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SCLC OFFICERS 2023

President – Steve Schroeder
 President Elect – Janet Bohney
 Technical Vice President – Bill Schmidt
 Government Vice President – Karen DeForest
 Public Relations Vice President – John Williamson
 Secretary – Cheri Carpenter
 Treasurer – Gary VandenElst
 Assistant Treasurer – Jim Simons
 Member at Large – Bob Glick
 Member at Large – Mel Hathaway
 Member at Large – Max Robison
 Advisor – Bill Schmidt

SNOW LAKE

Submitted by Gus Reed

The summer of 2023 brought another fantastic season to Snow Lake. Clear water, bright skies, friends, neighbors and family were the order of the day. We welcomed new ownership to "Dave's Lake Shack" / "The Hangout" now known as the "Lake Shack"; new menu, upgraded docks, same great lake vib! As we wind down another great summer season, thanks to all for staying safe and wishing you all the best in the coming months.

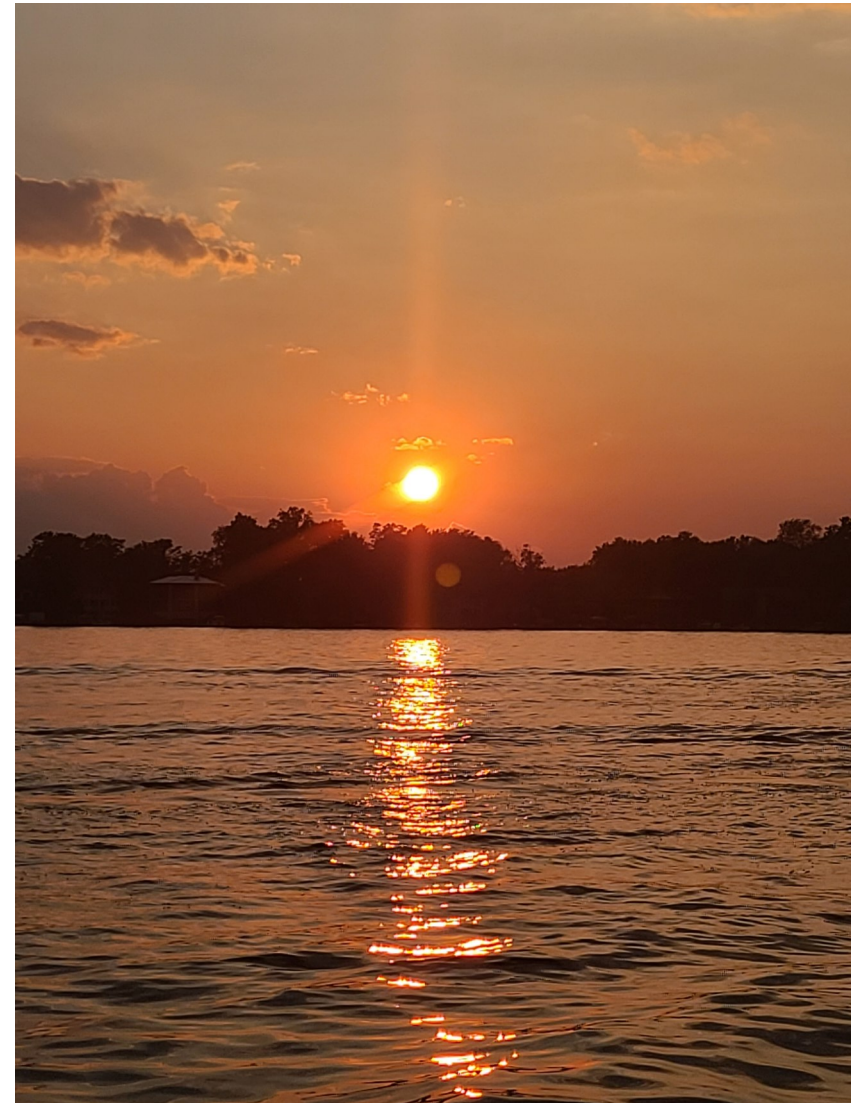


Photo courtesy of Snow Lake

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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

Telephone (260) 665-1730, Fax (260) 665-8798

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

FOLLOW US ON 'FACEBOOK'

E-mail office@lakescouncil.org
Volume #50

www.lakescouncil.org
Fall 2023

PRESIDENT'S LIVE BOX

Submitted by Steve Schroeder, SCLC President

Indiana A Water Rich State

Indiana has more than 35,000 miles of rivers and streams, 160,000 acres of public lakes and 50 miles of Great Lakes shoreline. About two-thirds of Indiana's population depends on ground water for drinking and household use. As our state continues to grow our industry and agriculture, the public is predicted to strain our state's water supply. Ground water and surface water could be used beyond their ability to replenish themselves. Added stressors include periods of low rainfall, inefficient plumbing, sewage spillage and overflows, improper irrigation, and farm runoff. The SCLC has been hard at work to protect the streams and lakes of your county for 50 years. We have continued to test our waterways, resulting in water quality information that provides valuable education to community partners.

