



SPRING 2023

# LOON'S CALL

LOON LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

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

## WATER CONSERVATION PRACTICES BY GEIGER FARMS IS GOOD NEWS FOR LOON LAKE

BY: WALT HESSLER

Ryan Geiger and his family farm over a thousand acres in Whitley and Kosciusko Counties. Some of the water that drains into Loon Lake travels through fields that they farm.

"Our farms touch seven different lakes, which makes it sensitive land to farm," Geiger said. With so much land in production and so many lakes nearby, Geiger feels compelled to keep soil and nutrients on the land, where it belongs. "We don't want to see that stuff in the lakes any more than the people who live there," he said.

To achieve this, the Geigers utilize several conservation practices that help reduce the amount of nutrient and sediment that would otherwise enter Loon Lake. These conservation practices include:



- Cover Crops are typically planted in late fall. The root system helps stabilize the soil. The nutrients from the cover crops can reduce the amount of fertilizer required for next year's crop.
- No Till Farming means that that Geigers do not plow or till the field in the fall. This again decreases the amount of run off since the soil is not disturbed by the tilling. This can also reduce the amount of fertilizer required since the remaining crop residue contains nutrients for next year's crops.
- Filter (Buffer) Strips between the field and the ditch are another way Geigers reduce sediment runoff. These are typically grass strips. An example can be seen across from Loon Lake's public access site.
- Blind inlets are a conservation replacement for the typical orange risers you would see in a field. These risers drain surface water directly into field tiles that ultimately drain into the ditch. Geigers have installed several Blind Inlets that filter the surface water prior to the water entering the field tile.

The cover crop planting done by Geigers is in collaboration with The Watershed Foundation (TWF) and the Whitley County Soil and Water Conservation District. In years past the Geigers had about 1500-1600 acres seeded in different varieties of cover crop. "Cover crops help reduce soil runoff into streams and lakes, but they do more than just erosion control," Geiger said.

"There are so many benefits. Better nutrient retention, soil health, texture, and even a slight yield bump," he said. "The yield is kind of a bonus." The Geigers began experimenting with cover crops about ten years ago. "Every year we're stepping up a little bit more," he said. The Geigers partnered with TWF in a cost share agreement to help fund their cover crops. Besides cost, there are other challenges to overcome.

"It changes your chemical program," Geiger said. "We've had to adjust." But for Geiger, the benefits are worth the costs. The Geigers have recommended cover crops to neighbors as well, "People are starting to see the benefits," he said.

Moving forward, the Geigers want to continue learning how to manage mixes and rotations to get the most out of their cover crops. "I think the future of sustaining the soil and conservation lies with cover crops," Geiger said.

**Jim Donahoe**  
Owner/Operator  
P.O. Box 325  
Syracuse, Indiana 46567  
574-533-2597  
Fax 534-8230  
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COMMUNITY-POLICE/FIRE/HEALTH


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Whitley County Sheriff ----- 244-6410  
Whitley Co Fire (Larwill Richland Twp) ----- 248-8911  
Whitley Co Fire (Thorncreek Twp)----- 691-9117  
Whitley County Health Dept----- 248-3121  
Noble County Sheriff----- 636-2182  
Noble County Fire ----- 799-9987  
Noble County Health Dept----- 636-2191

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

5.5K Run/Walk----- (Scott Davis) \*Gary 847-312-9547  
By-Laws ----- (Rich Nelson) 799-4913  
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Garage Sale----- (Linda Archer) \*Lindsay 341-2895  
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  
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Newsletter/Email ----- (Lindsay Gallmeyer) 704-0993  
Pancake Breakfast----- (Karen Treat) 438-7968  
Poker Run ----- (Kathy Ehinger) 437-8085  
Co-Chair (Abby Green) 433-8643  
Sailboat Race ----- (Tom Zahm) \*Gary 341-8349  
Safety Committee (Steve Burman) \*Geoff 317-440-3314  
ULTRA Rep ----- (Tena Miller) 213-0638  
Water Quality Testing-- (Walt Hessler) \*Tena 799-4903  
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Welcome Committee----- (Patti Thomas) 402-5720



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**DONATIONS NEEDED**

The Loon Lake Fish Management Program needs donations for the 10th annual fish stocking.

