PRESIDENT’S LIVE BOX

Submitted by Mel Hathaway,
Steuben County Lakes Council President

Remember what the groundhog said last February? If I remember correctly, “an early spring” was its prediction. Well, that didn’t happen! In fact, Steuben County experienced snow in late April! Enough said. Warm weather is finally here. Our lakes are as beautiful as ever, and preparations for another summer are underway.

I recently attended the 31st Annual Indiana Lakes Management Conference on Lake Wawasee in Syracuse, Indiana. One of the messages that I heard several times was about the potential detrimental effects of global warming on our lakes. The details were alarming to me! I can’t emphasize enough the importance of caring for our lakes now! I am so appreciative of our members’ support so that our Lakes Council can continue to monitor the water quality of our lakes, identify problems, and seek solutions! Hopefully, our lakes will continue to be as healthy and beautiful in the future as the lakes are now! Again, thank you for your contributions and support.
SCLC OFFICERS 2019
President – Mel Hathaway
President Elect – Cheryl Silverhart
Technical Vice President – Pete Hippensteel
Government Vice President – Karen DeForest
Public Relations Vice President – John Williamson
Membership Vice President – Helen Miller
Secretary – Cheri Carpenter
Treasurer – Gary VandenElst
Assistant Treasurer – Jim Simons
Member at Large – Norm Gajewski
Member at Large – Bob Glick
Member at Large – Max Robison
Advisor – Bill Schmidt

MEMBERSHIP FORM FOR 2019
Name__________________________________Name of Lake_________________
Address of Lake Property_________________________________________________
City________________________State____Zip______Phone____________________
Preferred mailing address if different than lake address:
Mailing Address___________________________________________________________
City________________________State____Zip______Phone____________________
Individual Membership $35.00
Special Donation
Scholarship Donation
Water Quality Donation
Total Amount Enclosed (Donations are tax deductible.) ______________________
Mail to: SCLC – 317 S. Wayne St., Ste. 2A, Angola, IN 46703

MEMBERSHIP NOTES
Submitted by Helen Miller, SCLC Membership Vice President
We are proud to be celebrating 47 years of service protecting our lakes and streams.
Membership fees are only $35 for individual and $40 for business and professionals.
We use these funds to provide environmental materials for the first and second grade
students in the county as well as study materials for the fourth grade students following
a field day in the fall. This is done in cooperation with the Steuben County Soil &
Water Conservation District. We also provide a $2,400 annual scholarship to a college
student in the environmental field. Your contributions also provides funding to pub-
lish and mail thousands of our two (2) publications, the Bobber Watchin’ and Sound-
ings to lake property owners and businesses. It also helps to fund the water quality
testing program covering every watershed in the county. Thank you for your contin-
ued support as we work to keep our lakes and streams protected.
If you have not
sent your dues in yet for 2019, please use the form above to do so.

STEUBEN COUNTY LAKES COUNCIL, INC. BOARD MEETINGS
Learn more about your Steuben County Lakes Council by attending our Board
meetings. They are held the first Saturday of each month (except January) at the First
Congregational United Church of Christ, 314 West Maumee, Angola, IN, at 8:30 A.M.
Exception: The August 3 meeting will be at the Lake James Christian Camp & Retreat
Center. The meetings are open to the public. Come, join the discussions, and help us
keep the lakes and streams clean and beautiful.
In 1987, the Environmental Protection Agency finally recognized storm water as a significant contributor to water pollution along with sewage and industrial waste under the Clean Water Act. As part of the NPDES program, IDEM regulates MS4’s as a point source.

MS4’s are defined as a conveyance or system of conveyances municipally-owned or owned by other public entities, such as universities, hospitals, and military bases, that discharge to waters of the US and are designed or used for collecting or conveying storm water. MS4 Storm Water Management Programs are intended to improve the nation’s waterways by reducing the quantity of pollutants that storm water picks up and carries into storm sewer systems during storm events.

So, what is storm water, and what is the big deal? Storm water can be rain, snowmelt, or spray from a hose that ends up running into a storm drain. When storm water hits the ground, it picks up and mixes with pollutants, such as oil, grease, fertilizer, pesticides, pet waste, soil from construction sites, salt, soap, and litter. These pollutants are carried with the storm water into the nearest storm drain. The big deal is storm water is not treated. The network of storm inlets, pipes, and tiles leads directly to area streams, rivers, and lakes with absolutely NO treatment.

