



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.

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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 #48

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Fall 2021

S•C•L•C



STEUBEN
COUNTY
LAKES
COUNCIL

PRESIDENT'S LIVE BOX

Submitted by Cheryl Silverhart, SCLC President

As lake owners, I am aware that all of you are concerned about preserving our beautiful lakes' water quality. The Steuben County Lakes Council's (SCLC) main goal is to find solutions to the ever-changing water quality issues that show up each year. The solutions to curbing or improving water quality are systemic, large scale and societal. Perhaps we all need to look at how our habits and lifestyles may influence the water quality of our lakes. The SCLC has heard from many concerned lake owners regarding the water quality of our lakes, but many are acting separately as individuals. I strongly believe that solutions are achieved when citizens work together, not individually. These collaborative actions can move us toward the systemic change we need to address and improve water quality.

So, what can you do? I suggest the best way is to get involved with your local organizations, starting with the SCLC and/or local lake associations. Communicating your concerns about water quality is critical for motivating collaborative action. Anything you do to advance solutions can be a powerful way to inspire concern and action in others. We all live and work in various communities and can organize our friends, family and co-workers to tackle water quality change together. The more people we involve in water quality solutions, the more our impact multiplies. Thank you for your attention, and I look forward to working with everyone to accomplish our mutual goals.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Silverhart, President
Steuben County Lakes Council

P.S. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email me at csilverhart@gmail.com



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SCLC OFFICERS 2021

President – Cheryl Silverhart
 President Elect – Steve Schroeder
 Technical Vice President – Pete Hippensteel
 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 – Don Reitz
 Member at Large – Max Robison
 Advisor – Bill Schmidt

Continued from Page 22—LITTLE LONG LAKE

We are actively working on soliciting SCLC membership commitments from our lake residents to underwrite the water quality testing and administrative resources we have been leveraging.

We would like to extend a very grateful “thank you” to Cheri, Karen, and Bill with SCLC for all their support in answering questions and helping guide us to some beneficial resources. We would also like to share our appreciation for the mentoring and partnership with Bridget and Elizabeth from the Clear Lake Township and Land Conservancy.

SILVER LAKE

Submitted by Greg Bright

The main news snippet out of Silver Lake is that the dam regulating flow from the lake has sprung a major leak. This has caused the lake level to drop significantly. Repairs are being planned by Indiana DNR.

SNOW LAKE

Submitted by Donnie Absher

2021 has been a great year here on Snow Lake. Being my first year as president, I was unsure as to what to expect. Trying to improve our membership and fine tuning our membership list was very important to us as we started. With a lot of help doing just that, we now have over 50% membership and a much more accurate address list of our members. This year we have put up 2 new signs on the lake that welcome boaters to our lake and give a couple suggested boating traffic and safety rules. They are posted in the channels coming into Snow Lake from Lake James and on Follette Creek, coming from Big and Little Otter. Over the years our association members have proudly given back to our lake community and its young people, this year was no different. With generous donations by our members, The Snow Lake Cottagers Association was fortunate enough to award three student scholarships in the amount of \$500.00 each. The high school seniors submitted an essay about why they have enjoyed living on Snow Lake and how they can improve Snow Lake for future generations. At our 1st general meeting in June we discussed how to proceed with the vegetation management report results. We voted to move forward with an update on that report and will be applying for a L.A.R.E grant next year to update our weed management plan. The Snow Lake Cottagers Association board and its members want to give a giant THANK YOU to our volunteers. These ladies and gentlemen are a vital part of our association. Just like all associations and volunteer work, we need more members and people to get involved to accomplish the many jobs and duties of the association. We consistently try to find ways to get more people involved, mainly our younger generations as they are the future of Snow Lake. If you would like to volunteer or help in anyway please contact Donnie or Ami Absher (419-460-4090) or visit us at www.snowlake.us. You can also follow us on Facebook for up to date info (Snow Lake Cottagers Association). We hope everyone had a nice time on the lake this year and we look forward to enjoying it with you all again next year!

LAKE OF THE WOODS/MCCLISH LAKE*Submitted by Steve McElhoe*

Greetings from Lake of the Woods/ McClish. It has been an awesome summer and we had lots of Association activities.

We elected 5 new Association Board member and a new President, Thelma Knowles. Thelma has been a lake resident over 20 years and is an advocate for clean water and beautification of our lakes. We are blessed to have her at the helm!

I want to thank The SCLC members for all the help and guidance they have given me over the last 6 years while I was association president. The knowledge, caring and concern for all of the County lakes and its residence speaks volumes for the SCLC. I will continue to attend the monthly meetings which have been so informative and enjoy the company of the friends I have made over the years.

PS The doughnuts are also my friends!

LITTLE LONG LAKE*Submitted by Jim & Therese Shiffler*

The summer of 2021 has been very eventful for our lake and watershed community. First, we formally joined the Steuben County Lakes Council in March. Then, in May, we formed our very first lake-wide association, "Little Long Lake Healthy Lake Association." This came about after a group of representatives from our various neighborhood associations determined that by consolidating our efforts we would be more effective in engaging our residents and working together to improve our water quality.

