



# WONDER LAKE MPOA NEWSLETTER

Late Summer 2009

## President's Letter

On August 5, 2009 the attorney for the Village of Wonder Lake announced that efforts to stop the SSA to fund a lake restoration project through a petition drive have failed. Inside is information on the next steps in the process necessary to begin dredging our name-sake lake.

At the regularly scheduled MPOA Directors meeting held on August 12, 2009, the Board unanimously accepted the 2008 Audit Report presented for review and consideration by the auditor employed by the Audit committee to complete the review of the 2008 MPOA financial status. Essential information relative to the audit is included herein. Also, this newsletter includes the 2010 budget that Directors unanimously recommended to the Delegates for consideration. The Delegates will review and vote on this budget at the Annual Convention scheduled for September 9, 2009.

On behalf of the MPOA membership, its Officers, Directors and Delegates I would like to congratulate the Wonder Lake Water Ski Show Team (WLWSST) for their individual and overall successful finish at the National Championship event held in Rockford, IL. Of the 14 teams who competed, the 90 member WLWSST and support staff placed second in the

nation. Congratulations to all involved. Details of the event and plans to celebrate their 50th Anniversary on September 6, 2009 at Center Beach are included in this newsletter.

**Of special note, the "early" goose hunting season begins on September 1, 2009 and goes through September 15. While the season includes Labor Day, as they have done in the past, the Wonder Lake Sportsman's Club has chosen to suspend all hunting activities on our Lake during the weekend of the 5th through the 7th.**

As fall approaches, the MPOA Board encourages all lake users to practice safe boating and to enjoy the recreational opportunities afforded to us by our name-sake Lake.

*Richard A. Sisson*





## MPOA BUDGET FOR 2010

At the August 12, 2009 MPOA Board meeting Directors' reviewed the proposed budget presented to them by Treasurer and Finance Commission Chair, Dale Kowalski. It is a balanced budget with no recommended dues increase. During discussion, it was pointed out that the budget is an estimate of anticipated expenses that is based on a review of historical data and input from each of the commissions. The 2010 budget was unanimously approved by the directors and recommended to the Delegates for consideration at the Annual Convention to be held on September 9, 2009.

*Note: \* reflects changes from what was allocated in 2009.*

	2009 Budget	2010 Budget	Continued...	2009 Budget	2010 Budget
<b>Income</b>			Audit & Accounting	\$9,500	\$9,000 *
Annual Dues	\$140,000	\$141,000 *	Bank Charge	\$200	\$100 *
Interest Income	\$1,000	\$1,000	Dues & Sub.	\$750	\$750
<b>Other Inc</b>			Education	\$400	\$400
Administration Fees	\$300	\$300	Insurance Exp. D&O	\$1,000	\$1,000
Advertising Fees	\$5,000	\$5,000	Legal & Professional Exp	\$25,000	\$30,000
Vehicle Registration	\$40,000	\$40,000	Liability Ins	\$35,500	\$30,000 *
Meadows of West Bay	\$0	\$1,000 *	Misc. Exp.	\$500	\$500
<b>Total Other Inc</b>	\$45,300	\$46,300	Meeting Expense	\$750	\$750
Cash Reserves	\$0	\$0	Newsletter	\$4,000	\$4,000
<b>Total Inflows to budget</b>	<b>\$186,300</b>	<b>\$188,300</b>	Office Rental	\$8,400	\$8,400
<b>Expense</b>			Office Supplies	\$2,000	\$2,000
<b>Dam &amp; Lake Expenses</b>			<b>Payroll</b>		
<b>Dam Exp</b>			Payroll Expenses	\$50,389	\$51,097 *
Elect	\$700	\$1,000 *	Payroll Processin Expense	\$0	\$0
Maintenance	\$7,000	\$7,000	Lake Manager Salary		
Sluice Gate repair			Postage	\$2,000	\$2,500 *
<b>Total Dam Exp</b>	\$7,700	\$8,000 *	Prtg. & Dup	\$2,500	\$2,500
<b>Lake Use Exp</b>			Telephone	\$2,000	\$2,000
Misc Lake Use Exp			Utilities Expense	\$3,000	\$3,500 *
Vehicle Registration Exp	\$1,200	\$1,232 *	<b>Total Gen &amp; Admin</b>	<b>\$147,889</b>	<b>\$148,497</b>
Safety Patrol	\$8,000	\$8,000	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$186,199</b>	<b>\$186,839</b>
<i>Buoys</i>			<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$101</b>	<b>\$1,461</b>
Buoy Purchase	\$3,060	\$3,060			
Placement	\$2,000	\$2,000	<b>Actual Net Income</b>		
Buoy Accessories	\$1,350	\$1,350	Contingency Amount	\$9,315	\$9,415
Storage					
<b>Lake Safety</b>					
Emergency cleanups	\$1,300	\$1,000 *			
Water Quality Monitoring	\$2,500	\$2,500			
Fish Stocking	\$1,200	\$1,200			
<i>Dreging Feasabiltiy Update Repayment</i>					
Lake Maintenance Commission	\$10,000	\$10,000			
<b>Total Lake Exp</b>	\$30,610	\$30,342			
<b>Total Dam &amp; Lake</b>	\$38,310	\$38,342			
<b>Gen &amp; Admin</b>					



