



HOPPENINGS

FPPOA NEWSLETTER

SPRING/SUMMER 2026

**WELCOME
NEW PROPERTY OWNERS**

JOIN US FOR OUR
ANNUAL

*Membership
Meeting*

SATURDAY, MARCH 21st

10:30 AM

Lunch & Snacks Immediately Following

The Colmesneil Community Center
300 W Elder Street
(located behind The Colmesneil City Hall)

March 21st Membership Meeting.

WCID Update

Muck Pellets for Managing Pond Sludge

Welcome New Neighbors

Join Our Facebook Group

Wood Ducks this Winter

Our Singing Pond

Hummingbird Gardens

Leaving it to Nature

Genasys - Tyler County
Emergency Alert System

EVENTS

Annual Membership Meeting and Lunch

March 21st, 2026

WCID Update

Weir Gate Update

The Board continued discussions regarding repair or replacement of the weir gate. Progress has been limited, but members explored the possibility of utilizing qualified lake residents to assist with portions of the construction. A quote for welding and fabrication services will be requested and reviewed. This project remains active and ongoing.

WCID Board Election Information

There is still one WCID Board member position open. Candidates may apply in person at the District Secretary's residence by appointment only. Contact Buck Johnson at buckhornsone@gmail.com

Dam Maintenance and Improvements

The Board discussed ongoing maintenance of the dam. The County will be contacted about mowing services. A previously received quote for mulching trees and brush on the east side of the dam was reviewed and ultimately declined, and the Board will continue seeking additional bids for this work.

Community Workday

A community workday will be scheduled to remove trees and brush and mow the area near the south gate of the spillway. The Board also noted positive feedback from residents regarding last year's lake spraying efforts and will begin requesting new bids for the 2026 spraying of the west end of the lake.

WCID Weed Management for Spring

WCID will be responsible for lake weed control on the west end and community lot only.

Property owners are responsible for their own shorelines.

Guidelines require property owners to be responsible for the upkeep of their own shorelines and 50ft out.

Information on how to get your shoreline sprayed and muck dug out??

Muck Pellets for Managing Pond Sludge

Muck pellets offer an effective, eco-friendly solution for managing sludge accumulation in shallow lakes. These small, sinking pellets contain beneficial bacteria, enzymes, and trace minerals that break down organic matter such as fish waste, decaying vegetation, and other debris.

For maximum benefit, it is recommended to use an aerator when applying muck pellets.

Here are the key benefits:

Muck Reduction: Muck pellets dissolve organic sludge, reducing muck buildup by inches per year without the need for invasive methods like dredging.

Improved Water Quality: They enhance water clarity, reduce foul odors caused by decaying matter, and balance excess nutrients, preventing harmful algae blooms.

Localized Treatment: The pellets sink to the bottom and target problem areas like shorelines, docks, or swimming zones, making them efficient for spot treatments.

Eco-Friendly: Safe for fish, wildlife, and humans, muck pellets provide a chemical-free way to maintain a healthy aquatic ecosystem.

Ease of Use: Simple bi-weekly applications during warm months make them a low-effort solution for lake maintenance.

By reducing muck and improving water conditions, muck pellets help restore the natural beauty and usability of shallow lakes.



Welcome to the Frog Pond Lake Community

We are pleased to welcome many new neighbors to our private lake community this year! We hope you are enjoying your new home.

If you have not done so, please visit our website frogpondlake.com/welcome to view and download very important information, including Lake Rules, Bylaws, information on Annual Dues and more.

If you need help or have any questions, please contact the FPPOA Executive Board at frogpondfpboa@gmail.com. This is our only form of communication.



HELP IMPROVE OUR FISH POPULATION

BASS

Release all Bass over 15 inches long

CRAPPIE

Release all Crappie under 10 inches long

BREAM

No size limits

MUD CATFISH

Remove all sizes from lake

BLUE & CHANNEL CATFISH

Release all Blue and Channel Catfish under 12 inches long

Thank You
Frog Pond Property Owners Association

Good Neighbor Policies

- Read and follow all fishing size limits posted around the lake.
- Practice catch and release, keeping only the fish you intend to eat. If you fish, donate to the fish fund once a year.
- Keep night lighting to a minimum; please turn off lights on the lake when not in use.
- All property on Frog Pond Lake is privately owned and should never be accessed without the owner present.
- Sound travels across the lake; be respectful with the noise levels.
- Frog Pond Lake is working toward eliminating gas boat motors and using only electric motors on the lake to reduce pollution. The goal is to be all electric.
- Use of the lake at night is now permitted, however, please do not shine lights on private property or be disruptive. The rule against night use will be reinstated if this policy is abused.

