



The SHORELINE

Volume IX Issue I

October 1, 2010

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Is Buckeye Lake Safe ?

With the number of stories this summer involving dangerous water conditions in many of Ohio's lakes, it is only natural to ask the question, "Is Buckeye Lake Safe?"

Grand Lake St Mary seems to be having the most difficulty with blue-green algae, but other lakes have also experienced outbreaks of the green slime. In addition to being ugly, the toxins can also be dangerous to people and their pets. Caused by excessive nutrients entering the lake from fertilizers, human sewage and livestock, the algae is difficult to control once established.

Fortunately for our community, your Civic Association has taken steps to address the problems associated with an unhealthy watershed environment. The formation of Buckeye Lake for Tomorrow [BLT] was created specifically to deal with the management of the watershed through the use of volunteer monitoring and partnerships with ODNR, OEPA and the Soil and Water Conservation Districts representing all 3 Coun-

ties that surround Buckeye Lake.

Testing that has been done over the course of the past couple of years suggest that the conditions found in the lake would support the growth of the blue green algae. Tests for the dangerous microcystin toxins have been found to be in the "safe" zone, but their presence is indicated. To illustrate the level of these toxins found in Buckeye Lake, most studies indicate a level of 1 part per billion [ppb] as being safe for drinking. A level of 20 ppb is the threshold for safe contact conditions. For comparative purposes, the levels found at Grand Lake St Mary this summer were 2,000 ppb !

Of the 20 readings taken at Buckeye Lake during 2009, the highest reading was at a level of 20 ppb and of the remaining 19, all but 3 were within drinking water tolerances. The 2010 readings were even better with all but one reading in the drinking water quality and only 1 reading of 2.4 ppb.

While this is good news, there is reason to remain vigilant regarding the safety of our water.

E-Coli readings that are taken at our 3 beaches continue to register high as a result of the large population of geese at these sites. You are encouraged to be cautious when swimming in these areas.

BLT continues to work with the agricultural community to better understand their needs and the role they play in the overall improvement of the watershed.

The installation of the final 295 homes on the south shore to the Thornville waste water treatment plant will play a major role in improved water conditions in the lake. Improvements in the way in which waste water is treated at the Thornville plant will also have a positive influence on the health of our lake.

We can also each do our part. Use No phosphorous fertilizers on our lawns. Pick up after our pets have made their deposits. Finally, support the efforts being made on your behalf by the volunteers through BLT and BLACA.

Election of Officers and Trustees

The annual election of Officers and Trustees was held at the September 15th dinner meeting.

Fortunately for the Civic Association, most of those who have served in the past, have agreed to continue in their current roles.

Continuing to serve as Vice President, Tony Spring will assist Ron in the overall leadership for the organization.

Kyle Thorp will continue as Secretary and will maintain the minutes and other records for BLACA.

Richard Harris will represent Area 1, including Thornville, Thorn Township and Edgewater Beach.

Representing Area 2 will be Mike Blake for the areas of Fairfield Beach and Walnut Township.

Kreig Babbert will continue to represent Millersport, Liebs Is-

land and the West Bank, known as Area 3.

Rickie Grunden, our newest Trustee will represent Area 4, including Buckeye Lake and the North Bank. Rickie also serves as the current President of the Cranberry Bay Homeowners Association and is quite active in local issues. We welcome her to the Civic Association and wish her well with her new responsibilities.

Don Carley will continue as Trustee at Large as well as Chair for the annual 4th of July Boat Parade.

Jessica Bradley, who has been serving as Trustee at Large will continue to serve the Civic Association as the Webmaster.

Congratulations to our 2010-2011 Officers and Trustees. Best of Success as you provide the leadership for our organization and community.

Thank You

Many people make special contributions to the success of our Civic Association and occasionally we are remiss and fail to say Thank You.

Margo Roop, one of our Trustees, wanted to take a moment and say a special Thank You to two individuals who really made a difference in some of our fund-raising this year.

Sonny Brockway graciously donated a picture of Heisman Trophy winner Troy Smith, which was taken on the Buckeye Cruise for Cancer. That picture was subsequently personally autographed by Troy.

Sandy Ridella, owner of Frame Up in Newark donated a one of a kind beautiful picture frame for our Reverse Raffle earlier this year.

Both of these individuals were so selfless and went the extra mile to assure someone else's success and happiness.

Thank You Sonny and Sandy !

Leaders on the Lake

September 9th, elected officials representing National, State and Local governments were hosted by BLACA at a luncheon held at the Yacht Club.

President, Ron Craig opened the meeting with introductions of all the guests and a brief re-cap of many of the accomplishments of your Civic Association over the course of the last year. Ron also challenged our elected officials to improve communications and participation of their constituents.

Kreig Babbert made a presentation focusing on the dam and Sellers Point improvement projects. His historical perspective on the progress of these two projects was eye-opening and emphasized the need for improved communications and participation between residents and our government. From the survey done by Dennison University students this past spring, 48% of those surveyed felt that they were not well informed on the plans for the dam or the two-

stage widening project for the South Fork of the Licking River where it meets the Sellers Point discharge creek.

It was interesting to note that although a construction starting date of October for the Sellers Point project, has been promised for the past 6 years, that date remains solid, only the year remains in question. It would seem that a project involving the Portage Lakes is higher on the priority list at this time.

