



Leesville Lake Association

All Hands News

“A Blue Jewel near the Blue Ridge”

News Bits

Points of Interest

Myers Creek:

The work to upgrade the dock at Myers Creek has been completed. AEP is in the process of scheduling an official opening.

The Canoe Launch Area:

Upgrade is in process to improve parking and access to launch area.

The Barge:

AEP purchased a barge that is the same size as the one on SML. It is operational and has been predominantly at the Leesville dam end of the lake. According to AEP it will remain there until the dam has been cleaned up. Larry Jackson reported that the barge is working beautifully in terms of picking up large logs. Operation of the Leesville Lake barge will pick up once an additional position has been filled. Until then, there is only one crew that splits their time with SML.

Not a New Member?

Leesville Lake Association is looking for new members. If you haven't joined, please consider doing so. Many hands make light work. You can sign up on line at www.leesvillelake.org/join-us.

Are You Ready for Boating Season?

Ahh, the fun you can have in the months ahead on the lakes in our area. But will your laughter turn into tears? With some preparation you can reduce the chances of this happening.

Here are some steps and tips you should do before launching. They can help prevent accidents and avoid boating violations. By now all boaters in Virginia should have taken Boating Safety Class. Knowing the “Rules of the Road” will help keep the tears away whether you operate a boat, personal water craft, canoe or kayak.

Now is also the time to inspect your boat and make sure that she and all her equipment such as lines, anchor, first aid kit, bilge pump and boat hook are in good running order. And, what about your registration? Make sure your registration is up to date.

Is your fire extinguisher in good shape? The recommendation is that your fire extinguisher be no more than 12 years old.

How about the life jackets, are they clean and not torn, and are the straps and buckles secure? Do you have the number needed in the proper size for everyone on board? Don't forget the grandchildren.

Is your “throwable device” serviceable? Do your navigation lights work without jiggling them to come on? Does the fuel cap seat tightly?

A Vessel Safety Check will help you discover what is safe or not on your boat. The Safety Check is free but not required. However, if a problem is found and corrected before an inspection by DGIF, it could save you the cost of a citation.

To arrange for a free VSC, call Gerry Caparario at 434-656-9082.

Now, how about the trailer? Have you replaced or repaired all those little problems that you found last season? Are all the lights working? What about that soft tire you kept pumping up last year? Will the new driver in the family be allowed to trailer the boat? A few practice sessions in an empty parking lot might be in order.

And don't forget to prevent accidents around the water as well. Inspect the dock and gangway for loose or broken boards. Check for loose or worn fittings and cleats. Does the anti-sway wire need tightening? What about any electrical wiring? What about dock lines and fenders?

OK! Now that you've attended a Boating Safety Class, had a Vessel Safety Check, and fixed or replaced all the problems on your boat, trailer, dock, and gangway, go scrub down and polish up the old “Leakin' Lena” and launch into a fun – and safe – summer on the lake.

Gerry Caparario
Safety and Navigation

Message from the President

Hope you are getting ready for an exciting Summer on Leesville Lake. There are a lot of new and fun activities being planned by your Association. We want to get as many of you involved this Summer as possible. Watch your email for exciting announcements to be posted.

Your Association, in conjunction with AEP, is working on a Leesville Lake Map that we expect to have available for free distribution at the Beautification Day Appreciation and Annual Picnic on July 15th at the Leesville Lake Marina. This map will be state-of-the-art and will be water resistant so you may use it on your boat.

The Leesville Lake Marina has been purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Chip Zimmerman and should be open by

Memorial Day. Chip and Lisa are my son and daughter-in-law and we are very excited to have them retiring to the Lake and becoming a very important part of our community. For more details concerning the marina, be sure to read their article in this newsletter.

This is a very important newsletter because it is full of new announcements and information. Your Association is very busy addressing areas of concern that impact all of us. Each committee has written an article to inform you of what is happening in their area of responsibility. After reading these articles, please contact the people responsible if you have questions or suggestions.

I have been reappointed to the

Tri-County Lakes Administrative Commission (TLAC) by the Pittsylvania County Board of Supervisors. This organization is responsible for overseeing county concerns on both Smith Mountain and Leesville Lakes. We are hopeful that some reorganization can take place to position TLAC to better address the needs of both lakes. I will be working to that end along with other TLAC members.

I wish each of you a happy and enjoyable Summer of fun on our lake. Be Safe!