# AN ACCURATE DECENNIAL CENSUS TRANSLATES INTO IMPORTANT FUNDING FOR THE COMMUNITY

Early in 2010 between the end of January and middle of March, the U.S. Census Bureau will send questionnaires to all households in the United States as part of their duty to conduct the constitutionally required Decennial Census. The Census Bureau requests the cooperation of all residents in filling out these questionnaires and mailing them back as soon as possible. They must be received before the Census Takers (enumerators) go out to canvass on April 1, 2010. For those households in which questionnaires are not received back by the deadline, the U.S. Census Bureau will begin door to door canvassing to reach those households who did not respond or respond in time.

If you live in the Village of Wonder Lake, you are aware that in the past decade, two Special Censuses were conducted. These Special Censuses were requested and paid for by the Village in order to receive additional funding that the Village would have lost out on by waiting for the Decennial Census (only conducted every 10 years). These Special Censuses were a great success. However, the population counts from the Special Censuses do not carry over to the Decennial. The Decennial Census

population count determines the Village's base population count for the next 10 years. State and federal funding for the Village is based on the Census Bureau's statistics. The accuracy of the Decennial Census statistics is vital to fund the operations of your municipality. These additional funds help finance road improvements, public works equipment, added police and extra hours for enforcement, purchase police department equipment and other essential services. The statistics can be used to benefit educational and scholastic programs in the entire community.

The Village of Wonder Lake strongly encourages all residents in the Wonder Lake area to fill out the Census Questionnaire when it arrives and send it back to the Census Bureau as instructed on the form. By completing and sending the questionnaire back when requested, you will be saving federal tax dollars and adding to the accuracy of the population count of your municipality by reducing the need for the Census Bureau to visit every household.

## WONDER LAKE WATER SKI SHOW TEAM

The Wonder Lake Water Ski Show Team invites all of Wonder Lake to their 50th Anniversary Show, 4 PM, Sunday, September 6. Following the show, from 6-7:30 pm. there will be a Community Open House at Marquise Banquet Hall, at 4117 East Wonder Lake Road. Photographs and memorabilia from the 50 year history of the team will be on display.

Most recently the Team took second place out of 14 teams in the 2009 National Championship competition held in Rockford. The team also won the "Teamwork Award," for having the highest scoring pyramid in the tournament. As a community we should be proud to have this hard working, dedicated group of 90 Wonder Lakers representing our community. **Congratulations Team.**

## VENETIAN NIGHT, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH

Join the fun and decorate your boat with lights. Each year the Wonder Lake Yacht Club organizes this event. This is an evening parade around the lake with various types of boats beautifully decorated with lights. This event continues to grow year after year and it is not uncommon to see between 15 and 25 boats participating in the parade and hundreds of people cheering and waving flashlights from shore. This is a neat way to finish off the boating season. The parade starts at the YC Island (with tall flag pole) at dusk and will proceed counter clockwise around the lake.



# LAKE RESTORATION UPDATE

Randy Stowe - Lake Manager

Now that lake restoration is moving forward, a number of activities have to take place before the actual dredging begins.

1. **Sediment Analysis** - To be able to obtain regulatory permits to dredge the lake, sediment samples need to be collected and analyzed. The results of this testing, combined with the sediment testing data the MPOA has been collecting over the last 13 years, will be submitted to the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA). The IEPA will then issue their permit, including any special conditions they may require.

2. **Sediment Mapping** - To be able to verify the amount of sediment actually removed from the lake by the dredging contractor, the bathymetry of the lakebed needs to be mapped prior to, during, and after dredging. Much of the mapping will be done by the United States Geological Survey, using sonar, while additional measurements will be conducted by hand using Global Positioning System (GPS) technology.

3. **Sediment Storage Facility Agreement** - NRB Land LLC, the owner of the Thatcher Meadows Subdivision, has generously offered the MPOA, at no cost, the use of their land for up to ten years for use as a sediment storage facility. Sediment

pumped from the lake will be directed into this facility to allow it to be dried and re-used. A draft agreement with NRB Land is currently under review.

