



# HOPPENINGS

FPP0A NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2023

A background image for the membership meeting announcement featuring white cherry blossoms on dark branches against a clear blue sky.

Join Us For  
Our Annual

## Membership Meeting

Vote, Visit with Friends  
and meet new Neighbors

March 18th  
10:30am

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

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### EVENTS

2nd Quarter Executive Board Meeting in May 2023

Visit [frogpondlake.com](https://frogpondlake.com) for important information:

# Dogwood Trees: How To Grow And When To Expect Bloom

## Don't plant them in the Spring!

Have you tried to plant a beautiful newly purchased Dogwood Tree in early Spring, just to watch them die by Summer?

## When To Plant

Dogwood trees are a popular choice for gardeners in Texas. They are relatively easy to care for and can provide year-round interest, with beautiful flowers in spring, vibrant foliage in summer, and stunning fall color. However, timing is critical when planting dogwoods.

The best time to plant them is in late fall or early winter, after the leaves have fallen but before the

freezing ground. This gives the trees a chance to establish their roots before the hot Texas summer arrives.

Gardeners who wait until spring to plant their dogwoods may find that the trees suffer from heat stress and have difficulty adapting to their new environment. By planting in late fall or early winter, you can help ensure that your dogwoods thrive for years to come.

## Growth And Maintenance

Dogwoods are relatively easy to care for, but there are a few things you need to do to ensure that your tree thrives. First, make sure to plant your dogwood in an area that receives partial shade.



Photo courtesy of Wanda Brammer

Too much sun can scorch the leaves, and too little sun will prevent the flowers from blooming. Second, water your tree regularly, especially during the hot summer months. Dogwoods are drought-tolerant, but they will produce more flowers with adequate moisture.

Lastly, fertilize your tree twice a year – once in spring and again in fall – with a balanced fertilizer. By following these simple tips, you can enjoy the beauty of dogwoods for many years to come.

If you're looking for a beautiful flowering tree to add to your Texas landscape, dogwood is a great option. They are relatively easy to grow and care for and provide you with stunning blooms each spring.

Just be sure to plant them in an area that receives partial shade and has well-drained soil. With a little bit of TLC, your dogwood tree will thrive and provide you with years of enjoyment.

## Where does it Grow

Dogwoods are a popular tree known for their beautiful flowers and striking fall colors. They

do best in well-drained, slightly acidic sandy loam soil – which is why they thrive in East Texas.

Dogwoods also prefer partial shade, although they can tolerate full sun if the soil conditions and moisture are ideal. The abundance of blooms is typically related to the amount of sun exposure the tree receives.

## Did You Know

Christians believe that the cross on which Jesus was crucified was made from a dogwood tree. At that time, dogwood trees were large and straight, making them ideal for constructing crosses. However, after Jesus was crucified on a dogwood cross, God decreed that the tree would never again grow large enough to be used for such a purpose.

Today, dogwood trees are small and understory trees that bloom around Easter time most years. While the Christian lore surrounding the dogwood tree is fascinating, it is also a reminder of the powerful symbolism of the cross and the sacrifice that Jesus made for humanity.

Read the full article on [GFL Outdoors](#) published June 9, 2022 by Justine Audrianna.



The Dogwood tree is a beautiful addition to any landscape. Though it is most commonly known for its white blossoms, the Dogwood tree comes in various colors, including pink, red, and yellow.

# East Texas Bird Watching

We love bird watching, and our area of East Texas is a great place for that interest! Birds appeal to our appreciation of diversity and beauty, and birdwatching provides a great opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors.

Plus, you don't have to be rich to be a birder, as you only need a pair of binoculars, and possibly an identification guide and checklist.

Year-round the diversity of the our forests, lakes, and wetlands provides a valuable habitat for permanent bird residents.

You don't have to travel to enjoy birdwatching as there are usually many species to be seen in your own backyard. All you have to do is hang a few bird feeders, setup bird houses and maybe Bluebird boxes ... you will have plenty of birds!

Visit [EastTexasBirdWatching.com](http://EastTexasBirdWatching.com) for identification guides, photos, resources and information.



