Independence Day Challenges

To say the weather posed a challenge for this year’s 4th of July events is a bit of an understatement. Adapt and overcome became our motto for the weekend. Things started calmly enough with the Lighted boat parade on Thurs evening. Thanks to all who decorated their boats and the many onlookers who cheered them on from shore. Then came Friday and Mother Nature made her presence known. At one point on Friday afternoon, it rained so hard you literally couldn’t see past the shoreline. Talk about crazy. At the south end of the lake one resident recorded just shy of 4” of rain while another resident at the north end recorded approximately 1 1/2”. Anything that wasn’t tied down, and a few things that were, flew or floated away.

But try as she might Mother Nature could not put a stop to our festivities. The first call, and it was a close one, was whether or not to proceed with the Fireworks. Our rain date was Sunday evening but after much discussion it was decided that would be a last resort option fearing that many families and friends would already be headed home. The fireworks crew was ready, and when a window of opportunity presented itself the decision was made to proceed. We apologize for the last minute decision and the ensuing delay and uncertainty, but under the circumstances it was the best option.

The 5.5k race posed a different set of challenges and running the race was yet another tough call. The morning dawned bright and clear but the rain had left its mark. Concerns over parking proved unfounded, but the flooded road conditions forced a change in the race format at the last minute. Thanks to all who participated and those who came out to support the participants. And for those on the back end of the course wondering why the runners never came past, the race was changed to an “out and back” run necessary to avoid the high water.

Given the break in the weather the Pancake Breakfast was enjoyed by a record number of people. Boats waited in line and diners on shore were all served in quick order by a crew of experienced volunteers. Sorry IHOP but you’ll never be able to serve up a plate of pancakes as tasty as those consumed while floating along in your pontoon boat. Admittedly, it took a bit of time to clean up from sticky fingers and spilled syrup, but the memories made are worth it.

Still, Mother Nature wasn’t done messing with us. The sailboat race was postponed until Sunday and the kayak flotilla was a casualty of the unpredictable weather conditions. I’m personally proud of my second place finish in the sailboat race and would like to congratulate the winners, the Swiatkowski team. The TWO of us had a great time.

Thanks to all who worked so tirelessly to make this another wonderful Independence Day on Loon Lake. I know many of you make plans for family and friends to share your lake home and enjoy the weekend together. We know some plans were disrupted, and for that we do apologize, but there is only so much that we can control. Plans are already underway for next year and we are looking forward to another great celebration. But not before we enjoy the remaining weeks of Summer 2019.

Annual Fall Meeting
7722 Arnold Road
Saturday, August 24, 2019
Bring your chairs
9:00 coffee & donuts 9:30 call to order!
2019 LOON LAKE CONTACTS

All Area Codes 260 unless noted

**OFFICERS**
Gary Hicks, President ----------------------------- 403-7691
Steve Lipinski, Vice President ------------- 630-248-2452
Carol Kurtz, Secretary ----------------------------- 799-4980
Rich Nelson, Treasurer --------------------------- 799-4913

**CHAIRPERSONS**
* Denotes Board Liaison
5.5K Run/Walk------------ (Gary Bock)*Hicks 241-6899
Poker Run ------------- (Ehinger) *Bruce 437-8085
By-Laws -------------- (Garry Hill) 248-8471
Can Collection ------------- (Bob Gallivan) 820-1240
Finance Committee ------------- (Rich Nelson)799-4913
Fire Hydrants----- (Terry Huffman) *Steve L. 609-8691
Fireworks------------- (Bob Barkley) *Steve L 341-1904
Garage Sale----- (Karen Davison) *Lindsay 609-8144
Golf Tournament ----- (Kirk Smith) *Steve W 799-4195
Editor------------------- (Claire Hicks) 403-7689
Kayak Flotilla-------- (Darrell Post) *G Hicks 322-7681
Kids Fishing Day -------(JoAn Butler) *Carol 799-4193
Lake Enhancement---(Walt Hessler) *Bruce 799-4903
Lighted Boat Parade ------- (Carol Kurtz) 799-4980
Loon Lake Apparel-----,(JoAn Butler) *Carol 799-4193
Lighted Boat Parade ------- (Carol Kurtz) 799-4980
Media Sign------------ (Kathy Ehinger) *Lindsay 437-8085
Pancake breakfast-- (Mark Newman) *Clark 799-9990
Sailboat Race --------(Tom Zahm) *Gary H. 341-8349
Water Quality Testing ----(Rick Miller) *Tena 213-0639
Web Master ----------------(Lindsay Gallmeyer) 704-0993
Welcome Committee ---------------(Tena Miller) 213-0638