4. **Sediment Storage Facility Design** - Regulatory permits also have to be obtained to construct and operate the sediment storage facility. Once the land use agreement with NRB Land has been finalized, the sediment storage facility will be designed, and applicable regulatory permits will be applied for.

5. **Sediment Storage Facility Bidding / Construction** - As the regulatory permit review process continues, bid documents and plans will be sent to qualified contractors to obtain bids for the construction of the facility.

6. **Lake Dredging** - As the regulatory permit review process and construction of the sediment storage facility continues, bid documents and plans will be sent to qualified contractors to obtain bids for the lake dredging.

Due to the need to perform all of these tasks, the earliest dredging could likely begin would be in late summer of 2010 or spring of 2011.



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## WONDER LAKE SPORTSMAN'S CLUB

The Wonder Lake Sportsman's Club had a wonderful summer. The events were well attended and enjoyable.

The annual Kids Fishing Derby was held June 7th. We had 135 children who caught 55 fish and the largest was a 27" Carp. Each child left with a prize.

There was another Carp-clearing event held on June 20th. The bow fisher's shoot netted 412 Carp which were all removed from the lake and disposed of. This event is fun for the participants and is good for the lake.

Our annual Catfish Derby held on August 8th & 9th brought 114 fishermen to catch 300 plus pounds of catfish. The biggest fish was a 7.15 pounder. All of the fish were returned to the lake

alive and in good condition but with sore lips.

The last event of the season will be the annual Fall Bass Derby to be held on Sunday October 4th. Please watch for our signs announcing the event and try to participate. If you do not fish please try to attend the weigh in after the derby to see the results. You will be amazed at the size, quantity and beauty of the fish in our lake.

We found that 70% of the 82 Wood Duck houses were occupied last season. The club will be cleaning & rehabilitating the houses this winter and early spring. We will give you a full report on the inhabitants as soon as we get it.

## PRESIDENT'S MEETINGS

Several years ago the officers and commission chairs met with the subdivision presidents for the purpose of establishing a communication link and an opportunity for subdivision presidents to network with each other on issues related to both the MPOA and their individual subdivisions. Recognizing that there may be a need to reestablish this link, all subdivision presidents were invited to meet from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 25, 2009. This meeting included a review of MPOA activities related to our lake restoration effort, budget issues, bylaws and a presentation by our lake manager. Eleven of the 16 subdivisions that have organized property owners

associations were represented at the meeting. At the end of this meeting there was unanimous consent that the time spent was productive and that future meetings should take place.

A second meeting was scheduled for August 15, 2009. Fourteen of the 16 subdivisions that make up the MPOA were represented. For the present, those in attendance felt that the meetings are productive and that there should be monthly meetings that would also focus on individual subdivision issues with opportunities to share ideas on how the leadership deals with matters that are common to most quasi-government organizations.

## NIPPERSINK WATERSHED NOT-FOR-PROFIT ASSOCIATION

A watershed association has been formed as a spin-off the Nippersink Creek Watershed Planning Committee and has filed for 501 (c), (3) classification with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service. This Association will seek grants to assist in implementing projects that are identified in the updated watershed plan that was approved by the IL Environmental Protection Agency in 2008. <http://nippersink.org/>

Following the review of applications by the IL EPA wherein the Association requested funds through the Clean Water Act, Section 319 program, the U.S. EPA awarded two grants. Both grants are for a period of two years, one to fund a part-time watershed manager and the other to fund a social assessment study of sub watersheds by Illinois State University.

On August 1, 2009 the Association filed three grant applications to fund projects in McHenry & Greenwood Townships in Wonder Lake and in Alden Township upstream of Wonder Lake.

If awarded, all three grants will address identified erosion issues in Wonder Lake and also on the "High Point" property in the Nippersink headwaters. The headwaters property was acquired by the McHenry County Conservation District a few years ago.

The Wonder Lake projects will focus on rip rap protection of the upstream face of our dam and restoration of both O'Brien Shoals in the east-central portion of our lake and Wickline Island which is located adjacent to the Shore Hills shoreline. There is also a request for funds for a shoreline restoration demonstration project. The dam, O'Brien Shoals and Wickline Island projects are all included in the SSA funded lake restoration project. The local 40% cost share match will be met by using money designated for these projects and identified in the SSA project description.



## MONITORING WONDER LAKE AND ITS INLETS

You may recall the monitoring activities conducted by the U.S. Dept. of Interior, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) of years past. You may also be aware of the beach monitoring activities conducted by the McHenry County Health Department. However, there are many other monitoring activities going on in and around Wonder Lake that may also be of interest to you.

