

Lake Irma Association Officers

President
Susan Simasek

VP Water Quality
Chuck Kristofek

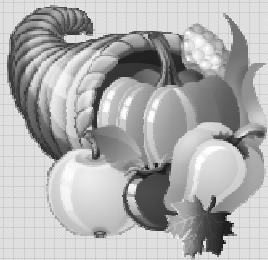
VPs Safety
Barry and Dorothy Pietrewics

Secretary
Joan Cross

Treasurer
Brett Bryant

Directors
Tena Harris
Hank and Karily Tapp
Traci Maclaine

www.lakeirma.com



IF you argue and rankle and contradict, you may achieve a victory sometimes; but it will be an empty victory because you will never get your opponent's good will.

Benjamin Franklin

From the President's Corner...

The hydrilla once again became a full-blown problem in our lake. I had hoped as an MSTU this would not happen. I had expected the County to stay on top of the hydrilla and only have to do spot treatments. Apparently, the hydrilla became resistant to the herbicide they were using for spot treatments. The County has just finished treating the whole lake with two applications of Sonar, a different herbicide. They believe this will keep the hydrilla knocked down for a couple of years.

There are many reasons the hydrilla took over the lake. One of these reasons was a nutrient overload going into the lake. Those nutrients come from our lawns after a rainfall. Berms and beneficial plants along the lakefront help prevent those nutrients from washing into the lake.

Water quality is affected when the

hydrilla rests on the lake bottom. There are other factors that affect the quality of our lake as well - the stuff that is thrown into it. Keep grass clippings from going into the lake and don't throw tree branches into the lake. Native plants are most beneficial to our lake quality and can be planted along the shoreline.

No one likes to get a ticket from the Marine Patrol; however they have the right to patrol our lakes unannounced. It is their job. Safe boating regulations are there for your protection and vitally important to the safety of all who use the lake. We mailed everyone a boating regulation pamphlet at the beginning of the summer. If you cannot find yours, there is a link at our website www.lakeirma.com.

When the lake was low, several people called asking if there was a drainage well or some

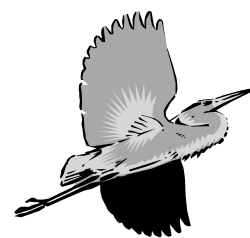
water system in our lake the County controlled to lower lake levels. No, when the underground water table is low, our lake reflects that. Watering your yard from the lake contributes to the lake level substantially. Planting grasses and plants in our yards that are drought resistant is a great help to preserving lake levels

Remember to be protective of our lake.

Please call me with questions or suggestions at 407-671-6902. My email is esimasek@yahoo.com.

Have a Happy Holiday Season!

Susan





Boater/Water Safety

The **Orange County Marine Patrol** has been out to Lake Irma on several instances during the past few months and has cited several boaters for safety violations. This is a request for all Lake Irma boaters to obey the boating laws and have all required safety equipment on-board. Please remember that these periodic checks will continue unannounced on our lake by the Marine Patrol and that the laws will be enforced in the same manner in which any Orange County Lake would be.

The Orange County Marine Patrol is also asking any lakefront homeowner willing to grant them access to their ramp for Marine Patrol vessels to be used for periodic patrol to please contact Mr. Tom Lin at the following telephone number-407-667-6206.

When boating on our Lake please remember the following:

- Stay outside shoreline buoys when skiing or wakeboarding.
- Operate vessel at idle speed when within 100 feet of shorelines, docks and other vessels/
- Move in a counter clockwise direction around the lake when skiing jet skiing or wakeboarding.
- Operators of Personal Watercraft (PWC) must be at least 14 years of age and any operator under the age of 21 must have a Boaters Safety Card.
- PWC operation from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise is prohibited.
- The operator and all

passengers on a PWC must wear a USCG approved personal flotation device (Type I, II or III).

- PWCs are considered Class A Motorboats and must carry the following equipment:
- USCG approved fire extinguisher
- Horn or whistle readily available
- Copy of current registration

Have a Safe Holiday Boating Season and try not to get stuck in the hydrilla!!!

Barry Pietrewicz



NEW MANDATORY WATER RESTRICTIONS KNOW YOUR WATERING DAYS

Addresses ending in 0, 2, 4, 6, 8 water on Thursday and Sunday
 Addresses ending in 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 water on Wednesday and Saturday
 Common areas or no address water on Thursday and Sunday
 No watering between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

NO WATERING ON MONDAY, TUESDAY AND FRIDAY



Hydrilla ... Out of Control?

HYDRILLA is a big problem this season and homeowners are voicing their frustrations. The many calls to the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) have mostly gone unanswered leaving homeowners very unhappy. The Lake Irma Association board of directors is working hard in contacting the EPD to resolve this issue.

As most of you know, a Municipal Service Taxing Unit (MSTU) was formed in Dec 2006 to manage invasive aquatic

plants and improve water quality. During the first year that the MSTU had been funded (2008), the EPD had been spot treating the hydrilla with Aquathol. The EPD had hoped that knocking the hydrilla back with Aquathol in concert with the grass eating carp would contain the hydrilla.

Unfortunately, as we've all observed, the EPD's plan did not work. The failure was attributed to: A higher than expected mortality rate for the carp; Aquathol resistant hydrilla; Nutrient

abundance accelerating hydrilla growth; and less than required visits/treatments by the EPD.

The EPD has returned to the more effective and expensive systemic herbicide, Sonar/Flouridone.

The nutrient load in the lake, which contributes to the hydrilla problem, has multiple sources. The primary source is point-source storm water runoff (drainage pipes). The next major source is non-point

The use of a berm and swale and shorefront aquatic plants inhibits runoff from our lawns... And please do not dump any form of yard waste into the lake or canal.

The construction of traps on our existing drainage pipes is on the list of future project for MSTU funds.

Chuck Kristofek



CHRISTMAS BOAT PARADE was a huge success last year but the hydrilla may cause it to be cancelled. If conditions improve a decision will be announced on the www.lakeirma.com message board. Look there for details!



KEEP OUR LAKE AND CANAL BEAUTIFUL

- NO DUMPING**
- branches
 - grass clippings
 - fertilizers
 - pesticides
 - detergents
 - paint
 - oil

"Gratitude is the inward feeling of kindness received. Thankfulness is the natural impulse to express that feeling. Thanksgiving is the following of that impulse."
Henry Van Dyke

Shoreline Vegetation

Shoreline vegetation is beneficial in providing erosion and pollution control. It also provides a natural habitat for many species of wildlife. Plants aid the water body in removing debris and pollution, creating a clean healthy lake. When deciding on the type of plants you would like to include on your shoreline, please keep the following plants in mind:

- Coastal Arrowhead
- Common Arrowhead
- Slender spike rush,
- Water-Shield, Lemon
- Bacopa
- Wool grass
- Bulrush
- Wild Rice
- Soft Rush

Lake Irma Association

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Phone:
407-671-6902

E-Mail:
esimasek@yahoo.com

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.lakeirma.com

Ten Commandments for a Healthy Lake

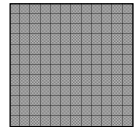
- **Never** rip out beneficial plants
- **Never** dump grass clippings or yard trash into the lake or sewer drains
- **Never** create (build) a sandy beach
- **Never** dump pesticides, herbicides, oil or paint into the lake or sewer drains.
- **Always** reduce direct water runoff into lakes
- **Always**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

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.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



OR CURRENT RESIDENT

LOOK INSIDE NOW...
IMPORTANT LAKE IRMA INFORMATION
