



WINTER 2024

# LOON'S CALL

LOON LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

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

## LOON LISLE NATURE RESERVE

BY: CAROL KURTZ

The Pavillion and Wildflower Prairie have completed the first full year of events and festivities.

The Pavillion hosted the Spring Association meeting, Fishing Derby, TWF Tour, 5k Run, and Corn Hole Tournament. On the evening of the Corn Hole Tournament a wonderful two piece duet serenaded a gathering at sunset. Families on blankets, young boys tossing a football, and folks of all ages tapping their toes to the music signaled that family music events could indeed be in the future for this great setting.

The Wildflower Prairie bloomed with a variety of beautiful native plants and grasses. The colorful show of color throughout the spring, summer and fall exceeded, our hopes in developing this Prairie. There was even an unexpected request to hold a Senior Picture photo shoot in the sea of yellow.

The Serenity Patio's engraved pavers honoring families is an emotional testimony to the love of this great Community. A stroll through the garden back to the lake view from this patio and then along the dedicated tree row is a must! Pavers are still available to recognize a loved one or a beloved memory of "home".

Future possibilities are still being explored such as art lessons by local artists or perhaps a gathering of storytelling for our younger residents. This year has shown us we are only limited by our imaginations.

A heartfelt thank you to the volunteers that have continued to step forward. From mowing the grass through the summer, maintenance on the Pavillion and its facilities, and regular scheduled tending of the wildflower garden and the paths, all have occurred thanks to our wonderful volunteers.

We can't wait for the 2024 season!



# LOON LAKE CONTACTS

All area codes 260 unless noted

## BOARD OFFICERS

Patti Thomas, President-----402-5720  
Mike Wright, Vice President----- 503-1400  
Tena Miller, Treasurer-----213-0638  
Carol Kurtz, Secretary-----799-4980

## BOARD DIRECTORS

Brian Clark-----438-2322  
Bob Gallivan-----820-1240  
Gary Hicks-----403-7691  
Kathy Ehinger-----437-8085  
Karen Treat-----438-7968  
Geoff Velpel-----602-5996  
Michael Cornyn-----337-344-0177

## CHAIRPERSONS \*Denotes Board Liaison

5.5K Run/Walk----- (Scott Davis)\* Gary 847-312-9547  
Can Collection ----- (Bob Gallivan) 820-1240  
Email ----- (Carol Kurtz) 799-4980  
Finance Committee----- (Tena Miller) 213-0638  
Fire Hydrants----- (Tim Clay) 602-9491  
Fireworks----- (Brian Clark) 438-2322  
Garage Sale----- (Linda Archer) \*Patti 341-2895  
Kids Fishing Derby----- (JoAn Butler) \*Carol 466-6207  
Lake Enhancement----- (Walt Hessler) 799-4903  
Lake Safety----- (Geoff Velpel) 602-5996  
Lighted Boat Parade ----- (Carol Kurtz) 799-4980  
Loon Lake Apparel----- (Karen Treat) 438-7968  
Loon Lisle Reserve ----- (Carol Kurtz) 799-4980  
Media Sign----- (Linda Garrison) \*Karen 765-251-3955  
Newsletter----- (Beth Hartman) \*Carol 466-6207  
Pancake Breakfast----- (Karen Treat) 438-7968  
Poker Run----- (Abby Green) \*Tena 799-4903  
Sailboat Race ----- (Tom Zahm) \*Gary 341-8349  
Safety Committee----- (TBD)\*Geoff 317-440-3314  
Water Quality Testing-- (Walt Hessler) \*Tena 799-4903  
Website----- (Tom Zahm) \*Carol 466-6207  
Welcome Committee----- (Patti Thomas) 402-5720

## COMMUNITY-POLICE/FIRE/HEALTH

Emergency ----- 911  
DNR ----- 244-3720  
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

## 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

## 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!



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# GOOD WEEDS - BAD WEEDS

BY: JENNIFER ZARTMAN ROMANO

You're wading in the lake on a warm summer day...and something beneath the water brushes your leg. Was it a scary weed or was it simply a beneficial aquatic plant that you're not all that familiar with, yet?

