ADDRESS CHANGES

We are diligently working on our database to make sure we have current lake addresses and current mailing addresses of those who prefer receiving mail other than at the lake. Please keep us informed of any changes that need to be made. If you are a “Snow Bird” and have a different winter address, please advise us of this address and the times this should be used. We want to be sure to reach you with any mailings we may have. To make a change, please send a note in the mail, call the office (260) 665-1730, or email the office at office@lakescouncil.org. Thank you for your assistance.

PRESIDENT’S LIVE BOX

Submitted by Mel Hathaway, SCLC President

It’s difficult to believe that summer has come and gone, already! I hope all of you were able to enjoy our lakes in your own special way. There are so many ways we use our lakes to bring enjoyment and personal peace that the list would be very long, indeed! If you were unable to visit our lakes this summer, I hope you have some favorite memories, perhaps of past summers. However, summer is not the only time to be at our lakes, as the other seasons are also amazing!

We are truly blessed to have such magnificent lakes in our county! Keeping our lakes in their present condition requires the effort of many people! I cannot thank you enough for your support of the Steuben County Lakes Council and I thank the volunteers that make the Lakes Council possible! It is so important that we continue to preserve and protect our lakes, not just for us today, but also for future generations!!! As our climate changes, our work may become more difficult and continued efforts from all will be most appreciated.

I also thank the Lakes Council for the opportunity to serve these past two years as their president. It has been a very rewarding experience for me! Cheryl Silverhart will be the next president, beginning in January. She is a dynamic and energetic person and is well qualified to serve the Lakes Council! The future of the council is bright with her leadership!!
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MEMBERSHIP NOTES
Submitted by Helen Miller, SCLC Membership Vice President
Thank you to everyone who sent their membership contribution in for 2019. A special thanks also to all who contributed to our water quality project this year. With your help, we have been able to intervene when we find a problem area and also do water testing in the watersheds of Steuben County to keep our waters safe. Membership letters for 2020 will be sent out in January 2020.

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 VandenElsen
Assistant Treasurer – Jim Simons
Member at Large – Bob Glick
Member at Large – Don Reitz
Member at Large – Max Robison
Advisor – Bill Schmidt

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 1st 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.
LAKE OF THE WOODS/MCCLISH LAKE

Submitted by Steve McElhoe

A Tale Of Two Council’s

I’ll start this article with a geography lesson. Lake of the Woods and McClish Lake are located in the southwest corner of Steuben County and the southeast corner of Lagrange County. I’m a little bit biased, but in my opinion it’s a really great place to live!

I have the pleasure of being able to represent our lakes at both the Steuben and Lagrange County Lakes Councils. These two councils are different in many ways, Steuben is a very active and involved council represented not only by its Board of Directors but also by many lake association officials. Also involved are representatives of county organizations who are constantly striving to protect the valuable assets we have in our lakes.

The Lagrange Council has been experiencing a transition not only in structure but also in awareness of the councils important role in our caring for our lakes. I’m happy to say that due to the efforts of a handful of members and the support of Steuben County’s own Bill Schmidt new interest has been sparked in the Lagrange council. When Bill speaks at one of the Lagrange meetings or gives up a Saturday to travel to Michiana Fish Lake to address the annual Association potluck luncheon, he is quick to point out how important our Lake Councils are when it comes to solving problems that arise. Being able to network with others who have experience in solving those problems is invaluable. There is truly safety and strength in numbers!

I want to thank the Steuben County Lakes Council Board of Directors and all those who attend the monthly meetings for their dedication and perseverance which has created and maintained an organization dedicated to keeping Steuben County lakes vibrant, healthy and a true asset to northeast Indiana.

WEST OTTER LAKE

Submitted by John Williamson

It is surely nice to see people enjoying boat rides around our lake and especially to see and hear the kids swimming. Living on a lake is great. The ice fishing was good last Winter and this spring even though the weather did not help sometimes.

We were flooded for quite a while but we are ok now. The Helen Miller annual boat parade was a success. Thank you to all participants!

This sure has been a good year to buy or sell a house on a lake. Here at West Otter the homes are not on the market very long at all. It is beautiful here! We are a no ski lake and approximately nine miles West of the mound in Angola.

