

Leesville Lake Association Newsletter

October 2010

President's Message Sherwood Zimmerman

In September we received some exciting news. The (FERC) Federal Energy Regulator Commission responded to a request by the Tri-County Relicensing Committee (TCRC) to have a rehearing concerning the license issued to Appalachian Power Company (APCO). The Commission denied a rehearing but in fact met and addressed all the issues raised by TCRC. Leesville Lake was specifically mentioned in the 31 page response which addressed debris removal on pages 15 through 19.

The exciting news is that the Commission clearly stated that APCO is responsible for the removal and disposal of debris on both lakes and needs to establish a regular schedule to accomplish this task. They were clear that if the one skimmer is not adequate to address this task then it is APCO's responsibility to acquire the necessary equipment or contract for the necessary services to keep the lakes clean of debris that is a hazard or unpleasing to the eye. The regular schedule for debris removal on Leesville Lake and the establishment of a contract to address this task is to be developed in consultation with the Leesville Lake Association.

We have been working with APCO on these issues in the past and enjoy a good working relationship with them and look forward to moving to a new level of cooperation in developing new and better strategies to comply with these new directives from the commission.

Treasurer's Report Julie Moore

September is the beginning of our fiscal year. At the end of September we had \$35,205.95 cash. Our biggest expense for the month was payments for our debris removal contract which is almost completed for this period. We're in the process of working on the budget and hope to have that completed by the November board meeting.

Membership Report Julie Moore

Currently we have 357 member households at a 77% renewal rate. If your neighbors and friends haven't joined yet please encourage them. Every new member is important and adds to our impact on the counties surrounding our lake.

We'd like to say thank you to those who have joined since our last newsletter and look forward to meeting each of you and having your participation in Association events:

Aubrey & Margaret Bennett	Linda Lorton
Reese & Becky Booth	Keith & Linda Marshall
William H. Carter, Jr.	Charley & Lisa Norton
Steven J. Clarke	Scott & Marsha Rittenhouse
Todd C. Goode	Dale & Laura Sharp
Marshall & Lori Hanno	David & Rebecca Shaw
Jerry & Emily Hudson	Scott & Sharon Slater
Ed Jackson	Kimberly L. Walls
L.G. & Mona Jeffcoat	Joe Yesko & Jeanie Zelinski

APCO Call In Numbers Changed

Area residents can now call 1-800-956-4237 to report floating and dangerous debris in the navigable channels, aquatic vegetation locations or issues concerning navigation aids on the project's two lakes. Please take time to call and report dangerous debris on the lake or at public boat ramps. It can make a difference if APCO is continually notified by lake users!



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Leesville Lake Water Quality By Mike Lobue



We had another successful water quality monitoring season. Association volunteers collected Secchi depth data and water samples for bacteria testing from mid-May through mid-September. Lynchburg College began collecting extensive water quality data in June and will continue into November. We will analyze the data and have a complete water quality report early in 2011.

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) released its 2010 Draft Virginia Water Quality Integrated Report in late August. There is good news in the report. Based on dissolved oxygen (DO) data collected by Association volunteers, DEQ has proposed delisting all of the Leesville Lake as impaired for dissolved oxygen. The Association data on DO, pH and temperature are good enough to be used for delisting and demonstrate that the lake supports aquatic life. The bad news is that Leesville Lake is again listed as impaired for E. coli. However, that listing is based on old DEQ data (2003 & 2006). One of the reasons that we initiated the volunteer water monitoring program is that DEQ does not have a sufficient number of monitoring stations on the lake and DEQ samples too infrequently to get a true picture of water quality. Based on data collected by Association volunteers since 2007, Leesville Lake would not be considered impaired for E. coli. The good news about having Leesville Lake considered impaired based on previous data is that state agencies have implemented a plan to reduce bacteria entering the lake from the Pigg River and Old Woman's Creek.

I am pleased to report that Olga Kolotushkina has graciously agreed to take over as Chair of the Water Quality Committee. I will assist Olga during the transition and continue as a committee member.

Navigational Aids Committee By: Pete Pettit



With the approval of the Smith Mountain Project relicensing by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, it is now APCO's responsibility to fund, design, and install the navigation system.