While it's common to recognize many different plants on land, we often don't spend much time thinking about the plants that grow underwater. There are a wide variety of types that serve many different purposes in our lakes' ecosystems. And just like plants on land — some are bad invasive “weeds” and some are good native aquatic plants.

Lyn Crighton, Executive Director of The Watershed Foundation explains, “A healthy aquatic system must include plants. Plants photosynthesize and create oxygen. Plants provide food and places for aquatic animals to live and reproduce. Rooted plants help stabilize shorelines and hold sediment in place.” And many of them are quite beautiful.

“Underwater plants also perform an important role in improving water quality — which we, of course, appreciate,” Crighton continued. “These plants absorb nutrients and naturally filter pollutants out of the water. They are a very important part of the circle of life in a lake.”

A few examples of desirable native aquatic plants include lily pads (and yellow pond lily), eel grass and pickerelweed.



The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) regulates 30 aquatic invasive plants that are illegal to sell or transport in the state through a law known as the “Aquatic Plant Rule.” The list includes species you've likely heard of such as Eurasian Watermilfoil. There are also many you might be less familiar with such as yellow floating heart, water soldier and parrot feather.

“Instead of fearing the weeds in the lake, spend some time learning to identify different species. Perhaps you will come to appreciate and even cultivate beneficial aquatic plants while managing the spread of invasive weeds,” suggested Crighton. “Our lakes' water quality and health of the entire aquatic ecosystem will benefit.”



Here is a quick reference for weeds commonly found in lakes in the Midwest: <https://www.mapms.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/170815-MAPMS-PLANT-CHART-.pdf>

At Loon Lake we check for invasive aquatic vegetation by conducting regular ‘rake tosses’ to pull up weed to see what is going in our waters. This provides an early warning system should an invasive species come into Loon Lake.



# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY: PATTI THOMAS

Hello and Happy New Year! I hope all is well with you and your family. I don't know about you, but now that the holidays are over, I'm thinking "bring on the sun and fun!" The board ended 2023 with planning all the lake events and dates for 2024. Included in this newsletter is the 2024 events calendar. Information can also be found on our website: [www.loonlakeindiana.org](http://www.loonlakeindiana.org). The website is always the best place to find the most current and accurate information.

Along with all our fun activities and planned events on the lake comes the need once again for volunteers, we had such an outpouring of support last year. Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers we couldn't do all we do without you! We are hoping to continue the support again this coming summer. As our committees evaluate their needs for this year's events, we will list them in our newsletters and announce them at the spring meeting. I am excited to see what fun times this lake season provides and look forward to seeing you all at the spring meeting on May 18.

Thank you,

Patricia Thomas- Loon Lake Property Owners Association President

## DONATIONS NEEDED

The Loon Lake Fish Management Program needs donations for the 12th annual fish stocking.

**2024 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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# MUTE SWAN INFORMATION FROM THE DNR

BY: LLPOA BOARD

Much of the content of this article comes from the Indiana DNR Website. Since Loon Lake has a family of mute swans, it is important that all our homeowners on Loon Lake understand the issues that come with them.

Mute swans are an invasive species that have become established in high numbers on many bodies of water in Indiana. They can damage Loon Lake's aquatic and wetland ecosystems. They can also act aggressively toward people, pets, and native wildlife. Many homeowners are unaware of the problems mute swans cause, but are instead drawn to them because they are a charismatic and beautiful large bird.

The mute swan is native throughout much of Eurasia. It is NOT native to Indiana or Loon Lake. It was introduced into the United States in the late 19th century. The species now occupies a large part of the country with large populations found around the Great Lakes region.

Because mute swans are not native to the United States, federal protection for the species under the Migratory Bird Treaty Reform Act was removed in 2004. In Indiana, however, mute swans are currently regulated, and a permit from Indiana DNR is required to addle eggs.