CALENDAR 2020

Steuben County Lakes Council Board Meetings

February 1, First Congregational United Church of Christ
March 7, First Congregational United Church of Christ
April 4, First Congregational United Church of Christ
May 2, First Congregational United Church of Christ
June 6, First Congregational United Church of Christ
July 6, NO MEETING DUE TO HOLIDAY WEEKEND
August 1, Lake James Christian Camp & Retreat Center
September 5, First Congregational United Church of Christ
October 3, First Congregational United Church of Christ
November 7, First Congregational United Church of Christ
December 5, First Congregational United Church of Christ

All meetings are open to the public.

Meetings start at 8:30 A.M.

“Protecting our lakes today, for tomorrow”
LAKE PLEASANT

Submitted by Janet Bohney

Life on the Lake Pleasant!

After a winter that brought cold temperatures, some unseasonably warm temperatures, snowy days, ice, and a lot of rain, spring finally arrived late. However it came with more and more rain. Wherever people were gathered in Steuben County people were heard to say is it ever going to stop raining, and Lake Pleasant certainly received its share of storms. Once it cleared out, it seemed we jumped from a late spring to a beautiful summer. The boat lifts, piers, and boats finally got in to the water. Things were back to normal for awhile.

The association used our weed funds and LARE grant money to spray the weeds which really sprung up from all the rain. It also became apparent that we were going to have to increase our weed fund to deal with all the new species of invasive weeds. Aah, life on a lake...,but as I write this, the sun is shining, the air is warm, and the lake looks beautiful. That makes it all worth it.

Now, fall is fast approaching. The incredible sunrises, and sunsets are moving southward, the lifts and piers are getting pushed onto the shore, and the boats and water toys are being put to bed. We have had a lot of changes this year. We lost some longtime residents, welcomed some new ones, and watched a couple of new houses come to completion. Things in this world on the water are always changing, but some things will surely stay the same. Next spring the piers and lifts will go back into the water, the boats and water toys will come back out, and people will still take leisurely rides around the lake to view our amazing sunsets. Ahh, Life on the Lake!
LAKE JAMES  
Submitted by Lynn Wernet

After starting the “summer of high water” with monsoon rains, the tides have turned and we have had several weeks now of perfect summer weather. That has brought with it lots of boating, fishing, skiing, etc. on our beautiful lake. Some large infrastructure projects are underway including sewer installation on Lone Tree Point and resurfacing of Bayview Road on the schedule. And, of course, there are always new homes to watch going up and admire on boat rides.

Unfortunately, we are seeing larger areas of invasive weeds. Thanks to our Lake James Association and the Steuben County Lakes Council, we annually test, treat and apply for state grants though LARE to help stay on top of the situation. This cannot be done without our members’ support in the way of donations and dues.

Pokagon State Park continues to expand their programs and we are fortunate to have them in our backyard. New activities this year have included hikes scheduled especially for women and for baby boomers. As I qualified for both groups, I can personally recommend these. They are open to the public, no fee besides park entry fee. There is now a way for you to help the park through the new Friends of Pokagon group. They welcome your volunteer time as well as donations.

We were again lucky to have the Philharmonic Pops concert in June, 4th of July fireworks and the Antique Boat Show at 4 Corners in July and look forward to the Seaplane Splash-In on September 22nd at the Potawatomi beach. This winter will bring the toboggan run and winter hikes, snowmobile trails and ice skating. These are just a few of the activities to be enjoyed at Lake James.

Photo from Pokagon State Park

CHECK OFF YOUR FALL TO-DO’S AT POKAGON STATE PARK

Submitted By Nicky Ball, Interpretive Naturalist, Pokagon State Park

One of my favorite things about working at Pokagon State Park is getting to see the change of seasons on a daily basis. It seems that every week there is something new to see—the first snowfall of winter, the arrival of loons in the spring, or the ripening raspberries in the summer. My most beloved season, however, is autumn. From the morning fog on Lake James to the gradual color change of the foliage, fall is constantly reminding me that Mother Nature is truly incredible. As summer ends, I find myself making a mental list of things to do in the fall—buy a pot of mums for my front porch, stock up on beans for chili, and bring out the sweaters that have been hiding in the closet. This gave me the idea to make a fall to-do list for Pokagon, a sort of bucket-list for those looking to take full advantage of this special season. Here are my top ten ways to enjoy autumn with us at Pokagon:

TELL S’MORE SPOOKY STORIES: Enjoy some fall camping and gather around the campfire to make some gooey S’mores. Take turns telling spooky stories as you slowly turn your marshmallow from white to golden brown.

