

Friends Of Istokpoga

NewsWire

Friends Of Istokpoga Lake Association, Inc.

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In this Issue: Will G-85 last until S-67 is completed?

Will G-85 Last?

By Bill Dwinell

In February, 2000, Chris Monroe and I took a tour of Istokpoga Canal to take pictures for our web site. While we really enjoyed this tour, and we took lots of pictures, we were very alarmed at the condition of the G-85 structure on the canal. This structure is critical to the lake in that it is in place to help hold in the lake water and release water when it exceeds 39.33 ft.

Shortly after that visit I contacted South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) and requested they examine the structure to ensure it was strong enough to last until a new structure could be completed. After several request to SFWMD for inspection records and any test results, I am still in the dark. I have, however found out that according to SFWMD estimates, in 1997, the G-85 structure was leaking at a rate of 100 cubic feet per second (cfs). This is a potentially significant loss, according to Clell Ford, Highlands County Lakes Manager.

SFWMD claims there were problems accessing the site because of land owner restrictions. I discussed this with a Lykes Brothers representative and was told that the restrictions were standard precautions required for leaving a citrus grove, i.e., washing the trucks. I guess this was just to inconvenient for the SFWMD employees. I was informed by SFWMD that an agreement was signed by the land owner that should resolve the access problems.

There are plans to replace this structure with a new structure similar to S-68, the one on C-41A canal. Construction is estimated to begin in May 2001 with completion in March 2002, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This new structure will be built about 400 feet from the G-85 and will be the S-67 structure. The construction is part of the Kissimmee Restoration Project and will provide flood protection for the area. It is being built to handle an estimated 100 year flood condition .

Also , as part of the S-67 construction project, the Istokpoga Canal will be dredged,

The completed canal will have a bottom width of 50 feet and a depth of 28 feet NGVD.

I will continue to work with USACE and SFWMD until we get the structure analysis and any repairs completed that are determined to be necessary.

Changing Our By-laws

As we have gone through the day-to-day operations of Friends Of Istokpoga we encountered a few operational problems we need to correct. The first is By-law V - Section 6 which currently reads: *Any combination of Officers and members of the Board of Directors consisting of **five or more** shall constitute a quorum.* The Board of Directors would like to change this to read: *Any combination of Officers and members of the Board of Directors consisting of **a majority, as long as one of these is an officer,** shall constitute a quorum.*

The second one is By-law V, Section 7 paragraph 2, which currently reads: *Board of Director Meetings shall be conducted no less than **ten** times annually with a duration of no more than **sixty** days having expired between the currently scheduled and previous meeting.* The Board of Directors would like to change this to read: *Board of Director Meetings shall be conducted no less than **nine** times*

Friends of Istokpoga Newswire

annually with a duration of no more than seventy-five days having expired between the currently scheduled and previous meeting. This will allow for the vacations of the Board of Directors, which generally fall during the summer months when there is little activity regarding Lake Istokpoga .

We will bring this before the membership for a vote at the November 9, 2000 General meeting.

Be sure to attend and cast your vote. We hope you will vote to approve these changes because they will make summer Board of Director meetings much easier to schedule.

Have you logged onto Your Web Site?

Your web site is available 24/7 and will always have the latest news about Lake Istokpoga. If you have a computer and can access the Internet, you owe it to yourself to check out your web site. Yes, I do mean Your web site. This web site is intended to supplement the *Istokpoga*

Newswire, providing up-to-date information about Lake Istokpoga, and much more useful information.

You can find all kinds of information there, as well as pictures of various sights around the lake. You can find information on all kinds of things related to Friends Of Istokpoga and specifically Lake Istokpoga. There are links to other sites that may help you. You can also see the "official" water level of the lake by linking to the US

Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) web site.

Log on soon , and I am sure you will log on again, anytime you want information on Lake Istokpoga. Be sure to sign our guest book so we so we will know you visited.

General Meeting Announcement

Our next general membership meeting will be held at the Lorida Community Center on **November 9, 2000 at 7:00 PM**. Annette Nielsen from DEP will be our guest speaker. She will talk about dredge and fill

SERVED so come a few minutes early.

Lake Historian Needed

We need to find a volunteer to pull together the history of Lake Istokpoga for us. To act as Friends Of Istokpoga Historian. There are many ways historical information can benefit both Lake Istokpoga or Friends Of Istokpoga Lake Association, Inc. If you think you might be interested, please contact Bill Dwinell at 863-465-6913. And remember, **NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY.**

How would you like up-to-date information about Lake Istokpoga?