Join Our Facebook Group

The FPPOA would like to say thank you to all the newbies for joining and to everyone who has been posting photos and neighborhood information to the group. This group was initiated to bring us closer to our neighbors and has proven to be a huge success! We LOVE IT! The more members in the group, the more interesting and fun the threads. Thank you for being an active member of our Facebook Community!



If you would like to join our Facebook group visit facebook.com/groups/frogpondlake and send invite.

Please NOTE: This Facebook group page has been developed as a social page for members of Frog Pond Lake and their friends and family. The group is intended as a place to share fun times and experiences on the lake. Any and all inappropriate comments or photos will be deleted in accordance with Facebook Community Standards.

This group is NOT a forum for official Property Owners Association issues. These matters should be directed to the [Frog Pond website contact page](#) or by contacting a Board Member or officer directly. Any post regarding FPPOA business will be deleted and the posting member will be directed to the website contact page <https://frogpondlake.com/contact-us>.

A Winter Full of Color: Wood Ducks on the Lake

Residents around Frog Pond Lake have been enjoying an exciting winter surprise – large numbers of Wood Ducks. These colorful ducks thrive in wooded East Texas wetlands, and our quiet coves, shoreline vegetation, and abundant food have made the lake an ideal seasonal home.

Wood Ducks are easy to recognize. Males display brilliant greens, purples, chestnut sides, and bold white markings, while females have soft gray-brown feathers and a distinctive white eye ring. You may also notice their unique habits – perching in trees, flying swiftly through the woods, and making soft whistling calls.

Help Them Stay Year-Round: Install a Nest Box

Winter flocks are wonderful to see, and we can help turn our lake into a nesting home each spring. Wood Ducks nest in tree cavities, which are increasingly scarce. Properly installed Wood Duck nest boxes make a huge difference and can produce 10–15 ducklings per successful nest.

Proper installation tips:

- Mount boxes 6–10 ft above water or shoreline
- Face the entrance toward open water
- Use a metal pole with predator guard
- Keep boxes at least 100 ft apart
- Add 3–4 inches of wood shavings inside
- Clean boxes once each winter

If several residents install boxes, we could enjoy Wood Duck families on the lake every spring and summer. These boxes are available for purchase from many retailers including local feed stores, Walmart, Tractor Supply, Amazon, Waifair, etc. If you'd like to build your own, [Scout Life](#) has detailed instructions and easy-to-read drawings. Also Ducks Unlimited has a step-by-step instruction video



Ducks Unlimited
How to build a Wood Duck
Box

Watch on
 **YouTube**

Our Singing Pond

Click photos to play their calls on YouTube

One of the most welcoming sounds of warm weather is the calling of the frogs!

It begins with a few, and builds as the weather warms and the ground and water thaws. Calling all night is a sure sign of a warm evening. One of the fringe benefits of living in a wet place is that you can follow the seasons by listening to the frog chorus.

These frog choruses sometimes get so loud that you walk away with your ears ringing!

Frogs play an important role in food webs as both predator and prey. Adult frogs will consume insects and pretty much anything that fits in their mouths. And likewise, frogs and their tadpoles are food for fish, birds, turtles, snakes, crawfish, dragonfly larvae and giant water bugs.

But frogs have not evolved equivalently. Just as different adult frogs have different niches, their tadpoles exploit different ecological niches from one another. Some have big tadpoles, while others have smaller ones. Some grow fast while others develop slowly. Some are found in ephemeral pools – puddles and such – while others use seasonal or permanent water bodies.

East Texas boasts a rich variety of frog species – from tiny cricket frogs, spring peepers and chorus frogs to the larger tree frogs, leopard frogs and super-big bullfrogs.

More frogs & toads here <https://www.frogpets.com/frogs-in-texas/>



Play them at the same time and it sounds just like Frog Pond in early Spring.



American Bullfrog



Giant Toad (Cane Toad)

Why Do Peepers Peep?