Some of the other requirements to which MS4’s must comply as part of the NPDES permit include developing a storm water management program to reduce pollutants to prevent the contamination of storm water, implementing controls to reduce pollutants in discharges from MS4 facilities to the waters of the US, conducting dry weather sampling of outfalls to detect illicit discharges, conducting reviews and approving site plans for construction projects, conducting site inspections and enforcing erosion and sediment control for construction activities.

I’m guessing some of the reasons you live on the lake may be for the aesthetic beauty of the surroundings...for the enjoyable water recreation...for the relaxation from daily stressors. All these great uses exist due to the water quality of your lake system. The water quality may not be perfect or pristine, but you wouldn’t be living there if you weren’t benefiting from the water quality. The reality is we are all responsible for the quality of our local waterbodies, and we can all work to improve water quality through simple everyday ways. Here are just a few. Pick up pet waste. Don’t let those nutrients wash into a storm drain or into the lake. Wash your vehicle or boat at a car wash or at least on grass so the soap doesn’t end up in the storm drain or lake. Don’t sweep or blow your grass clippings on the street or into the lake. These clippings add nutrients to the waterbodies. Don’t blow or spray sediment into storm drains or the lake. Sediment is a pollutant. And if you see a neighbor engaging in these activities, educate. Most people don’t realize the impact their actions have on the environment.

A group of 15 Steuben County residents began a conversation with Pokagon DNR staff in 2018 about our passion for Pokagon State Park/Trine State Recreation Area and the importance of involving all sectors of our community in helping preserve, protect and promote these natural and cultural resources. Pokagon is a Steuben County pillar where families from across the nation and our local neighborhoods have come for generations to enjoy the Lake James chain, the trails, campgrounds, cabins, inn, programs and services of the State Park.

In 2018, the park hosted 624,171 visitors, and the Nature Center alone hosted 32,000 guests. These visitors contribute to our local economy and the vibrancy of our community, but they also put miles and trash on trails and open spaces, and wear and tear on Pokagon’s historic structures. Unfortunately, Indiana DNR doesn’t have the resources to do everything that needs to be done to keep Pokagon the greatest state park ever (we’re a bit biased). Friends of Pokagon, Inc. is joining the 19 existing Indiana State Park Friends Groups in bringing our local community and friends from far-away places together to work alongside State Park staff to preserve, protect and promote two favorite Steuben County places, Pokagon State Park and Trine SRA. Friends of Pokagon is the 20th Friends Group in Indiana, which is an exciting milestone for the founders, our park, and our community!

Friends of Pokagon Inc. is newly incorporated (April 2019) and currently working to achieve 501(c)(3) tax exempt status so that it can engage volunteers and raise funds toward a very distinct purpose. The mission of Friends of Pokagon is to collaborate with Pokagon State Park staff to support conservation, education, preservation, research and interpretation of Pokagon State Park and Trine State Recreation area through volunteerism and fundraising. The Friends group is in the process of distilling a prioritized list of projects provided to them by the Pokagon State Park Property Manager and Naturalist so that the group’s work will focus on the most visible and impactful outcomes. Projects the group intends to pursue in collaboration with the State of Indiana, DNR staff and qualified contractors may include:

• A Welcome Center addition to the Pokagon Nature Center
• 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Basin Shoreline Restoration
• Civilian Conservation Corps Shelter Restoration
• ATV Wheelchair for use on trails
• Tree ID Trail Signage
• Hiking and Trail Exploration equipment
• Nature Center program equipment
Continued from page 3

The new Friends group certainly has its work cut out for it, and the founding members are committed to growing the organization into a tremendous community catalyst, through membership drives, fundraisers, and members-only, volunteer and public educational and philanthropic events. As a membership organization, Friends of Pokagon invites individuals, families, community organizations and companies to support the Friends’ mission by becoming annual dues-paying members of the group. The majority of dues paid will go directly to funding Friends’ projects and initiatives. Members will receive newsletters, annual reports, volunteer opportunities and event invitations, and members will be able to vote for Friends of Pokagon board members and serve as board members themselves.

You can follow the progress of Friends of Pokagon and learn about upcoming events and projects by visiting the Friends of Pokagon Facebook page @FriendsofPokagon. We hope you will become a Friend of Pokagon. For more information, please contact the Membership Committee Chair at friensofpokagon@gmail.com

MEMORIALS TO HONOR OTHERS WILL BE PUT IN OUR SCHOLARSHIP FUND, UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED
We wish to thank the following scholarship contributors in 2019:

