THE PRESIDENT’S CORNER

BY RICHARD NELSON

Given the recent discussion about boating safety at our August 22 membership meeting, I thought it might be a good idea to review some highlights from Indiana’s boating regulations.

Dangerous operation prohibited (IC 14-15-3-6).
Sec. 6. A person may not operate a boat in a manner that does any of the following:
1. Unnecessarily endangers the person or property of another person. 
2. Unnecessarily interferes with the safe and lawful use of public waterways by another person.

In regard to this regulation, the Handbook of Indiana Boating Laws and Responsibilities points out that receiving a ticket for violating this provision could lead to points being assigned against your driver’s license. It gives as one example of dangerous operation as “operating a vessel at speeds that endanger human life, endanger human physical safety or property, or prevent stopping within an assured clear distance ahead.”

Hazardous wake or wash prohibited (IC 14-15-3-15).
Sec. 15. A person operating a motorboat may not approach or pass another boat:
1. In such a manner or
2. At such a rate of speed
To create a hazardous wake or wash.

Minimum distance from shore lines (IC 14-15-3-17).
Sec. 17. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) [referencing certain lakes formed by hydroelectric dams], a person may not operate a motorboat within two hundred (200) feet of the shore line of a lake or channel of lake at a speed greater than idle speed.

Also of interest are Towing of persons or objects (IC 14-15-3-20) [have a spotter and ensure the operator is paying full attention to driving] and Occupants on gunwales or bow decking prohibited (IC 14-15-3-24) [unless anchoring, mooring, or casting off].

All of Indiana’s boating regulations may be accessed at http://iga.in.gov/legislative/laws/2020/ic/titles/014/#14-15-1-1 or by going to in.gov and drilling down through Government (top tab), Resources & Records (left side), Laws & Administrative Code (left side), Code (tab on upper right) and entering numbers into boxes in upper right for Title (14) and Article (15).

Best wishes,
Rich Nelson, President LLPOA

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7TH ANNUAL LOON LAKE MUSKIE SHOOTOUT

September 26th, 2020
$30.00 per team
Sign up beginning at 7:30 am @ the public landing.
Tournament Hours: 8:00 am - 3:00 pm
All proceeds go to the Loon Lake Fish Stocking Program (walleye and muskie).
CASH prizes distributed at the end of the tournament.
Food will be provided but BYOD.
For more information or to pre-register contact Clark Milestone 260-348-5706 Or Lake46725@gmail.com
LOON LAKE CONTACTS

All Area Codes 260 unless noted

OFFICERS
Rich Nelson, President------------------------799-4913
Patti Thomas, Vice President-----------------402-5720
Tena Miller, Treasurer------------------------213-0638
Carol Kurtz, Secretary-----------------------799-4980

DIRECTORS
Bob Gallivan ----------------------------------820-1240
Steve Weaver --------------------------------799-4195
Gary Hicks -----------------------------------403-7691
Clark Milestone-----------------------------346-5706
Lindsay Gallmeyer--------------------------704-0993
Brian Clark --------------------------------438-2322
Karen Treat --------------------------------438-7968
Geoff Velpel -------------------------------602-5996

CHAIRPERSONS *Denotes Board Liaison
5.5K Run/Walk---(Heather Klemm) *G Hicks 615-3644
By-Laws ------------------------------(Rich Nelson) 799-4913
Can Collection ------------------------(Bob Gallivan) 820-1240
Finance Committee --------------------- (Tena Miller) 213-0638
Fire Hydrants----(Terry Huffman) *G Hicks 609-8691
Fireworks-------(Volunteer Needed) *Brian 438-2322
Garage Sale ------(Karen Davison) *Lindsay 609-8144
Golf Tournament --------(Kirk Smith) *Steve 341-1657
Kayak Flotilla--------(Darrell Post) *G Hicks 322-7681
Kids Fishing Day ------(JoAn Butler) *Carol 466-6207
Lake Enhancement-------(Walt Hessler) * 799-4903
Lighted Boat Parade -------(Carol Kurtz) 799-4980
Loon Lake Apparel--------(Karen Treat) 438-7968
Loon Lisle Reserve(Volunteer Needed) *Tena 213-0638
Media Sign---------(Kathy Ehinger) *Lindsay 437-8085
Newsletter/Email -------(Lindsay Gallmeyer) 704-0993
Pancake Breakfast--------(Karen Treat) 438-7968
Poker Run --------------(Kathy Ehinger ) *Tena 437-8085
Sailboat Race --------(Tom Zahm) *G Hicks 341-8349
Safety Committee (facilitator Steve) *Geoff 317-440-3314
ULTRA Rep ----------------------(Tena Miller) 213-0638
Water Quality Testing----(Rick Miller) *Tena 213-0639
Website Updates--------(Lindsay Gallmeyer) 704-0993
Welcome Committee--------(Tena Miller) 213-0638