**DIRECTORS**
Bob Gallivan ---------------------------------------- 820-1240
Steve Weaver--------------------------------------- 799-4195
Garry Hill ---------------------------------------- 248-8471
Clark Milestone------------------------------------ 348-5706
Tena Miller -------------------------------------- 213-0638
Bruce Graham-------------------------------------- 317-697-5619
Lindsay Gallmeyer -------------------------------- 704-0993

**COMMUNITY-POLICE/FIRE/HEALTH**
DNR ----------------------------------------------- 244-3720
Whitley County Sheriff ----------------------------- 244-6410
Whitley County Fire-------------------------------- 248-8911
Whitley County Health Dept ............................. 248-3121
Noble County Sheriff ------------------------------- 636-2192
Noble County Fire --------------------------------- 636-7712
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

Check out the Loon Lake website!
Offer your suggestions on how to improve it.

Email ideas to Lindsay Gallmeyer,
Our webmaster at lindsaygallmeyer@yahoo.com

THANKS LINDSAY!!

ULTRA News

Please mark your calendars for the Upper Lakes of the Tippecanoe River Association fall educational outreach meeting on September 10th. The meeting will take place at Big Lake Church of God with a light supper starting at 6:30 PM. The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM. The speaker(s) will be announced later this summer.
What happens when you combine beautiful weather, great volunteers, wonderful donations and fisher kids ready to catch fish? The numbers are in - 60 fisher people caught 74.29 lbs of fish and 20 volunteers were involved the morning of the derby.

As the kids arrived at the boat launch to register for the day, a sand bucket or bag, a bobber, a drink, and a snack was provided. Worms were also given to those who needed them.

The prize table was overflowing with fishing gear and fun stuff to use outside. Fishing poles with reels, tackle, tackle boxes, and nets were some of the prizes for those who wanted to add to their fishing arsenal. Other prizes included water floats, sand toys, beach balls, jump ropes and squirt guns of all sizes. Jane Loomis from Old Loon Farm came to talk to the kids about critters in the water and the quality of the water. The top three fish catchers in each age group received a plaque. The groups are minnows, bluegill, bass, walleye, and muskie.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>1st</th>
<th>2nd</th>
<th>3rd</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Minnows</td>
<td>Jaxon Christman</td>
<td>Hunter Uhrick</td>
<td>Maddie Fromader</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bluegills</td>
<td>Lydia Munsch</td>
<td>Gwen Munsch</td>
<td>Chloe Uhrick</td>
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<td>Bass</td>
<td>Reid Abbott</td>
<td>Luke Feiock</td>
<td>Jillian Feiock</td>
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<td>Walleye</td>
<td>Braylen Hicks</td>
<td>Jordan McGuire</td>
<td>Patrick Shivley</td>
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<td>Muskie</td>
<td>Evan Cearbaugh</td>
<td>Josiah McGuire</td>
<td>Hailey Cearbaugh</td>
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<td></td>
<td>And Devyn Krouse</td>
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We interviewed two girls who have participated in the derby for 2 years now. Lydia, who is 7 years old and her sister Gwen, 6 years old. Their grandparents, Chuck, and Carrie Owens live on Maple Lane. The girls were very enthusiastic about fishing. Last year they caught several fish and one sister took home a trophy for her catch. As the derby day approached, Carrie was nervous about the girls catching fish. She was not having much luck fishing off her pier. Then the day arrived, would the girls be able to catch fish or not? Well, catch fish they did. Lydia caught 3 lbs. of bluegill and crappie. She used a Barbie pole and a bobber. She tried several kinds of bait to lure the fish in - worms and hot dog pieces. Her motto is No matter how big or small, they all count!!! The fishing tradition has been handed down to the girls by their grandfather, Chuck. The best thing about this is these girls are fishing more than just fishing derby day.

Let me remind you about the Spring association meeting, the water quality is much better, therefore the fishing is much better. The Loon Lake Fish Management Committee is working hard to keep the fish population up. This all contributes to a healthy lake we can be proud to call home. The love of the lake and the many opportunities for fun does not have to depend on fast boats and tubes. It can be a slower and gentler pace.

Written by: JoAn and Christopher Butler

Fisher people of all ages anxiously await the top awards as JoAn Butler, chairwoman makes the announcements.

(Note, front and center are interviewees, Gwen and Lydia Munsch, yes, Gwen did wear black velvet to fish in!)

