

WEST LAKES NEWSLETTER

Spring 2023 – Vol 1



Drainage – Is it fixed?

Per Michael Schaefer's presentation at the Fall 2022 General Meeting, we know that the weeds and vegetation past Duke's Bridge impede the flow of water. In times of high water (heavy rain and/or snow melt), this contributes to slow drainage which leads to flooding. The 2022 LARE grant allowed us to spray this area which helped drainage tremendously. We have received a LARE grant for spraying for 2023 for \$5,000. We are grateful but this is only ½ the amount we requested and much less than we need (the estimate for 2023 is \$18,000). We are pursuing other grants and did receive the REMC EnviroWatts grant for \$3,000, but even with this additional \$3,000 we are in need of more money to cover the cost of weed spraying this year. You can help by joining West Lakes Association and paying your membership dues. Also, you are always welcome to make a donation just for the purpose of weed spraying even if you are not a member.

Budget – Is there enough?

You do the math...some of our expenses include paying our portion of LARE grants each year, providing and maintaining lake signs, buoys, gauges to check water flow and ecoli levels, sediment studies and removal, printing the lake directory, meeting expenses and many others. **Your membership dues and donations are our main source of income. Consider:**

2020 – 150 households @ \$30

2021 – 187 households @ \$30

2022 – 147 households @ \$40

YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS ESSENTIAL! We are working towards being able to pay membership dues on-line. Until this is set up, please download the Registration Form from www.westlakesassociation.com and mail or pay at the General Meeting on June 10. Membership Dues this year are \$40.00 per household. Yearly membership is from July-July.

Jones Lake – Residents in dire straits!

How would you cope if for the last 1-½ years you were not able to use your boat dock or access the lake from your lake house because of silt and sludge. Starting in early spring of 2022 it became very clear to a group of Jones Lake residents that the channel was filling up with sludge. Throughout the year, more sediment, silt and sludge accumulated, seriously and even dangerously impacting these residents. In the past, we used to be able to have two boats pass each other after the bridge heading into Jones Lake. This area has narrowed to the point that only one boat can barely get thru at a time. Action is being taken by the newly formed Jones Lake Road Shoreline Restoration, Inc. Group. West Lakes Association is fully committed to helping this group of residents to get their shorelines restored. Stay tuned and attend the June 10th meeting to discuss options/help for opening up the passageway under the bridge. All Jones Lake residents are encouraged to attend - members and non-members.

Stop Logs – Recreational Lake Level Device

No, it is not a dam. It is a device to keep the water at the legal lake level for the recreational boating season. Contingent on weather and water conditions, the target date to put the Stop Logs in is April 30; the target date to take them out is October 15. What are they? Large, heavy (200 lb) concrete "logs" that are stacked across the river to impede the water and keep it at an acceptable height. During these times, we always ask for volunteers (10-12) who can comfortably lift 60 pounds to help with putting these in and taking them out. *It's that time; we are asking for volunteers.* Contact Ken Thomas at 815 922-4212.

The most updated information regarding these **HOT TOPICS** will be given at the Spring General Meeting on Saturday, June 10, 2023 beginning at 10:00am at the West Lakes Boat Mart. Whether you are a member or not, you are welcome and encouraged to attend. Please mark this date on your calendar and make plans now to attend.

(We also have coffee and donuts!)



Upcoming Events

April 30 - Stop Logs Install-target date

May 29 - Memorial Day

June 10 - General Meeting

June 21 - First Day of Summer

July 1 - Boat Parade



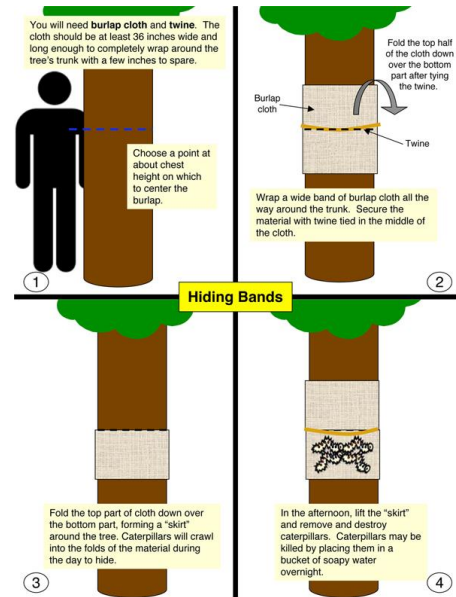
A Special Thanks to Ned Lichtsinn, our former West Lakes Association President (2020-2022), for his time, service, and dedication to West Lakes. Ned is leaving the area and has resigned his position as of March 22, 2023. Our best wishes go with Ned as he pursues whatever comes next for him.