FIND A PAWPAW PATCH: Have you tried a pawpaw? This little known native fruit, often described as a cross between a banana and a mango, can be found on the trails of Pokagon. Of course you have to find them before the animals do! Look for understory trees with large oblong leaves that look like dog ears. The fruits will be found in clusters toward the top of the trees.

ENJOY A HAYRIDE: Pokagon’s Saddle Barn offers weekend hayrides throughout the fall. Put on a flannel and take in the sights of fall during this old-fashioned autumn tradition. The Saddle Barn also offers guided horseback rides on weekends. What a great way to unplug, slow down, and take in the season.

GO BIRDING: Migrating birds are on the move and now is the time to see those transient species. A great way to do this is by joining our park naturalists on a guided bird walk, held every Sunday morning at 8:30 a.m. Binoculars are provided and we always begin on the Potawatomi Inn Sun Deck. Whether you’re an experienced birder or new to the pastime, it’s a great way to take in the fall migration and see the flora and fauna at the park.

VIEW FOLIAGE AND FUNGI: Color is everywhere this time of year! Walk a trail or take a stroll on the paved bike path to see the reds, oranges, and yellows of the leaves. Keep your eyes peeled for some vibrant fungi along the way. Bring your camera and capture the treasures you find!

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PLAN A MOVIE NIGHT: Throughout the summer, the Potawatomi Inn hosted their Park-Inn outdoor movie series. On October 25, they will offer the last showing of the year with the Halloween classic *Hocus Pocus*. Bring your favorite movie snack and a blanket to the Inn lawn for the 9:30 p.m. show time. Park-Inn movies are free with paid admission to the park, weather permitting.

DARE TO TAKE THE HELL’S POINT CHALLENGE: Going for a cool, fall hike on any of Pokagon’s 13 miles of trails is a great idea, and now you can earn a sticker and water bottle for completing the 8-mile Hell’s Point Challenge. Pick up a map at the Nature Center, photograph the six specific waypoints along the way, and show your photos to the Nature Center staff when you return. There are even pins, walking stick medallions, and t-shirts you can purchase to commemorate your hike!

TAKE A FAMILY PHOTO: Gather the family (dogs included!) and head out to the park for a photo session. Want a beautiful backdrop? Try Lake Lonidaw on Trail 3, the CCC-built stone bridge, or the Spring Shelter on Trail 2.

PEDAL TRINE STATE RECREATION AREA: Take advantage of the cooler temperatures and bike through the scenic landscapes of Trine SRA in two ways. Ride on the paved bike path or take your mountain bike on the Rolling Oaks Trail. Look for the yellowing needles of the Tamarack trees and the graceful Sandhill Cranes who will soon be headed South.

DELIGHT IN HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS: Each year Pokagon State Park and the Potawatomi Inn host the Halloween Happenings weekend. Activities include trick-or-treating, pumpkin carving, a costume contest, a Halloween-themed lunch, spooky stories, and fun interpretive programs. This year’s fun will take place on October 26. Visit [www.calendar.dnr.IN.gov](http://www.calendar.dnr.IN.gov) for all the details.

No matter how you enjoy the fall, we hope you’ll take advantage of all that Pokagon State Park has to offer. Whether you come to see the leaves, the birds, or an outdoor movie, it’s the perfect place to take in the splendor of the season.

JIMMERSON LAKE

Submitted by Ken Erlenbaugh

If you recall from last fall, we were not optimistic that our dredging project would be wrapped up by first ice. Well it wasn’t, as the dredgers were unfortunately a no show. But, the dredgers — Superior Seawalls & Docks of Illinois City, Illinois — did show up just after last ice and finally got it knocked out. They were here for a week for final cleanup and completed a private project for the Hilltop Park channels. They also removed a barge full of stumps, which is a drop in the bucket when it comes to the stumps in Jimmerson Lake. There are still many out there, so be careful if boating close to shore. We do put flag markers near the prettiest ones for ya’.

