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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Website: savelakeweir.com

February 2021

Jane Sands, President
Vic Knoblock, Vice President
Jane Voge, Secretary
Cliff Forrester, Treasurer

Annual Membership Meeting

Sunday, February 28, 2021, 2:00 PM

The annual meeting will be held at the Lake Weir Yacht Club, 13830 SE 145th Avenue Rd, East Lake Weir. In the event that the Governor or the county prohibits public gatherings, you will be notified by email and it will be posted on our website. The Yacht Club is located 2.5 miles east of Ocklawaha. Turn west from CR 25 onto SE 139th Place and drive to the end of the road. Dessert will not be served this year due to COVID. 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 card only to update email, address, and phone numbers. If you have not received an email from us this year, we need to confirm a correct email address. According to the by-laws, if annual dues are delinquent more than one year, membership is terminated. We **Need** your membership in order to be an effective organization. Our membership reached 482 last year. Thanks to all of the new members. There are still a number of new residents on Lake Weir so invite your neighbors! **Please wear a mask and practice social distancing. Mail or Bring your Proxy**.

Recognition of Board members

Lou Archibald - At Large
Reese Bourgeois - Little Lake Weir
Carol Caruso - East Lake Weir
Cliff Forrester - Sunset Harbor
John Privett - Ocklawaha
Vic Knoblock - At Large
Bonnie Meyer - Weirsdale
Jane Sands - At Large
Jane Voge - At Large

Elections
Three seats on the board shall be filled by election each year as stated in the By- Laws. Current board members that have agreed to serve are Lou Archibald and Reese Bourgeois. We thank Holly Curran for her work in preparing our new membership list and representing East Lake Weir. Holly resigned and Carol Caruso was appointed to take her place. We thank Jane Voge for recording minutes of the meetings, typing the newsletter and representing the area At Large.

Lou Archibald – Lou, a 20-year resident of the lake, resides on Bird Island. She is a retired teacher and administrator in Marion County Public Schools. Dr. Lou Archibald has served on the Save Lake Weir Board the past three years and is a member of Lake Weir Yacht Club. As a member of both SLW and LWYC she has provided secretary services when needed. Recently she served on the committee charged with the successful revision and updating the SLW website. She and her husband, Skip, are passionate about the restoration and preservation of Lake Weir and are committed to the achievement of this objective.

Reese Bourgeois – Reese moved to Little Lake Weir 12 years ago with his wife, Shan. He has grown to love the lake and his motto is "in or on the water every day," with a kayak, a canoe, a sailboat, a windsurfer, a paddle board, a pontoon, or a ski boat. The attraction to come to the lake is the result of Shan's family having owned a small little place called the "Shack" on the north shore of Little Lake Weir for over 70 years. He wants the lake to remain a wonderful source of entertainment for all and is amazed that more people are not enjoying these beautiful lakes. Reese is an engineer, ran a small consulting firm called Flow Consulting, and traveled extensively.

Laura MacDonald – Laura McDonald was born and raised in Marion County and spent every childhood summer on Lake Weir. She and her husband Bartow, with their three sons, made a permanent move to the North Shore in 2004. She graduated from the University of Florida with a degree in Education and has spent the last few years home schooling their boys. Laura is eager to help in the preservation of our beautiful lake.

Speaker at Annual Meeting – Robert Lovestrand

Robbie Lovestrand is the regional biologist for invasive plant management in the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. He has over 30 years of local experience and knowledge of our aquatic resources. His main concern, for Lake Weir specifically, is the expansion of Hydrilla and the lack of shoreline vegetation along significant portions of the lake. At our February meeting Robbie will be teaching aquatic plant identification and answering questions on aquatic plant management. We ask that you please bring plant samples with you to the meeting for identification and discussion.