Bald Eagle



Carolina Chickadee



Blue Jay



Blue Bird



Cardinal-Male



Tufted Titmouse



White Winged Dove



Road Runner



Wood Duck-male



Great Horned Owl



Red Tailed Hawk



Great Egret



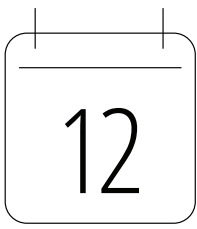
Pileated Woodpecker



Red Bellied Woodpecker



Eastern Phoebe



# FROG POND TIMELINE

by Amanda Haralson

1952

## Haralson Lakes are Created

While serving as a Captain in the US Army in WWII, attorney and Colmesneil native J.G. "Jim" Haralson, Jr., determined to seek to use family land, owned by his parents and his father's two siblings, to create a lake and sell lots around it for weekend homes. Note -- Frog Pond, with its construction in the early 1950's, predates other private, amenity lake subdivisions in this region. Mr. Haralson's concept was to provide rural recreation in the beautiful woods of east Texas for city dwellers -- many of whom had rushed to the coast to earn a living wage and support the war effort. Persuading elder family members to participate, he constructed the first dam and spillway for Frog Pond around 1953-54. Before the concrete spillway sufficiently hardened, that is "cured," a torrential, 100-year flood occurred causing the spillway to fail leaving the bed of the lake with a small pool of water perfect for bull-frogs thus the eventual name of "Frog Pond."

**In 1952:** 3300 die of polio in U.S. 57,000 children are paralyzed prior to the widespread use of Polio vaccine.

1956

## Dam Broke and Rebuilt

Over the next few years, Jim and wife Virginia, acquired additional capital, redesigned and rebuilt the structure completing it and commencing the sale of lots around Frog Pond in 1956. The lots, priced at \$650, sold quickly allowing the family to pay off construction debt, buy-out the two participating family members, and pursue the construction of a second lake.

**In 1957:** The Soviet Union shocked the people of the United States by successfully launching the first earth-orbiting satellite, Sputnik.

1957-1975

## A Growth Period

Mr. Haralson and his wife pursued completion of his dream to build a second lake, sell lake front lots around it and begin the sale of interior, non-lake front lots. The second lake required acquisition of additional land and capital. Local business leaders Cecil Ogden and Herbert Sutton invested in the venture. The second lake, Lake Amanda, was built and lot sales were phased to sell over a period of years. In 1973, Mr. and Mrs. Haralson borrowed money to buy-out the two partners. Over this period, Mr. Haralson performed maintenance on the Frog Pond Dam and Spillway. With Frog Pond waterfront lots sold, and Lake Amanda lots near sold-out status, Mr. Haralson began to sell off-the-water lots along the southeast side of the property and platted the Tompkins lots on the southeast side of the Frog Pond Spillway. "Big Jim" as he was called by many, died May 1975, before completing the survey work on the Tompkins lots.

**In 1957:** The post-World War II baby boom peaked. President Eisenhower sent federal troops to Arkansas to uphold the court-ordered integration of public schools, and the Little Rock Nine bravely integrated Little Rock's Central High School on September 25, 1957.

## 1975-1992

### The Middle Years

Widow, Virginia Stephens Haralson, daughter Amanda Haralson and husband at the time, attorney John D. Stover, assumed management of Haralson Lakes, determining how to manage the debt and cover property taxes with most of the waterfront lots sold and income from owner financing dwindling due to payouts being completed. They finalized the platting of the Tompkins subdivision lots with lots being sold with water access through the common access lot on Frog Pond thus following Mr. Haralson's intent. Having no desire for greater density of people, the family increased efforts to manage for timber production to offset property taxes.

Due to safety concerns with 300 developed lots around the lakes, the hunting of game was no longer viable. Hiking was allowed; the advent of the popularity of motor bikes and 4-wheelers was prohibited as was dumping of trash and household goods and appliances. Regrettably, these practices continued unabated as did the poaching of game. Both Frog Pond and Lake Amanda created informal property owners associations during this period.

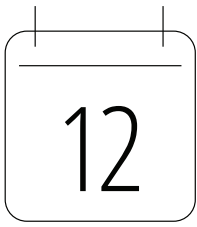
Ms. Haralson and Mr. Stover divorced in 1988.

## 1992

### Mr. Haralson Passes

In 1987, "Miss Jenny" retired from a 37-year career as an educator and lived out her life in the family home on FM 256 until her death in February 1992. During that period, ownership of Frog Pond and Lake Amanda was transferred to the Haralson Lakes Trust for the property owners to manage, or, if they chose, to remove the respective lake from the Trust and manage independently. Ms. Haralson, who worked and resided in Austin at the time of Miss Jenny's passing, assumed responsibility for communicating the change in ownership, encouraged the property owners to form a joint Haralson Lakes property owners' association to work with the Haralson Lakes Trust to perform maintenance on the two dams and spillways. Property owners chose to not participate. Amanda proceeded with renovation plans for dams and spillways of both lakes working with Everitt Griffith, Jr. & Associates, Lufkin with oversight by the Texas Commission on Environmental Commission (TCEQ). Renovations were completed in the mid-1990s. Ms. Haralson resigned as trustee of the Haralson Lakes Trust shortly thereafter providing recommended maintenance plans for Frog Pond and Lake Amanda to contacts of record for each lake.

