

**Lake of the Ozarks Watershed Alliance  
General Meeting 4/21/2008  
Old Kinderhook**

Donna Swall, LOWA Executive Director called this public meeting to order at 6:30 pm, introduced herself and then sent introductions round robin until everyone had introduced themselves. About 23 people were present.

Boots Nicoli is stepping down as Corresponding Secretary and Alice Walker will be taking her place. Many thanks to Boots for all her hard work and many thanks to Alice for helping out in yet another aspect of LOWA! Alice already spends many hours for LOWA helping out LOWA's webmaster, Jerry Walker.

**Legislative Update**

First to speak this evening was **Captain Matt Waltz of the Missouri Water Patrol** with a **legislative update**. There are two bills in the legislature right now about establishing a 0.08% blood alcohol level for operating a water craft, a House and a Senate version, each of which have been passed by their respective groups and are now in committee in the opposite house. Both bills are also looking at lifting the cap of only allowing for 99 water patrol officers in Missouri. This bill would provide for more water patrol officers to be trained and put in the field which should help make our lakes safer. And, Dr. Wayne Cooper's 30-300 bill has been withdrawn for lack of support and he will probably introduce a 40-300 bill next year that will have all boats more that 40 feet in length to stay at least 300 feet from a dock when above idle speed.

The Missouri Water Patrol held public meetings on no-wake buoys Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup> at the Morgan County library and on Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup> at the Osage Beach City Hall. These meetings were announced by Captain Waltz during his legislative update talk and were to inform the public about changes in buoy permitting. At present, there are too many buoys on the Lake not being maintained properly and causing confusion. The Water Patrol is looking at restricting the number of buoys being permitted. Already on the books are laws that say boats must travel at idle/no-wake speed when within 100 feet of a dock. The Water Patrol wants to enforce that without all the buoys. Many buoys are not being maintained properly and they are often not even at the right distances. Presently there are more than 4000 buoys on the Lake and that number increases by about 150 each year. The Water Patrol wants to just issue no-wake buoys to marinas with gas docks and/or pump out stations. Official signs that people can purchase are planned for letting boaters know to stay 100 feet away from their dock. These signs will be mounted on that individual's dock. Boaters should know that if they cannot judge 100 feet, then they should stay further – err on the safe side! No-wake cove guidelines will remain the same as they have been. Coves that are less than 400 feet across from dock to dock are eligible to be a no-wake cove if 75% of the landowners are in favor of that.

**SMP Update**

Next up was **Bryan Vance of AmerenUE** to bring us up to date on the **Shoreline Management Plan** and other happenings with AmerenUE. The Shoreline

Management Plan (SMP) has been submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the public has until May 16 to make comments. Go to [ferc.gov](http://ferc.gov) and then click on e library and in the upper right click on the hydro box and put the project number 459 in the docket number box. One point of information people might want is the 'head of cove' definition: this designation may be limited to the first 1/3 of the cove but coves are often evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Generally the head of cove is determined by where the stream channel bottom elevation of 652' hits, but for some coves this would be the entire cove. So, this definition has to be looked at for the individual cove in question. The Stream Water Pollution Prevention Plan is also part of the SMP. AmerenUE will meet this requirement by partnering with LOWA to hold annual seminars on Best Management Practices for storm water runoff. Ameren and LOWA will host these seminars for anyone interested and the information will focus on preventing soil erosion during construction projects. This information is important for all parts of the Lake of the Ozarks watershed. A watershed is the area of land that drains to a river or lake. Since our Lake of the Ozarks is fed by the area's streams, soil erosion in all parts of the Lake's watershed is an important issue.