The first ice wasn’t too soon, and last ice was soon enough. In between it was just right for those who enjoy winter activities.

Even before the first boats started showing up, the Jimmerson Lake Association was meeting and knocking out things. Buoys and flags were deployed, and swan eggs were treated throughout April.

The association received Lake and River Enhancement (LARE) grants from the state for management of the invasive aquatic plants, Eurasian milfoil and curly-leaf pondweed. It received a federal grant to spray another invasive aquatic plant, starry stonewort, twice in the worst areas, but it continues to spread. The future of the federal grant is in question after this year, and we may have to come up with the funding if treatment is to continue in the future. Another invasive plant is phragmites grass, which grows in wetlands six to 10 feet tall. An ever-growing patch of it is on the back/west side of the lake’s nature-preserve island and needs attention.

With that in mind, we decided to grill an extra batch of barbecue chicken at the Lake James Antique Boat & Car Show at the Four Corners on July 27, since we sold out so quickly last year. We were able to sell out again this year. Thanks to all who supported us.

With the dredging project over, our annual membership meeting on Aug. 10 drew 34, down from 37 in 2018. Our guest speaker was Sabrina Miller, an ecosystem biologist from the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers. Her presentation was informative about the corps’ activities and their jurisdictions.

Please join us for our regular membership meetings on the second Saturday of each month (except December and January) at 8 a.m. at Club Paradise’s Parrot Pub, 3861 N. Bay View Rd., Angola. For more info, visit [jimmersonlake.info](http://jimmersonlake.info).

LAKE GEORGE

Submitted by Kevin Snyder

The Lake George Cottagers Association has been engaged in a process for several years to provide continuity and assurance to the issues of invasive weed control and maintenance of the dam structure. After much effort, the Lake George Conservancy District has been formed in Indiana to administer management of these issues. Since Lake George spans two states, the Conservancy District will work cooperatively with two legal entities in Michigan to formulate plans, develop budgets and oversee implementation of activities to maintain the value and beauty of the lake.
The Hamilton Lake Association (HLA) is having another busy and active 2019 season. 1) Weed spray & increased water testing for E.coli are finally back in the normal range so our lake can continue to be healthy, beautiful and safe for swimming, boating, and fishing. We are thankful that Pete Hippensteel has built a relationship with the owners of the CAFOs (Confined Animal Feeding Operations). His dedication has really been remarkable. 2) HLA has increased communication to keep in touch with lake residents through Social Media, Facebook. Our website has been redone & continues to be updated with pertinent information. 3) The annual meeting, held the 3rd Saturday of June was attended by over 126 lake residents; a record #! Pete Hippensteel from the Steuben County Lakes Council (SCLC) presented on the water quality & testing, Scott Banfield from Aquatic Management discussed weed spray results and Jim Price from the DNR talked about lake rules & water safety. We also had a special guest from the DNR who discussed getting permits for break walls. 4) The active HLA “Buoy Boys” did a weekly run to replace buoys, as well as check on weeds & general condition of the lake. 5) HLA fundraising efforts included membership dues with HLA flags, the HL (Hamilton Lake) stickers, a raffle for gas fire pit & a stand up outdoor heater at the town’s annual Summer Fest. The 9th Annual Boat Poker Run being held on the last Saturday of July; all monies are used for weed spray and lake improvements. All these activities were highly successful! 6) The HLA obtained the proper permits and had many volunteers at our Goose Round Up collecting 70 geese. 7) HLA had its first and now annual DNR Boaters Safety class. It was very well attended. 8) HLA taught their 1st Kayak class for the Town of Hamilton Summer program. 9) In June, Hamilton Lake appeared on “Life’s Better in Steuben County”. Finally, The HLA has a newsletter with the membership mailing in late fall/early winter; which includes the membership dues form and a summary of this season’s busy lake life. We are proud to announce approximately 80% pay their dues.

