

The Long Pond Sentinel

On Guard and Working to Save and Preserve Our Pond

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Beautiful Hydrilla-Free Long Pond...For Now

We all have a well-justified reason to be proud of ourselves. By banding together in an Association that worked diligently (and cooperatively) with the town and state, we have saved our Pond from that ugly invasive weed, hydrilla. Last Spring there were only scattered growths of it (4-6 inches high and mostly at the eastern, end). However, after the last bump-up Sonar treatment this summer, there is, at this writing, **NO hydrilla growth anywhere in the Pond!**

Unfortunately, the hard fact is that we have knocked it down, but not yet out. We can expect a return of it next Spring...small plants and probably fewer than this year but still hydrilla in our Pond! And you've seen how it spreads. The nation's leading expert on this weed, Dr. William Haller of the University of Florida, inspected our pond last year, and both congratulated and cautioned us: "You are on the right course. But do not let up until you truly have finished the job...total eradication." That means more work next year. And your Association Steering Committee, the town Conservation Department and our contractor, Aquatic Control Technology, are all prepared and determined to do it.

Clean, Clear Water, But Oh, Those Ducks!

About Clean Water: Fortunately for us, bacteria (E.coli) level readings for our Pond are normally in the "totally satisfactory range" (except after heavy rain run-off, when they sometimes spike briefly). But see **Ducks** below.

About Clear Water: We started the Spring with some great clarity readings (12 feet or so). Mainly that was the happy result of reduced levels of microscopic algae (those tiny white particles you see suspended in the water. As usual, the Fall brought increased levels of it; and we began to see *filamentous* algae (clumps of green plants.) This means a high level of nutrients in the Pond. Some comes naturally every fall when surface water cools and sinks, and nutrient rich bottom water rises. But a lot of it was put into the Pond by, you guessed it...

Ducks: Paddling sedately on the Pond, they are pretty and peaceful, and, in reasonably small numbers, nice to have around. But two years ago, we had an average of about 20. Last year, about 40. This year, we counted more than 60 full-timers! That could give us a serious problem. We definitely do NOT need, to say it politely, their form of "nutrient."

You know what's coming, so, all together now: **PLEASE DO NOT FEED THE DUCKS!** And that's not just pond-selfish people being cold-hearted to wild-life. Feeding wild ducks actually and seriously is not good for THEM. 1) What is usually fed them (bread, breakfast cereal, etc) is not their natural food and actually is harmful to their health.. 2) As long as they get "free lunch," they will not migrate to proper climates and to sources of the food they should eat as Mother Nature intends for them to do.

NOTE: The State Lakes and Ponds coordinator expressed serious concern about over 60 ducks on our small pond. He even suggested we get a fireworks permit to scare them away. But we have found that using various forms of "clappers" (two small pieces of 2X4 vigorously smacked together) seems to encourage them to fly away. We have been doing that, and we now see an average of about 30 or so. (But even they should be flying south.)

Geese: Lakeside residents hate to see them sitting (and you know what) on their beaches and floats. But no one seems to feed them (except inadvertently with their lawns); and the relatively few that were here this year have now headed to where they should go.

The ducks should do the same, but they won't as long as they get that

free lunch here. If you're convinced that you should not provide it, try to educate any "kind-hearted" (but misguided) neighbors who do.

Dues Due

If you recall, at the '03 Annual Meeting, we discussed our financial status, and with no pressing need for additional funds at that time, your Steering Committee proposed, and a motion was made and passed to skip '03 and to renew our memberships in 2004, this year, by paying the annual dues of \$25 now.

You have, of course, already noted the stamped envelope enclosed for your convenience. Your response will demonstrate your continued dedication to preserving our Pond. Make checks out to Association for the Preservation of Long Pond. (At the Annual Meeting, you will, of course, get a report by Treasurer Kalli Garoufes.)

Come to the Annual Meeting.

The Annual Meeting of the Association will be held:

Monday, November 15 at 7 PM
Our Lady of Victory Parish Hall

- Pond updates
- Brief reports.
- Election, Steering Committee members

Refreshments following meeting. **Your Pond Association needs you. Please come. (About 1 hour.)**

Free drawing for a 2005 Champagne Cruise on Beautiful Clear Long Pond!