



SPRING 2024

# LOON'S CALL

LOON LAKE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

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

## HARNESSING THE POWER OF CITIZEN SCIENCE IN OUR WATERSHED: MONITORING AND IMPROVING WATER QUALITY

BY: JENNIFER ROMANO

Water quality is a critical environmental concern that affects ecosystems, human health, and overall well-being. Traditional methods of monitoring water quality often require significant resources and expertise. However, the rise of citizen science has unlocked a powerful tool for monitoring and improving water quality -- a tool The Watershed Foundation (TWF) has put to use to take action for the health of our local lakes and streams.

"By engaging and empowering individuals from diverse backgrounds to participate in scientific research, citizen science initiatives are revolutionizing our understanding of water ecosystems," said Lyn Crighton, executive director of TWF. "Citizen scientists play a critical role in monitoring and improving water quality. There is also a transformative impact it can have on environmental conservation."



### **Citizen science enables a more extensive and comprehensive monitoring of water quality.**

"By involving a large network of volunteers, citizen science initiatives can collect data from a vast number of locations, increasing spatial coverage," Crighton said. "This allows us to see and do so much more than we could ever do on our own. This extensive data collection provides a more detailed picture of water quality conditions, allowing for a better understanding of regional and local variations, identification of pollution hotspots and assessment of long-term trends."

Each year, The Watershed Foundation conducts a major volunteer event -- Snapshot Water Monitoring Day. Held in September, they train and dispatch volunteers to test water quality in key locations around the watershed which falls in Whitley, Noble and Kosciusko Counties.

DIANE QUANCE TESTING LAKE WATER

With six years of data collection and analysis completed with Snapshot Water Monitoring Day, more than 100 volunteers each year have given their time to learn about and measure important indicators of our water's overall health such as dissolved oxygen levels, pH, temperature, E. coli and more. TWF uses the valuable data collected to combat water quality degradation in our watershed.

### **Citizen science empowers citizens to actively contribute to identifying pollution sources.**

"By engaging in water monitoring activities, citizen scientists can detect and report pollution incidents, such as chemical spills or illegal waste dumping," Crighton said. "Their collective observations and data can provide crucial information to environmental authorities, enabling rapid response and mitigation measures to be implemented. This citizen-driven approach to identifying pollution sources enhances environmental stewardship and accountability. In a lot of ways, our volunteers have the capability of seeing and observing so much, so quickly."

continued on page 8



# KIDS FISHING DERBY

The Loon Lake Kid's Fishing Derby will be held on Saturday, June 1. All 2 - 16 year-olds are eligible to participate. Indiana has designated this as a free fishing weekend - no license required. The Loon Lisle Nature Reserve (LLNR) is the perfect location for this event. Come over on Saturday morning and get registered at 8:30 a.m. Take off and catch some fish!! Return to the LLNR by 11:00 a.m. to get your fish weighed and watch a presentation by a local lake enthusiast. **Prizes will be awarded to the top three heaviest catches in each age group.** After that, we will call numbers and everyone gets to pick a prize! Hot dogs, chips and drinks will be available to the kids for free. Adults can eat for a donation to next year's derby.

**Saturday, June 1, 2024**

Registration: 8:30 a.m.

Return By 11:00 a.m.



## WIN BIG!

**Early to bed ..... on Friday night**  
**Early to rise ..... on Saturday, June 1**  
**Fish all day ..... at the Kid's Fishing Derby**  
**Tell big lies ..... and get good prizes!**

## 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



# 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 (Thorn creek 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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# PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY: PATTI THOMAS

Hello all! With lake season fast approaching, I wanted to pass along some reminders to help you enjoy this fun time. If there are any new property owners who might not see the newsletter, please pass along their information so I can make sure they receive a new property owner packet. They can also contact me through the [association email](#) and my contact information is on our lake's website.

Tom Zahm has done a great job taking over our website, [Loonlakeindiana.org](http://Loonlakeindiana.org). On the website, you will find contact information for all your board members, upcoming events calendar (click on the date for more information about the event), newsletters and minutes are also kept there. The website is a good resource for up-to-date information that is accurate and has been sent out by the board. There also is a link to sign up to receive our newsletters.

Another reminder, we have 2 can pick up dates before the spring meeting: April 13 and May 11. Please have your cans by the road by 9 am. Please do not have any trash or other items – just cans.

If you are planning on starting that spring cleanup, please remember, ONLY seaweeds and yard weeds are to be dumped at the Wise's property. Please do NOT dump any twigs, branches, or bushes.

The spring meeting will be held at the Treat/Newman/ Milestone barn located at 7722 North Arnold Road. Social time will begin at 9 am and the meeting will be called to order at 9:30 am. Remember to bring your dues and raffle tickets. I look forward to seeing you all!

