



Leesville Lake Association

All Hands News

“A Blue Jewel near the Blue Ridge”

Why Every Leesville Lake Property Owner Should Belong to Leesville Lake Association

-A Serious Invitation from Jim and Randy Weiss

We purchased our property in 2009 and built our home in Runaway Bay in 2011. At the time, we were thinking investment/vacation home and had no plans to ever make it our primary residence. The statement “never say never” became truer and truer the more time we spent at Leesville Lake. Last year, we sold our Charlottesville home, moved full-time to our lake home and never looked back.

We became members of the Leesville Lake Association (LLA) shortly after we purchased our property back in 2009. The more-than-reasonable annual dues of \$25 was incentive enough for us to put forth an effort to learn about the lake community that we were now a part of. Beyond that bit of philosophy, we didn't give the association another thought.

Fast forward to August, 2017. Having spent most of the summer unable to swim in the lake due to a huge influx of debris, we decided that we needed to do something about it. We turned to the Leesville Lake Association hoping it might be a conduit to actualize our missive.

We went to a LLA Board meeting and explained that we would like to co-chair a committee with the intent

to figure out where the debris was coming from, who was responsible for cleaning it, and from there work to solve the problem. The board welcomed and approved our suggestion, and within about 10 days our committee was magically formed and ready to go. It was “magical” because we had never met any of the 7 members besides ourselves before they contacted us and expressed a serious interest in moving forward with improving the safety and cleanliness of our lake. Our committee is a delightful group of kindred spirits who are dedicated to making Leesville Lake work at its highest potential.

Because of and beyond our Debris Committee, we have taken an active interest in the LLA. We have attended meetings as co-chairs of our committee and Jim has recently become a board member. In the process, we have learned the tremendous significance of the LLA as it relates to all of its property members.

Here is a list of what we have learned and what we want to share with you about the Leesville Lake Association.

- The LLA is made up of volunteers who work for the residents' behalf

regarding: Water Quality, Navigation and Safety, Debris, Beautification Day/Clean-up, Membership and more.

- The LLA has working relationships with Tri-County Lakes Administrative Commission (TLAC) and American Electric Power (AEP). TLAC consists of government representatives from the counties surrounding Smith Mountain Lake and Leesville Lake (Bedford, Campbell, Franklin and Pittsylvania), as well as residents, business owners and AEP. It is responsible for administering local government money for such needs as debris cleanup, weed control and placement of navigational aids.

- Appalachian Power Company, a unit of AEP, operates the Smith Mountain Project, which is a two-reservoir hydroelectric generation project. It's unique pumped-storage system provides electricity for the region and, at the same time, is a driver for the surrounding area's economy and a focal point for residential, tourism and outdoor activities. LLA member-volunteers attend these meetings to work with

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Membership Invitation

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them to ascertain that Leesville Lake is receiving all the contractual benefits that it is entitled to.

- We were surprised to realize how much power the LLA actually has. This board makes decisions that they believe are in the best interest of the Leesville Lake property owners. Upon becoming more aware of the LLA and what it does, we realized how essential it is to know and have a say in what the LLA Board is trying to accomplish.
- For most property owners, their real estate is a very significant investment. Having and belonging to an Association is one important, if not essential, tool in keeping that investment healthy and thriving.
- The dues are \$25 per year. \$25 secures you the opportunity to be privy to information that seriously affects you and your property. Additionally, the more members that the LLA has, the more clout it has to work with the agencies/powers

that be in order to secure your safety, recreation and investment on Leesville Lake. This is probably the most important reason of all to join the LLA. Every membership counts and as such, the \$25 investment goes much farther than most people realize.

- Not everybody has the time or inclination to be actively involved as a Board or Committee member (although anybody wanting to serve in this capacity is very welcome), but your membership truly encourages and supports those residents who are working on your behalf.

As mentioned above, we joined the Leesville Lake Association back in 2009 because it seemed the right thing to do. That said, we were totally ignorant all these years of all that the LLA does on behalf of Leesville Lake residents. Based on our experience, we encourage and invite your membership.

News Bits

Mark your calendars for Beautification Day scheduled for June 9th, 2018. If you would like to volunteer contact Dannie Smith at Dannie.gail@gmail.com

Next general membership meeting is April 12th at 6:30 at the Altavista Train Depot. Speakers are planned for this meeting.