We coordinated with the SCLC Water Quality team to establish testing at our two primary inlets to the lake, at the Gurney Ditch (No. 74) and the Derr Drain (No. 75). The initial two sets of testing results were very concerning due to the elevated levels of phosphorus and E-coli, along with very acute water clarity issues in the lake. These insights have led to further networking through SCLC to begin building our data and strategy to present our concerns to both the Michigan and Indiana authorities for other action within our watershed.

In July, we coordinated with neighboring Clear Lake to train volunteers for the 'Hoosier River-watch' and 'Indiana Clean Lakes Program' to conduct sample and data gathering on our lake. As a result, we have submitted July and August data collected by our volunteers.

Continued on Page 23

CALENDAR 2022**Steuben County Lakes Council Board Meetings**

February 5, First Congregational United Church of Christ

March 5, First Congregational United Church of Christ

April 2, First Congregational United Church of Christ

May 7, First Congregational United Church of Christ

June 4, First Congregational United Church of Christ

July 2, First Congregational United Church of Christ

August 13, Lake James Christian Camp & Retreat Center

September 3, First Congregational United Church of Christ

October 1, First Congregational United Church of Christ

November 5, First Congregational United Church of Christ

December 3, 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"

2021

Clayton & Janice Adams
 Don & Janet Ahlersmeyer
 Rob Armstrong
 Norene Arnold
 Aquatic Enhancement
 Warren & Barbara Barnes
 Larry & Elizabeth Bassett
 Dwight & Carol Bieberich
 Jeff & Janet Bosler
 Sallie Bosler
 Raymond & Tamra Bouthout
 Dave & Stacy Bowman
 Robert & Linda Boxell
 Michael Burkhalter
 Rob & Heather Callahan
 Mark & Dawn Christman
 Larry & Joan Cimino
 Merrilyn Colliver
 Nancy Connavino
 Alex & Susan Connett
 Bryan & Patti Couperthwaite
 Thomas S. Danford
 Dawn & Keith Davis
 Gary & Kathy Davis
 Kelly Derango
 Anita Dierkes
 Charles & Kathy Dowe
 Dorothy Dukes
 Larry & Joan Eichler
 Mark & Susan Emmons
 Matthew & Cindy Fetter
 Jeff Fouse
 Warren Franke
 Jana Gessner
 John & Linda Grande
 Diane Graziano
 Denise Gray
 Jackie & Lydia Griffin
 Harold & Cheryl Hahr
 Bruce & Sonia Hamilton
 Karen Hamilton
 Donna Hankins
 Sarah Helbig
 Barbara Hendrick
 Katy Hoehn

SCHOLARSHIP

Ronald & Jeri Hoellrich
 James & Holly Hug
 Michael & Linda Iczkovitz
 Doug & Beth Jackson
 Michael & Kay James
 Michael & Mary Johnson
 Anthony & Jo Judson
 Gary & Vanessa King
 Kathleen Kirby
 Ronald & Katie Kock
 William & Carol Koester
 Robert & Ruth Kopko
 Barbara Kraegel
 Kruse Family Land Trust
 Don & Kay Kummer
 Michael & Linda Kurpinski
 Evy Lake
 Jim & Debby Lemmel
 Dr. William & Darcie Lentz
 Mary Leonard
 Paul & Linda Longville
 Margaret Ludwig
 Michael McCutcheon
 David & Karen McKeeman
 Debra McKinney
 Scott & Lynne MacDonald
 Cynthia Macnaught
 Michael & Brinda Miller
 Dr. Wayne & Michele Miller
 J. Steven & Jacqueline Mitchell
 Dave & Cathy Mittendorf
 Marcia & David Mohre
 Michael & Melissa Moorman
 Scott & Arlene Mowry
 Sue Myers
 Mary L. Marvel Nelson
 Jeffrey & Debra Payton
 Miles & Judith Perkins
 John & Liat Peters
 Wayne Peters
 Warren & Jane Phillips
 Lynn Reed
 Tom & Mary Ann Reincke

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 Larry & Charlene Slagle
 Stephen & Suzanne Smith
 Tim & Dawn Smith
 James & Katheryn Somers
 Stephanie Somers
 David & Mary Southern
 Sue Spangle
 Donald & Debbie Springer
 Joe & Ruth Springer
 Vern & Deborah Stanger
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 Larry & Sharon Stoller
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 Larry & Linda Thomas
 Robert & Bette Thomson
 Patrick & Shelley Tippmann
 Marilyn Vachon
 James & Cynthia Volk
 Kevin & Chris Waden
 Jeff & Jana Walborn
 Craig Walker
 Roger Warner
 Richard Waterfield
 Doug & Fran Weidner
 Robert Wittler
 Michael & Carol Wojtczak
 Norman Yoder
 Jerry Zirkle

Continued from page 20—LAKE JAMES

We assisted in a memorial for Debbie Gundy (long time board member) which purchased a bench in her name at Pokagon State Park with the balance to the Angola YMCA for their swim classes.

We purchase the "critter" food for the Nature Center at Pokagon State Park all year long.

The annual pancake breakfast meeting was well attend. We noticed a few new faces. The new Angola Fire Chief updated us on the new equipment, new hires & where he plans to grow & improve the department. Max & Sandy Robison received the Centennial Cottage Certificate for their residence on Red Sand Beach. A live auction with Ren Scheimann as the auctioneer had everyone grinning from ear to ear. She has her own unique style of calling.

We are all looking forward to the Splash In at state park Sept 19.

May you all have a great winter dreaming about what next summer has instore.

