

OFF-GRID NUGGET

Longwood Lake Newsletter

June, 2023



**Welcome
to the
2023 SEASON!**

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Photo courtesy of Gary Garrison

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Hello, campers!

Welcome to the summer! As always, we are looking for collaborations. Have pictures to share? A finger-licking good recipe? Some news you would like to share? Send them! We are planning to do two more editions before the end of the season, so don't be shy!

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

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It was good to see some of you during the Memorial Day weekend. I hope to see many more fellow cabin owners as the weather continues to improve and Mother Nature shows us even more of her glory.

Our association is in pretty good shape because a dedicated group of volunteers has been busy all through the Fall and Winter. As a result, returning cabin owners will see lots of improvements. The roads are newly graded and drained. The lake has already received its first weed treatment from Aquatic Technologies, and the water is fine. (Yes, I have already been swimming, so I speak from personal experience.) And last weekend someone caught a wide mouth bass about two feet long. The Building Committee has also been active in reviewing and expediting plans for cabin improvements, which are taking place up and down the lake.

Those of you who Zoom in to the monthly meetings (which are always open to all members) may already be aware of some less visible signs that progress is being made. The Dam Committee is continuing with negotiations to take control of the dam and thus ensure the preservation of our lake. The Forestry Committee continues to work with our NJ licensed forester to improve the health of our woodlands and also preserve our highly beneficial tax advantages. The bird habitat improvements are a big success, and the bird population seems to be healthier and more diverse than ever. A number of social events are in the active planning stage - including the picnic and the dinner dance [Lisa - can we add another trivia night? Docktail party? If so, please do.] The Rules Committee has also been active again recently, reviewing proposals about tree removal.

I mention all this activity for two reasons. The first is to express gratitude to all the people who give their time and talents to make our association run as well as it does. The second reason is to encourage all of you to come to the annual meeting on June 24th to bring yourselves up to date, as well as to contribute your thoughts and ideas - and your votes - on some of the important decisions we need to make going forward.

-Richard Heitler





MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

ANNUAL MEETING

**The LLCOA Annual Meeting – June 24th
Come and be part of the process and
select our representatives!
9am • Freddie's Field**



DOCKTAIL HOUR

**Our EPIC Docktail Hour is back
on June 24th Host your neighbors
and later go dock hopping!
5-8pm – Look for details
in our Facebook page.**



**Bingo & Trivia, July 1st
Hosted by Lisa and Feliks
Cash prices! Look for
details in our Facebook page.**



**The Annual Picnic is on
Saturday, August 12**



ANNUAL DINNER DANCE

**This year, we are going west!
September 9th
The Lafayette House
75 Route 15, Lafayette
Details coming soon.**

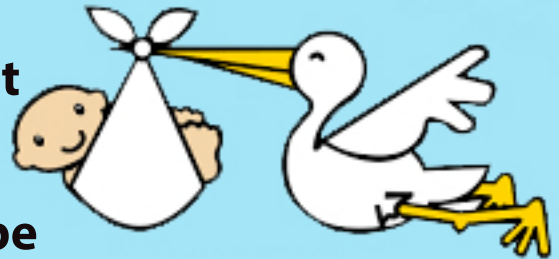
NEXT LAKE GENERATION NEWS:



TRIFECTA AT THE HEISLER CABIN

By Nancy Heisler

All of our three of daughters have great news! Allison is expecting a baby girl in early July and Carolyn is expecting her third son in late July. Lindsay will be getting married in late August...we will certainly have a busy and very happy Summer.



WEDDING BELLS AT LISA & PACO'S

By Paco Correa



Last September 30th, Lisa's eldest daughter Cassidy tied the knot in a beautiful ceremony. The couple, now known as Cassidy and Kerren Miseo, established in Millburn, with two dogs and a lizard named Larry.

