



Winter, Summer, Spring or Fall...enjoy the beauty of Woodland Pond Lake

This newsletter is for members of the Woodland Pond Lakefront Association and our neighbors in the Woodland Pond community.

Woodland Pond Lakefront Association Newsletter

Vol 2 No 1 ~ March 2018

In this issue: Recap Annual WPLA meeting; 2018 Priorities; Upcoming Fishing Derby; Lake Conservation, Geese Management and more....

WPLA Annual Meeting

On January 23, 2018, the Woodland Pond Lakefront Association (WPLA) Board of Directors and approximately 40 members met for the annual meeting of the WPLA. Key business discussed included:

- 2017 Highlights
- WPLA Finances and 2018 Budget
- 2018 Priorities: lake conservation & compliance; geese management
- Covenants and bylaws
- Board nominations and elections



Details on the key business of WPLA follow in this newsletter and minutes of the meeting will be posted on the [website](#). Feel free to contact [Owen Waltman](#), WPLA President, if you have any questions or would like further information about the Annual Meeting.

WPLA Finances & Budget

Outgoing Board member and Treasurer, Paula Graham, reported the 2017 WPLA Balance Sheet and Income Statement. She highlighted a year-end balance of \$239,299 which was slightly above budget due to deferred expenses for dam remediation and silt removal.

She presented the 2018 Budget which included a \$50,000 emergency contingency. A full copy of the financial statements and budget will be posted on



the [WPLA Website](#).

Paula introduced Laurie Hucker as the new Treasurer. Laurie and her husband John reside on Waterfowl Flyway and have lived in WP for two years. She is an Attorney for the US Department of Veterans Affairs.

Dam Remediation

The issue in brief

The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) updated regulations concerning the safe design, construction, operation and maintenance of dams to protect public safety in the event of a catastrophic weather event. Woodland Pond Lake was deemed to be out of compliance (contact [Owen Waltman](#) for details). Over the past few years, the Board of Directors has been deeply involved in reviewing the regulations, the options for re-certification of the dam and the financial impacts of making improvements to the dam and spillway.

In 2016, the WP dam recently received conditional approval from the State to continue operating while steps are taken towards compliance. The approval was conditional on certain actions being taken to bring the dam into compliance which must be completed by July of 2018. Since that time, engineering studies have been completed, legal counsel has been consulted, and other HOAs have been contacted to discuss compliance impacts. Without sufficient funds to proceed with any of the feasible alternatives, the short-term emphasis will be on updating emergency action plans.

Be assured the BOD is treating this as a priority and will keep the membership of the WPLA informed as progress is made and/or additional insights are obtained.

Lake Dredging and Sustainability

Another strategic issue for the WPLA is the ongoing safety and sustainability of the lake. Two areas, which have both short-and long-range implications are: (1) build-up of silt in the coves and around the boat launch, and (2) water quality. This article will recap the steps being taking by the Board on behalf of the WPLA. If you have specific questions and/or would like to be involved in this important work, please direct them to Board member [Joe Lewis](#) who has agreed to lead the *Conservation and Silt Removal Committees*, special committees formed to address some of these issues.



Silt Build-up

Silt build-up in our lake is a result of soil erosion, drainage run-off from surrounding roads and properties and deposits from upstream tributaries. This is a significant problem that, if left unaddressed, will result in [eutrophication](#) and death of our lake. Yes, lakes can become meadows!

Some WPLA members have expressed the view that build-up of silt is a problem that only homeowners abutting these coves should be responsible for rather than the entire WPLA membership. Others share the view that as coves become inaccessible, the property values and enjoyment of all lakefront owners are diminished and the lake becomes less attractive to members. No doubt, steps to dredge the lake and clear out the coves will be an expensive budget item. In the meantime, Joe and his committee intend to make progress on studying this issue and bringing recommendations to the Board and membership as soon as practical.

Water Quality

Last summer, samples of WP lake water were taken and tested by a local, reputable lab. Results revealed a high level of the bacterium *E.coli* and members were notified to suspend swimming in the lake. High levels of *E.Coli* can be dangerous and, if ingested, represent a human health risk. In 2018, the Board will be initiating additional water testing so that we can determine more precisely the health of the lake water and possible sources of contamination including silt build-up, geese droppings, septic leakage, upstream runoff sources, etc.

