



# LOON'S CALL

LOON LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

WINTER 2022

"Working together for a fun, safe and scenic lake community"

## LOON LAKE FISH MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

BY BOB BARKLEY



For those unaware, the Loon Lake Fish Management Program (LLFMP) was created in 2013 after the State of Indiana ended its 32-year muskie stocking program at Loon Lake. The group is a not-for-profit organization created by and comprised of area homeowners and anglers committed to the enhancement of Loon Lake and the preservation of the muskie fish

population and other fish species.

Based on advice from the DNR, LLFMP committed to funding a 3-year stocking program of up to 400 muskies and 1,500 walleyes into Loon Lake. Thanks to the generosity of donors, patrons, and area homeowners, we have been able to stock fish for the last 9 years. To date, we have stocked 2,725 Muskies and 12,400 Walleye. To put our efforts in perspective, I requested permission and am allowed to share early data from the DNR lift netting survey completed in April of 2021.

Last Spring, 46 Muskies were collected, ranging in size from 14.1 inches to 45.5 inches. 12 were larger than 40 inches. The survey catch rate of 5.4 Muskies per net lift was better than the normal average of 3.9 per net lift.

32 Walleye were collected ranging in size from 12.7 inches to 28.4 inches (see picture above). 17 were 20 inches or larger. Based on our efforts, Loon Lake is now included on the list of Indiana Walleye Waters. See the following link to Indiana DNR, or Google Indiana Walleye Waters for more information. [DNR: Fish & Wildlife: Walleye Fishing](https://www.in.gov/dnr/fish-and-wildlife/fishing/walleye-fishing/)- <https://www.in.gov/dnr/fish-and-wildlife/fishing/walleye-fishing/>

I know that all the members of the Fish Management Program join me in thanking all of you for helping us achieve these results. We will begin our 2022 fund raising activities soon and announce the dates for the Annual Corn Hole Tournament and Muskie Shootout.

## '22 LAKE events

**09** | aluminum can  
APRIL | PICK-UP 9AM

aluminum can | **14**  
PICK-UP 9AM | MAY

**21** | spring meeting  
MAY | 7722 ARNOLD 9AM

kids fishing derby | **04**  
BOAT LAUNCH | JUNE

**10 & 11** | association  
JUNE | GARAGE  
JUNE | SALES

**11** | aluminum can  
JUNE | PICK-UP 9AM

lighted boat | **01**  
PARADE | JULY

**02** | 5.5k  
JULY | WALK/RUN  
pancake  
BREAKFAST  
sailboat  
RACE  
kayak  
FLOATILLA  
fire  
WORKS

aluminum can | **09**  
PICK-UP 9AM | JULY

**TBD** | poker run  
DOGS & BRATS

annual | **06**  
GOLF OUTING | AUG

**13** | aluminum can  
AUG | PICK-UP 9AM

fall meeting | **27**  
7722 ARNOLD 9AM | AUG  
LLFM corn hole | **TBD**  
TOURNAMENT

**10** | aluminum can  
SEPT | PICK-UP 9AM

LLFM muskie | **TBD**  
SHOOTOUT

# LOON LAKE CONTACTS

All Area Codes 260 unless noted

## OFFICERS

Rich Nelson, President-----799-4913  
Patti Thomas, Vice President -----402-5720  
Tena Miller, Treasurer-----213-0638  
Carol Kurtz, Secretary-----799-4980

## DIRECTORS

Bob Gallivan -----820-1240  
Steve Weaver -----799-4195  
Gary Hicks -----403-7691  
Clark Milestone -----348-5706  
Lindsay Gallmeyer -----704-0993  
Brian Clark -----438-2322  
Karen Treat -----438-7968  
Geoff Velpel -----602-5996

## CHAIRPERSONS \*Denotes Board Liaison

5.5K Run/Walk----- (Heather Klemm) \*Gary 615-3644  
By-Laws ----- (Rich Nelson) 799-4913  
Can Collection ----- (Bob Gallivan) 820-1240  
Finance Committee----- (Tena Miller) 213-0638  
Fire Hydrants----- (Terry Huffman) \*Gary 609-8691  
Fireworks----- (Brian Clark) 438-2322  
Garage Sale----- (Linda Archer) \*Lindsay 341-2895  
Golf Tournament ----- (Kirk Smith) \*Steve 341-1657  
Kayak Flotilla----- (Darrell Post) \*Gary 322-7681  
Kids Fishing Day ----- (JoAn Butler) \*Carol 466-6207  
Lake Enhancement----- (Walt Hessler) 799-4903  
Lighted Boat Parade ----- (Carol Kurtz) 799-4980  
Loon Lake Apparel----- (Karen Treat) 438-7968  
Loon Lisle Reserve ----- (Clark Milestone) 213-0638  
Media Sign-- (Linda Garrison) \*Lindsay 765-251-3955  
Newsletter/Email ----- (Lindsay Gallmeyer) 704-0993  
Pancake Breakfast----- (Karen Treat) 438-7968  
Poker Run ----- (**Volunteer Needed**) \*Tena 213-0638  
Sailboat Race ----- (Tom Zahm) \*Gary 341-8349  
Safety Committee (Steve Burman) \*Geoff 317-440-3314  
ULTRA Rep ----- (Tena Miller) 213-0638  
Water Quality Testing---- (Rick Miller) \*Tena 213-0639  
Website Updates----- (Lindsay Gallmeyer) 704-0993  
Welcome Committee----- (Patti Thomas) 402-5720