Best regards,
Sherwood Zimmerman,
President
Leesville Lake Association

Leesville Lake Marina is Up and Running!

Leesville Lake Marina & Grill is back up and running under New Management.

Leesville Lake Marina was opened for the season on Memorial Day weekend. The Marina is being run by long-time Leesville Lake property owners Chip & Lisa Zimmerman. Chip & Lisa have been married over 30 years and have raised two children to adulthood and are now raising their 11 year old daughter with Leesville Lake as a cherished family oasis.

The idea of owning and operating a marina was not in Chip and Lisa's plans until late February of this year when the Zimmerman's heard the marina was being put up for sale.

They were approached by Chip's parents, Sherwood Zimmerman and Patsy Zimmerman, with the idea that by buying the marina, it could be an opportunity to help meet the needs of the lake and ensure that the marina

would continue to operate in a family friendly atmosphere. Chip and Lisa also saw this venture as providing a new adventure for their "retirement". With these thoughts in mind, they took the next step.

While restarting a marina business during the busiest season is not the way anyone would plan it, the Zimmerman's took on the challenge and with the help of family and many friends, they have been able bring the marina back into operation.

The marina will offer many traditional marina services including boat slips, boat launching and fuel. The marina is offering Rec-90 fuel which is a non-ethanol mid-grade fuel designed specifically for marine applications. The marina will also be selling ice, live bait, and a limited selection of boating and fishing gear. In addition, the marina will offer paddle boats, canoes, kayaks,

paddle boards, and some tube and ski equipment for rent.

The Grill will be open with many of the offerings Leesville Lake Marina patrons have come to know and love. Yes, the Angus Cheeseburger is back! In addition, the Grill will be offering an expanded dessert menu to include Ice Cream and Cheesecake to mention a few. You can also call your order in at 434-324-8500 and have your food brought to you at the Marina Docks. Please go to the marina website Leesvillemarina.com for menu, hours and more information.

The Marina was one of the sponsors of the Leesville Lake Beautification Day and will be the host location for the Annual Celebration. Please stop by and greet the new owners and lend your support to our newest, yet one of the oldest, Leesville Lake businesses.

“Just thoughts from a full-time Laker”

“Summer afternoon- summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language.” ~Henry James

I’m feeling nostalgic as my grandchildren remind me that summer vacation is fast approaching.

SUMMER, SUMMER!! Memories of rafting down the creek in Upstate NY with my siblings and friends. The raft being one of those summer projects where we had to find everything we needed that would float and then figure out how to get all of us on it so we could ride down the creek to the old willow that Disney could easily have used as the Swiss family Robinson’s tree.

Catching fireflies (aka Lightning bugs), getting ice cream from the truck that went down the street, three weeks in Northern Quebec fishing in Park LaVerenda with my grandparents and cousins ...it was a family affair.

Now Summer holds new memories as a member of the Leesville Lake Community and as a grandparent. Now there is a whole new excitement as the thought of Summer approaches; romping in the woods teaching the Grandsons about trees and berries and how to catch, clean and eat fish, balloon races, worm farming, making bubble tea, blanket tents to sleep in and the joy of just being a grandparent.

Living here on Leesville lake is so wonderful it brings back a bygone era of quiet, laughter and safety. We can pull the grandchildren on tubes, teach them to water ski, let them ride in the kayaks alone without the super highway of boats. It’s a diamond here that the outside world hasn’t noticed. We are so lucky to have our home here and be able to share it with family and friends! May your summer be filled to the max with laughter and adventure here on Leesville Lake.

Sandra Harter, Chair
Membership Committee
Leesville Lake Association

Facts to Know

Who we work with:

The Association interacts with many government agencies to manage Water Quality and represent the Home Owners around the lake. They are as follows:

Tri-County Lakes Administrative Commission (TLAC)

Organization that consists of government representatives from the three counties around Smith Mountain Lake and the three counties around Leesville Lake (Bedford, Campbell, Franklin, Pittsylvania) and AEP. Additional members are appointed by respective County Boards. One of its functions is to track all debris reports to conclusion and work with Appalachian Power (AEP) to

ensure debris complaints are being addressed. Please continue to report debris through our website to TLAC. Paula Shoffner is the Executive Director. She can be reached at (540)721-4400 or paulas@lvl.us.com. To report debris to TLAC, go the leesvillelake.org/Contacts/Debris Reporting. Fill out the form and click submit. It will generate an email to which you may attach photo’s if you have them and submit your report.

