



HOPPENINGS

FPP0A NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2022

Fish Committee Meeting held November 5, 2022

It was a great turnout on Saturday November 5th at Loy & Sharon's place. Beautiful weather and lots of good information was shared.

What is a fish survey and when might we want to conduct one?

A survey is not just counting fish. During a survey a biologist performs various tests for water quality, types of vegetation in the lake, checks for types of species, their health, sizes and quantities, and checks for bait fish quantities, and if there are any invasive species. A survey also determines if there are any types of fish that need additional stocking or if the numbers of any specific type of fish needs to be reduced.

Experts, including our local TPWD biologist Todd Dricscoll, Mr. Overton from Overton Fishery and Mr. Cash Conrad from Lochow Ranch, agree we shouldn't do any stocking in the lake without having a survey done. They also recommend that surveys should be performed every 3-5 years.



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Save The Date: March 18th
Membership Meeting

Slow Down - Drive Safe

EVENTS

1st Quarter Executive Board
Meeting in January 2023

January Invoice and voting
ballots for Secretary and
Treasurer

March 18, 2023
Membership Meeting at
the Colmesneil Community
Center

Visit frogpondlake.com for important information:

When was the last fish survey conducted in Frog Pond Lake?

Ours was last done in 2012 by Lochow ranch.

How much does a fish survey cost?

A survey costs approximately \$2600. Due to the cost this would need to be a donation process and will be included on your March, 2023 invoice as a donation item.

Is there anything we can each be doing?

Until which time an actual survey can be done it would be helpful if the people who regularly fish the lake could:

- Keep a log of type of fish you have caught, any sign of health issues and possibly various quantities of size.
- Adhere to size and catch limits posted on the lake and website <https://frogpondlake.com/fish-info>, specifically limiting your harvest of breeder size fish, and limit taking mass quantities of Catfish, Crappie and Bass
- Limit the use of trot lines and jug lines

There are also simple and inexpensive things that can be done to help the fish population.

- Due to the lack of natural habitat in the lake making man made habitats would significantly help. These can be purchased ready to assemble or you can research ideas online

and make your own. Catfish prefer habitats with holes, so old metal washing machine tubes work great for them. Please refrain from making these out of wood or placing trees in the lake as they only deteriorate and settle to the bottom contributing to our muck and sediment problem. PVC is a very good source and doesn't hang your line as easily as trees or wood. TPWD has completely stopped placing trees in any of the lakes and have made several thousand PVC type structures for local lakes.

- Aeration is another way to, not only help the fish in the lake, but also helps clear the muck and sediment from the bottom. There are various types of aeration systems, from solar, wind, or electrical driven pumps that can be obtained and placed in the lake. American Eagle wind mills, the Pond Guy and Clean Flo sell aeration systems and have useful videos.
- Several companies offer muck reduction products. **The Pond Guy** and **Clean Flo** are two that the FPPOA and the WCID have looked into. Their websites <https://www.thepondguy.com/> and <http://cleanflo.com/> offer products and videos showing systems and how they work.

The use of automatic fish feeders is another way that will help our fish population and also attracts game fish to your docks to feed on the smaller fish. Protein feed is preferred however it is about twice the price of a top choice catfish food.



WCID Update - Lake Restoration Research

There have been some concerns raised with the amount of muck, water quality, and use of herbicide for weed control on the West end of the lake from homeowners, WCID board members and FPPOA board members. Due to the concerns, a few homeowners and board members have been researching ways to address these issues. We have contacted two companies for advice on ways to improve our lake. We setup meetings with the Clean-Flo and The Pond Guy. Both companies gave good advice for our lake. Both Clean-Flo and The Pond Guy recommended adding an aeration system to our lake.

Over time organic debris begins to accumulate and the lake becomes overabundant with nutrients. These excess nutrients become an effective plant fertilizer, causing weeds and algae to grow prolifically. You may begin to notice emergent weeds, like cattails and shoreline grasses, growing along the shoreline and a foul smell emanating from the water. The WCID board has used an aquatic herbicide to try and control the existing growth. These herbicide treatments provide a temporary fix to weed and algae control. Not only is the herbicide a temporary fix for weed control. The decaying plant material turns into nutrient-rich lake muck that continues to fuel weed and algae growth. The lake then enters a continuous cycle of reactive treatments to use more chemicals to control growth.

