

# Longwood Lake Newsletter

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May 2008

## Annual Meeting 10:00am Saturday, June 14th

Welcome to spring 2008. All of us on the LLCOA board hope to find most, if not all of our members at the annual meeting. The meeting is scheduled for Saturday June 14th at 10:00am at the:

1<sup>ST</sup> PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
635 BERKSHIRE VALLEY ROAD  
WHARTON, NJ

We will be using the same format - a 10:00 am meeting followed by a noon lunch. We wish to begin on time and ask that all members arrive **before** the official 10:00am start to sign in. Attendance will be taken; voting cards handed out, proxy forms and timber wood forms collected. Our agenda includes:

- Treasurer' Report
- Minutes of 2007 Annual Meeting
- Budget
- Maintenance (Assessment) Fees
- Fish stocking and campfire permit
- Timber Stand Improvement
- Dinner Dance
- Summer Picnic
- Road Maintenance
- Elections

The term for the following offices of the board are up for election this year, — President, two (2) VP at Large (Ron and Rich), and VP of Maintenance. While I know that some of us will continue to serve if that's what the members want, we would certainly welcome some new faces. If you have questions about serving on the Board, give one of us a call. We'd be happy to fill you in.

If you wish to have an issue or item added to the agenda for action at the meeting, please contact Su Klein via email at [LLCOASU@aol.com](mailto:LLCOASU@aol.com). While we will accept new agenda items up until 9:00 am the day of our annual meeting, Su would appreciate email before the May 25<sup>th</sup> to add items to the agenda.

For those members who are unable to attend, make sure any proxy statements are correctly filled out and signed. Although a copy of the minutes will be published in the next newsletter, your presence and thoughts are needed at the meeting to insure we have a well-rounded discussion.

lake, fund maintenance projects, strive for improved water quality, as well as provide social activities for our members. Our social activities contribute to the maintenance of our non-profit status. Please make your check out to L.L.C.O.A and mail to:

Frank Cagnina  
556 Hillsdale Ave.  
Hillsdale, NJ 07642.

Please keep in mind the assessment must be paid by the annual meeting; otherwise a 10% late fee will be added starting July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2008.

### CABIN OWNER MASTER LIST

I am trying to maintain the list of cabin owners and their mailing address. I am receiving returned mail for many cabin owners that have been on the master list since I took over office of Secretary. If there are any changes to ownership, addresses for mailing list that are no longer valid, please contact me to have this updated. There are many cabins that have more than one owner listed and some of the addresses are no longer valid. I can only maintain a valid list if the information is given to me so I ask that you bring on a

### FROM the TREASURER

*Submitted by Frank Cagnina*

The annual assessment (Dues) for 2008 will not increased, they will remain at \$575.00. These monies allow the board to manage our

separate sheet of paper, or email to me at [LLCOASU@aol.com](mailto:LLCOASU@aol.com), legibly, the following information: Cabin number, address, phone, and email address of anyone who is a owner of your cabin.

Thank you. Su Klein

## **DUMPSTERS**

By Kim Huron

This year we will again have cleanup dumpster available for our lake members in early July. They will be placed in three locations: Freddie's Field, the old dump on the back road and on Yellow Road. Please adhere to the following rules for the dumpsters:

1. DO NOT put any food garbage in the cleanup dumpsters, it is not allowed and will attract skunks, bears and other animals.
2. These dumpsters are for general cleanup only. They are NOT for your construction waste or for cleaning out a cabin (this also includes the regular dumpsters) You need to get your own dumpster for this. A mattress, a piece of furniture, an old grill, general debris, etc. is OK. (NO PROPANE TANKS)
3. DO NOT put leaves, branches, logs, etc. in the cleanup or the regular dumpsters; this should go in the woods.
4. DO NOT put concrete, cement blocks, etc in the

Blue Road dumpsters; these items make the dumpster too heavy going over the bridge.

or email me at [snowpagano@aol.com](mailto:snowpagano@aol.com). Thanks.