LAKE PLEASANT

Submitted by Janet Boney

2021, A Year Of Change On Lake Pleasant!

With a relatively dry spring and warmer weather, boats and piers started showing up earlier this year. Along with drier conditions came the expected remodeling, renovating, and building that usually occurs in the spring and summer. We also had more For Sale signs show up, as neighbors transitioned off the lake to different communities. A good sign for our lake and community is most of the sold signs went to people who are making Lake Pleasant their permanent address.

After many years of receiving LARE grant money to spray the weeds in our lake, sadly we did not receive a grant. Luckily our association board saw this coming and had increased our weed fund to deal with the increased costs. The weeds were sprayed and our water quality data and that of the Steuben County Lakes Council continues to show our lake to be one of the cleanest lakes in Steuben County.

This year the association board and residents of Lake Pleasant have been working hard to improve our lake and added many improvements to our quality of life on the lake. At the general meeting held in June, the membership voted to place electronic speed limit signs on roads that see a lot of traffic, replace signs that marked the channel to Red Water Lake with channel marking buoys, replace old and deteriorating buoys on the lake, brought back our boat parade, and had a much larger and more impressive fireworks show. It was a very busy summer.

Now, fall is fast approaching. The incredible sunrises, and sunsets are moving southward. Soon, the lifts and piers will be pushed onto the shore, and the boats and water toys will be put to bed. We have had a lot of changes this year. Things in this world 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. We all need to work together to keep our little piece of paradise moving forward.

LAKE JAMES*Submitted by Flaim Cupp*

It is that time again to start putting away all our lake toys. From ski boats to sail boats, swimming rafts, paddle boards to...well, you know.

The question is always “how much did we use that this summer?”. But it never matters, it will all be put back in next spring.

When everything is put away & the winter months approach, we will remember how great our summer was this year. Here are few of the events that took place in 2021.

The new mayor of the Lake James Josh John was announced at the annual Turtle Races on Memorial Day.

The well-attended Antique Boat Show just gets better each year.

A new food truck was a welcome addition to the many food offerings in the Four Corners area.

The Lake James Association also had many exciting happenings:

To help our lake residence pick-up trash on the lake & along our roads and lanes, the Bucket Brigade was created. TLA Signs, Tom’s Donuts, Dry Dock Marina, Corner Landing, Homes by JICI & Steuben County Tourism Bureau were our sponsors. The 50 buckets were grab up so quick we have another order placed. Fifteen volunteers show up with their bucket to clean up after the firework.

The association donated \$1000.00 each to the Steuben County Sheriff’s Dept, Angola Fire Department, and the Fremont Fire Department.

Scholarships increased to 2 \$2000.00 each with a match from Barry Trine of \$2000.00 each which made 2 at \$4000.00 each.

We started the LJA Sandbar Social on the third Thursday of June, July, and August. Inviting not just LJA members but all the connecting lakes which allowed us to meet and discuss lake issues and work on becoming more of a community.

The spectacular fireworks over the water to celebrate our 4th never gets old!

The boat flotilla was started again even though it rained boats still participated and had a good (wet) time.

We increased our communications/pr with social media and with eblasts.

Assisted procuring a LARA grant and permits for a seawall in first basin where the land was eroding

*Continued on Page 21***Understanding the Purpose of MS4s***Submitted by Kris Thomas, MS4/Engineering Assistant*

MS4 stands for **M**unicipal **S**eparate **S**torm **S**ewer **S**ystem. This term refers to a system of conveyances that discharges storm water to the Waters Of The U.S. (WOTUS). These systems are owned by cities, counties, universities, or other public entities. To legally discharge storm water into surface waters from a conveyance system, which is considered a “point source” discharge, a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit is required. As with any law, exemptions from this permit do exist.

MS4s were created under the federal Clean Water Act when storm water was finally recognized as a significant contributor to water pollution. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) authorizes most state governments to handle the administrative, permitting and enforcement aspects of the NPDES program. In Indiana, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) is the state agency that oversees this program and issues NPDES permits to regulated entities. IDEM is also responsible for ensuring MS4s remain in compliance with the requirements of the program.

Under the NPDES permit, the MS4 is required to develop a Storm Water Quality Management Plan. This plan outlines its storm water management program. To explain the program very simply, the MS4 must educate all sectors about storm water pollution and how it can be reduced or prevented. The MS4 must also work to reduce the amounts of pollutants that may be discharged into local waterways from the MS4 conveyance system. Urban development continues to reduce the amount of existing natural vegetation, such as grass and forests, and increase the amounts of impervious surfaces, such as asphalt and concrete. Because of this, the task of reducing pollutants has become increasingly difficult.

Runoff captures all types of pollutants as it travels overland, especially on hard surfaces. Where runoff was once able to infiltrate naturally into green spaces, more runoff is being captured and conveyed through a storm water collection system increasing the volume carried through that system. Not only has the volume increased, but the velocity, or speed, at which the runoff travels has also increased. Both conditions raise flooding concerns. Too much, too fast is not an ideal circumstance when it comes to storm water runoff. Runoff can quickly turn into flood waters. An increase in hard surfaces also inhibits the natural filtration of the runoff as it enters the ground. Natural filtration helps to reduce the pollutant load carried in the runoff. To summarize, an increase in impervious surfaces raises concerns with the volume, velocity, and the natural ability of vegetation to reduce the pollutant load in stormwater runoff.

