



**Staghorn Plantation Estates
Homeowners Association**
P.O. Box 267
Nicholson, GA 30565

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION NEWS

August 2022

There's lots to talk about this month so let's get started.

Spillway Repair – What Happened

The dam repair is almost completed. We need the rain to stay away for another day or two. What I learned was that when Griffin Brothers began to insert a new pipe around the existing pipe, they discovered that the damage to the old pipe was so extensive that they had to change their plans while still working under the framework of their current contract.



If you look closely at the picture to the left you might get a better understanding of what is happening. You can see black smoke from a pump that is removing lake water and sending it over the dam through a flexible pipe. You can also see a new load of dirt and at the base of the dam, cement blocks.



What Griffin Brothers has done is remove the old corrugated pipe and inserted the new high-quality pipe designed to last over 50 years. Earthen dams, like ours, are made from compacted dirt. So, there is now a need to replace the foundation of the dam with concrete blocks and cement. They are mixing cement in the picture shown above with the goal of reinforcing the foundation or floor of the dam.

This ensures that the new pipe stays in place and doesn't move over time. Griffin Brothers is good at doing this and works with Jackson and our surrounding counties on repair of drainage systems.

Loss of the Staghorn Lake Fish

Most of us did not anticipate the loss of our fish population. It is pretty hard to put a positive spin on this ugly mess, but what we have learned over the past five years is that our fish population was becoming very unbalanced. We had fewer bream and croppies and way too many one-foot-long largemouth bass.

Carla Fowler has had conversations with **Greg Pittman** of the Jackson County Extension Service. In examining our big hole that used to be a lake, he felt all the conditions were right for reseeding the lake. We have springs and a creek flowing through our lake.

Carla has a rough idea of what it will cost to restock the lake. Greg said that it generally cost \$350 - \$400 per acre to restock a lake. Of course, this is with smaller fish and we would have to give the fish a few years to mature. I guess the good news is that these smaller fish will not be gobbled up by our former huge largemouth bass population. They will have an opportunity to mature.

The HOA is working to find ways to put money aside to restock the lake. I honestly can't tell you when that will occur. It depends on weather conditions and the availability of the kinds of fish we want. We believe that it will take two to three months to get the lake level back to normal, once the work by Griffin Brothers is finished. Then, if temperature conditions are right, we can begin restocking Staghorn Lake. It is best to restock in the Fall.

We may partially restock the lake this year and wait until we have more funds to complete the job in 2023. It depends on how fast we can collect dues. Once we have assessed our current spending levels and developed a budget for 2022-2023, we will know more.

You should know that it is difficult to say when we will be able to swim and use our boats and kayaks again. This will be dictated by water levels and chemical testing of our lake water. Rest assured; I am as anxious as you are to get our lake back. So please stay tuned as we all learn more.

Speed Limit Changes on our Roads



Thanks to the efforts of your HOA and **Pam McGee** we are expecting speeds along Hwy 335 to drop from 55 mph to 50 mph after a study by the state GDOT is completed. Note the new 45mph warning signs on Hwy 335.

You may also have noticed that because of our efforts we now have speeds along Waterworks Road reduced from 55 mph to 45 mph.

I hope residents along these roads appreciate our efforts on behalf of the community and fund our activities by paying their annual dues. All support is appreciated. Craig Gieler VP