

# Lake Watch



Oak Hills Lake Development Association 225.766.2947  
[www.oakhillslakebr.com](http://www.oakhillslakebr.com)

APRIL 2011

Spring is here!

## Events on the Lake

### Crawfish Boil – Sat. April 9<sup>th</sup>

The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual crawfish boil will be held on April 9<sup>th</sup> from 3:00-6:00 at the home of Sidney and Sealanne Longwell, 821 E. Lakeview Dr. Todd Woods has again agreed to be the “boil master.”

Please RSVP to either MiMi Durham at 921-6324 or Sealanne at 766-7863 by **Sat. April 1<sup>st</sup>**. Each family attending is also asked to bring either an appetizer or a dessert – be sure to let them know which you will be bringing when you call to RSVP!

This event is **FREE** to all 2011 members of Oak Hills Lake Assn. and anyone living in their home. Additional guests, excluding small children, will cost \$20 per person. (This would be children/grandchildren NOT living with you, etc.) It's not too late to join! You can still pay your dues at the door!

### Pinney's Plant Pass-along – Sun. May 15<sup>th</sup>

Another plant pass-along party will be held on May 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 at the home of Pinney and Roy Johnson, 767 Oak Hills Pkwy. Last year we had fun sharing plants from our own yards. Gardeners love to chat & share information! Call Pinney at 769-5744 if you have any questions.

### Ice Cream Social – TBA for later in the summer

If you would like to volunteer to host the Ice Cream Social for adults and children, please call MiMi at 921-6324.

## Quarterly Board Meetings

### Next Board Meeting - April 12<sup>th</sup> - 6:30pm

The second Quarter Board meeting will be held at Roy and Pinney Johnson's home, 767 Oak Hills Pkwy.

Any dues-paying members are welcome to attend. If you have any items you would like added to the agenda or would like to speak at the meeting, please notify Devera Goss at least 1 week prior to the meeting at 766-2947 or email her at [devgoss@hotmail.com](mailto:devgoss@hotmail.com)

### Remaining Scheduled Board Meetings for 2011

3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter: July 12<sup>th</sup> – 6:30

Ashley Hodges' – 522 S. Lakeview Dr.

4<sup>th</sup> Quarter: Oct. 11<sup>th</sup> – 6:30

MiMi Durham's – 722 W. Lakeview Dr.

### It's not too late to pay your dues!

Current dues for O.H.L.D.A. for 2011 are \$200. If your membership has lapsed, you will NOT have to pay back-dues. If you need to work out a payment plan (2 payments), please contact Jerry Goss at 766-2947 or email him at [jerrygoss@gmail.com](mailto:jerrygoss@gmail.com)

Membership allows you to use the lake, to attend all social events and meetings, and it provides the funding to keep our lake healthy and stocked with fish.

## Hilltop Spring Events

Hodge Podge Plant Sale – April 9<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 – 2:00

Spring Garden Tours – May 1<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, & June 5<sup>th</sup>

For more information: Call 767-6916 or visit their website at: [www.lsu.edu/hilltop](http://www.lsu.edu/hilltop)

## Oak Hills Lake 2011 Board

**President** – Devera Goss  
**Vice President** – Roy Johnson  
**Treasurer** – Jerry Goss  
**Secretary** – Spring Garcia  
**Social** – MiMi Durham & Ashley Hodges  
**Rules** – Dianne Underhill  
**Newsletter & Website** – Martha Austin

### Committees

**Beautification** – Pinney Johnson, Jean Place, Charisse & Brian Hanchey  
**Lake Management & Fisheries** – Sid Sanders, DeEte Montalbano, Fletcher Baker, Stuart Bosarge, Heston Hodges

**Website** - [www.oakhillslakebr.com](http://www.oakhillslakebr.com)

**Google groups discussions** - <http://groups.google.com/group/oak-hills-lake-association>



## Fish Report

We have a report that Chad Phillips caught and released a nice size bass recently in our lake.

**You are reminded that all bass caught through Dec. 31, 2011 should be released immediately** to allow them a chance to thrive and reproduce.

The Board of Directors is hopeful that the installation of six diffusers and one circulator, along with a few Christmas trees that were sunk at strategic spots in the lake to provide cover for the fingerlings, will help the small and large bass that were put into the lake in November to thrive and once again populate our lake. No trout lines are allowed in the lake. Brim, catfish, and sac-a-lait may be kept if caught.

### Reminder:

**“It is important to understand that owning a lot bordering on Oak Hills Lake in itself does not entitle the lot owner to the use of the lake.** The Lake is a separate piece of property owned by the Oak Hills Lake Development Association. **Owning a lakefront lot does entitle the lot owner to the right to become a member of the O.H.L.D.A.** The only additional requirements for O.H.L.D.A. .... are payment of the annual dues and obeying the By-Laws.” (From a previous Board of Directors Letter)  
If you have not paid your dues for 2011 you may not fish or use the lake at all. Some non-paying lake residents have been observed fishing and using the lake. Please respect our rules.