Muck is made up of plant and animal waste. It is caused from dying and decaying organics. The muck produces nitrogen and phosphates in the soil. The nitrogen and phosphates are an excellent source of food for weeds. Increasing nitrogen and phosphates in the lake contribute to low levels of oxygen in the water keeping it cooler on the bottom and warmer on top. As the seasons change the water in the lake will



turnover causing the less oxygenated water to mix with oxygenated water which can lead to “winter fish kills” and poor water quality. As the dissolved oxygen levels continue to decline, the bacteria that eat the muck will also decline without oxygen to live on. This process adds to the muck and weed control problem.

For these reasons, both Clean-Flo and The Pond Guy recommend adding aeration systems to the lake to increase the dissolved oxygen levels in the lake. Increasing the dissolved oxygen levels in the lake will allow the bacteria that eats the muck to flourish. Increasing the good bacteria that eats the muck helps to reduce the muck and is food for larger insects that eat the bacteria. The insects grow larger and are food for the fish. The increased oxygen level and larger amount of food source for the fish allows for a more productive fish population.

Adding an aeration system helps with:

1. **Aeration reduces lake muck**
2. **Aeration improves water quality**
3. **Aeration boosts dissolved oxygen levels**
4. **Aeration reduces the risk of a fish kill**

Both Clean-Flo and The Pond Guy recommended a full lake aeration system. **They do not recommend using Muck pellets without the aeration system.** The muck pellets contain the aerobic bacteria (good bacteria that eats the muck). If the bacteria does not have enough oxygen, the bacteria will not be effective continually treating the lake with muck pellets would be cost prohibitive.

System 1 of 2

Airmax® LakeSeries™ LS120 Aeration System

Aeration System Quotes

Below are some quotes that have been listed out for an aeration system and muck control pellets. The Clean-Flo quote is for a full lake aeration system. We had asked The Pond Guy to reduce the full lake aeration system. The Pond Guy recommended placing aeration system in the problem areas of the lake. They recommended adding the aeration to the west end of the lake to get started. The quote from the Pond Guy is only for an aeration system on the West end of the lake.

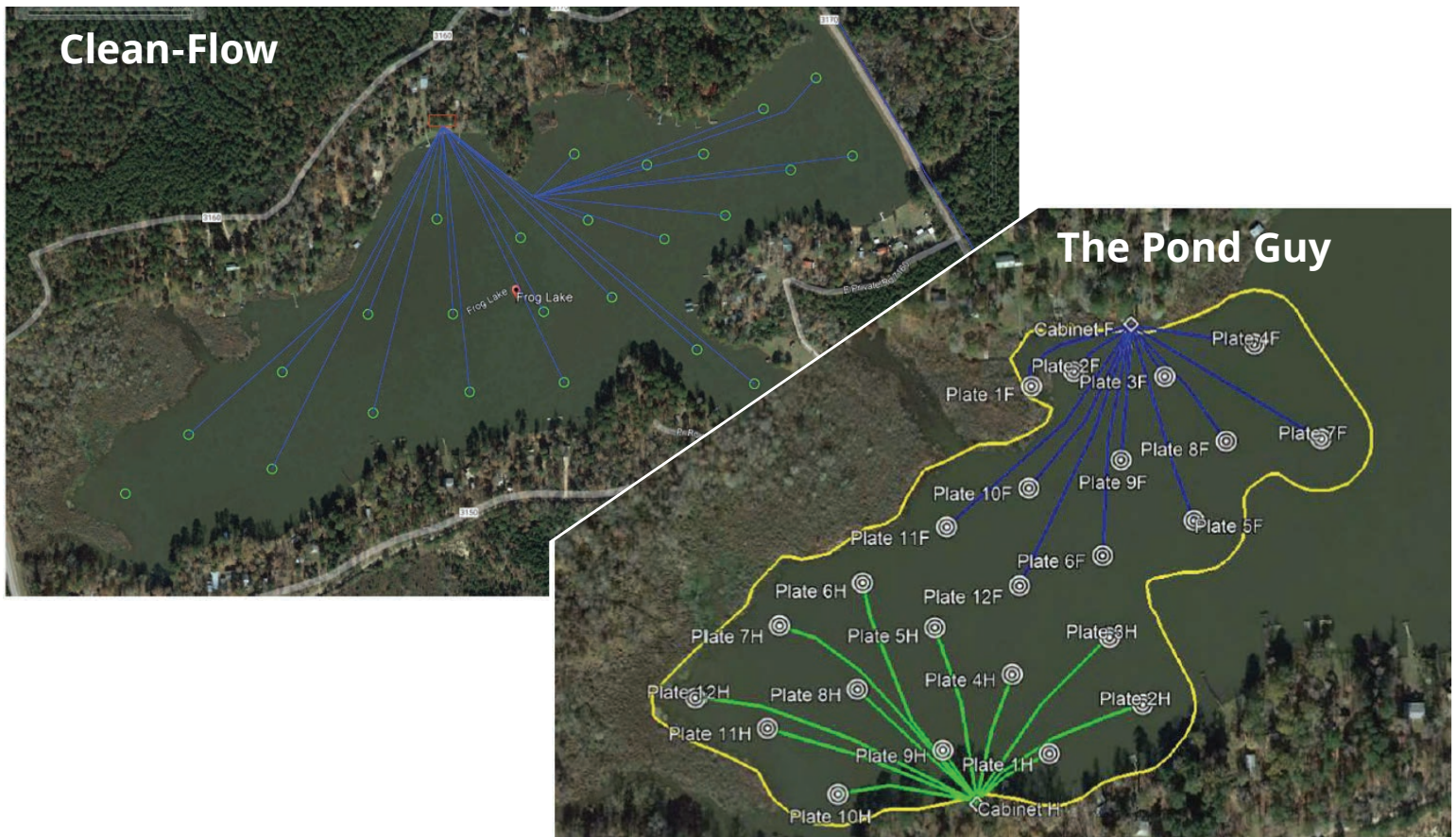
1. Clean-Flo Full lake aeration system quote

