



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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**Following
County COVID
19 guidelines
the Clubhouse
and Library
remain closed.**

*Pool & Tennis
Courts are open
with social
distancing.
No more than 10
people at a time in
the pool and on
deck please, and
thank you!*

**President's Message
April 2021 Newsletter**

The Board of Directors (BOD) of Berkshire Lakes Master Association held the 2021 organization meeting on Monday, March 29, 2021.

The 2021 Board of Directors are:

Maureen Richards	President
David Orr	Vice-President
Linda Craig	Secretary
Orie LaCroix *	Treasurer
Charles Lascari	Director
Mike Peppe	Director
Robert De Marco	Director
Open Position	Director

**As you are aware, Orie LaCroix has been generously serving as our treasure on a temporary basis.*

The BOD authorized the purchase of signs that will be posted at our entrances to remind our owners of the dates and time of our monthly meetings.

Meetings will continue to be held on the third Wednesday of each month and will begin at 7:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 21, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at the Master Association clubhouse. It will be held on Zoom and clubhouse attendance will be limited to the Board of Directors and 10 owners only, due to Collier County COVID-19 restrictions.

Owners will be sent the Zoom contact information and the agenda for the meeting via email. If you do not have email, you may pick up a copy of the agenda at the clubhouse 48 hours prior to the meeting. This information will not be available on our website as it is currently being restructured, and we will discuss the details on completion of this project at the meeting.

The proposed 2021 objectives that were presented at the Annual Meeting will be reviewed in detail, including project leaders, team members, completion dates and those projects which will carry over into 2022.

And lastly... ***A HEARTFELT THANK YOU***

It is with sadness & regret that I announce Bob Luparello's decision to retire as President of the Berkshire Lake Master Association. Bob has served the Berkshire Lakes community in various positions for 12 years.

I can assure you that Bob has a "list of projects to do in my spare time" and I think it's somewhere near his work bench in the garage. I suspect he will be a remarkably busy man completing his to do list.

To Bob, a huge thank you for all your work on behalf of Berkshire Lakes Master Association!

*With appreciation,
Maureen Richards*

HORSESHOE LAKE UPDATE

The remediation of Horseshoe Lake is half finished. Most of the remaining work will be concentrated on the organic shoreline where the littoral plants will be installed. Golden Canna, Pickerel Weed, Blue Flag Iris, Duck Potato and Spike Rush will be planted along the edge of the lake in front of Melrose Place and Coach Homes. The plants will need to be watered and carefully nurtured for the first few years but we expect that they will take root and begin to spread around the lake after that. The Committee had previously planted experimental patches of different littorals which seemed to thrive in that environment.

About one thousand feet of the shoreline remains undisturbed because it evidences little erosion at this time. By subtracting this amount of work from the overall project, we were able to bring it in under budget. Since those banks have resisted erosion for thirty-five years, it made no sense to spend money on unneeded repair.

As this project advances toward completion, careful consideration is being given to which of the other lakes should be the next to be undertaken. Serious erosion problems exist on several lakes where wave action has undermined the bank. Repairing part of the lakeshore at a time is a real possibility and would allow us to address the worst of the damage on several lakes before installing the organic shoreline on each. We will give Seabreeze, our current contractor, the opportunity to submit a proposal for remediation if their work continues to be as efficacious as it seems to be now.

We want to thank all our neighbors on Horseshoe Lake for their continued support and patience throughout this project.

Your Lakes Committee



YARD OF THE MONTH, *And the Winners are...*

BLMA would like to congratulate the "Yard of the Month" and the "Most Improved Yard of the Month" Winners! Yard of the Month was awarded to **744 Belville Blvd** and Most Improved Yard was awarded to **921 Belville Blvd**. If you see the signs please offer a congratulations to your neighbor for these distinguished awards! *Great Job Neighbors!*



About Those Trucks

When Berkshire Lakes was developed many decades ago, pickup trucks were not in common use as family vehicles. Our covenants reflect that mindset. Of course, things have changed and many of our neighbors do own pickup trucks, while our covenants still prohibit these vehicles from being parked overnight in the driveway.

