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The KLC News



kinderhooklakecorp.org

Fall 2015

Lake Vanishes Overnight

Fran Sindlinger

Can you imagine waking up one morning to find the beautiful lake you enjoy just disappeared?

According to the book "Kinderhook Lake: Its Glorious Past" by Lloyd "Rab" Welch, that event happened here in the summer of 1949 after a devastating flood, when the Valatie Mills Corporation still owned the dam. According to Mr. Welch, our cobblestone dam burst because it had remained untouched and in disrepair until it just let go, and as the owners of the dam, it was up to the Valatie Mills Corporation to repair it.

This dam failure was the crisis that spurred a grass roots movement by lakefront residents to purchase the dam and Kinderhook Lake's land and water rights. The Kinderhook Lake Corporation was formed in 1953 to do just that.

In 1949 I had yet to enter this world and have a hard time envisioning such an event, but intellectually I know that if the KLC does not maintain our dam, there will be no lake. In June, I came upon a story with accompanying video in the Washington Examiner about Aspen Lake in Coweta County, Georgia. A video link provided images of such an event, thereby making it unnecessary to try to imagine what a dam collapse and the subsequent devastation would look like. You can find the video on our Facebook page (scroll to the bottom) or at the following video link: <http://www.examiner.com/article/lake-vanishes-overnight-residents-wake-up-to-lake-gone-after-freak-rainstorm>



The dry bed of Aspen Lake in Georgia

Intrigued, I searched for more articles about the event, and came upon another story in the Inquistr; a story that I can most definitely file under the category of things that make me go "hmmm". Just look at this quote, "The weather service said the vanishing lake rose about six inches during heavy rains. Many say the deluge, along with the age of the 50-year-old dam

caused the structure to break at a weak spot. Now tenants face a predicament.

"In ordinary situations, they can count on the county to provide relief when natural disaster strikes. However, the homes surrounding the lake are built on private property. Consequently, the county has no obligation to intervene. Moreover, there are no monies earmarked for such a calamity.

"Commissioners with the Coweta County Board met with the local citizens on Tuesday. There, they advised them of their inability to remedy the situation. However, they advised them on how to rebuild the collapsed dam that resulted in the lake vanishing overnight."

Here's a link to the Inquistr article: <http://www.inquistr.com/2150433/lake-vanishes-overnight/>

I am grateful to our membership whose cumulative donations have made it possible for us to put roughly \$190,000 into dam repairs over the past four years. It took years of squirreling away money, one fiscal year at a time, to address dam issues.

Like the lake in Coweta County, Georgia, Kinderhook Lake gets no money from the state, county, or towns. Even when the lake disappeared in 1949 because the dam broke, no government entity offered to help. People who now claim "lake rights" in Kinderhook Lake but do not support the work that keeps it a lake (by joining the KLC or making contributions) may find without warning that they have rights to nothing more than a dry bed of vegetation.

5th Annual Chicken BBQ

This summer's chicken BBQ held at the Kinderhook Elks Lodge was a great success. Over 300 dinners were sold. Everyone had an opportunity to enjoy an outstanding chicken dinner and conversation with family and friends, listen to great live music by Peter Boyd, and take part in a huge auction. Between the auction and sale of KLC logo merchandise, over \$3,000 was raised for the betterment of the Lake.

This event would not have been possible without the help of so many volunteers who spent many hours putting the event together along with all the businesses and members who donated gifts for the auction. Please see the list of volunteers and donors on the last page of this newsletter.



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Annual Members Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Members of the KLC took place on August 22nd at the KLIA hall. About 32 KLC members were in attendance, including 10 on the Board (plus many other members by proxy). General business was discussed, including the treasurer's report, and four existing Board members were reelected to new 3-year terms: Ken Bosen, Mike Francoeur, Sharon Grubin, and Rick Theriault.

Several committees reported on recent activities.

- ◆ Bernie Kelleher reported on the recent improvements completed at the dam and the upcoming work to replace the sagging bridge over the dam.
- ◆ Rick Theriault reported on the success of the 5th Annual BBQ, stating that over 300 meals were sold and thanking the many volunteers and contributors to the auction which helped us raise over \$3,000 in funds.

