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S•C•L•C STEUBEN COUNTY LAKES COUNCIL

317 South Wayne Street, Suite 2A
Angola, In 46703



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.

Soundings is a Fall publication of the
Steuben County Lakes Council, Inc.

317 South Wayne Street, Suite 2A, Angola, IN 46703

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E-mail: office@lakescouncil.org

Website: www.LakesCouncil.org

SOUNDINGS

Steuben County Lakes Council, Inc.
317 South Wayne Street, Suite 2A
Angola, IN 46703 Phone (260) 665-1730
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E-mail office@lakescouncil.org
Volume #51

www.lakescouncil.org
Fall 2024

S•C•L•C



STEUBEN
COUNTY
LAKES
COUNCIL

PRESIDENT'S LIVE BOX

Submitted by Janet Bohney, SCLC President

During our SCLC annual meeting in August, I looked around at the large crowd of people seated and listening to our speakers. It was such a pleasure to see so many interested in the water quality and future of our beautiful lakes.

We had two excellent speakers speaking about the environment and the role we all play in preserving what we have. One of the speakers was representative, Dave Abbott, who brought his passion for keeping our lakes and waterways clean and safe. He is a force in the Indiana Legislature trying to find a way to pass a bill in the legislature that will be fair to lake residents and Wake boat owners. That bill is finding ways to mitigate the impact of those boats on our shores and our water quality while still being fair to everyone who uses our lakes.

Our other speaker was our scholarship recipient, Luke Campbell, who graduated from Fremont High School and has chosen to study environmental science at Northern Michigan University, one of the top schools in environmental science.

Both speakers spoke on our biggest goal, water quality. Together they are epitome of the Steuben County Lakes Council. "Keeping our lakes and waterways for today and tomorrow."

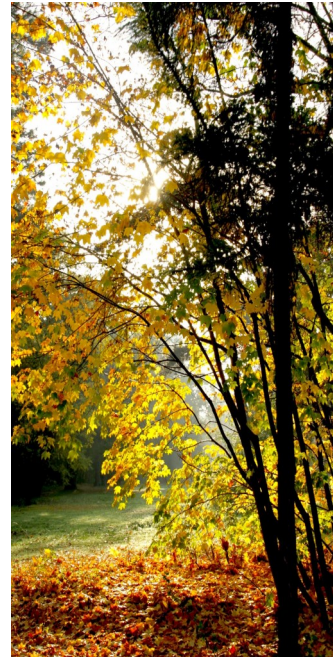


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SCLC OFFICERS 2024

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- Membership Vice President—Vickie Lamb
- Public Relations Vice President – Steve Schroeder
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Protecting Our Lakes: A Call to Action

By Dennis Babjack

As the serenity of "The Lake" – its breathtaking sunrises, the symphony of nature, children gleefully capturing elusive turtles, the thrill of a fish tugging at a fishing pole, and the timeless memories of early morning skiing or a sunset cruise. These idyllic scenes, cherished as "Remember When," define the Lake's magic. However, this paradise is under threat from pollutants, toxins, and invasive plant species, potentially rendering the water undrinkable, unworthy of swimming, and the fish unsafe to eat. The repercussions are ominous – a rapid or gradual decline in water quality that could devastate local economies supporting the unique Laker way of life.

Consider the ramifications: diminished property values, a shrinking tax base, loss of jobs, and a domino effect of economic setbacks. This scenario isn't distant history; it could unfold right in our backyards if we remain indifferent. Did you know that Steuben County boasts the largest concentration of recreational homes in Indiana, accounting for 10% (4,300 homes) while representing only 1% of the state's population.

Thankfully, a group of unsung heroes stands guard, ensuring the well-being of the 101 lakes in Steuben County. The Steuben County Lakes Council, originating over 50 years ago from the collaboration between Lake Associ-

ations and The (Tri-State) University, has evolved into a beacon of conservation. As the region undergoes continued development, population growth, and stress on water resources, this organization has adapted to meet the challenges head-on.

Visit lakescouncil.org, and you'll discover the dedicated work of this volunteer-driven force. Their recent rebranding signals an effort to expand awareness and attract a new generation of environmentally conscious individuals. Having attended a lively Saturday morning meeting, I witnessed an informed and engaged group led by outgoing President Steve Schroeder, who emphasized the strides made in developing crucial relationships.

Continued commitment to water quality and education echoes throughout the organization. The council transitioned from merely testing waterways to actively using data for tangible solutions. The formation of a Public Policy committee signifies a proactive approach to collaborating with local and state government, championing environmentally friendly solutions. Those relationships became even stronger with the recent 35th Annual Indiana Lakes Management Conference that was held at Potawatomi Inn at the Pokagon State Park March. Which the Caroline Barth-Clear Conservancy Case Study #2 was presented at the ILMS conference.

The council's newsletters, particularly 'Bobbler Watchin' and Soundings, reflect pulse and unity of purpose. In one example, Schroeder articulates the council's evolution, stating, "We are transitioning into not just testing our county's waterways but using information to make a difference and implement solutions." He underscores the importance of standing up for the imperiled lakes, and the responsibility.

