

Lake Oscawana

Management Advisory Committee

Newsletter
2016 – Issue 1

LOMAC Committee Members:

Kathleen McLaughlin (Chair), Ellen Friedman, Mark Murphy, John Lafata, Jeffrey Coren

Town Board Liaison: Sam Oliverio, Town Supervisor

Please visit the newly updated LOMAC Website for more information regarding the lake:
<http://www.putnamvalley.com/LOMAC>

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LAKE MONITORING 2015: Clarity is improved in the lake waters and the oxygen deficient bottom portion was better contained this year; however, milfoil plants (invasive) have overtaken the pondweed (native) and has spread to the depth of 19 feet when previously it had been no deeper than 15-17 feet. Bottom nutrient loading, specifically phosphorous, was again heavy (although not as bad as the previous two years). This is of concern because phosphate is fertilizer for lake weeds. The phosphorous in the top layer during the spring runoff is also increased, suggesting heavy watershed loading.

HARVESTER 2016: The harvester has been undergoing repairs this spring. It will soon be ready to place the buoys that mark the No Wake Zones. Cutting will begin before mid June. The harvester schedule is: **Monday**- Wildwood Knolls/Noswal Park/Marina; **Tuesday**- Abele Park; **Wednesday**-South end and West shore; **Thursday**-North End; **Friday** unfinished areas. A GPS system has been installed on the harvester to help track the harvester usage. There are two operators and one truck driver. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CALL JUDY TRAVIS, DISTRICT CLERK, AT 526-2160.



Sterile Grass Carp introduced on May 19th in Wildwood Knolls at the Boat Ramp (Photo Credit: John Lafata)

Lake Management Tip:

DON'T EMPTY AQUARIUMS INTO THE LAKE

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WATERSHED MANAGEMENT: Our lake limnologist, Northeast Aquatic Research, LLC (NEAR), will begin to track the catch basins that collect and filter storm water. NEAR will derive some measurements from the discarded filters to see if they are indeed catching the phosphate and if the future investment in the phosphate filter is necessary as part of catch basin maintenance program.

NEAR will increase their sites of sampling in 2017 to include some shoreline areas to see if individual sites of phosphate loading are occurring.

DISTRICT BUDGET TIMELINE: The preliminary budget is reviewed with Town Board in August and final budget is presented in September. These are public meetings at Town Hall and are open to district residents.

FUTURE LAKE MANAGEMENT PLANS: LOMAC is investigating the feasibility of a sticker program for visiting boats in order to reduce the possibility of invasive species of plants, zebra mussels and other organisms.

LOMAC is also working to identify where the increased phosphorous is coming from and initiate plans to mitigate it.

The overall goal is to maintain a healthy balance between our fish population and our weed density.

LAKE WEED CUTTING GUIDELINES: Please see the website (www.putnamvalley.com/LOMAC) for rules about the harvesters operation and also rules about the homeowners rights.

FISH UPDATE: 600 sterile grass carp now live in our lake. They are hard to find because they live at the bottom and avoid other fish and people. If you catch them, please release.

LOMAC is commissioning a fish analysis this year in order to assess the impact of the carp on the health of our fish population.

Lake Management Tip:

Clean your boat to prevent invasive species
Clean boat = clean lake

TOWN LAWS for LAKE OSCAWANA WATERSHED:

Septic pump out Law: Every three years, certificate maintained in building department. Seven RESIDENTS HAVE INCURRED FINES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE.

Wetlands Law: A Putnam Valley permit, and possibly NYS DEC permit is required for any construction within 100 feet of shoreline, stream or marsh including shoreline modifications (e.g. beaches) and docks.

Fertilizer Law: No Phosphate containing fertilizers allowed.

Tree cutting Law: Permit required to remove tree with diameter larger than 12 inches (measured 4.5 ft off the ground) unless diseased.

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