

Lake Irma Association Officers

President
Susan Simasek

VP Water Quality
Chuck Kristofek

VPs Safety
TBD

Secretary
Joan Cross

Treasurer
Brett Bryant

Directors
Tena Harris
Hank and Karilyn Tapp
Traci Maclaine

www.lakeirma.com
www.lakeirma.org

*Find us on
Facebook at
Lake Irma Yacht
Club*

Notice of



There will be a general meeting of the Lake Irma Association on:

- **Tuesday, February 26, 2019**
- **7:00 pm**
- **Chapel Hill Baptist Church,**
- **8826 Trevarthon Road, Orlando**

The purpose of the meeting is to elect new officers for the Board of the Lake Irma Association. We will take nominations for the positions from the floor. To be nominated, you must be a member of the Association. Members are waterfront property owners. You can nominate yourself or be nominated by someone upon their approval.

Permits Needed for Shoreline Enhancements.

It is up to all lake front home owners and renters to care for the quality of Lake Irma. The shoreline is essential for protecting the lake environment as well as the wildlife depending on it for shelter and food.

It is critically necessary to obtain a permit before doing the following enhancements to your shoreline.

- **Sandy shorelines are prohibited.**
- **Permits are required for**
 - Sea walls
 - Boat ramps
 - Docks
 - Any landscaping
 - All Shore line cleaning especially those requiring removal of aquatic plants

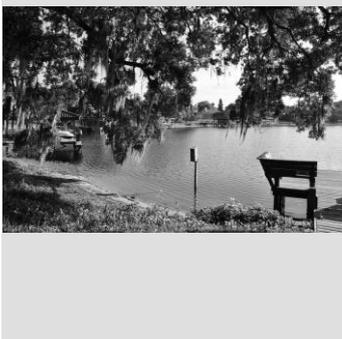
Boat ramps and docks require plans to be submitted to the Board of County Commissioners. A permit must be approved before any enhancements can begin.

Eelgrass - Good or Bad?

Residents shared their concerns at the general meeting about the eel grass. Gary Jacobs from the EPD stated that eel grass is a "good" native grass that helps prevent erosion. There are no effective herbicides to control eel grass and grass carp don't usually eat it.

You are only permitted to remove eel grass up to 20% of your total shore line or a 30 ft channel access corridor as a path into the lake.

To remove eel grass outside of this 30 ft corridor, you would need to get a permit from the county.



REMINDER: Your **Boat Registration** must always be on your boat. Keep the original at home and make a copy for your boat, which can be laminated or put in a plastic sleeve.

Highlights from the Residents Meeting

A meeting was held Jan 15, 2019 to get updates from speakers representing the Water Sports Industry, the Orange County Marine Unit of the Sheriff's Office, and the Orange County Environmental Protection Division.

Current trends show that the water quality remains very good and clarity is trending upward. Any urban lake has water quality degradation over time, and we must do all we can to keep chemicals, debris, and yard waste out of the lake. We discussed street sweeping to remove leaves and waste, however the yearly bill would cost more than we are collecting in the MSTU.

Drainage traps were also discussed, but the pipe diameters are small, and the traps frequently block the water flow, thereby causing flooding. We have applied for a new permit to stock the lake with carp, which cost \$10-12 each, and are calculated according to the amount of hydrilla per acre. It was asked whether the county would dredge the canal – the county has no money and it was suggested to contact the department of public works.

We're on the Web!

www.lakeirma.com;

www.lakeirma.org

Lake Irma Yacht Club

Facebook page



History of The Lake Irma Association (LIA)

For those of you relatively new to the lake and canal, the Lake Irma Association (LIA) started in the late 50's-early 60's to halt the dredging in the lake that threatened to fill in 70 acres of wetlands, which was detrimental to the health of Lake Irma. Back then there were only about 20 residents on the lake who finally managed to stop the dredging. From that experience, they decided to form the Lake Irma Association with by-laws and a Board of Directors comprised of volunteers who worked to protect the lake.

The objective of the Association then and now is, "to maintain the purity and cleanliness of the lake waters and to maintain top residential zoning standards on the land adjacent to the lake and its connecting waters." The subsequent Boards have done this. They have fought several different species of exotic aquatic plants, widening of roads, ill placed sidewalks, development of wetlands connected to the lake, potential non-conforming zoning changes, runoff into the lake, public boat ramps, etc. The Board has also shared educational information on what individuals can do to keep the lake water clean. An MSTU (Municipal Service Taxing Unit) was established that assures every member will share in the expense of keeping Lake Irma's water clean.

Do I Need A Boating License to Drive A Boat in Florida?

Florida boating law requires all boat operators born after Jan 1, 1988 to get certified by completing a boater safety course.

www.boat-ed.com

Personal Water Crafts (PWC's) include jet skis and paddle boards. **Jet ski** operators must be at least 14 years of age and they must have a Boater ID card. www.boat-ed.com

Towing - Jet skis or boats towing a person must have another person on board to view the skier/tuber/boarder or a wide-angle mirror.

Paddle boarders must have a life jacket, a whistle, and a light on board. A paddle board is considered a vessel if it is outside of an enclosure or past the surf line.

PWC's can only be operated ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset

The **Orange County Sheriff Marine Department** is the new name of the department comprised of 7 officers that work 7 days a week from sunrise to sunset. Their job is to enforce state laws. To report an issue and request an officer, there must be an established pattern of the violation or abuse. Their non-emergency number is 407-836-HELP (4357). You can be reported if you are **endangering another person**, such as boating too fast past paddle boarders, boaters, or canoes; jet skiing behind a skier or wakeboarder; or **endangering property** by causing a wake that causes shoreline erosion and makes boats bang against their docks.

The **Water Sports Industry Association (WSIA)** (www.wsia.net) focuses on promoting water sports, responsible wake boarding, wake responsibility, and community education. WSIA has links to education and a “Problems on your Waterway” link to contact the correct person to help with any issues. There are studies that show damage to the shoreline when boaters are 100 ft from shore. WSIA is working to promote a 150-200 ft no-wake zone guideline for boating, wakeboarding, and wake surfing. They have a Wake Responsibility Compliance Exam for boat manufacturers of ballasted boats. They are also developing tools to assist with community outreach and education.

Tips for a Healthy Lake

- **Never** rip out beneficial plants.
- **Never** dump grass clippings or yard trash into the lake or sewer drains.
- **Never** create (build) a sandy beach.
- **Never** dump pesticides, herbicides, oil or paint into the lake or sewer drains.
- **Always** reduce direct water runoff into lakes.
- **Always** install septic systems as far away from the lake as possible.
- **Always** use biodegradable, phosphate-free detergents.
- **Always** question construction near lakes.



Information can also be found at:
www.lakeirma.com
www.lakeirma.org
 or on the Lake Irma Yacht Club Facebook page.



About Our Organization...

The Lake Irma Home Owners Association is dedicated to improving and maintaining the quality of the lake. Our mission is to address issues that will compromise the integrity and appearance of the lake and lake shore.

KEEP OUR LAKE AND CANAL BEAUTIFUL