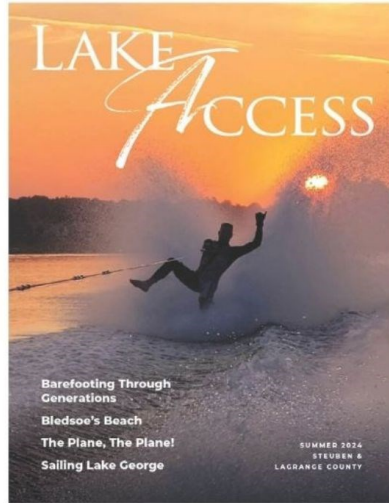


Good News and Bad News

...but first the Good!

Lake Access, currently a yearly publication, known for its captivating profiles, Laker photos, and heartwarming stories of lake life, recently distributed **5000 Free copies** to Steuben Counties Laker Communities. Publisher Dennis Babjack states “we are known by some as somewhat of a Yearbook or the Story Re-Teller of the Lake but understands Lake Life at the core... “Its about the Water”. In an article on pg 97 named, **“Protecting our Lakes:A Call to Action”** In this article it highlights the importance of quality water issues and understands the important work being done by the Steuben Lakes Council. Its impact on the Environment and Health but also the Economics. Actions needed to protect our resources.

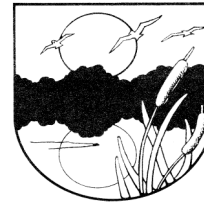
Asking are you a **Giver or a Taker?**



BAD News....Limited Free Copies are available at Steuben Lakes Council office, our Advertisers listed on our website : by mail or online at Lake-Access.com

Lake Access is committed to continue to support what's “Best for Water”! looking forward to working hand in hand by Increasing Awareness , Growing Membership both Private & Business that will allow us to keep protecting.....

Our Waterways.



Web Site www.LakesCouncil.org

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INDIVIDUAL & BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP FORM FOR 2024

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 \$40.00 _____

Business Membership \$45.00 _____

Scholarship Donation _____

Water Quality Donation _____

Total Amount Enclosed (Donations are tax deductible.) _____

Mail to: SCLC – 317 S. Wayne St., Ste. 2A, Angola, IN 46703

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT

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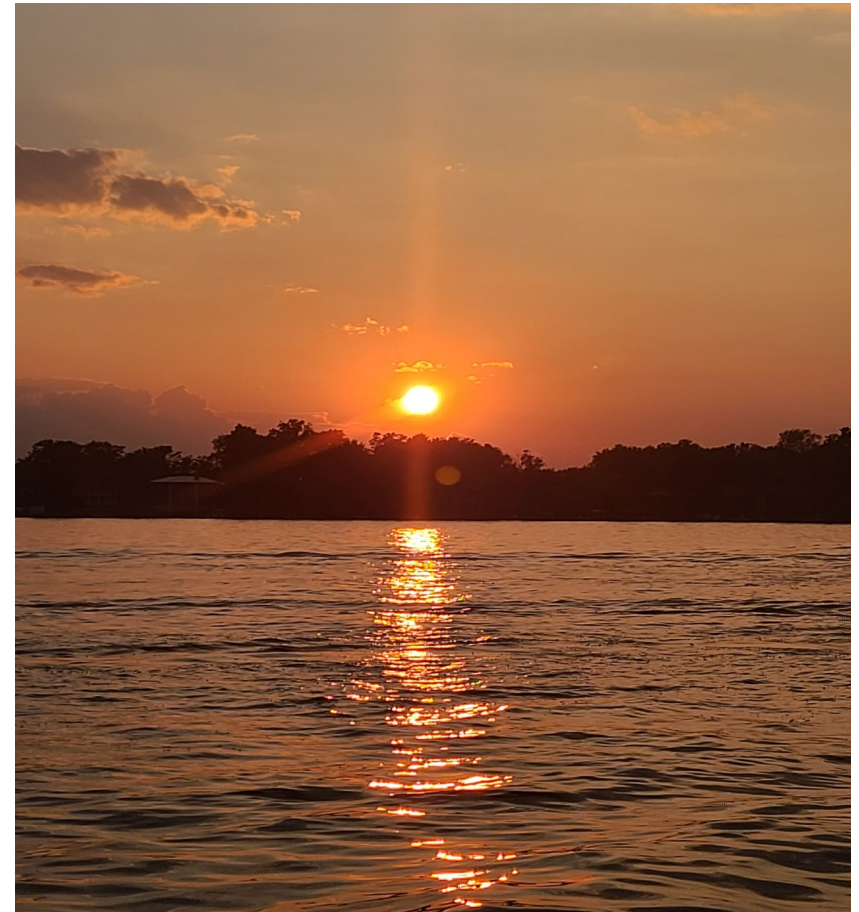
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SNOW LAKE*Submitted by Gus Reed*

Greetings from Snow Lake where we enjoyed a fantastic summer of fun, family and neighbors. We kicked off the summer with our annual meeting where we awarded Snow Lake Cottagers Association scholarships to two young ladies, Chloe Hillvers and Paige Baker. Congratulations and good luck in your studies. The residents brought forth many great ideas to make Snow Lake an even better place to visit and live. Finally, we rolled out our new web site. Please check it out at <https://snowlake.wildapricot.org/> we will continue to add new content throughout the year. Best wishes to all for a safe and prosperous fall and winter.