Covenants and Bylaws

A special committee of the WPLA has been formed, chaired by Pete Janak, to review the current Covenants and Bylaws. A number of the existing provisions are out-of-date, inconsistent with and/or do not reflect current practices of the WPLA. It's important that we have clear documents to guide decision making, spending and membership. Additional committee members are needed to ensure this review is conducted in a quality and comprehensive manner. If you have an interest in participating in this effort, please contact Pete.

Managing the Geese Population

The WPLA Board has been considering complaints by members about the population of geese which are overtaking their yards, leaving unhealthy, smelly droppings and damaging landscapes. An expert was consulted to educate and advise the Board on proper actions to take to respond to concerns.



Helpful discussions occurred with Jeff Rumbaugh, Staff Wildlife Biologist from the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Fish and Wildlife Division. The Board invited Jeff to the Annual Meeting where he provided an overview of geese management and the challenges of resident Canadian geese vs. migrating Canadian geese on lakes. Read more by downloading the following article: [Preventing and Managing Waterfowl Damage](#).

Jeff described some of the challenges of managing the geese population which include the one-to-three pounds of droppings per day, damage to lawns and landscapes and health hazards. He outlined the *non-lethal* methods to disperse the geese starting with **not feeding the water fowl**, the use of chemical repellents and adding of eggs. He also reviewed a round-up process that the USDA performs between mid-June through early July of each year when geese are flightless due to molting.

There was lively discussion during the Annual Meeting where some members expressed concern and opposition to the options presented. These can be emotional issues from many vantage points. Having given thoughtful consideration to all opinions and preferences, the WPLA Board has decided to implement the following:

1. The priority is to urge all Members **NOT FEED THE WATERFOWL!** Signs will be posted as reminders.
2. Members are urged to consider planting vegetation that restrict movement of the geese and, where practical, to install stone rip-rap and/or string-line fencing along shorelines to make movement of geese difficult.
3. Consider using noise harassment devices such as air horns which can be effective when done persistently.
4. A permit has been registered and nest management is being undertaken to treat the known nests. If you are aware of nests needing to be treated, please notify a Board member. Additional information is available by downloading the [WS Factsheet, "Management of Canada Goose Nesting"](#).
5. Take necessary steps through the USDA to roundup the geese.

The Board welcomes questions or comments about the efforts to balance the welfare of our homeowners, the health of the lake and the humane treatment of waterfowl and wildlife. Please direct your comments to board member [Laurie Hucker](#).

2017 Highlights



- It was a rainy April morning, but that didn't stop more than 30 enthusiastic anglers from coming out for the annual fishing derby where \$545 in prize money was awarded.
- Dam maintenance and safety continued to be a priority. Steps were taken to limit trespassing and periodic mowing was completed.
- Committees were formed to focus on key issues regarding the health and compliance of the lake. Board members had discussions with engineers, government officials, consultants and other homeowner associations to gain insights into options concerning dam remediation, dredging and water quality.



- A new sign at the boat launch ramp was installed and abandoned boats left in the racks were removed. **WPLA members owe Curtis Sink a special thanks** for donating his labor for the construction of the new sign.
- To showcase the beauty and recreational opportunities of Woodland Pond, a newsletter was launched. Quarterly issues to keep members informed of important news and developments will be published via email and posted on the WPLA website. We welcome ideas for articles and photos by contacting Jane Abbate, Member Relations at abbatejane@gmail.com.

News to Know

Save the Date: April 14



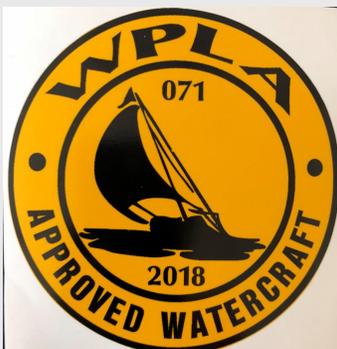
Saturday, April 14 Woodland Pond Fishing Derby

Open to Woodland Pond lot owners and their guests, events begin at 6:30 am with a free angler's breakfast and end with a community picnic. Weigh-in your catch for prizes and award ceremony at noon. All events are based out of the picnic area at the boat launch. Young and not-so-young are invited to compete for cash prizes and

trophy plaques! Keep an eye out in your inbox for a flyer with more details about this fantastic way to enjoy fishing on the lake, meet your neighbors and compete for cash prizes.

If you or your business would like to be a sponsor for of the Derby to help defray expenses, it would be appreciated. If so, or if you have questions, email Jennifer Harless.

