



LOON'S CALL

LOON LAKE PROPERTY OWNER'S ASSOCIATION

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

SUMMER 2024

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY GARY HICKS



Let me begin with a simple thank you for the vote of confidence in electing me as President of the LLPOA. The fact that I was running unopposed might have been a factor, but I'm going to overlook that detail. I have served before so I guess you knew what you were getting. I would also like to acknowledge and thank the other officers elected at the Fall meeting: Kathy Ehinger, Vice President; Carol Kurtz, Secretary; and Tena Miller Treasurer. We appreciate your support and pledge we will do our best to serve the interests of the LLPOA and its members.

Many of you know that my wife Claire passed away this Spring. We were blessed to have spent fifty wonderful years together, the last twenty here on Loon Lake. Claire loved this lake and the people who make up this community. Your expressions of sympathy and support were deeply appreciated and were a true reflection of the heart of Loon Lake. Thank you so much!

Losing a loved one certainly causes you to reflect on what's important in life, and in that same vein, I would ask the question what is important to a community such as Loon Lake. Claire and I said quite often that we moved to a lake and found a whole new family we didn't know we had. I'm sure each of you could tell a story about how you ended up here. Maybe you had family here already or had visited friends. Or as it was in our case, pure dumb luck. Whatever path you followed to get here, I'll bet the **lake** was the main attraction.

We are blessed to live where we do. We have a wealth of nature and fun right outside our front doors. Many spend money and plan vacations to enjoy and experience what we get to live every day. Let's not take our good fortune for granted or fail to recognize the responsibility we have to watch over what we have been given. We do so much as an association but what I feel is sometimes overlooked are the efforts of those who work unnoticed and behind the scenes to monitor and test and toil so that we have a lake that is healthy and vibrant for us to enjoy. ***It is the foundation of everything else we do.***



Some of you may know, but I suspect many do not, that a few decades back Loon Lake was all but written off as a dead lake. But with hard work, commitment and planning, it was brought back to the Loon Lake we enjoy today. It could happen again, and could happen quickly if we were to take our eye off the ball. Let's vow to not let that happen under our watch so that our children and grandchildren can enjoy the Loon Lake we love for decades to come. In the end it is what's truly important to all of us.

If you are interested in learning more or getting involved, please contact any board member or Walt Hessler head of the LLPOA Lake Enhancement committee.

Mobile: 260-403-1173

Email: walthessler@outlook.com

LOON LAKE KID'S FISHING DERBY

BY JOAN BUTLER

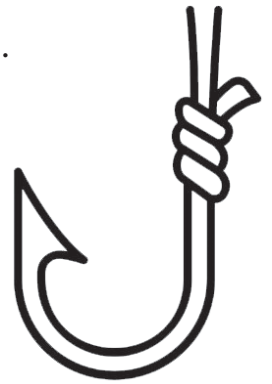
Every fishing derby article needs a good hook to get people to read it.

Every good fisherkid needs to set the hook to bring the fish in so it can get weighed.

That is what happened on Saturday, June 1st.

The date for next year's derby is Saturday, June 7.

Here are the numbers: 61 fisherkids
68.84 lbs. fish caught
20 volunteers



Minnows
Bluegills
Bass
Walleyes
Muskie

FIRST PLACE

Leilani Gemmill
Mayva Ousley
Piper Ousley
Harrison Burman
Mollie Schosfield

SECOND PLACE

Raymond Fromander
Liam Graft
Easton Meeks
Lilah Hunt
Patrick Shively

THIRD PLACE

Oliver Graft
Myra Leedy
Milo Hill
Wyatt Meeks
Gracie Farthing



GOLF CART PARADE

July 4



PHOSPHORUS: TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING

BY WALT HESSLER

Phosphorus is a non-metallic chemical element that is commonly found in nature. It is an important mineral required by most living organisms. Phosphorus can be found in various forms, most commonly phosphate. When measuring the amount of phosphorus in lakes, total phosphorus is measured which consists of both the particulate and dissolved forms.

There are many sources of phosphorus in our lakes. These sources can be natural, such as waterfowl waste, atmospheric deposits, weathering of geologic phosphate material, and plant decomposition. Phosphorous can also be human-induced, such as fertilizer, pet waste, agricultural runoff, and grass clippings.

Generally, phosphorus enters a waterbody through nonpoint source pollution. Rain or snowmelt will pick up pollutants as it flows over the land and eventually discharges into the lake. Stream channel modification, shoreline erosion, and loss of vegetative buffers around water sources exacerbate these stormwater discharges and increase phosphorus inputs.

Even a small increase in phosphorus concentration can increase levels of algae. Excessive phosphorus concentration, along with an adequate supply of sunlight, can increase the amount of algae decreasing water transparency. As algae cells die, they slowly settle into the deeper, darker waters of the lake bottom and decompose. The process of decomposition depletes oxygen in bottom waters. This promotes conditions that encourage the release of phosphorus from the bottom into the water column. Once this happens, the excess phosphorus creates a cycle by becoming available to fuel future algae blooms.