You can get it anytime you want at:

<http://www.friendsofistokpoga.homestead.co>

permits, emphasizing what can be done without a permit, and what things must have a permit. We will also be discussing the latest plans for the Lake Istokpoga draw down, the plans for a full lake hydrilla treatment, canals, water levels, and anything else you want to discuss about Lake Istokpoga. Come out and bring your friends and neighbors.
REFRESHMENTS WILL BE

performed sediment, water and plant sampling in Lake Istokpoga in August and September to improve understanding of phosphorus relationships in the lake. Lake sediment was sampled at 15 locations to estimate the amount of phosphorus in the lake bottom that may be available for plant and algal growth. Water and plant samples were also taken at ten of these sites to determine whether there is a relationship between sediment phosphorus and the amount of

Highlands County Testing the Water

By Jennifer Brunty, Ph.D.
The Highlands Soil and Water Conservation District

Friends of Istokpoga Newswire

phosphorus in plants and water, and to estimate the amount of phosphorus taken up by a particular plant species. Plant samples included wax myrtle, bulrush, primrose willow, cattails, burrhead sedge, hydrilla, water fern, water lily, spatterdock, dollar weed and pennywort. Preliminary results indicate that muck sediments in Lake Istokpoga contain from 6 to 70 times the phosphorus found in sandy soils. Results also suggest that muck soils may increase the amount of phosphorus contained in some of the plant species, though the amount of phosphorus in the water did not appear to be affected by the presence of muck. An unexpected discovery was the presence of muck sediment in 8 foot deep open water and the absence of muck sediment in some shallow tussock areas. Future sampling may be performed to develop a map estimating sandy versus mucky regions of the lake to determine areas of high phosphorus storage.

Draw Down Update

There have been no changes to the draw down plans since our last newsletter. The best guess is still fall of 2002.

Be sure to check friendsofistokpoga.homestead.com for the latest information on the draw down.

Hydrilla Treatment Planned

By Dave Demmi, DEP

Lake Istokpoga has been scheduled for a lake wide Sonar treatment for Full-Year 2000-2001. The acres to be

controlled is 2600 with the estimate cost at \$1,843,400.00. This amount includes Sonar (SRP- Slow-Released Pellets) at a rate of 40 lb. per acre for a total of 2400 acres. The other 200 acres are to be used for application of

Don't forget to come to our Meeting!!

When: November 9, 2000

Time: 7:00 PM

Where: Lorida Community Center

Aquathol Super K Granules @ 50 lb. per acre in residential canals when needed. The Sonar SRP is aerially applied, usually by helicopter over 50 acre plots at intervals of 10-14 days apart. The time of application has been during the late fall early winter seasons primarily January, February months. This is usually when native plants species are dormant, less rainfall to curtail any dilution , and cooler temperatures for higher dissolved oxygen levels. There has been no scheduled plan until a complete survey of the lake is done in late October.

Our Cookbook

By Chris Monroe

The weather is just perfect to get outdoors and fire up the BBQ grill. You may want to try this recipe (sent to us by a fellow member).

Chinese Pork Recipe

2 Pork tenderloins (about 1 lb. ea.)
2 cloves Garlic crushed
1/2 cup Sugar

4 tsp. Dark molasses
1 cup Soy sauce
2 tsp. Hot mustard (see Jim's Mustard)
4 Tbs. Duck sauce (see Jim's Duck Sauce)

Combine Duck sauce, Garlic, Sugar, Molasses, Soy sauce, and Hot

mustard . Marinate Pork for 3 hours in heavy plastic bag (turning several times). Wrap Pork in foil and cook on grill, open toward end of cooking to brown. Serve with Jim's Duck sauce and Jim's Hot mustard.

What? you don't have the recipe for Jim's Sauces. Don't fear you can get them out of your copy of "Special Recipes From Friends of Istokpoga". The cookbook is available from any of the association directors or call 941-490-0140 (toll free from Highlands County - don't dial 1), the price is \$7.50, tax included, plus \$3.00 shipping and handling if we have to mail it.

Don't forget, all funds gained from the sale of the cookbooks go directly into the Friends Of Istokpoga treasury, and help hold down the annual dues. So Please BUY one for, or SELL one to, or GIVE one to a Friend. **They make excellent gifts.**

Cookbooks will also be available at our General

Friends of Istokpoga Newswire

*Meeting on November 9, 2000. -
the Editor*

Weed Control Article

By Jim Wilkins

Sometimes while out on Lake Istokpoga or one of the other county lakes you might have seen a county airboat spraying and wondered what all the County Department does. After a meeting with the Supervisor of the Department we learned the following interesting information.

Carl Smith, with 24 years of experience, is the Evasive Plant Supervisor of Highlands County. He and three employees handles the spraying for the entire county which includes 27 lakes and all the roadside and drainage ditches for the control of aquatic weeds and evasive plants. In addition to these duties, Carl supervises the major hydrilla treatment on Lake Istokpoga when needed which is then contracted out to an independent contractor.

All of the lakes are on a maintenance schedule and with Istokpoga being the largest lake in the county it takes nearly 100% of one employee's time year round to maintain the proper maintenance schedule. Another employee maintains the other lakes and the third employee maintains the roadside and drainage ditches.

It is interesting to note that when spraying on the lakes, the wind velocity is checked on a hourly basis with instruments on the airboats. When checking wind velocity, three readings must be taken in a five minute period. No spraying is conducted when the velocity is over 10 MPH.