Our life on the lake is by intention. Our love for this environment should be also. This area is special, beautiful, and fragile. With such uniqueness comes great responsibility, and we are involved in problem area to help find solutions.

You can help this Council by joining our team. Become a member and attend our monthly meeting meetings. I promise you will learn something about your lake you may not know. We meet the first Saturday of the month except for January at the Steuben County Community Foundation, 1701 N. Wayne Street, Angola, IN, at 8:30 am.

We have the ability to experience and enjoy God's blessings. Now That's Really Rich!

Sincerely,
Steve Schroeder. President SCLC

S•C•L•C



STEUBEN
COUNTY
LAKES
COUNCIL



LAKE PLEASANT

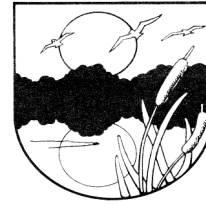
Submitted by Landon Brown

Here we are again closing out another fun filled lake season. 2023 was a year of learning for both seasoned lake residents and the weekend warriors due to the low lake levels. With limited rain and lower than normal water levels we found ourselves checking our depth gauges more than our coolers. Late summer rains helped tremendously, and we have returned to a slightly lower than normal, but manageable lake level. Our lake association has continued to make positive changes to maintain water quality and lake life. With the continued assistance of the LAKE AND RIVER ENHANCEMENT (LARE) program we were able to properly fund our aquatic management plan.

The Lake Pleasant HOA continued to invest in our lake quality with the addition of a new lake logo, new lake signs, buoy replacement and repairs and have initiated a fish stocking program that is to begin late 2023. Our board of directors has continued to gain momentum and are approaching a nearly 90% participation rate with our HOA.

There is always a plethora to do and enjoy on Lake Pleasant. Whether you prefer a quiet pontoon ride or book near the water, or water sports, our lake offers it all. Late July fireworks never disappoint, and the annual Labor Day crowds are the perfect culmination to a great summer. We've said it before, but still contest that Lake Pleasant is the best and I think you find that life is divine on the Indiana Michigan line!!

Photo Courtesy of Landon Brown



Web Site www.LakesCouncil.org

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

INDIVIDUAL & BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP FORM FOR 2023

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

2023

SCHOLARSHIP

CONTRIBUTORS

Clayton & Jan Adams	Katy Hoehn
Gary Anderson	Michael & Linda Iczkovitz
Rob Armstrong	JMR Cottage, Inc.
Jack & Norene Arnold	Michael James
Susan Baert	Brian & Sheila Jellison
Warren & Barbara Barnes	Michael & Mary Johnson
Larry & Elizabeth Bassett	Anthony & Jo Judson
Donald & Beth Bierberich	David Kaminiski
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Tina & Phil Bishkoff	Eric King
Jeff & Janet Bosler	Kathleen Kirby
Raymond & Tamra Bouthot	Robert & Ruth Kopko
Dave & Stacy Bowman	Barbara Kraegel
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William & Jeanette Cady	Evelyn Lake
Joan & Larry Cimino	Charles Lampe
Alex & Susan Connett	Jim & Debby Lemmel
Bryan & Patti Couperthwaite	Paul & Linda Longville
Patti Couperthwaite/Bug Me Team	Margaret Ludwig
Culligan Water	John & Lisa Lumpe
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Keith & Dawn Davis	Cynthia MacNaught
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Kelly Derango	Michael McCutcheon
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Tim & Dianne Fultz	John & Linda Mowry
G & C Farming, LLC	Scott & Arlene Mowry
Randy & Jill Gehrig	Ann & Jeff Newport
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Denise Gray	Gregory Poe
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Diane Graziano	Fran Rehm
Jackie & Lydia Griffin	Tom & Mary Ann Reincke
Fred & Nancy Habeggerl	Don & Anne Reitz
Charles & Carole Hampel	Steve & Karen & Richards
Scott & April Harris	Max & Sandra Robison
Mel & Sandy Hathaway	Tim & Sue Rose
Kevin Heck	James & Barbara Rousseau
Barbara Hendrick	