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 ------------------------636-2182
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
(Do NOT call for normal business issues—use after hours only)

Would you like to Advertise here?
$50 for black and white,
$75 for color.
Runs for 3 issues. Email your requests to advertise to:
loonlakemail@gmail.com

Faye Graham Insurance
Independent Health Insurance Agent
14074 Trade Center Dr., Ste. 133
Fishers, IN 46038
faye@grahamins.net
Mobile: 317-727-3524
As most of you know Curlyleaf Pondweed has made its way into Loon Lake. This submersed aquatic plant has oblong blue-green leaves that attach to its spaghetti-like stems in an alternate pattern. The margins of the leaves are wavy and fine-toothed. Leaves can be up to 3 inches long and a half inch wide. In the spring the plant is on the lake’s surface clogging up the areas it inhabits. Once the water temperature reaches 75 degrees the weeds sink to the bottom.

Although Curlyleaf can provide habitat for aquatic life during the winter, the negative consequences of this plant far outweigh this one positive aspect. The mid-summer decay of Curlyleaf pondweed can cause low oxygen conditions in areas where a considerable amount of decomposition is occurring. The die-off will also cause nutrients to be released from the plants which can trigger algal blooms. Dense beds of Curlyleaf can reduce recreational opportunities such as boating, fishing, and swimming.

Once the species becomes established there are a couple of control options. Control efforts should take place for a number of consecutive years to be effective. Early season raking is one method of control. Plants should be removed as close to the sediment surface as possible. All fragments must be removed from the body of water for this to be effective. To dispose of the remnants, composting, burning, burying, or trash disposal are all acceptable methods.

Early spring treatments using contact herbicides have shown positive effects in reducing Curlyleaf pondweed. Aquatic Weed Control & Management has agreed to offer early season spraying specifically for Curlyleaf Pondweed in addition to the traditional spraying they do in June.

The Loon Lake Property Owner’s Association (LLPOA) has researched grants for the herbicide spraying of the Curlyleaf Pondweed. To obtain funding, an aquatic weed survey would need to be conducted at a cost of between $3,000 and $5,000. The DNR considers this weed invasive, but not as critical as some other very damaging invasive weeds. As such, the maximum grant we could possibly receive is a $3,500 annual maintenance grant. At this time, the LLPOA Board agreed that getting the study done did not make financial sense.

In summary, if you have issues with these weeds you can rake them out and/or contract with Aquatic Weed Control & Management for their early spraying for Curlyleaf Pondweed. They will include this as an option on their order form. The LLPOA will continue to monitor all the weeds in Loon Lake and will consider additional action as needed. We all hope for a warm spring in 2021 which will greatly reduce the impact of the Curlyleaf Pondweed in Loon Lake.
LOON LAKE FISH MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE—DONATIONS NEEDED

BY CLARK MILESTONE

Given the extra-ordinary situation with the Covid-19 virus, the Loon Lake Fish Management Committee has suspended fund raising efforts for the 2020 summer season.

We have funding for a significantly reduced muskie and walleye stocking in October and welcome any additional donations from anglers enjoying the muskie and walleye fishing this summer.

To donate, make a check payable to: Loon Lake Fish Management Committee and send to any of the following members.

Clark Milestone: 7993 N. Arnold Rd. Columbia City, IN 46725
Bob Barkley: 7729 N Arnold Rd. Columbia City, IN 46725
Terry Huffman: 6995 N 250 W. Columbia City, IN 46725

Email questions to lake46725@gmail.com or call Clark Milestone at 260-348-5706.

Thank you to everyone who has already donated this year, it is greatly appreciated.

Fish stocking is tentatively scheduled for the 2nd week in October for 2020.

The Poker Run—Thanks to Kathy & Phil Ehinger, all the dealers who volunteered, and those who donated prizes this year! $1696.00 was raised for the fireworks fund!
GET OUT & GET INVOLVED

BY LINDSAY GALLMEYER

Loon Lake is an amazing community with so many things to do and ways you can get involved, volunteer or just get out and have a good time with neighbors! Here are some of the ways you can get involved:

**Lake Enhancement Committee:** This committee is looking for volunteers! If you are a nature lover or want to help enhance and protect the waters of Loon Lake and the native species that inhabit the lake for the betterment of the property owners and visitors, this is the committee for you. There are so many things done by this committee, spraying purple loosestrife, testing the waters at the inlets, monitoring the settling pond, putting in buoys and much more. Contact Walt Hessler if you are interested in volunteering or learning more – 260-799-4903.

**Loon Lisle Reserve Planning Committee:** The Loon Lisle Reserve was purchased by the association to remain as a nature reserve. The property is available for events (see website for use) but this committee is working to plan the addition of trails, a pavilion and more. This committee is in need of a leader to organize meetings and communicate plans with the board. The DNR has already approved the planting of native grasses which will be done this spring. To get involved contact Tena Miller – 260-213-0638.

