

October 12, 2021



The Lakes POA

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Fall 2021

George Duhaime

ANNUAL MEETING - CHANGE OF LOCATION

Due to scheduling conflicts, The Lakes Annual Property Owners Association Meeting has been moved to the large meeting room at the **INLET SQUARE MALL**, 12125 Highway 17 Bypass, Murrells Inlet, SC 29576. The Annual meeting will be held on **Saturday, October 23, 2021, starting at 10:30am.**

POA Quarterly Meeting Dates – 2021

- October 23, 2021*

*** 2021 Annual Meeting**
Annual meeting will be held at the **Inlet Square Mall**, Murrells Inlet, SC at 10:30 am.

POA Quarterly Meeting Dates – 2022

- January 17, 2022
- April 18, 2022
- July 18, 2022
- October 22, 2022**

All quarterly meetings will be held at the **South Strand Recreation Center**, 9650 Scipio Lane, Myrtle Beach, SC at 6 pm.

**** 2022 Annual Meeting**
(Location to be determined)

The cooler weather is setting in and the Lakes community is getting ready for more events in the park. New this year will be a chili cook off, showcasing the culinary talents of some of our friends and neighbors. It will be partnered with the Annual Halloween Parade and Party. There are more details later in this newsletter and watch your emails in the upcoming weeks.

The sidewalks along Waccamaw River Road, from Santee River Road to the park, have been completed. Walkers, parents with children in strollers and joggers have been frequently seen taking advantage of the walkway.

Speeding however, continues to be an issue in The Lakes, especially along Waccamaw River Road and Cooper River Road. Data collected from the speed trailer shows that speeding has decreased somewhat, but not consistently. The data also indicates that while vehicles may slow down as they approach the trailer, vehicles quickly pick up speed once they pass it. The trailer is equipped to monitor vehicle traffic in both directions. There are also front and rear facing cameras mounted on the trailer.

Following is data collected on Waccamaw River Road and Cooper River Road.

EXAMPLES:

Waccamaw River Road – various locations; between August 6 and September 16, 2021

Total vehicles tracked: 6909

Speeding vehicles: 2969 (based on 20 mph limit)

Approaching the trailer: 38 mph maximum speed; 17 mph average

Receding from the trailer: 49 mph maximum speed; 18 mph average

Cooper River Road - various locations; between August 6 and September 16, 2021

Total vehicles tracked: 1689

Speeding vehicles: 540 (based on 20 mph limit)

Approaching the trailer: 32 mph maximum speed; 18 mph average

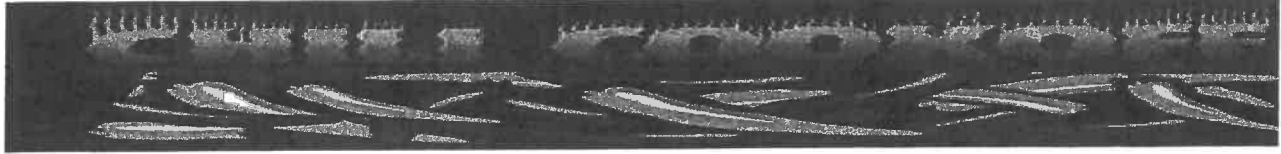
Receding from the trailer: 41 mph maximum speed; 21 mph average

As a result of the continued speeding problem within The Lakes community, the Board feels it is necessary for the health and safety of all our members to begin the installation of speed humps on the roads most affected by this problem, beginning with Waccamaw River Road and Cooper River Road. These speed humps are built so they won't affect your vehicle as long as you are doing the posted speed limit. **Speed HUMPS (not bumps) will be placed across the roadway (approximately 14 feet) and will be a graduated slope from road level, rising to a height of three (3) inches over a seven (7) foot span and then descending to road level over a seven (7) foot span. The HUMP will be marked and striped for identification purposes. The HUMPS are designed and follow all requirements for safety and accessibility for Police, Fire and Rescue (Ambulance) vehicles and service.**

Lastly, please remind your service providers (lawn/landscaping maintenance, etc.,) to place safety cones behind their vehicles. This is for their safety and the safety of the community members traveling on the roads – especially where there are blind spots on curves.

I look forward to seeing you at the Annual meeting on **Saturday, October 23, 2021, starting at 10:30 am**. Remember, the location has been changed (for this date only) to the large meeting room at the **INLET SQUARE MALL**.

IT'S A DOUBLE HEADER!!!



The First Annual Lakes Chili Cookoff!!!

Date: Saturday, October 30, 2021

Time: 12:30 – 3pm

Come and cast your vote for the best chili in The Lakes!!

