

LONG LAKE IMPROVEMENT &
SANITATION ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 175
Ingleside, IL 60041



*Improving the Quality and
Beauty of Long Lake*

Your LLISA Board of Directors

RJ Ringa, President
Vacant, Vice President
Ryan Ripley, Treasurer
Ron Gurak, Secretary
Mike Grant, Fish Stocking
Erik Herrmann, Boat Lift Maintenance
Jim Miller

Keep Long Lake Clean

Long Lake Improvement & Sanitation Association 2017 Newsletter

Annual Meeting:

Fri. May 12, 2017; 7 pm

Jerry's Parkway by the Lake

25212 W Lake Shore Dr, Ingleside, IL 60041



Long Lake Improvement & Sanitation Association

LLISA NEWS

April 2017

Letter From the President - RJ Ringa

Long Lake Improvement and Sanitation Association (LLISA) has several projects in motion and is always in need of volunteers. While membership is critical to the success of our organization, please consider ways you might be able to contribute time or expertise to support Long Lake. Here are some highlights of current projects.

Baxter's NPDES Permit

Baxter's waste water treatment plant at their Round Lake facility continues to be a significant ecological concern to Long Lake. Over the last 40 years, the IEPA has granted Baxter a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit to dump their treated wastewater into the Squaw Creek watershed that flows directly into Long Lake.

The IEPA has issued Baxter numerous permit violations over the years. Newer violations charge that Baxter's wastewater exceeded pollutant levels regulated by the IEPA. We took action in the summer of 2016 when LLISA and Long Lake residents wrote letters to the IEPA and worked with local and state government officials to voice our concern. LLISA representatives also met with Baxter in the fall of 2016 to voice our concerns directly. Since that time, Baxter has met with Lakes Region Sanitary District, Fox Lake, Round Lake and Lake County to investigate a public sewer connection, but the process is slow and Baxter has not yet committed to a connection.

LLISA has publicly stated that Baxter must connect to the public sewer. Since Baxter's NPDES permit is up for renewal in 2018, this is a critical time to make our message heard. For more information and to learn how you can help see the Baxter article inside.

Phosphorus/Bluegreen algae - Sierra Club

Long Lake also has internal environmental concerns. High levels of phosphorus lead to blue-green algae, a potentially toxic organism that threatens public health, lake ecosystems, and the recreational value of our waters.

While blue-green algae was less prevalent in 2016 as compared to 2015, the lake still experienced significant blooms in the late summer/fall. In response, LLISA has partnered with the local branch of Sierra Club and participated in several collaborative meetings over the winter. We are very excited to have the support of Sierra Club and the resources they bring. If you are interested in learning more or want to be more active in this area please see the Sierra Club article inside.

Lake Management Plan

While there are a variety of government organizations tasked with oversight and environmental conservation of Long Lake, we do not have a coordinated strategy to address lake specific management issues. It is up to us, as homeowners and residents, to take the lead on coordinating these efforts. Therefore LLISA is initiating a committee to write our own lake management plan.

A lake management plan is a dynamic document that can encompass anything from a plan to control an invasive species to watershed management. Our lake management plan will provide a framework for current and future LLISA boards to identify priorities, establish potential solutions, and document the success of prior efforts.

LLISA is committed to writing a lake management plan specific to our needs and concerns. If you are interested in the long term health of Long Lake, please consider working with us to create this very important document. For more information or to learn how to get involved contact LLISA President RJ Ringa at rjringa@yahoo.com.

Baxter's NPDES Permit

Since 1975, the Illinois EPA has granted Baxter a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit to dump treated wastewater into the watershed that flows directly into Long Lake. The wastewater originates as human sanitary waste, industrial waste, and storm sewer drainage. In 2016, Baxter discharged an average of 278,000 gallons of wastewater every day, equal to the waste discharge of nearly 800 homes. Additionally, Baxter's waste is largely industrial which magnifies the potential impact on the environment.

In 2016, Baxter incurred 2 IEPA violations for exceeding pollutant limits in their waste water. Further, Baxter has had numerous violations over the years (see chart) and the IEPA has not levied any fines and continues to grant them permits to dump wastewater into Long Lake's watershed. Also in 2016, the Illinois Pollution Control Board started an investigation into Baxter's wastewater discharge practices which is currently ongoing.

LLISA stands firm with lake residents, homeowners, and other organizations such as Stop Pollution in Long Lake that Baxter must connect to the public sewer. Since Baxter's NPDES permit is up for renewal in 2018, this is a critical time to make our message heard.

