Meeting Notes – May 31, 2022

Jay Simpson, Operations Project Manager, U.S Army Corps of Engineers, West Point Project, Mobile District was the guest speaker at the Lafayette Rotary Meeting on Tuesday, May 31, 2022.

Mr. Simpson leads a multidisciplinary team in the operations and a multipurpose civil works project focusing on recreation, and natural resources management, hydropower, navigation, and flood damage reduction.

West Point Lake extends 35 miles along the Chattahoochee River just North of West Point, Georgia. The lake has a shoreline of more than 500 miles. It is surrounded by forests and fields on the Alabama-Georgia state line. West Point Lake provides excellent fishing and camping and many recreational opportunities to the public every year.

The lake reduces flooding of the river by managing seasonal variation in water flow. During the critical flood season which is December -mid April, the reservoir is lowered for flood control reasons. Beginning at the end of April to May 1 the lake is allowed to rise to as target elevation of 635 feet for the summer months.

The construction of West Point Lake Project was authorized by Congress for flood control, hydroelectric power, navigation, fish and wildlife development, general recreation, and water quality. Construction began in December 1965. The actual impoundment of the lake began in October 1974. The project provides water storage for the navigation on the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint Waterway running 260 river miles from Apalachicola, Florida to Columbus, Georgia. The powerhouse’s three generators produce enough power to serve 24,000 homes annually.

West Point Lake offers an abundance of wildlife and a number of ways to enjoy it. When the was created a forested valley was flooded and trees and other structures were left standing to provide great fishing spots for the thousands of anglers who fish on the lake annually. Fishing is the most popular activity on the lake and there are more than 40 square miles of great fishing in the dozen creeks and on the lake. The dozens of piers offer access for the disabled. Preteens and disabled visitors can also fish in a pound at Hardley Creek Park.

Wildlife lovers can enjoy the diversity of the West Point Lake. The thousands of acres of parks and natural areas provide a habitat for variety of species to include osprey, bald eagles, deer, bobcat, and dozens of species of songbirds.

Hunting is permitted in specific Corps managed areas, provided the hunter has a valid state hunting license and West Point Lake hunting permit.

While many people visit the lake to fish or camp, West Point Lake also offers 22 Corps of Engineers day use parks available for public use. Facilities include tennis courts, ball fields, basketball courts, fishing piers with fish attractors and picnic shelters for individual or large group use.

There are beautiful lakes views at the campgrounds and abundant wildlife sightings. The campgrounds are equipped with utility hook-ups, sanitary disposal stations, laundry facilities, playgrounds, boat ramps and showers.

There is nearly 26,000 acres of water surface available for water sports at West Point Lake. You will find boating, fishing, swimming, skiing, and sailing. West Point Lake is the place to be this summer.

There are two privately owned marinas where you will find fuel, boat repair, rentals, supplies and whatever else a boater could need. There are sponsored fishing tournaments and feature restaurants.

So much to explore and do at West Point Lake! Set your GPS for the lake this summer!

**If you need further information, please contact these numbers:**

**Visitor’s Center 706-645-2937**

**Camping-877-444-6777**

**Hunting 706-645-2937**

**Picnic Shelter Reservations 706-645-2937**

**General information can found at:**

**http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/**

**https://www.facebook.com/westpointlake.USACE**

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