**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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 Tom & Margaret Wise - 260-799- 4236  
 Columbia City, IN. 46725

# KIDS FISHING DERBY

BY: JOAN BUTLER

Here I sit wishing for a fish

I will not quit

Wishing for a fish

I sit and sit.

Here I sit wishing for a fish

I will not rush

Hoping for a fish - shhh

Hush, hush, hush --

**Did I get one???**

The new chant for the Loon Lake Kid's Fishing Derby!!



Date - Saturday, June 3

Time - 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. registration

-Return to weigh in by 11:00 a.m.

**LOCATION - Loon Lisle Nature Reserve**

Who - Kids from 2 to 16 years old can participate

- it is the free fishing weekend in Indiana.

At **11:00 a.m.** or before, come back to the Loon Lisle Nature Reserve and get your catch weighed. While the fish are being taken care of, grab a hot dog, chips and a drink. Kids eat free and a free will offering is collected for adult meals.

Now the fun begins - Prizes and trophies are handed out. The top three in each age group gets a trophy and everyone gets a prize.



## WELCOME SIGNS

Want to post a special message on the welcome 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 quotes or messages!



# SAFE WALKING & BIKING PRACTICES

BY: LOON LAKE SAFETY COMMITTEE

Walking and biking are healthy activities, but you need to know the rules of thumb of pedestrian safety. This is especially true walking and biking here at our lake community, where there aren't sidewalks or paths separated from the road. You should always observe traffic safety rules as well as additional guidelines that will help you stay safe when you are walking or biking in public areas.

## Walk Facing Traffic

Why is it safer to walk on the same side of the road as oncoming traffic? If a vehicle approaches you from behind while you are walking, you have only your ears to rely on to know it is coming. If it is coming from in front of you, you have both your eyes and your ears to help you know to move off to the side (or even jump into the ditch). **This may be confusing because the opposite rule is true for cyclists. They should cycle in the same direction as the traffic flow.**

Keep in mind, however, that there are certain areas of the road where facing oncoming traffic may be dangerous. For example, if you are cresting a hill or walking around a sharp curve in the road, oncoming vehicles will be unable to see you (and you will be unable to see them) until they are too close. On those occasions it may be best to walk on the other side of the road until visibility improves. Brown Rd. would be a good example of this.

## Be Seen

If you are walking at dawn, dusk or after dusk, it is even more important to walk facing traffic. You should also wear reflective clothing. Black may be slimming, but you need to be reflective so you can be seen in the dark. The more you reflect a human shape, the quicker motorists will recognize you and the safer you'll be. Cars may not recognize you as a human if you have only a couple of small reflective patches. When on the road, it's best to carry a flashlight and put on reflective gear to ensure oncoming traffic can spot you. High-visibility athletic gear usually features bright and neon colors, reflective material, and LED lights.

## Beware of the glare

If you are walking in the early morning or late afternoon, it is even more concerning, because drivers have the low-lying sun in their eyes as they approach you. You need to be vigilant. (Dealing with the sun's glare driving on 700 N. at the south end of Loon can be brutal.)

## Walk on Roads Single File

Unless you are on a sidewalk separated from the road or you are in a wide bike/pedestrian lane, you should walk in single file. This is especially important on a road with lots of curves and where traffic has only a split second chance of seeing you before hitting you. Walking abreast can also cause you to become distracted by conversations so that you are not paying proper attention to traffic or road signs. This also applies to biking.

## Hang Up and Eyes Up

Distracted walking due to chatting, texting, or playing games like Pokemon Go on a mobile device while you walk is as dangerous as doing those things while driving. You are distracted and not as aware of your environment. You are less likely to recognize traffic danger, tripping hazards, or passing joggers and bikers. Potential criminals see you as an easy target.

Don't drown out your environment when listening to music with your earbuds or headphones. Keep the volume at a level where you can still hear bike bells and warnings from other walkers and runners. If you're using ear buds, wear only one so you can hear your surroundings. Your audiologist will also thank you.

(Information from the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute and Very Well Fit websites).

