



LONG LAKE

liaison

2009

SPRING

IN THIS ISSUE

Check Your Boat!



A Letter from Bill



Steering Committee Needs You



Integrated Plan Hits Target



Safety Rules on the Water



Managing Aquatic Plants is a
Balancing Act



Important Notice

Thurston County's Water Resources Program is now under the newly created "Department of Resource Stewardship." Our new phone number is 754-4681.



Also see the "lakes" button on www.co.thurston.wa.us/wwm

The Long Lake Liaison is published by the Thurston County Resource Stewardship Department to provide information to members of the Long Lake Management District.

Check Your Boat!

By Janet Boyd, LMD Steering Committee

Every year since the late 1980s, Lake Management District (LMD) Steering Committee members have volunteered to monitor the public boat ramp on opening day of fishing season. Opening day is April 25 this year, and we will be there again to educate and remind people about the dangers of Eurasian Watermilfoil and other noxious weeds that can infest our lake and other lakes too.

Treating lakes for milfoil is very difficult and expensive, so our goal is to make sure Long Lake is never colonized by milfoil like it was in the early 1990s.

Speed limit is 5 mph around-the-clock, April 22 - May 22

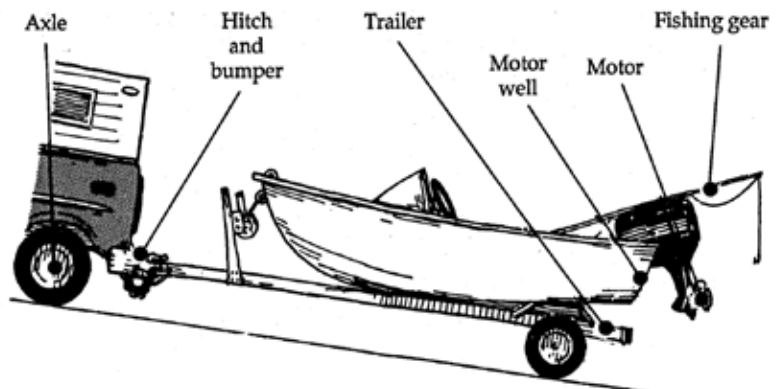
There may not be many obvious signs of milfoil growth in April, but as the lakes warm up, there is a greater risk of transporting weed fragments from lake to lake.

Thanks to the Steering Committee members and to all of you who diligently check your boats, trailers, and gear and remove weeds before entering our lake or surrounding lakes. With everyone doing their part, our divers find only small amounts of milfoil during their annual surveys.

Happy fishing, and here's to another successful year free of noxious weeds in Long Lake!

Look for Milfoil Hitchhikers

Please check these places before leaving or entering Long Lake.



Graphic courtesy of the Department of Ecology.

LMD Steering Committee

We meet the fourth Tuesday of each month from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Lacey Community Center, 6729 Pacific Ave. S.E.

Afflerbaugh Island

Janet Boyd 456-2066
Penny Thomas (recorder) 438-3811

Holmes Island

Bill Joplin (president) 456-2072
Vacant ★

Lake Forest

Kathie Emmett 459-4713
Vacant ★

Lakeridge/Panorama Point

Mark Groening 438-6648
Vacant ★

Long Lake Drive North

Wayne Hardy 491-1101
Rocky Van Scyoc 455-9335

Long Lake Drive South/Arbors

Julie McBride 456-6399
Ronald Lyse 412-1531

Mayes Road

Ken Kanikeberg 456-3479
Vacant ★

Timberlake

Jerry Bennett 491-2981
Vacant ★

Reflection Point/20th Ave.

Tom Grimm 491-4842
Tom Gaetz 943-5075

Shorewood Villa/Carpenter Road

Burt Pride 491-3228
Vacant ★

Walthew Drive/Kyro Road

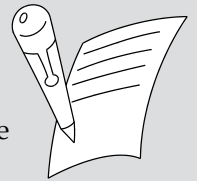
Doug Karman (vice pres.) 491-5152
Judy Lamm 491-7024

County staff

Janie Civile 754-2981
civillj@co.thurston.wa.us

A Letter from Bill

By Bill Joplin, President, LMD Steering Committee



Several Steering Committee members and I took an investigative trip around the lake in late March and found the lake in extraordinary condition. The south basin had water clarity not seen in a decade. Weed growth was present, however in near record SMALL amounts. Lily growth was nearly nonexistent and overall, we saw a lake that looked great! If it had not been raining and the lake at 42 degrees, we might even have taken a swim!

We have a lot of work ahead of us again this summer. The contracts necessary to use a variety of management approaches are already in place, and our action plans will be finished in time for spring and summer activities.

The financial state of the LMD is very solid. Rates have not – and will not – increase, yet we have increased the acres under weed/lily control. This has been achieved by using an adaptive management approach that includes a variety of control methods. Up until just a couple years ago, we were dependent on the more costly mechanical harvesting; now, harvesting is just one of several tools we have available. As a result, we get more for our money.

We need six volunteers for the Steering Committee. Please see Penny Thomas's article below to find out how you can make a real difference for our lake. Have a very fun and safe summer.

Steering Committee Needs You

By Penny Thomas, LMD Steering Committee



Have you considered becoming more involved in managing Long Lake?

Our LMD has been around since

1987 and is one of the most active and accomplished in Washington state.

The LMD is governed by a steering committee of 22 volunteers who oversee the work plan and budget. With assistance from Thurston County specialists, the committee is responsible for all decisions related to lake-management activities, including: milfoil survey dives, herbicide treatments, weed harvesting and other water quality and recreational-use issues.

