

The Istokpoga Newswire

Friends of Istokpoga Lake Association, Inc.



Fall Meeting on November 18, 2004

The fall meeting of the Friends of Istokpoga Lake Association, Inc. will be held at the Lorida Community Center in Lorida, Florida, on November 18, 2004 at 7:00 pm. We know that you will not want to miss this one.

Mr. Carl Cool, Highlands County Administrator, will be our guest speaker. He will talk about how hurricane Jeanne almost killed Lake Istokpoga. According to a newspaper article in the Highlands Today on October 8, 2004 on page 1, He said in part, "A wall of water was crossing County Road 621, causing a drop-off of about eight feet on the southern edge of the road. We would have lost Lake Istokpoga".

Mr. Cool will talk to us about this situation and his plans to fix this so future storms will not threaten our lake in this manner.

We are also hopeful that Vicki

Pontius, Highlands County Director of Parks and Recreation, will be available to talk to us about the work being done to clean up the canals of all the storm debris.

Clell Ford, Highlands County Lakes Manager, is planning to attend and give us an update on the Lake Okeechobee Watershed Project and the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project.



Fall is here—You can tell because the license plates are changing colors.

You will have an opportunity to ask questions of our speakers and officers of the Friends of Istokpoga Lake Association at the conclusion of the speaker's presentations.

We hope you will join us for this important meeting.

We will serve refreshments before the meeting, beginning at 6:45 pm. Our meeting usually ends by 8:30 pm.

Inside this issue:

<i>Happenings Around our Lake</i>	2
<i>How is your Canal?</i>	2
<i>You Can Help!</i>	3
<i>Our New Look</i>	3
<i>Funding for Canals</i>	3
<i>Our Associate Members</i>	4

Special points of interest:

- *Mark your calendar for our meeting on November 18*
- *Be sure to check out our Web site*
- *Dues notices will be sent out soon for 2005 Dues*

Happenings Around our lake

It has been quite a summer for us all. With all the storm related activity and our normal slow down in Lake Istokpoga related work, we don't have a lot of new news to tell you about, but I will try to update you on a few of the things that are going on.

CERP: The Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project (CERP) meetings have become more difficult for us to keep abreast of since they are no longer being held in our area. We now have to rely on other attendees to update us on the activities of this government task force. Currently they are looking at the many factors involved in setting the regulation schedule for Lake Istokpoga. Clell Ford, Highlands County Lakes Manager, is involved in a sub-group developing a Conceptual Ecosystem Model for the lake. This model will be used in the larger project to try and maintain all the ecosystem values when combined with other factors like water quality, water supply, navigation, etc.

WATER QUALITY: Highlands County received a \$109,000.00 grant from SFWMD to study the water quality in Lake Istokpoga. They plan to begin taking samples in mid-December. They will be sampling many different sites checking the water quality. They will be looking near residential areas, cattle operations, fish camps, septic tanks, and sewage treatment plants, etc.

ISTOKPOGA CANAL: The Kissimmee Restoration Project is still being held up by the plans for the structure on Istokpoga Canal. The structure plans have been significantly downsized from the original plan. The Corps of Engineers (USACE) is targeting year end for plan approval.

HYDRILLA: Recent reports indicate that there is about 5000 acres of hydrilla. Re-

cently trails have been cut in the NE portion of the lake.

A recent note from Jeff Schardt, DEP, indicates that plans are being drawn up now to treat the lake this winter. He says "*We are well aware of hydrilla's ability to quickly expand from current levels. Therefore we have budgeted more than \$3 million for large-scale hydrilla control in Lake Istokpoga to begin during the upcoming winter. We also have budgeted several hundred thousand dollars to maintain navigation from public access points to open water and to ensure the areas immediately adjacent to the flood control structure are free of hydrilla mats. Hydrilla has been assayed and remains susceptible to fluridone herbicide in the north end of the lake, but tolerance has doubled, and in some areas tripled, in the southern end. A more accurate map depicting hydrilla will be prepared using GPS in November. While there are still many questions regarding enhanced microbial degradation of fluridone, we suspect enough to change formulations from pellets that have been used traditionally in Lake Istokpoga to aqueous formulations. The microbes that break down fluridone appear to manifest first in the upper layer of sediments and may be stimulated by concentrated doses applied directly to the sediments in the form of pellets.*"