Department of Game and Inland Fisheries of Virginia (DGIF)

One of DGIF’s objectives is to promote safety for persons and property in connection with boating, hunting and fishing. Our Navigation Committee has been working with DGIF as they determine where

Hazard Markers should go. DGIF is also responsible for stocking fish in the lake and issuing fishing licenses. Their website is <http://wildlife.virginia.gov>.

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

DEQ administers state and federal laws and regulations for air quality, water quality, water supply and land protection. The Water Quality Committee works with DEQ when there are negative changes in the sampling results. DEQ will look at the data and determine next steps to keep the water quality at acceptable levels for recreational use and to maintain the ecosystem. For more information on DEQ go to www.deq.virginia.gov.

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Facts to Know

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Appalachian Electric Power Company (AEP)

AEP is one of the largest electric power companies in the US. It provides power in West Virginia, Virginia and Tennessee. For more information on the Smith Mountain Project (including Leesville Lake), checkout the following link: <http://smithmtn.com/about/Default.aspx> For general information on AEP, use this link: <http://aep.com/>

Local Governments

All the contact information for Bedford, Pittsylvania and Campbell County is on the website. The approximate % of shoreline for each county is: Bedford 30%, Campbell 10% and Pittsylvania 60%. The President of our association, Sherwood Zimmerman, works with all three County governments on a regular basis to keep abreast of regulatory changes that might impact Leesville Lake.

All Hands News is published four times per year.

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Membership News

Hello Everyone! Spring has begun and with that the start of lake season! The sounds of children laughing, music playing, crickets humming. So get that sunscreen out and fishing caps and let the fun begin.

The Membership committee would love to have some ideas and suggestions from everyone about ways we could get Leesville Lake Association members to come together as a community. In order to do that, we have to start planning for some fun and exciting things to do throughout the year to bring people together. Perhaps a Harvest Boat Parade around September or a raft race or get the local colleges to have a rowing race etc. We would love to hear your ideas.

As a non-profit corporation, the mere \$25 a year Dues helps to keep the lake healthy and clean for visitors and citizens to enjoy. Please encourage people you may know to join our organization. Many hands make light work so the more members we have, the lighter the load for everyone. If you know someone who wants to become a member, they can register online at www.leesvillelake.org or just give them my contact information email: sandraharter@gmail.com or cell phone: 540-537-1779.

Sandra Harter, Chair
Membership Committee
Leesville Lake Association

Treasurer's Report

Payment of Leesville Lake Association Dues for fiscal year 9/1/2017 - 8/30/2018: Now LIVE and ONLINE!

Anyone who has made a payment after 9/1/2016 will be credited for this dues payment cycle. We are switching over from a staggered billing system to once a year, with all dues due by August 30th for the upcoming fiscal year. If you are unsure whether you have paid, you may contact Margy Nolan by email at margy@margaretnolan.org.

The procedure to pay online is quick and easy. Go to the Leesville Lake Association website at <http://www.leesvillelake.org>

Click on "Pay Online" (top right). This will take you to an online form which will say "APLOS" on it, where you will simply enter your information.

Then, under "Donation", please click on \$25 (blue rectangle) or enter another custom amount if you prefer. Then click "Pay Dues" (another blue rectangle).

You will be able to pay using a credit, debit card or ACH from your bank. Click on your preferred method of payment and follow the on-screen prompts.

That's all there is to it and we appreciate your working through our new method of payment which we hope will simplify things for everyone! If you prefer to pay by check, that is also still an option as well. Checks should be made out to LVLA and mailed to PO Box 68, Altavista, VA 24517.

Margy Nolan, Treasurer
Leesville Lake Association

Challenges to Leesville Lake Water Quality

Onset of the 2017 season has been accompanied by events that have presented challenges to the beauty and health of Leesville Lake. Our residents and visitors have noted that the typical beauty of our lake has been marred by the appearance of floating debris and murky water, induced by increased flow of sediment into the lake. What is not visible but equally troublesome has been an increase in the concentration of bacteria in our lake. We believe that these events are temporary, but cannot predict how long it will take for the situation to improve. When evaluating our current situation, it is informative to understand the distinctive aspects of our lake and recent events that may have impacted its water quality.