Few people realize the MS4 program exists, and even fewer realize its function. Many agencies and organizations at the local and state level work to ensure the quality of the state’s water resources remains high by protecting them from pollutants. Some of these operate without regulatory authority, meaning that while the agency strives to protect water resources, the agency is only able to educate and make recommendations to protect water quality. These agencies have not been provided with the legal authority to compel anyone to comply with practices or requirements that will keep our waters safe for

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drinking and recreating. Indiana's Soil & Water Conservation Districts would be an example of an agency without statutory authority. Other agencies, such as MS4's, have been provided with a legal means to enforce regulations; however, it should be noted that even with legal authority, the agency must not overstep its authority provided in statute. The agency can only act and enforce in a manner consistent with applicable laws, and it can only regulate within its designated jurisdiction.

MS4s, agencies, and organizations throughout Indiana are working hard every day to keep Indiana's waterways clean for the enjoyment of all; however, the burden of ensuring clean water falls to all of us. This includes the public at large, businesses, and industries. You can help spread the word about storm water pollution prevention and play a part in keeping Steuben County's water resources, Indiana's water resources, and waters of the U.S. clean and safe for all.

Water Quality Committee Report

Submitted by Bill Schmidt—Vice Chairman

The testing for DNA has continued. The sampling for 2021 was conducted on June 10. A total of nineteen (19) sites were tested. Of the nineteen sites, thirteen sites had E.coli levels above 235 (mpn/100 ml). Eighteen of the nineteen sites had DNA test results above 35 (Human DNA/100ml). This frequency occurrence was greater than the results from the October 2020 testing. The 2021 samples were collected after a rain event. The run off from the rain, after a long dry spell, could explain the higher results.

One of the sample sites showed an unexpected result. The E.coli test showed extremely low E.coli. The test site was the discharge from a waste treatment facility. However, the DNA tests indicated extremely high DNA for all the DNA screened. Those DNA were human, dog, bovine and poultry. What this test result shows is that a waste treatment facility removes E.coli associated with fecal material, but does not remove DNA.

The Water Quality Committee met in early August. The major topic of discussion was the DNA testing. A discussion concerning where the program was headed was the topic. Several options were discussed. One option was to do DNA testing on a rotating basis, every third or fourth year. Another was to continue testing on a yearly basis. The reason was this would provide a database for data comparison. It was also decided that the cost of the DNA testing would be divided evenly between the requesting lake association and the Lake Council. This funding will be made to the finance committee at their November meeting.

The Water Quality Committee meetings are open to all. If you would like to be notified of the next meeting, please notify the office.

Continued from Page 18 -Jimmerson Lake

The annual membership meeting in August was also held at the Pleasant Township Trustee's office. Our guest speaker was none other than Pleasant Township Trustee Mike McClelland. He told us about plans to remodel the building. They include adding a complete kitchen, sleeping areas and a back-up generator, so residents might use the building during power outages or other emergencies. There are also plans to stage fire trucks there with firefighters available 24/7. And an EMS vehicle might also be kept there, especially during the summer months.

Jean Sweigart has resigned as JLA treasurer to start a new chapter of her life. We are so grateful for her 12 years of tireless service. Thank you, Jean. We wish you and husband Dave (chicken BBQ organizer and cook extraordinaire) the best. Jodi Moreland was elected as the new treasurer for JLA. We extend a welcome and thank you to Jodi.

Once again, the JLA did its part to make the summer fun and safe for all. As autumn comes and we soon retrieve the buoys and flags from the lake, we hope for a repeat Christmas visit (or longer) of the trumpeter swans.

LAKE GEORGE

Submitted by Dave Sorg

The summer at Lake George was fantastic with a variety of events. These events included Light Up the Lake on Memorial Day weekend, a great boat parade and spectacular fireworks on the 4th of July, a hog roast on August 28 hosted by the Lake George Conservancy and the display of luminaries around the lake on Labor Day weekend. The Lake George Conservancy District (LGCD) coordinated the treatment of approximately 30 acres of Eurasian Water Milfoil and 80 acres of Starry Stonewort. The LGCD is presently working with state and county officials in both Indiana and Michigan to obtain FEMA grant funding and financing for improvements to the Lake George dam. Our partnership with Steuben County officials has been particularly noteworthy and we anticipate construction of the dam improvements in 2023. The DNR also completed a fish study in early June, netting a total of 1,110 fish which included 18 different species and we look forward to receiving a more complete set of results this fall.



HAMILTON LAKE*Submitted by Cheryl Silverhart*

2021 has been a busy year on our beautiful 834-acre lake. We kicked off the summer with our Annual DNR boating class. The class is highly recommended for new people to the water, as well as seasoned boaters. Our next class will be held on Saturday, May 7, 2022. It runs from 8 AM to 4 PM and is FREE of charge. All are welcome! Mark your calendars.

We also held a successful "goose roundup" in which we relocated 88 geese.

We held our annual Poker Run in July, and in August our Annual Hamilton Lake Association meeting with guest speaker, Debbie King - Aquatic Vegetation Permit Biologist, IDNR. Weed control was the focus of the discussion.

The year ended with our annual Summerfest. This year "metal suns", painted by local artists, were auctioned with the benefits going to the Parks and Recreation Department. It was an excellent fundraiser for the community. Thanks to all of the artists who participated!