◆ Ken Bosen reported on record merchandise sales this year, with the most favored item being the new One-Tree Island logo wine glasses.

◆ Bill Cleary reported that copper sulfate for algae control has been applied every 2-weeks by Drew Nelson and noted the effort Drew makes to maintain his applicators license and do the applications.

◆ Sharon Grubin reported on DEC's notice of intent to revoke our permit to install a gate in the lake by Rose Street Ext.

◆ Steve Sigler and Mike Francoeur reported on various fishing activities and the potential to stock large mouth bass in the lake this coming fall.

◆ It was noted that a strategic planning committee and a weed committee were formed by the board during the summer and will be meeting over the winter.

The meeting concluded with numerous questions and comments from members. Many members stayed after the meeting to enjoy coffee, donuts, and informal conversation with the Board.

Don't forget ...

KLC Logo Merchandise Make Great Holiday Gifts

Contact Ken Bosen at 518-456-1542. Photos of available merchandise can be found on our website.

- ◆ **KL History Books**
- ◆ **Sweatshirts**
- ◆ **Mugs**
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- ◆ **Flares**
- ◆ **Henleys**
- ◆ **Koozies**
- ◆ **T-shirts**
- ◆ **Key Floats**
- ◆ **Caps**
- ◆ **First Aid Kits**
- ◆ **"One Tree Island" logo wine and beer glasses**

July 4th Events

During the morning and early afternoon, July 4th turned out to be somewhat of a bust – at least weather-wise. But that didn't stop a decent contingency of 26 brave souls from turning out for the Kayak Rally. Congratulations to the winners: David O'Neil (\$100), Jessica Smith (\$50), Corrin Farmer (\$25) and Angelika Nelson (\$25). Thanks to the 40 lakefront property owners who put out orange flags and ran out between raindrops to hand out tickets.

Although the boat parade was officially cancelled, five decorated boats ignored the rain and paraded around the lake on their own, announcing their arrival with great fanfare. By mid-afternoon the rain had stopped and boaters wasted no time getting out on the lake to enjoy a rain-free, sunny afternoon.

Sadly the nighttime Ring of Fire was not as vibrant as years past, perhaps due to the weather. However, there was no shortage of spectacular fireworks displays around the lake lasting well into the night.

Let's keep our fingers crossed for beautiful weather next July 4th.

Joe Collins

Aquatic Plant-Life

Aquatic plant-life in a freshwater lake like Kinderhook is critical to the health of the lake. It provides shelter for fish and absorbs nutrients from the water which otherwise would feed algae and pollute the lake. However, our lake has had an over-abundance of plants since the first dam was built in the 1700's. Prior to construction of the dam, the west, north, and south shores of the lake were swampy flood-plains filled with fertile soil and weeds, completely unsuitable for shoreline residences. In the 1970's when the water-level was 8-ft. higher than it was originally, curly-leaf pondweed completely filled those areas and a cutter-boat had to cut paths through the weeds for residents to get their boats out into the main lake. At the time, the water-level could not be lowered in the winter because the gate on the dam needed repair. Weed barriers had to be constructed along shorelines for swimming. (Continued on Page 3)

Aquatic Plant-Life *(Continued from Page 2)*

In the 1980's, milfoil moved into those areas and water chestnuts completely filled shallow areas at the north end of the lake; residents east of Paradise Island had to have paths cut into their homes. Homeowners on the west and south shores managed to control the spread of the plant but tons of nutlets were collected from shorelines. To provide control, Stan Cruden and his son constructed a cutter-boat and for several years he and his wife went out almost every night in the spring and early summer to cut heads off the plants so they could not produce nutlets and reproduce. By continuing to cut, clip and pull, the plants are now confined to the far north end of the lake but they still produce nutlets, so residents must continue to clip and pull them.