LLISA thanks Peg Toomey for her work in coordinating with local agencies regarding Baxter's potential sewer connection. For questions on this topic or to assist in these efforts, please contact RJ at rjringa@yahoo.com.

Baxter's NPDES Permit Violations

Year	Violations	Fine
2004	4 effluent violations	\$0
2005	4 effluent violations	\$0
2006	6 permit violations	\$0
2008	4 effluent violations	\$0
2014	1 exceedance violation	\$0
2015	1 exceedance violation	\$0
2016	2 exceedance violations	\$0

Graphic Source: New York Times. <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/projects/toxic-waters/polluters/facility/190503/index.html>, US EPA ECHO (Enforcement and Compliance History Online) and Discharge and Monitoring Reporting (DMR) Pollutant Loading Tool <https://echo.epa.gov/detailed-facility-report?fid=IL0024074&sys=ICP>

Long Lake - Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program

RJ Ringa will spend another year collecting data for the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP). For the first time, this includes all three tiers of the national lake monitoring program: tier 1 – water clarity, tier 2 – water chemistry, and tier 3 dissolved oxygen and chlorophyll. We are very fortunate to have this opportunity; this year, tier 3 is available to only 4 lakes in the entire state. Tier 3 is more labor intensive, but also provides higher quality data, especially important given recent blue-green algae blooms that occur on Long Lake.

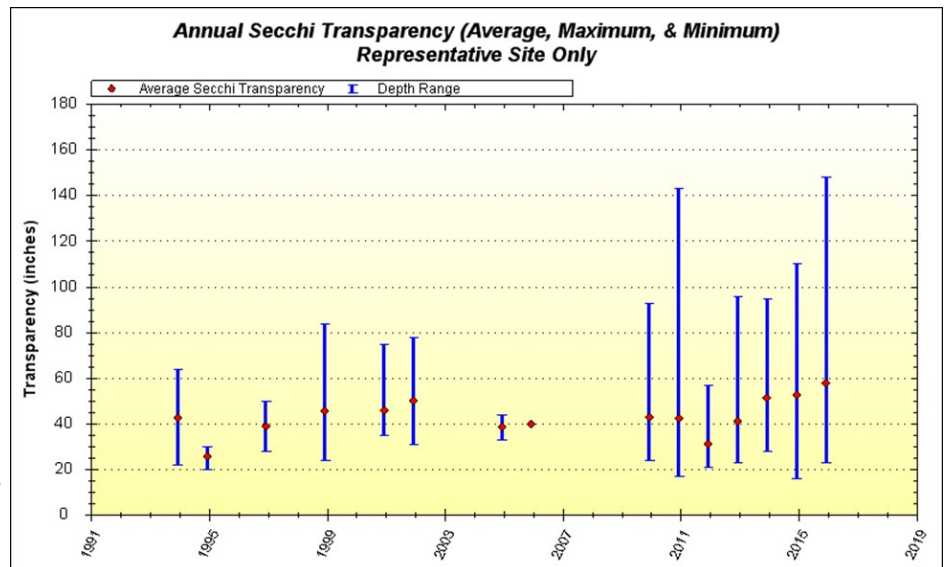
Tier 3 collects:

1. A bottom water sample in addition to a surface sample.
2. Chlorophyll samples at three sites.
3. Dissolved oxygen profiles at 3 sites

Data is collected from May through October and is submitted to the IEPA in Springfield. This data is then used to inform lake management decisions and can help us better understand the environmental health of our waters.

The chart to the right shows VLMP water clarity going back to 1994. Of particular note from 2016 is the record 148 inches of water clarity observed in spring 2016.

That is over 12 feet. Greatest clarity is typically found in the spring. Water clarity tends to decrease in the summer as warmer weather and increased sunshine promotes algae growth and increased boat traffic leads to greater turbidity.



2016 Treasurer's Report

Revenue

Dues	\$6,076
Fish Fund Donations	\$1,565
Dam Fund	\$1,325
Key Deposits	\$100
Memorial Donations	\$300
Total 2016 Revenue	\$9,366

Expenses

Dam/Boat Lift Maintenance	\$20
Lawn Care	\$125
Fish Stocking	\$1,200
Insurance Premium, Reserve & Fees	\$2,553
Utilities	\$250
Administrative & Mailing	\$491
Total 2016 Expense	\$4,639

Operating Cash Flow Summary

Opening Balance	\$32,526
Revenue	\$9,366
Operating Cash	\$41,892
Expenses	\$4,639

Lift Key Policy

If your key is turned off due to non-payment, a \$5 re-key fee will be assessed. Turn-around time for re-key is 5 days, so please plan trips accordingly.

