

Lake Watch

Oak Hills Lake Development Association
www.oakhillslakebr.com

April 2017



Events

Crawfish Boil for 2017 Lake Members
Sunday, May 21, 2017 from 3–6:00pm
Graciously hosted by
Sidney & Sealann Longwell
821 E. Lakeview Dr.
Members - FREE!
Bring kids & grandkids too!
Family guests can attend at \$10 per person, and children under 10 are free.
Bring a side dish or a dessert if you can.
Be sure to RSVP by May 7th

Dianna Underhill – dfunderhill@cox.net
phone - 241-7334
Or
Mary Dunbar – phone 766-6083

Remaining 2017 Board Meetings

Board meetings are held quarterly, usually on the 3rd Tues. of that month.

NOTE: If you would like to add a topic to the agenda, please notify Spring Garcia at her email address: nolaghurl@gmail.com This should be done at least 1 week prior to the meeting! This is your notification of the remaining meetings for 2017!

3rd Quarter

Tues. July 11th at Roy & Pinney Johnson's home, 767 Oak Hills Pkwy. - 6:00

4th Quarter -

Tues. Oct. 10th at Martha & Bill Austin's home, 867 E. Lakeview Dr. – 6:00

General Membership Meeting - Mon. Oct. 23rd at Mary Dunbar's home - 6:30

Officers and Board Members 2017

Officers and Board Members

President: Spring Garcia

Vice President: Sealann Longwell

Secretary: Roy Johnson

Treasurer: Mike Puyau

Beautification: Roy Johnson

Liaison with Lake Consultant: Mike Montalbano

Rules: Paul St. Dizier

Social : Dianna Underhill, Mary Dunbar

Website & Newsletter: Martha Austin

Welcoming: Sealann Longwell

Drawdown Committee: Mike Montalbano

Lake Consultant

Mark McElroy

Notes from the president...

The Passing of a Milestone

The beginning of 2017 brought more than anticipated to our lake community. It marked the second scheduled drawdown of our lake, a mild winter, no white pelicans, early bass spawning and record size, healthy bass now being caught in its beautiful waters. It's also marked the end of an era with one of our last founding residents leaving its shores.

Mr. & Mrs. Harold Place have put their home up for sale and moved out of state. I'll always remember when we moved here over ten years ago seeing them both joyfully riding along in Mr. Places' engineered electric surrey carriage and how they warmly welcomed Steve and I at the first general meeting we attended. Mrs. Place told me all about how her husband designed their home at the first Cinco de Mayo lake social held at our home and the changes to the area and their involvement with the board over the years. They were such gracious residents and will be truly missed.

Seeing the big beautiful bass being caught around the lake I can't help but think of our neighbor Mr. Sid Sanders and how he loved this lake and to fish! He served on the board for many years and within the last ten years volunteered to give a lake health report and counsel us on what type and size of fish to buy to help restock the lake. If you looked out on the lake on any day of the week you would see Mr. Sid out in his boat fishing, sometimes twice a day, until just recently. If you asked him if he caught anything he'd coyly reply "maybe a little something" and chuckle. He'd never give up his favorite fishing holes! He was also kind enough to give Steve and I our first boat ride and historically narrated tour of the lake after we had just moved here.

Love of nature, community and peace... why we're all drawn to this beautiful place and called to be good stewards in order for the next residents to continue our founding resident's legacy.

Spring Garcia, President

On the Lake

The 2016-2017 Lake Draw-down is over! And the fishing is good! But don't forget that it's still catch and release for bass until May 15th!

Bass caught & released in April, 2017



2017 Lake Dues

Dues are \$200.00 per household. If you haven't yet paid, you can pay at the Crawfish Boil!

Or you can make out your check to Oak Hills Lake Development Assn. (OHLDA) and mail to: Mike Puyau, Oak Hills Lake Development Assn., 826 W. Lakeview Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70810

REMEMBER.... Boating and fishing on the lake is for members only – boats must have their lot number and an OHLDA decal. If you need a decal, please email Roy Johnson, rjohnson35@cox.net

NO SWIMMING IN THE LAKE AT ANYTIME!

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

Hilltop Arboretum – www.lsu.edu/hilltop

SPRING GARDEN DAY TRIP ~ Acadiana Ramble to Jefferson Island* Avery Island* Jeanerette* New Iberia. May 3 @ 7:30 am – 8:00 pm

SPRING GARDEN TOUR – WE ARE FAMILY! Gardens Bring People Together. The tour will feature gardens in several neighborhoods including Riverbend, Webb Park and Old Goodwood. May 7 @ 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

DISCOVER NATURE PROGRAM ~ Garden Good Guys: Snakes, Toads, Frogs and Bats @ LSU Hilltop Arboretum May 23 @ 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

SUMMER SPROUTS CAMP @ LSU Hilltop Arboretum Jun 5 @ 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

See Hilltop website for more information on these events.

2017 Weir Cleaning Schedule

2017

Jan – Ralph Lorio
Feb - Paul St. Dizier
Mar - Carey Messina
Apr - Roy Johnson
May - Russell Babin
Jun - Brian Hanchey
Jul - Mike Puyau
Aug – Ralph Lorio
Sep - Paul St. Dizier
Oct - Carey Messina
Nov - Roy Johnson
Dec - Russell Babin

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

On the Lake (continued)

The Lake drawdown was a success – the lake is beautiful at this time & the fish seem to be very healthy! The draw-down was ended a few weeks early due to weather that was warmer than usual – Spring came early and the bass spawning season was also earlier than usual. Shortly after, rains began to fill up the lake. Unfortunately, between the rains and the warmer weather, it was harder to complete any large clean-up programs. Hopefully, individuals were able to dispose of some of the dried leaves, trash, and branches left on their shores during the draw-down!

During spawning season (until May 15th) ALL Bass must be released immediately back into the lake.

Brim, catfish, & sac-a-lait may be kept if caught. No trout lines are allowed in the lake. The Catch and Release program is to allow the bass to spawn, which will ultimately lead to better fishing on the lake!

Our lake consultant, Mark McElroy, and the Board agree that *any bass caught between 3 pounds and 7 pounds should be released year round!* These are the bass that not only spawn, but also have the potential to reach "trophy" bass sizes of more than 7 pounds!!

NOTE: 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.

Only paying members may launch boats or fish in the lake. Boats must have a lot number and a current OHLDA decal displayed. Contact rjohnson35@cox.net if you need boat decals. These decals should be placed on both sides of the bow of the boat.

2017 Weir Duties

1. Be safe. Be careful not to twist your ankle on the grating – especially during the Drawdown!
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.