

LEONARD'S MILL POND COLLABORATIVE

c/o D. Thomas Longo, Jr., Chairperson & Secretary
30424 Mallard Drive, Delmar, MD 21875
410-742-4380; DTLongo@aol.com

TO: Leonard's Mill Pond Waterfront Households

FROM: D. Thomas "Tom" Longo, Jr., Chair/Spokesperson & Secretary

SUBJECT: REPORT ON LMPC ANNUAL MEETING, OCTOBER 25, 2012

Persons from 12 waterfront households around the Pond attended this year's meeting together with Wicomico Count Parks Superintendent Chuck Poole. After welcome remarks and self-introductions, Tom Longo reported his impression that this year's treatments had seen remarkable improvement in holding back hydrilla and especially in knocking back the surface plants (water lilies), Households along the further parts of the East Prong were literally "getting their pond back" from what had been very heavy surface growth there and there was similar progress toward the end of the North Prong. Mr Longo showed some illustrative before-and-after photos taken from his boat. Two of a house in Danwood are appended to this report.

Herbicide treatments. Chuck Poole reported that the two herbicide treatments this year were done, on June 27, 2012 with SONAR (aquatic Roundup) herbicide against hydrilla and on August 22, 2012 with AQUANEAT herbicide against surface growth. Mr. Poole recommended that we continue treatments of limited areas of the pond each year as allowed by permitting in order to continue the improvement. It was important not to skip a year, he said, and the treatments could be extended to further parts of the pond as yet untreated. If observations show the hydrilla growth to be still in check, it may be possible to economize by using less of the very expensive SONAR herbicide in 2013. Mr. Poole said it was necessary to space the two treatments at least six weeks apart. It was planned to treat the Pond again on or about June 1, 2013 and in late July/early August 2013.

Midges (mosquitos and gnats). There was discussion of infestations of swarms of biting insects, especially quite large mosquito-like ones, along the south shore of the pond and some other spots. These biting insects were so numerous that people sometimes were unable to use their yards. Mr. Poole suggested that this might be because the last two significantly mild warm winters had not had hard-freezes long enough to kill off the insects during their seasonal dormancy. It was commented that Chestnut Hill, whose owners pay dues in part to fund periodic pesticide spraying of the Mallard Drive area, did not seem to have a major problem with these insects.

Treasurer's Report. LMPC Treasurer Marilyn Booth of Pine Knoll Two gave the following treasurer's report for 2013:

Balance on hand, November 9, 2011	\$9,610.15
+ Deposits - contributions from 43 households	\$3,225.00
- Expenses	
Tom Longo, paper, copies, postage-\$43.42	
Wicomico County, Sonar herbicide against hydrilla - \$4,176.00	
Wicomico County, Aquaneat herbicide against surface plants - \$272.34	
= Total expenses	\$4,176.00
Balance on hand November 9, 2011	\$8,343.29

Expenditures exceeded receipts this year by \$1,266.86. Rather than making progress toward building up our fund we were falling behind. Partially this was because only 43 households made donations this year compared to 49 last year and a small additional number households donated nothing. It was hoped that as the holdouts see the improvement in the Pond that is occurring they will come aboard.

Sally Lambert of Chestnut Hill moved and Philip LeBel of Chestnut Hill seconded a motion that we continue voluntary donations in 2013 to pay for the herbicides at the unchanged rate of \$75.00 per waterfront household. This motion was approved unanimously.

\$75.00 checks per household payable to “Leonard’s Mill Pond Collaborative” should be sent to Marilyn Booth, 8402 Hilda Drive, Salisbury, MD 21804.

Scheduled Pond lowering in 2013. For environmental reasons to avoid interfering with spawning the County can lower the pond only once yearly for up to six weeks in the January-February period. Mr. Poole announced that, per our decision at last year’s Annual Meeting to lower the Pond every two years to allow homeowners to do waterfront maintenance and improvements, the County was planning to lower the pond from January 2 to February 15, 2013. It was necessary to send a letter to .Wicomico Recreation and Parks Director Gary Mackes requesting such. Mr. Longo undertook to do so.