*Photo courtesy of Gus Reed*

LAKE PLEASANT*Submitted by Landon Brown*

All the seasons at the lake are wonderful, but summer is the time when the lake comes alive. As a year-round resident, it is lovely to see the kids learning new lake activities, hearing their squeals of delight, and watching them make new friends and build on generations of companionship at the lake. Seeing all the boats and pontoons float into the sunset and the bonfires on the shore really bring joy. Friendships are what make the lake a special place. A sense of community helps our lake to thrive. As we move into the beautiful fall season it is always thrilling to watch the leaves reflect in the lake, just as I reflect on life at the lake this year. We were able to maintain our high participation in our homeowner's association with nearly 80% of houses investing in the future and stability of our lake. A small portion of our dues provided one of the best weekends on the lake with our fireworks and flotilla. This year's theme, "restaurants", brought several creatively decorated boats, with Tom's Donuts as the judge's favorite. The participation also gives us the opportunity to apply and successfully gain the Lake and River Enhancement (LARE) program to properly fund our aquatic management program. As we move into the next seasons at the lake and life we are comforted in knowing Lake Pleasant is a paradise we call home.

Photo courtesy of Landon Brown**2024 WATER QUALITY CONTRIBUTORS**

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 Stark, Shawn & Heidi
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 Trecartin, Burdell & Catherine
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LAKE OF THE WOODS/MCCLISH LAKE

Submitted by Thelma Knowles

Greetings from the southwest corner of Steuben County. Our 2 lakes lie in both Steuben County on the east and Lagrange County on the west. Regulations, laws, property taxes and even the local TV channels you receive from the satellite providers are different. Yes, we have differences, but we are all one association dedicated to preserving and enhancing our beautiful lakes and providing all residents with beneficial services. We are still in the process of raising funds for the dredging of the channel that lies between the 2 lakes. We have had raffles, bingo and other fundraisers dedicated to this project. We also raise funds for our fish stocking program. This year we are planning on stocking 1,300 Walleye between the 2 lakes. Because we don't have public access, we don't receive free fish from the DNR. We rely on our residents who save and donate their aluminum cans. We have several collection sites around the lakes and volunteers collect the cans, load them into a trailer and take them to the recycle center in Kendallville. With those funds and with donations made by generous residents and fishermen we can purchase the fish. This year we are having our 1st annual Sausage and Pancake Breakfast on August 31st, with all proceeds going to the fish fund. We are fortunate to have dedicated leadership and board members guiding our association. They give freely of their time and talents to help make our lakes better for all residents. Thanks to all who serve for your hard work. Wishing the best to all SCLC members who truly help make our lakes council the best in the state. Enjoy the remainder of the summer and the beauty of fall that awaits us.



Photos courtesy of Thelma Knowles

Continued from page 21—Lake Gage

June, the Walk/Run, Luminary Displays and a fantastic Fireworks display in July, the Lake Gage Marina Open House and Barn Dance in August, and the Summer Send-Off Party also in late August. Congratulations and thanks to all the Association members and residents who come together each year to make these events special. A huge thank you also to the Lake Gage Marina for all the help and support they provide for these activities. The LG-LL Association would like to thank the Steuben County Lakes Council for all the diligent work they do to provide water quality testing for our lakes. It is a very large process, and they lead this process which helps all of our lakes understand water quality issues in Steuben County.

LAKE GEORGE

Submitted by Matt Minnick

The Lake George 2024 summer season will conclude with our annual Fall Family picnic which is presented by the Lake George Conservancy. This event has become a strong tradition on the lake where our friends and neighbors come together to celebrate a wonderful and safe summer of memories and fun. The big news on Lake George is the start of our dam replacement in the Mill-pond. Our old dam had been designated as needing repair/replacement by governmental agencies. This started a decade long effort by lake residents to explore and eventually enact a plan for a \$1.5 million project. The work on the dam started in August and is planned for completion in September. This is quite the engineering undertaking and frankly fascinating to watch. Once completed the Lake George dam and surrounding embankments will be sturdy enough to withstand the proverbial 100-year flood. Many thanks go out to the core group of Lake George residents who took on this challenge and brought the project to completion with the help from the Steuben County government. Lastly, the summer of 2024 was punctuated by our annual July 4th activities. The Lake George Conservancies Chicken BBQ again sold over 1600 dinners, the boat parade was a tremendous success, and the evening came to a resounding conclusion with our fabulous fireworks show. Again, all these events were the result of a committed group of residents working on making Lake George a great place to live and play.

LAKE JAMES

Submitted by Jim Parsell

The Lake James Association (LJA) and our Lake residents have continued their very active event schedule. The activities included the Turtle races, three Sandbar Socials, the Ft Wayne Philharmonic Patriotic Concert on the Potawatomi Inn Lawn, the Fourth of July Fireworks Show, the LJA Flotilla, the Annual Boat and Car Show, and the Paddle Quest. The final event of the season is the 22nd Annual Seaplane Splash-In at Potawatomi Inn on Sunday, September 22. As part of the Splash-In, on Saturday, the 21st, there will be a seaplane Poker Run with stops on 4 area lakes and a spot landing contest at the poker stop on Lake Pleasant. LJA hosted its annual meeting featuring a pancake breakfast and a silent auction which raised funds for the critter center at the Pokagon State Park Nature Center. Recognizing the importance of the local environment, the LJA participates with, and financially supports, the Steuben County Lakes Council water quality testing program. It also works with County, State and Federal partners to enhance the quality of Lake James. In August, the Association continued the annual awarding of \$2000 Scholarships to two full-time Trine University students who are related to LJA members.