- Dwayne & Doris Allgood
- Warren & Barbara Barnes
- Michael Burkhalter
- Mark & Dawn Christman
- Phil & Sue Christman
- Brad Cookson
- Dr. Robert Connor
- Patti Couperthwaite
- Ken & Earlene Dafler
- Dorothy Dukes
- Robert Fiedler
- Tim & Dianne Fultz
- Denise Gray
- Diane Graziano
- Jackie & Lydia Griffin
- Donna Hankins
- Edward & Karen Hardiek
- Mel & Sandy Hathaway
- Tom & Karen Hazelett
- Katy Hoehn
- Jerry Howard
- Michael & Kaye James
- David Kaminski
- Ron & Kay Kummer
- Evelyn Lake
- Allen & Marsha Langdon
- Shane & Megan Libey
- James Mason
- Debra McKinney
- Ken & Helen Miller
- Mike & Brinda Miller
- Scott Miller
- Melissa Moorman
- Tom & Helen Nil
- Jeffrey & Debra Payton
- Wayne Patterson
- Wayne Peters
- Fran Rehm
- Max & Sandra Robison
- Carolyn & Don Schenkel
- Ken & Marta Schlemmer
- Bill Schmidt
- James & Marilyn Simons
- Greg Smith
- Erik & Laura Sorensen
- Don & Beverly Stephens
- Tom & Kristen Stone
- Gail Surfas
- Jackie & Nickie Sweeney
- Mary Tierney
- Jana & Jeff Walborn
- Doug & Fran Weidner
- Lynn Wernet
- John Wilson
- Norman Yoder

Continued on Page 14

STORM WATER MATTERS
Submitted by Kris Thomas
City of Angola, MS4

As an MS4 Coordinator for the City of Angola, I am tasked with educating the public on storm water and its effects on water quality. On its face, this doesn’t seem like it should be an overly difficult task. It would seem relatively simple in nature; however, when you realize, first, many people have never heard of MS4, so it’s a foreign concept. And, second, when you realize the true impact storm water can have on water quality and the importance of getting this message across to everyone, because water quality truly affects EVERYONE, it is an amazingly monumental task!!!

Since you folks live on one of the many beautiful Steuben County Lakes, this is a terrific opportunity to educate you on the MS4 Storm Water program and the ways it serves the community. I am new to the storm water community, but I am amazed at the individuals across the state who are dedicated to keeping the quality of our waters clean through storm water management. We are extremely fortunate to live in a country where there continues to be a movement to restore our impaired waters and to keep our clean waters clean through the Clean Water Act.

MS4 stands for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems, and under the Clean Water Act storm water discharges from certain types of urbanized areas are required to be permitted under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, or NPDES, program. So, let’s back up just a bit to see how the NPDES program came about. Back in the 1970’s the issue of water pollution was just beginning to take the national stage with the passage of the Clean Water Act. The passage of this federal law came about due to the Cuyahoga River catching fire for the 13th time as a direct result of the pollution allowed in the day. The nation finally took notice and said enough is enough; the time for change is now.

The Clean Water Act prohibits a discharge of pollutants into waters of the United States through a “point source” UNLESS the discharger has a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, or NPDES, permit. In Indiana, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management, or IDEM, manages the NPDES program. A set amount of a pollutant can be discharged through a “point source” if the discharger has a NPDES permit to discharge the pollutant; however, the discharger must comply with the set limit.

A “point source” is typically a pipe, but it can be any conveyance from a single discrete place, such as a ditch or channel. Point sources that are regulated by IDEM include municipal wastewater facilities, also known as sewage treatment plants, and industrial facilities that produce industrial wastewater.

Continued on Page 14
A CORDIAL INVITATION TO THE PUBLIC

STEUBEN COUNTY LAKES COUNCIL INVITES YOU TO OUR 47TH ANNUAL MEETING

WHEN—SATURDAY, AUGUST 3

WHERE
LK. JAMES CHRISTIAN CAMP & RETREAT
1800 WEST 275 NORTH
LAKE JAMES

FREE BREAKFAST AT 8:00 A.M.

BUSINESS MEETING AT 8:45 A.M.

SPEAKER – Michael Lewis, Warning Coordination Meteorologist National Weather Service

COME AND SHARE YOUR CONCERNS

Please join us in this timely celebration. Everyone is welcome!
These waters are important to all in the county!

Smart (and Delicious) Snacking
Submitted by:
Jenn Gibson | Director – Business Development I Community Wellness I Marketing

Eating healthier is a great goal. However you might derail your effort if you force yourself to suddenly switch from a diet loaded with junk food and processed food to a strict all-natural vegetable-based one.
It’s better to start with small steps that can add up to big changes in your diet. Start with these simple substitutions for smarter snacking.

