

# Lake Watch

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

August 2019



Sunset on Lake 6/28/2019

## Spring Social Crawfish Boil

The annual spring social crawfish boil (150 lbs. crawfish) was a hit! The expanded menu also offered smoked pork shoulders (for pulled pork sandwiches), cooked by Rob McConnell, along with many side dishes and desserts that were brought by the guests. The May 6<sup>th</sup> gathering was graciously hosted by Susan and Mike Puyau.

There were 45-50 guests who attended and enjoyed the afternoon eating and visiting with friends! Thanks to Dianna and Mary who sampled & searched for the best boiled crawfish and organized the party! MiMi Durham (former resident) offered to share the leftovers at the Shepherd's Market at St. John's UMC. It was a fun day for all!

## Notes from the July Board Meeting

- ✓ Don't forget to pay your dues!
- ✓ Board approved changes to the Bylaws, made by the Committee, at the July meeting and will submit these changes for a vote at the annual General Membership Meeting in October.
- ✓ Board Agendas & Minutes (after approval by the board) will be posted on the Lake website.  
[www.oakhillslakebr.com](http://www.oakhillslakebr.com)
- ✓ A Lake Survey has been drawn up & will be sent to everyone on the Lake
- ✓ The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Lake Drawdown will begin in Nov. 2019 thru Feb. 2020.

**ATTENTION:** New Louisiana Child Passenger Safety Law goes into effect Aug. 1, 2019!  
<http://advocate.la.newsmemory.com/?publink=364664bcd> (or go to link above or Lake website)

## 2019 Quarterly Meetings:

*Oak Hills Board Meetings are generally held quarterly, on the 2nd Tues. - in Jan., April, July, and Oct.*

Tues. Jan. 8th – 6:30 at the home of Mike and DeEte Montalbano

Tues. April 9th – 6:30 at the home of Mike and Susan Puyau

Tues. July 9th – 6:30 at the home of Jim & Christine Robinson

Tues. Oct. 8th – 6:30 at the home of Jerry and Devera Goss, 735 Oak Hills Pkwy.

Annual General Membership Meeting:  
Mon. Oct. 21<sup>st</sup> - at the home of Mary Dunbar, 822 E. Lakeview Dr.

## A Note from our President

First and foremost, we would like to access the desires of the members concerning the best use of their annual dues money. A survey will be sent out with a pre-addressed return stamped envelope to make responding easy and anonymous. Please return it quickly so that the responses can be analyzed and made available to both the Board and the membership. The more who respond to the survey, the better understanding the board will have concerning the membership's expectations and priorities in spending their dues.

Secondly, the Articles of Incorporation (AOI) and By-Laws Committee decided not to rewrite both the Articles and the By-laws this year. It is imperative that the By-laws are congruent with the Articles of Incorporation. In the AOI, Article IX, the Board has the power to make and alter the rules, regulations and/or By-laws governing this corporation. Your current Board of Directors chose instead, transparency with its members and decided to seek the membership's support and approval of the changes. The Committee voted to support the changes as did your Board. We hope that the Association's members will attend the Annual Meeting on October 21, 2019, at Mary Dunbar's home, 822 E. Lakeview Dr., 6:30 P.M. to vote their support and approval of the changes to the By-laws.

The attached document prepared by the Committee and the Board is excellent and it simplifies understanding of the revisions. We owe Dr. Susan Puyau, Committee Chair, a huge thank you for managing and facilitating the entire process. I am confident that Susan as well as the Committee members are available to respond to questions. My telephone number is 225-767-6389 and my email is [jrobin1@cox.net](mailto:jrobin1@cox.net). (\*Corrected email for Jim). Susan's contact number is 225-769-5452 and her email is [spuyau0000@aol.com](mailto:spuyau0000@aol.com).

Hopefully, we can continue making the Lake Development Association responsive to the entire membership and enhance the camaraderie of its members.

*Jim Robinson*



## On the Lake

The Lake draw down will begin about November 1<sup>st</sup> through sometime in February, depending on the weather conditions. This has certainly enhanced our fish population and our lake!

This will be a good time to clean out exposed leaves & branches and tend to bulkheads. While a bulkhead is nice, it is not required! Only paddles and trolling motors are allowed in the lake, so there is very little wake to erode the banks.