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Tour of Homes

On one of the nicest Sunday afternoons of the summer, 800 people visited the 5 homes on this year's 25th anniversary edition of the Tour of Homes. In addition to the wonderful weather, 180 of the nicest volunteers, made possible the success of this year's event.

This year's Tour began at 9:30 am in an effort to give all of the volunteers the opportunity to tour the homes before assuming their duties for the afternoon. The excitement began to build as they went from home to home and got a preview of what was in store for the general public.

With everyone in place and all 30 boats ready to go, the Tour got underway a few minutes early with the 1st boat pulling away at 11:15.

The 1st stop was at the home of Dan and Rose Kerr. The lava rock fireplace got great reviews as well as the open casual feeling of the home.

The next stop on the Tour was at the home of Paul and Linda Beery where another beautiful stone fireplace caught everyone's attention. All took advantage of the two staircases leading to the upper balcony for the outstanding view of the lake.

Andy and Julie Alfred's home was the 3rd stop on the Tour and proved that wonderful homes can be built on very narrow 40' lots. Every room but one has a view of the lake and the large screened in porches overlook the pool, decks

and of course, the lake.

The stunning two story home of Bruce Ames was the 4th home on the Tour, featuring a country style bedroom as well as one done in an Amish decor. The beautifully manicured lawn and colorful flowers completed the package.

As the Tour continued along the south shore of Buckeye Lake, the excitement continued to build as we approached the final home on this year's Tour.

The home of Jack and Patty Husch welcomed our visitors as they crossed the large deck in front of the house. The walls featured a polished Venetian plaster marble from Italy that had everyone talking.

The next door neighbors got a surprise when some of our guests attempted to join them at their Tiki bar where they were enjoying the Tour from a safe distance.

Making the Tour a financial success were our Corporate Sponsors, each of whom donated \$ 1,000 to the Civic Association. Coconis Furniture and Floor Covering; Joyce and Kyle Thorp, Realtors with Re/Max Realty Centre; Compass Point and North Point Island; and the Buckeye Lake Region Chamber of Commerce.

A special Thank You to Judy Coopperider of the Jabber Shop who placed a beautiful flower arrangement in each of the homes and Eddie Fisher, who for the past several years has helped with the

fuel costs of the boat captains. Tory Wolfe made the day special when she loaned her patriotic chairs to the event and Snug Harbor donated the use of their Villa for a get-together after the Tour for the volunteers. Charlie Prince and the Beacon staff helped in the creation and design of the Beacon Insert for the Tour. Catfish Charlie's provided meeting space for the 7 months of planning.

The Tour of Homes would not be possible without the hard work of those who served on the committee of Janet Bartholow, Chair for this year's event. Trudy Craig was there every step of the way assisting in all areas. Barb and Lou Maresca, Bud Springer, Julie Clemons, Maria Spring, Jeanne Frear, Rick Rife and Dave Adams were the team captains who made it all happen smoothly.

The Tour of Homes gave us a great opportunity to showcase our wonderful community and this year there were moments to remember as neighbors and friends jumped in to help where necessary. One instance, a neighbor seeing a boater in trouble with a docking line wrapped around the prop, didn't hesitate to jump in the lake and assist the Captain with getting the line free and the boat on its way. Just one example of the wonderful people who live around our lake.

Next year begins another quarter century of Tours on the lake. May they all be as successful as the 2010 edition.

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The Shoreline is published and distributed quarterly to members of the **Buckeye Lake Area Civic Association** and elected public officials with an interest in the general welfare of the resident districts around Buckeye Lake in Fairfield, Licking and Perry Counties.

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New information on the dam indicates a requirement from the US Army Corps of Engineers, that final approval to proceed will not be given until such time as all engineering design and development is completed for the entire 4.5 mile structure.

Art Lowe, President of Buckeye Lake for Tomorrow was the final speaker on this year's program.

Art began by sharing the results of a recent visit to Grand Lake St Marys. Accompanied by 2 Directors from BLT, the better part of a day was spent reviewing the challenges that their community is facing with the dangerous water quality conditions their lake is currently facing.

Pictures of the water conditions were shared with the group. One showed a pontoon boat moving through the water that looked like it was traveling through a septic tank. Another showed a young man on a jet-ski, covered in a brown/green muck up to his knees.

It was also noted that many of the residents around Grand Lake had no knowledge of the potential water danger until 2009, a problem that had been developing for decades.

As would be expected with such a disaster, real estate values have plummeted and small businesses are closing as a result of lost tourism dollars. An eerie quiet permeates the area as if it were a ghost town.

On the local scene, Art shared with the group the testing that is being done on Buckeye Lake by volunteers from BLT. On Sunday, August 29th, 16 samples were taken from the main lake, including Thornport Harbor and Maple Bay as well as all of the primary tributaries that feed water into the lake. These samples are being analyzed by Heidelberg University, one of the few certified labs for this type of testing in the State of Ohio.

Art's comments wrapped up with a quick summary of the work that is being done to develop an Inland Lake Caucus, the purpose of which is to permit the State of Ohio to take proactive measures to prevent a disaster, like is occurring at Grand Lake and other lakes around the State.



New Membership Application

NAME _____ **SPOUSE** _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE # _____ **E-MAIL** _____

FAMILY MEMBERSHIP (\$10.⁰⁰) _____ **BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP (\$25.⁰⁰)** _____