Besides the lake association’s activity, Hamilton Lake is surrounded by active town with many community organizations. 1) The season starts with many Memorial Day activities. 2) Free programs at the park are provided for children during June and July. 3) Free summer concerts are held bimonthly at Fish Creek Trail and Free Movie night in the park. 4) The July 4th weekend celebration includes activities for kids of all ages: an organization & business parade, a pie sale, chicken barbecue dinner, bike & Trike Parade, Pet Parade, and fireworks at Hog Hill and around the lake. 5) The last Saturday in July is the annual Poker Run. 6) On the last Saturday of August, the annual Summer Fest features: golf cart road rally, pontoon scavenger hunt, pancake breakfast, downtown festival with craft & food booths, antique car & boat show. The highlight of the evening events an auction of painted frog sculptures, a dance with a live band, & the beer/wine tent. 7) Yet to come is the annual Horse Drawn Christmas Parade on Nov 30th at dark; all horses & wagons are lit up with Christmas lights. DON’T MISS THIS! Bring the kids because...Santa will be there!
Prairie Fens, a Reminder of Original Creation?

Submitted by Nate Simons, Blue Heron Ministries

“Springy places,” the early pioneers called them...probably because the pioneers frequently encountered springs of water emanating from these wet landscapes or maybe because walking on these bouncy wetlands put a spring in their step. These globally rare ecosystems are also known as fens or prairie fens. Prairie fens are habitat for many of the Midwest’s rarest plants and animals. Prairie fens are found in the glaciated regions of the upper Midwest, predominately in Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and southern Ontario, Canada.

Essentially wet prairies, these unique wetlands are characterized by plant communities whose assemblages are found in sun-saturated landscapes. A continuous flow of cool groundwater in and through these wetlands makes these wetlands unique. The flow of water comes from the fact that these places are wetlands on a slope. Over time the springy places develop a thick layer of peat or partially decomposed muck as the production of roots and tops of the sedges, grasses and wildflowers greatly outpaces decomposition under the anaerobic or saturated soil conditions. The soil is soft and black and leaves an organic stain when rubbed between one’s fingers. Groundwater rich in calcium carbonates and magnesium bicarbonates but poor in nutrients produces soil conditions under which a very lush and diverse collection of prairie plant species thrive.

The hydrology of a fen system is quite complex. Rather than running off the land, rain water soaks into the sandy and gravelly soils of the hills and plains near the rim of a glaciated valley. As the water percolates through the soil, it dissolves calcium and magnesium minerals. The “hard water” continues downward through the porous layers of glacial till until it encounters a dense layer (i.e. clay). The groundwater travels along the tilted face of the clay layer until it finds an exit point at or near the base of a hillside. The groundwater springs to the surface and continues its downhill journey to a receiving body of water (i.e. stream, river, or lake), frequently developing spring runs or surface streams as it carves its way through the sloped peat.

Wet prairie plant life is very diverse due to the high mineral content of the water. Due to the wetness of the soil, nutrients are not released to the plants. Subsequently plant life is typically of short stature in a prairie fen. Typical tall grass prairie plants make their home in fens (although a bit shorter than in drier prairies). Big and little bluestem and Indian grass frequently occur. Typical wetland grasses include blue-joint grass and prairie cord grass. Sedges and bulrushes like tussock sedge and chairmaker’s rush round out the fine-textured, grassy matrix of the plant community. Wildflowers abound. The ever-changing floral display begins in May and lasts through October. The colorful palette includes the not-so-prickly, magenta-flowered fen thistle, the brilliant pink spotted Joe-Pye weed, the stark white blossoms of mountain mint common boneset, the royal purples of ironweed and vervain, the cobalt blue of fringed gentian, the yellow of flat-topped Ohio goldenrod and the obligatory shrubby cinquefoil, the diminutive spiral of the nodding ladies’ tresses orchid and an occasional carnivorous pitcher plant or round-leaved sundew. Caution! While tip-toeing through the fen “tulips” beware of poison sumac if you are susceptible to contact dermatitis.

As one might expect insect life is also abundant...not with mosquitoes, but with myriad pollinators and their predators. Butterflies add moving color while bumble bees, wasps, and dragonflies keep the fen a-humming. Ground-nesting and other grassland birds find refuge in the fen. Steuben County’s fens are home to some of the State’s rarest creatures, as well. Sedge wrens, spotted turtles, and the federally-listed eastern massasauga rattlesnake call these wet prairies home.

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FOX LAKE

Submitted by Kevin Colbert & John Edmonds

Fox Lake kicked off the summer season of 2019 in June with an Ice Cream Social followed by our Family Fun Day in July, complete with carnival food and games.

