

# Tree Falls Into Lake



**R**ecently, a large locust tree fell into the lake blocking a cove in the South Area. It was one of several large trees in the area. It wasn't a leaning tree. It hadn't been damaged by beavers.

WID staff has devised what appears to be a practical and relatively economical removal method which also might work in the case of one major still submerged tree and in future situations. It is an air bag floatation system in which special airbags are attached to the submerged tree and then inflated to permit the tree to float freely. Thereafter, it can be towed to an appropriate location to be cut into pieces small enough to facilitate removal and disposal.

WID is purchasing special equipment to facilitate airbag floatation removal including special

industrial grade attachable air bags, hoses, pressurized air tanks and control systems. This will cost several thousand dollars but the equipment can be used repeatedly.

The relatively small cost of removing fallen trees will be ascertained on a case-by-case basis. The home owner has the basic responsibility for paying the cost of removing a tree which has fallen from his property into the lake. Additionally, the Lake Barcroft Association benefits from most or all such tree removals. WID will determine whether it should contribute some of the cost with public funds or whether privately funded tree owners and/or LBA have responsibility. There is a possibility of insurance reimbursement.

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*Fallen oaks from little acorns grow!*

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