So we have a dilemma. It would be easy to ignore the proliferation of trucks in driveways but, like all rules, the covenants cannot be enforced selectively. Each rule in the documents must be applied equally. We don't want our neighbors to operate businesses out of their homes. We don't want their homes to be in disrepair. For most of us the equity in our homes is our biggest asset so we want our neighborhood to look its best and be well maintained.

So how do we solve the problem? We utilize the process. The documents provide for a remedy. To change the documents, owners can collect enough signatures to put the question on the ballot and then everyone gets to vote. The homeowners in Berkshire Lakes will get to voice their preferences. Since many folks are happy that truck parking is prohibited, the truck parking amendment may not pass; but that's how a democracy works.

In the meantime, please park those pickup trucks in the garage or at Berkshire Commons. Until the rules are changed by a vote of the people, you still risk a fine for prohibited parking.

CONDITIONS IN OUR LAKES---OOPS---RETENTION PONDS

Unfortunately we have seen an increase in the amount of algae in some of our lakes lately. Part of the problem has to do with the fact that our lakes really are storm water retention ponds. Their job is to receive the overflow water from yards, streets, and parking lots; clean it and deliver it through the weir into the Golden Gate Canal. This overflow contains pollutants, trash and all kinds of undesirable elements that contribute to the growth of algae. Part two of the problem is the chemicals that we use on our yards to achieve that gorgeous green lawn. The excess phosphorus and nitrogen not only harm our lakes but continue out into the Gulf of Mexico where they contribute to the increasing dilemma of Red Tide. The third piece of the puzzle involves our wildlife. If you remember last spring and summer we had an explosion in the Muscovy duck population. Broods of twenty plus ducklings were not uncommon because the ducks were so well nourished by well-meaning residents. Muscovy duck droppings are toxic. They contain incredible amounts of phosphorus which only encourages algae growth.

What can we do about it? Well, first we have to come to terms with the fact that no matter how carefully we control the fertilizers, pesticides, and over-zealous bird feeders in our neighborhoods, we will always have some water quality issues. These are not clear water lakes in Minnesota. These are bodies of water designed to hold and hopefully clean excess runoff from Berkshire Commons, Devonshire, Radio Road and all the other hard services which drain into them.

That being said, we have options to improve our valuable assets. We have, for the past several years, tried to encourage best water management practices as outlined by the University of Florida and IFAS. We no longer spray with copper sulfate. We have instructed our landscaping companies not to use pesticides or fertilizer within ten feet of the lake. And we have asked them to mow in such a way as to spray the clippings away from the water.

As a homeowner, you can do the following:

- Instruct your landscapers not to use fertilizer or pesticides within ten feet of the lake.
- Don't over irrigate. This just washes more nutrients into the lake.
- Read labels and choose biodegradable products.
- Never pour anything but water down the storm drains.
- Dispose of pet waste properly. Never throw it down the storm sewer or into the lake.
- Make sure your roof drains spill into your yard and not onto the concrete. The grass will remove some pollutants before the water reaches the storm drains.
- DON'T FEED THE DUCKS!

The remediation of our erosion problems which involves littoral plantings will contribute to cleaner water. We are also considering the installation of aerators in some lakes. Together we can improve and preserve the beauty of our useful lakes.

Your Lakes Committee

BERKSHIRE LAKES MASTER COMMITTEES

FROM THE NEWSLETTER STAFF

In this issue, you will find a brief explanation of all the Berkshire Lakes Master Association Committees. This newsletter issue contains a brief explanation of the committee responsibility and how each committee is composed. In future issues of the newsletter, we will feature one of the committees, provide more detail on their function, and point you to areas on our website where you can find the documents for each committee and meeting dates.