## COMMUNITY-POLICE/FIRE/HEALTH

DNR ----- 244-3720  
Whitley County Sheriff ----- 244-6410  
Whitley County Fire ----- 248-8911  
Whitley County Health Dept----- 248-3121  
Noble County Sheriff----- 636-2182  
Noble County Fire ----- 799-9987  
Noble County Health Dept----- 636-2191

## COMMUNITY-OTHER

Columbia City Utilities -----248-5110  
Humane Society -----244-6664  
Noble REMC -----636-2113 or 800-933-7362  
The Watershed Foundation -----574-834-3242  
Tri-Lakes Sewer District -----691-2820

### **After Hours Emergency number --- 609-9680**

(Do NOT call for normal business issues-- use after hours only)



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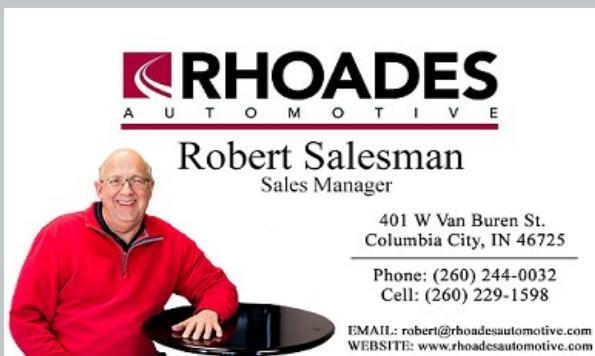


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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY RICH NELSON

The go-to place for all Loon Lake information is as close as your smart phone, tablet, or computer: [www.loonlakeindiana.org](http://www.loonlakeindiana.org). For example, under the "Events" heading there you can track dates for future lake activities, including the monthly aluminum Can Pick-Up. In fact, you can mark your calendar right now for our spring membership meeting on May 21st at 9:30! Under the "About" heading you can find phone contacts for officers and board members, as well as for neighborhood concerns like utilities, the DNR, and non-emergency numbers for fire and sheriff. There is also some Loon Lake history and a link to the LLPOA by-laws. You can also find rules and other information about our 7.3 acre Loon Lisle Nature Reserve on the southeast part of the lake, along with the form you can use to reserve it for an activity.

My favorite part of the "About" section contains short biographies (with photos) of our officers and board members. Can you find out which officer moved to Loon Lake on a Christmas Eve? Or which board member and spouse are rabid Michigan State Spartans fans? Who has posted a picture of his Miata rather than his face?

Recent board meeting minutes are displayed under "News," along with other information of interest, such as copies of earlier Loon's Call newsletters and a report on water quality. "Apparel" will tell you all about Loon Lake branded merchandise, such as T-shirts, sweat shirts, blankets, tote bags – and even stuffed animals! Not surprisingly, there is also "Donation" page with valuable information. Most pages have a button for you to sign up to be on the association's email list, if you are not already on it.

As a bonus there are some beautiful lake photos and on every page a reminder of the LLPOA watchword: "Working together for a fun, safe and scenic lake community." Check it out!

Rich Nelson  
LLPOA President



Get your Loon Lake window sticker for your car, boat or front door! Only \$3.00 each! Get yours at the association meetings or contact Karen Treat - 260-438-7968.

