

Lake Watch



Oak Hills Lake Development Association (225) 769-5744
www.oakhillslakebr.com

April 2012

Spring on the Lake

Events on the Lake

3rd Annual Crawfish Boil on the Lake

Saturday, April 21, 2012 3:00 – 6:00

This year's boil will be held at the "newly remodeled" home of Mike and Susan Puyau, 826 W. Lakeview Dr. This is sponsored by the OHLDA and is free for 2012 members – but there will be a "kitty" there and members are encouraged to donate whatever they choose up to \$10 per person to help recover expenses. More details to come in a separate flyer. Guests are asked to RSVP to Mike or Susan at 769-5452 or michaelpuyau@cox.net so we will know how many pounds of crawfish to order!

Check www.oakhillslakebr.com for more details!

Plant Pass-along

Pinney is ready to "pass along" the plant pass-along this year - so we are looking for a volunteer who would like to host our annual plant pass-along in their yard. To volunteer, please call Devera at 766-2947 or Martha at 766-5860 and let us know a date and time!

2012 Quarterly Board Meetings

Second Board Meeting for 2012 –

Tuesday, April 10, 2012 at 6:30pm

The second Quarterly Board meeting will be held at the home of Sealann and Sidney Longwell, 821 E. Lakeview Dr. **All Members are Welcome to attend!**

If you have any items to add to the agenda or would like to speak at the meeting, please notify Roy Johnson prior to the meeting. You may call him at 769-5744 or email him rjohnson35@cox.net

Tentative Future Meetings:

3rd Quarter Meeting – Tues. July 10, 2012, 6:30 at the Redwine's home, 544 S. Lakeview Dr.

4th Quarter Meeting – Tues. October 9, 2012, 6:30 at the Goss' home, 735 Oak Hills Pkwy.

Annual General Membership Meeting – October 2012 – TBA (after quarterly meeting)

Officers and Board Members 2012

President – Roy Johnson

Vice President – Michael Puyou

Secretary – Shelly Johnston

Treasurer – Sealann Longwell

Board Members:

Newsletter and Website – Martha Austin

Community Liaison – Evelyn Redwine

Beautification – Devera Goss

Social – Mary Dunbar –

Committee: MiMi Durham

By-laws – Dianna Underhill

Lake Website - stay informed without waiting for the next newsletter! www.oakhillslakebr.com

Google groups discussions -

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



On the Lake

We will continue the **Catch and Release Plan on ALL BASS** throughout the 2012 year. You are encouraged to catch and remove all other fish caught – especially the bream and the mud cats!

Information from Mark, our lake consultant

Just a couple of points - we are coming out of winter and water temps are rising fast due to the mild winter and early heating. Organic-eating bacteria inoculation resumed in March in an effort to reduce the leaf litter piling up on the lake bottom. This is critical to increase water quality.

Three hundred 4-6 inch bass were recently released in an effort to boost their numbers and adjust the predator-prey relationship. People should be encouraged to remove bream (and all other species except bass) while fishing. I am concerned about the mud cat population. These fish are prolific and a major predator on your recreational species.

Until we get the bass numbers higher, I am recommending that we continue the catch and release policy. I will be checking on how we're doing with the leaf litter issue and on bass reproduction later in April.

Mark McElroy



Information from Brian and Charisse – Swan Report

As everyone should know, we now have two pairs of Australian black swans patrolling the waters of Oak Hills lake - an adult pair approximately eight years old and a juvenile pair approximately one and a half years old. They enjoy eating bread as well as shelled corn from residents. They are also fairly tame and approachable, which makes them an easy target for large dogs. So please be wary of them and keep them out of your yard if you have a large dog that might have an appetite or fondness for waterfowl.

The lake's two adult swans have again built a large nest in the Hanchey backyard and are presently sitting on a clutch of four eggs. The eggs were laid at the beginning of March, and the average incubation period for a black Australian swan is about 38-40 days. The male and female alternate sitting on the nest for about a half day each, and they have been nesting now for about a month. The male has become quite protective of the area around the nest and attacks anything or anyone that ventures too close (I have several bruises on my legs to prove it).

