



LOON'S CALL

LOON LAKE PROPERTY OWNER'S ASSOCIATION

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

SPRING 2026

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY KATHY EHINGER

It was a long winter, so seeing the loons return to the lake and watching piers go in is a welcome sign that lake season is almost here!

As we get ready for another great season, I'd like to share a few important updates:

If you know of any new property owners who may not be receiving our newsletter, please pass along their information so we can send them a new property owner packet.

Visit our website at LoonLakeIndiana.org. There, you'll find everything you need, including:

- A list of board members and their contact information
- Upcoming events
- Read current and past newsletters

Please also check the dates for our can pickup.

Wise Farms has kindly agreed to allow us to use their property for disposal of seaweed and yard waste. Please do not dump any twigs, branches, or bushes.

Our Spring Meeting will be held on **May 16th** at the Treat/Newman/Milestone barn (7722 North Arnold Road).

- Social time begins at 9:00 AM
- Meeting starts at 9:30 AM

This is a great opportunity to meet LLPOA Board members, reconnect with fellow lake residents, and hear updates on what's new. There will be a presentation on the History of Loon Lake by a local Historian, and we'll also take care of important business and hold our annual raffle with some great prizes.

Please remember to purchase raffle tickets, even if you're unable to attend. Soon, all eligible property owners will receive a mailing with raffle tickets and important information needed to join LLPOA or maintain your membership.

We'll keep the meeting efficient—our goal is to wrap up in under an hour so everyone can get back to enjoying the lake.

Looking forward to a fantastic season ahead!

-Kathy

CARRYING ON A SWEET TRADITION

BY DAVID STEPHAN

My family's roots on this lake go back to the early 1940s, when my grandparents first established themselves here while my mom and her siblings were still young. For the next 60 years, the lake was the backdrop to countless family memories—weekends, summers, and traditions that shaped generations. After my grandparents passed away, we made the bittersweet decision to sell the family home on Brown Road, grateful to see it go to another wonderful family who loves the lake as much as we always have.

Even after that chapter closed, the lake never truly left us. We continued to enjoy visits with friends here over the years, and now life has brought us full circle. Today, I'm thankful to be back on the lake with my wife Kristina, our two dogs, and my 89 year old mom—creating new memories in a place that has always felt like home.

Growing up, the pancake breakfast was one of those events we all looked forward to each year. It wasn't just about pancakes—it was part of the excitement and traditions of July 4th weekend that brought everyone together. We are honored to help carry on that tradition as this year's pancake breakfast chairpersons.

This event has always been successful because of the incredible support of this community, and we're grateful for the kindness and encouragement we've already received. To keep that tradition strong, we welcome volunteers of all kinds—whether this is your first time helping out or you're a seasoned volunteer willing to lend your experience. **If you're interested in volunteering, please reach out—we'd love to have you be part of the team.**

We look forward to seeing everyone this July 4th from 8am-11am to enjoy pancakes, neighbors, and all the activities that make this lake special.



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!

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LOON LAKE 5.5K RUN/WALK

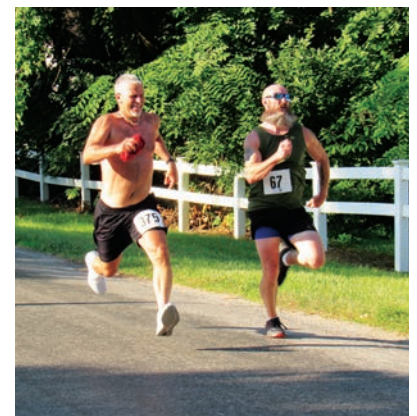
BY SCOTT DAVIS

After a couple of false starts, Spring is finally here on Loon Lake! So it is time to get outside and start all things new! That of course should include planning for this year's 4th of July holiday celebrations on Loon Lake and the **Annual Loon Lake 5.5k Run/Walk!** Our Run/walk this year will take place on Saturday July 4th, and is a great way to start your holiday celebration with friends and family of all ages. All proceeds go to support the enhancement of Loon Lake, and takes place as part of the Loon Lake 4th of July celebrations.