Leesville Lake exhibits unique features. The upper portion of our lake is river-like, with a natural current flow from Smith Mountain Lake Dam to Leesville Lake Dam. However, because the lake serves as a pump-storage reservoir for hydroelectric generation, water flow is reversed when water is pumped back to Smith Mountain Lake. In addition to flow reversals, the lake exhibits marked fluctuation in water levels. As our fishermen know, this means that fish habitats change rapidly and often. These flows mix the lake's water and historically appear to have been beneficial to the health of the lake.

Because massive quantities of water enter our lake during hydroelectric operations, water quality is influenced by the quality of water in Smith Mountain Lake. Fortunately, the water quality of our sister lake is

excellent, so the influx of water from Smith Mountain Lake is generally beneficial. However, appropriate operation of the dam's generators is necessary to maintain good water quality. Importantly, Appalachian Power continues to improve their operations so that the life-sustaining oxygen content of water entering Leesville Lake remains viable.

In contrast to the positive effects of water influx from Smith Mountain Lake, water flowing from the Pigg River presents challenges to the health of our lake. In 2016, our lake faced a historic influx of debris from the Pigg River. More insidious than debris was the influx of bacteria, nutrients and sediment from the Pigg River. Despite this influx, the content of bacteria (*E. coli*) in the vast majority of our lake has historically remained low. However, the upper portion of the lake is often challenged with high bacterial loads after heavy rains. On a number of occasions the *E. coli* content exceeded Virginia state standards from the mouth of the Pigg River to approximately a mile below Toller Ferry Bridge. Thus we have seen this region as a hot-spot for bacterial contamination. Other areas such as Old Woman's Creek had not been problematic in recent years.

Unfortunately, 2017 has been different. With a large influx of *E. coli*, perhaps aided by mixing of water due to dam operations, most of the lake has experienced elevated levels of bacteria, sediment and debris. Several factors have likely contributed to the current condition of the lake. As always, rainfall is a primary factor. However, this winter the former power dam on the Pigg

River in Rocky Mount was removed. This was viewed as a benefit by regulators because it opened up the river from its headwaters to Leesville Lake for boaters and fishermen and it increased the habitat for small mouth bass and the Roanoke logperch, an endangered species of darter fish. Unfortunately, this also resulted in the release of sediment that had accumulated for years and been contained behind the dam. Undoubtedly this has been the source of increased sediment flow into Leesville Lake and may have also contributed to the destabilization of the riverbank of the Pigg. Apparently, this was anticipated by regulators because the Fish and Wildlife Service recommended that water monitoring of the Pigg River by Save our Streams be discontinued for a year while the river stabilized. It is unfortunate that the Leesville Lake Association was not consulted or notified about plans to remove the Pigg River dam. [Those involved in this decision process included the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Friends of the Rovers of Virginia, Franklin County, the Town of Rocky Mount, Appalachian Power (AEP) and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries]. Finally, bacterial counts in Leesville Lake were most recently found to be elevated at both ends of the lake, while being lower at our sampling site in the mid-region (Mile Marker 9) of the lake. We therefore suspect that this recent event included bacterial influx from sources in addition to the Pigg River. This needs to be investigated.

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Challenges

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The Leesville Lake Association was established largely to protect the health of our lake and its residents. In an effort led by Dr. Thomas Shahady (Lynchburg College), our Water Quality Team has been monitoring the health of our lake, has identified the unprecedented increase in E. coli in the lake and has reported it to authorities and our members. Additionally, we have established a working group of scientists and concerned citizens at Ferrum College, Smith Mountain Lake and Virginia Tech and Tricounty Lakes Administrative Commission (TLAC) to investigate issues and promote restorative action. Immediate plans are to sample the lake's waters more frequently (currently twice per month during the peak summer months), sample multiple sites on the Pigg River in an attempt to identify problem areas, and work with state agencies and nonprofit organizations to promote better management practices and enforcement of existing laws when appropriate. Additionally, we will utilize advanced technologies to determine the primary sources of E. coli contamination (livestock, wildlife, human).

It is our expectation that the situation will improve naturally, but action must be taken to minimize the chances of recurrence. Suspended bacteria should die and be removed by dilution and the flow of water from the lake. Suspended sediment will settle and the water will clarify, but the rate at which this occurs is dependent upon rainfall, stabilization of the Pigg River's stream bank, and the clearing of sediment previously contained by the Pigg River dam.

Removal of floating debris in the lake has recently been initiated by the crew from AEP, using their new equipment. A firm commitment from AEP in conjunction with the effort of our member volunteers on Beautification Day, should make significant progress toward clearing our lake of debris.