A Navigation Aid meeting is scheduled by APCO for 10/20/2010 for the Smith Mountain Project. All parties involved in the SML Project are scheduled to attend including Coast Guard and VDGIF. The agenda includes USCG'S summer inspection, maintenance plan, cooperative agreement, signage for lateral marks, unauthorized regulatory buoys, education programs, and development of a public notice program to warn mariners of unusually heavy debris and high or low water. LVLA has contacted APCO to add the following items to the agenda: 1) Status for the design for a navigation aid, 2) Installation schedule for the Leesville Lake Navigation System, and 3) Two Conceptual Designs for a Navigation Aid

If you have any concerns or questions for navigation on Leesville Lake, please contact our committee chair by email petepettit@aol.com or phone 540-296-1514. Even though summer is over, we hope you continue to enjoy safe boating on Leesville Lake.

Safety Report By: Gerry Caprario



I am aware of only one accident on Leesville Lake this past season. I guess that's a pretty good report. Vessel Safety Checks were down. The Association will be seriously promoting this program for next season.

From our friends at VADGIF: All PWC operators age 50 and under are required to meet the VA Boating and Safety Education Requirement before 1 July 2011.

Your Association will be hosting a Boating Safety class conducted by the US Coast Guard Auxiliary sometime in March. Read your newsletter, read your website, attend your General Meetings for Date, Time, and Location.

Lastly, if any are interested in an informal seminar on Basic Knots and Bends, get in touch with me and we will try to set something up. Gerry 434-656-9082 capgerry@hotmail.com

PR Committee Update By: Gordy Bratz



The committee has begun to promote the activities and projects adopted by the Board for Program Year 2010-2011. To date, two are set:

- Leesville Lake Association 2011 Calendar.
This beautiful 4-color calendar features photos of "lake life" in all seasons. The photos were contributed by members. The calendar is available from Julie Moore at 434-369-6630 or lakedoughbegone@msn.com for \$10. It was designed by member Lynn Stelle. Proceeds support Association functions.
- Beautification Day--May 21, 2011.
The date is highlighted on the calendar so you won't forget to lend a hand to this annual event.

The committee put three proposals before the Board at its October meeting:

- That a slogan for use in promotional materials be developed by the committee;
- That a survey of members be developed to ascertain their views of both current and desired activities of the LVLA and
- That the Board take steps to improve the design, content and functionality of the Association's Web site.

The committee is also considering proposals for Board action that would promote the Association more widely and routinely throughout the year.

For example:

- Participate in parades and special events in nearby towns;
- Conduct multiple courtesy vessel safety checks;
- Sponsor a session on how to prevent or mitigate runoff;
- Provide information about the upcoming installation of navigation aids;
- Sponsor a session on how to improve shoreline stability using aquatic plants; and
- Sponsor a fishing derby and/or a rock skipping contest, especially for kids.

If you would like to be on this committee, contact Gordy Bratz at bratzgr@mac.com.

**Leesville Lake Debris
Removal Status**
By Roger L. Winters



I joined the Leesville Lake Association in September as a new board member and was selected to take over the vacant Debris Committee Chairman position. I still have a lot to learn but it has been an interesting two months.

During the 2010 year we had a large influx of debris come into Leesville Lake due to storms and a harsh winter. Much progress has been made in cleaning up the trees, limbs, logs, and man-made material from the lake and shoreline. Lakeside Services, a company that has been under contract with the Association has removed some very large debris from the lake, including trees a foot or more in diameter and as long as 60 feet. Under the contract they have performed 120 hours of debris removal.

This spring the Association with contributions by various businesses and individuals sponsored its 7th Annual Beautification Day. Volunteers collected, cut up and filled several large dumpsters of debris collected from the lake water and shoreline. American Electric Power Company (AEP) has also had their "skimmer" on the lake for well over a month this year removing huge amounts of debris and hauling it away via dump trucks. Of course much still remains to be done.

We've seen some encouraging events recently to include a 16 September Rehearing Order letter from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission informing AEP that they are responsible for:

"removing, and properly disposing of, debris from the project reservoirs that creates safety hazards, interferes with public access to public recreation facilities, or results in adverse aesthetic impacts, The licensee must address, throughout the year, recreational hazards created by floating debris resulting from high flow events, including not only the removal of floating debris immediately after the high flow event, but also removal of floating hazards created by dislodged debris on an ongoing basis after the event has occurred."

With the large fluctuations in water levels at Leesville Lake debris on the shoreline ends up in the water and back on the shoreline elsewhere on a nearly daily basis so cleaning up of the shoreline before the debris gets into the water and becomes a hazard is still a concern of the Association and we hope to address this concern with AEP soon. Two of the three Counties around the lake have promised funding for debris cleanup for the coming year.

Calendars

Our 2011 Leesville Lake calendar is beautiful and available! It's very, very pretty! The calendar is \$10 if you pick it up from any board member or at any board meeting.