Continued from Page 6

2024 WATER QUALITY CONTRIBUTORS SINCE MAY 15TH

Adams, David & Aileen	Hasselschwert, Brenda	Southern, David & Mary
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ANNUAL MEETING RECAP BY KAREN DEFOREST President Elect

We had State Representative Dave Abbott, District 82 (Noble County), as our speaker for this year. Representative Abbott came to speak about Water Quality and Wake boat Legislation that he has been and will be working on in this year too. There was a discussion on what we can do to bring awareness of what wake surfing on portions of a lake is causing. It is causing Irreparable damage to the shoreline, lake bottom, aquatic vegetation, fisheries and the nutrient loading to the waters. There are studies already taking place in several states in Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin to name a few. They have already started regulations on these boats. Steuben County Lakes Council would like to facilitate a few zoom calls with Representative Abbott to give feedback on the Wake board bill. We will be talking about what the lake associations and lake residents as individuals can do to help get this bill passed. As Representative Abbott did discuss that it would be great to have lake landowners come and speak for this bill when it is in the committee and to the full house of representatives in Indianapolis. As many counties are not as unique as ours. If you would like to be on a Zoom call with Rep. Abbott, please contact the SCLC by email office@lakescouncil.org. SCLC is protecting our lakes today, for tomorrow!



Photo courtesy of 'on-line' sources

Continued from page 20—JIMMERSON LAKE

plants. We also applied for a LARE Dredging Grant for the Tanglewood/Paradise View area, which is the channel at the west end of the lake. Although denied, we were encouraged to apply again in the future when additional funding may be available. Some residents have applied privately for dredging permits and were approved. Unfortunately, the need for dredging is partially due to there being quite a few sand beaches added along the said channel. A Reminder: A DNR permit is required to dump anything into the lake or shoreline, e.g. sand or gravel. For the August Annual Membership meeting our guest speaker was Deputy Sheriff Mike Meeks, of the Steuben County Sherriff's Department and head of their Marine Patrol. He discussed how the Sheriff's Department helps the DNR to patrol our lakes. They receive a \$15,000 LARE grant that helps to subsidize the marine patrol. Still, they have a very limited budget to support everything from patrolling to required equipment, to include boats. Even with this engaging guest speaker, the attendance was no better than our monthly board meetings. Which, to be honest, the attendance of the monthly meetings has increased from last year. It may be due to the "Call to Action" article in our last JLA annual newsletter. We appreciate the call was not ignored.

LAKE GAGE

Submitted by Paul Longville

It has been another busy and fantastic year for Lake Gage and Lime Lake! The LG-LL Association held 4 general meetings for our members and residents from both lakes (May through August) and had a speaker at each meeting. We started off in May with Lee Greenamy, the Director of the Steuben County Emergency Management Agency. Lee provided excellent information regarding the vast coordination with all the emergency departments and how we all play a part during emergencies. In June we had a presentation from Ron Menze the District/Region Manager for the American Red Cross. Ron is based out of Fort Wayne but owns a home on Lake Gage as well. Ron provided great information on how the American Red Cross is much more than just blood donations. In July, Jelsie Kerr made a presentation regarding the endangered Cisco fish that lives in Lake Gage. Jelsie did an initial presentation on the Cisco in August of 2023, and she headed up a large lengthy on-site study of the Cisco fish population in Lake Gage during 2023. Her presentation at the July 2024 meeting provided a summary of her study. The Cisco is doing OK in Lake Gage, but temperature inversions in the water have the potential to restrict the habitat zone for the Cisco. And in August, the Association welcomed back Nathan Cooper an Indiana Conservation Officer for District 2/Steuben County. Nathan also spoke to the Association in May of 2023. Once again, Nathan provided a wealth of information regarding updates on water safety and enforcement actions that are provided to the lakes of Steuben County. All the speakers provided great information to our lake residents. The LG-LL Association published its newsletter, the SHORE LINES, each month (May through August). Each issue was filled with current events and up to date information regarding activities at the lakes. The Association is very fortunate to have Annie Streit as our editor of the Shore Lines. Each issue was very well received. Activities at Lake Gage and Lime Lake for this past Spring/Summer seasons included our annual Garage Sale in

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HAMILTON LAKE*Submitted by Gary Luechauer*