LAKE OF THE WOODS/MCCLISH LAKE

Submitted by Thelma Knowles

It's been a busy summer and year here at Lake of the Woods / McClish Lake. We are busy raising funds to complete a dredging project for the channel between our two lakes. One of our board members suggested we raffle off a golf cart. We sold tickets throughout the spring and drew the winning ticket at our June Association meeting. We had an overflow crowd at the meeting and lots of excitement filled the room. The winning ticket was drawn, and the golf cart was awarded to the Oakes Family. They did not have a golfcart, so they were super excited about their good luck. We were also awarded a second prize of \$300 and a third prize of \$100. All the profit will be used for the dredging project, and we plan to have several more fundraisers to help pay our share of the project. **What** would our lake association be without volunteers? We love our volunteers and are blessed to have every one of them. This year they all have stepped up to help. We take pride in helping our lake residents who are in need. This year we were able to help an elderly resident who was recovering from surgery and unable to care for their yard. Several neighbors, including youngsters pitched in to remove brush and fencing. The grass was cut and trimmed, and everyone involved was grateful to be able to help a neighbor in need. Our lakes are divided into 10 areas and each area is covered by a Block Captain; these are the frontline people who are in contact with the residents. If they encounter someone who is in need they go to work and find a solution. Once again, they are all volunteers, and we couldn't be more thankful or proud to have them involved in our Association. I mentioned fundraising previously, and one of the ways we do that is with our Scrap Metal Collection. We do this twice a year, once in June and again in August. Not only do we raise money to support our lake projects, but we help our residents keep their garages and yards free of items that most would have no way of disposing of. It's not glamorous and your muscles will be sore the next day but again thanks to our volunteers the job gets done. An example of how much metal is collected, during the June pickup, we had over 5 tons! The money collected goes directly into our general fund, over the years we have been able to pay for many projects because of this endeavor. I would be remiss if I didn't thank the volunteers who have headed up this project for many years, they have done an awesome job! We thanked them in a special way this year by recruiting some younger volunteers to take over the scrap metal collection and they were happy to do so. Thanks Guys!!! In closing I hope everyone enjoys their lakes and I hope you have a safe and enjoyable rest of the summer!



LAKE GEORGE*Submitted by Dave Sorg*

The residents of Lake George had a great summer 2023. Family and friends enjoyed all that lake life has to offer. The July 4 fireworks were spectacular as always.

Planning continues on the repair of the dam and it looks like the actual work will begin next summer.

Officers were elected at the July annual meeting and remain the same for 2024. Dave Sorg - President, Rex Melchi - Vice-President, Kevin Snyder - Treasurer, and Rick Weaver - Secretary.

**LAKE JAMES***Submitted by Jim Parsell*

The Lake James Association (LJA) and our Lake have continued their very active event schedule. The activities included the Turtle Races; three Sandbar Socials; the Ft Wayne Philharmonic Patriotic Concert (usually held on the Potawatomi Inn lawn, but relocated to the high school due to weather); the popular LJA Fourth of July Fireworks Show; the LJA Flotilla; the Antique Boat and Car Show; and the Paddle Quest. The final event of the season will be the 21st Annual Seaplane Splash-In at Potawatomi Inn on Sunday, September 24.

LJA also hosted its annual meeting featuring a pancake breakfast and an opportunity to participate in a silent auction to raise funds for the critter center at the Pokagon State Park Nature Center.

In August, the Association continued the annual awarding of \$2000 Scholarships to two full-time Trine University students who are related to LJA members. The Association continues to work with County, State and Federal partners to enhance the quality of Lake James.

The NISWMD is Working to Keep Our Waterways Free of Debris

Submitted by Kris Thomas, MS4 Coordinator/Engineering Assistant

The City of Angola/Trine University MS4 is excited to report that the Northeast Indiana Solid Waste Management District (NISWMD) has expanded its recycling program this year to include new items. The NISWMD is now accepting shredded paper, Styrofoam, and boat wrap. These items can now be recycled for minimal fees under the following conditions:

Shredded paper is accepted in any size bag and can be delivered in paper or plastic bags since this item must be unloaded by NISWMD personnel upon arrival. [Employees of the NISWMD kindly ask that LOOSE SHREDDED PAPER, AS WELL AS BAGGED SHREDDED PAPER, NEVER BE PLACED DIRECTLY IN THE RECYCLE BINS.](#)

Styrofoam recycling has the same protocol. All types of Styrofoam are accepted as long as NISWMD employees receive the Styrofoam upon arrival and LOOSE STYROFOAM, AS WELL AS BAGGED STYROFOAM, IS NEVER PLACED DIRECTLY IN THE RECYCLE BINS.