SAVE THE DATE
Saturday, June 6 - Loon Lake Fishing Derby for 2020
Summer 2019

Loon Lake Golf Outing 2019
Saturday, August 3 was a beautiful day to be on the links. 14 teams took advantage of the great weather and gathered at Crooked Lake Golf Course to try their skills. Winners were:

Men’s division:
1st: Kirk Smith, Steve Lipinski, Bruce Graham, and Ryan Finefrock
2nd: Steve Weaver, Tom Goodrich L Morrison and Dr. J Smith

Mixed division:
1st: Zach & Amanda Vaught, Josh & Brooks Rudicel
2nd: Tim & Ruby Brower, Brooks & Paula Langeloh

Congratulations!
Thanks to Tom Sawyer for his years as chairman and to Kirk Smith for stepping up to take the helm next year. Watch next spring’s calendar for the golf outing date! Typically the first Saturday in August!! Get your team together early!

5.5 K Wrap-up
Whew, on Friday evening, the race was really up in the air. With the torrential downpour, how many high water areas were there, could we park cars in the Reserve area and how was this all going to change things? But Heather Klemm and father Gary Bock kept cool heads and waited it out. Morning brought only one obstacle. Due to high water by the boat launch, the course was changed to an “out and back”. Participants ran as far as Maple Ln and turned back to the finish. 271 runners and walkers gathered. Participants can see their time at runsignup.com/loonlakerun. (scroll down and click “results”) Thanks Gary and Heather, they’re on for an encore next year!

By Kathy Ehinger

Poker Run 2019
Thanks to everyone who donated, volunteered and participated in the Poker Run this year! We had beautiful weather and FUN was had by all! We raised over $1700 for the LLPOA! Mark your calendars for next year, Poker Run’s on July 25, 2020!

Kirk, Regan and Riley Smith deal to Chris Rice and Megan Oilar.
Have you seen these “pretty” purple flower spikes (see picture below) in bloom along the shorelines of Loon Lake? Purple Loosestrife (Lythrum salicaria) typically bloom in late July and early August. While pretty on the outside, its value to nature is very shallow.

Purple loosestrife is an invasive species that is believed to be from Eurasia. It was brought to New England sometime in the early 1800s, probably from being carried mistakenly by ship; which is a common mode of invasive species introduction. From there, settlers probably carried it west because of its toxic beauty.

According to www.invasiveplants.net purple loosestrife now occurs in all the lower 48 states except Florida and all the provinces of Canada. The plant is a perennial that is found in some locations around Loon Lake. We have seen it on the islands and in several yards. The picture below is typical of what purple loosestrife looks like. The explosion of color is hard to miss when it is blooming. Purple loosestrife gets several feet tall and has several stems on a single plant, appearing like a bush. It has oppositely arranged leaves that alternate down the stem at 90-degree angles. The leaves themselves have smooth edges and soft hairs. The stems are square-like but might have more than four sides. The flowers spikes are an intense purple. Each spike is made up of dozens of five-or-six pedaled flowers with a little yellow in the center.

The problem with this invasive species is that it doesn't behave very well. It spreads quickly and can take over precious real estate. Each plant can produce somewhere in the range of 100,000 to 2.5 million seeds. These seeds can be scattered by the wind but also, because of the habitat, are spread over long distances by water. Purple loosestrife also spreads by rhizomes so it is double whammy on destroying it. The seeds can remain in the soil for a few years until conditions are right for germination. With its high seed numbers, it isn’t surprising that it can dominate an ecosystem fast if not kept in check.

The LLPOA have gained permission to spray purple loosestrife on public lands around Loon Lake such as the islands and wetlands by the access site. This is done each year in August when the invasive plants are in bloom and easy identify.

By working together, we can keep the pretty but invasive purple loosestrife plant from taking over Loon Lake.
Loon Lake 2019 Calendar
(Watch Newsletter for any changes)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>5/3/19</td>
<td>8:00-4:00</td>
<td>Association Garage Sale</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/4/19</td>
<td>8:00-4:00</td>
<td>Association Garage Sale</td>
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<td>5/11/19</td>
<td>9 a.m.</td>
<td>Can Pick-Up*</td>
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<tr>
<td>5/18/19</td>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Spring Meeting</td>
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<td>7722 Arnold</td>
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<td>6/1/19</td>
<td>8:30-noon</td>
<td>Kid's Fishing Derby</td>
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<td>County Line Boat Launch</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/8/19</td>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Can Pick-Up*</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/4/19</td>
<td>9:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Lighted Boat Regatta</td>
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<td>7/5/19</td>
<td>Dark</td>
<td>FIREWORKS!</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/6/19</td>
<td>8:00-11:00</td>
<td>5K Run/Walk</td>
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<td>a.m.</td>
<td>Loon Lisle Reserve</td>
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<td>Pancake Breakfast</td>
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<td>Gallivan, north end of lake</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Sailboat Race</td>
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<td></td>
<td>4:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Kayak Flotilla</td>
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<td>Near Old Campground</td>
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<td>7/13/19</td>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Can Pick-Up*</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/20/19</td>
<td>10:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Poker Run</td>
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<td>Sycamore Bay</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11:30-2:30</td>
<td>Dog and Brat Boat</td>
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<td>Sycamore Bay</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/3/9</td>
<td>11:30 a.m.</td>
<td>LLPOA Golf Outing</td>
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<td>Crooked Lake Golf Course</td>
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<td>8/10/19</td>
<td>9 a.m.</td>
<td>Can Pick-Up*</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/24/19</td>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Fall Meeting</td>
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<td>7722 Arnold</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/14/19</td>
<td>9:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Can Pick-Up*</td>
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*Oct-May Recycle Aluminum cans may be taken to 5727 Red Bud Lane and left by the garage on left side of driveway.

