

# OFF-GRID NUGGET

Longwood Lake Newsletter

Summer, 2022

## Welcome to our Newly Enhanced Newsletter!

Watch out Woodward & Bernstein! Get the latest scoop of all the Longwood Lake news, updates and coming events by reading The Off-Grid Nugget! There's something for everyone, and if you don't find what you are looking for, then let us know! Send your stories, photos or whatever to [lisa.ebert@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.ebert@gmail.com)



GARY CHESTARO  
AS A KID  
(WE SWEAR)



## CALLING ALL PHOTOGRAPHERS!

We are looking for the prettiest photos of the lake for our next issue. Please send them to [lisa.ebert@gmail.com](mailto:lisa.ebert@gmail.com) so we can all enjoy the beauty.

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## EDITOR'S NOTE

**Hello Lakeheads!**

**Happy Summer 2022! Paco and I have worked hard to make this summer issue both helpful and fun! I am so glad several of you sent in updates, reports and your news. I would like to disseminate one newsletter per season, and I will rely on all of you to share your news with me so that I may share with everyone.**

**Hope to see all of you this summer, on the water, at an event, or on a hike! Stay Safe and enjoy it all!**

**Lisa and Paco**





# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

BY DICK HEITLER



I'm feeling really optimistic about the summer of 2022 at Longwood Lake. Maybe that's because I just got home from a fantastic weekend. Nature seems to be cooperating and showing us her awesome abundance. At night, the tree toads and bull frogs were louder than I have heard them in decades. Turtles by the dozen were sunning themselves on logs. My grandchildren went fishing and reeled in 3 bass as well as a bunch of smaller fish. The birds were incredible. We saw herons, cormorants, robins, cardinals - and a woodpecker in over-drive. Perhaps this is part of the good karma reward for all the work that was done on the bird habitats? The water was clear and clean - and the swimming was great as the temperatures hit the low

90's. Association governance is in good shape too. We've been meeting monthly all through the fall and winter. The meetings have all been conducted via Zoom, and it's been great to have so many cabin owners dial in. Maybe we should continue to handle our off-season meetings this way? We've been making some progress on a number of issues. You'll hear more about the dam, forestry, lake management, road maintenance, new kinds of social events, and more at the annual meeting. See you at the meeting. And hopefully also at the dinner dance, the picnic, another docktail hour - or just out on the lake or the trails.

## *In Memoriam*

### A SAD FAREWELL TO A LONG TIME FRIEND

BY GARY GARRISON

Mary Lou Fodor passed on Saturday, May 28, 2022. Born in August, 1934, Mary Lou spent the summers of her childhood here. Then, when she married Bob, they bought their own cabin. The Fodors were original members and we have fond memories of Fodor bon fires with the accordions playing!

Our sincere condolences to Kathy Fodor Delaney and Robbie Fodor, and to Mary Lou's grandchildren.

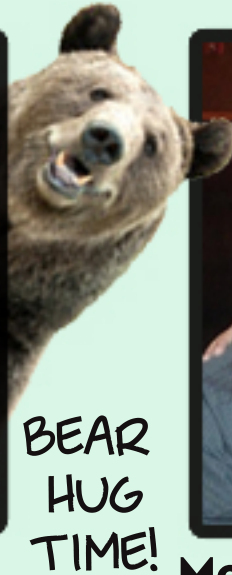






Say hello to our new neighbors!

We welcome three new families to the Lake:  
The Newmans, the Miladenovics and the Ventres!



### Meet the Newmans - 151

"We are looking forward to becoming part of the community at LLCOA. We have always admired the beautiful lake and cabins and are can't wait to start making memories there."

- The Newmans



### Meet the Miladenovics - 153

"Thank you so much for a warm welcome to the LLCOA Community, we are happy to be part of it, and are looking forward to meeting with you."