The fifth annual Light The Night Fundraiser was held in August with live band, fireworks, great food and D.J.

The Labor Day Brunch is held over Labor Day weekend, but the fun doesn’t end there. The Closing Dinner is in October and the men will close out the season with the Wild Game Dinner in December. YES....WILD GAME!

Indeed Fox Lake is the gathering place for Family, Friends, Food, and Fun.
Continued from page 8

Several fens still exist in Steuben County. Intact examples include: the fen bordering the stream that flows into Lime Lake at Lime Lake Nature Preserve northwest of Orland; two fens in Pokagon State Park, the fen bordering Lake Lonidaw at Potawatomi Nature Preserve and Snow Lake Fen between Trail 2 and Trail 7; the fen on the north side of Marsh Lake in Marsh Lake Nature Preserve; the fen bordering the stream entering Gentian Lake in Trine State Recreational Area; the fen on the north side of Little Gentian Lake within ACRES Land Trust’s Wing Haven Nature Preserve; the fen on privately-owned lands on the outlet creek of Fish Lake in northeast Steuben County; and the fen on privately-owned land at the southeast corner of County Road 700 S and County Road 100 E in south-central Steuben County.

Even though the remnant prairie fens of Steuben County seem to be little glimpses of natural places that are ecologically Edenic, threats to their persistence abound. Their downfall can come at the hands of impervious surfaces over the rainwater infiltration zones, inputs of contaminated water, sedimentation from eroding uplands, excavation to create ponds, invasion by native and non-native woody shrubs and trees, suppression of fire, and invasion by non-native herbaceous plant species like narrow-leaved and hybrid cattails, common reed, reed canary grass, and purple loosestrife. Because these garden paradises occur as islands in a sea of disturbed landscapes, taking care of these unique ecosystems requires continuous effort on the part of land stewards. Erosion and sedimentation of soil is checked by planting native upland prairie or managing existing oak woodlands. Invasive plant species are removed ever-so-carefully with spot applications of selective herbicides. And, like all prairies, fens require fire to sustain their openness and their plant diversity. So the prairie fens are intentionally burned every few years.

Lots of sunlight; an accumulation of peaty soil; mineral rich groundwater flow; sloping wetlands adjacent to rivers and lakes; and a rich diversity of native grasses, sedges, and wildflowers make Lakes Country’s springy places absolute wonders of creation...a pleasure to visit and a pleasure to steward. And they are a reminder of what we can only imagine things were like back in the Garden.
**Water Quality Challenges**

*Submitted by Pete Hippensteel, Technical Vice President*

Over the past twelve years the Lakes Council has invested significant resources into our water quality testing program. We have worked closely with several partners during this time period to evaluate the environmental health of Steuben County’s streams and lakes.

This comprehensive sampling of fifty-four stream sites throughout the county has given us an excellent gauge to what is impacting our recreational lakes. The two tests that have been the most useful are the E. coli bacteria and the total phosphorus nutrient tests. In every lake the concentrations of these two parameters are higher in the inflows than the outflow. The oxygen and sunlight in the lakes kill the E. coli bacteria. This is of particular benefit to the water quality of lakes that are second, third or fourth in a chain of lakes. Such as Marsh Lake, Little Otter, Big Otter, Snow, James to Jimerson chain of lakes. Another example is the Center Lake, Crooked, Gage to Lime chain. This is also true in the Pigeon Creek chain of lakes.

Much of the phosphorus is assimilated into algae and aquatic weeds that settle to the bottom of each lake as muck. Therefore, each lake is a nutrient sink slowly filling with muck and not passing as high a phosphorus concentration on the next lake. This is also why wetlands are so valuable in our watersheds.

When the E. coli numbers are high the phosphorus concentration is usually high as well. The high E. coli numbers get the most concern from our members because of the associated health issues related to numbers higher than 235 MPN/100 ml, the state standard for closing beaches to swimming.

The Indiana Department of Environmental Management publishes a list of impaired Indiana streams. The main reason for impairment in Steuben County streams is high E. coli readings. About half of our Steuben County streams are on this list because the average value of all samples taken over the two years is 400 MPN/100 ml.