To have it mailed please send a check to
Leesville Lake Association,
PO BOX 68, Altavista, VA 24517.

If mailed the price is \$10 plus shipping:

1 calendar = \$12.50 2 calendars = \$22.50
3 calendars = \$35.00 4 calendars = \$45.00
5 calendars = \$56.50

If you'd like more than 5 calendars please call Julie at (434) 369-6630 or e-mail at lakedoughbegone@msn.com

We would like to thank all those who submitted pictures and we congratulate the following for having their photos selected for publication:

Cover--Calla Michaelides
LVL Introduction--Julie Moore
January--Roger Winters
February--Larry Mitchell
March--Mike Lobue
April--Donna Iovino
May--Anne Waterman
June--Margaret Nolan
July--Annette Thornhill
August--Pete Pettit, Carol Swinehart, Kathy Perri,
Shayna Hastings, Sherri Andrews, Dana Marr,
Olivia Goldsmith, Beth Meyers
September--Bill Marshall
October--Mike Lobue
November--Bill Marshall
December--Larry Mitchell



We would also like to thank Lynn Stelle for her design and layout of the calendar as well as Pat Donahue of CRI Digital Impressions for printing the calendar.

Health Corner

By: Sue Glasscock



Our lake area, the rivers and dams provide all of us with a lovely place to live or visit. However we tend to carry our stress with us. We are a diverse population, including boaters, skiers, fisherman, swimmers, campers, and nature lovers, to name a few. We represent a large age span.

Being human, there are almost daily changes going on with each of us. These changes are on all levels. It can become a full time job to keep up with ourselves. In retirement, the differences in our daily schedule and changes in health are a large adjustment in life. But, we all go thru these changes, from a whirl-wind life to a decrease in "busyness". The body starts complaining long before we start to slow down. It tells us by the aches and pains of a "busy day." Many times, I have thought "wish I had not done that" or "I know better and did it anyway." Then, out of habit, we reach for a drink and or pain pill or both. When these solutions become a problem is when the "drink/pill" becomes routine. Most folks know when they are using too much alcohol. And they know when they are using too many pills, or too much of the combination. Of course, thru out life, we all have our times.

How do you monitor yourself? It requires asking yourself several questions. "Have I found myself driving an auto while impaired?" "Have I found myself driving a boat or other moving vehicles while impaired? Do I find myself impaired more often that is comfortable for my lifestyle?" If the answer is yes, just stop. If you are unable to stop, you might need to speak to a trusted friend. Folks do not like to try new behaviors, new ways of doing the same activity. Sometimes changing one or two things will continue to maintain the quality of life. Our lives are driven by the choices we make, and each one of us programs our own GPS. To all, enjoy our fall colors-----

Leesville Lake -- Beautiful Waterfront Home

Offered at \$299,000



Features:

- Runaway Bay; 1640 sq ft
- 3 BR/2 BA; 0.76 ac. Cove Lot
- Dock Slip; MLS 261206

hopkins
real estate group

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To All Of Our Veterans Past & Present
THANK YOU for your service



• **8th Annual Lake Beautification Day - May 21**

- **Annual Meeting & Picnic:**
 Saturday July 9, 4 pm to 6 pm,
 Tri-County Marina
- **General Membership Meetings:**
 January 13, April 14, October 13,
 7 p.m., Altavista Train Station
- **Board of Directors Meetings:**
 February 10, March 10, May 12, June 9,
 August 11, September 8, November 10;
 7 p.m., Altavista Train Station

**2010 Lake Beautification Day
 Diamond Sponsors**



**LEESVILLE LAKE ASSOCIATION
 NEW MEMBER ENROLLMENT**

All Leesville Lake residents, property owners, and lake users are encouraged to join the Association.

We are working on:

- Lake clean up/debris removal
- Mile markers and navigational aids
- Safety
- Water quality monitoring

Your membership dues go toward helping accomplish these goals.

Thank you for your help.

_____ \$25 tax deductible, annual dues (make check payable to Leesville Lake Association and mail to address below)

_____ Optional tax deductible donation (list amount and include with your dues check or write a separate check)

Leesville Lake Association
 PO Box 68
 Altavista, VA 24517
www.leesvillelake.org

Name _____
 Address _____
 Phone _____
 E-mail _____
 County where lake property located _____
 Preference for receiving quarterly newsletter: Regular mail _____ E-mail _____
 Corrections to information if already a member _____

Comments: Are there any lake issues that are of concern to you?

