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LLPOA Newsletter

Purpose of this corporation is as follows:

- ✓ To organize the property owners within and adjacent to the shores of Loon Lake Stevens CO, WA.
- ✓ To protect Loon Lake from environmental degradation
- ✓ To provide a forum by which the property owners may assist government agencies in better planning the use and resources of the Loon Lake Area.

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Loon Lake Property Owners Association

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WE ARE ON THE WEB!

www.loonlakepoa.org



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Lee Evans

Having just returned from the WALPA (Washington Lakes Protection Association) conference held this year in Spokane I am pleased to report our lake community was well represented with one member of the LLPOA, one member from Loon Lake LMD (Lake Management District) and one member from the Loon Lake Land Conservancy. As the name suggests, they are a non-profit organization formed in 1986 by a group of volunteers concerned for the future of lakes in this state. Their board is comprised of educators, legislators, scientists, and lake residents. The short version of the mission statement for WALPA is to allow diverse interests to speak with one voice to protect lakes. As I sat thru 3 days of speakers and workshops one recurring theme was present, many lakes in Washington and Idaho have problems and fortunately there are many committed individuals, organizations, and agencies willing to take on the task of monitoring and management.

I walked away from this conference feeling very fortunate that we at Loon Lake are not confronted with some of the more severe problems other lakes are dealing with. As you know, Loon Lake continues to battle milfoil and a few other non-native plants. Along with this there are concerns with water quality, very low dissolved oxygen at the lower levels of the lake and higher than normal levels of phosphorus. All things to be concerned with. Over the years we have worked to educate the lake residents with best practices to protect the lake with simple

common-sense actions like contain beach fires and remove ash, no phosphorous fertilizers, rake beaches to keep debris from the water and to insure all septic systems not connected to a public sewer are well maintained and working properly.

A couple of interesting observations was an ongoing water quality issue (low dissolved oxygen and loss of water clarity) on Lake Chelan with a couple of photos of pine pollen floating in the water and smoke haze over the lake. Neither are good for the lake and effects water quality. Both are somewhat naturally occurring. These photos reminded me of the soup of pine pollen Loon Lake had this summer with the heaviest pollen drop in memory and the annual summer forest fire smoke that rests over the lake for several weeks.

We at Loon Lake are fortunate to have volunteers who are interested in our lake and concerned with its future. The ongoing water quality program has been collecting valuable data for over 10 years. The Loon Lake Land Conservancy has been purchasing critical shore property to preserve the few available wetlands left on the lake and placing them in conservation easements for the enjoyment of all now and in the future.

The LLPOA Board of Directors would like to thank the members for your support. Our efforts are for you and Loon Lake.

LLPOA agenda for next year will include: Water Quality Monitoring, Dock

Demolition, Fireworks Show, Boat Parade, and the Pancake Breakfast. We continue to look for volunteers for each of these events and activities. If you have an interest please let us know.



PINE POLLEN SOUP



SMOKEY SUMMER DAY AT LOON LAKE

KEEP LOON LAKE CLEAN

by Eric Davies

A recent study of the impact of algal blooms at two Ohio lakes estimated that the blooms reduced property values adjacent to those lakes by \$152 million over six years. The analysis, conducted by researchers at Ohio State University, indicated that non-waterfront homes within one-third mile of the lakes fell 11% to 17% during that time. Sales prices for waterfront homes fell more than 22%.

SO, IS THIS RELEVANT TO LOON LAKE? THE ANSWER IS "YES."

Loon Lake has a "nutrient" problem, caused primarily by an excessive amount of phosphates in the water relative to nitrates. The phosphates facilitate algae growth as well as that of all types of lake weed--it's fertilizer. Of concern are "harmful algal blooms" (HABs), which are capable of producing toxins that can harm humans (especially children) and animals. The key culprit is something called "blue-green algae," more formally known as Cyanobacteria.

Cyanobacteria blooms (cyanoHABs) are a hot topic lately since their occurrence has been increasing throughout the country, including in the Inland Northwest. In the last several years, Hayden, Fernan, and Avondale Lakes in North Idaho have suffered from cyanoHABs, especially in 2015 and 2016. Western Washington has had to contend with a number of outbreaks over the last decade.

