

LOCA News

A Publication of the Lake Owassa Community Association
P.O.Box 657 Branchville, NJ 07826

973-948-6866

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President's Message

The summer of 2006 has been beautiful at Lake Owassa. The abundant rain has kept everything green and lush. The gypsy moth caterpillars were a problem earlier but have now disappeared. Frankford Township has asked the state to spray for the gypsy moths next spring, and hopefully we will not have the problem to the same degree next year. The rain caused the lake to be very high for a while, but due to the diligence of Frank Grossman, Hap Rowan, and Ted Roman, the flumes at the outlet worked beautifully to help lower the lake quickly.

Thanks to Judy Roman for a beautiful boat parade, to Ray Earle and the Fishing Committee for an exciting sunfish contest, to Ted Roman and Hap Rowan for continuing the sailboat races, to Cathy Giugliano and Dan Higgins for the swim races, and to Mike and Lisa Fiorentine for the delicious picnic. It is amazing to watch Lisa and Mike put together such a complicated event with tireless work, grace, and good spirit. Thank you also to the many volunteers who helped Mike and Lisa by preparing the island, setting up the tent, preparing and serving the food, and cleaning up afterwards. Still to come is the LOCA garage sale on Saturday, August 19.

Kevin Murphy and the Boat Compliance Committee, Frank Grossman, Fred Marder, Dave Miller, Ted Roman, Hap Rowan, and Jack Utter, have been meeting frequently to assure that all boats are registered and tagged in an accurate and timely fashion. Danae Dotz, LOCA Secretary, has been diligently dealing with the many related mailings and communications. The committee has accomplished its goal. There are no longer any boats with oversized motors on the lake. The committee will now focus on improving the yearly registration process. Next year the process of registering boats will be easier because the dues notices and registration forms will be sent out months earlier than in the past, as early as February. This will give more time for members to respond and for the boat labels to be mailed by the April 30 date which is when the previous labels expire. Bob Hope is working to make all application forms available on line on our website www.lakeowassa.org. Thank you to all members for patiently dealing with the changes in the process. The committee asks members to make sure that the proper stickers are placed on all boats.

Dan Higgins has served LOCA diligently for these many years. He has been fair and even handed in his role as patrolman and has contributed enormously to our enjoyment and safety on the lake. Dan has asked to be relieved of the responsibilities of patrolman. Thank you, Dan, for the great job you have done. Ted Roman has agreed to serve as interim patrolman.

I am personally very grateful that members responded to the request of the Board that no fireworks be discharged from or toward LOCA property. This year there was only one instance in which fireworks were discharged over the lake. That episode was immediately reported to the State Police. Thank you to all who have helped avoid the injuries and financial consequences that fireworks could have brought to LOCA and its members.

Due to the high level of volunteerism, LOCA's expenditures remain quite low, and as a result our dues are very reasonable. Other lake communities have dues that are multiples of ours. We have been able to hold our dues constant for many years. However, there has been a budget deficit for the past three years as rising costs especially for the big items such as insurance have taken their toll. Costs are likely to rise further. At this time it is both prudent and necessary to increase the dues. The Board is proposing an increase to \$160 at which level we should be able to come close to balancing the budget next year. It is important for members to attend the General Membership Meeting on Sunday, August 27 at 10:00 a.m. at the Branchville Firehouse to vote on the budget, on the dues increase, and in the election of 3 Board members, the president and the vice-president. If you are unable to attend, please complete the attached proxy form and send it to Danae Dotz at LOCA or have another member bring it to the meeting.

This is my last month as president, as having served four years, I must step down. I feel very fortunate to have had the opportunity to be president of LOCA, a great organization with wonderful members. I am grateful for the help, support and encouragement of the membership and of the Board of Governors. LOCA keeps getting stronger and stronger. My wife, Cess, and I cherish your friendship and look forward to many years of enjoyment on the lake as part of this magnificent community.

Joel Weintraub

Please make a note of this new phone number and e-mail address. A new cell phone account will be set up shortly. It will be posted on the web site.