Plastic boat wrap is now accepted with the same recycling stipulations as shredded paper and Styrofoam items.

The district has provided significant solid waste reduction services and programs to the residents of Steuben, DeKalb, LaGrange, and Noble Counties for over three decades. Every year the NISWMD recycles tons of household hazardous waste, yard waste, and residential solid waste, also known as household trash. Residents of the four-county area are lucky to have multiple convenience centers located throughout the four-county area. Click on the following link to view a recycling drop-off map for the four-county area:

<https://www.niswmd.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/drop-off-map-05-21-w-service-schedule.pdf>

The residents of the city of Angola are fortunate to have recycling provided; however, the NISWMD may supplement the city-provided services as recycling services are not always equal. You may find that the NISWMD may accept items your local recycling company does not. If not, you are encouraged to take advantage of potential additional services, as well as the convenience of the NISWMD's many locations.

Here are some helpful tips when taking advantage of the NISWMD recycling service:

- **DO NOT** fill recycle bins with unaccepted items. This takes up valuable space for items that are accepted, making it difficult for others to easily recycle as intended. Placing unaccepted items in bins also takes time, energy, and money to sort them back out.
- Don't worry about sorting! Items approved for placement in the recycling bins can now go in the same bin. This is known as "single-stream recycling".
- At this time, the recycling industry is saying that lids can be left on all bottles and jars, such as milk jugs, prescription bottles and cosmetic jars. This DOES NOT include pumps and sprayers.

Continued on Page 6

Continued from Page 5—The NISWMD is Working to Keep Our Waterways Free of Debris

- Leave those labels! Labels no longer must be removed from plastic bottles, glass jars, or metal cans.
- Don't worry about the leftover wax in candle jars!! They are accepted regardless.
- Don't want to look at your junk mail? That's approved for recycling, too. Unopened junk mail is accepted and can be placed directly in the recycling bins.
- All light bulbs are accepted for a minimal fee as part of the district's Household Hazardous Waste program. Again, DO NOT place them in the recycling bins. Household hazardous waste along with old electronics are accepted every Friday from 8 am to Noon.

Still have questions? Call the district at 260-587-3063. Please pass along this updated recycling information. Every item the NISWMD recycles is one less that has the potential to end up in our local waterways. By participating in local efforts, you protect our local water resources!!



Continued From Page 18—Jimmerson Lake

are blessed with strong communal involvement and can plan many activities and events. For some reason it is just not happening here. The JLA board is a resilient bunch and will continue to address safety and environmental issues as needed (as will the SCLC). But the question still stands: Where is the next group of organizers and volunteers going to come from? What will it take to make them notice that all the good things on Jimmerson do not happen by magic?

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 (May through August) and had a speaker at each meeting. We started off in May with Nathan Cooper and Nick Hartman from the Indiana Conservation District 2 office speaking about water and boat safety. In June we had a presentation from the Orland Volunteer Fire Department. In July, Kris Thomas MS4 Coordinator and Engineering Assistant for the City of Angola spoke about stormwater runoff and the highly invasive plant – Phragmites. And in August, we had Jelsie Kerr from Purdue University speak about her ongoing investigative project regarding the Cisco fish which is an endangered species that lives in only 7 lakes in Indiana with Lake Gage being one of those lakes. 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 June, the Free Breakfast meeting in 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 in September. 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 their help and support 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.

Finally, a dredging project started in late July. Most of the dredging will be conducted on Lime Lake in the various channels. There will be a small amount of dredging on Lake Gage near the historic bridge which spans the channel between Lake Gage and Lime Lake. There will also be a limited amount of dredging under the historic bridge itself.

HAMILTON LAKE

Submitted by Cathy Wagenknecht

The Hamilton Lake Association (HLA) has had a beautiful year. Although Hamilton Lake continues to struggle with our battle against native and nonnative aquatic vegetation... weeds. We are working closely with the IDNR to develop a healthy balance. HLA continues to keep in touch with lake residents through our website www.hamiltonlake.org and Facebook. The annual meeting was held the 3rd Saturday of June and had a good turnout. Our speakers were Scott Banfield of Aquatic Enhancement and IDNR. The active HLA "Buoy Boys" check on weeds & general condition of the lake, as well as replaced buoys. The HLA has a newsletter with the membership mailing goes out in early winter, which includes the Lake Enhancement dues form and a summary of this season's busy lake life. When Lakers pay their dues, they receive an HLA flag or a HL (Hamilton Lake) sticker. The Annual Boat Poker Run held on the last Saturday of July also had another successful year. We had over 1500 people participate. And the Annual Summer Fest held the last Saturday of August is another fund-raising event. The HLA obtained the proper permits and had many volunteers at our Annual Goose Round Up collecting 98 geese to relocate. Finally, yet to come, is the annual Horse Drawn Christmas Parade the Saturday after Thanksgiving at dark; all horses & wagons are lit up with Christmas lights. **DON'T MISS THIS!** Bring the kids because...Santa will be there!.