Start getting your family/friends/posse/neighbors together to sign up. The more groups, the more fun! The electronically timed **Loon Lake 5.5k Run/Walk** will take place on **Saturday July 4th at 8:00 AM**, with day-of registrations and kit pick-up starting at 7 AM. We expect to have another great community run and raise some money for our Lake improvements. Come out and enjoy the fun. The on-line registration for the 2026 Race is now open. The link to register can be found below or on the Loon Lake website:

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

Last year's Run set a record with over 325 registered run/walkers and was one of the more successful fund raising events for the LLPOA and Loon Lake improvements. Although the Loon Lake Run is an electronically timed event for the more serious runners, our focus has always been on a community event where people of all ages and ability can come out and have fun and enjoy some time with friends and family. In 2025 we had runners/walkers from 6 to 76 years, a beautiful day, and of course the Loon Lake community was out in numbers around the Lake to cheer on the run/walkers. Community participation is a big part of what makes the Loon Lake Run special. The 2025 Loon Lake Run/Walk was an AWESOME event and we expect another memorable Run in 2026. Please plan to come out and join the fun!



REV UP FOR THE JULY 4TH GOLF CART PARADE!



Nothing says summer celebration like our beloved Golf Cart Parade during the July 4th weekend on **Sunday, July 5th!** We'll meet at the pavilion at **11:00AM**. This fan-favorite tradition is back and bigger than ever—and we want YOU to be part of the fun. Whether you roll in on a golf cart, UTV, or even a tractor, this is your chance to show off your creativity and patriotic spirit.

Now's the time to start brainstorming your decorations. Think red, white, and blue, dazzling streamers, or maybe even a theme that turns heads! From classic Americana to wild and whimsical, the possibilities are endless. The more carts, the merrier—anyone with wheels can join in.

Let's make this year's parade the most spectacular yet. Mark your calendars, gather your supplies, and get ready to cruise out of Independence Day in style!



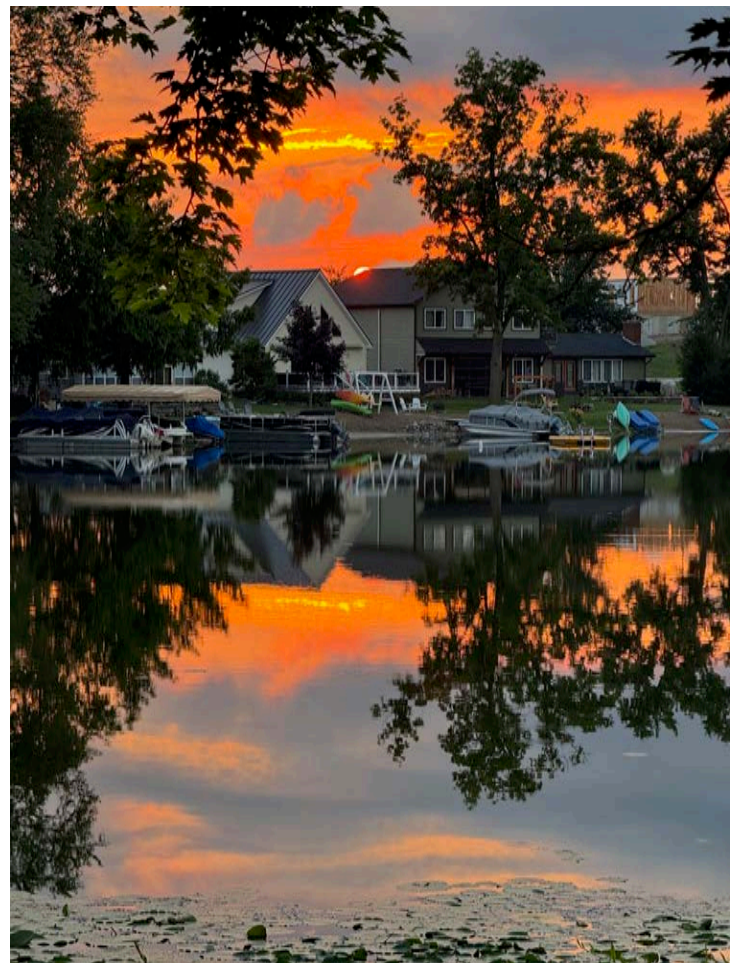
YARD & LAKE WASTE DISPOSAL AT WISE FARMS

Once again this year, **Wise Farms** has generously offered a spot for LLPOA residents to dump leaves, grass clippings, and seaweed. The location is just north of the house at 7150 N. 350 W. The dump site is marked by a sign and there is white stone at the entrance.

Please dump within the yellow caution tape that has been put up. **DO NOT** dump bushes, branches, or rocks. **DO NOT** bundle with plastic or twine.

Please drive further back and add to the pile that is already there. Tom won't have to push piles further back that way.

