

FOREST LAKE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

2003 LAKE SUMMARY

FROM THE LAKE COMMITTEE

OUR MISSION FOR 2003 WAS TO INVEST OUR EFFORTS IN IMPROVING THE LAKE WATER QUALITY. WE SET OUT TO ACCOMPLISH THIS TASK BY CONSULTING WITH AGENCIES THAT HAVE EXPERIENCE IN AREAS WHICH HAVE AN IMPACT ON WATER QUALITY. SOME OF THE AGENCIES THAT HAVE BEEN PROVIDING DATA AND RECOMMENDATIONS ARE THE LAKE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT – LAKES MANAGEMENT UNIT, THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, SEVERAL FISHERIES AND AQUATIC PLANT NURSERIES.

WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAM

WATER QUALITY WAS MEASURED FROM MAY TO SEPTEMBER TO DETERMINE THE CONDITION OF THE LAKE WATER. THIS COULD BE COMPARED TO HAVING YOUR CHOLESTEROL CHECKED AND YOUR DOCTOR MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT. BELOW ARE SEVERAL IMPORTANT MEASUREMENTS THAT COMPARE 2000 TO 2003.

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2003</u>
SECCHI	30"	27"
TP	.09	.17
TSS	15.6	16.8
TSI	66.9	77.97

EXPLANATIONS OF THESE MEASUREMENTS CAN BE FOUND ON THE LAKE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT'S WEB SITE AND HITTING LMU LINK OR DETAILED LAKE REPORTS.

AQUATIC PLANT PROGRAM

OUR VOLUNTEER GROUP PLANTED AT SEVERAL LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE LAKE. WE HAD SOME SUCCESS AND LEARNED WHAT WORKED AND WHAT DIDN'T. WE'VE REVIEWED OUR RESULTS AND ARE CONSULTING WITH VARIOUS AGENCIES FOR THE 2004 AQUATIC PLANTINGS. THOSE CONSULTED AGREE THAT 20-30 % OF THE LAKE SURFACE SHOULD HAVE AQUATIC PLANTS. PLANTS HOLD TOGETHER THE LAKE BOTTOM, HELP IMPROVE WATER QUALITY, PROVIDE SHADE AND COVER, REDUCE SHORELINE EROSION AND A FEW OTHER GOOD THINGS (STIR FRY?). IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO GET INVOLVED IN 2004, PLEASE CONTACT THE LAKE CHAIR ON THE WEBSITE.

FISH MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

IN FALL 2003 OUR LAKE WAS STOCKED WITH FIFTY 12"-14" MUSKIE AND THREE HUNDRED 7"-9" WALLEYE. THE INTRODUCTION OF THESE PREDATOR FISH SHOULD HELP TO CURB THE REPRODUCTION OF CARP, WHICH ARE DESTRUCTIVE TO A LAKE ENVIRONMENT. THEIR FEEDING AND SPAWNING HABITS DEGRADE THE WATER QUALITY BY UPROOTING LAKE PLANTS AND RE-SUSPENDING BOTTOM SEDIMENTS. YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO REMOVE AND DESTROY ANY CARP THAT ARE CAUGHT IN OUR LAKE.

FISH SURVEY

IN FALL 2003 THE ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF FISHERIES PERFORMED A SUPPLEMENTAL FISH POPULATION SURVEY ON OUR LAKE. THE SURVEY PROVIDES US WITH A SNAPSHOT OF THE FISH POPULATION AND WILL ASSIST US WITH OUR STOCKING PROGRAM. THE % OF SPECIES DURING THE SURVEY PERIOD WERE: BLUEGILL 42%, LARGEMOUTH BASS 30%, BLACK CRAPPIE 10%, BLUNTNOSE MINNOW 4 %, CARP 3%, WARMOUTH 3%, AND WHITE CRAPPIE 2%. ALL STATE FISH REGULATIONS APPLY TO OUR LAKE. BASED ON THE SURVEY, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOU VOLUNTARILY RELEASE ALL NORTHERN, MUSKIE AND WALLEYE IN 2004. THIS WILL GIVE THE PREDATORS A CHANCE TO GROW TO SIZES THAT CAN KEEP THE CARP POPULATION DOWN.

AERATORS

THE AERATOR SYSTEM AIDS IN THE BREAKDOWN OF SUSPENDED SOLIDS IN THE WATER COLUMN. AERATORS ARE TURNED ON AFTER ICE OUT IN SPRING AND SHUT OFF AT FIRST ICE IN FALL. THE AERATOR PUMP ON THE SOUTH END OF THE LAKE WAS REPLACED WITH A NEW MODEL IN 2003. THE AERATOR ON THE WEST END OF THE LAKE WAS REBUILT. IF DURING THE SEASON YOU DO NOT SEE BUBBLES AT THE AERATOR LOCATIONS, PLEASE CONTACT THE LAKE CHAIR.

ENJOY THE LAKE!

FLCA LAKE COMMITTEE