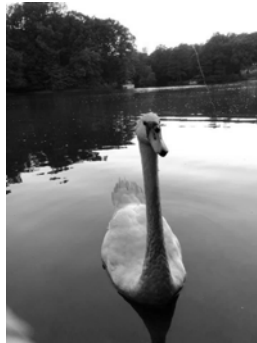


Woodland Pond Lakefront Association Newsletter

August 2019



Rest in Peace - Aug 1, 2019

We regret to inform our members that we have lost another mute swan. It is undetermined whether it was a male or a female. We received the report about the lifeless swan in the water discovered at dusk last Thursday. It appeared to have encountered a ferocious attack. The swan was retrieved and given a proper, respectful burial. The swans have added serene beauty to Woodland pond and this one will be surely missed.

News from the WPLA Board

Update from the WPLA President

I don't need to tell you that it's been a very warm and dry summer. Therefore, the lake water level continues to drop due to lack of rain and temperature (evaporation). Some members have inquired as to how we are managing the lake and be assured we watch water levels very closely. The outlet valve is closed and will remain closed until the water level returns to normal. (See more information below about this topic.)

There have been periodic signs of algae growth in different areas of the lake; this is primarily due to summer weather. Use caution and enter the water at your own risk. The annual full panel of water testing will be conducted later this month and the results reported to members.

On a different note, Board members are working with our consulting engineers to evaluate impacts of the proposed Nash Road improvement project on the dam. They are in touch with the developer of Cypress Glen to find a way to apply the cash proffers from a section of the planned subdivision to this road project. They hope to present updated data to Chesterfield staff/officials before the County Board of Supervisors meet on August 28th to consider the recommendation of the Planning Commission. Further, our ultimate goal is to have the WPLA covenants attached to the lakefront lots in Cypress Glen.

Finally, the Board and WPLA members Pete Janak and Bud Schill have been working diligently for weeks to revise our covenants, bylaws and rules. The drafts have been submitted for legal review and we expect to have the revised drafts available for selective member review in about two weeks. Please let a Board member know if you would like to serve in this selective review group. After feedback and further revisions are completed, materials will be prepared to discuss the amended documents with the entire membership. Be assured you will be provided time in advance to review the documents and to voice your questions and comments in member meetings, which are tentatively scheduled for September (dates forthcoming).

Info from the July 15 Board Meeting

The most recent meeting of the WPLA Board of Directors was July 15, 2019. Updates included the latest financial reports and other updates. You can download a draft of the meeting minutes [HERE](#).

The minutes include updates by Craig Lester, VP WPLA, on topics such as dam safety and compliance, silt reduction and removal, revisions to WPLA legal documents and an update about the Cyress Glen development. Your questions and concerns are always welcomed. Feel free to contact Craig at craig.v.lester@gmail.com.

The next scheduled Board meeting will be Wednesday, August 28 at 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the Woodland Pond Swim & Racquet Club.

Visit WPLA Website

Water Levels and Silt

Members have been concerned about the water level of the lake and we want to assure you that the Board is equally concerned and doing its best to address the situation. Obviously, we need rain! Please read the information below to add perspective and to increase awareness of what's being done.



The bottom valve on the primary spillway leaks through, even when fully closed. The photo above shows the current leakage rate which is about equal to the springs that feed the pond and Licking Creek during normal weather. It should not leak, but has leaked from day one -going back to 2002. During normal weather, the leakage rate is not an issue. But this summer, with the hot weather and sunny days and no rain, the pond is dropping on average 1/4 inch per day, and some days as much as 1/2 inch.

The valve was closed on June 19, 2019. The lake was 2 7/8" below



In 2017 and 2018, we had a lot of rain, so the leaking valve was not an issue. However those heavy rains brought a lot of silt into the pond, so it is getting shallower. The rains push the silt from the coves into the deeper sections of the pond, so more owners are now being affected.

We have had only ~ 3 3/4" of rain since June 19. But on July 4, we got over 2 1/2" of rain in a very short time period, which really pushed the silt into the pond. This underscores the reality that if we did not have so much silt, the level dropping might not be as big a

the lip of the riser. We normally try to close it when the water drops to 2" below the lip of the riser, and don't open it until the water is 2" above the lip of the riser. Since that time we have had very little rain. The level is now ~ 10" below the riser. The valve was opened and closed again yesterday to determine if leakage could be reduced - but it remained the same.

deal. But the silt compounds the issue.