Furthermore he states "*We suspect microbial activity may be greater in warmer water so we will work toward treating the lake during winter months. Successful hydrilla management in Lake Istokpoga therefore depends upon our ability to work with the Corps of Engineers and the South Florida Water Management District to lower the water volume and especially discharge from the system during the 75-90 day fluridone treatment regime. There is little economic sense in attempting a 2-3 month fluridone treatment regime unless the water level can be lowered by at least one foot below maximum pool stage at the beginning of the treatment and discharge minimized or halted during this period.*"

As we learn of any plans for lake aquatic weed control we will post the information on our web site.

How Is Your Canal?

How is your canal after the three hurricanes that came through Highlands County? Is it blocked by debris or trees? Well, there may be hope on the horizon.

I discussed this problem with Vicki Pontius, Highlands County Director of Parks and Recreation, and she informed me that there may be help coming in the form of a grant from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to clean up down trees and possibly other debris in canals that may impact navigation. It is too early to know for sure, but if you can wait a

month or two there may be help coming.

We will update our web site as soon as we know anything more about the grant or about the schedule for doing this work. If you know of problems with debris in a canal please call Vicki at (863) 402-6813.

Windy Point Park and Boat Ramp

Vicki Pontius sent me this update on the changes planned for Windy Point boat ramp in the southwest area of the lake (at the end of boat ramp road).

“The Windy Point Park is finally, and I mean finally, permitted. This was quite a process. Because of the delays, we requested and received an extension for construction of the boat ramps and bathrooms until June 30, 2005. The remaining items,

(parking areas, nature trails and picnic facilities), will be included in Phase II of the project because we

have more time to build them. The majority of the park elements will be in place by June though. As an aside, because of extensive storm damage to the mobile home on site, the game warden has moved out and we are currently working to try to replace the residence.”

“Boat ramps and bathrooms to be completed by June 30, 2005”

Our Associate Members for 2004

We want you to know more about our Associate Members. Be sure to give them a shot at your business when you are looking at their kind of services.

Annie's Club 98, Great food, stop in and visit.

4651 U.S. Hwy 98, Sebring, FL 33870, (863) 655-9938

Audubon of Florida, A strategic Alliance of the Florida and National Societies in partnership with 45 Local Audubon Chapters. 100 Riverwoods Circle, Lorida, FL 33857, (863) 467-8497, audubon@okeechobee.com

Bennett Marine, All your marine supplies.

455 E. St. Road 78, Lakeport, FL 33471, (863) 946-0011, Fax 863-946-0011, benmar@ictransnet.com

Capt. John's Guide Service

2151 N.W. 399 Street, Okeechobee, FL 34972, (863) 357-1581, jcwelch@strato.net

Cerexagri, Inc., Cerexagri, Inc. manufactures Aquathol K Aquatic Herbicide and Hydrothol 191 Aquatic Herbicide and Algicide. 11512 Lake Katherine Circle, Clermont, FL 34711, (352) 242-2360, Fax (352) 242-2359, williamhmo@aol.com, www.Cerexagri.com

Graig D. Graybill, Security Service, Security Guard & Patrol Service. On-site / Mobile Patrol / Alarm Response / Home Watch / Special Events.

PO Box 1506, Sebring, FL 33871-1506, (863)655-1147, Fax (863) 655-6447, graybillsecurity@hotmail.com

Our Associate Members for 2004 (continued)

Fishy Fingers Guide Service, Specializing in largemouth bass, bream and other freshwater species. Capt. Dan practices catch and release out of Lake Placid, FL.