Spring Raffle Winners
Did you enter the spring raffle? Drawing took place after the Annual Spring Meeting. Thanks for everyone’s support by participating. The prizes were great and quite generous.

And the winners were!

- First prize The Pad (aqua mat) measuring 6’ x17!’
  - Jim Roehling
- $50.00 Gift certificates for:
  - The Square (formerly Downtown on the Square)
    - Michael Betts
  - Wings, Etc
    - Scott & Amy Bean
  - Portside Pizza
    - Marie Graham
  - Tri-Lakes Tavern
    - Ken & Jane Gick
- Hand carved wooden loon donated by Don Miller:
  - Patty Thomas

Proceeds from this year’s raffle support the fireworks display on Independence Day weekend! Thanks for your support!!

Loon Lake Fish Management News
The Loon Lake fish group will hold their 6th annual Corn Hole Tournament on Saturday, August 24 at 1 pm at the Loon Lisle Nature Reserve, S 600 W. $20 a team, bring your own boards. CASH prizes depending on number of teams. Brats, hotdogs, chips, soft drinks for sale on site, BYOD. Special drawing for the annual fish stocking raffle will take place at closing. Raffle tickets are available from any member of the fish management committee.

Their 6th Annual Muskie Shootout will take place Saturday, September 28. $30 per boat. Sign up at the public landing at 7:30 am. Tournament hours are 8 am—3 pm. All proceeds to the Loon Lake Fish Stocking Program. Walleye and Muskie. CASH prizes at end of day. Chili, hot dogs, chips provided. BYOD.

For more information, contact Clark Milestone at 260-348-5706, or Bob Barkley at lake46725@gmail.com.
Add to Your Loonie Wardrobe

If you don’t have any Loon Lake apparel, now is the time to order. There are so many choices - sweatshirts, hats, polo shirts and fleeces to mention a few. Beach towels for summer, visors and jackets. We have catalogues full of items that can be custom ordered with this image. They can also be personalized too. You pick colors and style. DaniJo’s Embroidery does the rest!

Find LLPOA on Facebook!

Loon Lake Property Owners Association has a Facebook page where you can follow news and other exciting happenings around the lake. Over 100 folks keep track of lake business by joining this group. Great for lost and found, help needed, cottage for rent, etc. Need an update on a coming event? Just ask via Facebook.

It's not too late! 2019 Loon Lake Property Owners Association $30.00 Annual Dues

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

Name: __________________________________________________ Dues: $30.00

Address: ____________________________________________________________________________

Phone: ____________________________ Cell: ____________________________

E-mail: ______________________________________________________________________________

Lake address: ________________________________________________________________

(If different than above)

☐ Please do not publish my phone numbers(s)

☐ Please do not publish my e-mail address

Make checks payable to: LLPOA    Mail to PO Box 605, Columbia City, IN  46725

Fireworks donation: $_______

Lake Enhancement Donation: $_______

Total: $___________

One check can cover the total sent!
Have you been receiving messages from LLPOA via e-mail to your inbox? If you are not receiving important messages from LLPOA, please contact us at loonlakemail@gmail.com so we have your e-mail address. We do not share e-mail addresses and all messages are sent via blind copy so others can not pick up your information.

The summer/winter issue of Loon's Call will be sent only via e-mail unless you request a hard copy. Be sure we have your e-mail address correct!

Obey Speed Limits Around the Lake!!
S 600 W-57 along east side of lake is now 30 mph.
W 700 N along the south end of lake is 20 mph.
Long, curvy, hilly Brown Road is 20 mph.

Have your message posted on the main media sign for only $5.00.
Contact Kathy Ehinger at 260-437-8085 to rent the sign.

ROAD REPAIRS CONTINUE
Garry Hill reports that on July 26 he talked with Zack, the Noble County Highway Engineer. The elevation of 700 N by the boat access is scheduled the week of August 26 plus or minus a week based upon the weather.

This will most likely close off 700 N for a short while, be prepared to detour around the lake. In doing so, please be aware of speed limits and drive safely.