JIMMERSON LAKE

Submitted by Ken Erlenbaugh

As I write this summer wrap up report it is 90 degrees out and the boating activities shows no end. No way summer can be over yet. Well, it's not, but due to stringent deadline restraints we'll pretend it is. Last Fall was wonderful with leaf peeping boat rides occurring all the way to Thanksgiving weekend. Winter was very mild as well; the lake did freeze for a little while and could be fully accessed only one weekend during January. Boats were showing back up on the water by the end of February. With the early open water, the buoy deployment and swan egg-oiling got an early start too. You may recall I ended last year's report lamenting the lack of volunteers and asking where the new crews were going to come from. Well, still waiting for the answer. Fortunately, the swan population is being kept in check and the Jimmerson Lake Association (JLA) is looking into replacing some of the older and damaged buoys with newer lighter ones. We received a small LARE Grant to treat Eurasian Milfoil from left over 2022 funds, but we did not receive any new 2023 grants. It is noticeable that many of the invasive weeds have been greatly reduced due to the grants received over the past years. However, starry stonewort remains problematic and was treated twice from a provided federal grant. Also, utilizing JLA reserved funds we started having test areas treated for Purple Loosestrife and Phragmites. More to come next year on the results of those treatments. The August Annual Membership meeting was very poorly attended. Only 10 people were present, mostly board members. One could think the lack of attendance could be due to the fact the Steuben County Lake Council had their annual meeting at the same time. But we've come to find out that meeting wasn't very well attended either. It's a paradox that as the number of boaters and the use of the lake(s) increases it seems that the volunteer base and people involved to manage the lakes is decreasing. From reading the articles some of the other Steuben County lakes it is apparent that many

Continued on page 19

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

Submitted by Cheri Carpenter, SCLC Office Manager

Thank you to everyone who sent their membership contribution in for 2023. 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 2024 will be sent out in January 2024. **The Cut-off for Scholarship donations to be listed in the early summer 2024 Bobber Watchin' publication will be May 1, 2024.**



Steuben County Lakes Council offers an annual scholarship to a student from Steuben Co. pursuing a degree in Environmental Science or Civil Engineering. Scholarship recipient, Lily Zolman, currently a Senior at Northern Michigan University in Marquette, Michigan will be graduating in December of 2023. Congratulations, Lily.

Therefore, the SCLC will be accepting applications for an annual scholarship of \$5,000 (\$2,500 per semester) to be awarded for the fall of 2024. Any upcoming 2024 Seniors who meets the above qualifications are welcome to submit a letter of introduction, a letter recommendation from a teacher or administrator and a transcript of semester grades. Applications will be accepted starting in February of 2024. Submit information via email to: lakescouncil.org or via U.S. mail at SCLC, 317 S. Wayne St., Suite 2A, Angola, IN 46703.

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 3, 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.

ARTICLE BY JANET BOHNEY President Elect

My name is Janet Bohney. I am the president- elect of the Steuben County Lakes Council. I started with this organization many years ago and this will be my second term as president.

The reason I am so dedicated to this organization is because Steuben County is my home. Many years ago, my husband chose this area because of what it offered mainly the water quality. The Lakes Council was a natural for me because I believe clean water is our most important natural resource. The dedication to keeping the environment pristine, and the abundance of natural resources here convinced us this was our place. Even when my husband passed away four years ago, I chose to stay because of those attributes.

The Lakes Council is dedicated to those attributes in the best way we can. Our biggest and most important job is making sure our waters stay clean and safe. We are dedicated to this. To keep up to date in what is happening in our county, we have board members who attend county meetings, facilitate water testing, and work with other environmental organizations to keep us updated on what is happening in our lakes. It's a big job that takes dedication and the willingness to step up and do the work.

I hope to do as well as the previous presidents and even expand upon our efforts to keep our lakes and streams clean today for tomorrow. Because after all, what we do to our environment today impacts the environment of the next generation. Come to our meetings, join the council, and help us keep our waters clean.



FOX LAKE

Submitted by Kevin Colbert

Here's to another fun filled summer in the records books at Fox Lake. We hosted many activities some old, some new.

New this year was the Presidents Movie Nights held under the stars at Fox Lake Beach. All donations go to support our Scholarship Fund.