Ted Roman -- 973-948-7171

E-mail: ted@owassa.com

Fishing Club – Ray Earle

The members of the Fishing Club installed the fish habitats in the lake at the end of June. Pictures of the habitats and how they were made will be on the web site soon. Many thanks to all of the people who donated their time and materials. There was a great turn out for the Sunny Contest held on July 3, 2006. First Place trophy went to John Mallon B-19, Second Place went to Korey Roman B-23, and Third Place went to Breeauna Yesthal E-21. All other contestants received a bass lure. Congratulations to all who entered. Photos of this event will soon be on the web site.

The bass population in the lake is doing extremely well and getting better. Anyone interested in participating in a "Bass Master of Lake Owassa" tournament in June of 2007, please contact John Lipari at 973-948-6348, Brad Batastini at 973-948-0160, or Ray Earle at 973-948-6237. There will be a \$10.00 entry fee. Two men (or ladies) to a boat – max. Prize and bragging rites to the boat with the heaviest 5 bass. The lunger of the day will also receive a prize. This type of event is very time consuming for us to coordinate, so please express your interest as soon as possible.

Just a reminder: The 2006 fishing contest ends on 8/10/06 and the 2007 contest starts on 8/11/06. See you at the LOCA general meeting on August 27, 2006 when the trophies will be awarded.

Due to limited funds, there will be only one sticking this fall. We will be stocking 300 channel catfish and 500 small striped bass.

Have a great summer and remember **take a kid fishing soon!**

Thank you. Good Luck!

Ray Earle

Weight Stations

C-20 Brad Batastini

H-31 Evelyn Putera

E-9 Dan Higgins

E-21 Ray Earle

B-23 Judy Roman

G-22 Bob Hope

I-8 Fran Sandomeno

Area Identification

Many years ago, Les Holland (AKA "Mr. Lake Owassa"), devised the identification system for our lake. He divided the lake into alphabetical areas and then numbered a group of homes within each alphabetical area. Area Advisors were assigned to each area to keep members informed of LOCA happenings, to answer questions, and to greet new members, etc. Mr. Holland also made signs for each home. With the passage of time, most of the signs are now gone. They are most helpful if someone is delivering something by water. So, we would like to suggest that you post your area number somewhere on your waterfront.

L.O.C.A. Waters – Clean, Safe, and Fun – Brad Batastini

Water Level: All was well until the skies opened in late June. The highest water level was just 2.27 inches below the zero mark (the nail) leaving banks covered and some docks underwater! The good news is the beaver dam works well, thanks to the brave souls who monitor it, and the water level is back to normal. Actually, a quick inflow and outflow of water is good for the lake to purge itself.

Water Test results: June testing indicated most items still tested "excellent" and a few in the "good" category. Average surface level temperatures are in the high 70's to low 80's!

Water Treatment: We treated 1 acre of the lake for European Milfoil in mid-June. European Milfoil is an invasive weed and requires treatment to control it from overgrowth. The area we treated this year was in the E-Cove.

Allied Biological posted signs within 50 feet of the treatment site. Water restrictions included no lake water usage for drinking or irrigating from 3 to 5 days. We actually schedule treatment beginning on a Monday and ending on a Friday to lessen the impact on people and animals. LOCA posted the dates and restrictions on our website.

The folks from Allied Biological remarked on how little treatment was necessary this year implying effective treatment of other areas in previous years!

Coliform Testing: We test lake water for coliform bacteria on a monthly basis. Sites are selected based upon when they were last tested, sampling those which are the oldest.

New Jersey requires safe swimming water to be less than 200 colonies per 100 milliliters. LOCA sites typically test in single digits (i.e., 1 to 9) or in low double digits (10 to 50). Typically we test about 8 sites per month. The July samples may have set an all-time low average of 2.5 – and that's terrific!

Septic systems which are pumped regularly or upgraded are essential to maintain these fantastic results for same swimming water!

Shoreline Management: Remember to allow plants to grow within 1 foot of your shoreline. This helps prevent shoreline erosion, deters geese from entering your property (we have a family of geese living on the lake), and plant maturity often brings beautiful flowers!

Fertilizers and Pesticides: High levels of nitrates and phosphates are not good for the lake since they support algae and weed growth.

Lawns do not require "phosphorus" to stay green. Using fertilizers with a "0" as the middle number (e.g., 10 – 0 – 10) means no phosphorus (the 1st number is nitrogen and the 3rd potassium) and the lower the numbers, the better. Try 5 – 0 – 5 or none at all! Mother Nature has her own way of keeping things green and growing.

