

THE OWASSA PADDLER



LOCA BOARD

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I write this, we are getting our first cold snap of the 2006-07 winter. It was 3° here a few days ago on my thermometer. But with baseball spring training less than two months away, spring will be here. Already, the sunsets are a little later in the afternoon.

Again this year, there has been a tremendous amount of rain, accompanied by a rise in the lake level. Ted Roman and Hap Rowan deserve our gratitude for monitoring the lake outflow.

Several members have asked whether the new sales tax law enacted last summer applies to LOCA dues. COLA (the Coalition of Lake Associations, of which LOCA is a member) has hired an attorney, Eileen Born of Dolan and Dolan in Newton, to look into the matter. As of a few days ago, it appears likely that lake dues and initiation fees will be subject to this tax. The issue is whether the lake dues are mandatory, i.e. required by your deed, or voluntary. As you know, Lake Association dues are voluntary. If you want to find the reasoning of the state tax experts, consult

<http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/text/membershiptxt.htm>. Interested members can periodically review the tax website for updates at <http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/taxation/text/salesnewstxt.htm>. Ms. Born has written to Allison McHose, our assemblywoman, requesting her to support legislation giving a blanket exemption from the tax for lake associations.

I would like to draw your attention to the article written by the Boat Compliance Committee, with Kevin Murphy as Chair. To facilitate registration of motorboats, a database has been created so that your request for renewal will have our existing information already preprinted in the registration form. The other big change is that the renewals will go out in March rather than April. So this year, the process should be simpler.

It is with regret that I'd like to ask for candidates for our secretary-treasurer position. Danae Dotz has been an indefatigable worker and has done a wonderful job. During the past year, she has increased the efficiency

and responsiveness of the position of Secretary/Treasurer. She has been absolutely amazing and deserves our thanks. Danae, however, because of the increased requirements of her other employment, has asked that we attempt to find a replacement in the near future. The work requires an average of eight hours per week, and involves both Secretarial and financial skills. Please contact me at johnlawson@nychoral.org or 973-948-4689 if you are interested, or know someone who is.

Lastly, Ted Roman underwent triple heart bypass surgery at Morristown Memorial Hospital. It is my pleasure to report that he is recovering well. We all wish Ted a speedy and complete recovery.

Happy spring to you all!

BOAT COMPLIANCE—KEVIN MURPHY

With spring on the way, preparation for the 2007 Annual Registration is already underway. This year's Registration Form will be sent out early – in March – to give members ample time to forward their completed and signed form along with a check to our Lake Secretary, Danae Dotz.

One new feature of the 2007 Registration Form should be a welcome convenience; the information from previous years' registrations has been data collected, and will be populated into each member's 2007 Registration Form. Only new or additional information need be provided on the form, along with a signature to validate the accuracy of the registration information provided. Again, as required in our By-laws, boats with motors of 25 HP or more must provide a copy of the insurance endorsement showing liability coverage of at least \$250,000. Perhaps because this was a new requirement last year, it held up the issue of a number of boat stickers.

Registration forms are due in by April 30th. The LOCA Board and the Boat Compliance Committee ask for your continued coopera-

tion in this process, and early submission of the 2007 Membership Registration Form. The 2006–2007 boat stickers expire on April 30th; all boats in use on the lake are required to have the new stickers in place by May 1st. All Registrations received in good order and on time will be processed promptly, and boat stickers will be sent to members right away.

Please take an extra minute to review the information on the 2007 Registration Form, and to be certain that all required documentation is provided, as outlined in the instructions on the form. Once again, there will be a two-color system for boat stickers; boats with motors of 35 HP or more will receive LOCA stickers in a contrasting RED color, all other boats will receive YELLOW stickers. Instructions regarding the placement of both the registration and area stickers will be provided. Proper location of the stickers will enhance visual recognition, which is difficult with a moving boat, especially at a distance.

Thanks to all for helping LOCA assure complete and ongoing compliance with our Constitution and By-Laws.

LOCA PATROLMAN

Congratulations to Ted Roman who has now been appointed as LOCA Patrolman. We look forward to input from Ted in future issues.