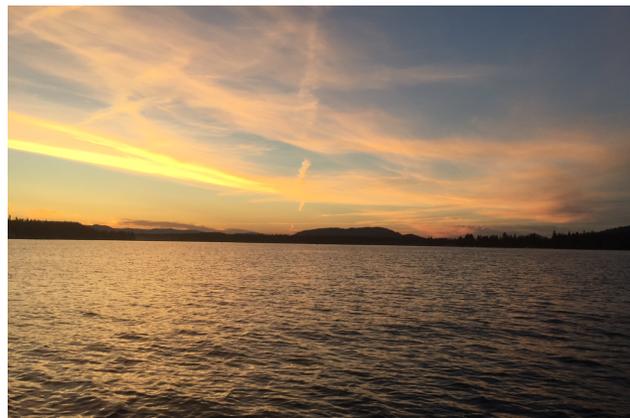
To complicate the picture, recent research by the University of Kansas claims that persistent organic pollutants (POPs) are highly likely to contribute to cyanoHABs, although to a lesser degree than phosphates. POPs include many herbicides, pesticides, pharmaceutical and personal care products, and Polycyclical Aromatic Hydrocarbons. The latter category includes substances that occur naturally in things like gasoline and burning wood smoke--which are common at the Lake.

Now, back to Loon. In 2011, the WSU School of the Environment conducted the most comprehensive water quality analysis ever done at Loon. Among its conclusions were the following:

- Phosphorus (compounds) is relatively abundant in Loon relative to nitrogen (compounds).
- This situation is especially conducive to Cyanobacteria growth.

- Frequent Cyanobacteria blooms are likely at Loon in the future unless proper nutrient control (and, perhaps, remediation) measures are taken.

Unfortunately, the burden of preventing cyanoHABs (and other threats to Lake water quality) falls on Lake property owners. Their past behavior shows we cannot count on County officials for help (quite the contrary, given their development policies). Casual boating visitors to the Lake contribute to the potential problem. The DOE is responsible for overseeing water quality "health," but typically only gets involved when the problem has become untenable. If that occurs, restrictions are placed on property owners' use of their property; the cost of remediation is borne by those owners (big \$\$\$); and the value of their property declines substantially. Don't let that happen!!



CHIPPER DAYS 2017

By Holly Shamberger

We held two Chipper Days this past year on May 20th and Oct 14th with hours from 9-3. This service is getting noticed as we have doubled our clean green collected from the first year.

Please talk to your neighbors and friends as this event is a cost-effective way to clean up your property, help the environment and give back to your community by supporting local non-profits and volunteer groups.

This is a Stevens County program serving our community with the help of the LLPOA and DLPOA. Our collection area is located on Agar Rd just north of Baldwin Lumber. Stevens County provides a loader operator for the site and the LLPOA and DLPOA providing volunteers.

This event is environmentally friendly and is an alternative to burning. Many homeowners are taking this opportunity to dispose of their large tree limbs, grass, leaves and clean yard waste. We do not accept construction materials, garbage or plastic of any kind.



Chipper Day can also give back to the community by providing local groups an opportunity to earn money by helping unload vehicles. Donations are accepted at the gate for your volunteer or non-profit group. The suggested donation signs indicate \$10 per pickup truck and \$20 for a truck and trailer, however no-one is obligated. We are actively looking for a group that is interested in signing up for 2018 Chipper Days to earn money for their cause by helping to unload vehicles -if you are interested, please contact a board member at loonlakepoa.org

LOON LAKE MILFOIL LMD

By Lee Evans LMD Chairman

The spring/summer of 2017 started very wet and cold with near record setting high water levels in our lake. This resulted in some very unusual milfoil activities. As you may remember the Loon Lake LMD applied for and received a monetary grant from the Department of Ecology. The purpose of the grant is to study and develop effective methods to control or eradicate the newly discovered hybrid variety of milfoil discovered in Loon Lake last summer (2016).