## **CINEMA UNDER THE STARS**

This idea was brought up to me last year. Have a movie night at Freddy's Field at the gala Lake premiere of the notorious Dilema Productions PICKET FENCES. We would set up a large screen and projector and show one of our movies while serving popcorn..candy..and drinks. It would be free to members and family and would last 2 hours. Before planning this we need to know who would like to attend...so we will be asking at our annual Meeting...please keep this in mind. By the way...you can drive up to Freddy's Field..but watch the movie by bringing a chair...perhaps a blanket..perhaps a pillow.....

## **ANNUAL DINNER DANCE**

*Submitted by Pat Pagano*

THIS YEAR'S DINNER DANCE WILL BE MORE THAN A SPICY MEATBALL!

Our Dinner Dance this year will be held on Saturday-Sept 13, 2008 at the Lafayette House. The theme, in case you did not get it by the headline, is Italian Night. We'll be featuring lots of Italian food and from time to time some Italian music. Our thanks to the great turn out last year...hoping for the same this year..but please try to respond to our flyer as soon as possible.

## **ANNUAL MOVIE**

*By Pat Pagano*

MOVIES...MOVIES...AND MORE MOVIES...

O.K.....we have done 17 years of movies and it gets harder and harder each year...but the cast gets better and better. We have not chosen one for this year yet...but again we would like to invite any and all to help us out. If you don't want to be in front of the camera..we certainly can use help behind the camera. We usually start at the very end of August and wrap up by end of September. WE ARE IN NEED FOR A SCRIPT

MANAGER-someone who will be able to track the scenes on paper and keep notes....so if you can manage some time...please let me now. Call Pat at (516)-374-9226

## **BASS STOCKING/CAMPFIRES**

Mike Rowe will again be stocking the lake with Bass and other fish in June. He also will get the campfire permit to be issued to us for Memorial Day weekend thru Labor Day weekend. Remember you still need to call if you are having a campfire.

## **CABIN SALES**

The two cabins (130 and 133) that were in foreclosure were sold at the public auction in March. One

was sold to Patrick O'Hara and Gary Sullivan and the other to Tim Sullivan.

### **Selling your Cabin?**

As our Master Deed reads, "There is an approval process with respect to the sale, mortgaging or other transfer of title of the units. This includes but is not limited to requiring the prospective purchaser of any unit to submit an application to the Board of Trustees."

### **So what do you do?**

1. You have to get an application from Lois Roland.
2. Have the prospective purchaser fill it out.
3. Give the application to an officer.

The officers will set up an interview with the prospective purchasers. The seller cannot be present. The interview is a two-way process. We want some information from the purchasers (mostly about income), and we want to make sure that people understand the LLCOA community before they decide to dive in. Does any of this sound scary? All interviews so far have resulted in sales.

Contact info for application forms:

**Lois, Cabin 168, (973) 989-5090**  
**Eva-Lee, Cabin 198, (212) 866-4458**

### **PLEASE ENJOY YOUR ATVs and DIRT BIKES RESPONSIBLY**

The officers have been receiving more and more complaints about ATVs. We discussed this issue at the annual meeting last year. As an Association, we are split down the middle. Some members hate the noise and dust; others love the thrill of the ride. So how do we keep the peace?

I think the best solution is for all of us to re-commit to observing the rules we've already made together, and enforcing them with a combination of voluntary self-policing and neighborly reminders. We have two important rules that affect ATVs.

The first rule is the 5miles per hour rule – and that applies to all us, car drivers and well as ATV drivers. On all Association roads that provide access to a cabin (as opposed to other roads on our property that are back up in the woods) the speed limit is 5 mph.

The second rule concerns only ATVs. It says that ATV drivers should restrict their use of the access roads (essentially the same roads as the 5mph roads) to taking their ATVs from their cabins out to the woods and back again.

Essentially, the means that you can't just drive your ATV back and forth on the access roads – or let your kids do it either. Observing these rules would end most of the complaints we get, since a lot of them are about kids riding back and forth on the access roads at

speeds that exceed 5mph. I suspect that some parents may be encouraging this as a way of keeping an eye on the kids, but it's really not fair to your neighbors. It would be better to take the kids back up in the woods, away from the cabins. It's a better sporting experience, and you can keep an eye on them there. REMEMBER NO ATV'S OR DIRT BIKES ARE ALLOWED ON FREDDIE'S FIELD.