In Memoriam . . .

Judith Kuehn

April 24, 1942 - May 25, 2016

Bill Kercher

March 5, 1937 - July 11, 2016

Meg Sundberg

January 7, 1919 - September 13, 2016

Robert J. Ringa, Jr.

September 23, 1949 - November 10, 2016

Willie Frazee

June 14, 1953 - March 10, 2017

Board of Director Notes

As announced last fall, **Miranda Ripley** is stepping down after serving for 9 years. Miranda has been an incredibly versatile board member who has contributed as treasurer, secretary, fundraising chair, centennial celebration chair, and most recently as membership chair. Her dedication and hard work will be missed and tough to replace. Thank you, Miranda, for all you have done!

Andrew Ringa will also be stepping down from his board position, but will continue his volunteer role as webmaster. Andrew has been critical in communications, not only via the web and email blasts, but also as editor of the annual newsletter. Thank you, Andrew!

Peg Toomey is a long-time LLISA member and has been volunteering since last summer. Peg has a background in information technology and is a strong environmental steward of the lake. She is particularly concerned about Baxter's impact and has been working as a board member through the winter to fight for Baxter's connection to the sewer system. She has also coordinated the lake clean up scheduled for June 17. Peg decided to leave the board in April. Thank you for your work!

Joe Popeck will be joining the board in 2017. Joe has experience in land management and environmental engineering and will be a valuable asset to our organization. He is interested in water quality issues and maintaining a lake we can all enjoy. Joe has already started his volunteer work for 2017 by attending the Illinois Lakes Management Association's annual conference. Joe attended the lake management plan workshop and will be sitting on the committee to write Long Lake's plan.

Finally, LLISA by-laws allow for a maximum of 10 directors at large to serve one year terms. Directors are responsible for electing officers: president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. Currently we have 7 directors for 2017. Anyone interested in serving as a director is encouraged to write a letter of interest and submit to President, RJ Ringa.

Venetian night!

Please join us in celebrating Independence Day! This year's parade will take place on Saturday, July 1, 2017.

Decorate and illuminate those boats and meet us at the entrance to Squaw Creek on Long Lake's west side a bit before sundown.

IMPORTANT - BOAT HOIST POLICY

To prevent injury to people and damage to the hoists, the following rules MUST be followed:

- 3500 lbs max weight, 1850 lbs max concentrated load on either hoist
- 102" max beam
- All people must exit the boat and use extreme caution when operating the hoists

Fishing Hole News



LLISA's fish stocking plan continues to be the same with 250 walleye, 43 northern pike and 20 pure musky being stocked in fall 2016. The stocking is done with recommendations from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources and Richmond Fisheries for a lake of our size and structure. Medium to large size fingerlings are stocked due to their better survival rates and the goal of providing a better fishery.

The most recent Illinois DNR Fish Survey conducted in May of 2016 shows a successful trend in predator / prey relationships, with 73 largemouth bass caught in 60 minutes of electrofishing for a catch rate of 1.2 fish per minute. The goal is 1 bass per minute. Furthermore, the quality of bass collected was good and sufficient predation is present in the lake to balance high reproducing forage species.

Forty-five of the bass collected were at least 12" long and sexually mature and data shows the largemouth bass is not experiencing significant harvest. 220 fish and fifteen different species were caught in the one hour of electrofishing.

The IDNR fish study team was so pleased with the study that they planned on coming back out to Long Lake over the summer months to spend more time with their friends and family fishing! We cannot stress the importance of following the Illinois DNR creel and size limits. Please practice catch and release on Long Lake!

Additional fish fund donations are being made locally from Pickerel Point Association Members. Thank you for keeping our lake stocked. We will continue our local fish fund donation program and are open to suggestions.

Sierra Club Comes to Long Lake

Many thanks go out to Gloria Charland, a longtime resident and LLISA member, who is on the executive committee of the local Woods and Wetlands Chapter of the Illinois Sierra Club.

After experiencing Long Lake's struggles with blue-green algae Mrs. Charland worked to connect LLISA and Sierra Club to further investigate the causes and solutions to our most pressing environmental concern: elevated phosphorus and associated blue-green algae blooms. Sierra Club is one of the largest and most influential environmental groups to focus on local and national issues. Sierra Club's stated goal to explore, enjoy and protect the planet is in line with LLISA's and we are proud to have them as an ally.