The year began on a somber note with the passing of long-time board member and President Cathy Wagenknecht December 30, 2023. Prior to falling ill, Cathy began sharing her vision for 2024 and the 50th anniversary celebration of the Hamilton Lake Association. In early May, the lake was hit with a bumper crop of aquatic vegetation. Treatment did not have the expected results, and an update was shared with homeowners; as well as the DNR. The week prior to Memorial Day, the treatment finally eliminated the problem. Later in the month, the Buoy Boys placed the buoys. Thanks to Paul Hayden and Bill Miller for leading this team over the years. In May and June board members delivered HLA flags to all contributing members of the lake association. The flags were designed to celebrate the association's 50th anniversary. Also in May, we began meeting with a few of the other lake representatives to discuss issues we all share including a police presence on the lake. Each person is identifying action steps for next year. The HLA annual meeting took place June 15. Scott Banfield of Aquatic Enhancements, Karen DeForest of the Steuben County Lake Council and Sargent Frederick of the Hamilton Police Department were speakers and fielded questions from the audience. Changes to the constitution were made including additions to board responsibilities and a 6th district. Officers were elected. We would like to thank Peggy Hayden for serving as Vice President and President and Jan Miller for serving as Secretary. On June 27, we held the annual goose round-up. Thanks to Skip Markland and Jayma Watkins for coordinating the project. The city celebrated July 4 with a parade and fireworks. Later in the month, July 27, we had the annual HLA Poker Run. There were over 1,400 participants. In 13 years, over \$300,000 has been raised. Special thanks to Tonya Peters and Jan Biddle for spearheading this event. August was another busy month. The HLA was awarded a \$40,000 LARE grant for a comprehensive lake study. Thanks to Cheryl Silverhart and Gina Freer for their time. Janet Albright and 101 Lakes Trust brought Reflections to Hamilton Lake to celebrate our 50th year. August 18th, our guests took complimentary boat rides while hearing about the history of our lake. They then were able to experience a Taste of Hamilton featuring eight local eateries. During the tour, there was a slight interruption due to the weather which supplied a beautiful rainbow for all to enjoy. Thanks to Janet and the 101 Lakes Trust. On August 19th, Insights 21 Alive aired an hour-long program featuring the city of Hamilton, the chamber of commerce, local businesses and the HLA. On August 24 we participated in Summerfest with events for children, shoppers, runners and music lovers. Thanks to Peggy Hayden who works to make us part of this city-wide event. Thanks to the HLA Board members and all of the volunteers who have made our 50th anniversary so much fun. We hope we made Cathy proud.

JIMMERSON LAKE*Submitted by Ken Erlenbaugh*

Last Fall and Winter were almost a rubber stamp of the previous year. And as last year with the early open water, the buoy deployment and swan egg-oiling got an early start too. But unlike last year we had a new volunteer or two that helped with the buoys. This year we were able to replace many of the older ones with much lighter orange ball types. They worked so well we will be getting more for next year. We also were able to attach solar lights on the buoys in key navigational locations. It really helps to keep the boats that are going too fast at night from hitting them. No LARE grants were approved for us this year. Thanks to our persistence from previous years, Eurasian Milfoil has nearly been eradicated from the lake. However, Starry Stonewort has unfortunately filled the void and was again treated twice this summer from a provided federal grant. Our testing for treatment of Purple Loosestrife & Phragmites was successful. We did apply for a LARE grant for continued treatment and was denied, so we voted to dip into JLA reserve funds to continue and expand treatment of these invasive wetland

*Continued on page 21***Water Quality Committee Report**

Submitted by Bill Schmidt— Chairman

Another year of water quality testing is complete. The results of the tri-annual testing are posted on the Lakes Council website. The eDNA testing was completed in early July. That report is also posted on the website.

The Water Quality Committee will meet on October 25th at 10:00 a.m. in the Community Center's Multi-Purpose Room (lower level). The test results for the year will be reviewed and the testing program for 2025 approval. The results will be presented to the Finance Committee for their approval in November.

*Photo courtesy of 'on-line' sources*



Photo courtesy of Dave Rosebrock, Crooked Lake

FOX LAKE

Submitted by Kevin Colbert

We are proud to share with you that the Indiana Landmarks has awarded Fox Lake the distinguished Sandi Servaas Memorial Award recognizing outstanding achievement in historic preservation. The award will be presented to the Fox Lake Preservation Foundation in Indianapolis on Sept. 7th. This year we finally started our road repaving project on the south side of the lake. We awarded our 1st Leadership Through Legacy-A Fox Lake Scholarship. Savannah Nelson, a fourth generation Fox Laker is the recipient. She will be majoring in nursing at the University of Cincinnati. This year we have noticed an abundance of Foxes at the lake.

This year's activities include: movie nights at the beach which supports the scholarship fund, Family Carnival day and our annual now 3-day Light the Night event. The annual Labor Day Brunch will be on Sunday, August 31st and our Closing Brunch will be held Oct. 6th at the Hideout 125 in Ft. Wayne.