We are hopeful that the eggs will hatch within the next two weeks and there will be swan cygnets on the lake this spring for everyone to enjoy.

Brian Hanchey



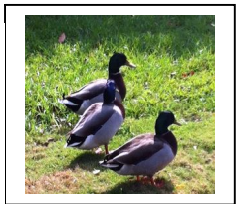
Nesting Swans



Photos by Brian Hanchey

Duck Crossing!

Please help protect our beautiful mallard ducks! Watch for them on our streets and driveways Drive carefully!



Welcome!

We want to welcome our new neighbors to Oak Hills Lake:

- Dominick & Claudia Shoo, 1058 W. Lakeview Dr.**
- Roger & Tina Pastore, 1066 W. Lakeview Dr.**

We look forward to meeting you!

2012 Dues

A large majority of lake residents have already paid their dues. If you have not, please send your \$200.00 check made out to "Oak Hills Lake Development Association" to Sealann Longwell at 821 E. Lakeview Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70810.

Hilltop Spring Events

Hilltop 2012 Spring Garden Tours

Tour I: Sunday April 15th
 Tour II: Sunday, May 6th
 Bonus Tour: Sunday June 24th
 Garden Tour tickets for both spring tours and the bonus garden are \$35. Tickets for individual tour dates are \$20

Hodge Podge Spring Plant Fling

Sat. April 28th, 9:00 – 2:00

For more information go to:
<http://hilltop.lsu.edu>

Beware of Snakes!

If you have been either on or near the lake in recent weeks, you may have noticed increased numbers of snakes this spring. According to Lake Historian and avid fisherman Sid Sanders, he has never seen either the number or size of snakes that he has seen so far this year.

Brian Hanchey recently killed a four and half foot cottonmouth on his property (pictured below) and says that there are several other large ones that he has seen near the lake.

While most snakes are harmless, or even beneficial to us, we do have poisonous ones here in South Louisiana (and on our lake) that need to be avoided. So if you have small children or pets near the water, please keep an eye out for snakes.

Brian Hanchey



4½ foot Cottonmouth killed in Hanchey's yard
 Photos by Brian Hanchey

Update on Mary....

Mary Dunbar had a rocky start for the 2012 New Year. She tripped at a local shopping center and broke her knee cap in early January. It was a terrible break that resulted in surgery the next day and a stay in the hospital.

Now, after 3 months of recuperation and a grueling schedule of physical therapy, she is walking without assistance and making daily progress – though not fast enough for her!

Mary would like to thank Dianna Underhill for organizing neighbors to bring food to her and her family during her recuperation and all the wonderful neighbors who have not only provided food and company, but have also helped her by driving her to various stores, sharing needed medical equipment for her recuperation, and generally being helpful when she needed them.

Mary - we wish you the best as you continue your therapy and progress toward your goal!

Security

"There was a story in today's (Tues. 03/20) Advocate (p.3B) where two individuals were arrested for some 36 auto burglaries in our area. As usual, drugs were the underlying cause. If you were a victim of an auto burglary and provided a serial number for items stolen you will probably be contacted by the Sheriff's Office in the next week or so." (Or check with their office)

Email from M. Fourrier, Safety Liaison for GOHCA

The full article can be viewed on the OHLDA website,
www.oakhillslakebr.com

Leaf debris in gutters –

Please promptly remove leaves from your gutters before they enter the storm drains. Anything that enters the storm drains around the lake and other parts of the neighborhood goes directly into the lake. Leaves are piling up on our lake bottom and affecting the water quality. Help protect our Lake!

Neighbor Recommendations (insured & safe)

Yard Service – Allen Baker-803-3180	Electrician – Frank Digeralamo- 356-3126
House painting/pressure washing – Charlie Turner - 936-7406	Tree trimmers/stump removal – Ace Tree Service Beau Williams - 667-6764
Plumber – Ken Flory – 763-9632	Real Estate – Coldwell Bankers One Margaret Goodwin-413-9493 Charisse Hanchey-315-0612
Dentist – Dr. Mike Montalbano – 925-2118	

If you have any other trustworthy and insured that you would like to recommend, submit their names, service, and phone number to mhaustin2001@yahoo.com