So once again, **THANKS TO ALL** for doing things right and doing the right things!

Next Newsletter: The next Newsletter will come out in November . Please submit all material, committee reports, etc. to charlycathy249@aol.net by October 15, 2006. It is helpful if your Word document is typed in Times New Roman 10. Thanks, C. Doremus and F. Sandomeno.

Recreation News – Judy Roman

I hope everyone has recovered from the heavy rains that drenched us the end of June! Our weather did not prevent any of our July activities from happening. So far, all seem to be having a wonderful-fun filled summer. Let's hope August is hot and dry so we can continue to enjoy our beautiful lake.

Swim Races were held on July 1 under the leadership of Cathy Giugliano and Dan Higgins. They reported that a good group of kids attended and had a fantastic time participating. The winners of each event were as follows:

- 5 & 6 Year Olds: 1st-Sarah Groetelaars
 - 2nd-James Lundberg
 - 3rd- John Wagner
- 7 & 8 Year Olds: 1st- Charles Youse
 - 2nd- Andrew Lundberg
 - 3rd- Samantha Benson
 - 4th- Ben Giugliano
- 10 Year Olds: 1st- Ellie Groetelaars
 - 2nd- Sammy Peck
- 11 Year Olds: 1st- Allie DiMattia
 - 2nd- Luke Guigliano
- 13 Year Olds: 1st- Devony DiMattia
 - 2nd- Corey Benson
 - 3rd- Kari Raae
 - 4th- Finn Raae

Adults: 1st- John Groetelaars
 2nd- Al DiMattia
 3rd- Mike Wagner
 4th- Magda Dickinson

Watermelon Races: Youngest -1st- James Lundburg
 Mid age-1st- Luke Guigliano
 Oldest kids-1st- Corey Benson

Kayaks:

Under 10- 1st- Ben Guigliano
 2nd- Charles Youse

Over 10-1st- Corey Benson
 2nd- Like Guigliano
 3rd- Finn Raae
 4th- Devony DiMattia

Commodore Ted Roman was in charge of the sailboat races on July 2. The wind was great and conditions good-but only 2 boats participated! Where were all the sailors hiding? Each participant won a race. The first race went to Leonard Tandul- H-09. The second was won by newcomer, Sergey Vasnetsov- H-23. Great job guys!

Our LOCA Boat Parade was a huge success-as usual! We had 15 fantastically decorated boats. This made it hard for the judges to decide on the five best themes or most patriotically decorated boats. After much discussion these were the five trophy winners:"Bungle in the Jungle"-Floods- H-1: "Big Top Clowns"- Parisi-H-12: "Hawaiian Paradise"-Wagners-G-20: Patriotic themes- Lipari- C-19 and Zimmerman-I-16. The others will each receive blue ribbons for their wonderful efforts: Paganelli-B-2, Pomeroy-C-13, Hope & Keating-G-21, Batastini-C-20, Romans-B-23, Norwicki-F-10, Weintraub-B-35, Giugliano-G-18, Wirtz-A-12, Winkler-E-01. Of course, a huge Thank You and blue ribbon to our Patrolman Dan for his great costume and leadership in our parade. Pictures, ribbons, and trophies will be awarded at our August General Meeting. Looking forward to seeing all 15 winners there!

August 19 is the date for the LOCA Garage Sales. Gather your treasures and get together with neighbors to sell your items. Signs will be posted on Rt. 206 and entrance to lake streets(Bonning, Katie Lane, Allen, Blackford, Plumer). It is up to you to post signs on your property. Time is from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. Ads will be placed in the Star Ledger, New Jersey Herald, and Local News. Good Luck and sell bunches!!

LOCA Store-

License Plate holders are still \$1.00. Newcomers may want these. Old or lost ones may need to be replaced. We have plenty!

Hats, t-shirts, sweatshirts, golf shirts, sweatpants, and butt shorts are still for sale.

For information, prices, and orders call Judy-973-948-* 7171.

Picnic Re-cap

WOW! What a fantastic picnic! Everything was perfect! The island was decorated in its Mardi Gras attire and looked great. The weather on the island- though hot- had a magnificent breeze that made everyone feel most comfortable. A record breaking crowd attended-over 200- and had a marvelous time meeting new and old friends. The New Orleans food was absolutely delicious, and could not have been any better. The kids had a ball jumping in the Moon Walk, making special art works in the Spin Art machine, getting their faces painted, entering the water balloon toss, playing the other games, and making new friends.