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NY LICENSE # 166
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PROMOTIONS
Newton, New Jersey
Tel: 973-948-3988
Fax: 973-948-2227

CIA

Contest

Looking for a LOCA Newsletter Logo. Send entries to:

locanews@yahoo.com

Fishing Committee—Ray Earle

Welcome to Spring 2007! The ice will be gone soon and I know many lake members are looking forward to another great season on the lake. The Lake Owassa Fishing Committee is working hard to prepare for a fun-filled summer of fishing for members of all ages. Some of this years goals are to complete three more fish habitats, add flags or plaques to identify fish weigh stations, another stocking of bass, a two person bass contest, expanded adult and kids fishing contest, as well as, our annual sunny contest for kids 16 years and younger on the Fourth of July weekend. As we are all aware, these plans take time and money to implement and only a small amount of our Fishing Committee budget comes from membership dues. Therefore, we are greatly dependent on your individual donations. The Fishing Club is composed of lake members who have donated to support the activities of the Fishing Committee. So, to support our activities and be a recognized member of the fishing club, simply send in a donation with your lake dues. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who donated so generously last year and hope that our efforts would warrant similar support this year. Without your help, we could not continue to be so active in our community, Remember, volunteers are always welcome to help out

the committee. Committee meetings are open to all lake members and comments and ideas are welcome. As the success and popularity of fishing on our great lake grows, we begin to realize that fishing is just not about catching fish, but is a great way to simply spend time with family and friends, to reconnect with the outdoors or relax on the water. Ice fishing this year got off to a slow start due to lack of cold weather, but February proved to be a productive month for L.O.C.A. fisherman with reports of some nice size pickerel, perch, bass and catfish being pulled through the ice. This Fall we were able to stock 500 more 6" to 8" Hybrid Stripped Bass and 800 more 10" to 12" Channel Catfish. Please remember that a New Jersey state fishing license is required to be displayed by anyone between the ages of 16 and 69 years old fishing on the lake. There have been spot checks for fishing licenses on the lake in the past by New Jersey Fish and Game. An annual license cost \$22.50 and can be purchased at most local sport shops or on-line. All New Jersey fish regulations are in effect while fishing on the lake, so please follow all season and daily limit restrictions. A complete summary of all rules and management

information may be found at www.njfishandwildlife.com. New Jersey will again have two license free fishing days on June 9th and 10th, great days to invite friends to enjoy the lake. Please remember that this year's adult and kids fishing contest is open and runs through 8/12/07. The 2008 contest starts 8/13/07. Please continue to weigh your fish throughout the year. I cannot stress enough the importance of weighing your catch. The information we gather from the weigh stations each year is vital to our fish management program. If you cannot get your fish to a weigh station, please weigh it with your own scale, if available, and take a picture for us. You can then turn this information into any weigh station or e-mail it to the fish committee at ray-mo77033@earthlink.net. The fish committee would greatly appreciate this information. We are currently looking for a volunteer to manage an additional weigh station. If interested, please contact Ray Earle as soon as possible. The active weigh stations around the lake are: Brad Batastini – C20, Ray Earle – E21, Bob Hope – G22, Judy Roman – E23, Evelyn Putera – H31, Brad Perry – H15, Fran Sandomeno – I8 Thank you for all of your help and generous donations. See you on the lake.

Yours truly,

Ray Earle
Fish Committee Chairman



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Marie Worhtington Earle

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LOCA Waters: 2006 Results – The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly—Brad Batastini

The Good – Water Chemistry and Bathing Safety

We test Lake Owassa’s water 4 times a year, at 7 sites, and different depths. Our results for 2006 continue to be “good to excellent.”

The 2006 “overall averages” for what we measure are:

Dissolved Oxygen	Dissolved Oxygen	Temp.	Specific Conductivity	pH	Turbidity	Ammonium	Nitrates
% Sat	mg/l	øF	mS/cm	Units	NTU	mg/l-N	mg/l-N
98.0	8.4	64.0	0.1	7.5	7.7	0.1	2.9

(These change at different times of the year)

We also tested 25 samples of water, at different sites around the lake, for “coliforms” (fecal bacteria). The “overall average” was 7 colonies per 100 milliliters (the NJDEP limit is 200 for safe bathing).

The Bad – Phosphorus

In October, we tested 3 samples from different depths in the middle of the lake for Total Phosphorus. The results were:

Surface: 0.04 mg/L
 Mid-depth: 0.04 mg/L
 Bottom: 0.03 mg/L

Although the NJDEP Standard is 0.05mg/l, it only takes a Total Phosphorous level of 0.03 mg/L to cause excessive plant or algae growth.

Two sources of Phosphorous in a lake are:

Internal Phosphorous - originates from bottom sediments when exposed to anoxic (no oxygen) conditions which typically occurs in the summer. These are brought to the surface when the lake “turns over.”

External loading - comes from sources outside of the lake, and enter via runoff, and inlets.