Tantalize your tastebuds with the flavors of chili prepared by none other than your neighbors in the Lakes. The event will be held at the park at the front of the Lakes, just before the Annual Halloween Parade and Party. Be a kid again - wear a costume, enjoy an afternoon of fun and food and mingle with your neighbors.

Contest rules will be posted at the event. Prizes will be awarded for the best chili in the competition.



The Annual Lakes Halloween Parade and Party!!!

Date: Saturday, October 30, 2021

Time: 2 - 4pm

The Lakes annual Halloween parade will start promptly at 2pm at the intersection of Waccamaw River Road and Cooper River Road and end at the park at the front of The Lakes. There will be a police escort to lead off the parade.

Prizes will be awarded for the children's costumes (original, scariest, funniest) as well as for the most creative transportation (cart/wagon/bicycle/golf cart).

Pizza and Trick-or-Treat candy will be provided.

RSVP to lakesparkevents@gmail.com by Saturday, October 23, 2021, if you plan to come to the festivities or would like to volunteer (set up, run activities, be a judge, clean up, etc.).

ALL LAKES RESIDENTS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND



HELP WANTED – CIVIL ENGINEER

By Doug Owens

The Board has asked me to research and find a civil engineer to review and make recommendations regarding some of our historic road and drainage issues such as Seneca River Road and Seneca Court. I have contacted 3 engineering firms (including the one that did our road reserve study) and none have shown any interest in our projects.

As a result, I would like to ask anyone in the community who may have connections or knowledge of a civil engineering firm that might be interested in working with us to please send me their contact information.

Unfortunately, with millions of dollars of new road and development work going on in Horry County, the scope of work in the Lakes doesn't appear to generate much interest or attention.

However, if you do know of an engineering firm or know someone in one, please send their contact information to "DougOwensLakes@gmail.com"

Thanks for your help!

HELP WANTED – SPEED TRAILER PLACEMENT VOLUNTEERS

Looking for a few volunteers to work on a rotating basis setting the speed trailer up at locations throughout the community.

Requirements: Vehicle with a tow hitch to move the trailer
 Willingness to store the speed trailer at their home overnight when on rotation
 Willingness to complete placement tracking forms
 Available for set up at/or about 7am and retrieval at/or about 5pm, 5-6 days per week – weather dependent (includes some weekend days)

Training: Instruction on how and where the trailer can be positioned
 Operation of camera solar panels
 Operation of trailer strobes and display

If you are willing and able to give a few hours of your time for the safety and betterment of The Lakes community, please send your name and contact information to Karen Clark (KClark@LitustoLet.com).

Thank You!

APPLE SNAILS Information
by Debbie Wolcott
Lakes/Pond Facilitator

Where did they come from?

They are native to South and Central America and the Amazon River Basin and thrive in tropical areas. They were originally imported under the name "golden snail". They spread to the U.S. through the freshwater aquarium trade (pet stores). They were sold small as algae eaters for freshwater tanks and released into the wild when they got too abundant and/or too large for their tanks. This is how they believe they were started in Horry County. They are now banned because they have been determined to be a devastating invasive species, but note, they can still be found being sold on the internet.

What are they?

Apple Snails (Formal name: ampullariidae) are a rather large invasive species of the shelled gastropods that have sprung up in Horry County and creeks over recent years and can/do cause issues for local ecosystems. The snails breed rapidly, are difficult to kill, and can consume algae and other substances that fish and turtles need to survive. They can get as large as softballs. In extreme scenarios, the snails can overrun ponds or creeks, starving other creatures that live there.

The snails also have a lung, meaning they can breathe both underwater and on land. Male and female snails are needed to breed, though the snails can change sex to keep the breeding going. They lay dozens to hundreds of eggs at a time, enclosed in bright pink sacks that look like chewed up bubblegum. When the snails live in ponds, they are opportunistic and will climb up pretty much anything to lay their eggs (i.e. reeds, grass, docks, trees, cement, etc.). As a result, these are currently being seen in abundance throughout our area. More recently, they became heavily concentrated in The Lakes ponds that border along the construction areas (Lake Seneca and Long Bay). Since they favor warm, muddy areas, it is possible they were buried in the muddy areas of the forests, prior to land development. If eaten raw, they also carry diseases, like rat lungworm, which can cause meningitis in the brain and spine, though there have been no cases of the snails transmitting that disease to humans (and other mammals) in the U.S. to date.

The Problem, Options, and Considerations?

The snails have few natural predators, but fish like "shell crackers" (i.e. redear sunfish) and blue catfish can eat them, as will racoons and otters. When the snails grow large (they can reach 5 inches across) those predators can't or won't try to eat them. Blue catfish are the one exception, willing to eat the snails no matter how large they get.