## LOON LAKE'S WATER— WHERE IT COMES FROM/WHERE IT GOES

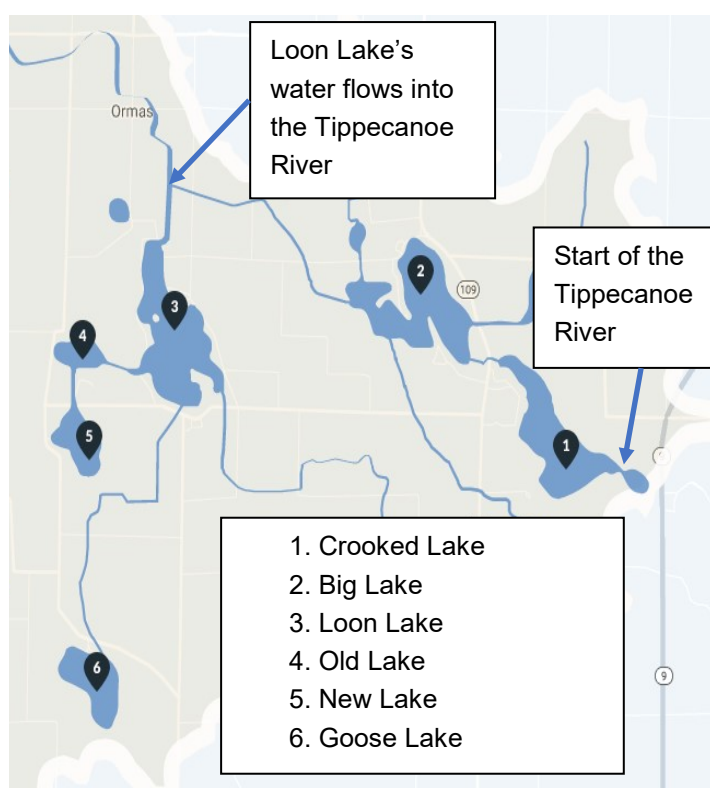
BY WALT HESSLER

Loon Lake is in the upper portion of the Tippecanoe River Watershed. We are a vital member of the Tippecanoe Watershed, and we are considered part of the headwaters of the Tippecanoe River. The following is a simplified description of where our water comes from and where it ultimately goes.

There are three main inlets supplying water to Loon Lake. The Friskney Ditch brings water in near the public access site on the south side of the lake. This ditch starts out and travels through the farmland south and east of Loon Lake. The water traveling through this ditch goes through a retention pond created by the Loon Lake Property Owners Association (LLPOA) back in the 1990s. The retention pond is designed to filter out some of the sediment that comes from the farm fields that surround the Friskney Ditch. There are efforts being made by The Watershed Foundation (TWF) to further reduce the sediment and improve the quality of the water entering Loon Lake from the Friskney Ditch.

The Winters Ditch is also located on the south end of Loon Lake and comes into the lake near the corner of CR250 and CR700. This water comes out of Goose Lake and travels north through farmland to Loon Lake. This is again a potential target for long term plans for water quality improvements being made by TWF.

The third major contributor to Loon Lake's water is the short ditch that runs from Old Lake. Old Lake's water comes from New Lake. Ultimately the water from New and Old Lakes comes into Loon Lake. The quality of the water coming from this inlet is typically very good since it comes from two lakes and is minimally influenced by agricultural runoff.



All of Loon Lake's water flows to the north and exits Loon Lake through the ditch (Shaefer Drain) on the north end of the Lake near Buckles Road. Downstream this water combines with the water coming from Crooked Lake and Big Lake. According to the Director of the US Geological Survey the start of the Tippecanoe River is the tiny channel flowing from Little Crooked Lake to Crooked Lake. Thus, Loon Lake's outgoing water goes downstream and immediately flows into what is considered the early stages of the Tippecanoe River. This combined water flows north and west through Smally Lake. The water then flows west into Wilmot Pond, which is formed by a small dam on its western side. After Wilmot, Tippecanoe River crosses into Kosciusko County and enters Backwaters Lake, the basin of Webster Lake. After going over the dam at Webster Lake, the river travels a few miles and enters Lake Tippecanoe. The water exiting Lake Tippecanoe reforms and

continues as the Tippecanoe River. The water in the Tippecanoe River then flows into the Wabash River, then into the Ohio River, then into the Mississippi River and empties into the Gulf of Mexico. As you can see Loon Lake's water travels a long way! (Continued on page 5)



## LOON LAKE'S WATER (CONT'D FROM PG 4)

BY WALT HESSLER

One of the most important parts of Loon Lake's water's path to the Gulf of Mexico is its trip through the Tippecanoe River. The Miami and Shawnee Indians named the Tippecanoe River Kithtippecanunk, or "place of the buffalo fish," which still can be found in the river. Its clear waters and wooded shores provide rich habitat for the abundance of fish, mussels and wildlife that live here. Very few streams in the upper Midwest can match the number of imperiled species or the overall species diversity that the Tippecanoe River supports. The Nature Conservancy has identified it as one of the top ten rivers in the United States to preserve due to its ecological diversity and the high proportion of endangered species found in it.

Loon Lake plays an important role in the Tippecanoe River and its watershed. This is great news for Loon Lake homeowners. Because of the importance of the Tippecanoe River watershed, we receive assistance with water quality improvements through grants and the work done by TWF. The LLPOA Board and the TWF will continue to work to protect and improve Loon Lake's water quality. We hope you can appreciate the impact Loon Lake plays in a much larger water quality plan.