Based on our results, there seems to be excessive nutrients in Lake Owassa. Since the bottom phosphorous result is lower than the surface and mid-depth results, the source is probably external, entering via runoff, or an inlet stream (Allied Biological).

The Ugly – Blue-Green Algae

Algae blooms are certainly normal and natural. Under the right conditions (water temperature, sunlight, and nutrients) Mother Nature creates the Green algae blooms (pea soup) we see upon our water.

However, the Blue-Green algae blooms, much less desirable, are the result of excessive levels of nutrients (usually phosphorus and nitrates). Although not new to Lake Owassa, lately we’ve been seeing these again beginning in late summer and into the fall.

Here’s what Blue-Green algae looks like (photo by Marie Worthington):



For Rent:
 Owassa Lakefront, newly renovated with A/C. Sleeps 8—two bedrooms, one bath, dock, rowboat w/ motor, cable, w/d. \$1,300.00 per week, \$4,500.00 per month. Kirk Perry H-16 973-222-7790



Castle Video
 Annie’s Book Stop
 Rt. 206 & Cook Rd.
 Branchville, NJ 07826
 973-948-7477 or 3111
 Fax: 973-948-2475

RECREATION—JUDY ROMAN, CAREN BEREI & ANN O’CONNOR

Once again LOCA would like to thank all who worked hard to make this a great summer! Our weather was super-except for the rain before July 4 and at the end of August. All our planned activities provided lots of fun for all ages. Now it’s time to think about 2007!! Our tentative calendar is as follows:

June 9- Saturday- Area Advisors Meeting- Cathy Doremus’s Home

July 1- Sunday-Sailboat Races

July 4- Wednesday- Boat Parade

July 8- Sunday- Swim Races

August 11- Saturday- Swim Across the Lake

To be announced: Picnic

After many years of being in charge of LOCA Recreation, it is with great pleasure to tell you that we have new volunteers to help in this area!! Ann O Connor and Caren Berei-J-5- have agreed to assist in our recreation adventures! Other

committee members are Beth Batastini, Margaret Mullins, Christine Lipari and Cathy Guigliano.

Keep your eyes and ears open for some new activities coming our way this summer. Possibilities include: A wine and cheese; an afternoon of jazz; peddle boat races.

Lake Waters (Con’t) : Brad Batastini

Solutions – People and Education

People:

CONTROL THE THINGS WE CAN CONTROL!!!

Mother Nature has her own checks and balances and we can’t control her. But here are some things we are in control of and can do:

1. Fertilizers and Pesticides: Plain and simple – Don’t use them!
A friend of mine recently told me a great rule of thumb, “Don’t put anything on your lawn you wouldn’t put in your mouth!” Lawns do not require “phosphorus” to stay green and **high levels of nitrates and phosphates are just not good for the lake.**

DO NOT FERTILIZE OUR LAKE!!!

2. Septic systems
Pump them regularly (every 2 or 3years) and upgrade them when necessary.
Use “septic safe” toiletries and cleaning supplies.

KEEP YOUR CRAP TO YOURSELF!!!

3. Shoreline Management
Allow plants to grow within 1 foot of your shoreline. This prevents shoreline erosion and plant maturity brings beautiful flowers!
Idea: Place rocks or logs in the path of running water to slow it down and trap the sediment on-shore allowing only water to enter

the lake.

Contact me for some great articles I have received from David Mintz entitled, “A Fresh Look at Shoreline Restoration” and/or “Protecting and Restoring Shorelands.”

KEEP THE SILT ON THE LAND!!!
4. Cleaning Supplies and Clean-Up
Use “phosphate-free” cleaners and supplies. Armand Hammer, Diablo, Ecover, Naturally Yours, Seventh Generation, Shaklee, and many other manufacturers have “eco-friendly” products.
Go to www.thegreenguide.com for product ratings, descriptions, and links.
Clean up and dispose of cleansers according to the manufacturer’s recommendations.

DO NOT DISPOSE OF THINGS INTO THE LAKE!!!

Education

Educate yourself, tell a friend, inform guests, remind kids, encourage neighbors, and think before you act.
Adopt slogans:
DO THINGS RIGHT AND DO THE RIGHT THINGS!
(Our lake depends upon us for its beauty and safety)



THE BUCK STOPS HERE!
(We can save ourselves a lot of \$\$\$ by doing it right the 1st time)

LIVE WELL, LAUGH OFTEN,
LOVE MUCH
(Have peace of mind that you do your very best)

DO UNTO OTHERS AS YOU WOULD HAVE THEM DO UNTO YOU
(We all need to take care of each other and the lake)

THE WHOLE IS GREATER THAN THE SUM OF THE PARTS
(If we each hit a single, we’ll score a lot of runs)

LAKE OWASSA - OUR LITTLE PIECE OF HEAVEN!