We hope you find this information useful and it will help our Loon community have a safe and enjoyable summer!

**LOON LAKE STICKER  
ONLY \$3.00**

Contact Karen Treat-  
260-438-7968







## LOON LAKE APPAREL

BY: KAREN TREAT

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



SCREEN PRINT	PRICE
T-Shirt S-XL	\$12
T-Shirt 2XL-3XL	\$14
T-Shirt 4XL-5XL	\$16
T-Shirt Youth	\$12
Sweatshirt S-XL	\$24
Sweatshirt 2XL-3XL	\$29
Sweatshirt 4XL-5XL	\$30
Sweatshirt Youth	\$24



## LOON-Y FACTS

BY: CAROL KURTZ

Our namesake loons have arrived! I took a few pictures on March 18th. Here are six loon-y facts about the Common Loon.

### 1. LOONS ARE EXPERTS IN THE WATER.

Unlike most birds, they have solid bones which make them less buoyant and they conserve oxygen underwater by slowing their heartbeat. They can also flatten their feathers quickly to become more streamlined.

### 2. THEY HAVE OLYMPIC-LEVEL TALENT.

When their quarry changes direction, loons can execute an abrupt flip-turn that would make Olympic swimmers jealous. They extend one foot laterally as a pivot brake and kick with the opposite foot to turn 180 degrees in a fraction of a second.

### 3. THIS MAKES THEM EXPERT FISHERMEN.

By propelling themselves forward with their feet, loons can catch their fish underwater and eat it on the spot. They've also got sharp teeth that protrude from the tops of their mouths to hold on to slippery prey.

### 4. THEY ARE A GREAT SIGN FOR WATER.

Loons are excellent indicators of water quality as they require crystal-clear lakes, which makes it easier for them to see prey underwater, with abundant populations of small fish.

### 5. TAKING OFF TAKES WORK.

These birds require a long runway to get airborne, splashing their wings and feet on the surface of the water for up to a 1500 feet before they finally take flight. Perhaps that's why after molting in mid-winter, they are completely flightless for a couple weeks.

### 6. THEY SOUND A BIT ... LOON-Y.

After sundown, many North Woods lakes reverberate with the echoes of loon wails and yodels and tremolos, which writer John McPhee has described as, "the laugh of the deeply insane."

## 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 Community Facebook group. Follow news and other happenings around the lake. Over 600 folks have joined and regularly share info! Its' great for lost and found, power outage updates, help needed, cottage for rent, etc.

## 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 newsletter are sent via e-mail only unless you request a hard copy.

# LOON LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION NEWS

The Loon's Call newsletter has been sent via email unless a mailed paper copy was requested. It is also available to view or print from the website: [www.loonlakeindiana.org](http://www.loonlakeindiana.org). If you have questions, email us at: [loonlakemail@gmail.com](mailto:loonlakemail@gmail.com).

## 2023 RAFFLE

Our 2023 Raffle will be held at the spring meeting! Bring your raffle tickets to the meeting or mail them in with your dues for a chance to **win a Propane Gas Fire Pit Table!** Other raffle prizes include gift cards to local restaurants.

## Facebook/website/email

- Join the Loon Lake Community Facebook group. Follow news and other happenings around the lake. Over 600 folks have joined and regularly share info!
- Visit [www.loonlakeindiana.org](http://www.loonlakeindiana.org) to see the lake calendar, history, news, & more!
- 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.

2023 LOON LAKE EVENTS CALENDAR	APR 08	APRIL CAN PICK-UP 9:00AM
	MAY 13	MAY CAN PICK-UP 9:00AM
	MAY 20	SPRING MEETING 9:00AM
	JUN 03	KIDS FISHING DERBY 8:00AM-NOON
	JUN 09&10	GARAGE SALES 8:00AM-4:00PM
	JUN 10	JUNE CAN PICK-UP 9:00AM
	JUN 30	LIGHTED BOAT PARADE 9:30PM
	JUL 01	5.5K RUN/WALK 8:00AM
	JUL 01	PANCAKE BREAKFAST 8:00AM-11:00AM
	JUL 01	SAILBOAT RACE 11:00AM
	JUL 01	FIREWORKS 10:00PM
	JUL 08	JULY CAN PICK-UP 9:00AM
	JUL 29	POKER RUN 9:00AM
	AUG 12	AUGUST CAN PICK-UP 9:00AM
	AUG 26	FALL MEETING 9:00AM
	AUG 26	LLFMP CORN HOLE TOURNAMENT NOON
	SEP 09	SEPTEMBER CAN PICK-UP 9:00AM
	TBD	LLFMP MUSKIE SHOOT-OUT 7:30AM
	OCT 28	COMMUNITY TRICK OR TREAT 3:00PM-5:00PM

