

# Happenings at the Hollow

May 2017, Issue 2

Attention Members:

As we are all aware, this has been an extremely rainy spring, resulting in unusually high lake water levels. This has presented some challenges for our association in regard to lowering the lake level in a responsible manner.

Years ago, the board established a target level for our lake. This level represents a balance between the costs of pumping water into the lake during dry spells, while taking into consideration the property owners' inherent interest in maintaining the highest water level possible for lake enjoyment.

The dam was engineered to accommodate a water level of 960 feet. At 957.5 feet a "slow no wake" order is instituted for safety reasons and to protect the shoreline. Once the water recedes to that level, the order is rescinded. The target level is 955 feet, and is monitored consistently by our maintenance staff.

On November 3, 2016, the lake level measured 957.9 feet. Normally, the lake loses approximately 1.5 feet of water throughout the winter. This year was an exception. Instead of decreasing, the water level actually increased to 958.56 feet. On March 8<sup>th</sup>, we began releasing water through the draw down valve on a daily basis. Care must be taken when releasing the lake water so that the creek into which it flows does not become overburdened, thereby saturating private properties below. From the time of opening the valve to present, it has continued to rain at a steady pace, adding several more inches of water to the lake.

An aggravating factor this year was the ice and wind, which caused some damage to docks, including the ones by the clubhouse.

A meeting has been set up between our Association Manager, the DNR, and the farmer whose property is most affected by the creek in an attempt to find solutions. Currently, the creek, which used to be about 4 feet deep, has filled in with sediment to the point of making it much shallower and causing it to overflow when too much water is introduced to it too quickly.

While the Association assumes no liability for damage caused by this higher than usual watermark, we realize that the damage from this situation is frustrating. For future plantings and beaches on lakefront properties, you may want to consider this issue when deciding where to place plantings, picnic tables, etc. Although this is an unusual situation, it could occur again at some point.

If you should have further questions, please feel free to contact the office.



**Dutch Hollow Lake**  
**Property Owners' Association, Inc.**

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