SAVE LAKE WEIR NEWSLETTER

Save Lake Weir Association is dedicated to protecting Lake Weir and committed to public awareness of lake management

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February 2019

Jane Sands, President
Vic Knoblock, Vice President

Reese Bourgeois, Secretary
Cliff Forrester, Treasurer

Annual Membership Meeting

Sunday, February 24, 2019, 2:00 PM

The annual meeting will be held at the Lake Weir Yacht Club, 13830 SE 145th Avenue Rd, East Lake Weir. The Yacht Club is located 2.5 miles east of Ocklawaha. Turn west off of CR 25 on SE 139th Place and drive to the end of the road. Dessert will be served at 2:00 pm. The meeting will start approximately at 2:30 pm. Board of Directors for the coming year will be elected. Members are encouraged to bring to the Board of Director's attention their concerns and anything they feel the board should address this year.

Membership

Your dues must be current in order to vote at this meeting and receive newsletters. Annual dues are $10 per person per year and $100 per person for a life membership. Enclosed for your convenience is a return envelope and membership card to be filled out and returned. Life members should use the membership form only to update email, address and phone numbers. Please send in annual dues and update your email address. According to the by-laws, if dues are delinquent more than one year, membership is terminated. We have 27 annual members whose dues are delinquent at this time. We NEED your membership in order to be an effective organization. There are a number of new residents on Lake Weir. We need your help in getting them to join our organization as we are only effective in numbers. INVITE YOUR NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS TO ATTEND THE MEETING – NEW MEMBERS ARE WELCOME!

Recognition of Board Members

Lou Archibald – At Large
Reese Bourgeois- Little Lake Weir
Holly Curran – East Lake Weir
Cliff Forrester – Sunset Harbor
Bob Hightower – Ocklawaha
Vic Knoblock- At Large
Kate Murrell - Weirsdale
Jane Sands – At Large
MayFair Taylor – At Large

Elections

Three seats on the board shall be filled by election each year as stated in the by-laws.
The following current board members have agreed to serve for the upcoming term of 2019-2022. If you cannot attend the meeting, a proxy is enclosed for you to send in. If you are in favor of this slate, vote for all three. There will be nominations from the floor at the meeting.

Holly Curran – Holly moved to Ocala in 1997 with her husband and family. She worked for many years in the legal field but always had an entrepreneurial spirit and in 2008 she opened the Plato's Closet franchise in Ocala. She sold the store in 2015 when she moved to East Lake Weir and is currently involved in real estate development. Holly believes strongly in environmental protection and is committed to help ensure that Lake Weir remains healthy for future generations.

Cliff Forrester – Cliff is currently serving as treasurer of SLW and has done so since 2002. Cliff and his wife, Beth, moved here from Michigan 32 years ago. They have owned property in Southwood Subdivision in Sunset Harbor since 1978 and lived there permanently since 1984. Cliff stays busy trimming trees and playing golf. He is concerned about the future of Lake Weir.

Vic Knoblock – Vic was born and raised in Ocala. In 2004 he and his wife, Suzanne, became full time residents of Lake Weir. Vic recently retired from owning and operating Post Office Tire Service for 45 years. Now Vic enjoys his love of woodworking and furniture restoration. He is currently Vice President of Save Lake Weir and has served as President.

We thank Ann Anderson for her many years of serving on the board of Save Lake Weir. She and her husband, Ed, were founding members of Save Lake Weir.

Speakers at Annual Meeting – Randy Keuntjes and John Privett
We invited the owners of our fine eating establishments on Lake Weir to share some of their history.

Eaton's Beach Sandbar and Grill – Randy and Sue Keuntjes – owners
Randy Keuntjes was born in Central Wisconsin in 1957 and resided in Green Bay until he moved to Florida. With a passion for motor cycles, Randy, his wife Sue of 40 years, and family came to Marion county in 1994 with motorcycles in tow and developed Hardrock Cycle Park in north Marion County. Their son, Dustin, is a 15 year veteran with the Ocala Police Department and their son, Jared, owns and operates PCD Manufacturing which manufactures custom closets and cabinets. Randy built their first home on Lake Weir in 2001. Eaton's Beach property was purchased in 2006 and they started redevelopment of the property in 2011, after learning the history from people like George Albright and Bud Boyer. Tom Ingram, Ron Zook, and Carl Johns encouraged the beauty that has become the current Eaton's Beach. The project started construction in the fall of 2012 and opened in October of 2013.

Gator Joes at Johnsons Beach – Kirk and Jodi Boone, Robin and Sandy McBride – owners
John Privett, Jodi Boone' father, was born in Jacksonville Fl. He started to vacation with his family on Lake Weir in 1947, staying at Rilea's cottages. This continued every summer until 1954 when after the death of his dad, the family moved to Lake Weir permanently. He was a part of the first graduating class of the new Lake Weir High School in Sunset Harbor. After retiring from the Air Force in 1985, he and his wife Jeanne wanted their daughters Jodie Privett Boone and Janine Privett to experience growing up on beautiful Lake Weir. John started going to Johnsons Beach in 1950 and was a regular on the dance floor and playing the pin ball machines. John and Jeanne have resided at Emerald Hill Farm on the north shore of Little Lake Weir for 20 years. Jodie and Kirk Boone along with two close friends, Robin and Sandy McBride purchased Johnsons Beach 20 years ago and changed the name to Gator Joes at Johnson Beach.

Lake Level
In September of 1999, St. Johns Water Management District was required to set a minimum flow water level for Lake Weir which is 54.9 feet. We have not reached this level in some time. In January of 2016 the water level was 50.70 feet, in 2017 48.85 feet, in 2018 51.10 feet and in 2019 52.44 feet. To find the current water level Google

"St Johns Water Management District Hydrological Data," enter Marion County, Ocklawaha River Basin, current water level, Lake Weir at Weirsdale, Station 04720926.