DAM NEWS



by Jeff Galloway, Dam Chair Committee

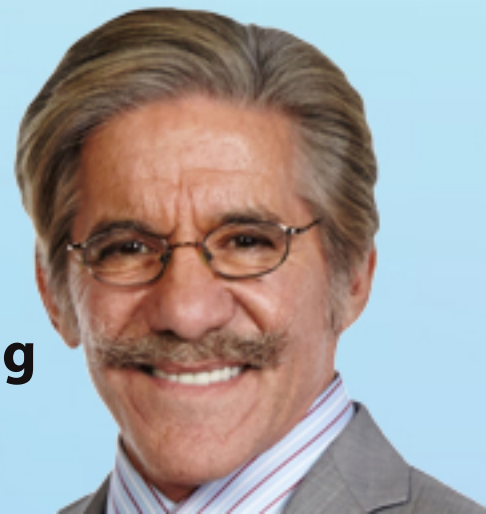
Jersey City and Jersey City Municipal Utilities Authority (JCMUA) are continuing to work through the technical details of how to transfer the Dam property to LLCOA (or an entity designated by LLCOA). New Jersey law has a number of requirements that need to be satisfied in order for a municipality to dispose of real property. LLCOA's lawyers, Eileen Born of Dolan & Dolan, and Philip McGovern and Richard DeAngelis of Connell Foley, have been speaking with lawyers and officials for Jersey City and JCMUA to structure the Dam rehabilitation and ownership transfer project in a way that meets the needs of all concerned. Although the process of finalizing this project has taken longer than expected, we have been assured that Jersey City's plan remains to (1) rehabilitate the Dam to meet New Jersey DEP requirements and (2) thereafter transfer ownership of the Dam for nominal cost to LLCOA.

Jersey City took an important step in the transfer of the Dam property on May 10, 2023, when the Jersey City Municipal Council introduced an ordinance authorizing the transfer of ownership of the property from the city to the JCMUA. This ownership transfer is intended to facilitate the ultimate transfer of the property to LLCOA. Jersey City requires that an ordinance be read at two Council meetings before passage; a second reading was scheduled for the May 24, 2023 Council meeting. As of the writing of this report, we are awaiting confirmation of the ordinance's passage.

Given the time it has taken Jersey City to work through the legal requirements for transferring the Dam property to LLCOA, it is unlikely that the Dam rehabilitation project can commence this year. As previously reported, work of this nature generally must start in late summer or early fall. Thus, it appears that the earliest that we can expect the project to commence would be late summer or early fall of 2024. At that time, the lake would be lowered for a period of about 4 months while construction is taking place. We expect this 4-month period to provide LLCOA and its members an opportunity for lake-bed maintenance. The plan has been to transfer the property to LLCOA after the work is completed, so the earliest that the transfer is likely to take place appears to be spring of 2025.

DAM EXCLUSIVE

Geraldo is in conversations with LLCOA to produce a TV special about the final resting place of Jimmy Hoffa.



While many members may be well acquainted with their neighbors, lots of us would love to know more about each other! So, we continue our "800 lumens" on one of our LLCOA members.



800 LUMENS ON: **FRANK CAGNINA**



Frank Cagnina first discovered Longwood Lake nearly 30 years ago. He and his wife Kim didn't know anything about the lake but when they saw a cabin listed in an ad they were intrigued enough to take a look. The area looked much different then! The roads were barely visible and rough to drive on and there were tents and cabins all around. Kim loved it instantly (happy wife, happy life) and so they settled on 117 Red Rd. Frank laughs that it was like buying a car because there was no home inspection, no banks involved and no fuss.

Over the many years at the lake Frank has come to love seeing the many friends and neighbors he hasn't seen over the Winter and Spring. His favorite times are social ones, a fire pit with lake friends and his family, the dinner dance, the annual picnic. Frank retired 3 years ago as an accountant and property manager so he has more time to spend at the lake and he and Kim often stay for a week at a time. The lake is his happy place, and his kids love to join in especially for the events.

Frank sums up Longwood lake like this: Its a hidden gem, and it's perfect. Good people and a nice environment.