LOCA - BI LAW REMINDER

Bi-Law—Article IV—
Section 2 States:
Any person using the waters of Lake Owassa for any purpose, including but not limited to ice skating, swimming, boating and fishing, shall do so at their own risk. The Association shall not and does not assume to undertake to provide any control or responsibility for such person and each such person does assume responsibility for themselves with respect thereto.

Section 4 States:
Ice fishing shall be permitted subject to the following:
1. A limit of five (5) guests; one guest must carry the proprietary

- member's membership card.
- 2. All fishing must be done in strict conformity with all of the rules and regulations of the State of New Jersey governing ice fishing.

We remind everyone to be cautious and stay alert while out on the ice.



LOCA STORE

The following items would be a great gift for that someone special: hats, sweat-shirts (crew & hooded), fleece jackets, fleece vests, T-shirts (long & short sleeve), golf shirts, sweat pants, butt shorts, and denim shirts. Just call to place your order . 973-948-7171-Judy



EDITOR'S NOTE

News & classifieds can be sent directly to Caren & Ann at:

locanews@yahoo.com
Free business advertising welcome, must be LOCA members.



Find us on the web

www.lakeowassa.org

Or e-mail LOCA at:

info@lakeowassa.org

CLASSIFIEDS



For Sale:

4 Floating Dock Buoys - \$80.00 or BO Ann O'Connor 609-731-2432

Custom Beaded Jewelry made by Beth Batastini (C20). Affordable, beautiful beaded jewelry for all ages and occasions. Necklaces, earrings, bracelets. Also repairs. Call 973-948-0160

Gypsy Moths

While shoveling snow, it may be difficult to remember the noise, droppings, smell, and destruction of the gypsy moths of last summer. After they were finished eating all of the leaves

off of your trees, they laid MANY eggs, and they'll be back this summer for sure! A representative from Farm-side Landscape and Design told us that they would be willing to give a reduced rate for groups of homeowners in a neighborhood if several adjacent neighbors used their services at the same time. It may be wise to talk to you neighbors and make arrangements for spraying. They can be reached at 12 Kuperus Lane, Sussex, NJ. (973)875-7200.

Wanted:

Solid aluminum rowboat to safely go fishing despite

dog who runs from side to side due to "lure hypnosis". (973)890-1709 Danae

Consider selling your under-used Lakefront Cottage? I have a friend looking to purchase a lakefront vacation home (seasonal cottage) on Lake Owassa. Price range to \$300,000. As an inducement to sell is willing to offer a rent-back to seller for some Summer weekends/weeks. Will buy "as is". Ann Sorrel (LOCA A-18) (973) 761-7791

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BIODEGRADABLE PRODUCTS

A recent blue-green algae blooms indicate high levels of nitrates and phostrates in the lake. While environmental factors such as runoff, gypsy moth droppings and unseasonably high temperatures can cause algae bloom, human actions also contribute to the problem.

Though we cannot control nature, there is plenty to be

done on a personal level. Chemical compounds, liquids, and other products that we use in our homes and on our property eventually make their way into the lake. Everyday products that we use to clean our homes, fertilize our lawns, and control weeds contain ingredients that can adversely effect our health, and the health of our beauti-

ful lake.

One easy way to reduce the amount of phosphates and chemicals entering the lake is to use non-toxic, biodegradable, phosphate-free cleaning products. For more information about these natural products please call Lorraine Leider at 973-948-3338 or lorraine.leider@yahoo.com



Kirk S. Perry
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Branchville, New Jersey 07826
Tel: (973) 948-2045

LOCA MEMBER INFO

Our wonderful LOCA Secretary, Danae Dotz, can no longer serve in that capacity. Her fantastic organizational skills, calm manner when faced with one crisis after another, and expertise in so many areas will be sorely missed. Thank you Danae for doing a job that often called you way beyond the call of duty.

The position of LOCA Secretary/Treasurer for LOCA is now open. If interested, call John Lawson, president of LOCA at (973)948-4689.

Meeting Notices:

The LOCA Board of Governors will meet at 10:00 A.M at John Lawson's home - 74 Blackford Rd.- on Sunday, March 18, 2007.

The two general LOCA meetings will be held at the Firehouse in Branchville at 10:00 A.M. on July 1, 2007 and on August 26, 2007.