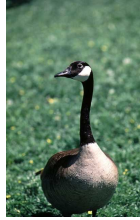


Photo of Black Swans on Oak Hills Lake  
Taken by Brian Hanchey

## **Birds on the Lake**

### **Canadian Geese**

The Canadian Geese have multiplied on our lake. Our lake expert, Mark McElroy, has recommended that we don't feed the Canadians and to discourage their nesting and disrupt their nests. Canadian Geese return to the same wintering spots every year, so the young that are hatched this year will appear on our lake the next year and produce even more geese. They are considered a nuisance species. They are soiling our yards and lake and possibly increasing the nitrogen content in the water.



### **Black Swans** - report from Brian Hanchey

The adult female swan (of the remaining 3) has built an enormous nest in the Hanchey's backyard and is sitting on a clutch of eggs. Hopefully, we may see several hatchlings within the next few weeks.

There have been several birds killed within the last two months by dogs, including one of the two juvenile black swans.

If you have a big dog, try to refrain from feeding the swans or creating an attractive area for them that might entice them onto property where they might be killed.

### **Reminder:**

The loud shots you hear on the lake are the bird bangers used to scare off the cormorants who eat the bait fish and bass fingerlings.

## **Lake Beautification**

Thanks again to Brian and Charisse Hanchey for generously donating and planting 20 camellias along the weir sidewalk. We are so grateful for the beautiful black swans that they also donated that grace our lake.

## **Things you can do to help keep our lake beautiful**

- \*\* Live Oaks are dropping their leaves in abundance! Please remove leaves from the gutters so they won't drain into the lake.
- \*\* Do not blow leaves into the lake.
- \*\* Edge and sod your servitude to keep sediment from entering the drains.
- \*\* Do not burn your limbs or leaves – it is against the law and the smoke ruins our beautiful spring days!
- \*\* All the drains in Oak Hills drain into our lake – make your neighbors aware of this.
- \*\* Try to limit the pesticides sprayed in your yard.

## **Notes from Hilltop's 2011 Garden Symposium – Lively Gardens: Flora and Fauna**

The topics covered may be of interest to our neighbors in Oak Hills. Our own neighbor, Dr. Charles Fryling, and Dr. Neil Odenwald co-presented a talk about Attracting Birds to Southern Gardens.

Four elements are necessary to invite beautiful birds to your backyard according to Dr. Odenwald.

- 1. Food** – This includes native plants, many that may be found at Hilltop – ex. Beautyberry, night blooming jasmine, sweet pea, mimosa, native honeysuckle azalea, coral bean shrub, common fig, sunflowers, and elderberries, to name a few. Bird feeders and suet feeders which attract woodpeckers and hummingbird feeders will bring birds to your yard.
- 2. Water** – Create an oasis for your birds. Use fresh water in your fountains, bird baths or even your lawn sprinkler. Sounds of water delight the birds and you too!
- 3. Habitat** – Create diversity in your garden with tight spaces for protection. Vary heights of trees and bushes. Break up your yard with islands of planting. Bring plants out into your yard. Allow areas for taller grasses to grow. Remember a hierarchy of planting – high, medium, and low plantings with edges along your yard.
- 4. Refuge** – A place to watch birds and for your bird friends!

Dr. Fryling explained that 69 varieties of song birds visit and feed in the South. The ruby throated hummingbird, Eastern blue bird, Carolina wren, American goldfinch, red bellied and redheaded woodpeckers, cardinals, titmouse, chickadee, and 10-12 wintering species of hummingbirds are a few to watch for. Bird houses of differing heights and locations would welcome them.

He recommended many different plant materials to add to your yard specifically for bird attraction. Some of these are: box elder, American beech, service berry, devil's walking stick, paper mulberry, fringe tree, hollies, rough leaf dogwood, American sweet gum, sassafras, wahoo, black cherry, southern crab apples, pine trees, Chinese tallow tree, and iris. It is important to create coves for protection of birds.

Charlotte Seidenberg, author of The Wildlife Garden: Planning Backyard Habitats and The New Orleans Garden: Gardening in the Gulf South, recommended having a lot of native plants to attract butterflies and birds. Decaying wood and snags (dead trees) are important as well. Sunflowers, asters, and cone flowers are attractive to butterflies. The mint family with tropical sage and salvias are good. From the mustard family, sweet alyssum and pepper grass are a plus. A list of others are: fire spike, passionflower vine, milkweed, blue mist flower, red buckeye, wax myrtle, goldenrod, basket grass, black-eyed Susans, pokeweed, firecracker vine, pepper vine, blue edged grass, evening primrose, and butter bush.

We hope this taste of a great symposium will also excite you to invite and to keep our bird friends in Oak Hills. We will keep you posted on other opportunities from the Friends of Hilltop Arboretum so you can learn more about gardening in your own backyard. Visit the LSU Hilltop Arboretum website, [www.lsu.edu/hilltop](http://www.lsu.edu/hilltop), for a list of upcoming events. If you are interested in receiving eblasts about upcoming programs, events, and activities, you can send your email address to [hilltop@tigers.lsu.edu](mailto:hilltop@tigers.lsu.edu).