"Movie night at Fox Lake"—Photo courtesy of Kevin Colbert



CROOKED LAKE

Submitted by Dave Rosebrock

As I write this the calendar says we are nearly at Labor Day once again. Time flies, as they say. Regardless, Crooked Lakers hope you all have enjoyed our prime season here at our 101 lakes. As the sign in our kitchen reads, "If you are lucky enough to live on the lake, you are lucky enough". We are blessed to have a beautiful lake with many fine residents. One example is our third basin, with beautiful areas of undeveloped lakeshore; it is known to be one of the finest for water skiing for many miles around. Our association sponsored another Earth Day cleanup around the lake in April. Thanks to the volunteers who helped collect trash. We had lunch for those folks at Crooked Lake Grill. Later in the Spring, we put out buoys to warn boaters about shallow areas, no wake zones, and other hazards. Our 2024 Annual Meeting was on Saturday, June 8 at the Steuben County Event Center. Agenda items included a review our weed control program for the year, an update on the condition of the Dam at the outfall of the third basin, efforts to reduce sediment draining into the lake, and more. As usual, the fourth of July weekend was our busiest time of the year including the Boat Parade and Fireworks on the 6th, Light the Lake Red on the 5th, and the Freedom 5 Run and Walk on the 4th. The Freedom 5 was especially successful this year with 646 participants, another record level of participation! Summer activities will conclude with our Poker Run on September 1. We also continued cooperating with the Steuben County Lakes Council to maintain water testing to monitor for pollutants with potential for human disease and nonnative weed growth. Thanks to all Council members and their leadership for this important work. In closing, our Association sends sincere thanks to our many volunteers who gave so generously of their time and talents in 2024 to sponsor fun activities, as well as efforts to keep our lake clean and safe!

Photo courtesy of Dave Rosebrock—Activities at 2024 Season—Crooked Lake



101 Lakes Trust—Reflections on a Lake returns to Hamilton

Submitted by Amy Oberlin, 101 Lakes Trust

The 101 Lakes Trust's Reflections on a Lake returned to Hamilton Lake Aug. 18 after a six-year hiatus in celebration of Hamilton Lake Association's 50th anniversary. The location lent itself to a special feature – A Taste of Hamilton. Ten Hamilton eateries donated delicacies for the meal at the Hamilton Life Center, and no one left hungry! The weather offered a unique twist as well, with boaters withstanding wind and rain to then be treated to the warm sun and blue sky again – and a stunning, low-lying rainbow. Reflections on a Lake includes boat rides led by local docents with tickets to the dinner. The tours, which shared a look back through time as well as current developments, started in the Mill Pond then journeyed across the 843-acre lake. Hamilton Lake is the second largest lake in Steuben County. The Crystal Bay and Crystal Cove additions, crafted from a former gravel pit, added 41 acres of water surface. The 101 Lakes Trust Board is already working on securing a site for next year's Reflections on a Lake. It started in 2007 at Hamilton Lake and has been held at 10 Steuben County lakes over the years. Every lake is unique, making every Reflections on a Lake different as well.



Photo Courtesy of Amy Oberlin:

Jim Wagenknecht, left, shares Hamilton Lake facts and history along with Jeannine Walker, right, assisted by 101 Lakes Trust Vice President, Niann Lautzenhiser

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Submitted by Cheri Carpenter, SCLC Office Manager

Thank you to everyone who sent their membership contribution in for 2024. 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 2025 will be sent out in January 2025. **The Cut-off for Scholarship donations to be listed in the early summer 2025 Bobber Watchin' publication will be May 1, 2025.**



SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

In May, 2024, the Steuben County Lakes Council selected, Senior, Luke Campbell, of Lake Pleasant (Fremont High School class of 2024) as the 2024 scholarship recipient. Luke will be attending Northern Michigan University in Marquette, Michigan, where he will be majoring in Environmental Science. Luke was introduced at the 2024 August 3, annual meeting and gave a brief update on his plans and goals while attending school in northern Michigan. Congratulations, to Luke Campbell.

STEBEN 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 Steuben County Community Foundation, 1701 N. Wayne Street, Angola, IN, at 8:30 A.M. **Exception:** The annual meeting has been moved back to the first weekend in **AUGUST**. August 2, at 8 a.m. we will meet at the Pleasant Township Trustees Office. Meetings are open to the public. Come join the discussions and help us keep the lakes and streams clean and beautiful.

CLEAR LAKE

Submitted by Caroline Barth

We are grateful to have experienced another beautiful summer at Clear Lake. Our community came together in celebration and support of multiple events and projects this season. The Clear Lake Association continued the traditional July 4th Firework Show, maintained The Little Free Library and held the Annual Meeting in July. Thanks to support through memberships and donations, the Association continues to provide grants to local organizations and projects. The Clear Lake Lions Club hosted three Chicken BBQ fundraisers throughout the summer to raise funds for local scholarship support. In recent years, the Clear Lake Lions Club has supported FHS Seniors, Lion Leader dogs, IN Eye and Tissue Bank, Fremont Community Schools Backpack Program, FFD, F.Y.C.O. Food Pantry, Project Help, Turning Point, Shop with a Cop, CLLC, and Fremont Moose. The Town of Clear Lake has been successful in working with INDOT via the Community Crossing Matching Grants to begin road improvement projects. The Town was delighted to see residents coming together for a July 4th parade with kids and adults in USA proud red, white and blue. The Town has welcomed some new faces with employees and law enforcement deputies and is grateful to all who serve in the day-to-day operations. The Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy has continued multiple multi-year water quality projects including watershed monitoring and invasive aquatic watermilfoil treatments. Throughout the summer, the Conservancy hosted educational and volunteer events including Kasota Island Cleanup, Knee-high Naturalists, a Butterfly and Pollinator Prairie Hike, Soarin' Hawk Raptor Rehab, and the annual fundraiser – Run Day, Fun Day 5K and 10K. As we reflect on the memorable summer days at all lakes in Steuben County, we are reminded of the importance in protecting our natural waters. We are thankful for the Steuben County Lakes Council for bringing collaboration and partnership across our county lakes.