Thank you,  
Patricia Thomas  
Loon Lake Property Owners Association President

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FINANCIAL ADVISOR

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





# 19TH ANNUAL 5.5K RUN & WALK

## SATURDAY, JULY 6

BY: SCOTT DAVIS

8:00AM

THE 19TH ANNUAL LOON LAKE 5.5K RUN/WALK WILL TAKE PLACE ON SATURDAY JULY 6TH AT 8:00 AM. WE EXPECT TO HAVE ANOTHER GREAT COMMUNITY RUN! REGISTRATION FOR THE 2024 RACE IS NOW OPEN.

LAST YEAR'S RACE WAS A BIT OF A RE-SET AFTER A COUPLE COVID INFLUENCED YEARS. THE RACE TOOK PLACE ON A BEAUTIFUL MORNING. WE HAD A GREAT TURN-OUT WITH 200 REGISTERED PARTICIPANTS; RUNNERS AS YOUNG AS 5, SENIORS AS OLD AS 78, AND THE LOON LAKE COMMUNITY OUT TO CHEER. IT WAS AN AWESOME RACE. WE EXPECT TO BUILD ON THAT RACE IN 2024. PLEASE PLAN TO COME OUT AND JOIN THE FUN!

FOR MORE INFO AND TO REGISTER CLICK THIS LINK



[HTTPS://RUNSIGNUP.COM/RACE/IN/CO  
LUMBIACITY/LOONLAKERUNWALK](https://runsignup.com/race/in/columbiacity/loonlakerunwalk)



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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)





MUTE SWAN SHOWING AGGRESSION TOWARDS A MALLARD

# THE TRUTH ABOUT MUTE SWANS

BY: LLPOA BOARD

We have all seen the Mute Swans that have taken up residence on Loon Lake. We have also seen migrating Mute Swans that stay for a few days or a few hours. This article is formatted as a list of easy to read bullet points intended to provide quick important facts regarding the Mute

Swans we are accustomed to seeing on Loon Lake. There are several weblinks at the conclusion of this article to allow individuals to learn more about these swans.

- Most residence of Loon Lake would agree that the Swans are beautiful creatures and we enjoy seeing them on the lake
- Virtually all the swans on Loon Lake are Mute Swans
- The Mute Swan is the only swan with an orange bill
- Mute Swans are considered an INVASIVE species by the DNR and are comparable to zebra mussels, purple loosestrife and Asian carp in that INVASIVE classification
- They are not native to the United States and were introduced from Europe
- They disrupt natural Indiana (Loon Lake) ecosystems
- Mute Swans are currently protected in Indiana, so a permit is required to control their population
- **Federal** protection for the exotic Mute Swan was removed by the Migratory Bird Treaty Reform Act in 2004. This occurred because Mute Swans are not native
- Mute Swans can be dangerous and aggressive and have been known to attack people and pets
- They remove native plants that help keep Loon Lake clean **and require four to eight pounds of aquatic plants as food each day**
- This native plant consumption robs other wildlife of important habitat and can cause population declines in fish and other wildlife
- Swan feces (poo) primarily go directly into Loon Lake and the large amount of plant intake equates to a high volume of swan feces
- Swan Feces contribute to harmful bacteria and facilitate significant growth of E. coli
- Within 5 YEARS two mates will produce 30 OFFSPRING
- These 30 will produce up to 450 OFFSPRING in 5 years
- Each swan can live up to 30 years

The LLPOA Board will continue to monitor the Mute Swan population. Please support any future action deemed necessary by the LLPOA Board to ensure the Loon Lake water quality and the health and safety of our residents. Feel free to ask questions and come to the Spring Meeting to express your support.

## Helpful Links:

<https://www.in.gov/dnr/fish-and-wildlife/wildlife-resources/living-with-wildlife/mute-swans/>

[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife\\_damage/reports/Wildlife%20Damage%20Management%20Technical%20Series/Mute-Swans-WDM-Technical-Series.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/wildlife_damage/reports/Wildlife%20Damage%20Management%20Technical%20Series/Mute-Swans-WDM-Technical-Series.pdf)

[https://indiana.clearchoicescleanwater.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2020/09/MI\\_MuteSwanFacts.pdf](https://indiana.clearchoicescleanwater.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2020/09/MI_MuteSwanFacts.pdf)



# HARNESSING THE POWER (CONTD)

BY: JENNIFER ROMANO

**"Citizen science initiatives offer unique opportunities to educate and engage the public in water quality issues.**

"By involving individuals from different backgrounds and age groups, these initiatives raise awareness about the importance of water quality, promote scientific literacy and inspire environmental stewardship," said Crighton. "Citizen scientists become active participants in protecting their local water resources, fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility. Performing the critical task of collecting data in the field provides an opportunity for local residents to take action, with us, to directly impact the health of our water, a vital resource we all depend on."

Citizen science has emerged as a powerful tool in monitoring and improving water quality. By engaging citizens as active participants, these initiatives expand data collection efforts, identify pollution sources, and educate the public. The role of citizen science in water quality monitoring is invaluable, fostering a sense of empowerment and collective action to protect our precious water resources.