The system would consist of a single compressor with 13 hp motor. It would be installed in an 8' x 8' shed or similar enclosure (excluded from Clean-Flo's scope). There would be 25 12-inch diffusers distributed throughout the lake, connected to the compressor with 5/8" self-sinking airline. We recommend that a season program of bio augmentation be followed in addition to installing and operating the diffusion system. A preliminary system layout is attached. The total cost for the aeration system was a little over \$100,000 dollars and the bio augmentation was around \$25,000 dollars per year.

2. **The Pond Guy** also recommended aeration with addition of muck pellets to clean up the lake. The Pond Guy aeration system quote for the west end of the lake.

3. The Pond Guy aeration system was also around \$100,000 dollars. There is roughly 24 surface acres on the west end of the lake. The muck pellets from the Pond Guy is \$250.00 per surface acre. The muck pellets are to be applied once a month. The cost would be \$6000.00 per month for the muck pellets for the entire lake

4. AquaTech was the third company that we had asked for quotes to cleanup the lake. AquaTech recommended muck pellets only. This quote is for the west end of the lake only. This quantity is good for the initial treatment and then a reduced amount would need to be applied monthly. The quote for the initial treatment was around \$18,000 dollars and then \$6,000 dollars per month for additional treatments.



WCID Solar Panel Aeration System Assembly

All 3 of the quotes that we received are too much money for our community to be able to afford. Each of the companies recommendations provided good information and we are sure the systems that they quoted would work extremely well. The Frog Pond Lake WCID board had voted to try installing a smaller less expensive system to try to restore the lake in increments.

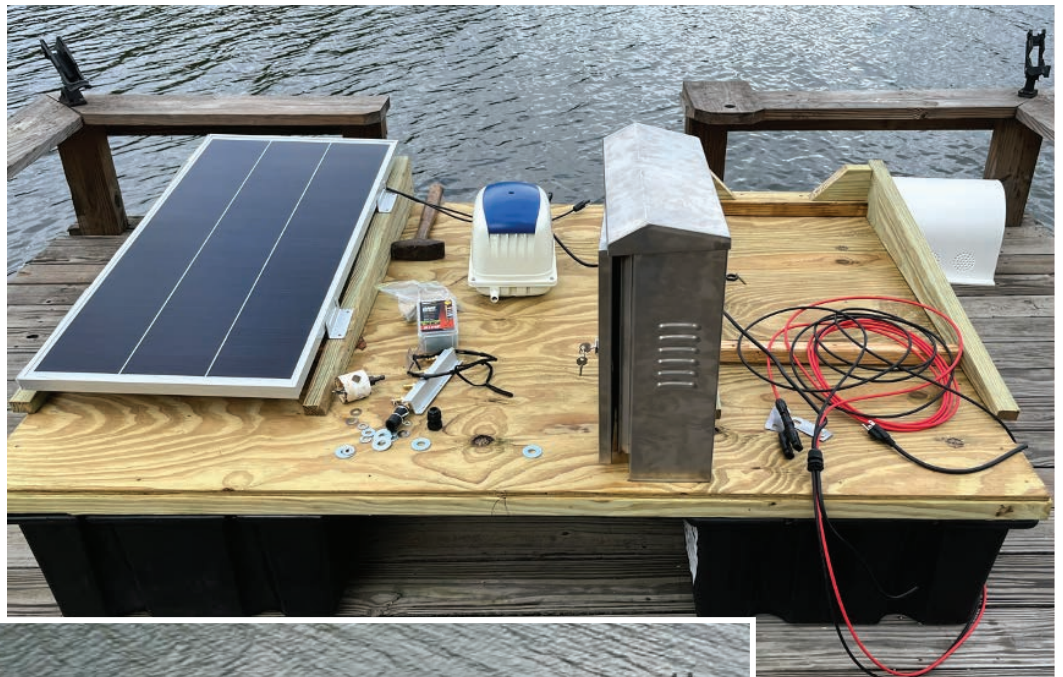
Greg and Cris Thompson donated the pump, diffusers and air hose to the WCID board. The board had voted to allocate \$1,000 to install a solar aerator system with 4 diffusers on the west end of the lake at the September 24, 2022 meeting. The total cost of the system that was installed with volunteer help was around \$1,600 dollars for the parts. All of the parts were purchased from Amazon, except for the mounting hardware.