## Mute Swan at a Glance

- Weight: Up to 26 pounds for males and 21 pounds for females, which ranks as the second- largest waterfowl species behind trumpeter swans.
- Wingspan: 7-8 feet.
- Lifespan: Usually less than 10 years in the wild.
- Flight speed: 50-55 mph.
- Range: Native throughout much of Eurasia. Introduced into the United States.
- Habitats: Lakes, rivers, farm ponds, wetlands, and coastal estuaries.
- Foods: Primarily vegetation but occasionally small invertebrates and vertebrates.

There are three species of swans that can be found in Indiana. At this time, the mute swan is the most abundant swan in Indiana and can commonly be found year-round, except perhaps during the harshest winter weather. Less abundant are native Trumpeter and Tundra Swans. Trumpeter swans are a state endangered species that have seen recent breeding success in some northern Indiana counties. Tundra swans breed in remote Arctic areas and pass through Indiana during fall migration to their wintering grounds along the mid-Atlantic coast.

All three species have bright white plumage as adults. The easiest way to differentiate mute swans from the other two species is that adult mute swans have an orange beak with a black border near their eyes and a black knob atop their beak. Trumpeter and tundra swans have beaks that are completely black.

## Mute swan impacts

As the mute swan population has greatly expanded over the last few decades, so has the destruction of habitats attributed to their presence. An adult mute swan consumes up to eight pounds of aquatic and wetland vegetation per day. In addition, they uproot significantly more vegetation than they eat, some of which can wash ashore and create an unsightly mess for shoreline residents to clean up. Mute swan feeding can reduce the available food sources that winter waterfowl and native birds require.



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## MUTE SWANS (CONTD)

BY: LLPOA BOARD

Mute swans are one of the world's most aggressive waterfowl species and injure, kill, or displace native birds and other waterfowl. Adult mute swans may become especially aggressive toward people and pets in areas where they have become accustomed to food handouts. During the nesting season and rearing of young, mute swans have been known to aggressively drive off people and pets that enter their territory and have even knocked people from their boat and drowned them. There were two incidents this past summer on Loon Lake where a mute swan was aggressive toward slow moving wave runners. However, there have been other occasions where the mute swans have ignored paddle boarders coming too close to nests. Lake safety is always our priority and caution should be taken when around the mute swans, their nests, and their signets.

The invasive mute swan and its destructive impacts to native ecosystems can negatively affect other swan species. A trumpeter swan reintroduction program has been ongoing for more than 20 years in Ohio's portion of Lake Erie. Establishment of trumpeter swans was slow until Ohio implemented its Swan Management Plan, which called for the removal of mute swans from public wildlife areas. The response was a strong increase in endangered trumpeter swan numbers. Trumpeter swan numbers have increased so much that the species is no longer a threatened species in Ohio.

For swans on commonly held or shared property, a government authority, lake association, or local property owners' association should seek a permit through Indiana DNR to destroy nests that have eggs in them. The eggs must be destroyed by individuals approved by the permittee. A permit can only be issued to someone with the legal authority at the given property (e.g., Homeowners Associations, Property Manager, Parks Director, etc.).

Once a permit is obtained, egg treatment or nest destruction can occur. Mute swans are aggressive during the nesting period and may attack a person who comes close to their nest. When dealing with a nest with newly laid eggs, a person who has obtained a permit may either shake each egg for at least 60 seconds or coat the egg with food-grade corn oil. These methods, collectively known as addling, will prevent eggs from developing, and they will not hatch.

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## 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)





# 30 YEARS OF FISHING FUN

BY: TOM ZAHM & CLAIRE HICKS

If you've ever been to the Kids' Fishing Derby, you know how excited all the fishing kids can be! Large or small, any catch is big in their eyes. Plus, everyone goes away with a prize for their efforts!