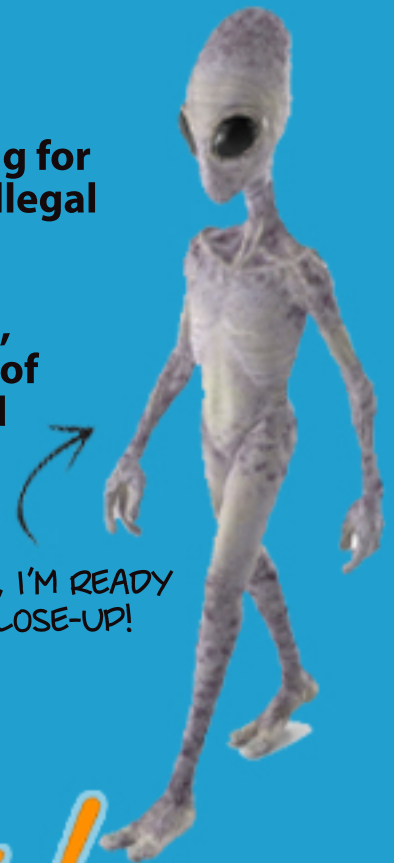
CASTING CALL:



E.T. Phone Pat & Gary!

Yes, the next movie is coming and the producers are looking for a tall individual to play an alien (as in extra-terrestrial, not illegal - that's another movie).

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



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

CURTAIN CALL

That's all Folks!

After a very long run, the most famous (and only) movie studio in Longwood Lake bids adieu. However, they are planning to go out with a bang. Beginning in 2024, a movie video contest open to all members. We will issue a prop (will be the same for all) and they will have 2 weeks to come up with a movie that will range from a minimum of 1 minute to a max of 5 minutes and must include the prop.

The movie can be shot via cell phone, must be done at the lake and then they can send it to us via e mail. We will have a panel of judges that will award 2 cash prizes: 1st prize = \$350.00 2nd prize = \$250.00.

The 5 best movies will be shown at the lake...as a movie premiere with food and drink etc.





WHAT THE HECK IS THIS?

Not everyone adapts fast to new technology (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 little alien-looking squares

In case you don't know, these are QR codes. Using your camera app on your smart phone, point at it and it will take you to more information !

RESIDENT ARTISTS



Longwood Lake is surrounded by talented artists. One of them is our very own Gail Slockett. To see more of her work, visit ggslockett.com



FORESTRY REPORT

by Dick Leigh

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. Also, since we bought the property we have saved a lot of money with a "Woodland Management Plan" that grants us farmland tax status with a low assessment.

By carrying out this Plan, under the direction of our former forester, Duke Grimes, we had also accumulated significant capital from many tree harvests over the years, carried out using selective cutting that leaves the forest healthy and able to generate more timber as fast as we take it. We also engaged in other efforts demonstrating "devotion to agriculture," such as charging cabin owners a "firewood fee" as part of the annual maintenance, and going out in work groups to carry out "timber stand improvements," cutting down weed trees to leave more space for the valuable trees to grow.

Much of this has changed over the last two years. Emerald ash borer has killed almost all the ash trees on our land, and many of the dead trees endangered our roads and public spaces, so we had to take them down. We did, and a lot of the downed trees are still good firewood, available along or near the AT&T right-of-way ("Grey Road" on our maps) for any cabin owner who would like to help themselves.

Also, Duke Grimes, who had been our professional forester since we bought the property, retired last year, and the Forestry Committee (see the Roster) worked from a list of New Jersey foresters to identify who could best meet our needs. We interviewed several candidates, and selected Ridge & Valley Forest Management (R&V) of Lafayette, NJ. Andy Bennett, the owner, is assisted by Dylon Borger and Laura Nywening. They currently serve more than 600 landowners in New Jersey and nearby Pennsylvania, and have been doing great work for us.

With R&V's help, another major change has occurred: there are two ways to manage a tree farm in New Jersey. One, based on a "Woodland Management Plan," was described above. The second way is to use a "Forest Stewardship Plan." With this certification, there is less emphasis on sales and more on creating a beneficial woodland environment. R&V prepared a Forest Stewardship Plan for us, and it is available for download on the Forestry page of the LLCOA website. Our plan has been approved by the New Jersey Forest Service, the National Conservation Resources Service (NRCS), a federal agency that supported our Habitat project, and Jefferson Township. Our work last summer was accepted as demonstrating compliance with the new plan. The NRCS reimbursed us most of the cost of having R&V create our Forest Stewardship Plan, and will provide some reimbursement for future activities.



JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP:



June 16

**Sherlock Holmes – Radio Reenactment Show
live performance by Raconteur Radio**

7 pm, White Rock Elementary School All purpose Room.