A big thank you to Tom & Margaret Wise of Wise Farms for making this available. It is greatly appreciated!



WE ALL CAN REDUCE PHOSPHORUS GOING INTO LOON LAKE

BY WALT HESSLER

Phosphorus is a critical nutrient required for all life. The most common form of phosphorus used by biological organisms is phosphate, which plays major roles in the formation of DNA, cellular energy, and cell membranes. In essence, we cannot live without it! However, too much phosphorous is a bad thing. Particularly if it is in Loon Lake.



Phosphorus is the primary nutrient for algae growth in freshwater, meaning its availability directly controls algae growth. Excess phosphorus from runoff, fertilizer, or various sources trigger algal blooms.

This alga leads to reduced oxygen, poor water quality, and can result in harmful toxic blue green algae.

Most lakes in northern Indiana have fairly high levels of phosphorus. This is true for Loon Lake as well. Much of this phosphorous is a result of past poor agricultural practices. These practices have been greatly improved over the last few years due to increased awareness and with help from organizations like The Watershed Foundation (TWF).

One pound of phosphorus can produce 500 pounds of wet algae!

We can all help reduce the phosphorus levels in Loon Lake by following very simple practices:

- Make sure any fertilizer we put on our lawns is phosphorus free. Fertilizer labels typically have three numbers. The middle number is the percentage of phosphate. We should only use fertilizer with 0% phosphate. Be sure our lawn service uses 0% phosphate fertilizer.
- We should not put fertilizer at the edge of the lake shore. Leave a buffer zone to reduce the amount of fertilizer that leaches into the lake.
- Pick up your pet's poo to prevent runoff into the lake. Dogs produce about $\frac{3}{4}$ pound of waste every day. This waste contains a great amount of Phosphorus.

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| Phosphate..... | 0% |
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- Do not dispose of grass clippings or leaves in or near a waterway and never blow grass clippings or trimmer clippings into the lake.
- If conducting land disturbing activity, prevent soil and organic matter from washing into the lake, as soil can carry nutrients into the waterway
- Check to see that drainage tiles that run into the lake are not carrying fertilizers or pet poo runoff.
- Create a 'Healthy Shoreline' using native plants to create a buffer between the yard and the lake.



Adjusting how we interact with Loon Lake can have a big impact on how much algae is created. We each have an influence on the water quality and the health of our lake. As we move into spring and summer, consider which of the practices in this article you can implement to reduce the amount of phosphorus going into Loon Lake.

For more information or to make a pledge to support Clear Choices - Clean Water click on the following links:

<https://indiana.clearchoicescleanwater.org/pledges/pet-poo/pet-poo-impacts/>

<https://indiana.clearchoicescleanwater.org/pledges/lawns/fertilizer-impacts/>

<https://indiana.clearchoicescleanwater.org/pledges/native-plants-and-pollinators/plant-1/>



Aquatic Weed Control

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Owner/Operator

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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 to 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.

CORN HOLE TOURNAMENT

BY DEB HISS

Grab your friends and your corn hole boards and come join us for the 13th annual Corn Hole tournament on **August 29th**. This event will be held at the Loon Lisle Nature reserve. (5655 South 600 West) **Games begin at 1:00 pm**. Cost is \$20 per team.

Get ready for good food, lots of great prize drawings as well as cash prizes for the winners.

This year's proceeds will help us with conservation projects on Loon Lake.

Would you like to help?

As with any event, volunteers are needed. If you can assist with set up, tear down or ticket sales, please let us know.

We are asking for donations of baked beans, dessert items and healthy or salty snacks. We can also use bottled water.

We have several great prizes but would greatly appreciate any prize items or gift certificates that could be used for creating prize baskets or buckets.

Come on out and meet your neighbors and join us for this exciting event!

Please contact Deb Hiss 260-229-0643 if you can help or have questions.



Goldfinch feeding on the purple coneflowers!



Monarch Butterfly! 🦋



Big Bluestem Grass

LOON LISLE NATURE RESERVE PRAIRIE PROJECT

BY CATHERINE DAVIS

Finally Spring is here and it feels like Winter might be behind us! That means Summer is coming soon! Summer is the season when the Prairie lets loose and shows us it's happy dance full of changing colors and swaying leaf fronds and stems and seed pods! It will change subtly every year! I can't wait to see the surprises in store for us this year!