Lake Weir, Little Lake Weir Canal is Open and Passable
The Marion County Parks Department has done a great job of removing old trees and hauling out clumps of large floating islands. Continue to report to them any obstacle that impedes passage. The canal is approximately 30 feet wide and has about three feet of water above the muck. Pontoon boats and most other boats should go through easily. It is great for kayaks and paddle boards.

Lake Weir Boat Parade and Light Up Lake Weir
The Lake Weir Yacht Club put on a great Boat Parade this year. Over 30 boats were in the parade. Save Lake Weir donated $500 to the club to help with start-up expenses. Fifty percent of the proceeds after expenses, $1848, were given to the Ocklawaha Community of Gratitude and Food Bank.
The Winners were:
First Place: Robert Sackrider
Second Place: Shirley Singletary
Third Place: Mike Gorley

Algae Bloom
Lake Weir experienced an algae bloom this summer and again the first of January. Save Lake Weir took a January sample to Marion County UF/IFAS Extension Office. The resident Horticulturalist, Maxine Hunter, identified the algae as Batryococus, took pictures of it under the microscope, sent them to UF/IFAS where Dr. Chara agreed, and then to another lab where Dr. Laughinghouse agreed. This is a tentative identification by the professors because it was done from pictures. If another bloom occurs, we are considering paying for confirmation from fresh samples. This algae is non toxic but there could be some blue green algae associated with it that could be a problem.
Batryryococus is naturally occurring green algae which produces an oily substance that can be seen on the surface of the water. Their blooms are fairly common in the summer months and it probably occurred the first of January because of the unusually warm weather. Its presence has caused some alarm among lakefront citizens, as the algae cells are red or burnt orange in color and in large concentrations can temporarily change the color of a lake from green to burnt orange. Also, it will look very much like a gasoline spill or oil slick. Most of the research and articles written on it are about the high hydrocarbon content and the possibility of use as a biofuel.

Elodea
Some homeowners have observed outbreaks of elodea. If you suspect you have this invasive plant contact Robbie Lovestrand of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at (352) 726-8622.
Google for pictures of Hydrilla and Brazillian Elodea.

Save The Grass
The rules in the county code for the ESOZ state that all existing waterfront lots, less than 125 feet in width are limited to clearing a maximum access path of 20 to 25 feet through the littoral zone.

Save Lake Weir Beginning
The articles of incorporation were filed April 4, 1985. The first Board of Directors were Edward M. Anderson, Robert E Oechslin, Suzanne Materile, Hayden Warkentine, Nancy McCarter, Del Wood, Earl Scales, S.R. (Ted) Baker, and Michael Koontz.

Three items in the Management Plan being worked on by the County
1 A study to evaluate the impact of groundwater pumping on lake levels
2 A master wastewater plan, which will include sewer options and timeline for Lake Weir
3 Getting a line item approved in the budget to establish a monitoring plan for routine water quality testing

Guide to Homeowners-Waterfront Living: As a homeowner next to or near Lake Weir, you are aware of the benefits of living by such a waterbody. You may not be aware of how fragile lake systems can be in our region and that impacts to the lake's quality can come from many sources. Below are a few things a homeowner can do to help the lake so that future generations can also enjoy all that the lake has to offer.

Shoreline Tips

The shoreline edge can significantly impact Lake Weir's overall health. This area serves as habitat for plants and animals and helps to filter pollutants in stormwater runoff before it reaches open water. Vegetation along the shoreline also serves to protect from erosion. How can you help?

- Limit removal of aquatic vegetation along the shoreline.
- Incorporate a swale that can catch runoff and provide treatment of the stormwater.
- Maintain at least a 10 foot low-maintenance zone between your yard and beach. In this area, use plants that are Florida Friendly, which reduces the need for fertilizer.

The next two links provide good information about waterfront *Example of swale along lakefront.* living:

- http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/nonpoint/docs/nonpoint/wpog-book-final.pdf
- http://www.dep.state.fl.us/northwest/ecosys/section/LSDocs/Life%20on%20the%20Inland%20Shore.pdf

Fertilizer Use Tips

A healthy lawn can act as a sponge to absorb nutrients and prevent them from entering our rivers, lakes and springs. Fertilizers are often used as a component of landscape and lawn care, but too much of a good thing can have a negative impact on your lawn and Lake Weir.

Do not apply fertilizer within 75 feet of the lake.

- If you must fertilize your lawn, conduct a soil test to determine its actual fertilizer needs. More about fertilization rates can be found at BeWiseWhenYouFertilize.com.
- Select a slow-release nitrogen fertilizer with no phosphorus (P).
- Read and follow the application directions on the label.
- Don't apply fertilizer prior to a rain event.
- Apply only the minimum amount of fertilizer recommended.
- Clean up any fertilizer that spills on sidewalks or roadways.

Septic System Maintenance Guide

- Inspect septic systems every two to three years.
- Pump septic systems at least once every 5 years.
- When necessary, make appropriate repairs.
- Flush responsibly – no diapers, cigarettes, dental floss, coffee grounds, cotton swabs, feminine hygiene products, or trash.
- Keep household hazardous wastes out! Don't flush paint, gasoline, antifreeze, oil or pesticides.
- Fix plumbing leaks and drips.
- Protect your drain field by planting only grass over and near it. Tree and shrub roots can damage the system. Don't drive or park vehicles on the drain field.
- Route roof drains away from the septic drain field.