JIMMERSON LAKE*Submitted by Ken Erlenbaugh*

We went into last fall and winter with hopes of the return of the trumpeter swan family that showed up and hung around for a couple of months the year before. Well, that particular family didn't seem to make a return visit. But on Christmas Day, if you were lucky enough to see them, hundreds of migrating trumpeter swans spent the afternoon on Jimmerson Lake. They seemed to enjoy their Christmas dinner, a little relaxation and then departed before sunset. Our resident mute swans sure kept their distance while their visiting relatives were around.

We had another winter in which the lake did eventually freeze over, but there were not many days when it was safe enough to get on it and enjoy.

In the spring, the Jimmerson Lake Association board began meeting in our new meeting location, the Pleasant Township Trustee's office, 2510 N 200 W, in the Boat House's former front office and garage. It's a very accommodating facility with pretty good coffee.

Also new this year is the Jimmerson Lake Association (JLA) Facebook page: [mbl.fyi/jla](https://www.facebook.com/mbl.fyi/jla). Follow us if you would like; troll us if you must.

Using a state Lake and River Enhancement (LARE) grant, we sprayed again for the invasive Eurasian milfoil weed. We also had two sprayings to treat invasive starry stonewort funded by a federal Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant. Unfortunately, the starry stonewort is spreading to many areas of the lake that weren't in the current treatment plan. As of this writing, next year's LARE grants are being submitted, with a meeting planned in October with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to finalize treatment plans.

As reported the last several years, we had been making headway with our resident mute swan population by oiling their eggs. As vigilant as we were with the oiling this spring, we ended up with two different broods of cygnets. Possibly one of the broods could have traveled from upstream. Or could it be they are evolving and laying oil-resistant eggs?

*Continued on Page 19***MEMBERSHIP NOTES****Submitted by Cheri Carpenter, SCLC Office Manager**

Thank you to everyone who sent their membership contribution in for 2021. 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 2022 will be sent out in January 2022. **Cut off for names to appear for scholarship contributions is May 15, 2022.**

Steuben County Lakes Council offers an annual scholarship to a student from Steuben Co. pursuing a degree in Environmental Science or Civil Engineering. For more information about qualifications, please call the SCLC office at (260) 665-1730, email at office@lakescouncil.org, or contact us via our Facebook page.

**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 First Congregational United Church of Christ, 314 West Maumee, Angola, IN, at 8:30 A.M. Exception: The August 13th meeting will be at the Lake James Christian Camp & Retreat Center at 8:00 A.M. The meetings are open to the public. Come join the discussions and help us keep the lakes and streams clean and beautiful.

The Start – 50 Years Ago

Submitted by Pete Hippensteel, Technical Vice President

In 1973, the year after the Steuben County Lakes Council was officially formed as a not-for-profit corporation, Congressman, J. Edward Roush spoke on several environmental issues affecting Indiana. During the discussion he gave comments on items related to these issues. His comments are reflected in bold lettering.

Congressman Roush spoke of Indiana's economy at the time and specifically commented on Steuben County's economic success. He offered the following opinion, **"Steuben County is a rural county and yet Steuben County had the highest per capita retail sales in 1972 of any counties in the State of Indiana. Why? Because of the Lakes."** Congressman Roush understood the relationship between Steuben County lakes and the economic boon these lakes supported. In the 50 years since, we have engaged in several studies that continue to highlight the economic importance of the lakes.

"There is a study in the Crooked-James area to consider the feasibility of a sewage system."

Many of the water quality issues that have been resolved over the past 50 years can be attributed to the development of Alternative Waste Treatment Systems for Rural Lake Projects served by Cluster Systems. The expansion of the wide central sewer system known as the Steuben Lakes Regional Waste District to many homes in the lake areas has significantly reduced the amount of sewage effluent entering our lakes through failed septic systems.

"Northern Indiana has a number of small lakes that have water quality issues. Much of the technology that has been developed in trying to save Lake Erie."

The last 50 years has seen the completion of the soil survey that took place throughout Indiana. Farmers, planners, community officials, engineers, developers, builders, and home buyers can use this survey to plan land use. The Steuben County Soil and Water Conservation District coordinates the soil survey with corresponding management plans. The Pigeon Creek Watershed Management Plan, Fawn River Watershed Management Plan, and Upper St. Joseph Watershed Management Plan have provided practical solutions that have been implemented for the reduction of sediment and phosphorous into our lakes. State-sponsored Clean Water Indiana and Lake and River Enhancement initiatives in Steuben County have helped to solve lake quality issues since the early 2000's.

"Phosphorous is one of the major causes of eutrophication. The State of Indiana has recently adopted regulations which will allow us to operate our permit program." The last 50 years have seen point source pollution and impacts to water quality slowly beginning to be addressed. Over this period, the combined storm overflows of Angola were much reduced. Finally, by the year 2000, significant reductions in phosphate and bacteria in the Long Lake chain were made. Finally, the address of non-point source pollution is now still slowly reducing the phosphorus entering many lakes.

"A group of concerned citizens who were faced with making a response to some pressing environmental problems in Steuben County." The first President of the Lakes Council, Dr. William Hill, with officer members Elaine Hawkins and Oscar Moser spoke at the Northeastern Indiana Lakes Conference. We credit these members and the many others who have all helped the "concerned citizens". We planted a seed that has grown into thousands of members who have contributed time and money to a successful organization for 50 years.