To follow the grant procedures, our step one requirement was to collect multiple milfoil samples for a more in-depth DNA analysis of the plants, knowing that the process would likely take several months or more to fully analyze the new hybrid milfoil plants sent to Montana State University research facility.

We scheduled the first sampling foray in early June. The results of this effort were mixed. AquaTechnex (vendor selected to administer the grant requirements) with the assistance of LMD advisory board members were unable to find any milfoil plants to sample. A second attempt was scheduled in early/mid July similar results. The few plants collected in July were not of good quality and not considered good specimens for testing. All good news for those of us who don't want to see milfoil around our docks or swimming areas, but not a good start for the grant process. Late August brought success with the sampling efforts. Many plants were found all robust and growing vigorously. Quality samples were collected and sent away for analyst.

Step two is to collect samples for a grow operation located at the University of South Carolina once the DNA has been established.

The growing plant will then be subjected to various herbicide exposures to determine best methods for treating our hybrid plant. We may not be back on track with grant timelines due to factors beyond our control, but feel confident in our progress. The plant collection for the growing operation will happen in mid-October (2017) as well as a discussion with our herbicide application team about using a contact herbicide on plants this fall that we feel will become a fragmenting problem later this fall and winter.

Loon Lake Milfoil LMD continued from page 3.

One very positive step the LMD Advisory Board went forward with this year was the purchase of GPS equipment to aid in our efforts to find and track the milfoil. GPS equipment has been a topic of board discussion for the last several years debating the pros and cons. The decision was based on our ability to assist any vendor with surveys and eventually assuming all survey responsibility. We continue to look for additional advisory board members who have an interest and would like to help Loon Lake with Invasive Species control.

The Advisory Board that includes George Swannack, Barry Smith, Steve Pehl, Denny Drinkard, Daryl Howe, Jim Nimnicht and Lee Evans meets on the second Monday of each month during the season usually April to September at 6:30 pm in the basement of the Old School House. We would encourage your involvement as there are two board positions available. Please note our meetings are open to the public. All are welcome.

DOCK DEMOLITION

By Lee Evans



The "Dock Demolition" has been an important activity that the LLPOA has provided for over twenty years. Conditions for its operation have changed dramatically over the years as burning is no longer acceptable. As a result, we must now pay for the disposal of all materials. We must also outguess the number of docks that are going to arrive so we can have adequate storage to dispose of the materials.

We continue to have problems with docks being dropped off without being identified by the owner. The area adjacent to the public access should never be the catchall for abandoned docks on Loon Lake. This becomes an eyesore for the near neighbors and

often a dangerous situation if not secured properly. This year was no exception we had many docks discarded in this area with no owner identification.

The 2017 dock demolition started with the maximum number of dumpsters (4) supplied by Sunshine Disposal. With the help of equipment operators from Knights Construction/EZ Dock of Deer Park and Pete Smith Excavating we could safely remove 15 of the old docks from the lake, and with the assistance of our volunteers we dismantle each dock and deposit the debris into the 4 large dumpsters.

It will continue to be important in the future to register your dock for demolition to help us in our planning process. The disposal fee will be \$4 per foot of the dock if you deliver it to the work area with identification of the owner marked on the dock. We would also offer to pick docks up at your property for an additional charge of \$50 per dock. Payment must be made at the time of pickup.

Thank you in advance for your help in continuing this important Loon Lake tradition.

Any inquiries for the 2018 Dock Demolition please address to Mark Whittaker

509-954-5048

markw@mawcpa.com



ANNUAL LLPOA PANCAKE FEED WAS A GREAT SUCCESS!

By Jon Hastings

The Annual LLPOA Pancake feed was held on Labor Day weekend on Sunday, September 3rd. The hours were 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. The morning menu included regular and blueberry pancakes, ham or link sausages, scrambled eggs or a huge omelet with an assortment of ingredients. Refreshments included coffee and orange juice.