Other parts of the SMP which may be different from the past include the Vegetative Cover Policy which limits the removal of trees greater than 4" in diameter or any dogwood, redbud, or serviceberry within 25' of the shoreline on AmerenUE's property. These trees must be replaced with a suitable native tree of 1.5" or larger. Non-conforming structures, another part of the SMP, must be registered by 2012 and the Bank Stabilization Plan says there must be 24" of vertical erosion before a seawall will be considered. If a seawall is permitted, then a 5 foot horizontal blanket of rip rap must be placed at the top of the seawall. Dock's maximum slip size is 55' for residential and 60' for marinas. There must be a 1.75 slip length fairway between docks and the rest of the regulations are the same. (Length includes breakwater). Requests for less than 10 slips will now be reviewed by Ameren, instead of the Army Corps of Engineers, requests for 10-50 slips will be reviewed by Ameren and the Corps jointly, and requests for more than 50 slips will be handled by FERC and the Army Corps of Engineers. Any and all pumps removing water from the Lake of the Ozarks must be permitted, even pumps on private docks for cleaning and washing off fish, etc. must have a permit. The \$50 permit fee is good for as long as you own the dock.

Ameren has been a valuable partner for LOWA and has donated printing costs for thousands of copies of the 2 brochures that LOWA has produced (Boat & RV Pump Stations Map and Designated Captain) as well as sponsoring the Low Impact Development seminars for area construction companies, mentioned above. LOWA thanks Ameren.

### **DNR Presents Award to LOWA**

Scott Robinett of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MO DNR) was on hand to present LOWA with an award. The 2007 Water Collection Teams for the *E. coli* cove bacteria study received an award from MO DNR for excellence in collecting. When the

study was first proposed and planned, only a limited number of coves and sites were going to be able to be sampled. LOWA stepped forward with many citizen volunteers who were then trained in the proper protocol for collecting the water samples. With the extra hands for collecting and transporting samples, the study was able to expand almost six fold from the original design and 120 sites were sampled last year with only one bottle lost to breakage (and that wasn't even a LOWA volunteer who was responsible for that). LOWA is very pleased to be able to assist MO DNR in such an important study. Jim Macy, Director of DNR's field services division, whose motto is "Local People Solve Local Problems", presented LOWA with a beautiful plaque, accepted by LOWA's Executive Director, Donna Swall, and each collecting team received a certification of excellence.

This year, 2008, will see a different portion of the Lake being sampled and studied for the cove bacteria study in addition to the few coves that showed excess levels of bacteria last year. Please see the LOWA website at [www.soslowa.org](http://www.soslowa.org) for more details about this very important on-going research. There you will find, among other information, a map showing all sites that have been sampled and the results of those samplings, in addition to the location of this year's sample sites. The Lakes of Missouri Volunteer Program (LMVP) also monitors the state's lakes and has a map showing all of its sites and sampling results at [www.lmvp.org](http://www.lmvp.org). In fact, LMVP provides LOWA with the *E. coli* sampling map and inputs the data as results become available from MO DNR. LOWA says thank you to LMVP for all of their help and support. LOWA also says a big thank you to Scott Robinett and Randy Neimeier, who run the bacteria cove study, for the opportunity to partner with MO DNR and be a part of keeping our Lake healthy.

### **LOWA Brochure Newly Printed**

LOWA's newest general information brochure is hot off the presses with 10,000 copies, is available for groups to pass out at their events. Contact Christy Fera to pick up at her American Family office on 5 Hwy just north of Camdenton.

### **Pump-Out Workshops**

The next Pump-Out workshop will be on May 10<sup>th</sup> at Andres on HH. The workshop begins with a free lunch, followed by a presentation on how septic systems work and the importance of keeping your septic tank maintained and pumped out. Participants will receive an opportunity to sign up to have their septic tank pumped out with a \$30 discount from the pumping company, a \$25 discount from LOWA, and an additional \$10 discount for attending the presentation. That comes to a \$65 discount and a free lunch! Not bad! More information can be found on the LOWA website at [www.soslowa.org](http://www.soslowa.org).

### **Lake District Plan**

Step One of the Lake District Plan (LOWA's watershed management plan for the 4-county area) has been submitted to DNR for a grant and DNR is going through the approval process. LOWA is expecting final approval by June 15. LOWA should be able to use that planning grant to finish writing the full plan.