Once the dam gate had been repaired in the 80's and the drawdown was renewed, curly-leaf pondweed growth along shorelines was dramatically reduced but it still grows rapidly in May and June at 6- to 8-foot depths and dies off in July. It presents a problem because, when boats cut it off, strands float to shorelines. Milfoil presents an even greater problem because it is a perennial - when cut off, it reroots along shorelines. It and curly-leaf pondweed seeds are killed by freezing during the drawdown in the winter but seeds of bushy-pondweed, which is the fine-stemmed bushy plant that grows along shorelines in the summer, are not killed. It can be cleared by pulling and cutting, but, once again, presents a problem for swimmers and summer sports.

The KLC Directors have recently established a Weed Committee to monitor plant-growth in the lake and will be deciding what can and should be done to control each type of plant. Of current concern, is a new plant at both sides of the inlet at the north end of the lake. It has a smooth narrow leaf, grows in shallow water and is spreading extremely rapidly. It has tentatively been identified as "Leafy Pondweed" with the botanical name Potamogeton Foliosus.

Next spring, the KLC could use the help of as many volunteers as possible to help pull weeds. Please watch our website and Facebook page for the schedule and details of weed-pulling days.

June's Water Chestnut Harvest

Lisa Benfield

Water Chestnuts are an invasive weed with rosettes of floating triangular leaves, feather-like submerged leaves, a stem that can reach lengths of up to 15 feet, and very fine roots that anchor into the mud. Small white flowers appear in June and July and the plant produces a nut with barbed spines, commonly called a "nutlet". Water chestnuts form dense floating mats, severely limiting light, a critical element of the aquatic ecosystem.

was messy work with volunteers and their vessels needing a thorough scrubbing afterward. The thought was to pull the weed before the 'nutlets' let loose and disburse around the lake to seed new beds, become a nuisance for boaters, swimmers, and skiers, not to mention the agony of stepping on one of the barbed nutlets in or out of the water.

In about 90 minutes an amazing amount of weeds were pulled by just a dozen volunteers, making a noticeable dent in the coverage at the north end. Another effort will be mounted next spring, so please keep an eye out for scheduling. Imagine the dent we could make if two dozen volunteers showed up to help!



Floating Leaf Rosette



Barbed Nutlet



With its origin in Eurasia, water chestnuts were first observed in America at Concord, MA in 1859, and have since spread to many waterways along the east coast. The weed is spread by the rosette and by the nutlets detaching from the stem and floating to another area on currents or by clinging to birds and other floating objects

Here on Kinderhook Lake, volunteers gathered at the north end on June 2nd to help pull water chestnuts. Volunteers in kayaks and canoes pulled the invasive weeds out of the water, then loaded them on to one volunteer's larger boat. It

Thanks to the following volunteers: Eva Nelson, Andrew Nelson, Daniel Nelson, Betty Breid, Bill and Terry Cleary, Dan and Robin Langer, Steven Sigler, Mike Sigler, and Lisa Benfield. And thanks to Fran Sindlinger and John Bruford for bringing a pontoon boat full of delicious refreshments.

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Don't forget ... the drawdown is just around the corner (starting around October 15th). Make sure all your water toys are out of the lake!

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STOP!

**Please STOP
putting leaves,
sticks and
branches into
the lake.**

- ◆ Leaves turn into fertilizer to feed unwanted weed and algae growth
- ◆ Sticks and branches end up at the dam, clogging the debris rack at the sluice gate which inhibits control of the water level

News Contributors:

Lisa Benfield
Joe Collins
Dan Langer
Fran Sindlinger
Rick Theriault

KLC News Editor:

Daniel Langer

The KLC Has a New Database

Fran Sindlinger

Outreach efforts to our members and the general public have been enhanced and can now reach a wider audience this year. We researched different options available to non-profits for low-to-no-cost tech solutions that would expand our base and make it possible to give real-time information to our members and the general public regarding events, volunteer opportunities, invasive species, and items of community interest.

At the end of last year, we applied for and were accepted into two free programs for non-profits. One program gives us a customizable cloud-based donor/contact database, and the other is a program for non-profits to do e-mail marketing.

