren, Pauline Backhaus and all the other members who donated their time to make this year's bazaar and premier opening of the renovated kitchen.

2008 Lake Chaffee Raffle

Congratulations to the winners whose names were drawn during the Holiday Bazaar on November 22.

- ❑ gas card won by Nancy Krist, 91 Lakeview Drive
- ❑ GPS won by Al Fyler, 325 Ference Road
- ❑ digital camera won by Bob Bickford, 3 Maple Drive

Ticket sales, minus the cost of tickets, netted the LCIA a profit of more than \$800.

Raffle tickets are first mailed to members with their annual tax bill in September and subsequently sold to the general public during the holiday bazaar. Ticket winners are drawn at the close of each bazaar.

Our Bingo Committee

Making Lake Chaffee a Fun Place

By Jack Pirzl -- Bingo Chair

Since 1992, Lake Chaffee Bingo has generated as much as \$12,000 as year and nearly \$130,000 (total) with income derived from sale of food & beverage and sealed tickets as well as from the bingo cards themselves. This revenue, far more than needed to cover cost maintaining Lake Chaffee Hall, continues to defray other association expenses including snow plowing and road maintenance.



It all started in the 1970's Mr. & Mrs. Kovarovics agreed to set up and run a bingo game to help the lake association raise money. It only lasted two or three months and when they did not get the help as expected turned it over to Irma Burrill who worked it for another 18 months.

During this time I had been helping with the VFW bingo in East Hartford and with the game at St. Philips. When Irma quit, I told Dennis Mayer, the president at LCIA, that I would take over the bingo chairman job.

At this time all bingoes were under the control of the State Police. In early '77 or '78, bingo chairmen from throughout the state were invited to Rockville to meet the people who would be running the Division of Special Revenue and go over the forms that they would be expecting us to use. And all bingo workers had to apply to the DSR for a new PIN number.

The "new" rules they established were essentially identical to the rules for Bingo in Massachusetts and imposed a new gross revenues fee of 5% . Most of the bingo chairmen vigorously objected, after which it was reduced to 5% of the net profits . . . (continued on page 3)

Streetside of the Season

Each issue of Lake Chaffee Chatter recognizes waterside and streetside decorations and landscaping that contribute to the positive Lake Chaffee neighborhood experience.

Those of us who stayed in our own corner of the lake this past holiday missed the opportunity to enjoy our neighbors' seasonal yard decorations. If, however, you drove through our Lake Chaffee community after dark between Thanksgiving and New Years, you are sure to have appreciated the labor of Steven and Kathleen Little whose Circle Drive streetside greeted all who passed with a colorful lighted crèche, wise men trudging through the snow, a snow globe, Santa, reindeer among stylized lighted trees and more sharing the spirit of the season . . . (continued on page 3)



Outdoor Holiday Display at 42 Circle Drive (photo does not do display justice...night photography is not one of the editor's talents)

Weed Eating Carp

by Bob Layton

Heavy, dense stands of submerged aquatic vegetation choke Lake Chaffee every summer. Stocking the lake with weed-eating grass carp has been suggested as one answer to this problem

| Summary | |
|--|---|
| Pros | Cons |
| carp are "natural" weed control | not natural in New England; an invasive species, capable of damaging habitat and indigenous life |
| proven effective against many weeds | selective eaters – may not consume the weeds which cause Lake Chaffee members the greatest concern. |
| one stocking should last several years | could cost more than \$5,000 per stocking |
| adds big fish species for angling | make water murkier by stirring up the bottom |
| | mechanical harvesting, chemical control may be needed to augment carp weed control |
| | accelerates lake eutrophication by their waste products |
| | takes 3-4 years to achieve optimum weed control |
| | requires permit from DEP |
| | requires grates at all in- and out-flows which themselves must be maintained to prevent blockages |

Grass carp are voracious eaters *when the water temperature is favorable*. For example, at a water temperature of 13°C, they can consume 5% of their body weight per day while at 18 to 25°C, grass carp consume 24% of their body weight.¹

Unfortunately, grass carp have extremely inefficient digestive systems...assimilating less than 50% of plant matter that they consume and excreting the rest as partially digested plant waste. This organic waste returns to the aquatic environment and may contribute to eutrophication and subsequently to oxygen depletion and fish kills in the water body...

