

New Approach Undertaken For Twin Lakes Management

BY SUSAN USHER

Twin Lakes residents' battle to keep their community lakes in Sunset Beach healthy and looking good escalated a notch recently with the hiring of a professional management company.

Since 1991 the Twin Lakes Residents Conservation Association has taken a biological approach to management, stocking the 60 acres of lakes with sterile, grass-eating carp to help control vegetative growth. A portion of the Eastern Lake lies along N.C. 179 toward Calabash.

The association had hoped that introduction of grass-eating carp and an end to irrigation pumping would alleviate most of the problems. Results have been mixed, said President Eddie Walters, prompting the association to reconsider a broader range of actions, a package first recommended to it in 1991 by Tom Rial of North Carolina Lake Management, Inc. of Elizabethtown.

"It's going to take human intervention to correct the problems that have developed over the years," Walters told Sunset Beach Town Council members last week. "Every step will help—a sewer system, better control of fertilizer application, everything we do."

At one time lakefront property owners thought use of lake water for irrigation by Oyster Bay Golf Links was the major cause of the lakes' problems, which sometimes resulted in runaway growth of algae and weeds, low oxygen levels and occasional fish kills.

Oyster Bay no longer uses the lakes for irrigation and is committed to sharing the cost of lakes management, Walters said, and the lakes' overall condition has improved, just not as much as property owners would like.

"It will never be under control; it will always require management," said association member Walter Hoff. "The lakes are not stream-fed. Everything that goes in the lake settles to the bottom."

Without human intervention, said Hoff, eutrophication will continue, with the increase in nutrients gradually reducing the dissolved oxygen and creating an environment that fa-



BIRDWATCHING is a popular pastime for visitors to Eastern Lake, one of the Twin Lakes on the mainland in Sunset Beach.

vors plant over animal life.

The lakes are shallow, with an irregular shoreline and no known source of replenishment other than rainwater. Septic tank leachate and runoff from the surrounding residential community are sources of bacteria, sediment and high levels of nutrients such as phosphate and nitrogen that encourage weed growth and algae blooms.

For a \$345 monthly maintenance fee, North Carolina Lake Management, Inc. has agreed to take over treatment and control of algae and aquatic weeds, shoreline grasses and brush, using EPA-approved chemicals. The company will also provide annual water chemistry testing and reporting as part of its aquatic management program.

Its goal is to work toward a growth pattern of natural balance, allowing beneficial aquatic plants to propagate while controlling the spread of algae and other fast-grow-

ing noxious weeds.

Previous management efforts have been a cooperative venture of the five-year-old association, the town of Sunset Beach, Oyster Bay Golf Links and Sea Trail Plantation.

This time around the \$4,140 cost will be split three ways among the town, property owners and Oyster Bay. After two years of co-sponsorship Sea Trail has elected not to participate in the new management effort, citing the costs of managing its own 100 acres of lakes.

Town council members committed to one-year participation only and will reassess the town's role at the end of the contract period. Left open for discussion was the vague possibility of the town someday assuming ownership of the lakes.

The town reached an agreement with the conservation association in 1991 to assist with management of the Twin Lakes "from time to time," since the privately-owned lakes are

an asset to the entire town and are used by the public for recreational activities ranging from birdwatching to fishing.

"We need to look at this from year-to-year," suggested Council Herb Klinker. "There's a question of the precedent we're setting. What if Sea Trail came before us with a similar request?"

While fish restocking isn't included in this year's Twin Lakes management contract, future plans call for the triploid carp to continue playing a large role in aquatic weed control in the lakes.

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COMMISSIONER



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TO: BRUNSWICK COUNTY CITIZENS
FROM: MICHAEL BALLARD

I am writing to ask for your support and help in electing me to the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners (District 5). If you are tired of seeing the surrounding counties receive funding for programs and our county continue to lose ground, then join me in my efforts to help you by helping Brunswick County grow.

I am pro jobs: I will work hard to recruit and retain high wage jobs. The time has come for you to have a commissioner who will work hard for the citizens of Brunswick County, as they do for their families. It is not enough for us to just recruit industry, but we must keep and help the current companies in our county. It is time you had a commissioner who will use federal and state funding to create and recruit jobs. We must expand on the job training for our workers to ensure that they are able to find new employment if the need occurs. We can build our families if we can build more jobs.

I believe in good education, and I will work hard to end the current gridlock between the Board of Commissioners and the Board of Education. Our children deserve a good education, and we must all work together and stop putting our personal/political agenda before our children's education. Our schools have some of the best students and educators, and we must encourage success and build on it. We must encourage more people to volunteer to work with our schools and students. It's time for a change.

I am concerned about and for our environment, and I will continue to work hard to protect it. The time has come for Brunswick County to move forward with an enterprising recycling program. We must continue to keep our county clean and free from more landfills.

I am asking you to vote for me because I am compassionate, competent and committed to improving the lives of all our citizens. As I have worked to get to know the great citizens of our county, many have asked me, when I get elected, to please do something about their spouse, child or themselves losing their jobs because of layoffs or other reasons; well my fellow citizens, I will work hard to bring good jobs to our county. I am going to ask our legislative delegation to help us recruit more good jobs. The time has come for you to expect more from your county commissioners, other than an election year visit. As your county commissioner, I will devote my time and energy to helping reform our county government, so you can have better access.

I am proud to call Brunswick County home and hope you will join me in making our county better for all of us. It's time for a change. It's time to renew our economy and lower our unemployment rate. It's time to elect Mike Ballard as County Commissioner for the 5th District. It is time for leaders who will lead, who will listen, and who care. **TOGETHER WE CAN CHANGE BRUNSWICK COUNTY.** I am counting on you May 3. Make your voice heard.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Ballard

PAID FOR BY THE CANDIDATE.



BILL SISK
for
Sheriff
of Brunswick
County
Democratic Candidate

A QUALITY CANDIDATE FOR QUALITY CHANGE IN BRUNSWICK COUNTY

I cannot promise you that I will stop all crime or that I will get rid of all drugs in our county, but as your sheriff, with the help of our sheriff's department personnel, I will promise you that you will have the best in law enforcement protection and service.

Qualifications

- 32 years of law enforcement experience
- Served in the United States Air Force
- Two years of college, with a major in Criminal Justice
- Graduate of Fruitland Baptist College - ordained as a minister in 1973
- Experienced business owner
- Began a career as a patrol officer walking a city beat in 1961
- Worked as a city patrol officer
- Promoted to the position of:
Line Sergeant, supervised a squad of patrol officer;
Detective Sergeant, supervised a squad of detectives and performed the duties of an investigator;
Narcotics Investigator, assigned to detect, apprehend, and prosecute drug related offenses;
Internal Affairs Investigator, assigned to investigate complaints on police officers, and to report the findings of the investigations to the agency head;
Jailer, Gaston County Sheriff's Department - assigned to the care and custody of inmates confined to the county jail;
Courtroom Bailiff, assigned to Magistrate's Court, District and Superior Criminal Court;
Deputy Sheriff, Gaston County - assigned to the criminal and civil divisions as a criminal and civil process server;
Patrol Officer, Long Beach Police Department - 1986 to 1990;
Line Sergeant, Long Beach Police Department - 1990 to present.
Maintains an active membership in the Masonic Lodge, Shriner's Club, Elk's Lodge, Moose Lodge, and the Fraternal Order of Police, in Brunswick County

A man for change with an open door, open mind policy FOR THE PEOPLE OF BRUNSWICK COUNTY!!!!

BILL SISK FOR BRUNSWICK COUNTY SHERIFF

PAID FOR BY THE CANDIDATE