Light The Night 2023 annual fundraiser was another successful affair. This year we incorporated a Whiskey & Wine reception on Friday evening and held the big Light the Night event on Saturday. Sunday we hosted the first Jazz Brunch at Fox Lake's beach. Our annual Fireworks display was also held on July 2nd. The Fox Lake Preservation Foundation hosted Indiana Landmarks and Indiana Album for a scan-a-thon of historic pictures and documents. The Beachcombers held their annual Ice Cream Social. Additionally, much fun was had at the Cards and Karaoke night, also hosted by the Beachcombers at Thomson Lodge. Our next event will be our annual Labor Day Brunch the first Sunday in September. Our last official event of the season will be the Closing Dinner. The time and place TBA.



Photo Courtesy of Kevin Colbert, Fox Lake

Continued From Page 15—Clear Lake Land Conservancy



Age group winners at the Clear Lake Fun Run. (Photo by Barbara Rumsey)

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.

The following is a brief review of our activities since last year:

Our association sponsored its first Earth Day cleanup around the lake this Spring. A good start for this event with thanks to the volunteers who helped collect trash.

Our 2023 Annual Meeting was on Saturday, June 10 at the Steuben County Event Center. Agenda items included reviewing 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 much more.

As usual, the fourth of July weekend was our busiest time of the year including the Boat Parade and Fireworks on the 1st, Light the Lake Red on the 3rd, and the Freedom 5 Run and Walk on the 4th. The Freedom 5 was especially successful this year with 587 participants, an all time record!

Summer activities will conclude with our Poker Run on September 4.

We also continued cooperating with the Steuben County Lakes Council to maintain water testing to monitor for pollutants with potential for human disease. Thanks to all Council members and its 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 to sponsor fun activities, as well as their efforts to keep our lake clean and safe!

Water Quality Committee Report— Steuben County SWQMP

Submitted by Bill Schmidt— Chairman

Beginning in the early 2000s, the Steuben County Lakes Council (SCLC) responded to water quality concerns by supporting annual summer water quality monitoring of over 60 sites that include major lakes and some tributaries flowing into and out of various lakes in Steuben County. One of its partner agencies, The City of Angola/Trine University, MS4 (COA/TU MS4) program, monitors several sites along tributaries and regulated drains that flow through industrial and urbanized areas of Angola, then outfall into the lakes monitored by the SCLC program. The data collected revealed the extent of the E. coli issue in the county, but the data provided limited insight into the cause(s) of the problem. In response to the need for more robust water quality data, vested stakeholders from the SCLC, COA/TU MS4, Steuben County Health Department (HD), Steuben County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD), St. Joseph River Basin Commission (SJRBC), Michiana Area Council of Governments (MACOG), AmeriCorps, and Trine University formed a committee with the goal to initiate a strategic water quality monitoring program in June 2023 to identify the sources of E. coli, nutrients, and sediment in surface waters. Each of these organizations share a strong sense of stewardship to protect water resources not just for Steuben County but for communities living downstream.

The monitoring program collects a suite of water quality information from 10 surface water sites throughout Steuben County on a weekly basis for 20 weeks (through October). The water quality monitoring involves the use of a portable water quality meter. The HydroLab HL7 Multiparameter Sonde, manufactured by OTT HydroMet. Monitoring also involves the collection of water samples for laboratory analysis, including samples being sent to the Indiana State Department of Health to determine/measure the presence/absence of caffeine. Caffeine levels are being monitored at all sites as part of a pilot project to determine the feasibility of using caffeine as a cost-effective indicator of potential sewage contamination.



LEFT

The portable water quality meter, the HydroLab HL7 Multiparameter Sonde, used to collect various water quality parameters for the Steuben County Strategic Water Quality Strategic Water Quality Monitoring Program (SWQMP).

Photo courtesy of the Steuben County Soil & Water Conservation District

101 Lakes Trust - Hepworth recognized by 101 Lakes Trust

Submitted by Amy Oberlin, Secretary, 101 Lakes Trust

The 101 Lakes Trust paid tribute to one of its founders during its annual meeting Wednesday in the Wild Turkey Shelter at Trine State Recreation Area.

Betty-Lee Hepworth, who died March 26 at 89 years old, assisted in the creation of the 101 Lakes Trust – an offshoot of the Steuben County Lake Council – in 2004 and was chosen to serve as its president in 2005. Since its founding, the 101 Lakes Trust has organized educational events and worked to preserve landscapes in Steuben County.

Its first efforts included paving the way for the purchase and protection of Trine State Recreation Area.

“The question is not that things change, but how they change,” Hepworth said in an article in the Herald-Republican documenting the founding of the 101 Lakes Trust.