In the U.S., carp are often regarded as a troublesome species because they root up bottom vegetation, muddying lake water while displacing native waterfowl and other fish species²

In 1983, advances in bioengineering allowed for the introduction of *triploid* grass carp. Normal, reproductive grass carp are *diploid*, meaning that they possess two sets of chromosomes per cell. Triploids, with an extra chromosomes set, are sterile and non-reproductive.³

Stocking rates of five to over 200 fish per acre have been used depending on plant species, plant density & distribution, the size & age of the fish and the pond owner's objectives. There are computer models that determine the appropriate stocking density by considering additional factors such as the amount

of human activity around the pond, the desired level of control and grass carp feeding preferences. The numbers recommended are designed to provide a 75 to 90 % reduction in target plant species in three to four years. In most situations complete removal of aquatic vegetation is undesirable because the vegetation provides cover for small fish and attachment surfaces for fish food organisms.⁴

Triploid sterile grass carp 10-12 inches long can stocked at the rate of 7 to 15/acre⁵. At \$10 per fish, stocking 10 fish per acre for a 55 acre lake like Lake Chaffee would cost more than \$5,000. As these fish do not reproduce, normal die-off and catches suggest periodic restocking. As grass carp mature, they grow to be about 25-40 pounds. Some grass carp have even grown to three feet in length and weighing over 40 pounds.⁶ From this point of view, carp would less likely fall prey to bass, pickerel and osprey. On average, triploids are smaller and the majority seem to have shorter life spans than diploids

Grass carp tolerate cold and warm water conditions when gradually acclimatized to changes in water temperatures. Carp also tolerate lower oxygen levels, 2 to 3 mg/l compared to 5 to 6 mg/l for most trout species.

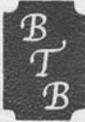
However, ponds less than three meters (10 ft) deep and heavily infested with aquatic plant growth may have summer night-time values or late winter values that may approach 0 mg/l dissolved oxygen. In shallow ponds, some form of artificial aeration to maintain appropriate oxygen levels during the high temperatures of summer and throughout ice-covered winter periods may be required.¹

Vegetation harvesting by hand or machine or chemical control may be necessary after grass carp introduction into the pond if some of the least-preferred species persist or if the pond has an excessive density of aquatic weeds. After using mechanical or chemical methods, grass carp can be used to control regrowth.

| High | Moderate | Low |
|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Hydrilla | Bladderwort | Reeds |
| American elodea | Fanwort | Sedges |
| Brazilian elodea | Water pennywort | Alligator weed |
| Duckweed | Coontail | Spatterdock |
| Elodea | Water primrose | Yellow cowlily |
| Musk-Grass (Chara) | Algae, Filamentous | Maidencane |
| Pondweed | Baby-tears | Torpedo grass |
| Slender Spikerush | Bacopa | Watershield |
| Southern Naiad | Banana lily | Water-lily |
| Widgeon-grass | Bog-Moss | Water-hyacinth |
| | Bulrush | Water-lettuce |
| | Cattail | Parrot's-feather |
| | Coontail | Pennywort |
| | Eelgrass | Pickerelweed |

¹ [http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex3446](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/agdex3446)
² "Carp a Nuisance?", Steven Grant, The Hartford Courant October 18, 2008
³ "From Grass Carp...What You Need To Know..." (<http://www.galvbay.org>)

⁴ <http://warnell.forestry.uga.edu/warnell/service/library/index.php3?docID=185>
⁵ <http://www.fauquiercounty.gov/government/departments/jmswcd/index.cfm?action=algaeandweedcontrol>
⁶ <http://aqua.ucdavis.edu/dbweb/outreach/aqua/ID6-98.PDF>
⁷ <http://www.thepondconnection.com/triploidgrasscarp.html>



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Bingo *(continued from page 1)*

...In 1980, we were using hard cards and bingo chips for regular games. We changed to a system of paper bingo "cards" so the floor workers could sell more cards as players wanted them. At the same time, bingo chips were replaced with colored markers.