We can thank Dave Fry and his late wife, Thea (TK) for starting this amazing community event. In 1993, Dave and TK learned there was to be a free fishing day in Indiana. So at the Spring association meeting, they announced their plans to hold something on the free fishing day for the area kids, which is always the 1st Saturday in June. Sponsors included Goss Grocery that very first year, who provided hot dogs. Dave cooked on an 18" hibachi grill for 10 or 11 kids in the competition. Each kid's catch was weighed on a postal scale.



The next year, the event was better organized and had 9 kids participating. Loon Lake Property Owners Association (LLPOA) wasn't involved, but there were plenty of volunteers. The kids all got caps.

For the first three years, there was no age break-down; all participants were in a single group. As the years unfolded, prizes got bigger and every child who participated still took something fun home. In 1999, the Frys had a family member in the VA hospital, so they handed the Tournament off to another couple. In 2000 the LLPOA took over the event and renamed it the Kids Fishing Derby. In 2010, TK got sick but told Dave to continue to make it a regular event. After retiring, Dave continued to help out, especially with set-up and sign-in.

Dave was always known for his handmade bobbers, which he gave to each child. The design is based on a product made in South Bend years ago which were no longer available. Developing them involved some trial and error and in the end, Dave settled on the use of redwood as the construction material. When model aircraft paint proved problematic, TK suggested using acrylic craft paint, which is still used today. Other key features include the use of a bottom stop to keep the swivel from getting stuck in the bobber and the use of 6 lb. test line, except for the leader. Dave explains the last part by noting that "kids are tough on things after a fish has been hooked." The bobbers are turned on a lathe and each one is a little different from all others. The bobbers are highly prized by the kids and have resulted in Dave getting a lot of compliments from them, including "They work better than dad's!" Back when they were given as rewards, one young girl told Dave before the contest, "I bet I'm gonna get one of those bobbers." And she did!



We can all thank Dave Fry for his gift to the children of Loon Lake over many generations. His love for fishing (and hunting) goes back to his childhood when he learned by using worms dug up from under a corn cob pile that "tough worms catch fish!"

The Kid's Fishing Derby continues on with chairperson, JoAn Butler and her fantastic group of volunteers. Check the Derby out this year!



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|----------------|-----------------|-----------|------------------------------|
| 2024 LOON LAKE | EVENTS CALENDAR | APR 13    | APRIL CAN PICK-UP 9:00AM     |
|                |                 | MAY 11    | MAY CAN PICK-UP 9:00AM       |
|                |                 | MAY 18    | SPRING MEETING               |
|                |                 | JUN 1     | KIDS FISHING DERBY           |
|                |                 | JUN 8     | JUNE CAN PICK-UP 9:00AM      |
|                |                 | JUN 14&15 | GARAGE SALES                 |
|                |                 | JUL 5     | LIGHTED BOAT PARADE          |
|                |                 | JUL 6     | 5.5K RUN/WALK                |
|                |                 | JUL 6     | PANCAKE BREAKFAST            |
|                |                 | JUL 6     | SAILBOAT RACE                |
|                |                 | JUL 6     | FIREWORKS                    |
|                |                 | JUL 13    | JULY CAN PICK-UP 9:00AM      |
|                |                 | JUL 27    | POKER RUN                    |
|                |                 | AUG 10    | AUGUST CAN PICK-UP 9:00AM    |
|                |                 | AUG 24    | FALL MEETING                 |
|                |                 | AUG 24    | LLFMP CORN HOLE TOURNAMENT   |
|                |                 | SEP 14    | SEPTEMBER CAN PICK-UP 9:00AM |
|                |                 | TBD       | LLFMP MUSKIE SHOOT-OUT       |
|                |                 | TBD       | COMMUNITY TRICK OR TREAT     |

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## 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 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.

## e-mail

Have you been receiving e-mails from the LLPOA? If NOT, e-mail us at [loonlakemail@gmail.com](mailto:loonlakemail@gmail.com) so we can add you to our e-mail 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.