



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – DECEMBER 2023

Dear Members of Westlake Lake Community,

I hope everyone is enjoying the holidays and lake with family and friends. As we enter the final month of the year, I want to share a couple of things we can be proud of in our community and lake.

The Holiday Boat Parade of Lights – The Yacht Club recently held the annual “Holiday Boat Parade of Lights” on Sunday, December 3rd. A special Thank You to **Christine Wheeler**, a resident and prominent Yacht Club member, that worked tirelessly to make this year’s parade a success! There were over 20 decorated boats with lights, people in costumes, and even people singing! The community showed up in hundreds with their families, kids, and friends. This is an annual December holiday tradition on the lake that the Yacht Club organizes, and a special distinctive event of our community we all live in!

A quick point on lake health – The lake is in great shape and healthy. A special Thank You to **Nick Smith**, Lake Operations Manager, our biologists, and lake specialists that continuously monitor the lake every month. And Thank You to **Mike Bogash**, WLMA VP (recently re-elected as VP for 2024), and the **Fishing Committee** that Mike chairs working with Nick on various initiatives. In 2023, WLMA has made new investments in the lake health and beauty including more aerators providing oxygen to the lake, installing thrusters in some troublesome inlets to circulate stagnant water, and special mineral treatments throughout the lake – all these investments are proving to be successful. More plans for 2024, including adding an additional full-time maintenance person.

Wildlife enjoying the lake too! – As part of a healthy lake and environment around the lake, you’ll see more wildlife including birds and turtles. Although some of the birds are seagulls that can be a bit messy, seagulls know a good place to hang out when they see it like any other bird! Although we have a weekly falconer to help manage the population of seagulls, it is impossible to keep them from our lake every day – just goes with the territory and a sign of a healthy lake and environment.

Communication – Lastly a special Thank You to **Jim Lacey**, WLMA Board Representative (recently re-elected to the 2024 Board, and newly elected to the 2024 Executive Committee), and the **Communications Committee** that Jim chairs for all the work this year on the WLMA website. Please see the *new and improved* WLMA website (***westlake-lake.com***) where we have now added the monthly updates on the lake by **Nick Smith** and my monthly President’s Messages. Also, you will find other current information along with beautiful pictures of the lake and wildlife that Jim and his committee continuously refreshes from pictures provided by the community.

As we bid farewell to 2023 and welcome the New Year, I hope you join me to extend gratitude and thanks to the Board of Representatives and many others in the community that helped make it a successful year. This past year is marked by transformative operational changes that are contributing to the overall well-being and enhancement of our beautiful lake and set the stage for a promising 2024. I’m proud to have served as your 2023 WLMA President, and excited to be recently re-elected to serve as your 2024 President.

Your feedback, ideas, and views are encouraged and welcomed, as they play a crucial role in shaping the decisions that impact our lake and community.

Thank you for a fantastic year, and warm wishes for joyous holidays ahead.

Chip Lightfoot
President, Westlake Lake Management Association