


LONG LAKE

liaison

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Our New County Liaison

The LMD Steering Committee welcomes Janie Civile as our new county staff liaison. Janie comes to us with an extensive background in aquatic ecosystems, noxious plant mapping, control and management. She is looking forward to working directly with lake management districts in Thurston County, and bringing her experience with Spartina in Willapa Bay and Puget Sound to the Long Lake discussions.

Janie's contact information is:
civillj@co.thurston.wa.us
(360) 357-2491

Maintain Your Septic System

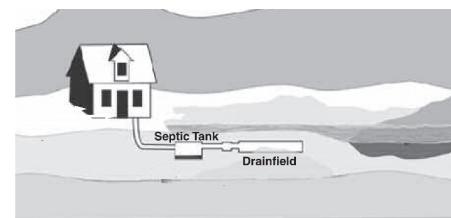
Nutrients (especially phosphorus) from leaky septic systems promote weed and algae growth in lakes.

It's important to remove sludge and scum build-up before it washes into the drainfield. A typical septic system should be inspected by a septic professional (or the homeowner), and pumped regularly.

The pumping schedule depends on the size of the tank, the number of people in your household, the volume of water used, and amount of solids entering the system. Generally, tanks should be pumped every three to five years.

Warning signs

- ✓ Foul odors in your home or yard.
- ✓ Wet, spongy ground or lush plant growth that appears near a leaky septic tank or drainfield.
- ✓ Fixtures that drain slowly because of a clog in the house pipes, septic system or drainfield.



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2008

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See the "lakes" button on 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.

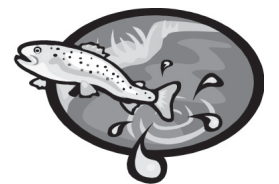
Alum Treatment Complete

By Doug Karman, Vice-President, LMD Steering Committee

The aluminum sulfate (alum) treatment in Long Lake's south basin was completed in April and the water has not been this clear for a long time. The project cost \$302,000, which was funded by a \$300,000 state grant. (The \$2,000 balance was funded by the Lake Management District.)

By treating the south basin only, we were able to control costs while improving the water clarity in all three basins. Water enters Long Lake in the south basin, and then flows through the channel to the north basin and the north mill pond, where the outlet is located. The south basin has the majority of nutrient-rich bottom sediment, so more nutrients (phosphorus) were chemically bound up in a nonsoluble aluminum phosphate.

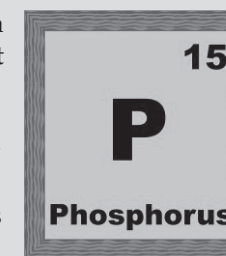
As the clearer water from the south basin moves into the other two basins, the water clarity in those areas improves as well. We saw this happen during the summer and the water clarity in all basins has improved.



An alum treatment was performed in Long Lake back in 1983. With the technology available at the time, it took about 10 years before the south basin returned to its pre-treatment clarity. The north basin was at pre-treatment clarity in 2006. With current technology, we hope the 2008 treatment will impact water clarity for 15 to 25 years.

Facts About Phosphorus

Phosphorus is a natural nutrient that feeds late-summer algae growth in Long Lake. Most of the phosphorus in Long Lake occurs naturally and comes from lake sediment.



Phosphorus also comes from fertilizer runoff, failing septic systems, and dead plants and animals on the lake bottom.

Aluminum sulfate inhibits algae growth by bonding chemically with phosphorus in lake sediment, trapping the phosphorus near the bottom of the lake and making it unavailable to feed algae.

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
Craig Sheasley 878-8203

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

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Janie Civille
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Battle of the Pondweeds

By Wayne Hardy, Long Lake Drive North

The clarity of water in Long Lake has improved greatly thanks to the success of alum and herbicide treatments, but our success has presented a new challenge: pondweeds. Pondweeds have always been present in Long Lake, but now they have more room and sunlight to grow and expand.