**Loon Lake Property Owners Association \$30.00 Annual Dues**  
**Make checks payable to: LLPOA Mail to PO BOX , Columbia City, IN 46725**



Complete, clip and return form below with one check to address above

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lake address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (If different than above)  
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 Email 1: \_\_\_\_\_  
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☐ Please do not publish my phone number

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 Raffle Tickets: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Lake enhancement/  
 Reserve donation: \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \_\_\_\_\_

**One check can cover the total sent!**

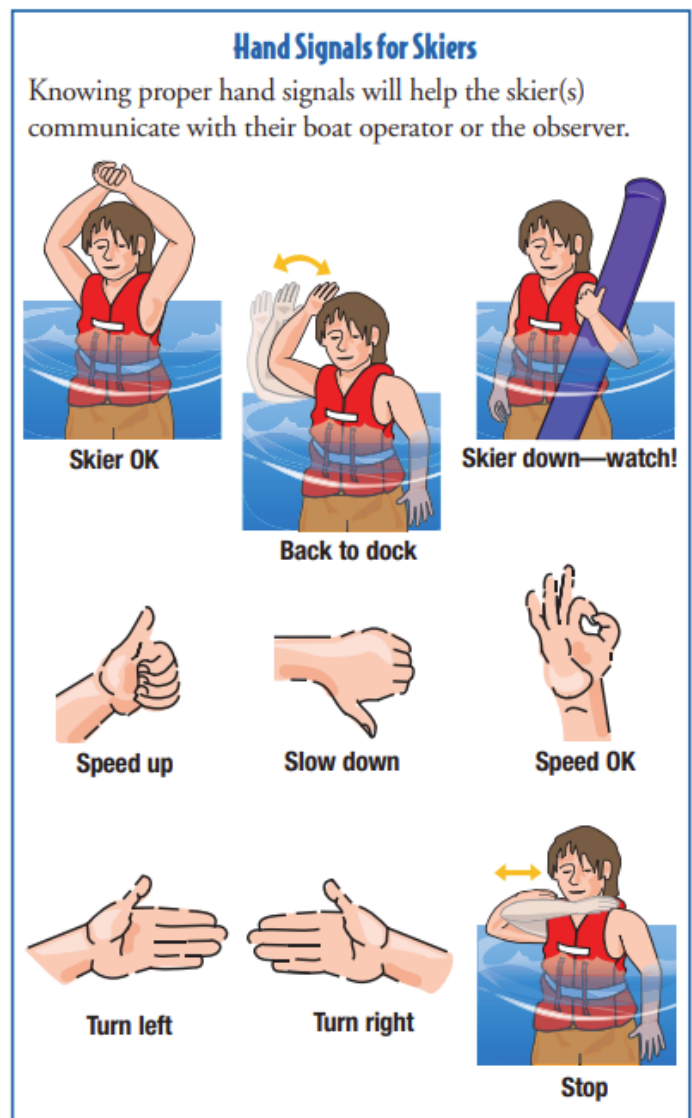
Greetings fellow Loon Lake enthusiasts,  
 With winter behind us we can now look forward to the return of our favorite lake activities as the weather and water begin to warm. The past two years your Safety Committee has distributed door hangers containing DNR boating guidelines and safe boating practices in an attempt to make everyone's time on the water more enjoyable and safer. This letter/info is now being used to provide to you additional safety material. We hope you will take time to familiarize yourself with its content and practice safe boating.