Age group winners at Clear Lake's Run Day, Fun Day on July 13, 2024. (Photo by Barbara Rumsey)"

SHORELINES 2024, SUBMITTED BY LAKE REPS

BALL LAKE

Submitted by Karen DeForest

As the acorns are falling and leaves are changing, Ball Lake is getting ready to welcome fall again. Our neighbors will be busy pulling out their docks and boats for the season to come to an end. This year at our annual meeting in June, we decided to move our annual meeting to May and move our fall "chili cookoff" meeting back to August. We are hoping to get more people to attend. In the morning of our Fall meeting, we have a "Tour de Ball" parade with non-motorized watercraft and have our 11th annual chili cook-off. The winner gets a traveling trophy and bragging rights for a year. It is always a good way to catch up or meet new neighbors. Soon our snowbird friends venture to the warmer weather. We wish you safe travels until you come back to enjoy our piece of paradise in NE Indiana. Others that enjoy our four seasons, we will see you around!

BIG & LITTLE OTTER LAKE

Submitted by Joe Lantz

NOLA had its meeting Saturday, August 24. Sadly we did not have a very good turn out compared to previous years. It was voted on and passed to have our annual meeting the same day, every year, the Saturday before Labor Day. NOLA is going to put a solar light in the middle of small island (a light to mark the channels). Officers will stay status quo: President: Greg Thomson, Treasurer: Dave Panning and Secretary: Gary Miller. From all of us at NOLA we wish all of you a very safe winter.