Membership Renewal Boat Decals Boat Launch Keys



- As of Feb 8, 76 "A" members have returned the paperwork and paid the annual fee of \$250. We also are pleased to report that WPLA has 47 "B" members who have paid the annual fee and can also enjoy lake privileges. If you are an "A" member and haven't already done so, please contact [Laurie Hucker](#) to submit the paperwork and fees or if you have questions.
- Regarding membership and access to Woodland Pond Lake: Homeowners of lakefront property are *required* to be members of the WPLA. However, homeowners elsewhere in Woodland Pond may also enjoy the beauty and recreational activities of the Lake by joining the WPLA as "B" members. If you are interested, please contact [Eileen](#) to learn more.
- FYI...when you renew/join WPLA and register a boat, you will receive one set of TWO decals with the same number for each watercraft. These are to be applied to the front of each side of the boat. To ensure that only WPLA members are using the lake, we ask that you register and obtain a set of decals for each water craft, including kayaks, canoes, paddle boards, paddle boats, etc.

The Wonders of Woodland Pond

Nature here never stops to amaze me. Everyday is a new wonder, a new discovery, a new visitor. The wildlife is always changing and beyond



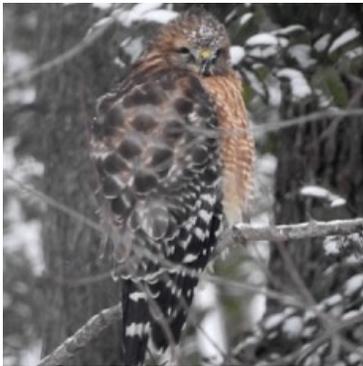
gorgeous and we are so blessed and fortunate to call this our "backyard". They say "take the time to smell the roses"; and I say, "take the time to look up"- you might see a gorgeous pair of bald eagles flying over your head, or they may fly over your head and you will never know the beauty that is soaring above us.

Such an incredible variety of wonderful birds... the cardinals, blue jays, tufted tit mouse, king fishers, osprey, humming birds, cedar wax wings... the variety of wood peckers are amazing (yes they can do some damage) but you cannot

deny how colorful and striking that they are... from the giant Pileated to the tiny Downy? It would take the length of the article to mention all the gorgeous birds that come and visit us but how many people can enjoy all of this...from their backyard...??? Don't even get me started on the frogs (at least a dozen varieties!), turtles, butterflies, moths, lizards, bees, dragon flies, our sunsets, the reflections of the moon in the lake.....

Take the time to look up, enjoy, and have your breath taken away from the beauty that surrounds us all. I am saying thanks everyday that we live in Nature's Paradise, hope that you do too Hope that you enjoy some of the "best of pic's" I have been able to capture.

Cheers,
Sofi Lewis, Guest Columnist



Red Shouldered Hawk



Bufflehead



Blue Heron

Thank you for serving!

Outgoing WPLA Board Members



Bobbi Internicola



Joe Internicola



Eric Ertzner



We recognize outgoing WPLA Board members: Bobbi and Joe Internicola, Eric Ertzner and Paula Graham who have completed three year terms of service! Bobbi was the force behind the Fishing Derby and many administrative details, Joe served on the Dredging Committee and as Secretary, Eric had the challenging task of managing the boat launch and annual boat tags, and Paula served as Treasurer and Membership Director.

**The members of the Woodland Pond Lakefront Association thank you
for your service and commitment to our neighborhood!**

New WPLA Board Members

The WPLA Board of Directors will be strengthened in 2018 by the addition of four new members.

Jennifer Harless: Whistling Swan Road

Joe Lewis: Sawdust Trail

John Klar: Merganser Terrace

George Reiber: Pintail Place

Thank you for agreeing to serve your neighbors in the WPLA!

WPLA Board Members and Contact Information

President: Owen Waltman 804-796-1113 owaltman@verizon.net

Treasurer: Laurie Hucker 804-706-5814 laurette.hucker@gmail.com

Secretary Jane Abbate 412-953-9806 abbatejane@gmail.com

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Director of & Boat Registration and Architectural Review: Eileen Sundstrom 804-796-3796

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Director: Joe Lewis 804-461-8618 jlewis8902@aol.com

Director: George Reiber 804-796-7533 reibeg6@cs.com

Cover Photo and photos above by Sofi Lewis. Fishing tournament photo by Bill Abbate.

[Visit our website](#)