Wednesday, 101 Lakes Trust board President Janet Albright presented Hepworth’s son, Tammeron Jones-Francis, with the third annual Environmental Visionary Award. The first recipient was Ryan Matthews, who has established several conservation easements on Steuben County lakes, including two recent easements at Lake Pleasant. The second recipient was Pete Hippensteel, a retired Tri-State University professor and founding member of the Steuben County Lakes Council.

Hepworth’s award read: “101 Lakes Trust recognizes Betty-Lee Hepworth as an environmental visionary and co-founder of the 101 Lakes Trust. Her creative insight and unfaltering service led to the preservation of many lakes and lands in Steuben County.”

Hepworth’s parents, Frank and Elizabeth, bought a slice of property along the Seven Sisters Lakes, adjacent to what is now Trine State Recreation Area, in 1940.

“After Betty-Lee’s parents’ death in the 1990s and her own acquisition of the property, having observed rampant changes in the area, Betty-Lee’s interest in preserving the surrounding landscape and this bit of property piqued,” wrote Jones-Francis in a biography of his mother, which will be published in its entirety in the Summer/Fall edition of the 101 Lakes Trust newsletter, Reflections. “Yet, to be sure, caring for landscapes didn’t begin with the property. Preservation and beauty were important to her throughout her life and her career in architecture. As a child she would walk in her Detroit neighborhood and imaginatively change the facade of houses to something that better suited her, the street, and other houses.”

She attended the University of Miami in Ohio and was one only a handful of women in the 1950s to graduate with a degree in architecture and master’s degree in city planning.

“Her life-long interest in history and preservation, however, was inspired by professor Ernest Connally,” said Jones-Francis. Connally contributed preservation policy to both the United Nations and the National Park Service.

Hepworth was remembered fondly by members of the 101 Lakes Trust board during Wednesday’s annual meeting, when essay contest winners were also recognized. They included first-place adult Ashlee Hoos, second-place Paul Beckwith and third-place Raegan Wright. Victoria Dohner won in the youth category.

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We were able to hold a Kid’s Fishing Tournament this July. Many thanks go out to the local businesses that sponsored this event and the volunteers that organized this!

Because of the tireless efforts of a few volunteers, we should finally be getting our silt trap dredging project completed. From their efforts, the Big Turkey Lake Conservancy, Inc. was established and will help secure much needed funding for this project. With this funding and the project’s LARE Grant, we are hopeful to start dredging by the end of the year. We applied for a permit from the DNR and are currently waiting on their approval.

Although summer is winding down, we look forward to the recreation our lake provides us through the colder seasons.

CLEAR LAKE LAND CONSERVANCY

Submitted by Amy Oberlin

Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy renewed a Clear Lake tradition this year – the Fun Run – on July 8th. For the first time, the Fun Run included a Fun Day, a chance for people to learn more about the Conservancy and what it does. There was a DJ playing upbeat music, a bounce house for the kids, a scavenger hunt at Koeneman Lake Preserve, face painting, CLTLC swag, Beached Boys food truck, demonstrations, and water quality experts. The event was made possible by local sponsors, and with a successful year – despite the rain – planning has begun for next year’s run.

The Fun Run featured not just a 10K (running around Clear Lake is a perfect 6.2-mile course) but also a 5K race and a one-mile walk. The race was an almost 50-year tradition started by the Buehrer family, continued for many years by the Clear Lake Lions Club until COVID-19 canceled it and renewed by the Conservancy.

“We thought it was important to get the community together to enjoy nature, get some exercise and learn about the work of the Conservancy,” said event coordinator Barb Wenger, vice president of the CLTLC board.

Fun Day added some flair and fanfare. It also gave area residents an opportunity to chat with Scott Banfield of Aquatic Enhancement and Survey about how invasive water plants are treated. Also on hand was Jerry Sweeten of EcoSystems Connections Institute, which is administering a multi-year watershed diagnostic study at Clear Lake.

“We deemed the event a success by hearing the ‘buzz’ in the community after the event and by seeing the smiles on the faces of the winners of the races and the families having fun together,” Wenger said.

With 186 runners, four trophy winners and numerous age group medal winners, the participants, though soggy after the rainy run, were enthusiastic. Runners are encouraged to attend next year’s event on Saturday, July 13, 2024. Sponsors are being sought. The proceeds – \$58,000 this year – benefit the Conservancy’s work. Its mission is to preserve, protect and manage the natural environment within the Clear Lake Watershed and Township for future generations.