The system was assembled and installed on November 12, 2022. There are attached pictures below and there are some additional pictures of

the assembly and installation of the system posted on the FFPPOA website <https://frogpondlake.com/wcid>

Many thanks to the team that installed the solar aeration system:

- Cris Thompson
- Greg Thompson
- Buck Johnson
- Tool
- Greg Askew
- Kirby Hood





Solar Panel Aeration System for Purchase

Patriot Pond Subsurface Aeration System

Found here on Amazon <https://a.co/d/6R5FjgY>



ECO-WORTHY 200 Watts 12 Volt/24 Volt Solar Panel Kit

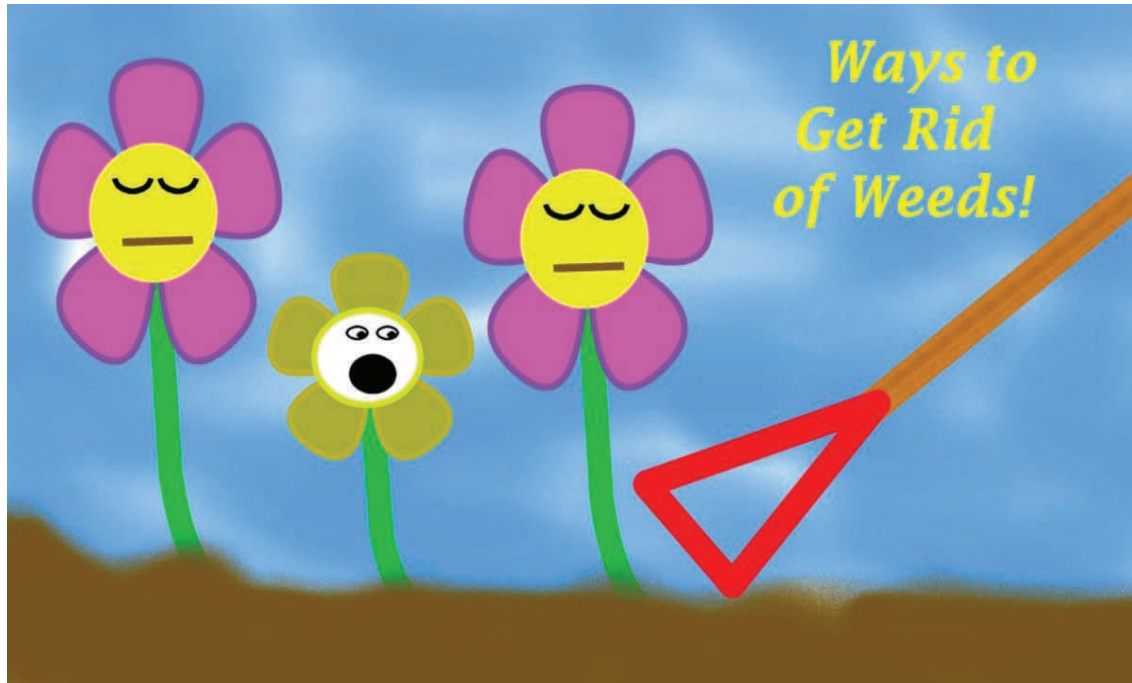
Found here on Amazon <https://a.co/d/ekCFBnl>



Unapproved Herbicides

Please be aware that in Texas, the use of herbicides or any chemicals used in any lake or along the lake's edge that feed into or have run off into other bodies of water must be approved and permitted by the TPWD.