FOX LAKE

Submitted by Kevin Colbert

Life At Fox Lake

In the wake of COVID-19, life resumed on Fox Lake at a much slower pace than normal. However, it has been a treasure. Time spent with family and friends boating, fishing, and frolicking at the beach is precious. In June, we celebrated the legacy of Sojourner Truth and the unveiling of her statue at the Courthouse. For July 4th, we witnessed fireworks from our boats on the lake. We will host our annual Labor Day brunch on September 5th. We hope to resume our annual activities such as Light the Night at full capacity in 2022.



Photo courtesy of Fox Lake Rep, Kevin Colbert

CROOKED LAKE*Submitted by Dave Rosebrock***GREETINGS FROM CROOKED LAKE**

Another year is flying by as we are nearly at Labor Day once again. We had some nice weather this Summer, while some might say too hot and too humid. Great for lake activities though.

We also had some badly needed rain so the lake level is back to a good place. Hopefully that means fewer damaged props.

The biggest sad news of the year was the loss of Captains Cabin when the owners sold the property to be used to construct some condos. The Cabin, which started out as a fishing camp in the early days, had been a part of the Crooked Lake community since before most of us can remember.

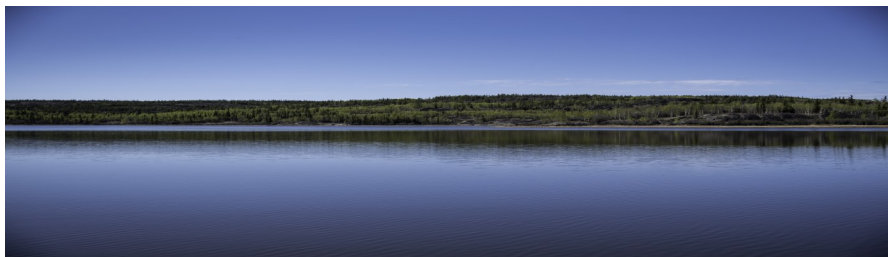
A major project for our lake actually took place late in 2020 when volunteers coordinated by the Crooked Lake Association improved the Dam at the far end of our third basin. While we paid for rock and other materials, all the labor was donated by association members! A great job!

Our Annual Meeting was on Saturday, June 19 at the 4H Park. We were able to meet back indoors this year. A representative of Aquatic Weed Control provided an excellent review of current efforts to control invasive weeds in our lake. We continue to spend considerable resources to keep the weeds at bay, so we can enjoy Summer lake activities. In addition, four residents volunteered for the first time to join the Board during the meeting!

The fourth of July weekend was our busiest of the year including Fireworks on the 2nd, our Boat Parade on the 3rd, and the Freedom 5 Run and Walk on the 4th. As usual, many hours of Association Board members and others were needed to make it all work. After missing 2020 because of COVID, we managed to attract a respectable 411 participants for Freedom 5 this year.

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 give so generously of their time and talents to sponsor fun activities as well as their efforts to keep our lake clean and safe!

**Let's Talk Limnology**

Submitted by Steve Schroeder, President Elect & Vicki Lamb

The SCLC August meeting doubled in attendance coming out to hear the candor from guest speaker, Dr. Jerry Sweeten.

Dr. Sweeten is the founder of Ecosystem Connections Institute, LLC, an environmental consulting, research and educational service, that focuses on ecological restoration of the area waterways and lakes and their habitat. He enjoys talking waterways and loves fish, water ecology, teaching and preservation. In other words, he is a Limnologist.

As a Biology and Environmental PHD, he specializes in Stream and Lake Restoration, focusing on conservation partnerships, using ecological science and education.

His company is currently working in partnership with Lake Wawasee studying their lake nutrients, chemistry, geology, sediments load and stream discharge characteristics.

Dr. Sweeten boldly stated his message and delivered eye-opening facts about the leading cause of our lake dysfunction, SEDIMENT.

Yes, the fact is suspended sediments is filling up our lakes at an alarming rate exposing and damaging the lakes sensitive ecosystems.

Sediments is loose particles that settle at the bottom of a body of water. Erosive sediment is the most common pollutant to our waterways according to the EPA.

Fact: Natural erosion produces 30% of the total sediment to our waterways, the "bad" accelerated erosive type produces 70% and is more concentrated. This is what fills our lakes and causes oxygen depletion, chemical toxicity, and destroys the ecosystem and our property.

So, what is accelerated erosive sediment? Gully washers and run off.

Where does this sediment run off come from? Poorly regulated construction sites, over building, erosion, slope failures, flooding from the extreme storms, sewer overflows, waste dumping, run off from pesticides, agricultural run off, industrial discharge, excessive boat traffic, wetland disappearance, shore destruction from signature powerful waves, and water dumping.

What are the dangers?

Because of the accelerated erosive action, adverse effects do occur with harmful and often permanent results.

The depth of the lake is impacted effecting wildlife and recreational activities. Property and shoreland damage occurs as soil erodes. The water becomes cloudy, the sun is blocked and deprives needed habitats and food chains. Harmful algae grows. This sediment carries pollutants such as heavy metals and pesticides destroying water quality. Loss of the species occur, like the mudpuppy and fish communities. People can be exposed to dangerous levels of toxic contaminants when they eat contaminated fish. Direct contact is also possible for swimmers, waders, and skiers.