A picnic is a lot of hard work! Special thanks go to the many people who helped in any way to make this such a special day. Mike and Lisa again out did themselves with their choice of food and diligent preparation. We had plenty of help preparing the island, setting up, helping in the "kitchen", and volunteering to do anything needed while at the picnic. The list is too long to name all the helpers, but you know who you are and a huge THANK YOU to all whom in any way helped to make this event happen!

Frank Lopez & Brandon Lopez-H-34 won the horseshoe contest. New LOCA members-Michael and Dusty Simpson-F-03-came in second place. A huge thanks to Frank Grossman for running this event.

We had a record number of pies to be judged this year-11! Each looked too good to be eaten. The 6 judges to decide the top 3 pies were Martin Novar, Gary Radice, Daniel Fiorentine, Brendan Post, Rose Solow, and June Solow. After much sampling, the top 3 winners were: 1st- Chocolate Pudding Pie made by Fran Sandomeno-I-8, 2nd- Chocolate Yogurt by Eve Yesthel-E-21, and 3rd-Apple Crumb by Margaret Heyman-C-6. Many thanks to all the bakers who participated in this event. Their pies were enjoyed by all.

The 50/50 amount was \$215 to the winner! Marie Worthington-E-21- won this with the one ticket that she purchased! She happily donated her winnings to the fishing club. Thanks, Marie!
To all who attended, Thank YOU for coming and making this the best picnic so far!
Hoping to see you all next year!

Schedule change: the Swim Across the Lake has been postponed from August 12 to some day next year.
More details to follow next spring.

Property Committee – Dave Miller

Thanks to Tom Biale, D-2, for posting new No Trespassing Signs and for transporting and installing the new ramp for the shed on the Island. The ramp, donated by the son of a lake member, will make it easier to access the shed during our annual picnic.

We have a need for a small sump pump and 100 feet of garden hose. These will be used at future picnics to supply water. If anyone would like to donate an unused pump or hose, please contact me at (973) 948-8438, or bakdsm@mercurylink.net.

When visiting our "Island", enjoy this exceptional site. If you notice any trash, please bring it back home with you and recycle it.

Boat Identification

It's August and..... "Do you know where your LOCA stickers are?" It seems that many of them are in a drawer somewhere.....just languishing when they should be on all of your watercraft. If your boat "goes missing" as they say in the detective shows, it can be returned to you promptly if it's properly identified. Just for the record: All boats on Lake Owassa must be properly identified with the following stickers:

- LOCA stickers which are red and white and have your area printed on them. If you do not have these for each side of each boat, contact Danae Dotz to purchase them. The cost is \$4.00 per set. Floats should be identified in the same manner.
- The yearly LOCA stickers are a different color each year and indicate that dues have been paid. Remove the old stickers before putting on the new ones.
- For motorized boats, the proper NJ motorboat stickers and numbers are required.
- A LOCA motorboat sticker, which is green for boats under 35 HP and silver for boats 35 HP or greater, is required.

Remember: Stickers should be placed on both sides of the watercraft.

There are many reasons for these stickers, but primarily, it is important to identify your boat as being owned by a LOCA member in good standing. Boats not owned by LOCA members are not permitted on the lake.

Also, please remember that each person in a watercraft must have a flotation device available and children 12 years old and under must be wearing it. Don't forget to display your ski flag when using your boat for skiing or tubing. It's important to be cognizant of the weight capacity of your boat, as it's very dangerous to overload your boat. You could conceivably take on water and sink. Let's keep Lake Owassa and its inhabitants safe!

Classified

- Wrought iron table and 4 matching chairs – Need TLC. Some light surface rust, but no holes. Table is 30x30, no top. \$150.00 or B/O. Call David Edsall 973-948-3462
- Many household items for sale. Indoor/outdoor furniture, kitchen equipment, pictures, baskets, books, etc. Call for appointment. 245 E. Shore Lake Owassa Road. Contact Wendy Wiener Klein (I-09) at 973-948-5571 or 315-479-5105. If unable to reach Wendy, call Framy Sandomeno at 973-948-6425.