- The Miladenovics

**Longwood Lake  
2022 Season  
t-shirts are available!  
(other designs as well)**



ORDER HERE



### Being a Lake

He has never dreamed of being a lake in the high mountains, and now he wonders why. Surely there could be no better, in the way of dreamy aspirations: to be clear and cold and swum through by trout. To allow the sunlight far into your depths, to have depths no one will ever visit. To be ceilinged by ice and many feet of snow in winter, to shine pure blue into the pure blue of the sky, to show the stars the stars, to be drunk by wild animals. And to admit an occasional human, who, because of the memory of having been there, might dream of being there. Being there. Not a visitor but a dreamer, dreaming this very lake is what he's always wanted to be.

By ROBERT WRIGLEY





## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

### DINNER DANCE

- Continuous Dancing
- Buffet Dinner
- 5 Hour Open Bar
- Door Prizes

**Saturday, June 18 • 7pm**  
**The Lafayette House**  
**75 Route 15, Lafayette**

**Members (4) \$25 ea**  
**Guests (2) \$35 ea**  
**Additional Guests \$100 ea**

**Please send a check payable to LLCOA**  
**by June 10th to:**  
**Gary Chestaro**  
**63 Minuteman Circle**  
**Orangeburg, NY 10962**  
**More info at [gchestaro@gmail.com](mailto:gchestaro@gmail.com)**

## ANNUAL MEETING

**The LLCOA Annual Meeting – June 25th**  
**Come and be part of the process and**  
**select our representatives!**  
**9am • Freddie's Field**



### DOCKTAIL HOUR

**Docktail Hour – June 25th**  
**Shortly after the annual meeting**  
**(because we know everyone**  
**will need at least a drink!)**  
**Host your neighbors**  
**and later go dock hopping!**  
**5–8pm – Details to follow**



**Bingo & Trivia, July 9th**  
**If you are lucky with balls**  
**or an expert in useless information**  
**this might be your lucky night!**





## **LAKE ARTS: Abernathy's Carve a Tree You Won't Believe!**

**After the Abernathy's at 140 had trees damaged in a storm, they left the 12-foot trunks and carved a miniature house with circular stairs, creating a magical treehouse.**

**The Abernathy's invite you to check it out anytime!**

WHAT AN  
AWESOME  
ELF AIR-BNB!

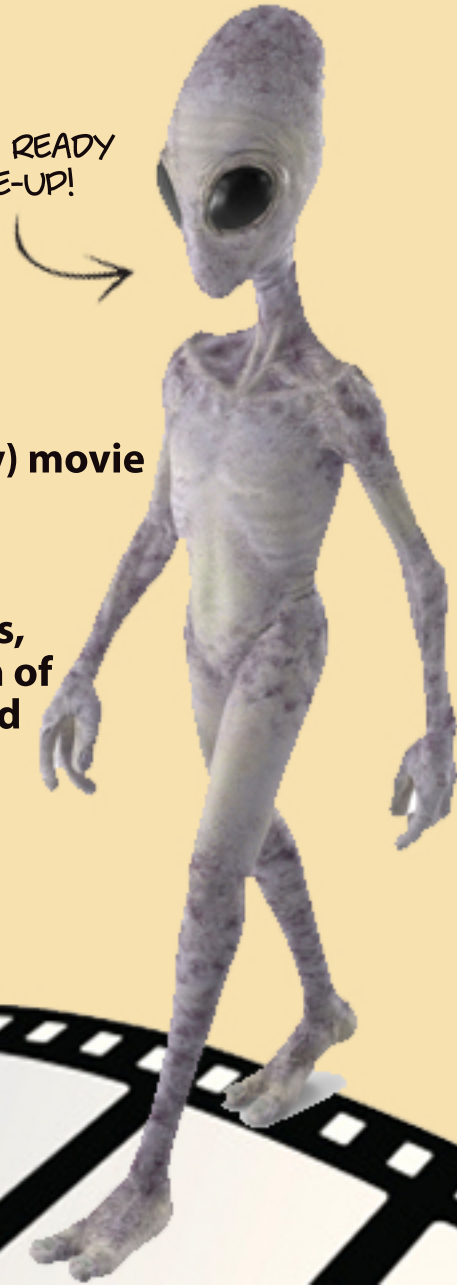


MR. PAGANO, I'M READY  
FOR MY CLOSE-UP!