Our Association and its Water Monitoring Committee will keep members and friends informed about lake conditions through our website, newsletters and email correspondence. We ask for your continued support in future endeavors. In the meantime, we ask that you use your best judgment regarding swimming in the lake. When water bacterial counts exceed state standards, you should not swim in the lake. But our Association is not a health organization. We are unable to sample frequently enough and at a sufficient number of locations to provide day by day status reports. We endeavor to keep you informed to the best of our ability.

We are confident that a concerted effort by our organization and its members will return the lake to its former beauty, minimize future occurrences, and allow us all to enjoy the Lake's many benefits.

Tony Capuco, Chair
Water Quality Committee
Leesville Lake Association

Upcoming Event

Please join us for the Beautification Day Recognition and Annual Picnic. This fun time takes place at the Leesville Lake Marina on July 15th from 1-4 p.m. If you would like to join us, you may register at www.leesvillelake.org.

Where in the World is the Leesville Lake T-Shirt?

It looks as if the Leesville Lake T-Shirt has been very busy this year. Let's see all the places it has wandered.



Pat Kuhrtz went on a Viking River Cruise and she and her T-shirt found themselves in front of the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France. How awesome!



Sherwood and Patsy Zimmerman showing off their T-shirts at Hilton Head, South Carolina.

CALENDAR PHOTOS

Upload Instructions

The annual Leesville Lake calendar is a product your association publishes from your input and pictures. It's a wonderful product and we hope you'll continue to submit pictures as you have in the past. However, there does seem to be some confusion about how to get the pictures to us. Generally, if you think you might be taking pictures for submission, set your camera to the highest resolution possible. You can submit any resolution pictures, but we may not be able to be enlarge it enough to use.

Below are instructions on how to send us pictures from a desktop/laptop, from your tablet or from your phone. The website and instructions for each device are very simple. Desktop/laptop instructions should be very consistent throughout brands and different software. Tablet and phone uploads may be slightly different for other brand devices. (These instructions were done using a Samsung tablet and a Samsung phone.)

Desktop/Laptop

Go to www.leesvillelake.org

Click on Contacts

Click on Calendar Picture Upload

Click on Choose File (find the picture you wish to upload and double click)

Fill in your name and e-mail address

Submit

Tablet

Go to www.leesvillelake.org

Contacts

Calendar Picture Upload, then scroll down to and

Click on Choose File

Click on Documents*

Scroll/choose Gallery or wherever your pictures are stored

Tap the picture you want, File name/number will be inserted at Choose File

Fill in your name and e-mail address

Submit

Phone

Go to www.leesvillelake.org

Click Menu

Contacts

Calendar Picture Upload then scroll down to Choose File

Choose Documents*

Scroll/choose Gallery or wherever pictures stored

Tap the picture you want, file name/number will be inserted at Choose File

Fill in your name and e-mail address

Submit

Follow these steps for each picture.

The Lake website asks that you submit only horizontal pictures. Horizontal pictures are often easier to use, however, vertical pictures can also be used sometimes.

*Note: For tablet and phone in step 5 where it says to click on "Documents" this gives you access to pictures taken previously and stored on the tablet or phone. In the same location where you can click on "Documents" you can also click on "Camera." If you choose camera your phone or tablet will go to your camera and the picture you take right then will be the picture uploaded.

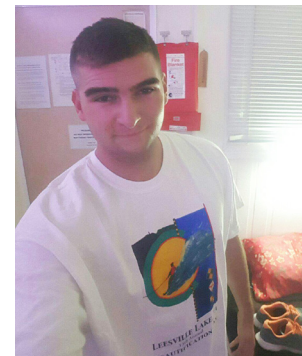
T-Shirts - continued



Frank and Barbara Podrebarac went on a Viking River Cruise. Here is Frank sporting his T-shirt on the balcony as we cruise down the Rhine River.



Frank Podrebarac and T-shirt in front of the Rijksmuseum in Amsterdam, Netherlands. Time for a little culture!



C.J. Paulette loves Leesville Lake even though he is 6,000 miles away. He is in the Virginia National Guard stationed in South East Asia. Thank you C. J for everything you do.

If you have pictures of you with your Leesville Lake T-shirt at a fun destination, please email them to bpodrebarac@gmail.com. It is so much fun to see where our T-shirts travel.



The Leesville Lake Association
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 ORGANIZATION
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A membership-based, non-profit organization dedicated to keeping Leesville Lake safe, clean and beautiful.

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