Blue catfish are typically a safe bet for getting rid of them; however, there are issues with them. They are the largest species of catfish, typically 25 – 46 inches, and can reach lengths of 65 inches and 150 pounds. They can live 20 years. They are used in Santee Cooper Lakes, Lake Marion, and Lake Moultrie in SC (much bigger /deeper lakes). Because of their size, lifespan and wide range of species preyed upon, they are also considered a problematic invasive species. Our ponds in The Lakes are too small and too shallow to support them.

The Redear Sunfish (resembles a bluegill) is a "shellcracker" that has also been used as a form of control for snails. It is native to the SE U.S. and native to NC and Florida. Adult fish are between 7.9 – 9.4 inches and can max out at 17 inches. They only lay 9,000 – 80,000 eggs per mating season (annually) that hatch in

less than 3 days. The concern here is that they will also overpopulate in our ponds and potentially have a significant impact on algae and other wildlife food sources. However, because of their size, they can not eat the larger apple snails, but they can help control the snail population by eating young, recently hatched snails.

There are two birds known to feed on them: the limpkin and the snail kite. Both birds are primarily in Florida and not SC; however, Limpkins are currently living in the Green Springs /Island Green Community (off 707 by Arms Wide Open Church) and they are asking for our snails in their ponds . . . if you prefer/choose to transport them there.

That leads us to chemical treatment with low concentrations of copper that can kill off the snails. The treatment is tricky because the snails can detect the copper if the concentration is too high. In that case, the snails sense the copper and bury themselves in the mud until copper concentration has gone down. On the other hand, low levels of copper in water can evade the snail's detection and eventually kill them. Th SCDNR indicates that this treatment has had limited success. In addition, copper treatment CAN impact the other wildlife in the area. It can be toxic to fish and aquatic life. If ingested, children and pets could be more sensitive to it.

Direct correspondence (8/16/21) with/from the SCDNR Aquatic Nuisance Species Department says: "The best method of controlling them is labor intensive. The adults need to be killed which can be done by crushing or freezing them. The egg masses need to be stripped from whatever they are attached to and destroyed as well. They can be crushed or simply thrown into the water, where they lose their viability."

What to do as a Homeowner to help? (Use heavy duty rubber gloves, or nets to scoop them).

Hand removal of the bright pink egg masses can effectively reduce their numbers. The eggs will not hatch in water so (if you can) smash and scrape the pink egg masses into the water.

Hand removal of adult snails will reduce the number of them laying eggs. They can be crushed or frozen (not recommended in your personal freezer or useable coolers). Many homeowners are collecting them in open containers outside and letting them dry out (by not getting back to the water) and then discarding them with landscaping debris.

There is also evidence that fire ants and high concentrations of salt water can kill them.

What we believe to be the best course of action for "The Lakes" (at this time).

There are no clear resolutions. The aquatic nuisance program manager for the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) says they don't think it's possible to eradicate them.

All the potential treatments have both positive and negative, short and long term, consequences that could potentially impact other wildlife in the environment and add additional layers of treatment.

Every management option has additional cost involvements.

In collaboration with the SCDNR, Total Lake Care, and Homeowners we are opting for a treatment plan that is more biologically based.

The initial Snail Treatment proposal to the Board included: 1) Treating the swales in Seneca and Long Bay (ponds nearest the construction area) with salt blocks. It was hoped this would kill adult snails that enter the swales to lay their eggs. 2) Hire Total Lake Care staff on an hourly basis to scrape eggs from individual Bulkheads (on Lake Seneca and Long Bay only – 6 hrs. total), and Stocking Redear Sunfish at a rate of 150 per acre for Seneca and Long Bay, and 100 per acre in all other ponds for ongoing control measures for the young, newly hatched snails.

After careful consideration and extensive discussion, it was determined that homeowners needed to be responsible for cleaning their own personal docks and bulkheads, as they would in any other waterfront owned property. However, since the snail infestation appears to be mainly in Lake Seneca and the original portion of Long Lake, they did opt to try stocking Redear Sunfish in those two areas in an effort to control the number of newly hatched snails. This treatment will cost \$2,065, and stocking is expected in October 2021 (to be determined by fish delivery in our area).

Following this action, The Lakes will continue to be inspected, and we will reevaluate the effectiveness of the Redear Sunfish (shell crackers) in maintaining and/or reducing the number of adult Apple Snails in a year.

We request that all homeowners evaluate their own areas and apply due diligence to help reduce the increased population of these invasive crustaceans. Note: Cooler weather MAY help reduce their numbers.

APPLE SNAIL UPDATE (September 30, 2021)

On Thursday, September 30th, 2021, approximately 3,500 Redear Sunfish (Shell Crackers) were stocked in both Long Bay and Seneca Lake. Please remember these fish will NOT impact the larger adult snails! The anticipation is that they will be a natural way of managing the population since they should eat the newly hatched ones; therefore, controlling the population. We will review the success of this natural management strategy in a year. In the meantime, I am still attempting to monitor all the other lakes in the development.