Committees

There shall be a chairperson for each committee. There shall be appointed a spokesperson for the committee at the Board Meeting. There shall be minutes kept of all committee meetings. Board members may be appointed as advisory members to all committees except the fines committee. The Operation of Berkshire Lakes Master Association is supported by the following standing committees:

Architectural Review Board

The committee is comprised of no less than three (3) resident volunteers who meet twice monthly on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. Their responsibilities are two-fold, to review, approve or disapprove resident's submitted requests for changes to their property and or landscape. The review process ensures the submitted request does not violate BLMA standards, Collier County and or Florida State statutes. They are also charged with the responsibility to recommend to the Board of Directors changes to the BLMA Architectural Standards, as deemed necessary, for their approval.

Buffer Zone Committee

Buffer zone committee is working on the buffer zone which extends around the perimeter of Berkshire Lakes. It covers the area from the Buffer plantings outside the fence to 25 to 40 feet inside the fence. All plantings inside the fence must be native plants only and be approved by the ARB. We are working on a contract to clean up all plantings inside the fence and removing all exotics, invasive plants and unapproved plants. Eucalyptus trees will be removed and new trees will be planted outside the fence.

Compliance Committee

Ensures the covenants of the Association are not violated. The committee is staffed by residents who volunteer their time to document and report covenant violation in their travels throughout the community. Documentation includes a summary and a supporting photograph.

Finance Committee

Evaluates all bids more than \$5,000 on all work to be done in all Common Areas; reviews all contracts from vendors; assists in development of annual budget; reports at monthly Board meetings.

Fines Committee

The Board of Directors levies a fine to those residents whose number of violations warrant a fine consideration. The committee evaluates the reports and the board levied fine against those residents. Based on their evaluations of the violations and association documentation as well as the residents supplied documentation, if any, the committee can approve the board levied fine, decrease the fine amount, or rescind the fine. A monthly report is submitted to the board. Board members and or members of their family are prohibited from serving on the committee.

Lakes Committee

Comprised of resident volunteers in conjunction with the Community Association Manager and assigned BLMA Directors who review the status of the Association's Surface Water Management System. Trend analysis and detecting system defects are facilitated by the tools available to the committee which are the monthly Lakes Management Company's reports, the GAF annual water quality analysis report and their visual observation of surface water, lake-shoreline slope, littoral plantings and the floating islands. All vendor activity for system remediation are coordinated through the committee. They report their findings to the Board of Directors with recommended solutions for their approval.

Landscape/Grounds Committee

Comprised of one or more resident volunteers in conjunction with the CAM reviews the monthly irrigation reports, noticeable landscape areas requiring attention, makes recommendations for the improvement of common areas. Submits a report at monthly board meetings.

Newsletter

The committee is comprised of the editor and an Ad-Hoc committee comprised of Board Members, Club Officers and Condo Association representatives who submit information for inclusion in the next edition of the newsletter. They are responsible to submit the articles in Microsoft Word format to the BLMA office to produce the master copy. Once approved copies are distributed electronically to residents who have agreed to receive such information via e-mail. The newsletter is also posted on the website for residents who have not provided their e-mail address to read. The website maintains a library of all past newsletters.

Website Committee

This is an Ad-Hoc committee comprised of the Webmaster, BLMA Directors, Office Staff and Condo Associations representatives, who submit information for inclusion on the website. The Webmaster is responsible for the posting of information and keeping the site's applications technically current. The website's designation is <http://berkshirelakes.org>

Ad Hoc Committees are appointed as needed to address concerns for the short term and then dissolved.

Berkshire Lakes Master Association**2021****Board of Directors****President**

Maureen Richards

Vice President

David Orr

Treasurer

Ori LaCroix (temp)

Secretary

Linda O'Connor Craig

Directors

Charles Lascari

Robert DeMarco

Mike Peppe

RULES AND REGULATIONS YOU MAY NOT KNOW...