We are encouraging all members to approach people who are breaking our rules, and remind them, in a neighborly way, of the need to comply. If you're on the receiving end of one of these reminders, please offer a neighborly apology - and then get with the program!

### **CABIN CONSTRUCTION**

Please refer to the LLCOA website or the article in the 2004 newsletter, which is on the website under the title of:

*"CONSTRUCTION RULES AND REGULATIONS"*

The user name ID is LLCOA\_members and the password is: Wh1t3ta1! It is case sensitive.

**RECYCLING AND GARBAGE**  
**RULES-Please Post in your**  
**Cabin for Reference**

**ACCEPTABLE RECYCLING**

Food and beverage containers, which are glass, aluminum, steel, or tin food and beverage containers  
 Plastic bottles, jugs and jars with recyclable symbol on container.  
 Please remember to remove lids and rinse out containers.

Newspapers and magazines bundled and tied with string or twine (not tape or wire) or they can be placed in brown paper bags.  
 Also, junk mail, mixed paper, paperboard and cardboard placed in brown paper bags. Corrugated cardboard boxes must be flattened and tied with string

**Do not put garbage in the recycling containers.**

**UNACCEPTABLE RECYCLING (ITEMS FOR THE DUMPSTER)**

NO Plastic bags  
 NO waxed or coated containers (milk cartons, juice boxes, ice cream containers, etc)  
 NO broken glass, window glass, mirrors, dishes, ceramics, flower pots  
 NO pie tins, aluminum foil, clothes hangers, pots, pans

NO yogurt, sour cream, cottage cheese, cream cheese containers, butter tubs  
 NO deli containers, food trays, plastic utensils  
 NO toys and plant trays

**GARBAGE**

Put all garbage in the dumpsters and close the lids. If you can't put the garbage inside the dumpster, then take it home with you. Please do not put it on the ground. We also ask you to break up wooden items such as dressers and shelves into small pieces for placement in the dumpster or to burn at a campfire

**THE DUMPSTER AREA IS NOT A DUMP**

***YOU MUST DISPOSE OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS  
 YOURSELF DO NOT PUT THEM IN OR AT THE DUMPSTER AREA***

Do NOT bring any vegetation waste such as branches, logs, leaves, grass clippings, brush, etc. to the dumpster area.  
 Do NOT bring cement blocks, cinder blocks, bricks, rocks, etc. to the dumpster area

**NO CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS**

Construction material can be taken to the Jefferson Twsp. Recycling

Center by appointment, Saturdays between 9:00 am and 2:00 pm. To make an appointment, call 973-697-2522 Monday through Thursday. One level pick-up truckload is allowed per week; bring your tax bill, as proof of residency is required

**NO TIRES** (Tires can be taken to the Parsippany Transfer Station by calling (973) 808-9651

**NO BATTERIES** (Batteries can be taken to a place that sells batteries)

**NO PROPANE TANKS** (Tanks can be taken to Eastern Propane for recycling or disposal)

**NO MOTOR OIL** (Oil can be taken to a place that sells motor oil)

**NO HAZARDOUS WASTE**

Hazardous waste (including motor oil) can be taken to the Morris County M.U.A. (by appointment only; call 973-829-8006)

## MESSAGES FROM OUR PRESIDENT

### New, Stronger Weeds

There are always lots of things growing in Longwood Lake, and in the early part of last season we had our regular assortment of weeds. Then in mid-summer we started to see something new and unusual: coontail! What's that? The Texas A&M Department of Wildlife & Fisheries Sciences ([http://aquaplant.tamu.edu/database/submerged\\_plants/coontail.htm](http://aquaplant.tamu.edu/database/submerged_plants/coontail.htm)) describes the stuff this way:

"Coontail, or sometimes called hornwort, is a dark olive-green, rootless submerged perennial plant that often forms dense colonies. Leaves are relatively stiff, whorled with many forks and small teeth along one edge. The tips of branches are crowded with leaves giving it a "coontail" resemblance. Coontail reproduces by seeds and fragmentation."