June 30

**Summer Gazebo Concert: Community Concert
and Jazz Bands**

July 7

Summer Gazebo Concert: Vera and the Force

July 14

Summer Gazebo Concert: Peter and the Master Keys

July 21

Summer Gazebo Concert: The Mugshots

July 28

Summer Gazebo Concert: Jersey Sound

August 4

Summer Gazebo Concert: Scoot on Down

August 11

Summer Gazebo Concert: Cold Sweat

August 18

Summer Gazebo Concert: Tequila Rose



October TBA

**Bus Trip to Hunterdon Hills Playhouse in Hampton, NJ
to see "Blithe Spirit" by Noel Coward**

**All Summer Concerts begin at 6:30pm and are held at the
Gazebo in the Municipal Complex (1033 Weldon Rd)**



money matters



by **GAIL SLOCKETT, Treasurer**

The proposed 2023-2024 budget was approved by the board at the April Board meeting. You can see it on the next pages. We propose no changes in the dues. The items in red are the changes. The most significant of these are a decrease in insurance costs and an increase in forestry. We changed insurance agents and saved nearly \$4000 in insurance. We increased the forestry budget by \$2000 because I had under funded it last year. We anticipate the need to spend more this fiscal year. Dues will remain at \$850 if paid in the month of July, \$900 if paid in August, \$950 if paid in September, and \$1000 thereafter.

The budget will be voted on at the Annual Meeting on June 24th. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions feel free to email me at ggslockett@gmail.com

Please make checks payable to LLCOA and put your cabin number on the memo line. Checks can be brought to the annual meeting and placed in the mailbox at the Fieldhouse, (no envelopes please), or mailed to:

**Gail Slockett
870 Amaryllis Avenue
Oradell, NJ 07649**



USELESS ADVICE:

Have a problem? A doubt? Questioning the Meaning of Life?
Aunt B has an answer for everything, from relationships,
to recipes to how to fix your muffler.



Ask
AUNT B

Dear Aunt B:
My neighbor snores.
What can I do?
– No ZZZZ in Red

Dear No ZZZZ in Red:
Stop sleeping with him.

Dear Aunt B:
What should I get after 2 six-packs of beer? Vodka,
gin or whiskey?

Dear Confused in Yellow:
How about a new liver?

Dear Aunt B:
Every time I do a BBQ,
I get ants and bugs. Any
advise on how to get rid
of them?
–Grill King in Blue

Dear Grill King in Blue:
Don't be greedy. How much
meat can an ant eat?

–Confused in Yellow



ODDS & ENDS:

DISPATCHES FROM TURTLE ISLAND:



FREE Kanopy Streaming

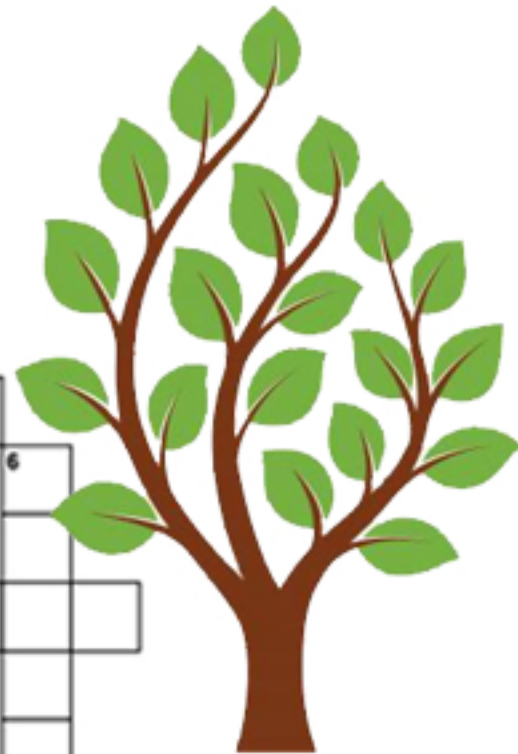
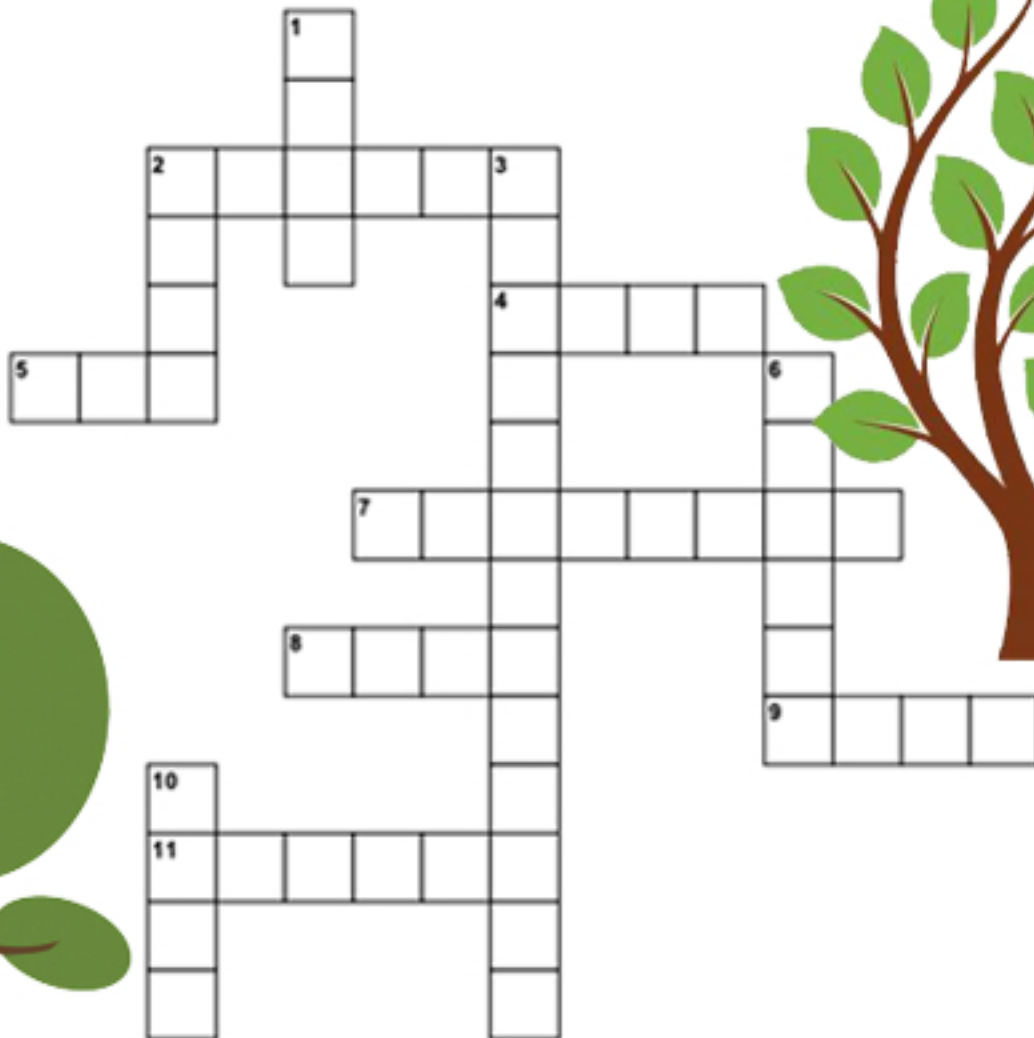
Did you know you may have access to an amazing FREE (and with no commercials) streaming service called Kanopy? Founded in 2008, the service offers over 30,000 movies and TV to stream for free from a variety of devices and platforms. It's currently available in over 200 countries. The service is available for patrons of tons of public library systems, along with a number of major college and university libraries. So check if your library offers it, there's a good chance they do.

Lakes Appreciation Month

July is lakes appreciation month. Take a look at some of the contests and resources available here and let's all take another minute to appreciate our lakes! Here is a fun contest involving taking a selfie at the lake:



CROSSWORD PUZZLE: TREES



Across

- [2] a part of a tree that grows from its trunk
- [4] count these to work out how old a tree is
- [5] a large tree with acorns
- [7] a large tree with winged fruits
- [8] an evergreen tree with long needle leaves
- [9] a plant made from wood with a trunk
- [11] Trees give us this important gas to help us breath

Down

- [1] can be green or orange and grow on trees
- [2] the thick outside layer of a tree trunk
- [3] a deciduous tree with large leaves of five leaflets
- [6] a place with lots of trees
- [10] something hard we get from trees