As we harness the passion and dedication of citizen scientists, we unlock the potential for a more sustainable future with cleaner, healthier water ecosystems for generations to come," said Crighton.

TWF hosts Snapshot Water Monitoring Day each year in September. For more information, visit [www.WatershedFoundation.org](http://www.WatershedFoundation.org)

Snapshot Water Monitoring Day includes testing at five sites on Loon Lake. In addition, Loon Lake does regular testing of the Friskney Ditch near the public access site. Loon Lake also has the ability to conduct a number of water quality tests as needed.

Here are some additional helpful resources:

- Hoosier Riverwatch is Indiana's Volunteer Stream Monitoring program. It is coordinated by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management. Free training workshops are held throughout the state (and annually in North Webster, co-hosted by The Watershed Foundation and the Kosciusko County Soil & Water Conservation District). More information at [www.HoosierRiverwatch.com](http://www.HoosierRiverwatch.com).
- The Indiana Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program is coordinated by the Indiana University School of Public & Environmental Affairs. Loon Lake participates in this water clarity testing. More information at [clp.indiana.edu](http://clp.indiana.edu). To find out if your lake is being monitored or to become a new volunteer contact [inclp@indiana.edu](mailto:inclp@indiana.edu).

Consider how you can be a Citizen Scientist and help monitor water quality in our watershed. Contact TWF at [www.WatershedFoundation.org](http://www.WatershedFoundation.org) or contact Walt Hessler at [walthessler@outlook.com](mailto:walthessler@outlook.com)

## website

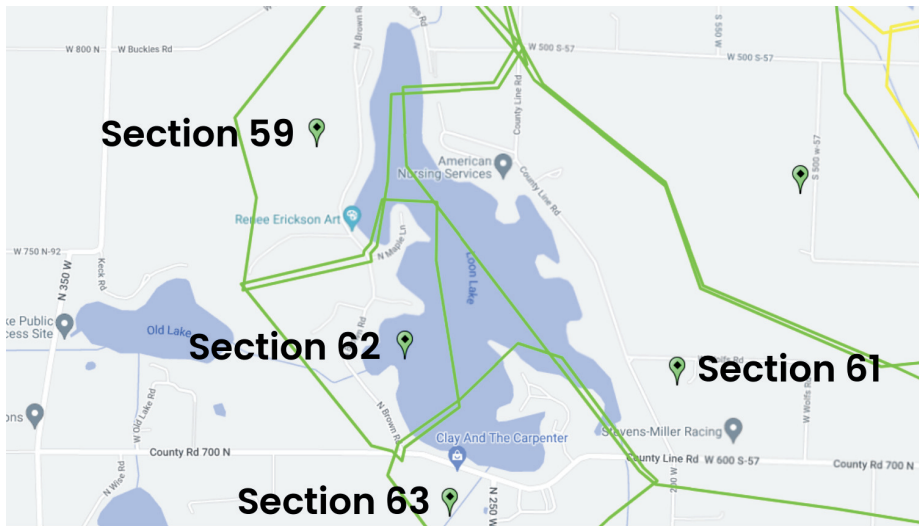
Visit [www.loonlakeindiana.org](http://www.loonlakeindiana.org) to see the lake calendar, history, news, contacts, newsletters & more! Have any suggestions or photos you'd like to see featured on the Loon Lake website? Email us at [loonlakemail@gmail.com](mailto:loonlakemail@gmail.com)

## 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! It's 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.



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# 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).

## 2024 RAFFLE

Our 2024 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 Solo Smokeless Fire Pit!** 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.

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 9:30AM
	JUN	1	KIDS FISHING DERBY 8:00-8:30AM
	JUN	8	JUNE CAN PICK-UP 9:00AM
	JUN	14&15	GARAGE SALES 8:00AM-4:00PM
	JUL	5	LIGHTED BOAT PARADE 9:30PM
	JUL	6	5.5K RUN/WALK 8:00AM
	JUL	6	PANCAKE BREAKFAST 8:00AM-11:00AM
	JUL	6	SAILBOAT RACE 4:30PM
	JUL	6	FIREWORKS 10:00PM
	JUL	13	JULY CAN PICK-UP 9:00AM
	JUL	27	POKER RUN 10:00AM-12:00PM
	AUG	10	AUGUST CAN PICK-UP 9:00AM
	AUG	24	FALL MEETING 9:30AM
	AUG	24	LLFMP CORN HOLE TOURNAMENT 12:00PM
	SEP	14	SEPTEMBER CAN PICK-UP 9:00AM
	TBD		LLFMP MUSKIE SHOOT-OUT
	TBD		COMMUNITY TRICK OR TREAT

**Loon Lake Property Owners Association \$30.00 Annual Dues**  
**Make checks payable to: LLPOA Mail to PO BOX 605, Columbia City, IN 46725**

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



Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
Lake address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
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☐ Please do not publish my phone number

Association dues: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fireworks donation: \_\_\_\_\_  
Raffle Tickets: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lake enhancement/ Reserve donation: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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