


# LONG LAKE *liaison*

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## Join Us!

We have a number of vacancies on the LMD Steering Committee. Please consider volunteering your time. It only requires one evening a month, plus time to read materials and occasionally meet on a lake tour. Your input may just improve the lake!

Right now we need representatives from: Holmes Island, Lake Forest, Mayes Road, Shorewood Villa/ Carpenter Road, and Reflection Point.

If you are interested in serving on the Steering Committee, contact Dave Christensen at 709-3119 or [christd@co.thurston.wa.us](mailto:christd@co.thurston.wa.us).



Frozen water in Long Lake, photo courtesy of Doug Karman.



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## F A L L

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## Algae Reduction Scheduled for 2008

Last year, the LMD funded a study to determine the best way to reduce algae in Long Lake. The study found that water quality would be much better if aluminum sulfate, also called "alum," were added to the lake. The study indicated that treating the south basin alone would benefit the whole lake and would save a considerable amount of money.

Even with the cost savings, the overall cost was estimated to be about \$300,000. The cost was too high for the LMD budget, so the Steering Committee contacted our state legislators.

We're pleased to report that the proposal made it successfully through the legislative process due to the hard work of your three representatives.

Rep. Brendan Williams and Rep. Gary Alexander cosponsored the Long Lake Nutrient Reduction Project with a proposal for \$300,000 in state funding. Sen. Karen Fraser made sure the proposal was in the Senate version of the capital budget. Other members from the 20th and 22nd legislative districts supported the budget request.

The alum treatment is planned for next March. If all goes as planned, we should have nice clear water next summer to enjoy. Hopefully the weather will be a little better than this past summer!

The Long Lake LMD Steering Committee expresses its gratitude to our elected state legislators who supported the alum treatment. Please take a moment and let them know that you also appreciate their efforts. Phone numbers are listed below. You may also send e-mails by clicking the "Legislator E-mail Services" link at [www.leg.wa.gov/legislature](http://www.leg.wa.gov/legislature).

Rep. Brendan Williams	786-7940
Rep. Sam Hunt	786-7992
Sen. Karen Fraser	786-7642
Rep. Gary Alexander	786-7990
Rep. Richard DeBolt	786-7896
Sen. Dan Swecker	786-7638

The LMD Steering Committee would also like to recognize the hard work of Joe Daniels. Joe contacted legislators and did the necessary "leg work." Thanks Joe!



See the "lakes" button on [www.co.thurston.wa.us/www](http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/www).

The Long Lake Liaison is published by Thurston County Water and Waste Management to provide information to members of the Long Lake Management District.

## 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  
George Whitney 459-4750

### Long Lake Drive North

Joe Daniels 438-0997  
Rocky Van Scyoc 455-9335

### Long Lake Drive South/Arbors

Julie McBride 456-6399  
Ronald Lyse 412-1531

### Mayes Road

Vacant  
Vacant

### Timberlake

Jerry Bennett 491-2981  
Sandy Sander 459-5684

### Reflection Point/20th Ave.

Tom Grimm 491-4842  
Tom Gaetz

### 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

David Christensen  
709-3119  
christd@co.thurston.wa.us

## New Weed Methods a Success

The Long Lake Management District has tried several approaches to managing lake weeds over the years. This year, we had excellent results with two different approaches that involved using state- and county-approved herbicides.

### Nuisance weed control

This year marked the first time that the aquatic herbicide "Sonar" was used to control nuisance weeds in Long Lake. (The herbicide was used in 1991 to control milfoil, a "noxious" weed.) Sonar is the only herbicide deemed safe enough to provide long-term control of a broad spectrum of nuisance weeds in Thurston County lakes. Sonar was applied to about 30 acres, which amounts to roughly 10 percent of the lake. While this might not seem like a lot of area, the results were positive. Some lake users said they experienced fewer weed problems in 2007 than in any year in recent memory.

Our existing weed harvesting contractor also harvested weeds from areas that were not being treated with Sonar.

### White waterlily treatment

A new contractor – Northwest Aquatic, Inc. – was hired this year because last year's herbicide treatment for white waterlily was not very successful. The name might sound familiar to you, because Northwest Aquatic is also our harvesting contractor. When we put out a request for proposals, Northwest Aquatic submitted a proposal to treat white waterlilies and was selected for the job.

Northwest Aquatic used its harvesters to cut openings into big patches of lilies. This provided an entryway for boats to reach lily beds and allow more lilies to be sprayed. Although we had planned to treat 10 acres of lilies this year, Northwest Aquatic's unique approach allowed us to treat more than 15 acres.

Despite the herbicide treatment, many areas are still left with lilies. We will be out there again for the next three years. The goal is to treat all the areas in small enough patches so that huge floating islands of decaying lilies do not litter the lake. In other areas, small lilies were left behind from this year's treatment. We will take care of those stragglers in either 2008 or 2009, when the pads grow a little bit and can be easily treated with the herbicide.



If you have questions about the herbicide treatment program, please contact your neighborhood representative.

(Illustration above courtesy of www.scientificillustrator.com.)

### More About Weeds

What are nuisance aquatic weeds? Many of the weeds underneath the lake surface are called "nuisance," or "native-nuisance" weeds. These weeds live naturally in Long Lake, but they grow so thick and tall that they interfere with recreation. The LMD does not try to eliminate nuisance weeds but instead just reduce them in areas where they interfere with recreation on the lake.

## Color Matters With Lilies

White waterlily vs. yellow waterlily. Why make the distinction? The white waterlily is a non-native noxious weed that covers about 40 acres of Long Lake shoreline. In the past, the Lake Management District spent money to harvest some of these weeds to help boaters access the lake – but the weeds grew back quickly. The new strategy of treating smaller patches at a time should eliminate lilies in a way that prevents islands of tubers (roots) from floating to the surface. We want the tubers to decompose in place without floating.

In contrast, the yellow water lily is a native plant and does not spread quickly throughout the lake. It will not "take over" areas like the white waterlily plants do. Also, the yellow lilies provide much better habitat for birds and amphibians.

## Summer Water Level Stays High

As you probably noticed, the lake level this summer was unusually high. In fact, Long Lake stayed higher than any summer in the past decade. All lakes in Thurston County were pretty high because of heavy rainfall last winter, followed by unusual amounts of summer rain.

The lake levels in Long Lake are influenced by a beaver dam at the outlet to Woodland Creek. The dam is not completely blocking the outlet right now, but it is restricting the flow of water from the lake.

Thurston County staff will monitor the situation throughout the winter. We will notify lake residents if the dam is rebuilt and blocks the outlet completely, because the dam could cause water levels to rise and result in shoreline flooding.



Photo courtesy of Doug Karman.