In 1983, I asked the board to authorize expansion of Lake Chaffee Hall. At the time, the hall's capacity was approximately 40 including two bingo tables in the kitchen. We hoped to add room for 6 more tables.

At present we have chairs and tables for about 76 players and the fire marshal has us rated at 89 occupants (10 square feet per person).

Overall revenue for 2007-2008 was reduced by the closing of the kitchen in August '07. The kitchen has since been renovated, licensed and officially reopened January 24th [look for pictures and the story in the May edition].

Come down and see the changes any Saturday night, have a bite to eat and stay for the game.

Streetside *(continued from page 1)*

... Thank you for taking the time as well as storage & electricity (their CL&P bill doubled as a result of the display) to make our Christmas a little brighter!

Kathleen, nee Kathleen Pansullo, grew up where Armitage & Oak converge at Mothers' Beach. She and Steven returned to Lake Chaffee in '83 and have been here ever since.

Steven works at Connecticut Water Company and Kathleen at Open Solutions. They have three adult children and three grandchildren.



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New Members *(over the few months)*

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.

- ❑ Mark & Lisa Troyer (25 Short Drive)
- ❑ Eric Parent (274 Ferrence Road)
- ❑ William Miller (6 Viewpoint Drive)
- ❑ Rodney Baylor (68 Old Town Road)
- ❑ Richard Parnas & Jeane Tanner (14 Amidon Drive)

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 2nd of a series of articles about these invisible enterprises, officially referred to as "home occupations", that are the livelihood of many of our neighbors.



While there's no sign in front of the **54 Ashford Drive** home of Eugenie & Bud Bagley, the back of the house belongs to a home occupation dba **Bagley Tax and Bookkeeping**.

Founded in 1995, the business was moved from Stafford to Lake Chaffee in 1998. Today, the company serves the tax preparation and bookkeeping needs of more than 220 clients

It's principal, Eugenie Bagley, is an Enrolled Agent whose federally issued license, unlike that of a CPA, is recognized in every state.

Coming in our May issue...

- ❑ GeoThermal comes to Lake Chaffee
- ❑ Summer Cuisin'
- ❑ New Houses in the Neighborhood
- ❑ Lake Chaffee Hall's New Kitchen

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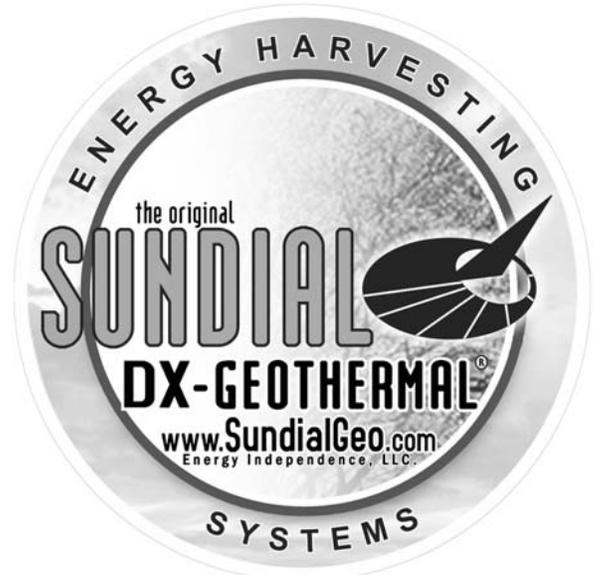
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