## **Membership**

LOWA now has both its decals and the membership cards so that process will be finalized next week. If you haven't received your membership materials yet and you have filled out the membership form, please let LOWA know.

## **Adopt-the-Shoreline**

On April 8<sup>th</sup>, Ginny Strogen led LOWA and Sunrise Ridge Homeowners Assn. in the Shoreline Clean-up between the 9 and 10 mile markers. This area includes 7.5 miles of shoreline. Thanks to Starbucks, B&P Hickory Pit, and Woods Supermarket for providing food and refreshments to all workers. Six cubic yards of trash and 30 cubic yards of foam were collected and this year the foam was recycled, keeping it out of the landfill. Ginny says that if you are in a neighborhood or condominium complex that needs cleaning up, she can help you get organized.

## **Recycling**

LOWA's recycling chair, Linda Kimrey, has written a grant to try to establish more recycling sites around the Lake. Hurricane Deck Elementary and Gravois Elementary will be the west side sites for recycling. These sites will host the bins which will be fenced off, monitored, and maintained by recycling volunteers. April 26<sup>th</sup> will find recycling in Camdenton along the Farmer's Market lot from 8-12. Also, recycling will be at the dam site by Bagnell dam near their old site below the dam. This site hosts recycling every Wednesday and Saturday from 10-4. More information is available on the LOWA website at [www.soslowa.org](http://www.soslowa.org).

## **Designated Captain Program**

The Designated Captain Program has a fantastic brochure, produced by LOWA and the Lake Safety Council. This program will kick off officially at the spring Harbor Hop although citizens have been able to sign up for the program for a couple of months now. The signee will receive a decal for the boat and a floating key chain that can be presented to participating restaurants and bars around the Lake for free non-alcoholic beverages. The accompanying brochure has a map showing all the participating establishments. Lake Safety is important to us all.

## **Education Outreach**

Education Outreach hosted a table at this year's Dogwood Festival and was in the parade. They also sponsored an Earth Day Clean Water Celebration at the Osage Upper Elementary for their 5<sup>th</sup> grade. All 5<sup>th</sup> graders went home with a LOWA t-shirt, as well as other items such as pencils, info cards, and various brochures. The Environmental Science classes at Osage High School also enjoyed a day of examining water quality with equipment from the Stream Team program and the Lakes of Missouri Volunteer Program. These classes compared water from a cove on the west side of the Lake of the Ozarks and creek water from a tributary to Bollinger Creek. Students also examined stream critters (macroinvertebrates) from the creek bed.

## **Upcoming Events**

Upcoming events include the August 23<sup>rd</sup> Shoot-Out at Cap'n Ron's on Hwy 5 and the Fall Festival on Sept 6<sup>th</sup> in Osage Beach. Volunteers will be needed to help man those tables! We also need a volunteer to chair organizing the Fall Festival table.

### **Other Info**

During the Round Table discussion, an interesting website called [myfootprint.org](http://myfootprint.org) which has a series of questions that one answers about their lifestyle and then the website calculates how many Earths it would take to support a population living like you do. This is what is called an ecological footprint and examines how big of an impact each of us has on our planet. This site also has suggestions for ways to reduce your footprint.

If anyone knows of a group or organization that would like LOWA to come talk to them, please let us know. We'd be more than happy to come out.

Any suggestions for a speaker for the June 16<sup>th</sup> general meeting at the Parasol Room in Tan-Tar-A?

### **Next Meeting**

May 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 at the Laurie Central Bank will be the next LOWA meeting. This is a committee reporting and working meeting and all are cordially invited. Come, volunteer, and join a spirited group of concerned citizens working together for our Lake of the Ozarks. Our Lake, One Voice.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50. We wish to thank Kevin and Old Kinderhook for hosting our meeting.

These minutes respectfully submitted by C. King Toole, LOWA Recording Secretary and approved by Donna Swall, LOWA Executive Director.