Secchi Disk measures water clarity

Legacy phosphorus is phosphorus that's stored in the sediments of lakes and can affect the water quality of the lake for a long time. It can be released into the water through chemical reactions that occur when oxygen levels are low. Legacy phosphorous is also released when sediment in a lake is stirred up by boat traffic.



Device for sampling the water column

Starting in May 2024, the LLPOA is partnering with the Indiana University Indiana Clean Lakes Program. This is a comprehensive, statewide public lake management program within the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's (IDEM) Office of Water Management. We are starting by monitoring the amount of phosphorus and chlorophyll (algae) with water samples taken by the LLPOA in May, June, July, and August. These samples are sent to IU for evaluation. This will provide a baseline that can be used for potential remedial future actions.

The LLPOA will continue to investigate remedial treatments that may be able to be used in the future to deal with legacy phosphorous. These treatments are in the development stage and are extremely expensive. Hopefully this will become more accessible and affordable in the future.

continued on next page

PHOSPHORUS: TOO MUCH OF A GOOD THING (CONTINUED)

BY WALT HESSLER

Here are some things we can all do to reduce phosphorous in Loon Lake:

- Plant native shrubs or other vegetation to reduce shoreline erosion (healthy shorelines) and provide a vegetated buffer that helps to absorb nutrients before entering the lake (<https://watershedfoundation.org/our-work/implement/healthy-shorelines/>).
- Infiltrate stormwater rather than diverting it. For example, creating a rain garden or building infiltration steps can prevent raw stormwater from entering a lake unfiltered.
- Use phosphate free fertilizers or low phosphate, slow-release nitrogen fertilizer. Make sure your lawn service is using phosphate free fertilizers. Reduce the overall amount of fertilizer you use on your lawns.
- Do not rake leaves or grass clippings in the lake or burn brush on the lake or near the shore.
- Do not urinate or defecate in the lake and do not allow pets to do the same.
- Clean up pet waste in your yard.
- Minimize boat traffic in shallow areas to avoid stirring up the legacy phosphorous that is in the sediment.

We can all do our part to reduce the phosphorous input to our lake!

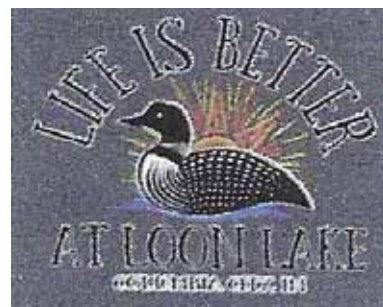
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advertise to loonlakeemail@gmail.com

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.



APPAREL PRICE

Unisex T-Shirt S-XL.....	\$18
Unisex T-Shirt 2XL.....	\$20
Unisex T-Shirt 3XL-4XL	\$22
Women's T-Shirt S-XL	\$20
Women's T-Shirt 2XL	\$22
Women's T-Shirt 3XL	\$24
T-Shirt Youth	\$16
Toddler T-Shirt 2T-5T	\$12
Toddler Hoody 2T-5T	\$26
Sweatshirt S-XL	\$32
Sweatshirt 2XL	\$34
Sweatshirt 3XL	\$36
Sweatshirt Youth	\$28
Full Zip Sweatshirt S-XL	\$39
Full Zip Sweatshirt 2XL	\$41
Full Zip Sweatshirt 3XL	\$43
Unisex Hoody S-XL	\$36
Unisex Hoody 2X	\$38
Unisex Hoody 3X	\$40
40 Oz. Tumbler	\$38



LIGHTED BOAT PARADE



**LOON LAKE STICKER
ONLY \$3.00**

Contact Karen Treat
260-438-7968

website

Visit 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

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.

email

Have you been receiving emails from the LLPOA? If NOT, email us at 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.



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19TH ANNUAL LOON LAKE 5.5K RUN/WALK

BY SCOTT DAVIS



After getting the Loon Lake 5.5k Run/Walk back up to a fully timed run and 200 registered participants last year, our goal for 2024 was to simply continue to build up our participation numbers. I am pleased to report that the 19th Annual Loon Lake Run/Walk **exceeded expectations** with over 250 registered run/walkers. We had more registered run/walkers in our Run than we have had since 2018. We had children as young as 6, and seniors as old as 85 complete the race. It was great to see so many extended family and groups of friends come out to enjoy our Loon Lake run. The Loon Lake community also came out to cheer and support our runners/walkers. It was a great community event to continue the fun filled holiday weekend at the Lake. Hopefully everyone had a great time and enjoyed the day.



2024 Parade Grand Marshal - Carol Kurtz

2025 will mark the 20th running of the Loon Lake 5.5k Run/Walk. We are planning to have a contest to design the front of the Race T-shirt for the 20th running. You will not want to miss the run or the T-shirt in 2025, so start getting your crew together now and plan to participate. All ages and ability are welcome. We expect the 2025 race to be memorable, come join in!