Timeline continued on next page



# FROG POND TIMELINE

by Amanda Haralson

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2001

## Woods Become Wildlife Managed

By 2001, Ms. Haralson, as an absentee landowner, was striving to increase her knowledge of forest management and conservation practices, and in frustration over the amount of erosion and damage to the forest land caused by 4-wheelers ridden against rules, natural openings were fenced and access to the property was limited to foot traffic. Management practices to benefit wildlife and ecosystem services were increased to complement Best Management Practices guidelines of the Texas Forest Service.

**In 2001:** 2001 was dominated by the September 11 attacks against the United States by Al-Qaeda, which killed 2,977 people and instigated the global war on terror. The United States led a multi-national coalition in an invasion of Afghanistan after the Taliban government did not extradite Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden.

1997

## FPPOA is Formed

Building on efforts begun in the 1980s, property owners increased efforts to formalize the property owner association and increase efforts to manage Frog Pond Lake.

Frog Pond POA established Articles of Incorporation and became a 501c3 organization.

**In 1997:** NASA's Pathfinder space probe lands on the surface of Mars.

2014

## Member Access Lot

Ms. Haralson deeded the approximate 5-acre access lot to the Frog Pond Property Owner Association to own and manage to benefit Frog Pond and Tompkins subdivision property owners.

**In 2014:** The number of people in the U.S. using mobile devices to access the internet overtook those using desktop computers for the first time, a feat which would be followed globally two years later in 2016.



2016

## Year of the Storm

May 2016, remains of a weather system that caused severe flooding in the Bryan-College Station area stalled over Tyler County delivering 22-inches of rain in less than 24 hours causing the most severe flooding in more than 50 years. The rapid rise of water threatened Frog Pond and Lake Amanda. Frog Pond dam and spillway incurred damage; Lake Amanda dam failed due to the rapid rise of the lake and non-TCEQ approved modifications to the dam and spillway.

**In 2016:** Donald Trump is elected as the 45th President of the United States



2017-2019

## Year of the Storm

Haralson heirs, Amanda Haralson and Seth Haralson Stover, gifted the clay-sand mix needed to reconstruct the Lake Amanda dam and to incentivize the formation of a water control improvement district to fund the rebuild of the dam and spillway. FPPOA determined the usefulness of creating a Frog Pond Water Control Improvement District to provide funds to maintain the integrity of the dam and spillway. The WCID was formalized in 2019 and benefitted from a gift of property from the Amanda Haralson Stover Trust. The 2016 flood disaster; guidance from natural resource management professionals espousing the importance and challenge of using prescribed fire and select herbicides to improve wildlife habitat, timber production and ecosystem services, and that doing so is almost impossible with 300 surrounding lot owners; the acknowledged need for more hands-on management of forest and wildlife habitat than Ms. Haralson could individually provide, combined with family priorities; converged and led to the decision to allow the acreage surrounding the lakes to pass out of Haralson family ownership in 2018.

**In 2016:** Hurricane Harvey strikes the United States as a Category 4 hurricane, causing catastrophic damage to the Houston metropolitan area, mostly due to record-breaking floods. At least 108 deaths are recorded, and total damage reaches \$125 billion (2017 USD), making Harvey the costliest natural disaster in United States history, tied with Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