## **CASTING CALL: *The tradition continues!***

**Dilemma Productions, Longwood Lakes' biggest (and only) movie studio is looking for a tall individual to play an alien (the extra-terrestrial type).**

**The team is also looking for help in all areas, including sets, effects, actors, make-up, etc. for the upcoming production of SUPER 8, based on a film by some obscure producer named Steven Spielberg. Filming begins on Labor day and wraps before Columbus Day. For more information, contact Gary Chestaro at [gchestaro@gmail.com](mailto:gchestaro@gmail.com)**







# Saying Goodbye to an Old Friend: Janet Sullivan

"I want to say goodbye to all the wonderful neighbors and friends I have made at Longwood Lake over the years. When my husband Armand Pierro was alive, we were out there every summer weekend and sometimes off-season as well. I have come less often since his death but it is not due to having less affection for the community. Thank you all for your neighborliness and wishing everyone good luck."

-Janet Sullivan, 201



## Stars Among Us

"So this is happening! On Fathers' Day, Longwood Lake's very own Olivia "Liv" Sullivan's third song will be released on all music venues, Spotify, i-Heart radio, YouTube, etc. This song called "An Angel Before God Gave You Wings". It's about Liv's dad, who became an angel in 2014. Don't forget to check it out."

- The Sullivan, Roland and O'Hara Families

To hear Olivia's song  
Don't come around,  
go here



## Delaney Cabin Story!

Kathy Delaney's cabin 108 has been featured on the Conestoga log cabin website! What a great story about family, the lake, and good memories! Read the article here:



M-M-M-M-M!!!!  
THOSE GARRISONS  
LOOK YUMMY!!!!







# Jurassic Discovery at Yellow Rd.

The Paris family spent most of the winter upgrading their cabin on Yellow Road. However, what started as a clean-up became an archaeological expedition. First, Steve found hundreds of newspapers from the 70's being used as insulation. Then, Steven -age 13, unearthed some interesting-looking rocks.

These turned out to be fossils, according to experts, a brachiopod (shell) and a crinoid stem (round), both of them around 430 million years old! Regarding the discovery, an unamused Mrs. Paris commented: *"great...more junk!"*



## Free Community Concerts

Bored on a Friday night and want to hear some music outdoors? Jefferson offers free concerts!

**Jefferson Gazebo**  
**1033 Weldon Road, Oak Ridge**

- Friday, June 17 - 6:30 pm The Jefferson Twp Community Concert Band
- Friday, July 1 - 6:30 pm The Kootz
- Friday, July 8 6:30 pm Tequila Rose
- Friday, July 15 6:30 pm The Psychedelicates
- Friday, July 22 6:30 pm Rave On
- Friday, July 29 6:30 pm The Jersey Girls
- Friday, August 5 6:30 pm Scoot on Down
- Friday, August 12 6:30 pm Jersey Sound
- Friday, August 19 6:30 pm Country Comfort





# LAKE CANVAS



**There are many talented people among us. Gail Slockett makes beautiful paintings of our gorgeous environment. Here is just one - incredible work Gail!**





# THE FORESTRY REPORT

by Dick Leigh, Forestry Manager

As an introduction for new folks, we own about 680 acres, and 660 of those are classified as farmland, a tree farm from which we harvest large mature trees to sell to lumber mills, and gather firewood from dead trees. We've been doing this since we bought the property, and it saves us a lot in taxes as well as providing useful income. The low-tax farmland status is governed by NJ state laws, and we have to show "devotion to agriculture" every year.

For harvesting saleable timber, we set up contracts with loggers, while for smaller, year-by-year work, teams of LLCOA volunteers do the work. In the past, we often did "timber stand improvements," where a team of volunteers cut down weed trees, leaving more space for the valuable trees to grow.

Last year we had to face a problem. Over the past few years, gypsy moths and the emerald ash borer have killed ash and oak trees. Many of these were very large and near roads, so we had to take them down. We did, and there are still piles of wood, mostly ash, along Orange and Grey Roads. A lot of this is still good firewood, and is available to any cabin owner who would like to help themselves.