- 15' power boat: 5 passenger; 50 HP; closed front deck; trailer included. B/O. Contact Richard Wagstaff 201-438-4047.
- Plywood sailboat; 14' long, very fast flat bottom boat. B/O. Contact Richard Wagstaff 201-438-4047.
- Lakefront rental- newly renovated home- sleeps eight. A/C, washer/dryer, cable, dock and rowboat. \$1,300/week, \$4,500/mo. Available until Nov. 1st. Call 973-222-7790.

LOCA member specials

- Winter boat storage at Castle Storage, Cook Rd. Branchville. Just \$99.00 for any size boat for the winter storage season. Winter season runs from Labor Day to Memorial Day. Pre-pay your winter storage now and store your boat trailer for FREE! A \$49.00 savings. Call 973-948-9910 for more information.
- Budget Truck Rentals – 10% off your local one-way rate. Show your LOCA membership card to receive a discount at the time of booking. Call 973-948-2405 to make a reservation.

What is ethanol/E-10 gas?- David Edsall

10% ethanol blended with 90% gas=E10gas.

Ethanol is now known as E-10 automotive fuel. This mix does not require special labeling to show that it contains 10% ethanol. It is safe to use in your car, truck, motorcycle or any other gas engine including water craft. It will help reduce air pollution and reduce or eliminate the use of MTBE which has been shown to be harmful to the environment. Ethanol is biodegradable.

It is important to make sure your gas containers are dry before using as ethanol will absorb water. If the water content exceeds approximately 3% by volume, the gas will start to phase separate and it will render it unusable as a fuel.

Keep E-10 gas in a dry, well vented area. It should not be in a living space or be exposed to fire or ignition sources. The gas should be free of any clouding or jell like substances floating in it. If this happens, it should not be used in your motor.

Nominating Committee Report

The following nominations were submitted:

For President (two-year term) – John Lawson (A-04)

For Vice-President (two-year term) – Judy Roman (B-23)

For Board of Governors (three- year terms) – Dick Bell (G- 30), Bob Hope (G-22), and Dave Miller (F-08)

Members of the Nominating Committee were Bob McDowell (G-14), Sands Ritchie (B-33), and Frank Grossman (G-15).

LAKE OWASSA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION PROXY

Discussion:

No official business can be conducted at Association General Meetings unless a voting quorum is present. It is preferable that members of the Association attend meetings in person; however, members may appoint someone as a "Proxy" to represent them in their absence. If you should subsequently attend the meeting and decide to vote in person, the assigned Proxy may be canceled at that time.

You may indicate on the Proxy how you wish to vote on each subject to be voted upon at the meeting and your representative is obligated to vote accordingly. If you do not indicate a preference or if any subject should arise during the meeting which is not covered in the meeting notice, the Proxy is free to vote in accordance with his or her best judgment.

To ensure a quorum at the General Meeting, the Board of Governors requests that you appoint the Secretary of the Association as your Proxy by signing this Proxy form and returning it promptly to the Secretary (LOCA, P.O. Box 657, Branchville, NJ 07826), especially if you do not plan to attend.

PROXY:

The undersigned voting member of the Lake Owassa Community Association hereby appoints the Secretary or _____ (other designated person), his or her lawful Attorney and Proxy, with full powers of substitution, to vote at the General Meeting to be held on August 27, 2006 and at any adjournment thereof, upon all matters that may properly come before the Meeting; provided, however, that such vote shall be as specified below with respect to matters described in the Meeting Notice (August 2006 LOCA News):

APPROVAL OF BUDGET FOR 2006-2007

For _____ The Board of Governors recommends a "for" vote.
Against _____
Abstain _____

TO INCREASE YEARLY DUES TO \$160

For _____ The Board of Governors recommends a "for" vote.
Against _____
Abstain _____

ELECTIONS :

The Board recommends votes for these five candidates, who have been nominated by the Nominating Committee.

For President (two-year term)

- John Lawson (A-04)
- _____
- Abstain

For Vice President (two-year term)

- Judy Roman (B-23)
- _____
- Abstain

For Three Members of the Board of Governors (three-year terms) * vote for up to three*****

- Dick Bell (G-30)
- Bob Hope (G-22)
- Dave Miller (F-06)
- _____
- _____
- _____
- Abstain

Membership Area Number _____

Name (please print) _____

Signed _____ (L.S.) Date _____