The purpose of the Pancake feed was to raise money for the Loon Lake Fire Auxiliary along with the Deer Park Ambulance. Funds from last year's pancake feed were used to buy two new grills for this year's event. We now have six grills for the annual breakfast.



In all, 320 hungry people came to the feed. Gross ticket sales and donations totaled \$2752.00. Current net profit stands at \$1341.00 with some ticket sale funds still to be turned in. LLPOA will be donating \$576.00 to the Loon Lake Fire Auxiliary/Stevens Co. Fire District and half the net profit or approximately \$671.00 to Deer Park Ambulance.



Community volunteers were from the LLPOA which organized the event, along with the Loon Lake Fire Auxiliary and Deer Park Ambulance.

2017 LOON LAKE FIREWORKS SHOW

By Lee Evans

HELP WANTED!!

NEW CHAIRPERSON FOR THE FIREWORKS COMMITTEE.

The Loon Lake Fireworks show has been the most heavily supported program by its membership-greater than any other LLPOA activity or program in my short history as a board member. (2006). It appears we are now at a crossroads with this program. The show; however, spectacular has decreased in its presentation time. This year's show lasted less than 7minutes-closer to 6 minutes. Some causes to this include a vendor change the occurred 2 years ago, instability in the fireworks market and a significant increase to cost of the product we continue to fall behind.

When we started the program in 2009 where two important concepts were considered:

1. It was designed to be self-supporting with no funds coming from the general membership account.
2. A good professional fireworks show would reduce the volume of fireworks on and near the lake.

Thanks to the support of the many contributors and beach associations we have been successful with our first goal of self-funding, but certainly not goal #2. There are without question more fireworks in and around the lake than ever before.

The first several years the goal was to spend \$5000 and we were getting the platform for the show generously donated by Knights EZ Dock. In 2012 we bumped the show to \$6000 and felt more satisfied with the duration of the program. This show remained popular and funds keep rolling in. Over the last three years the \$6000 show budget has remained the goal. With the escalating cost of firework product and no longer having a dock donated that now costs \$700 to \$800 we are losing ground with the program. New by-law changes a few years ago have negated the self-supporting aspect for funding the Fireworks show. However, the board believes the responsible action is to continue as a self-funding activity and increase the size and scope to the program. Easy to suggest more difficult to accomplish. There have been several fund-raising ideas discussed at our board meetings.

WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

The community has been very supportive over the years. The goal is to nearly double the size of the show to \$10,000. Yes, a significant increase that will require much support from our membership and local community. We would very much like your impute in this matter and welcome volunteers to carry it forward.



2017 LOON LAKE 4TH OF JULY BOAT PARADE

By Lee Evans

This year's 4th of July Boat Parade had 22 registered entries and maybe that many more who chose not to register for the 5 gift certificate prizes awarded.



This year's event per Stevens Co. Sheriff was a little over the top with water fights and some very erratic boat driving that causes some serious safety concerns. Stevens Co, Sheriff who was patrolling the lake during this event witnessed more than a few actions that could have resulted in citations. They chose however to monitor and step in if actions were warranted. The LLPOA who supports this activity will only do so if it remains safe. We want this to be a fun and creative environment for the entire family. It was clear the water cannons and balloons from boat to boat was all in fun. However, the fun was not shared by all.



Thank you for creativity and we will see you next July 4th

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next LLPOA Board Meeting: March

LMN Advisory Board Meeting: April 2018

Spring Chipper Days:

Fireworks Show:

4th of July Boat Parade

Annual LLPOA Meeting

LLPOA OFFICERS MEMBERS

President: Lee Evans

Vice President: Jim Davies

Secretary: Holly Shamberger

Treasure: Dana Waddell

LLPOA BOARD MEMBERS

Dick Davies, Jim Davies, Eric Davies, Denny Drinkard, Jon Hastings, Don Kelly, Barry Smith, Holly Shamberger, George Swannack, Dana Waddell, Mark Whittaker

STAY CONNECTED!

LLPOA Website:

www.loonlakepoa.org

Nextdoor App:



Correspondence by postal service:

Loon Lake Property Owners Association

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