Also, Duke Grimes, who has been our professional forester since we bought the property, retired last year, and we had to find a replacement for him. New Jersey has a list of approved foresters, and the Forestry Committee (see the roster) worked from that list to identify a forester who can best meet our goals of sustainable forestry, farmland tax status, and compliance with the assorted rules we must follow. We interviewed several candidates, and selected Ridge and Valley Forest Management (R&V) of Lafayette, NJ. The owner, Andy Bennett, inherited the business from his father, and it dates back to the 1970s. Andy is assisted in the forests by Dylon Borger and Laura Nywening. They currently serve more than 600 landowners in New Jersey and nearby Pennsylvania.

Under New Jersey law, there are two ways to manage a tree farm. The traditional method, which we followed for years with Duke Grimes's guidance, treats the forest almost exactly the way a farmer treats a farm: when operating under a "Woodland Management Plan," the goal is to grow and harvest trees in a sustainable and profitable manner. To maintain this status, we must show forestry income, although we are allowed to average it over several years, since doing a timber harvest every year on our 660 acres is not possible. We have substantial income from harvests we have done and in addition, \$15 of your annual maintenance is a "firewood fee," permitting you to harvest all the firewood you want from dead or downed trees. This "firewood income" is included in our tax reports as forestry income. R&V prepared a new Woodland Management Plan for us last year, and we filed our application along with that new plan last summer, and will file for our forestry tax status again this summer. The entire Woodland Management Plan (with lots of maps and details) is available on the LLCOA website under "Forestry."

We will do some work in compliance with our plan this summer, hiring LLCOA volunteers to do the work, which will probably involve a little classic chainsaw work removing "weed trees," but also attacking vines and invasive plants. Any opportunities will be announced to the entire lake community.

The second way to operate a tree farm under a newer New Jersey law is to use a "Forest Stewardship Plan." With this certification, there is less emphasis on sales and more on creating a beneficial woodland environment. Some of the changes are described in a document on the website called ("NJ\_Woodland\_Stewardship&ManagementActs"). It will be beneficial to us to convert to a "Stewardship" program, if only because it will then be possible to access funds from the National Conservation Resources Service (NRCS), a federal agency that supported our Habitat project. It is likely that the NRCS will reimburse us enough to cover about 60% of the cost of R&V both creating our current Woodland Management Plan and converting it into a Forest Stewardship Plan, and will then continue to offer some reimbursement for activities we undertake to remain in compliance with the plan.

Where does this stand? We have been approved as contractors by the NRCS, and are awaiting completion of their internal office procedures. Within a few weeks (or less) that should be completed, and R&V will move to create our Forest Stewardship Plan. It will be based on our current Woodland Management Plan, with more emphasis on sustainability and less on harvesting. Once the Stewardship plan is approved by the township, we will operate under its guidelines for the foreseeable future.

Feel free to contact me if you have questions or concerns, and consider joining the Forestry Committee if you are interested. [rwleigh@earthlink.net](mailto:rwleigh@earthlink.net)





NEW JERSEY  
AUDUBON

## **HABITAT COMMITTEE REPORT**

by Ken Rosenfeld, Chair

The annual bird survey of our early habitat target areas was done on Tuesday May 24th. Three LLCOA members hiked the areas with Liz Matseur from the NJ Audubon Society. Liz thought the sites are doing great. The vegetation at Target Area 1, up the power line cut on Berkshire Valley Road, is so full with healthy non-invasive plant growth that literal bushwacking is required to get to the two bird survey sites. Blue Winged Warblers were found at all the sites, along with a healthy population of other song birds. Although the Golden Winged Warbler has yet to be found there is still a good probability that it will be seen, as it often shows up six to seven years after the original timber stand cuts. These annual surveys are part of the NJDEP Fish and Wildlife state wide ornithological and wildlife population counts. Liz's first impression after completing her surveys is that the bird populations in both Target Area 1 and Target Area 2 (the area just inside the Blue Road entrance to LLCOA) are starting to stabilize after a drop off over the last few years. Her full report will be sent out in a couple of weeks. As most of you know, our two early habitat areas were created with a contract for Early Habitat Improvement Projects funded by the Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS) of the US Department of Agriculture. The timber stand cut we did at the start of the project in 2016, which netted us a very hefty sum, helped our two target areas produce the desired early forest habitat. New Jersey DEP, NJ Audubon scientists, and other biologists associated with their programs, continue to monitor the habitat improvement target areas we created in the LLCOA forest. LLCOA members are encouraged to tour the project areas on their own or join a scheduled hike. More information about the project can be found on the LLCOA website at <https://longwoodlakecabins.org/activities/habitat-improvement-project-binder/>. I will keep you updated as to upcoming survey walks and any exciting new findings. The Habitat Committee continues to look for new projects along with the NJDEP and NJ Audubon. We are working with our forester, Andy Bennett of Ridge & Valley, and the LLCOA Forestry Committee to find other projects to preserve and improve our forest and habitats. All LLCOA members are welcome to join the Committee and should contact me if interested.



