

---

# Friends Of Istokpoga

# NewsWire

News for Our Members

In This Issue: Getting Started; New officers

---

## From the President

I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you for joining the Friends Of Istokpoga Lake Association. This being the first newsletter, we want to make it a special one, by telling you about the new officers that were elected at the May 21, 1998 meeting in Lorida, a little about each of these officers, the plan for future newsletters, the current membership, and a little about the committees that have been formed and what they are doing.

We have set some pretty hard goals for our membership committee and we are going to need your help to obtain them. We need you to encourage your friends and neighbors to join....and don't forget about your spouse, if they aren't already members.

I want to personally thank all of you that have volunteered to help as an officer or member of a committee. While it is nice to have an organization that plans to help keep our beautiful lake the great lake it is, it won't happen without

people willing to donate their time and effort to make it happen. If you are willing to help and we haven't contacted you already, please give me a call.

Bill Dwinell

---

## Early Membership Drive

We have come a long way since March 3, 1998, and it has largely been because of the efforts of a few individuals. Jim Berry, Elsie Carpenter, Bill and Sandy Dwinell, Debbie Galloway, Lee Henderson, Jack Newkirk, Cliff Taylor, Jim Wilkins, and Bob Wilson have all done a great job of bringing in new members. At printing time we had 238 members. I believe we can have 500 by year end if we all pitch in and help by getting our friends and neighbors to join. REMEMBER, the more members we have, the more influence we wield with the government agencies we must deal with.

---

## Lorida Meeting - May 21

Approximately 50 people gathered at the Lorida Community center to organize our new lake

association. Special guests included J.D. Barrett, Highlands County Commissioner, Bob Bullard and Edwin Stokes, candidates for Highlands County Commissioners, Mary Carter and Barbara Bazley, Highlands County Lakes Association (HCLA) Sandy Dwinell opened the meeting with a brief history of how Friends Of Istokpoga was formed and the events that lead up to the meeting. She then introduced Mary Carter from HCLA.

Mary explained that with more than eighty lakes in the county that the HCLA needed help, and that each lake was being asked to form its own lake association to focus on their lake. The HCLA would act as an umbrella organization and would provide information and assistance to the individual lake associations

Bill Dwinell then talked about the Lake Istokpoga Management Committee, managed by the Highlands County Commissioners.. He has requested a seat on this

committee for Friends Of Istokpoga.

Bill also talked about a recent air boat trip around the lake with Ken Denson, Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission Biologist , in which the need for tussock removal was explained.

Sandy Dwinell next introduced the volunteers for director of Friends Of Istokpoga. They were Jim Berry, George Cook, Bill Dwinell, Debbie Galloway, Walter Monroe (not present due to illness) , Jack Newkirk, and Jim Wilkins. It was moved and seconded that the nominations be accepted. It was unanimously accepted by those present by a show of hands.

The meeting was then adjourned.

---

## May 21 - Board of Directors meeting - Officers Elected

The newly elected board of directors (BOD) met immediately following the organizational meeting to elect officers.

Bill Dwinell was elected President, Jim Berry , Vice-president,

# Friends of Istokpoga Newswire

and George Cook,  
Secretary/Treasurer.

The next BOD meeting was set for May 29. Committees Formed at May 29th BOD Meeting

---

12 committees were formed and a chairperson assigned at the May 29th BOD meeting, with all directors present. The committees and chair are:

Membership - D. Galloway

---

Public Relations - J. Wilkins

---

Weed Control - J. Berry

---

Tussock - B. Dwinell

---

Zoning - Sandy Dwinell

---

Financial - B. Dwinell

---

By-Laws/Charter - B. Dwinell

---

Forming Corporation - B. Dwinell

---

Kissimmee Restoration - B. Dwinell

---

Lake Istokpoga Management Committee - J. Wilkins

---

Newsletter - Sandy Cook

---

Fund Raising - D. Galloway

---

We have already gotten volunteers for many of these committees, but are still in need of volunteers for the membership, newsletter and the fund raising committees. Please call Debbie Galloway at (941)655-3439, if you can help on any of these committees.

About this newsletter

---

We are just getting our act together, so we want to apologize for not getting a newsletter out sooner. We are going to try and get our newsletters out as often as possible, but we have two factors that will determine the frequency we can print one

First we have the expense. We want to keep our membership dues at \$5.00 because we want to get as many members as possible so we have more influence with government agencies. But, with only \$5.00 per member, we don't have a lot of money for publishing a newsletter. We recently changed our membership forms to also

ask for donation.

Donations will help us produce and mail our newsletters more often. Ideally we would send one every two months. We will have to get a few under our belts before we thoroughly understand all the costs. **If you would like to make a donation, please send it to: Friends Of Istokpoga, 36 Bald Cypress Street, Lake Placid, FL 33852.**

Second, we need material to print and authors. We can come up with some material for our newsletter, but it would be much more interesting if we had help from you. We would like some volunteers to write some articles for us. If you can help, please contact Bill Dwinell at (941)465-6913.