2018 calendars are available for \$8.00. Get yours now while supplies last. Contact Barbara Podrebarac at bpodrebarac@gmail.com.

Vessel safety checks will be held at Tri County Marina and Leesville Lake Marina on June 16. Safety checks at Tri County will be held 9-12 and checks at Leesville Lake will be held 1-3.



Membership News

During the 4th quarter we have had six new households join as members. They are: **Mike Moll, Kelly Fleischer, Aaron Heddings, Michael Blackstock, Wayne Burley Sr., Jeff and Pat Ferguson and Jeff and Lindy Stewart.** We look forward to meeting them as well as their active participation in the activities of the Association.

We continue to look for a person to chair the Membership Committee. We already have 2 members willing to serve on the committee. The responsibilities include: planning and executing outreach events, tracking active membership and coming up with ways to expand membership. If you are interested, please contact Tracy Pauley at 434-509-5401.

Pat Kuhrtz
Communications Committee



Archived photo submitted by Pat Kuhrtz

Treasurer's Report

After an exhaustive search, we are pleased to announce that Mary Loiselle is filling the Treasurer role. See the Member highlight article for more information on Mary. Treasurer activities have been successfully transferred from Margy Nolan and Pat Kuhrtz.

Federal tax reporting has been completed for the 2016/17 fiscal year. The 2017/18 fiscal year budget that was approved by the membership at the July picnic has been loaded into our accounting software for comparison purposes throughout the year. The Association's 501C status has been renewed for the next 5 years.

Pat Kuhrtz
Communications Committee

Member Highlight

We are very happy to welcome Mary Loiselle as the new Treasurer for the Leesville Lake Association. We are pleased that she has volunteered to undertake this responsibility.

Mary and her husband, Joe, moved to Northern Virginia from the Buffalo, New York area in 2004. They both worked for agencies in the federal government. Joe retired at the end of 2007 at which time they started looking for places to retire that was away from traffic and hustle and bustle of the DC area.

With the help of Sam, Karen and Mike Skillman, they found and purchased their home in Heron Landing in 2009. Since then, they have enjoyed spending many weekends with family and friends here on the lake.

Mary continues to work as a consultant but in her spare time she enjoys reading, travelling, cooking/baking and spending time with her first grandchild. She and Joe hope to settle permanently at the lake in 2018.

Mary is looking forward to using her time as treasurer to get to know members of the Leesville Lake Association and residents around the lake. She is also hoping that the association will find a new Membership Committee Chair as she has also volunteered to help on that committee as well.

Again, welcome!!

Barbara Podrebarac
Editor, All Hands News

All Hands News is published four times per year.

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From the Debris Committee

In 2017, the Leesville Lake Debris Committee was formed on behalf of the Leesville Lake Association. Our committee consists of Jim and Randy Weiss (Co-Chairs), Frank and Barb Podrebarac, Jim and Wanda Riccione, Gary and Pam Mcmillan and Dave Rives.

We are a very dedicated and hard-working committee. Our purpose is to address debris on Leesville Lake and to participate with AEP in their efforts to keep the lake safe and clear of debris that poses hazards to public safety.

We encourage all residents of Leesville Lake to:

- Email complaints and STILL-photos regarding lake debris to BOTH of these two on-line addresses: debris@lvl.us.com (TLAC) and

lvlakedebris@leesvillelake.org (Leesville Lake Debris Committee

- To make this information credible and verifiable, the following data must be included:

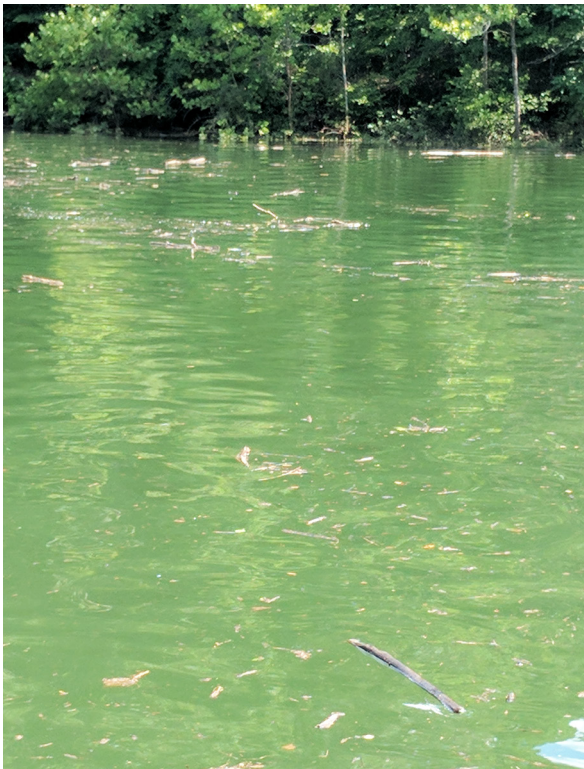
- Your address, phone number and/or Email (if Email, include a statement as follows: "I give TLAC/AEP permission to contact me by Email"). This is critical as AEP should respond so they need to have your correct contact information.