# Plans for Managing the Dam & Spillway

**Now that the county has mowed the dam it's time to plan a volunteer day.**

## **Short term annual maintenance that is performed by volunteers:**

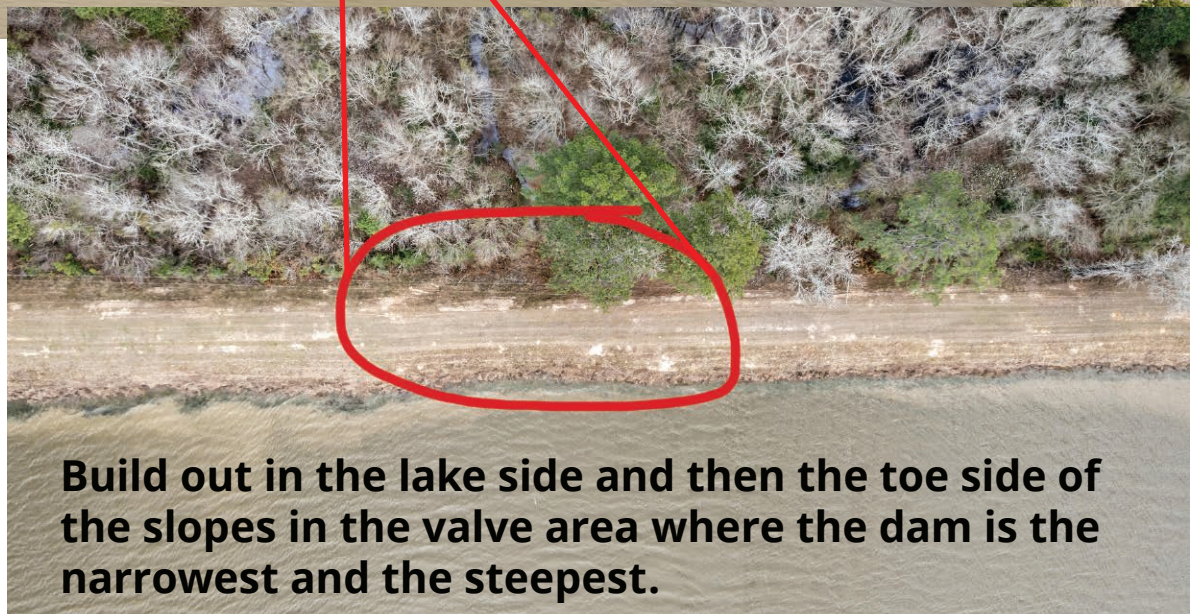
1. Fill voids on dam created by fallen trees and rodents
2. Clear brush and small trees behind/ downstream of the spillway and dam all the way to the toe.

## **Long term necessary improvements:**

1. Reference photos below: Build out in the lake side and then the toe side of the slopes in the valve area where the dam is the narrowest and the steepest.
2. For more information on long term goals and engineering report, visit our website at [FrogPondLake.com/wcid](http://FrogPondLake.com/wcid)



**Narrowest part of the dam needs to be strengthened.**



**Build out in the lake side and then the toe side of the slopes in the valve area where the dam is the narrowest and the steepest.**

# New Payment Program with Venmo

Starting this year, you will be receiving all correspondence, including invoices and voting ballots via email and website.

You also now have the option to pay dues and donations with Venmo.

Download and fill out the [FPPOA Invoice PDF](#) (indicating your payment requests) and email it back to [frogpondfppoa@gmail.com](mailto:frogpondfppoa@gmail.com). We will reply back with a confirmation shortly after you have submitted your form and payment. You will also receive a payment confirmation from Venmo.

Learn more about Venmo at [Venmo.com](https://venmo.com)



**venmo**

Scan this QR code with your smart phone camera to pay with Venmo.



iPhone

Scan the appropriate QR code to download the



app on your smart phone



android 

## 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

## Be a good neighbor!

REMEMBER TO CHECK ON ELDERLY OR DISABLED NEIGHBORS IN YOUR COMMUNITY DURING EXTREME COLD OR HEAT AND DURING AN EMERGENCY.



# If You See A Purple Fence in Texas, Don't Cross It. Here's Why...

**Like the old saying goes, "Everything is bigger in Texas" but this time it is more like bigger and bolder in color...**

Basically, If You See A Purple Fence in Texas, Don't Cross It. Here's Why.

Texas has a Purple Paint Law in affect which allows residents to paint their fences purple more than for just asthetic appeal.

The "purple paint law" became official in Texas on September 1, 1997 and is a legal way to tell people to stay out. It's basically a no trespassing sign but in a fence and it's symbol is purple.

While most everyone knows what a keep out sign is, purple marks are legally recognized alternatives or enhancements to such signs because of the signs' vulnerability to time, severe weather, cattle scratching their itches, or vandals.

In addition to Texas, these purple fences are also recognized in Illinois, Missouri, North Carolina, Florida, and Arkansas.

The paint provision is part of Texas Penal Code §30.05, which says it's illegal for anyone to enter property that is fenced, posted with at least one sign, or marked with purple paint on trees or posts. Trespass can be a Class B or C misdemeanor in Texas, punishable by up to a \$2,000 fine or up to 180 days in jail.



**Please respect your neighbor's property and do not trespass! This includes hunting and dumping on any property that does not belong to you.**

# Member Access Lot

The FPPOA is pleased to provide a Member Access area for those members that do not have water front property to access the lake. All Frog Pond property owners may use the lot to launch or remove their boats, but they must be docked at their private shoreline.

This lot is accessible to paying members ONLY. Use of Frog Pond Lake and the Member

Access lot is at your own risk. This includes immediate family and all guests of Members. Any and all guests must be accompanied by a FPPOA member when accessing the lot.

All board members now have a key to the Member Access Lot. If you need access, please give us 24 hour notice and send a request to [frogpondfppoa@gmail.com](mailto:frogpondfppoa@gmail.com).



## 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](https://www.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>.

# Frog Pond Lake

A Private Lake Community

PO Box 284

Colmesneil, TX 75938



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.