Current Project

In the last three years our Save Lake Weir organization has been collecting and examining volumes of information regarding the quality of the lake. This supports the necessity for ensuring the preservation of our lake and resources. To this end, Save Lake Weir has developed a proposal for continued involvement of our County Commission and their knowledgeable employees in support and implementation of important measures. The Save Lake Weir board members are meeting with county commissioners individually and discussing ideas for improvement of the lake in the following three areas:

Septic and Sewer:
-immediate focus on septic inspections and repair
-long term sewer solutions
Water Flow:
-improve the flow of water under the causeway to Bird Island
-insure water flow of the canal
Fertilizer and runoff:
-eliminate the sale of fertilizers with phosphate
-implement drainage solutions to reduce highway runoff

Marion County Utilities Meeting at Kiwanis Beach

About 50 residences attended the meeting. The maps were beautiful and they showed Lake Weir but we were told that there was no funding at the present to implement sewer solutions for this area.

IFAS Septic System Seminar and Water Testing

Thirty people attended and had their water tested. Some wells had bacteria but no E. coli. Fifteen wells were tested for lead and nitrates and none was found. What to do and not to do concerning septic systems was discussed at length.

New Website

Save Lake Weir invested in a new website, and the site is filled with wonderful video footage and pictures of the lake provided by SLW members, along with information about the history of Save Lake Weir and the current initiatives being undertaken by the association to Save Lake Weir. So, please go to savelakeweir.com and we'd love your feedback. We have also added Instagram and Facebook pages to further connect us to the modern world.

History of Lake Weir

The history of this area can be found in a variety of sources including:
- T.M. Shackleford's, a 1833 text of Amaskohegan (Bright Moon Lake), now known as Lake Weir, Sunset Harbor and Little Lake Weir. This text provides a history of the lake and articles by successful men on Florida products and orange or lemon groves.
- Dr. William H. Sears 1959 contributions of information relating to Indian burial mounds and artifacts of the To Weeden Period burial mounds – found on present-day Bird Island area. This can be found in University of Florida's Contributions of the Florida State Museum, Social Sciences, Number 8.
- Local and area newspapers and state-wide magazines during the 1950s provided interesting information that was being found in the 1950's and earlier. These sources include but are not limited to the following:
- David Cook in the Ocala Star Banner, Timucuan mound excavations, February 2, 2003.
- Norma Hendricks in the Leesburg Daily Commercial, 8th Century Skulls in the first mounds opened in last 50 years, September 18, 1957.
- W. H. Sears in the All Florida magazine, We Salvaged a Bit of Florida's History, November 24, 1957.

Revision of the Bylaws

The COVID-19 Pandemic has made us aware that we need to move into the digital and electronic world. The Save Lake Weir Board is proposing to you the following changes to the Bylaws. Please vote on this and the other items listed on the proxy and either **mail** or bring it to the meeting. We **Need** your proxy to be sure that we reach a **quorum** for the meeting. We understand if you feel you cannot attend the meeting.

First Change – under Article V. Section 1, C.

At least ten (10) days prior the meeting, the Secretary shall be responsible for sending notice thereof to each member of the Association to the last known post office address and shall publish notice for the public in general.

Will now read

At least ten (10) days prior the meeting, the Secretary shall be responsible for sending notice thereof to each member of the Association to the last known post office address or email address.

Second Change – under Article V. Section 2, B. Bullet 1

Notice shall be sent to each voting member at the last known post office address at least fifteen (15) days prior to the date of the meeting.

Will now read

Notice shall be sent to each voting member at the last known post office address or email address at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting.

Third Change – under ARTICLE VI. Board of Directors, Section A, bullet 2.

In all cases, action taken by the Board of Directors shall require a majority of those present and voting, with a minimum of five (5) votes having been cast. Proxy voting is not allowed.

Will now read

In all cases, action taken by the Board of Directors shall require a majority of those present and voting, with a minimum of five (5) votes having been cast. Phone call attendance and voting is allowed if the director is ill or out of town, but proxy voting is not allowed.

A complete set of the Save Lake Weir Bylaws and proposed changes can be found on our website.