We are currently investing addition resources in trying to pinpoint the precise sources of these bacteria. Is it humans, livestock or wild animals such as deer, racoons, ducks, or geese? In order to help determine the sources, this past summer we performed an environmental DNA test on four inlet streams that have had very high E. coli readings. These samples have been collected in addition to our regular testing. We will analyze the results to better direct our efforts on taking corrective actions. We will keep you updated on what we find.

**CLEAR LAKE**

*Submitted by Bridget Harrison*

The tragic death of two of our young people made for a sad start to the summer. We said good bye to a few of our long-time residents, too. The outpouring of love for the families of these loved ones has shown the steadfastness of the Clear Lake Community.

The Clear Lake Association (CLA) provided a fantastic show over the Fourth with a bright display of fireworks. The CLA continued to support lake safety through its June boater safety class. BBQ Chicken cooked onsite and sold by the Clear Lake Lions Club during Memorial Day, 4th of July, and Labor Day raised money that was funneled back into the community. The Clear Lake 5K/10K/Walk sponsored by the Lions attracted many participants on a beautiful summer day vying for the coveted handcrafted Nautical Race Trophies! The Yacht Club offered a variety of delicious meals and music most Fridays at TGIF during its 80th summer season! The rehabbed tennis courts look great. This year’s Ski Club Show was a wonderful display of the hard work and dedication by our youth and alumni, celebrating 60 years. The Conservancy kicked off the summer season with SummerFest©2019. Kids gathered for the 13th year of Knee-high Naturalists, work to preserve Kasota Island wrapped up, and planning for next year is already underway.

All in all, a great summer at Clear Lake!
SHORELINES 2019

The “Shorelines” section of the Soundings publication is for the various lakes to share the news of happenings on their lakes. It allows new ideas to be shared and an exchange of ideas for others to try. The Steuben County Lakes Council accepts that there are many different viewpoints on various subjects. The topics covered here are not necessarily the view of the Lakes Council; they are views of the writer. It is hoped that you will find pleasure in this sharing of ideas and information.

BALL LAKE  
Submitted by Karen DeForest

It’s that time again, where did the summer go? We will be pulling out our boats and docks getting ready for winter to come. Our snowbird friends will be leaving us soon. In the late Fall, when we say goodbye, we know we will be back together next year.

Our lake has been busy this year. In March, for the first time, we sent a couple of residents from our lake to the ILMS (Indiana Lakes Management Society) conference. They had gathered a lot of information and good contacts to bring back to us. This summer, the county had new asphalt put on our main road, Lane 201, around the lake. We did our pontoon parade on July 4th this year, instead of having it the same day as our fall meeting. Hopefully next year, we can start a contest on the boat decorations. In August, we had our 6th annual Chili cook-off at our fall meeting, we had a good turnout for contestants even though it was supposed to rain. Lots of fun had by many.

To our snowbird friends, we hope you have safe travels until you come back to our piece of paradise in Steuben County. Others that enjoy our four seasons, we will see you around!

BIG & LITTLE OTTER LAKE  
Submitted by Joe Lantz

It may be my age, but it sure seems like a letter to the “Soundings” is getting closer together in time. On August 10 we had our annual meeting held at the Outlet Mall. It was very well represented by a lot of great lake minded people. Construction is underway for new culverts inside the old steel culverts under Interstate 69 in Follett Creek between Marsh Lake and Little Otter Lake. Volunteers put up State speed limit signs and fixed the old ones. I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy off season.

101 Lakes Trust - A Little Known Resource  
Submitted by Janet Albright

Mission Statement: To protect and enhance Steuben County’s natural and built environment of lakes, rolling hills, streams and neighborhoods; to stimulate and support a sense of community through conservation, management, education and research.

Motto: To conserve, preserve, and restore (CPR)

Focus: Conservation of small parcels of land in Steuben County

Goal: To expand and grow as a non-profit organization in conserving, preserving, and restoring small parcels of land in Steuben County for present and future generations

Although the 101 Lakes Trust organization was established over ten years ago from a subcommittee of the Steuben County Lakes Council, 101 Lakes is not as recognized, understood, or utilized as much as it could be.

Our efforts to get the word out about 101 Lakes and to expand/grow include:

• participation in the 5th annual Earth Fest - After four successful years, Trine’s S.P.E.A.K for the Earth organization hosted their fifth annual Earth Fest at Briali Winery on Saturday, April 27. Earth Fest’s goal is to raise awareness about the importance of local, sustainable products and services in Angola and surrounding areas.