# DAM REPORT



BY JEFF GALLOWAY

Since November 2021, LLCOA's lawyer, Eileen Born, has been in active discussions with the lawyer for Jersey City Municipal Utilities Authority (JCMUA) regarding having LLCOA (or a non-profit designated by LLCOA) take ownership of the Longwood Lake Dam. In December 2021, members of the Dam Committee, joined by Ms. Born and our engineer, Paul Fox, had a virtual meeting with JCMUA's lawyer and in-house and outside engineers, to discuss JCMUA's Dam rehabilitation plans and the outlines of a proposal to transfer ownership of the Dam. JCMUA has proposed that the ownership change take place after JCMUA has rehabilitated the Dam to meet New Jersey DEP requirements for a "high hazard dam." Our goal is that LLCOA (or a new Dam non-profit) take ownership with minimal cost. JCMUA would benefit from such a transfer by being relieved of on-going Dam maintenance obligations.

The Dam Committee is hoping to receive a formal written proposal from JCMUA for Dam ownership transfer in the coming weeks or months. The discussions with JCMUA contemplate the following sequence of events: (1) at some point this year, JCMUA and LLCOA reach a Dam ownership transfer agreement, under which the actual ownership transfer would take place after JCMUA completes the rehabilitation of the Dam; (2) JCMUA and its engineers complete the rehabilitation design process, keeping LLCOA informed throughout; (3) JCMUA's contractors perform the Dam rehabilitation project, likely draining the Lake for about 4 months while the work is being performed (during which time, the Rockaway River will continue to flow through the Lake "channel"); (4) LLCOA or a new Dam non-profit takes ownership of the Dam.

The 4-month period during which the Lake is drained may provide LLCOA and its members an opportunity for lake-bed maintenance.

For the benefit of LLCOA's new members, here is some background on the Dam: Longwood Lake has been historically part of the Jersey City watershed area. Although Jersey City has not owned any significant portion of the Lake itself, Jersey City has owned the Dam and immediately adjacent property for many decades. In the late 1990s, Jersey City transferred almost all of its watershed property in the Longwood Lake area to New Jersey DEP as part of the state's Green Acres Program. Today, that property is part of the Rockaway River Wildlife Management Area. DEP, however, had no interest in assuming responsibility for the Dam, so the Dam ownership remained with Jersey City. Although Jersey City's water supply continues to come from the Rockaway River, its primary reservoir is the Boonton Reservoir, several miles downstream of Longwood Lake.

In 2019, DEP reclassified the Dam from "low hazard" to "high hazard." Hazard classification has nothing to do with the condition of a dam; it is instead a measure of the potential loss of life or property downstream in the event of a dam failure. This new "high hazard" classification imposes higher maintenance obligations on the Dam owner. The proposed Dam ownership transfer transaction would require Jersey City to bring the Dam into high hazard regulatory compliance before transferring ownership.







# ALTERNATIVE ENERGY REPORT

BY TED HEISLER

During the past year a number of LLCOA members came to me with their proposed solar power designs/upgrades. The process of review and approval (under the auspices of the Alternative Energy Committee) went smoothly and swiftly. Should other members be considering off-grid power for their cabins, please do likewise. In addition to being your point of contact for approval, I am also happy to offer soft advice to the extent that I am comfortable doing so.