What can we do?

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If we pay no attention, this sediment may reduce our beloved lake to an unusable site.

Climate change, erosion, over building and construction, deforestation, dumping, lake over use, weed spraying are all sources to acceleration.

Understand what's coming and taking place on your lake. Be aware. Get involved, stay informed.

Investigation and regulations may be necessary.

So be aware, share this information. Be a good steward to the environment. It's a collective endeavor. It's a collective accountability.

"We are the last people who can prevent a catastrophe on the planet, we have no excuse for failure."

101 Lakes Trust - A Little Known Resource

Submitted by Amy Oberlin, Secretary, 101 Lakes Trust

Matthews receives Environmental Visionary Award

Ryan Matthews was presented with the 101 Lakes Trust's premiere Environmental Visionary Award at its annual meeting Aug. 11 at the Wild Turkey Shelter at Trine State Recreation Area.

Over the past couple of years, Matthews has conserved two lakeshore lots through conservation easements with the 101 Lakes Trust. A conservation easement is a legal agreement a landowner makes with a nonprofit trust to limit the type and amount of development on the property in perpetuity. It provides tax savings and the promise that it will remain a natural area.

Matthews, a Murfreesboro, Tennessee resident who also owns Steuben County property, purchased small lots on Lake Meserve near Pleasant Lake and Arrowhead Lake in western Steuben County to protect them.

"He's brought the conservation easements to us and he's helped us grow," said 101 Lakes Trust President Janet Albright. She said Matthews' partnership with the land trust speaks to its mission: to protect and enhance Steuben County's natural and built environment of lakes, rolling hills, streams and neighborhoods, and to stimulate and support a sense of community through conservation and research.

The 101 Lakes Trust also protects the Powers Reserve in eastern Steuben County, owned by more than five generations by the Powers family. The 101 Lakes Trust was an integral force in facilitating the protection of what is now Trine State Recreation Area. It was formed through the Steuben County Lakes Council as a nonprofit organization after the former Christian camp was listed for sale with a focus on preserving a natural area. It was noted at the annual meeting that Matthews' participation in conservation through the 101 Lakes Trust is fitting as his father, Ron Matthews, is former president of the Steuben County Lake Council.

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inlet have worked hard trying to get this done. This will allow the property owners to regain full use of their waterfront. Trying to secure funding to help clean out the full silt trap on the up-stream side of the inlet has proven difficult. This will be an ongoing project.

Mute Swans have been a big issue for us again this year. We are working with the USDA and IDNR on mitigating this issue. We are hopeful that once this issue is resolved, Trumpeter Swans, which are native to the area, will begin to come back to our lake.

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

CLEAR LAKE

Submitted by Bridget Harrison

The Clear Lake community heartily embraced summer water activities, family time and outdoor gatherings throughout the summer of 2021.

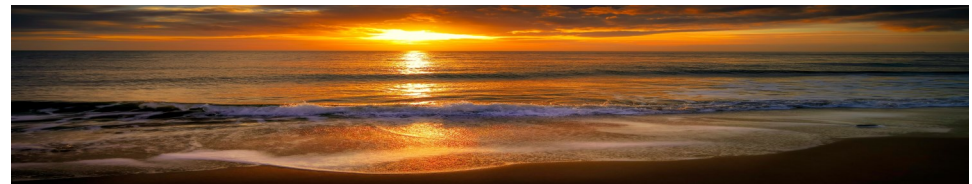
The community-supported Clear Lake Association (CLA) wowed us again with a spectacular fireworks display for the Fourth of July ("best ever" said many). CLA also launched a project to upgrade the buoy system at Clear Lake.

Lakes encourage activity! The Clear Lake Yacht Club upgraded its clubhouse with new and handicap-accessible bathrooms for members and activities. The Ski Club Show featured young water sport skills and the recently refurbished tennis and pickle-ball courts got steady use from all ages. The Clear Lake Township Land Conservancy's "Clear and Healthy" program celebrated the Conservancy's 30th Anniversary and encouraged residents and visitors to enjoy the outdoors for prizes and fun while raising funds for Conservancy programs.

The Conservancy also completed three major projects over the summer: the hiking trail at Brennan Woods, the re-landscaping of Kasota Island, and the two-stage ditch and constructed wetland at Settlers Wetland Nature Preserve. These projects enhance the preservation and enjoyment of our natural environment.

The Conservancy continued its 10+ year water testing program and began a long-range Watershed Diagnostic Study to identify water quality improvement opportunities. An assessment was completed of highly aggressive, non-native aquatic plants that interfere with swimming, boating, reduce water quality, and leave shoreline debris. A public educational presentation about the assessment results is planned for Fall 2021 and treatment is expected to begin in 2022.

It takes support from the entire community to protect our natural resources for future generations. We hope everyone enjoys each upcoming season before we meet again next summer!



SHORELINES 2021, SUBMITTED BY LAKE REPS

BALL LAKE

Submitted by Cecilia Wyse

Ball Lake is a little lake...but yet it is powerful for what it gives back to us. We tend to be a group that relishes the natural part of lake life. We appreciate the still water that often comes with a misty morning, as the blue heron struts along the shoreline. The osprey and kingfisher entertain us with their unique fishing abilities. Turtles and leatherbacks find the best places to bask in the sun. The frolicking river otters are lovable ... but not so much the beaver and the millions and millions of cicadas!