**2019 Officers and Board Members**

President ----- Jim Robinson  
 Vice President ----- Jerry Goss  
 Secretary ----- Susan Puyau  
 Treasurer ----- Mike Puyau  
 Social ----- Dianna Underhill  
 Lake Development Resources ----- Mike Montalbano  
 Newsletter and Website ----- Martha Austin  
 Membership and Welcoming ----- Mac Peek  
 Beautification ----- Mary Dunbar  
 Rules ----- Christine Robinson  
 At Large ----- Rob McConnell  
 At Large ----- Steve Baker  
 Oak Hills Lake Consultant --- Mark McElroy

**Report on June 6 Flooding and it's impact on the Lake/Weir**

Mike submitted this report about the event.  
 "In my opinion, the unusually high water in the lake was caused by unusually high amounts of rain (8 inches in 45 minutes). It was trash and recycle day, so garbage and cans were washed into the lake and caused blockage at the weir. What we don't know is if the weir could have handled the VOLUME OF WATER WITHOUT THE BLOCKAGE.

On a positive note, Ruth Kovacs reported to me that the levee was overtopped. I've walked and looked at it very closely and it doesn't seem to have suffered any damage. The garbage and debris in the storm gutters and volume of rain caused water levels to rise dramatically fast. Roy and Pinney Johnson got water in their garage and it was less than an inch away from getting into their house before it subsided."

**Hilltop Arboretum – Events**

Upcoming Events: <https://www.lsu.edu/hilltop>  
 Plant Fest Teaser – Sept 29, 2019  
 Plant Fest 2019 – Oct. 5-6, 2019  
<https://www.lsu.edu/hilltop/events/plantfest/teaser.php>

**2019 Weir Cleaning Schedule**

2019 Assignments

April Brian Hanchey  
 May Mike Puyau  
 June Ralph Lorio  
 July Paul St. Dizier  
 Aug. Carey Messina  
 Sep. Adrienne Bourgeois  
 Oct. Roy Johnson  
 Nov. Russell Babin  
 Dec. Brian Hanchey

Contact Russell Babin: [rabin@cox.net](mailto:rabin@cox.net) if you need to change your month or have any problems.

*If you are interested in helping with the weir cleaning for 2020, send an email to:*

*Russell Babin, [rabin@cox.net](mailto:rabin@cox.net)*

*He will let you know if he has any spaces available!*

**On the Lake** (continued)

New Boat decals with a vinyl base are ready to distribute! Rob McConnell had them made and are still based on the original sketch made by Mary Dunbar several years ago. Rob suggests that before putting your decals on each side of the bow of the boat, clean the space with denatured alcohol so that the decal will stick better. Also don't forget to put your Lot Number on both sides of the bow! Contact Rob at 1-901-299-8163 or [rmconn3@comcast.net](mailto:rmconn3@comcast.net) to get new decal.

**REMEMBER.... Boating and fishing on the lake is for members only – boats must have their lot number and OHLDA decals on both sides of their boat.**

Lake membership is limited to the 55 owners of the lake lots around our 12 acre lake. Every lot owner on the lake is eligible for membership. To become a member, lot owners must pay a yearly membership fee which begins each new calendar year in January.

**NO SWIMMING IN THE LAKE AT ANYTIME!**

**Recommendations for a good bulkhead contractor?**

If you have any suggestions for a bulkhead contractor that you would recommend (hopefully licensed & bonded), send an email with their contact information to [mhaustin2001@yahoo.com](mailto:mhaustin2001@yahoo.com) I will be glad to pass on the information!

**2019 Lake Dues**

Lake Dues are \$200.00 per household for the year. Don't forget to pay your dues! Dues keep our lake beautiful, our fish healthy, and provide seasonal social functions so you can meet your neighbors!

Please make your check payable to:  
 Oak Hills Lake Development Assn. (OHLDA)  
 Mail to: Mike Puyau, Treasurer  
 Oak Hills Lake Development Assn.  
 826 W. Lakeview Dr.,  
 Baton Rouge, LA 70810

**2019 Weir Duties**

1. Be safe. Be careful not to twist your ankle on the grating.
2. Check the weir for blockage at least once a week.
3. Check the weir for blockage after any rains.
4. Watch the weather forecast and check the weir for blockage before any big storms.
5. During big storms (1+ inches) during the fall/winter, I usually check the weir during a lull in the rain to avoid anything "getting out of hand". Bring a flashlight at night if necessary.
6. Keep the grates with smaller openings propped up and out of the way. They just plug up the weir faster.
7. Bring a small trash bag to haul off the small non-biodegradable stuff (cans, bottles, paper, toys, etc.)
8. I simply push the small organic stuff (leaves, pine needles, twigs) through the grating.
9. I stack the larger stuff (branches, boards, fence posts, etc.) by the street. The city will haul it away.
10. Watch out for floating clumps of elephant ears near the weir. Break them up and get them out of the water. They can quickly plug the grating.
11. If things get out of hand during a big storm and the lake water level keeps rising, call other weir team members for help.
12. If you will be out of town during your month, please find a backup to check the weir for you.

Thank you,  
 Russell Babin