Cold facts.
Switch from ice cream to frozen yogurt. You can hardly tell the difference between these two tasty treats, but frozen yogurt contains much less fat and sugar. Plus, yogurt is loaded with probiotics which help the digestive system.

Better butter.
Skip the processed peanut butter and reach for almond butter instead. You won’t save much in calories, but healthy eating is about more than just calories. Almond butter tastes great and offers more vitamins, minerals and fiber, plus it has less sugar and saturated fat per serving than peanut butter.

Sweet treats.
Sometimes your sweet tooth takes over and demands a candy bar. Try some trail mix instead. It has a lot of the same elements as a candy bar—crunchy texture, salty nuts and sweetness from dried fruit. You can also add chocolate chips or candies. Speaking of chocolate, choose dark chocolate over milk chocolate for more nutrients and antioxidants.

Cheers!
When indulging in an alcoholic drink or two, order wine instead of beer—especially red wine which is lower in calories and loaded with antioxidants. An even better choice is low-calorie spirits such as vodka mixed with soda water and fresh lime juice. Of course alcohol should be used in moderation. For non-alcoholic drinks, choose tea over soda and replace sugary fruit juice with fruit-infused water. Coconut water makes a great alternative to sports drinks, too.
THE VALUE OF NATURAL SHORELINES - WHY THEY ARE IMPORTANT

Submitted by Cheryl Silverhart, President Elect, Steuben County Lakes Council

Lake shorelines covered with a rich layer of native vegetation provide many benefits for the lake. Deep-rooted native woody plants such as trees, shrubs and sedge grasses help stabilize lake shorelines by holding soil in place to prevent shoreline erosion. Kentucky bluegrass and other turf grasses have shallow roots that do not help stabilize shoreline soils. Furthermore, shoreline edge plants intercept plant runoff from lakefront properties that could contain nutrients and chemicals, such as phosphorus, that would otherwise flow into the lake. Un-mowed native grasses and herbaceous plants along the shoreline discourage Canada geese from moving onto lakefront property and we all know what a mess they can make! **Herbaceous plants** are plants that have no persistent woody stem above ground. Examples of herbaceous biennials include carrot, parsnip and common ragwort; herbaceous perennials include potato, peony, hosta, mint, most ferns and most grasses.

Maintaining trees along the lakefront provides shade for your property and for the near-shore waters. This shade is an important fish attractor. Research has shown that shoreline trees can provide an important source of food for fish. Insects are abundant in shoreline trees and many of them fall into the water, where they are eaten by the fish. This helps to support healthy fish populations.

In summary, native shoreline plants and trees provide the following attributes:
- control shoreline erosion
- filter nutrient and chemical runoff
- discourage Canada geese
- provide shade that attracts fish
- provide insects to grow bigger fish

We know that lakes are not immaculate, they are diverse. They function ecologically because they have a diverse variety of plants, insects, birds, wildlife, and fish that interact to form a functioning and sustainable ecosystem.

With all of these benefits, as a lake homeowner, do your part to keep and maintain a natural shoreline habit rich with plants and trees.
Steuben County is home to more than 101 natural lakes and streams. Residents and visitors rely on our abundant water resources to provide clean, safe drinking water and for a vast array of recreational activities. Additionally, the county’s economic prosperity is dependent upon the availability and health of our water resources.

The high quality of life, lakes, and other natural resources make this area a desirable place to live. With hundreds of lakes in the county, we are fortunate to have a lot of shoreline - which creates attractive areas for housing. To such an extent, the majority of the county’s mid to large-sized lakes have dense residential areas located along the water’s edge. These areas can have a large environmental footprint on our area waterbodies.

Population growth and the development of urban/urbanized areas are major contributors to the amount of pollutants entering our waterbodies. Impacts from these areas keep urban pollutant reduction a foremost priority for the SWCD, because of stormwater runoff and nutrient loading influences on lake systems. Stormwater runoff is generated from rain and snowmelt events that flow over land or impervious surfaces, such as paved streets, parking lots, and building rooftops, and does not soak into the ground. This runoff picks up pollutants like trash, chemicals, oils, and sediment that can harm our lakes, rivers, and streams.

Nutrients in waterbodies are essential for the growth of algae and aquatic plants, important food sources for many small invertebrates and fish, but too much can destroy an ecosystem. Potential impacts of high nutrients and sediment on water quality include excessive plant and algal growth, along with reduced water clarity, visibility, and recreational suitability. Even property values could be impacted by less than ideal water quality.