## SAFETY ON THE ICE

BY THE LOON LAKE SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources gives the following guidelines to judge the safety of fresh solid ice:

**One inch of ice-STAY OFF!!!**

**Four inches of ice-Needed for safe ice fishing**

**Five inches of ice-Needed for snowmobiling**

**Eight inches of ice-Needed to support a car or light truck.**

**Ten inches of ice-Needed to support a medium weight truck.**

Visit the website -<https://www.in.gov/dnr/fish-and-wildlife/fishing/ice-fishing-safely/> to read the full article and for more info including ice safety videos.



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## DONATIONS NEEDED

The Loon Lake Fish Management Program needs donations for the 8th annual fish stocking.

**2021 Goal- 400 Muskie and 1500 Walleye**

Mail donations to: LLFMP

7350 N. Brown Rd. Columbia City, IN 46725

Questions? 260-348-5706, [lake46725@gmail.com](mailto:lake46725@gmail.com)



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## LOON LAKE POKER RUN - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

BY LLPOA BOARD



The Poker Run has been an annual tradition for years at Loon Lake. Boaters travel around the lake to collect cards, hoping to score the best hand and win a prize. The prizes are donated by residents and local businesses...there's something for everyone, young and old. It is one of biggest fundraisers for the Loon Lake Fireworks Fund.

Kathy and Phil Ehinger have organized the Poker Run for the past few years and have done an amazing job! Thank you Kathy and Phil!!! They have asked to step down and would like to give someone else the opportunity to take over this year. We are currently seeking a volunteer to head the Loon Lake Poker Run for 2022. Please email [loonlakemail@gmail.com](mailto:loonlakemail@gmail.com) or contact one of the LLPOA board members if you are interested in learning more about taking over this fun event.



## LOON LAKE APPAREL

BY KAREN TREAT

For your Loon Lake apparel needs, please call or text message Karen Treat at 260-438-7968. Loon Lake heat transfer design options are pictured above. Karen can send you three pages of shirt colors to choose from. Below are just a few items and prices available. Find more on the Loon Lake website: [www.loonlakeindiana.org/apparel](http://www.loonlakeindiana.org/apparel).

Screen-Printing	Price
T-shirts S-XL	\$12
T-shirts 2XL-3XL	\$14
T-shirts 4XL-5XL	\$16
T-shirts Youth	\$12
Sweatshirts S-XL	\$24
Sweatshirts 2XL-3XL	\$29
Sweatshirts 4XL-5XL	\$30
Sweatshirts Youth	\$24

# LOON'S CALL

## LOON LISLE NATURE RESERVE

BY CAROL KURTZ

It has been an exciting year of progress for the Loon Lisle Nature Reserve. Prairie planting preparation for grasses and wildflowers occurred throughout the summer including grading, path marking, tree planting, and patio paver installation. The seeds will be planted by February 1st coinciding with snowfall for moisture.



There is a fundraiser underway to engrave pavers for the Serenity Garden Patio to honor or in memory of a loved one. Order a 6x9 paver for \$50 (up to 4 lines with a maximum of 14 characters per line including spaces).

Please send email to [loonlakemail@gmail.com](mailto:loonlakemail@gmail.com) with the exact wording for the paver and mail a check to:

Loon Lake Property Owners Association  
P.O. BOX 605  
Columbia City, IN 46725

(Once both the email and check are received, the order will be processed for engraving.)

The first batch of pavers that were ordered have been delivered to the engravers and will be placed in the spring. Other sponsorship options will be available at a later date including adopting a tree and memorial benches.

Thanks to all the volunteers that assisted on this phase of the Nature Reserve. We look forward to Spring to show off our Nature Reserve beauty!!

## WELCOME SIGNS

Want to post a special message on the media signs around the lake? Contact Linda Garrison at 765-251-3955 to rent a sign for only \$5! Great for birthdays, anniversaries, retirements or even fun messages or quotes!

## website

Visit [www.loonlakeindiana.org](http://www.loonlakeindiana.org) to see the lake calendar, history, news, contacts, newsletters & more! Have any suggestions or photos you'd like to see featured on the Loon Lake website? Email them us at [loonlakemail@gmail.com](mailto:loonlakemail@gmail.com).

## facebook

Join the Loon Lake Property Owners Association Facebook group. Follow news and other exciting happenings around the lake. Over 500 folks keep track of lake business by joining this group. Great for lost and found, help needed, cottage for rent, etc. Need an update on an upcoming event? Ask on facebook!

## email

Have you been receiving emails from the LLPOA? If NOT, email us at [loonlakemail@gmail.com](mailto:loonlakemail@gmail.com) so we can add you to our email list. We do not share e-mail addresses. The summer and winter issues of the Loon's Call newsletter are sent via e-mail only unless you request a hard copy.