Articles Of Incorporation

---

Thanks go to Bruce Miller for his work in drafting Articles of Incorporation and By-laws. These will be presented to the directors at the next BOD meeting. Subsequently the By-laws will be presented to the general membership in a future general meeting for acceptance.

Next General Meeting

---

The next general meeting of the Friends Of Istokpoga will be held the week of August 24, 1998 at the Lorida Civic Center. A

meeting notice will be sent.

Mailing Addresses

---

Many of you have more than one address. We will try to mail this newsletter to the address we think you will be at. If you receive the newsletter at the wrong address please notify us and we will correct our address list. Those of you that specified a specific mailing address will always receive the newsletter at that address. *Be sure to notify us if your address changes.*

Contacting Friends Of Istokpoga

---

B. Dwinell 465-6913  
J. Berry 655-5573  
D. Galloway 655-3439  
J. Newkirk 655-4811  
W. Monroe 655-1358  
J. Wilkins 655-1127

Send mail to:

Friends of Istokpoga,  
36 Bald Cypress Street,  
Lake Placid, FL 33852  
Meet Your Officers

---

Bill Dwinell - President

Bill retired from IBM after 31 years, spending the last 15 years in Florida. He moved to Highlands County two years ago. He loves bass fishing and is very interested in all aspects of the environment, especially Lake Istokpoga. In addition to being our President, he is currently Vice-president of the

# Friends of Istokpoga Newswire

Highlands County Lakes Association.

-----  
Jim Berry

-Vice-president

Jim is retired from the Army Corp. of Engineers, a veteran of Korea and Viet Nam. He was in the deep sea fishing business in Cortez, Florida until retirement in 1993. He has been coming to Lake Istokpoga for eight years and moved here two years ago. He is on the lake almost every day. He has an intense desire to keep this lake as wild and natural as possible. He is also a Past Master of a Masonic Lodge and Past President of the Manatee Gun and Archery Club.

-----  
George Cook -  
Secretary/Treasurer

George has had some family business that has forced him to resign from the Board of Directors and his office as Secretary /Treasurer. We are looking for a volunteer that is willing to work to be a director and fill this slot. Please contact Bill Dwinell

Message from the Fund Raising Committee

---

HELP! HELP! HELP! We are in desperate need of your help. Currently there are only three on this important committee, Debbie Galloway, Bill Dwinell and Jack Newkirk. As you will see

in the next article, we will have a booth at the Caladium Festival.

However we need your help, even the smallest participation will be greatly appreciated. We want to keep the membership dues at \$5.00 per year, and we are relying on the Fund Raising Committee to do just that. We are sure that all of you have some creative ideas for fund raisers and we would love to hear them. Please call Debbie Galloway at (941) 655-3439 with any thoughts, ideas, or offerings to help.

We are Going to the Caladium Festival

---

The Fund Raising Committee has come up with a good idea. We will have a booth at the Lake Placid Caladium Festival, September 25-27, 1998. We will raffle off items donated by our members or local businesses. If you would like to donate any items to be raffled, or if you can help us in the Caladium Festival booth, please contact Debbie Galloway.

Istokpoga Wildlife

---

Wild birds and animals may not be kept as pets, according to Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission regulations. You must have special permits and licenses to keep wildlife.

If wildlife is discovered in your possession without the proper permits, you will be subject to heavy fines.

If you discover abandoned, injured or orphaned wildlife you should report it :

- Wrede's Wildlife Rehabilitation Center - (941)385-2770
  - Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission (800)282-8002
  - Bring the animal to the center at 4900 Wilderness Trail in Sebring.
- Tussock Removal from Lake

---

Tussock? Do you know what tussock is? Well, Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission (FG&F) does and they are working to remove some of it from the lake. Tussock are the floating plant masses that surround Big Island and Bumblebee Island and line much of the shores of our lake. Estimates range from 1900 to 2500 acres of the lake are covered by tussock.

You may have seen the tussock harvester at work on Big Island the past few months. It has been slowly eating up tussock and depositing into what FG&F calls "Wildlife Islands". The harvester has completed work for the summer, but will return in September. So far it has opened up about

25 acres of prime fish and wildlife habitat per FG&F.

The harvester will be working inside the cattail wall at the north end of Big Island when it returns.

The wildlife islands will be posted with reflective signs.

Lake Istokpoga Becomes Fish Management Area

---

Don't forget, as of July 1, 1998, Lake Istokpoga became a designated fish management area. This means the Florida Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission will take over management of the lake. It also means that you can no longer fish with cane poles without a fishing license. For more information call Beacham Furse (941-462-5190)

Two Youngest Members - Thanks to their Parents

---

Congratulations to our two youngest members, Emily and Clayton Waldron, age 2 and 5 months, respectively. Their parents, Mike and Karen, have the foresight to want to include them in our organization, especially since one of our goals is to ensure the lake is here for our children.

If your children aren't members today, we hope you will consider making them members soon.