Due to the numerous ways we use our water, it is imperative for us to protect and restore our water resources. Everyday decisions we make at our homes greatly affect our environment. Our water, soil, air and wildlife depend on us for their protection. To help urban landowners with protecting and restoring Steuben County’s water quality, the SWCD applied for and received a Clean Water Indiana Grant in 2018. This grant allows the district to help urban landowners practice better land stewardship by providing financial assistance for the integration of conservation measures into existing landscapes. These measures work to capture and allow stormwater to be absorbed into the ground, reducing impacts to water quality. These measures also create homes and food sources for a variety of animals including beneficial insects and birds.

We offer a cost-share program for the installation of rain gardens, native-planting (planting using native and non-invasive adapted plants in your landscape), water-edge enhancements (filter strips), and tree/shrub plantings. The grant will pay for 75% of all fees up to $2,000 per qualifying project (tree/shrub plantings will pay 75% up to a maximum of $750). The target area for grant implementation are urban residential properties located on or within a ½-mile of a river, lake shore, or perennial stream.

---

**101 LAKES TRUST**

**Conservation Easement Established**

*From article, in Reflections newsletter, written by Ken Erlenbaugh*

**IN ITS LUCKY 13TH YEAR, THE 101 LAKES TRUST ENTERED INTO ITS FIRST AGREEMENT TO CONSERVE A PARCEL OF LAND FROM DEVELOPMENT.**

In March 2018, Ryan Matthews approached the 101 Lakes Trust about holding the conservation easement on his property to preserve the 3.5 acres at the south end of Lake Arrowhead in western Steuben County. Per the Land Trust Alliance: “A conservation easement is a voluntary legal agreement between a landowner and a land trust or government agency that permanently limits uses of the land in order to protect its conservation values. Landowners retain many of their rights, including the right to own and use the land, sell it and pass it on to their heirs. Conservation easements... are the number one tool available for protecting privately owned land. All conservation easements must provide public benefits, such as water quality, farm and ranch-land preservation, scenic views, wildlife habitat, outdoor recreation, education, and historic preservation.” The result [of this collaboration] is that Matthews is still allowed many activities on his land while the property is protected from development, and the residents of Lake Arrowhead benefit from perpetual greenspace on the southern end of their lake.

**WHEN DONATED FOR CONSERVATION IN PERPETUITY, AN EASEMENT IS A TAX DEDUCTIBLE CHARITABLE GIFT AND MAY REDUCE ESTATE TAXES.**

If you would like to discuss the possibility of a conservation easement on your property, please contact 101 Lakes Trust President Janet Albright at jalbright@buckeye-express.com.
## THANKS

**BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATES 2019**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BUSINESS</th>
<th>Professional</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andrews &amp; Shipe LLC</td>
<td>Gay’s Hops-N-Schnapps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bar-Bid Enterprises</td>
<td>Hartland Winery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big D’s Bait &amp; Tackle/Archery</td>
<td>Hotrod Golf Carts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bradley Overhead Doors, LLC</td>
<td>Jacob Insurance Services, LLC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Budreau, Austin - State Farm</td>
<td>JMR Cottage, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Campbell &amp; Fetter Bank</td>
<td>Larry’s Lock &amp; Safe, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City of Angola, MS4</td>
<td>Lawnscape Garden Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clear Lake Electric, Inc.</td>
<td>Metropolitan Title of Indiana, LLC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Core Promotions</td>
<td>Peter Franklin Jewelers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cress Law Group PC</td>
<td>Special Cutting Tools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Croxton &amp; Roe Insurance</td>
<td>Steuben County Community Foundation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Mechanical</td>
<td>Steuben County REMC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmers State Bank</td>
<td>Steuben County Tourism Bureau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ference Fine Jewelry</td>
<td>The Corner Landing, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Federal Savings Bank of Angola</td>
<td>Tom’s Donuts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fort Financial Credit Union</td>
<td>Wayside Furniture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Franz Nursery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G &amp; C Farming, LLC</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LAKE ASSOCIATIONS</th>
<th>Professional</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ball Lake Association</td>
<td>Lake George Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Turkey Lake Improvement Assoc.</td>
<td>Lake James Association, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buena Vista Homeowner’s Association</td>
<td>Lake Pleasant Homeowners Assoc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crooked Lake Association, Inc.</td>
<td>Lake of the Woods, McLish Lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fox Lake Property Owners</td>
<td>Long Lake Cottage Owners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hamilton Lake Association</td>
<td>North Otter Lake Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jimmerson Lake Prop. Owners Assoc.</td>
<td>Pine Canyon Lake Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Arrowhead</td>
<td>Snow Lake Cottagers Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Gage/Lime Lake Association</td>
<td>West Otter Lake Property Owners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Whisper Bay Association</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thank You!