Designation of LMPC Officers for 2013. Tom Longo confirmed that he would be leaving the area o/a January 2013 to be closer to family in the Midwest. Following discussion Dr. Philip LeBel of Chestnut Hill agreed to replace Mr. Longo as of January 1, 2013. Dr. Ray Brodie of Holly Lake Estates agreed to assist, for example in taking periodic temperatures of the Pond for the County. The other officers and Block Captains will continue for 2013. Here is a listing of officers and block captains for 2013:

Chair/Spokesperson & Secretary	Dr. Philip LeBel, 30408 Mallard Drive, Delmar, MD 21875 410-546-4931; lebelp@mail.montclair.edu
Treasurer	Marilyn Booth, 8402 Hilda Drive, Salisbury, MD 21804 410-749-8963; marilyngbooth@comcast.net
Back-up Treasurer	Sally Lambert, 30412 Mallard Drive, Delmar, MD 21875 410-749-1685; lambert9@verizon.net
Block Captains:	
Chestnut Hill	Sally & Ward Lambert, 30412 Mallard Drive, Delmar, MD 21875 410-749-1685; lambert9@verizon.net
Danwood	Tamara & Steve Brewer, 30507 Danwood Drive, Delmar, MD 21875 410-749-6449; stbrewer1@gmail.com
Holly Lake Estates	Dr. Ray Brodie, 8599 E. Marlboro Drive, Delmar, MD 21875 443-944-8512; rayjrm1@comcast.net
Pine Knoll One	Mary Henderson, 30326 Calhoun Avenue, Salisbury, MD 21804 (cell) 410-430-4455, mnmhenderson1@msn.com
Pine Knoll Two	Marilyn & Andy Booth (see above)

Other items.

Homeowners can help to safeguard the pond as follows:

- “Try not to throw anything in the pond.” This includes leaves and run-off lawn fertilizer. Request lawn-service companies to be aware of this and insure that they are licensed. Natural sedimentation is already occurring and homeowners should not do anything to accelerate it. The only true fix for sedimentation of the pond would be major dredging, but that poses the huge problem of where to put the dredge spoils and would be prohibitively expensive.
- Keep an eye on the pond and report any vegetation or other problems to the County.

Attachments: *Two photos of a house in Danwood showing reduction of surface growth.*

Reminder copy of the LMPC “Statement of Organization And Purpose approved at the annual meeting last year.



“Before” picture - a house on the north side of the East Prong on August 19, 2012 before surface-growth herbicide treatment.



“After” picture - the same house on October 13, 2012 about 2 ½ months after herbicide treatment.

**LEONARD'S MILL POND COLLABORATIVE
STATEMENT OF ORGANIZATION AND PURPOSE
Adopted at LMPC Annual Meeting, November 9, 2011**

1. The Leonard's Mill Pond Collaborative (LMPC) is an informal body of waterfront households from the five neighborhoods bordering the Pond: Chestnut Hill, Holly Lake Estates, Danwood, Pine Knoll One and Pine Knoll Two. Its purpose is to liaise with Wicomico County and other entities on pond-remediation issues, for example, periodic herbicide applications.
2. The Collaborative is comprised of waterfront household representatives of the five neighborhoods adjoining the Pond. An annual meeting is scheduled each Autumn to which all waterfront households are invited. Volunteer LMPC leaders for the ensuing year are designated at that meeting: a Chair/Spokesperson, a Vice-Chairman (if desired), a Secretary and a Treasurer. The Chairman and Secretary, or Secretary and Treasurer, positions may be combined. A volunteer back-up Treasurer is designated with signing authority and Internet access in the event the regular Treasurer is away or otherwise unable to perform functions. Volunteer Block Captains for each neighborhood are also identified at the Annual Meeting.
3. Voting is by majority of the persons attending the Annual Meeting. Communications with the households are accomplished by email, and by written notices hand-delivered to the households by the Block Captains in each neighborhood.
4. The Chair/Spokesman is the normal liaison point between the LMPC and the county or other entities. The Secretary keeps and distributes records of Annual Meeting proceedings and maintains a historical file of noteworthy events, for example, herbicide treatments. The Treasurer is responsible for the group's checking account and for keeping a record of receipts and expenditures.
5. Based on information presented and resultant discussions, the Annual Meeting may stipulate a voluntary donation amount per household for the next year according to anticipated financial requirements to pay for herbicide chemicals and/or other expenses. Since this is an informal Collaborative these contributions are not legal assessments, rather, they are voluntary donations in the common interest. *(end)*