• annual writing competition - Amy Oberlin, who works at the Herald Republican, is also a volunteer for the 101 Lakes. She has taken over the 101 Lakes writing competition this year. We had a lot of entries this year and were, for the most part, heartfelt submissions. The judges of the competition entries were: Amy, Ashlee Hoos, Herald Republican reporter, and Megan Books, Hamilton Community Schools fifth grade teacher. We will be announcing the topic for this year’s competition soon.

• acquisition of conservation easements - so far, we have worked with one landowner who has put several properties in conservation easements for our organization to hold. A conservation easement is a voluntary, legal agreement that permanently limits uses of the land in order to protect its conservation values. A conservation easement is one option to protect a property for future generations. The property owner still owns the land, but besides protecting the land for the future, the property owner is eligible for tax benefits on the property.

• donation of the book, The Lorax, to local elementary classes, daycares, and after school programs - Amy Oberlin, initiated this program and approached the 101 Lakes Trust for sponsorship because she feels so strongly about the message of the book: “If we do not collectively take responsibility for the stewardship of the environment, then our own world will soon be like the one that the Lorax left behind.” Amy visits and reads the book to the children, then donates the book to the program.

The 101 Lakes Trust meets at 7:00 pm on the second Wednesday of the month at the Steuben County Community Foundation. You are welcome to join us and become part of our efforts to be better stewards of the environment, especially in Steuben County.
# BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATES 2019

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

**LAKE ASSOCIATIONS**
- Ball Lake Association
- Big Turkey Lake Improvement Association
- Buena Vista Homeowner’s Association
- Clear Lake Association
- Crooked Lake Association, Inc.
- Fox Lake Property Owners
- Hamilton Lake Association
- Jimmerson Lake Property Owners Assoc.
- Lake Arrowhead
- Lake Gage/Lime Lake Association
- Lake George Cottager’s Association
- Lake James Association, Inc.
- Lake Pleasant Homeowners Assoc.
- Lake of the Woods, McClish Lake
- Long Lake Cottage Owners
- North Otter Lake Association
- Pine Canyon Lake Association
- Silver Lake Association
- Snow Lake Cottagers Association
- West Otter Lake Property Owners
- Whisper Bay Association

**ENVIRONMENTAL INTERESTS**
- Aquatic Enhancement & Survey, Inc.
- Aquatic Management, Inc.
- Aquatic Weed Control
- Blue Heron Ministries, Inc.
- Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy
- Lake George Conservancy, Inc.

**MARINAS/BOAT SUPPLIES**
- Dry Dock Marine Center
- Hamilton Lake Marine
- Lake Pleasant Marine
- Marina of Clear Lake
- The Pier Place of Angola, Inc.

**CAMPGROUNDS, CONDOS, PARKS**
- Hi-Vue Campground
- Jimmerson Shore Cooperative, Inc.
- Jimmerson Woods Cooperative
- Manapogo Park
- Pow Wow Point RV Park, LLC
- Sheehans Hamilton Lake Mobile Home Park
- Yogi Bear’s Jellystone Park

**REALTORS**
- Anchor Realty
- Augspurger, Fred G., Realtor
- Barbara Hendrick
- Craig Walker
- Couperthwaite, Patti, Broker
- Realty Pro Hansbarger Realty
- RE/MAX Results, Brad Cookson
- RE/MAX Results, John Stock

**RESTURANTS**
- Caruso’s Restaurant
- Clay’s Family Restaurant
- Mad Anthony Lakeview Ale House

**CONSTRUCTION/DEVELOPER**
- Four Seasons Design & Remodeling, Inc.
- Jaz Development, LLC
- JICI, Inc.
- Manahan Construction
- Star Homes by Delagrange & Richhart, Inc.
- Strebig Construction

**PROFESSIONAL**
- Danford, Thomas, C.P.A.
- Duch, Ronald V., D.D.S.
- Hawkins, Pamela, Attorney
- Lake James Christian Camp & Retreat Center
- Lake James Lutheran Chapel
- McCardle, Dan, C.P.A.
- Rockwell, Joyce A. D.D.S.
- Scheumann Dental Associates
- Wernet, Lynn C.P.A.