Gypsy Moths - are they attacking your Oak trees???

As we come into early spring, the Spongy (Gypsy) moths are hatching and becoming early stage caterpillars. This is an ideal time to use burlap banding to trap the caterpillars. Attached is a picture with further information on how to perform the burlap banding and eliminate the caterpillars once you find them under the burlap. Remember the caterpillars can Kill Oak trees if defoliated repeatedly. Late April and Early May is an ideal time to implement this banding technique. Finally, Noble County is a quarantined area for Gypsy moths.

For more information you can visit Purdue Extension Entomology's Gypsy Moth Information Website to download free GM series bulletins and get the latest information. The link is as follows:
<https://ag.purdue.edu/department/entm/extension/spongy-moth/index.html>



A BIG Shout-Out to the Noble County Emergency Management Agency. Their concern and help was gratefully appreciated during the early flooding this year. Organizations like this are instrumental to our association.

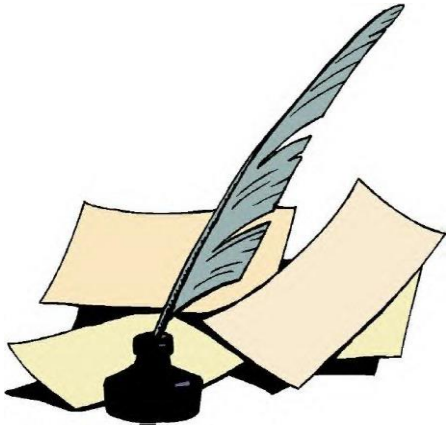


We need your support, we need your input, we need your membership.

West Lakes
A wonderful place to live,
A beautiful place to spend your summer,
Working to keep it that way.

Website: westlakesassociation.com - Facebook: West Lakes Association

If there is any information or articles you would like to see included in future Newsletters, please email jl-5110@att.net



A Letter From the President

Hi everyone, my name is Jean Thomas, and I am the new President of the West Lakes Association. I came into this role by default, I was the elected Vice President, working with Ned Lichtsinn, who was President. Unfortunately, Ned has had to step down for personal reasons and per the association by-laws, when that happens, the VP becomes the President. First off, I would like to extend my thanks to Ned for all the time over the many years that he has helped the association and the lake community in general. I will miss working with him (although I'll surely be calling him for help... 😊)

A little bit about me. My husband and I have a house on Jones Lake that we bought in late 2018, so 2019 was our first summer here. We became full time residents in 2020. I have owned a successful small business for 15 years or so and I have solid experience juggling the many different challenges that come up, so I'm confident that this experience will help me to be successful in this new role as president.

I strongly believe that the role of the president, and the role of the West Lakes Association, is to help guide the community towards maintaining and improving the health of our lakes. We are not here to dictate what has to be done, rather we are here to educate the community on the challenges the lakes face and to help coordinate getting those challenges resolved.

What the Association is trying to do

Whether you believe in the association or not, I'm certain that you believe in the wonderful "Lake Life" that we all enjoy, and we all need to help to maintain that. There are many ways that all of us can contribute to sustaining our lakes, and subsequently, our "Lake Life" (and property values!!). Whether you assist with a fund-raising effort; taking the Stop Logs in or out; a river clean-up effort; or the annual Boat Parade, you can also contribute funds to a specific effort, or the general funds (whether you're an association member or not) it is all needed and appreciated by all of us.

Even if you don't want to be a member of the association, your help and contributions are needed to make these lakes great for all of us. Through this newsletter and the semi-annual meetings, I want to be transparent about everything that can and needs to be done and how the association is managing your contributions.

About the funds – a large percentage of the funds that the association receives and manages go towards weed management in the river past Waldron Lake. Because of the annual weed spraying for the last several years, we have seen a great improvement in how fast the water recedes when we have a large rain event that raises the lake levels. We have to keep this up and we don't always get grant money from the DNR to pay for this, so, we, the community, need to find a way to pay for it ourselves. This is one area that the association helps to coordinate for the benefit of all lake residents, members or not.

So, to wrap this up, lots to be done, but let's also ENJOY the lakes and have a great 2023 season! I hope to see you on the lakes and meet as many of you as possible.

Meet your West Lakes Board Members



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westlakespresident@gmail.com



**Randy Mull
Vice President
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Diann Scott
Immediate Past President
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***Note** – per the West Lakes Conservation, Inc. By-laws, Section 9, VACANCIES: “If the office of President shall be vacated for any reason, the Vice-President shall complete the term of office.”

****Note** – at the April 5 Board Meeting, a motion was made and passed that Randy Mull become Vice President. Randy accepted this position and will also remain Tamarack Lake Director until a special election for a new lake director is held in August.



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