When you bought your home in Berkshire Lakes, you should have received copies of the Covenants and By Laws of our community. Buyers are required to sign a document at closing acknowledging that they have, indeed, received these documents. But...have you read them lately or ever?

Because there have been a few infractions reported in the past several months, two of these regulations deserve a recap:

1. There is NO swimming or boating, paddle boarding or kayaking allowed on any of our lakes. Our water is not tested for the purity required for recreational purposes so please respect this prohibition.
2. We have several nature reserves at the edges of or community. These are areas where plants are protected and are not designed for recreational use. Evidently some of our young people have built makeshift forts in one of our preserves, have cut down bushes and small trees, and have generally vandalized the area. One neighbor reports having been verbally harassed by these youths. At the sheriff's suggestion NO TRESPASSING signs have been ordered and will be installed ASAP. Future disturbances will be reported to the Collier County Sheriff's office. Parents should be aware of the seriousness of this offense and encourage their children to find other outlets for their energy during this difficult time.

OFFICE INFORMATION**Berkshire Lakes Master Association**

495 Belville Blvd Naples, FL 34104

239-353-7633**Allen Bouley, CAM @****Ability Management: 239-591-4200****CLUBHOUSE OFFICE****Contact:** Karen Thurner, Administrative Assistant**Phone:** 239-353-7633**Fax:** 239-353-3770**Hours:** 9am to 2pm M-Th, 9am to 12pm Fri*Closed Holidays & Weekends***E-Mail:** berkshirelakes@embarqmail.com**Website address:** <http://berkshirelakes.org>**CONDO ASSOCIATIONS****Coach Homes:**<http://berkshirelakes.org/associations/coachhomes>**Partridge Pointe:**<http://berkshirelakes.org/associations/partridgepointe>**New Waterford:**<http://www.newwaterfordnaples.com>**Windsor Place:**<http://www.windsorplacenaples.com>**The Colonies:**<http://berkshirelakes.org/associations/colonies>**Melrose Gardens:**<http://berkshirelakes.org/associations/melrose-gardens>**Newcastle:**<http://berkshirelakes.org/associations/newcastle-2/newcastle>**Berkshire Landings:**<https://berkshirelakes.org/associations/berkshire-landings>**COLLIER COUNTY LAWS FOR PET OWNERS****License and Vaccinate Your Pet**

- Dogs, cats, and ferrets over four months old must have a current rabies vaccination.
- Dogs and cats over four months old must have a valid County license, licenses must be renewed annually. [Visit collierpets.docupet.com](http://visit.collierpets.docupet.com) to license and renew today.
- The licenses must be affixed to the collar or harness unless the animal is confined.

Proper Animal Care

- Pets and livestock must be provided with adequate shelter, enough good and wholesome food and water, exercise, and fresh air.
- Pets may not be confined in an unattended motor vehicle under conditions or for lengths of time that may endanger the health and/or physical well-being of the animal.

Be a Good Neighbor

- Pets must be confined to the owner's property or walked on a leash.
- Pets may not run at large.
- Pets may not chase, run after, or jump at vehicles or bicycles using the right-of-way; and may not snap, growl, snarl, jump upon, or threaten persons using the right-of-way.
- Pet feces must be immediately removed and properly disposed of.
- Pets may not create a sanitary nuisance on public or private property.
- Pets may not make noise that is offensive and of such a continuous duration of time that it creates a nuisance.

For the Dog Owner

- Any enclosure used as a primary means of confinement for a dog must meet the size and structural integrity requirements as defined in the Animal Control Ordinance.
- A dog may not be tethered outdoors, except when in visual range of a responsible party located outside with the dog. Additional specific conditions as defined in the Animal Control Ordinance must also be met.
- Owners must confine a female dog in heat so that she cannot be bred, unless the breeding is specific and intentional.

Dog and Cat Breeding

Any owner that breeds any dog(s) or cat(s) must be first permitted and inspected by DAS