This little lake also filled the summer with picnics, laughter, the 4th annual *Music on the Lake*, pontoon promenades, and a meet and greet with non-motorized water craft in the center of the lake. Now we await the performance of fall.

BIG & LITTLE OTTER LAKE

Submitted by Joe Lantz

Not much to report with our lake association meeting being after Labor Day. It seems we have a better turnout in doing that. There is a brand new development on St. Rd. 120 by the gas station and a convenience store. There will be storage units to the back of the 80-90 toll road. It will be interesting to see how much more water run off the lake will receive. I'd like to wish everyone a safe and happy fall and winter.

BIG TURKEY LAKE

Submitted by Scott Harris

It has been a great year so far at Big Turkey Lake. While COVID-19 is still a major issue around the area, we have been fortunate enough to get "somewhat" back to normal. We were able to hold our semi-annual Big Turkey Lake Improvement Association meetings this year. Unfortunately, last year we had to cancel both meetings. These meetings are crucial to get input and provide feedback for the direction of lake projects.

Our fundraising efforts have been very good again this year. All of the money raised goes directly back into further improving our lake.

Our invasive weed spraying for Eurasian Water Milfoil has been very successful over the last several years. EWM is the only weed the DNR allows to be sprayed under our LARE Grant. This May, only 12 acres of EWM was found, versus 90+ acres a few years ago. Curly Leaf Pond Weed caused some issues on our lake, as well as many lakes around the area this year. We will apply for a special permit next year to treat for CLPW.

We have been able to secure a LARE Grant to help with dredging the inlet to BTL at Turkey Creek. We have also secured permitting from the IDNR. The BTLIA and the property owners along the

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The meeting opened with a reprise of the TSRA purchase by Steuben County's Trine family in 2006. The Trines gifted the 200 acres to the State of Indiana in 2007 as an arm of Pokagon State Park.

The properties preserved by Matthews are on the other end of the scale: very small tracts, but valuable natural areas on ever more developed lakes. The 101 Lakes Trust likes to go by the "Yoda rule" — "size matters not."

Matthews said he was grateful for the award and is pursuing further Steuben County lakeside properties to put into conservation easements. Through the agreements, he owns the land and may use it but may not alter its natural state or build on it. At Lake Meserve, he plans to plant fruit trees.

To learn more about the 101 Lakes Trust and conservation easement opportunities, contact Al-bright at 419-261-3333 or email to jalbright@bex.net



BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATES 2021

BUSINESS

Andrews & Shipe LLC	JMR Cottage, Inc.
Anstead's Meats	J. W. Services
Big D's Bait & Tackle/Archery	Steve Jennings—Ecowater
Bradley Overhead Doors, LLC	Lakeland Electronics/Larry's Lock & Safe
Budreau , Austin—State Farm	Lawnscape Garden Center
Campbell & Fetter Bank	McLatcher Refrigeration, Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc.
City of Angola, MS4	Metropolitan Title of Indiana, LLC
Core Promo, Inc.	Midwest American Fed. Credit Union
Cress Law Group	Peter Franklin Jewelers
Croxton & Roe Insurance	Pleasant Township Trustee
Culligan Water	Sanborn's For Your Home
Current Mechanical	Satek Winery
Farmers State Bank	Special Cutting Tools
First Federal Savings Bank of Angola	Steuben County Community Foundation
Fort Financial Credit Union	Steuben County REMC
Franz Nursery,	Steuben County Tourism Bureau
G & C Farming, LLC	The Corner Landing
Gay's Hops-N-Schnapps	Tom's Donuts
Hartland Winery	Wayside Furniture
Hotrod Golf Carts	Will's Heating & Air, Inc.
Indiana Warm Floors	
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 Association
Fox Lake Property Owners	North Otter Lake Association
Hamilton Lake Association	Pine Canyon Lake Association
Indian Lakes Sub. (Lk. Arrowhead)	Silver Lake Association
Jimmerson Lake Property Owners Assoc.	Snow Lake Cottagers Association
Lake Gage/Lime Lake Association	West Otter Lake Property Owners
	Whisper Bay Condo Association

Thank You!

ENVIRONMENTAL INTERESTS

Aquatic Enhancement & Survey, Inc.	Clear Lake Yacht Club
Aquatic Management, Inc.	Lake George Conservancy, Inc.
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

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

REALTORS

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

PROFESSIONAL

Bowen Center
 Danford, Thomas, C.P.A.
 Duch, Ronald V., D.D.S.
 Lake James Christian Camp
 & Retreat Center
 Lake James Lutheran Chapel
 McCardle, Dan, C.P.A.
 Scheumann Dental Associates
 Wernet, Lynn C.P.A.

CAMPGROUNDS, CONDOS, PARKS

Hi-Vue Campground
 Jimmerson Shore Cooperative, Inc.
 Jimmerson Woods Cooperative
 KOA Campground (Angola/Hogback Lake)
 Manapogo Park
 Pow Wow Point RV Park, LLC
 Russell's Point, MP, LLC
 Sheehans Hamilton Lake Mobile Home Park

RESTAURANTS

Caruso's Restaurant
 Mad Anthony Lakeview Ale House

CONSTRUCTION/DEVELOPER

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