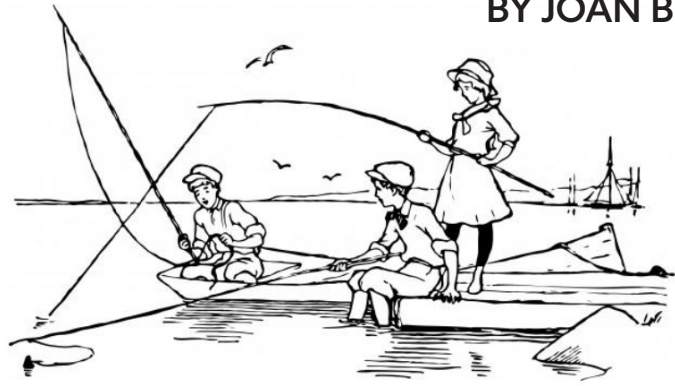
With the help of sun and rain and wind, the Prairie functions on its own. But it does need volunteers to keep things in check Mowing. Weed whacking. Hand weeding. We need volunteers who enjoy hands on work with nature. We do spring and fall clean up as a team. Then we need biweekly helpers. Please let us know if you can help on a regular basis or only once or twice. We will have sign-up sheets at the Spring Meeting or contact Cathy Davis 847-814-1040. Or Nancy Graft. Prairie co-chairs!

The Prairie is looking for a new chair and co-chair. If you like plants, please reach out to Carol Kurtz.

2026 FISHING DERBY

BY JOAN BUTLER

F is for **Find** the Fish
I is for **Interrupt** the Fish's Day
S is for **See** the Fish
H is for **Help** the Fish into the Bucket



The Annual Loon Lake Kid's Fishing Derby is on **Saturday, June 6**, at the Loon Lisle Nature Reserve.

Time to **register** is **8:00 to 8:30 a.m.**

Return to the pavilion **by 11:00 a.m.** to get your catch weighed.

Kids from 2 to 16 years old can enter the derby. This is a free fishing weekend in Indiana, so parents can help their kids catch the big one. As you are bringing the fish back to the pavilion to be weighed, be sure there is plenty of water in your bucket to keep the fish alive. Since there is not a size limit to keep the fish caught during the derby, the DNR requirement is the fish must be kept alive to release them back into the lake.

After the fish get weighed, recorded and released - enjoy a hot dog, chips and a drink. Kids eat free while adults are asked to make a donation to help offset the cost.

Prizes and trophies will be handed out after all the fisherkids get their fish weighed. The **top three** in each age group receives a **trophy** and **everyone gets a prize**.

Come out and enjoy the fun!!

LLPOA GOLF OUTING RETURNS!

BY KIRK SMITH



Back by popular demand, the Loon Lake Property Owner's Association is excited to bring back a favorite event for our golf-loving residents—all while raising funds to support Loon Lake. Mark your calendars for **Friday, June 19th** and get ready for a fun day on the green at **Eagle Glenn Golf Club** in Columbia City, Indiana.

Registration kicks off at **12:00 PM**, with a **1:00 PM shotgun start**, so be sure to arrive early, warm up, and get ready to play. The entry fee is **\$80 per person or \$320 per team**, and it includes a full afternoon of golf, friendly competition, and great company.

We'll have plenty of ways to keep things exciting with **door prizes**, a **50/50 drawing**, a **skins game**, and special contests like **long drive**, **longest putt**, and **closest to the pin**. And no golf outing is complete without food—**brats and hotdogs will be provided on the course** to keep everyone fueled up.

Whether you're playing to win or just out to enjoy the day, this outing is all about good times, community spirit, and supporting Loon Lake. We hope to see you there!

LOON LAKE APPAREL

BY DEBBIE BAUERMEISTER

Happy New Year! We have great news!

If you didn't get any LLPOA apparel for Christmas, it is not too late to have some for Spring. LLPOA, with the help of Running Around Screen Printing, now offers new patterns for your Loon Lake apparel. When you log onto www.loonlakeindiana.org and start your order, there are 5 designs that you can select from—#1 is the original and 4 new ones.

I know it's still cold outside, but it won't be long and Spring will be blossoming. These are available on the website now. Visit our website today to browse the full collection and place your order. In addition to the sweatshirts, hoodies, long-sleeve shirts, and t-shirts we've always had, we now have youth and toddler hooded sweatshirts.



Below is a quick reminder on how to order your apparel.

