

Lake Watch



Oak Hills Lake Development Association
www.oakhillslakebr.com

Jan. - March 2020
(edited in July)

Annual Lake Christmas Party

The Oak Hills Lake Annual Christmas Party was held on Sunday, Dec. 8, 2019, beginning at 5:00 pm.

It was again hosted at the home of Jerry & Devera Goss, 735 Oak Hills Pkwy.

A musical trio, provided by Walter Smith, played throughout the night and helped to make the party delightful.

There was great food, great music, dancing, and holiday cheer throughout the evening, with over 60 residents attending.

This event was catered by funds provided by our Lake Association.

Annual Lake General Meeting

Thanks to Mary Dunbar for once again hosting our annual social/business General Meeting and to Dianna Underhill who also helped with this event at Mary's home on Oct. 21, 2019!

Once again, the food was wonderful! Thank you to all who volunteered and helped with the food and supplies for the meeting!

There was a large turnout for the meeting and a lot of lake business to discuss!

2020 Officers

President	Jerry Goss
Vice President	Mac Peek
Secretary	Susan Puyau
Treasurer	Mike Puyau
Social -	Mary Dunbar
Lake Develop. Resources	Mike Montalbano
Newsletter & Website	Martha Austin
Rob McConnell	
Steve Baker	
Christine Robinson	
Jim Robinson	
Special committee to gather information on Weir/Dam:	Mac Peek, Mike Montalbano
Oak Hills Lake Consultant	Mark McElroy

2020 Quarterly Meetings:

Oak Hills Board Meetings are generally held quarterly, on the 2nd Tuesdays in January, April, July, and October.

Tues. Jan. 14th – 6:30 - Susan & Mike Puyau's home, 826 W. Lakeview Dr.

Tues. April 14th – 6:30 - ~~Mike & DeEtte Montalbano's home, 677 Oak Hills Pkwy.~~
Board conference call meeting (Covid-19)

~~Tues. July 14th – 6:30 - Steve & Kim Baker's home, 1046 W. Lakeview Dr.~~
Board conference call meeting Aug. 4- 6:30

Tues. Oct. 13th – 6:30 Jerry & Devera Goss' home, 735 Oak Hills Pkwy.

Annual General Membership Meeting
Mon. Oct. 26th - 6:30 TBA



On the Lake

At the Oct. General Meeting, Mark reported that the water quality was good and the fish were healthy. The several weeks in the summer with the scum and algae buildup is normal in a drought like we had this summer, which combined with the high heat, contributed to algae buildup in many lakes in the Baton Rouge area.

The 3rd Oak Hills Lake drawdown was started the first week of November. The drawdown was completed on February 20, 2020.

Money allocated in 2017 that was not spent then, was allotted to be used during this drawdown in areas near lots 52, 53-54, 57, and near the finger close to lot 21. Jak Kunstler agreed to have his men available to do this work. Jak used this same method during the last drawdown to pull out a lot of the silt build-up from his lot and it appeared to work well.

UPDATE: Because of the almost constant rain that seemed to happen throughout the draw-down period (just as the lake was finally drying enough to work on), no major work could be done during this time. There were some members who did limited work around their lots. As Mike M. & Mark have previously stated, the primary purpose of the drawdown was to expose the bottom sediment to oxygen to allow for more efficient decomposition. For this purpose, the drawdown was very successful. There was a lot of exposed coast line around the lake during the drawdown timeline!

Catch & Release!

Beginning March 1 through May 15, 2020, all fishing on the lake is "Catch and Release" until further notice.

This primarily means that Bass should always be released during this period so they can spawn and help grow the lake population of bass! It does not include bream, catfish or any other pan fish.

Meeting News

Annual General Meeting News

The question of the stability of the weir has been brought up several times in the past few years. It was decided at the General Meeting to hire a Professional Structural Engineer to conduct an evaluation of the weir.

Board Meeting News - January

A Structural Engineer was hired and submitted his completed report on 12/23/19. It was handed out & discussed at the Jan. board meeting. ** See the completed Dec. 23, 2019 report posted on the website. A special committee was appointed and will be collecting as much information as possible before making recommendations. "The solution might be simple and inexpensive, or it might be complex and expensive." We hope with the ideas & help from lake residents, we can solve this matter. The installation of the diffuser along the finger should begin soon. The proposed 2020 Lake budget was approved. The Bylaws will be revisited in 2020. They were removed from the General Meeting agenda.

Condolences

Our sincere condolences to these longtime Oak Hills Lake residents:

The family of George Hill, who passed away on Sat. Jan. 25, 2020 at the age of 96.

The family of Sara Downing, who passed away on Sat. Feb. 22, 2020 at the age of 98.

The family of Sidney Longwell, who passed away on Fri. March 27, 2020 at the age of 81.

2020 Weir Cleaning Schedule

2020 Assignments

Jan – No need – level low
Feb - Russell Babin
Mar - Brian Hanchey
Apr - Mike Puyau
May– Ralph Lorio
Jun - Paul St. Dizier
Jul - Carey Messina
Aug – Adrienne Bourgeois
Sep - Roy Johnson
Oct - Russell Babin
Nov - Brian Hanchey
Dec - Mike Puyau

Contact Russell Babin:
rababin@cox.net if you need to change your month or have any problems.

Lake Notes

Lake membership is limited to the 55 owners of the lake lots around our 12-acre lake, which is located in Oak Hills Place. 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.

REMEMBER.... Boating and fishing on the lake is for members only – boats must have their lot number and an OHLDA decals. These decals should be placed on both sides of the bow of the boat. If you need decals, please email Ron McConnell at rmconn3@comcast.net

NO SWIMMING IN THE LAKE AT ANYTIME!

NOTE: Lake Property owners are responsible for paying Lake dues! Renters cannot use the lake if the owner hasn't paid 2020 dues. Owners are responsible for the renters' behavior on the lake.

2020 Lake Dues

Dues will again be \$200.00 per household per year. Dues notices will be mailed out near the end of Feb. and are due in March.

After receiving your notice in Feb. 2020, 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

2020 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, find a backup to check the weir for you.