PERSONAL FISH STOCKING

In visiting with many homeowners over the past months, it has come to my attention that some households have been independently fish stocking their immediate lakes over the years. As we attempt to maintain a healthy ecosystem for our ponds and wildlife, please be aware that every addition to any lake CAN and WILL alter the balance. In addition, the source and quality of the fish stocked, is important. When there were 100 homes, this was not so much of a problem; however, now that there are over 670 homes (and soon to be over 800) in the development, that has a significant impact on the wildlife balance even if only a handful of people do it. As a result of the shallow waters of our ponds, the ecosystem is already overpopulated. Please do not stock individually. Clear ANYTHING that is put into a lake, or is likely to runoff in stormwater (i.e. chemical treatments on docks, seawalls, yards, etc.) through the pond facilitator via LITUS*. Thank you SO MUCH for your cooperation.



Architectural Control Committee

RESIDENTS ARE REMINDED THAT CONTRACTOR WORKING HOURS ARE 7AM TO 7PM, Monday thru Saturday. No contractor work is allowed on Sunday. It is the residents' duty to inform the contractor of these rules. We hope you will help us in ensuring that this requirement is enforced.

Fall is a time for you to relax and think about the great summer you had with friends and family, and the projects that you were able to complete. Many projects are ongoing in the community, such as patios, decks, fences and pools. Just a reminder that prior to any exterior projects being started, you must submit the proper forms for approval to the Architectural Control Committee. Project approval request forms can be found on The Lakes website (<https://thelakes.us/>) under the folder-Documents, sub-folder External Documents. There are many ways to submit your forms for approval. US (snail) Mail to 400 Waccamaw River Road, email to thelakesacc@gmail.com or the drop box located at 400 Waccamaw River Road.

Most projects are addressed by one of the following forms:

ACC-2-MJP	Major Project Approval Request Form
ACC-2-SP	Swimming Pool/Spa Approval Request Form
ACC-2-BHD	Bulkhead/Dock
ACC-2-MIS	Miscellaneous Projects Approval Request Form

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact:

Robert White 843-251-7625	ACC Chairperson
Tom Fontanazza	
Dave Lane	
Jack Rowles	
Bob Tomassetti	



Welcome to the Neighborhood!!

(Jodi Vecchio – Welcoming Committee)

Ashley River Rd.	John Boguszewski & Mary Duffy
Atwood Place	John & Judith Shaw
Black River Rd.	Christopher Ballatore Perry Esposito & Dawn Javett
Bowen Place	George & Barbara Cardinal
Edisto Court	Richard & Kelly Druggish
Gillham Loop	Michael & Diana Jacques
Hatteras River Rd.	Timothy McLaughlin
Lumber River Rd.	Ronald & Sandra Bedia
New River Rd.	Phillip & Ashley Belanger
Saluda River Rd.	Maria Cryz Bernard & Brec Wojtas
Tyger River Ct.	Neil & Susan Groves
Waccamaw River Rd.	Gregory Ford & Melissa Drake
Wateree River Rd.	Paul Benyola & Carolyn Gray
Winyah Bay Rd.	Michael & Janet Corsi

Happy to have you be part of the community!!!!



Lakes Directory

All issues or inquiries should be directed to our property manager Karen Clark at LITUS* (KClark@litustolet.com or 843-448-9000 ext.129), this provides a central point of collection and coordination.

The Lakes Official Website is <https://thelakes.us/>. Registration is required to access homeowner information. Please ensure your homeowner data is up to date to receive all correspondence regarding your Lakes property. Please contact LITUS* for assistance with registration.

Lakes POA Board Members

President – George Duhaime

Vice President – Charlene Carson

Secretary – Deborah Wolcott

Treasurer – Doug Owens

Directors at Large (Elected) –

Susan Collins

Andreann Giese

Craig Wright

Ad Hoc Members - Michele Ferrante
Robert Tomassetti

Lakes POA Officers and Committee Heads

President – George Duhaime

Vice President – Charlene Carson

Secretary – Deborah Wolcott

Treasurer – Doug Owens

Committee Heads:

Architectural Committee

Bob White

Covenants Review

Charlene Carson

Communications

Charlene Carson

Drainage

Mike Healy (V)*

Lake Maintenance

Deborah Wolcott

Maintenance & Beautification

Craig Wright

Welcome Committee

Jodi Vecchio(V)*

*(V) = Volunteer

All Board members/committee heads are homeowners and Lakes neighbors volunteering endless hours of their time. There is always a need for more volunteers. Consider volunteering a few hours of your time, knowledge, and special skills to your community.