The use of chemicals, herbicides and fertilizers can be very harmful to our lake if used incorrectly or the wrong type is used. There will be a publication posted with a list of what types are approved and what not to use.



- **Old Shower Curtains and Carpet Samples**

Spreading these useless items in garden paths or between rows will keep weeds from ever showing their unwanted heads. Cover with mulch.

- **Corn Gluten Meal** This corn by-product stops seeds from growing into weeds. Since the meal will prevent germination, spread it around established plants, and after seedlings and transplants have taken hold in the soil. After harvest, spread the meal to prevent late-season weeds.

- **Vinegar** The acetic acid in 5% vinegar is a desiccant that sucks the life out of plant leaves. It's most destructive to young plants with immature roots, though it just rolls off weeds with waxy leaves, like pennywort or thistle. Make sure you cover desirables before spraying, because vinegar is an equal opportunity killer. Keep your spray on-target by removing the bottom from a 2-liter plastic soda bottle, and placing it over the weed. Spray vinegar into the mouth of the bottle, which will keep it from splattering on your vegetables.

- **Vodka** Don't know if vodka makes weeds fall down dead or drunk, but 1 ounce mixed with 2 cups of water and a couple of drops of dish soap will dry out weeds that live in the sun. Doesn't work that well on shade-loving weeds. Protect desirables, because vodka will dry them out, too.

- **Soap** The oil in soap can break down waxy or hairy weed surfaces, making them vulnerable to desiccants. So add a few drops of liquid dish detergent to vinegar or vodka sprays to keep the solution on leaves. The soap also makes leaves shiny, which will help you keep track of what you've sprayed.

- **Boiling Water** After you've made yourself a cup of tea, take the kettle outside and pour the boiling water on weeds, which will burn up. This is a particularly good way to whack driveway and walkway weeds, because the boiling water can run off impervious surfaces and cool before it reaches border plants.

Welcome New Residents

FPPOA Website

Don't forget to visit frogpondlake.com for important information such as:

- Lake rules & Original Grant of Easement frogpondlake.com/lake-rules
- Welcome Packet (download PDF) frogpondlake.com/welcome-1

- History of Haralson Lakes (Frog Pond and Lake Amanda) frogpondlake.com/history-1
- [Local Business Directory](#) and other local resources such as Emergency Services, Burn Ban information, local radio stations, and more!



Hardy Johnson on Frog Pond Lake. Late 1950s or early 1960s. Before the lake was cleared of trees. Dock posts are still standing today. Photo courtesy of Jannelle Johnson and Greg Askew.

Why We Don't Cut Our Trees!

Frog Pond Lake is at the bottom of surrounding hills with Sugar-Sand Soil. Removal of trees and other land based vegetation is discouraged, especially waterfront properties. Such actions create major land runoff, destroy wildlife habitats and encourage washout erosion, all detrimental to the lake. Reference FrogPondLake.com/lake-rules and original [Grant Of Easment #6](#) on our website. Several members have been gathering saplings to transplant where trees have been lost. If you are interested in receiving any, please send an email request to frogpondfppoa@gmail.com

Our Riparian Buffer

A riparian forest buffer is an area adjacent to a stream, lake, or wetland that contains a combination of trees, shrubs, and/or other



perennial plants and is managed differently from the surrounding landscape, primarily to provide conservation benefits. When functioning properly, buffers protect the waterbody from the impacts of human activity.

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.



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>.



March 18, 2023 Annual FPPOA Membership Meeting

Members will be voting for Secretary and Treasurer.

If anyone is interested in volunteering for the newsletter please contact frogpondfpoa@gmail.com. We will be publishing Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall.

Recent Reflections:

- Post Pandemic Record Number of Homes Sold on Frog Pond: Warm welcome to our new members: Sarah & Luke Parsons, Mike & Amanda Webb, Fred & Nancy Decker, Judy & Steve Buclitz, Clyde & Kristin Turner, Al & Janice Sanders, and Amy & Peter Anderson.
- Snowpocalypse February 2021!



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

“A good neighbor is a fellow who smiles at you over the back fence, but doesn't climb over it.”

Arthur Baer

Drive Safely

We would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone to drive carefully thru our neighborhood. As we get into the holiday season we can expect to have more people, their pets, and children in our neighborhood. It's important to remember to slow down a little and remind others to do the same. Our families are worth the few seconds it costs to drive a bit more cautiously.



Frog Pond Lake

A Private Lake Community

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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.