## ...AND SPEAKING OF TED HEISLER TWO WEDDINGS & AN ARCHAEOLOGIC EXPEDITION

Heisler updates! Our oldest daughter, Carolyn, her husband Damien, and our two grandsons have relocated to Cairo, Egypt for a two-year job assignment. Our middle daughter, Allison, will be married to Brian Walker on the mountain top at Mountain Creek Resort on August 7, and our youngest daughter, Lindsay, was recently engaged to Aaron Trebing with a wedding planned for August 2023.



## WHAT THE HECK IS THAT?

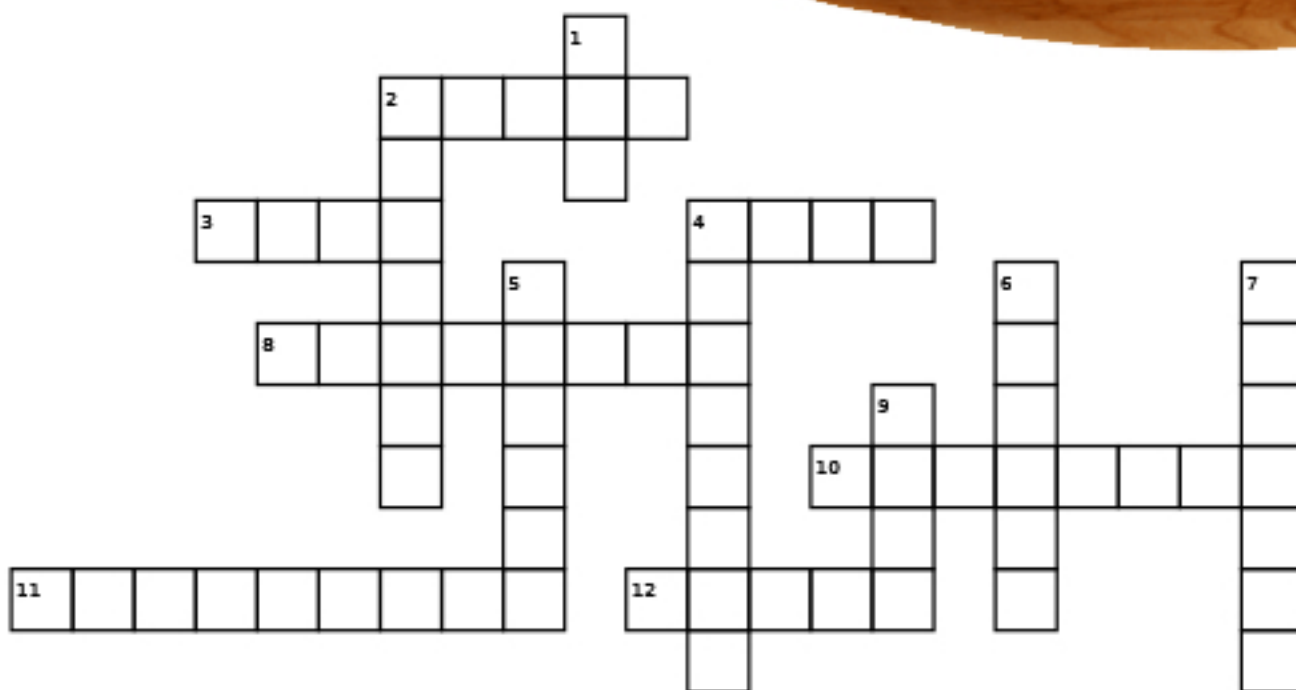


Not everybody accepts or understands new technology (like electricity and plumbing, for example). For those of you trying to keep up, here's a good one. Throughout our newsletter, you'll bump into these alien-looking squares called QR codes. Using your camera app, point at it, and it will take you to a website containing more useful information!



## CROSSWORD PUZZLE:

# LAKE LIFE



### Down:

1. the place from which we get our lake
2. lines in water.
4. mosquito's foe
5. a firepit favorite.
6. held annually in Freddie's Field
7. warm place for friends
9. a wooden platform over the lake

### Across:

2. lets us lay on water
3. often paired with burgers.
4. a large animal that lives in our woods
8. lake activity
10. a veggie sounding outdoor game
11. 4th of July fun
12. a way to cruise the lake