The picture above shows the impact on Cove 1, between Taylor Landing Way and Laurel Cove Pl. There are 40" of silt in this cove. Steps are being taken to reduce the silt infill, but that was started way too late to prevent what you see in the pictures.

So now what?

Craig Lester has talked with the valve manufacturer and learned that the valve is intended for use in clean water service. Likely, debris from the WP Lake has gotten in the valve seat and prevents it from closing completely. In order to inspect and clean the valve, the bottom inlet pipe will have to be blanked, requiring a diver. Then the trash screen on top of the riser would have to be removed, and someone would need to make a "vessel entry", climbing down the riser ladder to inspect and clean the valve, after it was opened from above. Once cleaned, we would need to try to "seat" the valve, opening and closing it several times to verify it can be seated. We would then need to exit the riser, remove the blank, and verify the valve does not leak through. We do not have cost estimates for this work and no decisions have been made to go ahead with this work.

Dan Jackson, a Woodland Pond resident who has contacts in the local area with people who purchase and install valves, is helping Craig identify potential companies to call to get a quote to inspect and clean the valve, and to replace the valve if necessary. We will keep members informed as we continue to work on this problem.

Water Quality



WPLA Board member, Joe Lewis, reports that a recent water algae test was conducted and the results were good. But that does not mean we do not have some blue-green algae lurking in some coves. It's pretty easy to spot and it was here last year during the hottest part of the summer. In May, all results were very low. In June, the algae spiked but our testing lab said the sample was not representative of the overall algae condition of the lake so there is no high concern.

Recently residents have noticed algae floating in some of the coves and along the shore. For your information, blue green algae can make you ill and for pets it can be even worse. Therefore, if you see it, avoid contact with your skin - so it's advised to refrain from swimming in the presence of algae and avoid letting your pets drink it. The photo shows what blue-green algae looks like.

Boating & Safety Updates



As we reported in the June newsletter, watercraft stored at the boat ramp area which do not display current 2019 WPLA stickers are being removed.

A jon boat has been abandoned at a boat rack and the WPLA is offering it for sale at \$50 or best offer. Money will be deposited into the WPLA bank account. Call 804-796-3796 for more information or to make an offer.

No Trespassing Please

There continues to be trespassing on the dam and/or bank. For safety and liability reasons, no one is permitted at these areas unless accompanied by or authorized by a WPLA Board member. No trespassing signs have been posted and we have communicated through the NextDoor app to ensure nonmembers are aware of the dangers and restrictions.

If you spot a trespasser(s), it is not your responsibility to engage them. Please immediately call the Chesterfield County Police at 804-748-1251 who may issue a summons.



Some B members have complained about these restrictions. It's understandable that B members may not always desire to launch their boat to take advantage of fishing privileges. However, there is another option: members may fish from the dock at the boat launch.

We ask any member(s) who finds it unreasonable to prevent trespassing on the dam and banks to please reconsider your position and consider the best interests of the entire association.

Lake Trivia

Some fascinating facts you may not know (and might enjoy learning)...

1. There are 117 million lakes on Earth, covering 3.7 percent of the continental land surface. (This doesn't include Antarctica, Greenland or the Caspian Sea). About 90 million of these lakes are less than two football fields in size, or 0.5 to 2.5 acres. FYI, Woodland Pond lake covers approx 122 acres.
2. Added altogether, the shorelines of all the world's lakes roughly measure 250 times the length of the equator. The equator is 7,926 miles long.
3. In the US, you can take a 6500-mile drive around the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes Commission established the Circle Tour in 1988 as a scenic tourist drive around the five lakes and through (how many?) states and Ontario. Just to navigate Lake Michigan's 900-mile Circle Tour alone would take approximately 14.5 hours without any stops.
4. Crater Lake is the deepest lake in the US bottoming out at 1,943 feet (in what State is it located?). It also ranks as the 11th deepest lake in the world. For some perspective, if you place NYC's One World Trade Center at Crater Lake's deepest part, there would still be over 150 feet of water above the tower's highest point.
5. Pocahontas State Park offers visitors excellent wildlife viewing and fishing on two lakes. What are they?

Enjoy the Dog
Days of
Summer!