That nightly chorus that you hear on warm spring nights is actually a spring peeper mating ritual. The males of this species are calling out to the females, who are drawn to their chirping suitors. After the frogs mate, the females will lay eggs underwater.

The Spring Peeper is a small frog, about 1 inch

long, with a green body and brown markings. They are found throughout most of Texas, but are more common in the eastern part of the state. Spring Peepers live near ponds and streams, and they hibernate under logs or in the mud at the bottom of ponds during the winter. They eat insects, and their mating call is a high-pitched trill.



Green Tree Frog



Green Toad



Spring Peeper

Planting a Summer Hummingbird Garden

Tips for Attracting Hummingbirds

Hummingbirds love bright colors and tubular plants that they can stick their beaks into for collecting nectar. Their small size, fast-beating wings, and incredible acrobatic flying abilities make them a favorite for bird watchers.

As you choose plants that hummingbirds will love, here are some tips for attracting more of these amazing birds to your garden.

Choose a variety of brightly colored, native flowers.

For maximum hummingbird attraction, try to choose a variety of flowers that bloom from early summer until late fall to bring in birds and other pollinators for many months. Make sure to take our grow zone 8b into account when planning your garden.

Provide a water source.

Hummingbirds need water, too. A birdbath or a constant source of water, like a fountain, can go a long way in making your garden a delightful place for hummingbirds to enjoy.

Build simple perches.

Hummingbirds spend most of their day perching. And because they can't hop, it's important for them to have higher perches where they can feel safe.



Standing Cypress (*Ipomopsis rubra*) is a premier, drought-tolerant native biennial (Zones 5-10) that produces 4-6 foot spikes of tubular red flowers, making it an "irresistible" nectar source for hummingbirds. It thrives in full sun and well-drained, sandy or rocky soil, blooming in its second year from summer to fall.



Turk's Cap (*Malvaviscus arboreus* var. *drummondii*) is a premier, hardy native shrub (3-9 ft tall) highly prized for attracting Ruby-throated Hummingbirds with its brilliant red, tube-shaped flowers that bloom from mid-summer until frost. It thrives in shade to partial sun and provides crucial nectar during migration.





Scarlet Sage (*Salvia coccinea*) is a highly beneficial, native perennial in Zone 8b, valued for its extreme drought tolerance, low-maintenance care, and long-lasting red blooms from spring to frost. It thrives in heat, is a Pollinator Magnet, and serves as a deer-resistant, soil-stabilizing plant perfect for pollinator gardens.



Agastache (hummingbird mint) is an ideal, low-maintenance perennial for Zone 8b, offering exceptional heat and drought tolerance once established. They thrive in full sun, producing long-lasting, fragrant blooms from summer through fall that act as magnets for hummingbirds, bees, and butterflies. Also highly deer and rabbit-resistant.



Lantana acts as a hardy, drought-tolerant perennial that thrives in heat, offering long-lasting, vibrant blooms from spring through fall. These low-maintenance, sun-loving plants excel in water-wise landscapes, act as effective groundcovers or container plants, and are exceptionally deer-resistant while attracting pollinators.



Monarda (Bee Balm) is a highly beneficial, easy-to-grow perennial for Zone 8b, valued for attracting pollinators (hummingbirds, bees, butterflies) with its summer-long, fragrant blooms. It thrives in moist, well-drained soil, is resistant to deer and rabbits, and serves as a natural, aromatic addition to pollinator gardens, borders, and containers.



Lobelia cardinalis (Cardinal Flower) thrives in zone 8b, reaching 2-5 feet tall with vibrant red flowers that attract hummingbirds and butterflies. It prefers full sun to partial shade and requires consistently moist to wet soil, making it ideal for rain gardens or pond edges. As a short-lived perennial, it often self-seeds to persist in the landscape.



Tecoma (Trumpet Bush) is a fast-growing, drought-tolerant, and pollinator-friendly perennial shrub. It thrives in full sun, typically reaching 3-6 feet in height (up to 15 ft for some varieties), and blooms from spring through frost. In Zone 8b, it may experience dieback during harsh winters, requiring it to be cut back in early spring.

Leaving it to Nature



Leaving trees and natural grasses on our hills and along the shoreline isn't neglect — it's smart stewardship. These natural areas create an important buffer that filters rainwater before it reaches the lake, helping trap sediment, excess nutrients, and pollutants. This protects water quality, reduces algae growth, and supports healthier fish and wildlife.