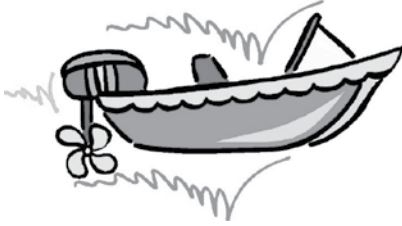
The committee also plays a public outreach role, communicating with residents and advocating to state and local officials on behalf of the LMD.

Six volunteer positions are currently vacant on the Steering Committee. The work is very rewarding, and participation beyond the 2-hour monthly meetings varies. Some members dedicate significantly more than two hours per month, while others give extra time more sparingly for certain activities.

Full and active representation for all neighborhoods is crucial to maintaining Long Lake as a great place to live and play. Please see the ★ symbol next to vacancies in the left column and call your neighborhood representative.

Safety Rules on the Water

By Burt Pride, LMD Steering Committee



As warm weather approaches (so they tell us!) lake usage increases and attention to Thurston County regulations are important for everyone's safety.

- ✓ For the first thirty (30) days of the fishing season, which begins April 25 this year, the speed limit is 5 mph all day long. After May 22 and for the rest of the year, watercraft may travel up to 45 mph in the open basins, EXCEPT at night and in the morning when the speed limit is 5 mph. The 5 mph limit applies after 8 p.m. or sunset, whichever occurs first, until 11 a.m.

If you are unsure of the open basin areas, please see the map at the boat launch. The 5 mph limit (all the time) applies to the channel between the basins, the area north of the boat launch (this includes Long Lake Park and the rest of that bay) and the extreme north basin (by Timberlake).

- ✓ All vessels and watercraft operating above 5 mph are required by law to stay 200 feet from all shorelines, the boat launch, swim areas and 100 feet from all other vessels.
- ✓ All watercraft must travel in a counter-clockwise direction.

- ✓ Personal flotation devices (PFDs) must be onboard and be easily accessible on all watercraft with one (1) PFD required for each person aboard. Children 12 and under must be wearing a PFD at all times when underway in or on a vessel under 19' long.
- ✓ Any watercraft pulling a person (or persons) behind their vessel must have in addition to the driver, an observer (over the age of 10), and a red or orange flag to be raised when the person is in the water behind the vessel. Persons being pulled must wear a Coast Guard approved PFD.
- ✓ All jet ski operators must be over the age of 16 and be wearing a PFD.
- ✓ All vessels are required to have a mechanical (or electrical) sounding device (horn or whistle) and have proper running lights which are to be used after sunset.
- ✓ It is illegal to operate any watercraft while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Safety is everyone's responsibility. Please be respectful of others and the lakefront properties so we may all share a SAFE and FUN Long Lake experience both on the water and along its shorelines.



Integrated Plan Hits Target

By Doug Karman, Vice-President, LMD Steering Committee

In 2005 you approved forming the 2006 – 2010 Long Lake Management District and funded it with your tax dollars.

Over the past three years, your Steering Committee has been very successful in adding products and procedures to the Long Lake Management Plan, and then implementing them to significantly improve the water quality and usability of our lake. And, we have done it without raising your taxes.

Although we were authorized to raise the LMD rate by a maximum of 5 percent per year, we have been able to keep your rates at the 2006 level. This has been accomplished through hard work on the part of your neighborhood representatives and you should thank them.



We have nearly completed eradicating fragrant water lily and this summer should require treating the final acres.

The mix of harvesting and herbicides for nuisance weeds was very effective in 2007, and in 2008 we only used harvesting. This summer, we will return to using herbicides and harvesting, focusing on pondweed and other species that have increased over the past year.

Divers will continue to hand-pick or place bottom barriers in areas where milfoil is discovered.

LONG LAKE

liaison

Send comments to:

Thurston County

Department of Resource Stewardship

929 Lakeridge Drive Southwest

Olympia, Washington 98502

(360) 357-2491 (TDD line: 754-2933)

E-mail: civillj@co.thurston.wa.us



Printed on recycled paper

Managing Aquatic Plants is a Balancing Act

Managing aquatic plants in Long Lake and other Western Washington lakes requires a delicate balancing act.

On one hand, aquatic plants can become a problem when they decompose, create low oxygen conditions for fish, and interfere with recreational use of the lake.

On the other hand, plants are important because they provide food and habitat for wildlife—from insects, to fish, to otters and eagles. Plants improve the quality of the water by absorbing nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus. They also improve the clarity of the water by keeping algae in check and stabilizing sediments.

If we removed all aquatic plants, they would no longer be available to absorb nutrients. As a result, blue-green algae would feed on the nutrients and grow explosively. Some blue-green algae can produce toxins, further degrading water quality and recreational opportunities on lakes.

So what is the answer? A healthy, shallow lake should feature a mix of clear water, aquatic plants, some green and blue-green algae, and active communities of aquatic insects, fish and animals. It's truly a balancing act, a call for all things in moderation.



We can help our shallow lake by preserving necessary vegetation, preventing toxic spills, keeping nutrients from yards and septic systems out of the lake water, and preventing invasive, non-native species from entering the lake.

Septic System Loans

Did you know low-interest loans are available to Thurston County homeowners who have failing septic systems? No income restrictions apply. Grants are also available for some situations. Call Debra Baker (754-3355 ext. 7521) at the Thurston County Public Health and Social Services Department for details and an application.