Go to the Loon Lake website: www.loonlakeindiana.org

Once you are on the Loon Lake site click on:

> **MORE** (on the upper right side of the home page)

> **Apparel**

- **Click Here to Order** (takes you to Running Around Screen Printing website)
- Choose the **Loon Lake logo** located on the Apparel screen, click on it
- Start shopping: Select an item to shop
- Then you will choose color, style, and size
- Order and pay
 - You can either pick up your merchandise at the store or have it shipped directly to you (for a small fee)

Running Around Screen Printing is a local business in downtown Columbia City:
227 W Van Buren St, Columbia City, IN 46725

Loon Lake receives 10% for every sale, so you are also supporting LLPOA.

Questions or need any help with the website?
Contact Debbie Bauermeister at 260-705-3192.

Have a wonderful 2026!

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LOON LAKE CONTACTS

All area codes 260 unless noted

BOARD OFFICERS

Kathy Ehinger, President 437-8085
 Debbie Bauermeister, Vice President 705-3192
 Tena Miller, Treasurer 213-0638
 Carol Kurtz, Secretary 799-4980

BOARD DIRECTORS

Brian Clark..... 438-2322
 Michael Cornyn 337-344-0177
 James Foreman..... 417-4578
 Bob Gallivan 820-1240
 Gary Hicks..... 403-7691
 Geoff Vepel 602-5996

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
 Cornhole Tournament (Deb Hiss) *James 403-2786
 Email (Carol Kurtz) 799-4980
 Finance Committee..... (Tena Miller) 213-0638
 Fire Hydrants..... Terry Huffman *Geoff 609-8691
 Fireworks (Brian Clark) 438-2322
 Garage Sale (Linda Archer) *Tena 341-2895
 Golf Cart Parade.....(Kathy Ehinger) 437-8085
 Golf Outing(Kirk Smith) *James 417-4578
 Kid's Fishing Day(JoAn Butler) *Carol 466-6207
 Lake Enhancement.....(Walt Hessler) 403-1173
 Loon Lake Apparel (Debbie Bauermeister) 705-3192
 Loon Lisle Reserve, Pavilion, & Prairie.. (Carol Kurtz) 799-4980
 Media Sign(Linda Garrison) *Karen 765-251-3955
 Newsletter (Beth Hartman) *Carol 614-738-9664
 Pancake Breakfast....(Kristina Stephan) *Debbie 317-850-0650
 Poker Run.....(Abby Green) *Kathy 437-8085
 Sailboat Race (Tom Zahm) *Gary 341-8349
 Water Quality Testing(Walt Hessler) *Tena 403-1173
 Website.....(Tom Zahm) *Carol 799-4980
 Welcome Committee (Louise Hill) *Debbie 705-3192

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



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Michigan
 Peaches

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. If you have questions, email us at: loonlakemail@gmail.com.

2026 RAFFLE

Our 2026 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 the grand prize! 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 to see the lake calendar, history, news, & more!
- 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 email addresses.

2026 Loon Lake Events Calendar

| | |
|------------------|--|
| APR 11 | April Can Pickup - 9:00am |
| MAY 9 | May Can Pickup - 9:00am |
| MAY 16 | Spring Meeting - 9:30am-10:30am |
| JUN 6 | Kids Fishing Derby - 8:00am-11:00am |
| JUN 13 | June Can Pickup - 9:00am |
| JUN 19 | Golf Outing - 1:00pm |
| JUN 19-20 | Garage Sales - 8:00am-4:00pm |
| JUL 3 | Fireworks - 10:00pm |
| JUL 4 | 5.5K Run/Walk - 8:00am |
| JUL 4 | Pancake Breakfast - 8:00am-11:00am |
| JUL 4 | Sailboat Race - 5:00pm-6:00pm |
| JUL 5 | Golf Cart Parade - 10:00am-12:00pm |
| JUL 11 | July Can Pickup - 9:00am |
| AUG 1 | Poker Run - 10:00am-12:00pm |
| AUG 8 | August Can Pickup - 9:00am |
| AUG 29 | Fall Meeting - 9:30am-10:30am |
| AUG 29 | LLPOA Cornhole Tournament-12:00pm |
| SEP 12 | September Can Pickup - 9:00am |
| TBD | Community Trick or Treat - 3:00pm-5:00pm |

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

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



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Association Dues: _____

Lake Address: _____

Fireworks Donation: _____

Mailing Address: _____
 (if different than above)

Raffle Tickets: _____

Phone 1: _____ Phone 2: _____

Lake Enhancement/
 Reserve Donation: _____

Email 1: _____

Total: _____

Email 2: _____

One check can cover the total sent!

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