Our Lake Manager, Randy Stowe is coordinating the collection of water samples from tributary streams coming into Wonder Lake with the in-lake beach sampling monitoring conducted by the McHenry County Health Department (MCHD). He is also collecting water samples from these same streams that are then shipped off to Springfield for analysis of various parameters by the IL EPA. The expense of these activities is covered by a grant that Randy obtained from IL EPA. The results will help to establish a base line of data for reference during and following our dredging effort.

Ken Shaleen, President of the Wonder Lake Sportsman's Club and participant in the IL EPA Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program (VLMP) has been collecting monthly water samples in three locations on Wonder Lake for the past four years. Ken's effort has enabled the IL EPA to obtain a better picture of the water quality in our Lake and to establish an in-lake baseline of data for reference during and after our lake dredging effort. Ken is a dedicated volunteer, committed

to collecting the data necessary to accurately determine the health of our Lake. He has also spent the past several years conducting an aquatic plant study and we are deeply indebted to him.

In anticipation of establishing our lake restoration funding effort, the MPOA is considering a contract with USGS that will result in reestablishing the stream monitoring gage at the Nippersink Creek and Thompson Road. This gage will provide real-time information on both sediment and In anticipation of establishing our lake restoration funding effort, the MPOA is considering a contract with USGS that will result in reestablishing the stream monitoring gage at the Nippersink Creek and Thompson Road. This gage will provide real-time information on both sediment and water volume entering our lake. The gage will be funded through a 50/50 grant with USGS, the MPOA portion to come from SSA funds that are allocated to cover this monitoring activity.

Finally, Randy Stowe has met with the McHenry County Environmental committee and presented information relative to the need to place additional monitoring gages in the Nippersink Creek watershed. Should McHenry County follow through on this idea, significant information related to stormwater and surface water management issues will be available for future analysis.

## BY LAW CHANGES

During the August Directors meeting considerable time was spent reviewing proposed changes to the MPOA By laws. Following discussion and by a majority vote, the Directors referred the proposed changes to the By laws Commission for review and recommendation and to call for a Special Convention of the Delegates to consider any proposed by

law changes. It was projected that the Special Convention would be held sometime during the month of October. This action allows the commission the time necessary to review all aspects of the requested changes and to recommend language in keeping with the ideas of those who submitted the proposals.

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## AUDIT REPORT FOR 2008

Below is the cover letter summarizing the 2008 Audit Report. This was the first independent audit of the MPOA and the results reflect the sound monetary control and accounting practices of MPOA.

A copy of the complete auditor's report was delivered to every subdivision director and all subdivision presidents during the Directors' meeting of Aug. 5 and the Aug. 15 meeting with the presidents. The report is also on file at the MPOA office and is available for review.

To the Board of Directors of  
Master Property Owners Association, Inc.

We have audited the accompanying balance sheet of Master Property Owners Association, Inc. as of December 31, 2008 and the related statement of revenues, expenses, and charges in member's equity and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Organization's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosure in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Master Property Owners Association, Inc. as of December 31, 2008, and results of its operations and its cash flows for the year ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Robert D. Blumberg  
Certified Public Accountant

Cary, Illinois  
July 24, 2009

### FISH CRIBS IN THE LAKE

One day in August the MPOA Office received a call regarding an unknown person dumping "trash" near the north end of the lake near the dam. After investigating the incident it was discovered the "culprit" was Dave Ewald who makes fish structure by recycling appropriate construction materials. He was given permission to do this by both the Sportsman's Club and by MPOA President Dick Hilton after talking to Sportsman Club President, Ken Shaleen, as long as he placed the structures in the deep end of the lake (10 - 12 feet of water). Dave put on a demonstration at our lake fest in July. These structures attract fish and the Sportsman Club has maps giving its members a heads up on where the cribs are located.

A big thanks goes to both Dave and the Wonder Lake residents who spotted what they thought was suspicious activity and were quick to notify the MPOA. It's just another example of the caring attitude towards our lake.

**WONDER LAKE NEWS**

MPOA President..... Dick Hilton  
 1st Vice President..... Dennis Gallo  
 2nd Vice President..... Sue Draffkorn  
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Kelly Nelson..... Deep Springs Woods CC  
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 Kathy Hunt..... Sunrise Ridge Estates  
 Rayne Gerhardt..... White Oaks Bay  
 Dr. Donald Strum..... Wildwood  
 Pam Picard..... Wonder Center  
 Dennis Gallo..... Wonder Woods  
 Dick Hilton..... Wooded Shores

The Wonder Lake MPOA Newsletter is the official newsletter of the Master Property Owners Association in Wonder Lake. Correspondence can be addressed to the MPOA at 7602 Hancock Drive, Wonder Lake, IL 60097. The W.L. MPOA Newsletter is published quarterly in the months of June, September, December and March.

Editor..... Bill McKinney

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