139 Windy Point Road, Lake Placid, FL 33852, (863) 465-1234, dsclark@htn.net

Glades Electric Cooperative, Neighbors working for neighbors

PO Box 519, Moore Haven, FL 33471, (800)226-4024, Fax (863)946-2150, jmartz@gladesec.com, www.gladesec.com

Graphic Impressions, All your printing needs

425 US 27 N, Lake Placid, FL 33852, 863-465-3093, Fax 863-465-3285, gijohn@htn.net

Highlands Airboat Association, Inc.,

P.O. Box 3156, Lake Placid, FL 33862-3156, (863) 465-1956, www.htn.net/lplacid/organizations/airboat/Airboat.htm

Home & Office Essentials, Office Supplies - Printers - Copiers - Fax Machines

207 S. Main Street, Lake Placid, FL 33852, (863) 465- 1661, Fax (863) 465-1799, fortierjhds@earthlink.net

J & H Supply,

825 N. Dixie Highway, Lake Worth, FL 33460

Jeanette Shaw, Realtor, We are here to serve you. Our listings cover all of Highlands County. We specialize in Lake Istokpoga properties as well as other water front, homes, lots, and acreage.

1564 Hwy 98, Lorida, FL 33857, (863) 655-3891, Fax (863)655-2773, lake@strato.net

Jet A Service, Aviation Fuel Consultant: Fuel Acquisition, Management, Into-Plane, Quality Control

521 Lakeside Drive, Lake Placid, FL 33852, (863) 465-0601, Fax (863)699-9600, jetaholt@aol.com

Lake Istokpoga Marina, Boat rentals, Repair and Storage, Tackle Shop, Live Bait and Lake Front Rentals.

88 Knox Lane, Lake Placid, FL 33852, (863)699-9585, istokpogamarina@cs.com, www.istokpogamarina.com

Lake Placid Marine Inc., Full Sales and Service Marine Dealership

310 US 27 South, Lake Placid, FL 33852, (863) 465-2335, Fax (863)465-9550, lpmarine@htn.net, www.lakeplacidmarine.com

Lake Shore Resort Motel, Motel rooms, Efficiencies, 1 & 2 bedroom cottages

121 Sunset Drive, Lake Placid, FL 33852, (863)465-2135, Fax (863)699-5276, lsrm@htn.net, www.lsrm.net

Lolly Shoppe & Reminisce Shop, Antiques, Collectibles and Gifts

12915 US Hwy 90, Sebring, FL 33876, (863)655-9900

Mossy Cove Fish Camp, Fish Camp and RV Resort

3 Mossy Cove Drive, Lorida, FL 33857, (863) 655-0119, raschirtz@aol.com, www.mossy-cove.us

Neibert's Fishing Resort, Highway 98 at Arbuckle Creek. RV and Tent Sites - Bait & Tackle - Bar - Snacks

4971 U.S. Hwy 98, Sebring, FL 33870, (863) 655-1416

Outback U.S.A., Just 6 miles north of Lake Placid. We have live bait, tackle, boats, trailers, pontoons, sheds, propane, and do motor repairs.

14021 U.S. 27 South, Sebring, FL 33876-9517, (863) 699-2220, Fax (863) 699-2220, outback@htn.net

Performance Sales and Service,

1130 US 27 North, Lake Placid, FL 33852, (863) 465-2814, Fax (863) 465-1649, outboard@strato.net, www.perfsands.com

Precise Installation, Custom tile installation

33 Silk Oak Street, Lake Placid, FL 33852, (863) 699-9333

South Florida Water Management District,

205 N. Parrott Ave. Suite 201, Okeechobee, FL 34974, (863)462-5260 x3026, Fax (863) 462-5857, www.sfwmd.gov

Sue Clark, Realtor, Specializing in waterfront homes and acreage in Highlands County.

2203 US 27 North, Lake Placid, FL 33852, (800) 356-7397, Fax (863) 465-0311, dsclark@htn.net, www.sueclark.org

The Home Town Network, Complete Internet and computer solutions. Nationwide Internet access includes 56K, ISDN, and DSL. Web site hosting as well as custom site designs. We provide professional network design, installation and support. We sell computers, computer parts, cabling and much more!

P.O. Box 1784, Lake Placid, FL 33862, (863) 465-4076, Fax (863) 699-9991, sbastardi@htn.net, www.htn.net

Trails End Fishing Resort, A Full Service Fish Camp with Lodging and a Store

4232 Trails End Road, Lorida, FL 33857, (863) 655-0134, (888) 603-9209, Fax: (863) 655-0319 garyalbin@tnni.net,

www.trailsendfishingresort.com

The information on our Associate Members is taken from our website where links are provided to their e-mail and website addresses.