- Mile marker number of debris locale or a landmark or address that would describe the area.

- ONLY still-photos accepted (Do NOT send videos or other formats)

- Only one complaint per family, per incident.

- If you have questions contact Jim and Randy Weiss at greathall@greathall.com



Board and Committee Members

Officers

President: Sherwood Zimmerman
434-656-1826, spzim@verizon.net

Vice President: Tracy Pauley, 434-509-5401,
Tracyp528@yahoo.com

Secretary: Phyllis Garlick
434-369-6930, garlickspt@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Mary Loiselle,
mflgi@yahoo.com

Board Members

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Dick Donnelly, 540-593-3205,
robinridge2@gmail.com

Frank Podrebarac, 434-324-7690, fw-podjr@gmail.com

Dannie Smith, 434-841-9313,
Dannie.gail@gmail.com

Committees and Chairs

Communications: Frank Podrebarac, see above

Debris: Jim and Randy Weiss, 434-409-9985, greathall@greathall.com

Navigation: Dick Donnelly, see above

Safety and Navigation: Gerry Caprario, see above

Member Services: Open

Budget and Finance: Open

Nominating: Open

Water Quality Report

The 2017 season on Leesville Lake has ended on a good note. During the early spring, E.coli content of water was high throughout the entire lake. Heavy rains contributed to this, but demolition of the Pigg River hydroelectric dam (the ensuing release of sediment, bacteria, and possibly destabilization of the river's shoreline) was probably the primary cause of this massive and unprecedented influx. For the remainder of the season, the bacterial content of the lake remained low and well within the Virginia standards for recreational use, with the exception of waters near the mouth of the Pigg River and Toler Bridge. The chemical parameters of the waters remain normal and consistent with a healthy productive lake. Dr. Thomas Shahady, Lynchburg College, is analyzing the data and completing the 2017 annual report. This will be available in a few months and will be posted on our Association's website. We will keep you informed.

In addition to the unprecedented influx of bacteria, sediment and debris from the Pigg River this

spring, we find that the bacterial content of water in the Pigg River has been slowly increasing since our committee began water testing. In 2018, we hope to identify potential sources of bacteria in the Pigg River. A brief aerial survey of the lower portion of the river confirmed that large tracts of land are being used for cultivation, timbering and animal operations. We hope to identify sites of concern and whether the bacteria are due to agricultural, wildlife or human contaminants. We are currently attempting to raise the necessary funds to perform additional water sampling

For additional information on Leesville Lake water quality and related issues, I refer you to our Association's website for committee reports, annual reports and the newsletters written by our Lynchburg College water quality team members.

Tony Capuco
Water Quality Committee Chair
TLAC Leesville Lake Environmental Committee, Chair



Archived photo submitted by Bill Marshall

Boater Safety

Hey there boys and girls. What time is it? No, I am not Buffalo Bob, more like Clarabelle the Clown, but the topic is not for clowning around.

I am speaking to those out there who have yet to take the Safe Boating Class as required by Virginia law. If you haven't done it, now is the time. Aside from being liable for a hefty fine, there are many aspects about boating that you would be surprised that you don't know.

The Leesville Lake Association has scheduled two classes with the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary to be presented at the Altavista Train Station. The first class will be on April 21 and the second will be on May 19.

Advance registration is required through Virginia Division of Game and Inland Fisheries. Go to Google and enter VDGIF, click on Boating, find Education, click on Boating Safety and Education, on the right find the blue 'Class Locator' icon. Search for the above dates. If they are not listed, do it all over again in a week. Keep trying, they'll get there. Make sure to bring a lunch.

Gerry Capario
Safety and Navigation Committee



Remember to wear your personal flotation device. This picture is an example of such device.



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


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