Full 2024 Race results can be found at:

<https://runsignup.com/Race/IN/ColumbiaCity/LoonLakeRunWalk>



PANCAKE BREAKFAST

BY KAREN TREAT

2024 was a record breaking year! Total of 621 meals were sold, raising \$3826 for our fireworks fund.



CHAIRPERSON NEEDED! Next year will be the last year for Karen Treat and Mark Newman to chair this popular event. We are looking for someone to shadow them in 2025 and take the lead in 2026

HISTORY CORNER

BY CAROL KURTZ



Bill Schaefer

Loon Lake Life...remembering growing up on Loon Lake.

Bill and Carol Schaefer live on Maple Lane. Bill has a unique history and shared some stories of his early years at Loon.

In 1935 when he was born, his parents had a weekend cottage on Sycamore Drive. When he was two and half weeks old he was taken to the shore and his feet were swished in the lake.

During World War Two his parents sold the cottage on Sycamore and bought a cottage across the bay on Maple Lane. Bill and Carol retired and moved full time into that same cottage today. His Father worked at a photo engraver and took a metal sheet engraved MAPLE LANE, attached to a pole and stuck it in the ground at the corner of Brown and Maple. That was the first signage for Maple Lane!



Fishing Cabins

As a fourteen and fifteen young boy Bill worked for the Loon Lake Resort on the South end of the lake for two years. He was paid two dollars a day. He did anything they asked him to do. Each morning upon arriving at work at around 8 am his duty was to go to the ice house and shave off ice from the block of ice stored in the straw filled ice house. This bucket of ice shavings was then taken up the hill to the Resort Hotel for the ice box. There wasn't electric refrigerators back then!



Wooden Rented Boats on Lake

Another chore was to tar the bottom of the wooden row boats. The boats were rented out to the fishermen that were staying in the Fishing cabins. Bill remembers 8 or 9 cabins back then. The boats were stored in a big barn behind the Resort hotel over the winter. They had to be hauled to the shore for renting.

There was a grocery store and gas station at the bottom of the hill with two Sinclair gas pumps. Along side there was a "primitive" dirt ramp that the old cars were driven up on to do oil changes. The grocery store had an old wooden screen door with a tight spring that would spring the door shut quickly. Bill thinks that is where the old saying "don't let the door hit you in the xxx" comes from!



Grocery Store With Gas Pump

Thanks for reminiscing with me Bill. It was a joy to go back to a simpler time on Loon Lake!

Photos credit: Clay Geiger

Do you have a historical story about the lake to share? We'd love to hear your stories and see pictures! You might even make it in the newsletter! Email loonlakemail@gmail.com

LOON LAKE CONTACTS

All area codes 260 unless noted

BOARD OFFICERS

Gary Hicks, President.....403-7691
Kathy Ehinger, Vice President.....437-8085
Tena Miller, Treasurer213-0638
Carol Kurtz, Secretary799-4980

BOARD DIRECTORS

Brian Clark.....438-2322
Bob Gallivan820-1240
Karen Treat.....438-7968
Geoff Velpel602-5996
Michael Cornyn337-344-0177

CHAIRPERSONS *Denotes Board Liaison

5.5K Run/Walk (Scott Davis)*Gary 847-312-9547
By-Laws (Michael Cornyn) 337-344-0177
Can Collection..... (Brian Clark, Bob Gallivan) 820-1240
Email(Carol Kurtz) 799-4980
Finance Committee.....(Tena Miller) 213-0638
Fire Hydrants..... Tim Clay *Geoff 692-9491
Fireworks(Brian Clark) 438-2322
Garage Sale (Linda Archer) *Tena 341-2895
Kid's Fishing Day (JoAn Butler) *Carol 466-6207
Lake Enhancement..... (Walt Hessler) 799-4903
Lighted Boat Parade.....(Kathy Ehinger) 437-8085
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 614-738-9664
Pancake Breakfast. (**CHAIR NEEDED**) *Karen 438-7968
Poker Run..... (Abby Green) *Kathy 437-8085
Sailboat Race (Tom Zahm) *Gary 341-8349
Water Quality Testing . (Walt Hessler) *Tena 799-4903
Website..... (Tom Zahm) *Carol 799-4980
Welcome Committee (Louise Hill) *Tena 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 Fire799-9987
Noble County Health Dept..... 636-2191

COMMUNITY-OTHER

Columbia City Utilities248-5110
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)254-3955 to rent a sign for only \$5! Great for birthdays, anniversaries, retirements, or even fun quotes or messages!





MICHAEL ZAHM
FINANCIAL ADVISOR
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Michael.zahm@voyafa.com


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Owner/Operator

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FIREWORKS

July 6



The fireworks committee is looking for some volunteers to help with hauling/moving barges, being there to help the fireworks company with set up and clean up. You can contact Brian or any board member if you would be interested in helping next year.





POKER RUN

July 27





CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT

August 24



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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