SHORELINES 2023, SUBMITTED BY LAKE REPS

BALL LAKE

Submitted by Karen DeForest

BIG & LITTLE OTTER LAKE

Submitted by Joe Lantz

Once again it's time to write the article for the "Soundings" for Big and Little Otter Lakes. There is not much to write about due to the lake being pretty quiet and just the way we like it. The N.O.L.A. lakes meeting will meet Saturday, September 16. The officers are: President, Greg Thomson, Vice-President, Dan Thiele, Secretary, Gary Miller, Treasurer, Dave Panning. Hope all of you have a safe and blessed cold season.

BIG TURKEY LAKE

Submitted by Scott Harris

It has been another great year at Big Turkey Lake. The fishing has been good, and the recreational boating has been great.

We have continued to get permits to spray for invasive weeds. We have successfully eradicated Eurasian watermilfoil and will not have to treat for it next year. We will monitor it every year and seek permitting and a LARE Grant if needed. We were successful in treating for curly-leaf pondweed this spring.

We were able to purchase several lighted buoys this year thanks to the impressive fundraising from last year. We cannot thank our fundraising leaders enough for organizing our events!

Our fundraising efforts have been very good again this year. Lots of hard work has been put in by several volunteers. Our Chicken BBQs, BTL Apparel sales, and our Fall Crawl have been very successful again this year. We also held our 1st Annual Big Turkey Lake Golf Outing. All the money raised goes directly back into further improving our lake.

Our fireworks show, which is entirely funded by donations, was amazing again this year. Again, we had some amazing volunteers set up the barges and take them in and out.

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Continued from page 10—101 Lakes Trust



101 Lakes Trust Board President Janet Albright presents the Environmental Visionary Award to Tammeron Jones-Francis in honor of his mother, Betty-Lee Hepworth, who passed away in March. (Photo by Amy Oberlin)

BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATES 2023

BUSINESS

Andrews & Shipe LLC	J. W. Services
Big D's Bait & Tackle/Archery	Larry's Lock & Safe
Budreau, Austin—State Farm	Lawnscape Garden Center
Campbell & Fetter Bank	Metropolitan Title of Indiana, LLC
City of Angola, MS4	Midwest American Fed. Credit Union
Cress Law Group	Pakratz Furniture Consignment
Croxton & Roe Insurance	Pleasant Township Trustee
Culligan Water	Stark's Plumbing & Heating Services
Current Mechanical	Steuben County Community Foundation
Farmers State Bank	Steuben County REMC
First Federal Savings Bank of Angola	Steuben County Tourism Bureau
Fort Financial Credit Union	The Complete Fisherman
Franz Nursery	The Corner Landing
G & C Farming, LLC	Tom's Donuts
Gay's Hops-N-Schnapps	Wayside Furniture
Indiana Warm Floors	Will's Heating & Air, Inc.
Jacob Insurance Services, LLC	
JMR Cottage, Inc.	

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
Indiana Lakes Subdivision (Lake Arrowhead)	Sailor's Cove Condominium Assoc.
Jimmerson Lake Property Owners Assoc.	Snow Lake Cottagers Association
Lake Gage/Lime Lake Association	West Otter Lake Property Owners
	Whisper Bay Condo Association

ENVIRONMENTAL INTERESTS

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
Clear Lake Yacht Club	Steuben Lakes Regional Waste District

MARINAS/BOAT SUPPLIES

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

REALTORS

Barbara Hendrick, Coldwell Banker
 Craig Walker, Coldwell Banker
 Patti Couperthwaite, Broker
 Realty Pro Hansbarger Realty
 Re/Max Results, Angola
 RE/Max Results, Brad Cookson
 RE/Max Results, John & Diane Stock

PROFESSIONAL

Angola American Legion Post 31
 Bowen Center
 Duch, Ronald V., D.D.S.
 Lake James Christian Camp
 & Retreat Center
 Lake James Lutheran Chapel
 Lutheran Outdoor Ministries
 Wernet, Lynn C.P.A.

CAMPGROUNDS, CONDOS, PARKS

Jimmerson Shore Cooperative, Inc.
 Jimmerson Woods Cooperative
 Manapogo Park
 Pow Wow Point RV Park, LLC
 Russell's Point, MP, LLC
 Sheehans Hamilton Lake Mobile Home Park

RESTAURANTS

Caruso's Restaurant
 The 6 on James

CONSTRUCTION/DEVELOPER

A+ Roofing Co., Inc.
 Four Seasons Design & Remodeling, Inc.
 JICI, Inc.
 Manahan Construction
 Streibig Construction, Inc.
 Star Homes by Delagrang & Richhart, Inc.

Thank You!