And the Maine Center for Invasive Aquatic Plants (<http://www.mciap.org/herbarium/Coontail.php>) has this to say:

"Annual Cycle: Because coontail is tolerant to low light and cool water, it is able to survive overwinter under the ice as an evergreen plant. Photosynthesis and growth slow during the winter months and resume with vigor in the spring. Male and female flowers occur on separate plants, making fertilization and seed production unreliable. Reproduction occurs mainly through plant fragmentation."

"Value to the Aquatic Community: Because coontail overwinters as an evergreen plant, it provides important habitat to many invertebrates and fish year round. Waterfowl feed upon both foliage and fruit."

Apparently coontail is a problem in lakes from Maine to Texas. It was a severe problem in our area last year. At Longwood Lake we have used two remedies for weed infestations consistently over the years. One is mechanical removal by individual Association members. Through their heroic raking and hauling efforts some members (you know who you are) have been able to keep some portions of the lake somewhat clear. The other is chemical treatment, the most cost effective lake-wide remedy. There are environmental consequences and legal restrictions on the use of chemicals – every living thing seems to be connected to every other living thing, and if you kill one thing you kill something else, and that in dying out kills something else, and that in dying out may leave room for something nasty to grow in its place. So it goes. We will continue to rake and haul, and to treat the lake with chemicals, but since these remedies leave us with too many weeds, we are looking for other cost-effective solutions. Several members have suggested putting weed-eating carp in the lake. Sadly, that is illegal – the Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) is concerned that if even a few of the supposedly sterile fish aren't sterile, we could end up with an infestation of carp, driving out all the other fish. And lowering the dam isn't possible because we don't own it and even if we did, the DEP might not let us refill the Lake until after we made the very expensive repairs that Jersey City has been failing to do for thirty years. Since the weeds will not wait, we are eager to find other cost effective solutions. If you have suggestions, please send us an estimate of the price and contact info of a suitable vendor.

See you in the water,

Eva-Lee Baird

### **Water Flows Downhill – Towards Us!**

There is a serious drainage problem along the section Berkshire Valley Rd from Blue Road to Yellow Road. The land along Berkshire Valley Road opposite the lake is steep and a tremendous amount of water comes down and goes under the road in pipes (and sometimes over the road!) The very heavy rainstorm of several years ago (the one that took out a hunk of Blue Road) opened an enormous trench in what had been a woods road used by ATVs. Two people can walk side by side in this trench and it is up to six feet deep in places. The flood also opened another trench running straight down the hill onto Berkshire Valley Road. Of course, all the earth that came out of the trenches is now in Longwood Lake.

Morris County has hired the engineering firm Van Cleef Associates to devise a plan for controlling erosion and managing drainage. On Friday, December 7, 2007 Aaron Lewit, Dick Leigh, and I met with engineers from Morris County and Van Cleef Associates (the county's engineering consultants for the project) to discuss the problem. The first erosion control plan proposed by Van Cleef was to lay a pipe in the trench that runs straight down the hillside, and line the other trench with concrete. The reviewers at the NJ DEP didn't like that plan and neither did we. It would have done nothing to slow the flow of water and would make the woods look like a parking lot.

After Van Cleef made the first plan, one of their engineers spent time studying the appropriate topographic map carefully and also hiked around the area. Partly because of his intelligent reporting they have given up on the idea of lining one trench with concrete and putting a pipe in the other. They are now planning to fill the trenches with cut stone and restore vegetation so the water can come down the hill more slowly. That's good because slow moving water carries less silt than speedy water.

Fast or slow, the water has to get across Berkshire Valley Road. We asked that they pipe the water down the road past Blue Road and dump it in the Rockaway below the dam. The county representatives said emphatically that they would never be able to get permits to pipe the water onto Green Acres property. So the water is going to go into the lake as it always has. For years there have been pipes running under the road and Van Cleef may put in one more. We asked that they add settling tanks to capture the silt, and they said that was doable. The Morris County engineers also said they would empty the settling tanks when they filled up - we just have to call and ask.

The county has to get permission from us before anyone starts work and they are still in the planning phase. This discussion will continue.