Thanks,  
 The LLPOA Safety Committee

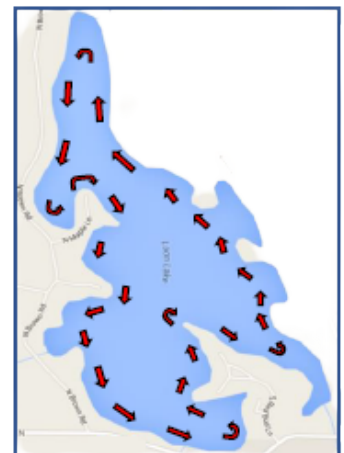
## Environmental Considerations

When operating your personal watercraft, consider the effect you may have on the environment.

- ◆ Make sure that the water you operate in is at least 30 inches deep. Riding in shallow water can cause bottom sediments or aquatic vegetation to be sucked into the pump, damaging your PWC and the environment.
- ◆ Avoid causing erosion by operating at slow speed and by not creating a wake when operating near shore or in narrow streams or rivers.
- ◆ Do not dock or beach your PWC in reeds and grasses. This could damage fragile environments.
- ◆ Take extra care when fueling your PWC. In or near the water. Oil and gasoline spills are very detrimental to the aquatic environment. Fuel on land if possible.
- ◆ Never use your PWC to disturb, chase, or harass wildlife.



- ☐ **Speed Limit 10 MPH (except 1:00 - 4:00 PM)**
- ☐ **All watercraft MUST remain 200 ft. from shore when under power (idle speed only approaching or leaving shore)**
- ☐ **For safety PLEASE navigate the lake in a COUNTER CLOCKWISE direction**
- ☐ **It is YOUR responsibility to know and follow all State and Federal boating laws**
- ☐ **Please remember, being considerate and practicing good citizenship is strictly voluntary but always appreciated**



## Lights

A person may not operate a boat upon public water during the period between sunset and sunrise that is not equipped with a light required by this chapter. The light must be: 1. in good repair and operating condition; and 2. displayed and lighted or burning except as otherwise permitted. IC 14-15-2-10

## Safe Operation

Operating a boat or PWC in a manner that unnecessarily endangers a person or property of another person is considered dangerous. ♦ Examples of illegal and reckless operation are:

- Operating a vessel at speeds of more than 10 miles per hour between sunset and sunrise (IC 14-15-3-8)
- Allowing passengers to ride on the gunwale or, if the vessel is less than 21 feet in length, on the bow where they may fall overboard (IC 14-15-3-24).
- Loading the vessel beyond the recommended capacity shown on the capacity plate installed by the vessel manufacturer.
- Causing a hazardous wake or wash from your vessel (IC 14-15-3-15).

## Idle Speed

“Idle speed” means the slowest possible speed, not to exceed five miles per hour, so as to maintain steerage and produce minimal wake. (IC 14-8-2-129)

## Operating while intoxicated

It is illegal to operate a motorboat or a personal watercraft while intoxicated due to alcohol or any combination of alcohol, controlled substance, or drugs. • Indiana law defines intoxication as having a blood alcohol level of 0.08% or greater, or being under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs such that a person’s thoughts and actions are impaired and he or she has a loss of normal control of faculties to such an extent as to cause danger to others. • You also may be arrested if your blood alcohol level is less than **0.08%** but over **0.05%**. • If arrested and convicted of boating while intoxicated, you will face the penalties of a Class C misdemeanor. In addition, if this is your first offense or the first in 10 years, you may lose all your driving privileges (motorboat and motor vehicle) for at least 90 days and up to two years. • A person boating while intoxicated who causes the death or serious injury of another person will, upon conviction, be guilty of a felony.

## PWCs

IC 14-15-12-10 Reasonable and prudent operation Sec. 10. (a) A personal watercraft operated on public waters must at all times be operated in a reasonable and prudent manner. (b) A person shall not operate a personal watercraft on public waters in a way that endangers human life, human physical safety, or property

14-15-12-7 A personal watercraft shall not be used on public waters to tow individuals engaged in waterskiing, aquaplaning, or similar activities, **unless**: 1. The personal watercraft is at least nine (9) feet long; 2. The personal watercraft is designed to seat at least three (3) individuals; and 3. An individual other than the operator of the personal watercraft is aboard the personal watercraft, acting as an observer