The budget from the county for the department is \$50,000 and is for chemicals only, and does not include labor and equipment. This is used for the control of grass and weeds on roadsides and drainage ditches. The estimated budget from the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection for Highlands County is a little over \$2,000,000. This is used for control of evasive plants and weeds in the county's lakes and streams.

Lake Istokpoga is scheduled for hydrilla treatment as needed, which will probably be again sometime in early spring of 2001. Of the \$2,000,000 in the budget, \$1,843,000 is to be used on this lake alone. Hydrilla is treated with Sonar SRP (slow release pellets) at the rate of 40 lb. per acre at a cost of \$700 per acre. When one acre is sprayed it spreads effectively killing ten acres, which then reduces the actual cost per acre treated to \$70. Normally 2600 acres is sprayed thereby treating 26,000 acres. The lake is laid out in fifty acre plots and the total treatment time is approximately four weeks. On the smaller lakes where small tracts and boat trails need to be treated Aquathol-K is used.

Evasive Plant Supervisor, Carl Smith, will be a speaker in the near future at our general membership meetings to go over this and answer questions.

Our Associate Members

By Bill Dwinell

Have you noticed the list of businesses and organizations on the back of this newsletter when you receive it? Do you know

why we print their names in every issue?

Ever wonder why, in today's economy, you can join an organization like Friends Of Istokpoga, get four to six newsletters mailed directly to you, have access to a web site 24 hours a day and seven days a week, for only \$5.00? Where else can you find such a bargain?

One of the main reasons this is possible is our Associate Members. Our Associate Members are businesses and organizations that see value in protecting Lake Istokpoga and have joined with us to help protect Lake Istokpoga with financial assistance. Each of them pays \$20 per year, that we use to defray the costs of running our association. This enables us to continue keeping our membership dues at only \$5.00. In addition to the \$20.00 Associate Member dues, some have also made donations, either in cash, or in merchandise. Some of you were winners of the drawings for some of these items at one of this years meetings.

Many of our Associates have e-mail addresses or web sites. You can find this information on our Associates Page of our web site.

Each of us should be thankful that we have these Associate Members. YOU can show your appreciation by visiting them when you need the services they provide. And when you do visit, be sure to thank them for

Friends of Istokpoga Newswire

supporting Friends Of Istokpoga.

by the State of Florida, how or why I am still not completely sure, so as the

difficult to become recognized as a 501(c)3 and we should remain a nonprofit corporation.

Did You Know?

The Friends Of Istokpoga Board of Directors (BOD) meetings are tentatively scheduled for the first Monday of each month? Any member may attend a BOD meeting by calling any of our directors and letting us know you want to attend. Or call 941-490-0140 and leave a message with a return phone number and we will call you back.

About Our Phone

We want to let everyone know we now have a pager so you can contact one of our directors anytime you want. It may seem a bit unusual to you, but our number is (941) 490-0140. Yes, the area code is correct, and you have to dial it to reach us. DO NOT dial a "1" in front of the number, but DO dial all 10 digits. It is not a long distance call. We look forward to hearing from you.

Corporation Status

By Debbie Galloway

Have you ever found yourself swimming in paperwork, forms, forms and more forms? Well we have. For the past two years we have filled out every conceivable form there is. We thought once we became a 501(c)3 (a nonprofit organization with the IRS) that life would become easier. Even though we were recognized by the Federal Government as a non profit organization we were not recognized

**To Call our Pager
Dial 941-490-0140
from anywhere in
Highlands County. Dial the
"1" only if outside Highlands**

paperwork continued to pile up. We thought it was best to seek some professional help. In doing so we discovered that we needed to do two additional things, first register with the Department of Agriculture and secondly with the Florida Department of Revenue. The Department of Agriculture, Solicitation of Contributions Act says that we must be registered in the State of Florida because we solicit for memberships, and donations, and the Department of Revenue wants their money for the cookbooks that we have sold, Sales tax! Never did it even cross our minds that we needed to collect and pay sales tax on our cookbook, you live and learn!

We contacted our CPA for his help and expertise. Our CPA made numerous phone calls on our behalf and got us on the right track. He filed our income tax, registered us with the Department of Revenue, and paid our sales tax on the cookbooks we had sold and paid our interest penalty. We are also now registered with the Department of Agriculture so we can receive donations. The 501(c)3 allows us to receive a reduced postage rate, pay no federal income tax, and according to our CPA it is very

Basically the only other benefit would be if a large company needed to donate funds at the end of the year (as many do for tax purposes) they could donate to Friends of Istokpoga and it would be tax deductible for them.

So, thanks to our CPA we are now current on all affairs and legal! It has been a long two years and a very confusing one, however I feel confident now in saying "I believe all the paper work is cleaned up". We will keep you updated on our "legal status" and if you should have any questions please feel free to contact us.

Editors Note: Debbie deserves kudos for the great job she has done in getting us through all this paper work. THANKS DEBBIE!!

Our Thanks

We at Friends Of Istokpoga want to extend our thanks to Mary Carter, and the Highlands County Lakes Association for the kind article she wrote about the Istokpoga Management Committee and Friends Of Istokpoga Lake Association.