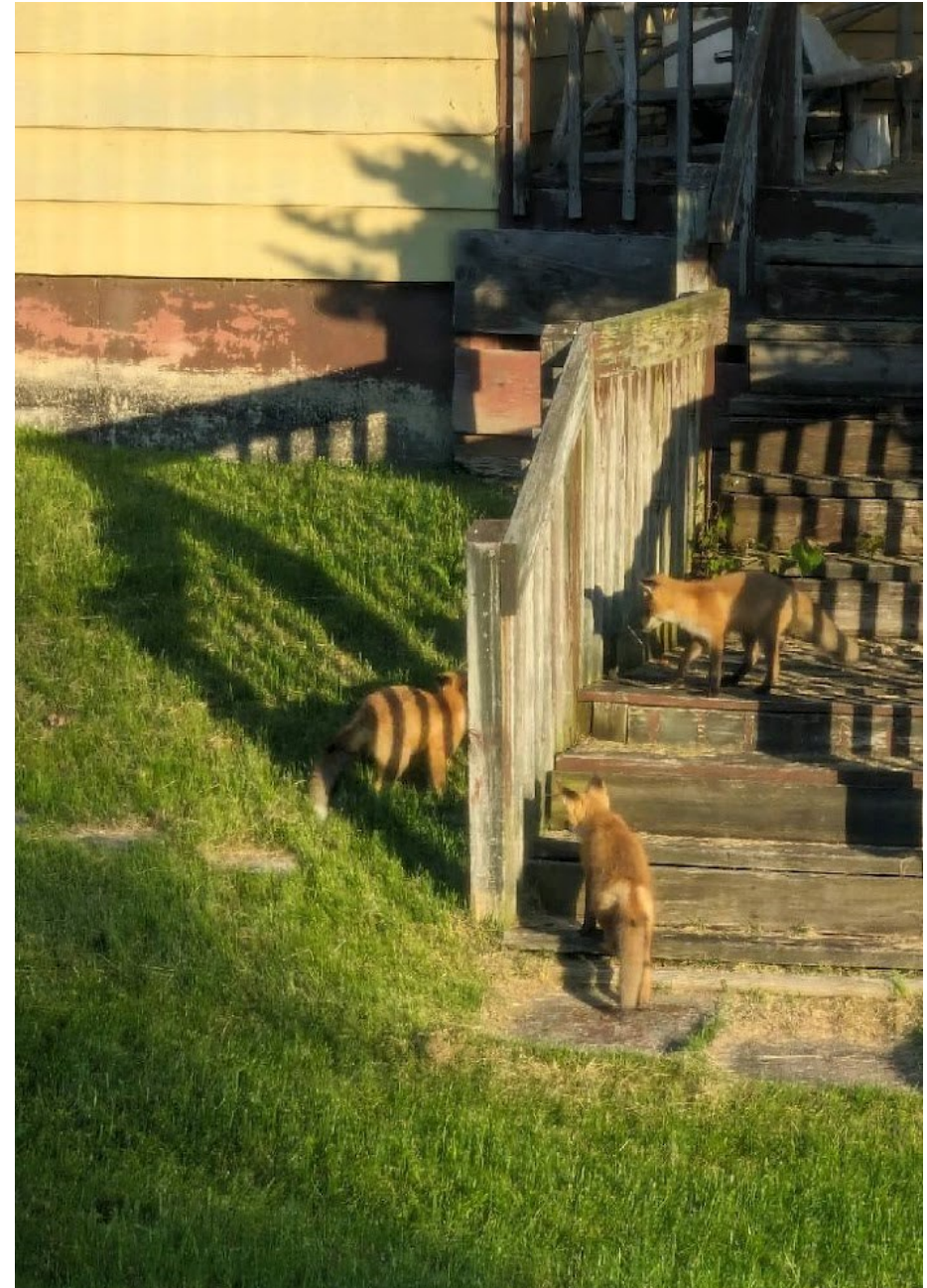
BIG TURKEY LAKE

Submitted by Scott Harris

It has been another great year at Big Turkey Lake! Our community continues to come together to help support our beautiful lake! The full silt trap at the inlet of Big Turkey was successfully dredged at the beginning of the year. This has been a big project for us for the last several years and we were finally able to see it completed! A big thank you to everyone that helped with this project! This was a collaborative effort of many volunteers, donors, the Big Turkey Lake Improvement Association, and the Big Turkey Lake Conservancy. Here are a few of the other events/happenings around the lake this year: successful spraying of curly-leaf pondweed, BTL Clean-up Day, BTL Blessing of the Boats, BTL Fireworks, the BTL Kid's Fishing Tournament, BTL Clothing and Merchandise Sales, Family Fun Day, the 2nd Annual BTLIA Golf Scramble, and the 4th Annual Fall Crawl. All our fundraising goes directly back into improvements to our lake. The reconstruction of the boat ramp at our Public Access Site will also take place soon. Hopefully, it will be completed by the middle of September. Although summer is winding down, we look forward to the recreation our lake provides us through the colder seasons. You can learn more about Big Turkey Lake and all the events around the lake by visiting our website bigturkeylake.org.

"Foxes At Fox Lake"

Photo courtesy of Kevin Colbert



BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATES 2024

BUSINESS

Andrews & Shipe LLC	JMR Cottage, Inc.
Bowen Center	J. W. Services
Bradley Overhead Door, Inc	Lake Access Magazine
Budreau, Austin—State Farm	Larry’s Lock & Safe
Campbell & Fetter Bank	Lawnscape Garden Center
City of Angola, MS4	Metropolitan Title of Indiana, LLC
Core Promo, Inc.	Midwest American Fed. Credit Union
Cress Law Group	Pakratz Furniture Consignment
Croxton & Roe Insurance	Pleasant Township Trustee
Culligan Water (Steve Gibson)	Rapid Rental
Current Mechanical	Stark’s Plumbing & Heating Services
Farmers State Bank	Steuben County Community Foundation
First Federal Savings Bank of Angola	Steuben County REMC
Fort Financial Credit Union	Steuben County Tourism Bureau
Franz Nursery	The Complete Fisherman
G & C Farming, LLC	Tom’s Donuts
Hot Rod Golf Carts	Wayside Furniture
Indiana Warm Floors	Will’s Heating & Air, Inc.
Jacob Insurance Services, LLC	

LAKE ASSOCIATIONS

Ball Lake Association	Lake George Association
Big Turkey Lake Improvement Assoc.	Lake James Association, Inc.
Buena Vista Property Owners Assoc.	Lake Pleasant Homeowners Assoc.
Clear Lake Association	Lake of the Woods, McClish Lake
Crooked Lake Association, Inc.	Little Long Lake IN-MI Watershed Assoc., Inc.
Fox Lake Property Owners	North Otter Lake Association
Hamilton Lake Association	Pine Canyon Lake Association
Hogback Lake Association	Sailor’s Cove Condominium Assoc.
Indiana Lakes Subdivision (Lake Arrowhead)	Snow Lake Cottagers Association
Jimmerson Lake Property Owners Assoc.	West Otter Lake Property Owners
Lake Gage/Lime Lake Association	Whisper Bay Condo Association

Thank You!

ENVIRONMENTAL INTERESTS

101 Lakes Trust	Clear Lake Yacht Club
Aquatic Enhancement & Survey, Inc.	Lake George Conservancy, Inc.
Aquatic Management, Inc.	NE IN Solid Waste Management Dist.
Aquatic Weed Control	Pond Champs
Blue Heron Ministries, Inc.	Sandhill Environmental Services, LLC
Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy	Steuben Co. Soil & Water Cons. District

MARINAS/BOAT SUPPLIES

Casey’s Cove Marine, Inc.
 Dry Dock Marine Center
 Hamilton Lake Marine
 Lake Pleasant Marine
 The Pier Place of Angola, Inc.

CAMPGROUNDS, CONDOS, PARKS

Jimmerson Shore Cooperative, Inc.
 Jimmerson Woods Cooperative
 Manapogo Park
 Russell’s Point, MP, LLC

REALTORS

Coldwell Banker & Real Estate Group (Barb Hendrick & Craig Walker)
 Couperthwaite, Patti, Broker
 Realty Pro Hansbarger Realty—Mark Hansbarger
 Re/Max Results, Angola, Todd Stock
 RE/Max Results, Brad Cookson
 RE/Max Results, John & Diane Stock

RESTAURANTS

Caruso’s Restaurant
 The 6 on James

PROFESSIONAL

Angola American Legion Post 31
 Danford, Thomas S., CPA.
 Lake James Christian Camp
 & Retreat Center
 Lake James Lutheran Chapel

CONSTRUCTION/DEVELOPER

Four Seasons Design & Remodeling, Inc.
 JICI, Inc.
 Manahan Construction
 Star Homes by Delagrang & Richhart, Inc.