Tree roots and native grasses also stabilize the shoreline, preventing erosion and costly repairs after heavy rains. Over-landscaping with turf grass, fertilizers, and pesticides can wash directly into the lake, harming aquatic life and upsetting the natural balance of the water.

Best of all, natural shorelines preserve the beauty that makes our lake special — a peaceful, wooded setting with wildlife, birds, wildflowers, and clear water. By allowing nature to do what it does best, we protect our lake, wildlife, our property, and the long-term health of this remarkable 100-acre treasure.

THE 'UGLY' BRUSH PILE IS SAVING LIVES
Here's who's using it right now.

- RABBITS** — Building nests for babies
- SPARROWS** — Roosting at night
- INSECTS** — Overwintering, becoming bird food
- CHIPMUNKS** — Burrow entrance protected
- SKUNKS** — Maybe denning at base
- INSECTS** — Overwintering, becoming bird food

WHAT YOU SEE: Messy sticks ↔ **WHAT WILDLIFE SEES:** Concrete and Steel. No shelters

Leave it until late May.
Or better yet — leave it forever.
Brush piles are habitat. Not mess.

Genasys - Tyler County Alert System

The Tyler County Emergency Alert system provides immediate, localized alerts via text, email, and phone for disasters and emergencies to minimize injury and property damage. It serves as a, "all hazards" notification system for, natural or man-made emergencies, allowing residents to stay informed through registered contact methods.

If you would like to sign up for the Tyler County Emergency Alert System to receive alerts via text,

email or phone, you can register at this link <https://tylercountytexas.genasys.com/portal/en>

or scan the QR code below to enter the registration Portal on your phone. Be sure to update all your information in the left column. If you have any trouble, you can contact their office at **409-331-0874**. They will be happy to walk you through the registration process.

GEM
Genasys Emergency Management

STAY NOTIFIED

In an Emergency Situation

For more information visit: tylercountytexas.genasys.com/portal

Hello. Yes, I'm looking at you.

I've been watching you for 20 minutes.

- 3D VISION** – Only insect that can judge distance like a human.
- 270° HEAD ROTATION** – I see everything.
- RAPTORIAL ARMS** – Fire in 50 milliseconds (5x faster than blink).
- SPINES** – No second strike needed.
- CAMOUFLAGE** – You've walked past me 100 times.

MY KILL LIST:

- ✓ Spotted Lanternflies – dozens per day
- ✓ Stink Bugs – the ones invading your house
- ✓ Japanese Beetles – destroying your roses
- ✓ Aphids, Mosquitoes, Moths, Flies

WHAT'S KILLING ME:

- 🔪 Pesticides – One spray = I'm dead
- 🗑️ Fall cleanup – You throw my eggs in the trash

HOW TO HELP:

- See a mantis? Leave it. It's working.
- Don't spray broad-spectrum insecticides
- Check stems in fall for tan foam egg cases
- Buy NATIVE mantis eggs (not Chinese mantis)

OOTHECA – Egg case with 200 babies (don't on't throw it away)

I don't need food. I don't need water. I just need you to stop spraying.

🍼 BABY SEASON STATUS: WEEK 1 🍼

It's already started. Here's who's already here.

- GREAT HORNED OWL CHICKS** – 4-6 weeks old, branching
- BALD EAGLE CHICKS** – 3-5 weeks old, both parents feeding
- GRAY SQUIRREL BABIES** – First litters venturing outside
- RED FOX KITS** – Coming mid-March, vixens pregnant now
- COTTONTAIL KITS** – Hidden in shallow nests. Mom visits at dawn/dusk

⚠️ WHAT NOT TO DO:

- ✗ Don't seal your attic – babies might already be inside
- ✗ Don't "rescue" baby rabbits – Mom IS coming back
- ✗ Don't approach owl chicks on the ground – parents WILL attack
- ✗ Don't mow without checking for ground nests

Baby season started weeks ago. Before you cut, seal, mow, or 'rescue' – CHECK FIRST.

Next update: March 8



PO Box 284
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Distribution of this newsletter is intended to be sent digitally, however we have included a mail panel for those who would like to print and/or mail their own copies.