Sierra Club's Evan Craig (chairman), Jim Bland (water quality biologist), and Cindy Skukrud (Clean Water Program Director) have spent many hours learning about Long Lake, meeting with LLISA, and advocating on our behalf to local and state government agencies, including the IEPA. LLISA has benefited from Sierra Club's expertise in public policy, lake biology, and grant funding sources. Sierra Club has a large network of environmental professionals who have been more than generous in donating their time and energy to support Long Lake.

We are very thankful for all Sierra Club has done to support Long Lake and look forward to working with the local Woods and Wetlands Chapter. Please consider becoming a Sierra Club member to support all they do. For more information: www.sierraclub.org/illinois/woods-wetlands

Many thanks to all the Sierra Club members and executives who have participated in our winter meetings:

Evan Craig – Executive Committee Chairman
Gloria Charland – Executive Committee
Jim Bland – Water Quality Specialist
Cindy Skukrud – Clean Water Program Director

Susan Pryibl – Sierra Club and LLISA member
Grant Benjamin – Sierra Club and LLISA member
Sharon Becker – Sierra Club and LLISA member



2016 LLISA Members

Thank you for your support!

* Fish Fund Donation

Bernie & Jeannie Adolf
Brad & Cheri Angelbeck***
Arndt & Gaynor***
Bob & Jenna Atwater***
Bill & Elaine Axelsen
Terry & Gaye Baldocchi***
Jay & Jennifer Barber***
Scott Barnett*
John & Christine Bishof***
Randy & Jeri Bus*
Jack & Jill Cahill***
Robert Choroszy & Kris Karow
John & Mickey Ciba*
Bob & Diana Clark***
Phil & Cindy Cressler
Coy Family*
Brian & Alison Fudacz***
Jim and Lisa Fudacz***
Morna & Bob Gaylor*
Shannon Glinski**
Michael & Danielle Grant***
Allen & Corrine Greenfield***
Pete Grimaldi & Gail Raitano
Ron Gurak
Ronald & Joan Hill
Al & Roseanne Hoekstra

Patron Members (\$70 and up)

Chris & Kristine Johnson
James & Christine Jorgensen*
Bill & Patti Kercher***
William & Marilyn Kercher***
Brent Khazei**
Craig & Lisa Kmichik
Joseph Kmiecik
Pete & Mary Koppers***
Jim & Sharon Krefting***
Parkway by the Lake / Jerry Ming***
Roger & Barb Layland***
Patrick Long***
Long Lake Yacht Club***
Shirley & Robert Lugo***
Ronie Madden
Carol Magnine & Barbara Erber**
Richard & Carol Marubio***
Shawn McClellan*
Jill & Bill McDermott
Dan & Maga McElroy
Susan McPeck
Barbara & Jacob Meudt**
Kerry Milem
Jim & Beata Miller
Jim & Molly Montrie
Randy & Janie Murray

** Dam Fund Donation

John & Alexandra Papadopoulos*
John & Paula Pelissero***
Mark & Denise Pflueger
Leigh & Jerry Pitts***
Pleasant Hill Improvement Assn*
Ken & Lydia Reca***
Norm & Suzi Reese***
Andrew & Colleen Ringa***
R.J. Ringa and Megan McCurry***
Robyn & Bob Ringa, Jr.***
Ryan & Miranda Ripley***
Paul & Sue Rosales***
David Schonback
Nancy Schroeder***
Patricia Smarto***
Michael Thimios***
John & Ruth Tuzson***
Steve & Jori Walker
Cathy & Derrick Warner***
Jere Weliver Family***
Sam & Cathy Wiener
Wilson 2nd Subdivision Improvement Assn.***
Joe & Linda Wittenstein***
Emilie Woods***
Sam & Sheila Wright

Sustaining members (\$40 - \$69)

Carl & Jean Bretschneider	Lydon Neumann
Tom & Judy Cooper	Darlene Schmalzer
Ed & Nancy Dague	Bill Schmid
Susan Pribyl & Grant Benjamin**	Jami Spsychal*
Mike Janosi*	Michael & Carolyn Strub*
George & Pat Kincaid	Jennifer Sundberg
Bernice Macas	Gary and Laurie Swegle***
Fred & Margaret Nauert & Rickey Hughes*	Liz & Bill Valko*

Regular Members (under \$40)

Donna Ceisel***
Pat Janensch
Judy Perryman
Dave and Peg Janson

If you see an error in the above membership list, please contact Ryan Ripley at ryan@llisa.org