Our former Access database served us well, but was unable to let us track volunteer information, multiple e-mail addresses, and seasonal addresses. We were unable to incorporate parking permit information, and could not hold the history of member dollar donations from one year to the next. We needed software that would keep up with the work we do and give us as much space to grow as our organization becomes busier and busier.

The design and implementation of the database was labor intensive as it required a lot of thought, research, mapping, and data entry, but the results have been exceptional. This year, we were delayed by trying to simultaneously process members' renewals and other donations into the new software while implementing a parking permit program, so at first we were late on delivery of membership materials. I can say with confidence we will not run in to that problem again next year.

The second program we applied for was to be enrolled in a free e-mail marketing solution, and our request was awarded by Vertical Response. Through this donation, we can keep our members and anyone who wants to receive lake updates informed about volunteer opportunities, copper sulfate notifications, and invasive species info. Anyone who wants to

receive these updates, regardless of membership status, can send an e-mail to kclcmembers@fairpoint.net to become enrolled in our e-mail update service.

If you don't already know, we are also on Facebook! Come 'like us' on our page and you will receive real-time notifications about all of our postings on Facebook and lake news. Feel free to post your photos and share your experiences about the lake, catch up with your neighbors, or learn about what the KLC has been up to.

And to our valued members, in addition to all of this, you will continue to receive your member newsletters. There is a lot of work being done at the KLC, and we want you to know specifically how your member dollars are being invested to preserve the future of Kinderhook Lake.

BBQ Volunteers and Sponsors

Event committee:

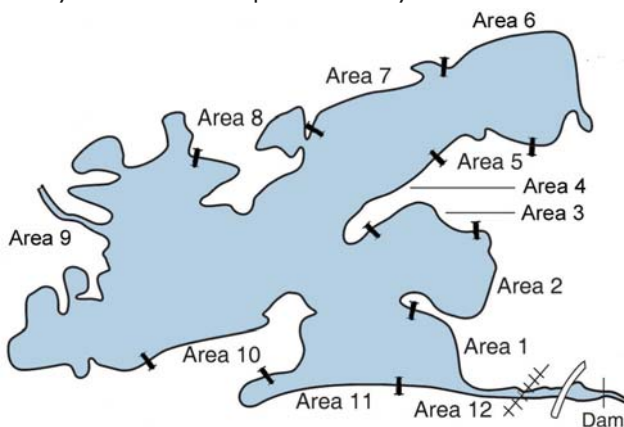
- ◆ *Chairman:* Rick Theriault
- ◆ *Auction:* Lisa Rich, Mike and Jill Weldon, Pete and Catherine Walkes, Bernie Kelleher
- ◆ *Ticket Sales:* Mike and Dawn Francoeur
- ◆ *Merchandise:* Ken and Patty Bosen
- ◆ *Advertising:* Chase Pugliesi, Dan Langer
- ◆ *Fundraising/Membership Drive:* Fran Sindlinger

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- ◆ Winding Brook Golf Club
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- ◆ Skimmer One/John Staber
- ◆ Olde Kinderhook Country Club
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- ◆ RnD Deli
- ◆ Shooters
- ◆ Herrington's
- ◆ Mario's
- ◆ LaBella's
- ◆ Cross Eyed Owl
- ◆ Hannaford
- ◆ OK Kenny's
- ◆ Car Quest

Area Directors

KLC Directors are responsible for certain programs and for representing residents in shoreline areas indicated on the map. If you have concerns, please contact your Area Director.



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Area 2	Steve Sigler	518-758-2526
Area 3	Dan Langer	518-221-8689
Area 4	Bill Cleary	518-784-3914
Area 5	Ken Bosen	518-456-1542
Area 6	Rick Thieriault	518-573-5088
Area 7	Paul Winslow	518-784-3361
Area 8	Drew Nelson	347-721-6930
Area 9	Sharon Grubin	518-392-3427
Area 10	Bernie Kelleher	518-784-4717
Area 11	Russ Camadine	518-784-2087
Area 12	Mike Francoeur	518-784-2651