The herbicide treatment used last spring to kill other nuisance weeds did not affect the large and small leaf pondweeds. Although pondweeds were harvested in high traffic areas this summer, most of us have noticed that these plants have actually increased, not decreased.

Your LMD Steering Committee and county staff are planning

activities to address the pondweed problem in 2009, drawing from the experience of Lake Lawrence in 2008. The activities should significantly reduce or eliminate the pondweed problem.

The LMD Steering Committee has allocated \$19,000 for pondweed and lily harvesting in key access areas in 2009. For more information, read "Weed Strategies" below.



Weed Strategies

By Doug Karman, Vice-President, LMD Steering Committee

In early 2009, the weed control subcommittee will tour the lake and make plans to implement our integrated herbicide/harvesting strategies for the spring and summer.

If you have input or recommendations on our harvesting plan for 2009, please contact your neighborhood representative or attend a Steering Committee meeting. Meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Lacey Community Center on Pacific Avenue.

White Water Lily

By Doug Karman, Vice-President, LMD Steering Committee

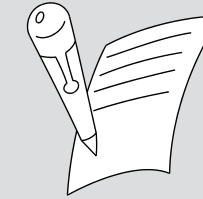
White water lily is a noxious, non-native invasive plant that can rapidly spread throughout the lake. On the other hand, our yellow water lilies are native plants which grow much slower and are not aggressive enough to colonize new areas of the lake.

The 2004 Long Lake Integrated Management Plan identified eradication of white water lily as the appropriate management strategy. The Steering Committee launched strategies to eradicate white water lily in 2006.



A Letter from Bill

By Bill Joplin, President, LMD Steering Committee



Long Lake property owners, including local and state governments, have voted for more than 20 years to pay an assessment to sustain an environmentally responsible, safe source of fun and sport.

Our Steering Committee has been diligent in acquiring the necessary technical and management information to make informed decisions, set priorities and establish strategic initiatives that improve our lake's water quality. While we are often used as an example for other LMDs around the state, we continue to seek more efficient ways to adapt to emerging conditions, speed the decision process, and reduce costs including those for overhead and indirect services.

There are two factors in day-to-day management that affect our results: speed of decisions and cost of execution. Our current charter makes us a program within the county. As such, we must follow county procedures and decision processes.

These can be both time consuming and costly. The Steering Committee is considering a form of management district that will allow us discretion to use the services of the county we find beneficial, while at the same time not be controlled by the specific procedural aspects of county government.

At this point, we do not know what, if any, net benefits this approach might bring. We plan to research the issue and share the results as the year goes on. We will continue to communicate with property owners and hold public forums before any decision is made. Although our timeline is more than one year out, I wanted to let you know that we are proactively looking in every direction to increase the benefits of our lake district.

Our 2009 budget and work plan have been completed. The budget:

- ◆ Increases white water lily control from 15 to 25 acres.
- ◆ Doubles mechanical harvesting of submersed weeds to \$34,000, covering nearly 25 acres.
- ◆ Continues funding for a milfoil dive program, which has proven successful at identifying and removing milfoil plants.
- ◆ Increases federal/state/county-approved herbicide treatment of native nuisance plants (below the surface plants), including the newly prevalent "pondweed," from 30 to 45 acres in 2009.
- ◆ Establishes a funding source for a pilot study to determine the effectiveness of inlet/outlet dredging to control phosphorus loads that contribute to algae growth.

We hope you find this newsletter informative, and we wish you a very healthy and enjoyable holiday season. Your comments are appreciated.

Reduce Wakes to Protect Shorelines

By Burt Pride, LMD Steering Committee

As lake levels rise during the winter months, please be respectful of waterfront owners' bulkheads. The impact of large wakes close to the shoreline can flood yards and gardens, and damage bulkheads and docks.

Please maintain a safe distance from all docks and shorelines (minimum 100 feet with speeds in excess of 5 mph). Boating safety is a year-round commitment and your courtesy in providing a low-impact boating experience is appreciated by all.