You Can Help!!!

You can help us grow the Friends of Istokpoga Lake Association by getting your neighbors to join. Every member we have helps us demonstrate greater interest in our lake, and therefore gives us greater influence when we deal with the various government agencies involved with Lake Istokpoga.

You can get Membership forms from any of our officers, from many of our Associate Members business locations and from the Lake

***We need your help
getting more
members!!***

Placid and Sebring Chamber of Commerce.

If you are concerned about the high cost of gas these days, you can print out a membership form from our web site. Regardless of how you get a form, we need your help in getting new members!

By the way, it isn't too early to send in your 2005 dues. \$7.00 for an individual or \$12.00 for a family. Our address is on page 4.

The Istokpoga Newswire — Our New Look

I am sure you noticed the new look of our newsletter. I am changing the format to use a software program that is more modern than the one I used before. I am hopeful that this change will make it easier to put out this newsletter.

If you have any comments or suggestions regarding the new format you can send them

to us at friends@istokpoga.org. I look forward to hearing from you on this or any other subject involving our organization or Lake Istokpoga.

We would also like to hear from you if you have any suggestions for articles in upcoming issues of this newsletter.

Initial Funding Available for Canals on Lake Istokpoga

According to Missie Barletto, SFWMD, \$100,000 has been approved by the governing board for use on preliminary design and permitting for the canals on Lake Istokpoga. This is the initial step for getting the canals on the lake dug out so navigation is easier, especially during periods of low water. Some of our canals, if cleaned out will be deep enough, while others were not originally dug deep enough so cleaning alone will not solve their problems. The plan is to clean up the ones that were deep enough and dig the others deeper.

The overall project is estimated to cost

about \$1 million. The SFWMD is currently working on the scope of work for this project. They expect to have the preliminary work completed and a contract with Highlands County in place by January 2005. This project is expected to take several years to complete. It is expected that the project will be managed by Clell Ford, Highlands County Lakes Manager. Missie stated that the goal was "to have a healthy lake without causing any economic damage".

This project may end up as part of the CERP project, and fall under the changes to the regulation schedule.

**Friends of Istokpoga
Lake Association, Inc.**

P.O. Box 578
Lake Placid, Florida 33862-0578

Pager: 863-219-0082
Email: friends@istokpoga.org

Help us protect Lake Istokpoga

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
PRSR T STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
LAKELAND, FL
PERMIT 785

Were on the Web —
www.istokpoga.org



Friends of Istokpoga Associate Members

Annie's Club 98, Sebring	Jet A Service, Lake Placid
Audubon of Florida, Lorida	Lake Istokpoga Marina, Lake Placid
Bennett Marine, Lakeport	Lake Placid Marine Inc., Lake Placid
Capt. John's Guide Service, Okeechobee	Lake Shore Resort Motel, Lake Placid
Cerexagri, Inc., Clermont	Lolly Shoppe & Reminisce Shop, Lorida
Graig D. Graybill, Security Service, Sebring	Mossy Cove Fish Camp, Lorida
Fishy Fingers Guide Service, Venus	Neibert's Fishing Resort, Sebring
Glades Electric Cooperative, Moore Haven	Outback U.S.A., Lake Placid
Graphic Impressions, Lake Placid	Performance Sales and Service, Lake Placid
Highlands Airboat Association, Inc., Lake Placid	Precise Installation, Lake Placid
Home & Office Essentials, Lake Placid	South Florida Water Management District
J & H Supply, Lake Worth	Sue Clark, Realtor, Lake Placid
Jeanette Shaw, Realtor, Lorida	The Home Town Network, Lake Placid
	Trails End Fishing Resort, Lorida

The Board of Directors of Friends of Istokpoga Lake Association, Inc. encourage each of you to support our Associate Members whenever possible, just as these businesses are supporting the Friends of Istokpoga.

When you visit, be sure to tell them "THANKS" for supporting us.

For more information about our Associate members see www.friendsofistokpoga.homestead.com/associates.htm