**Fireworks Committee:** The fireworks committee helps to set up and tear down after the fireworks show which is shot from barges in the lake. The committee is in need of a chairperson who is responsible for getting the contracts for the 4th of July Celebrations and submitting to the board. The 2021 contract is already signed but we need to start planning for 2022. If you’re interested in leading or joining this committee contact Brian Clark- 438-2322.

If you would like to volunteer to help at any other lake events or on any committees- please contact the chairperson, their contact information is on page 2.

CAN COLLECTION UPDATE

BY CLAIRE HICKS

It is with heartfelt gratitude that we acknowledge Tim and Ruby Brower for their years of service with our fireworks can recycle program. For more years than most can remember, Tim has allowed the association to drop off and store bags of recycled aluminum beverage cans in his shed. This has not always been a nice, clean job to deal with. Often bags break open, many leak beer and soft drinks all over you and they draw flies and critters with those smells. Tim has heaped the bags into his trailer and most likely Ruby has helped him stretch a net over the large load to keep bags from flying out. From there he would haul them to the recycle center to cash in, not once a year, but several times a year. This has been a labor of love from Tim. Thank you Browsers for your generosity!!

As in all things, the time has come for Tim to pass this baton on. He is no longer going to store or haul cans. Therefore, please DO NOT drop them off on Red Bud Lane anymore. Our pick-up teams will come around to pick them up curbside the 2nd Saturday of each month, April – September. If anyone is interested in taking on the task of storing them, that would be welcome. But at this point, please store them at your place to put out for pick up. This is a very big fund raiser for the fireworks, so refrain from dropping them in your blue recycle bin!

**There will be an additional winter collection: on Saturday, January 9th you will be able to drop off your bagged cans in the trailer located at 7748 N Arnold Rd. Also 2021 can pickup from your curb will begin a month early, on the second Saturday in April and continue every second Saturday through September.**
Walleye and bluegill and muskie oh my! This year’s derby was one for the books. Should we have it, should we serve lunch, how should we pass out the prizes? These were just a few of the questions we had to answer this year, but it went off without a hitch.

Prizes and hot dogs and medals oh yeah! The prizes were purchased, the volunteers were lined up and the weather was going to cooperate. Let’s have a fishing derby!!

43 fisher kids registered at the boat lift by 8:30 in the morning. When they returned around 11:00 with buckets of fish to be weighed, Mr. Sittler set up an aquarium with various types of lake fish. He scooped one out to show the audience different parts of the fish and how those parts worked. It was a very interesting program that continued with Mr. Voirol sharing tips on fishing gear.

The results of the morning fish were 73 pounds of fish caught. And hopefully, some new fisher people hooked on fishing.

A shout out to Tyson Finefrock for catching his first muskie and the first muskie caught during the fishing derby. The fish measured 27”, but a weight was not taken because he didn’t have anything large enough to bring it in safely. He did the right thing and released it back into Loon Lake. Congrats, Tyson!

**Minnows**
- 1st place Jaxon Christman
- 2nd place Jose Christman
- 3rd place Calvin Meiklejohn

**Bluegills**
- 1st place Madelyn Fromader
- 2nd place Emma Frecker
- 3rd place Cooper Sarrazin

**Bass**
- 1st place Lane Canvin
- 2nd place Lily Cearbaugh
- 3rd place Jude Cearbaugh

**Walleye**
- 1st place Abigail Seder
- 2nd place Eden Cearbaugh
- 3rd place Kaden Hill

**Muskie**
- 1st place Christian Kline
- 2nd place Audrey Wenta
- 3rd place Regan Smith

Thank you to all the volunteers who came out to help! The plan is to have the derby on its regular date - Saturday, June 5, 2021. Hope to see you then!!
July 4th Fun Ride—ATVs, UTVs, golf carts and 4x4’s joined for a patriotic ride around the lake. Photo courtesy of Walt Hessler.

LOON LAKE APPAREL

BY KAREN TREAT

For your Loon Lake apparel needs, please call or text message Karen Treat at 260-438-7968. Karen can text you three pages of colors to choose from for screen-printed t-shirts. Find prices and sizes along with other products available on the Loon Lake webpage (www.loonlakeindiana.org/loon-lake-apparel).

For non Loon Lake custom products, check out DaniJo’s Thread Shop on Facebook or call them at 260-710-4344. They can personalize masks or pretty much anything that you might want to have custom made.

Speed Limits
Around the Lake

S 600 W- east side:
30 mph

W 700 N- south end:
20 mph

Brown Rd- west side:
20 mph

LOON'S CALL

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.

Join the Loon Lake Property Owners Association Facebook group. Follow news and other exciting happenings around the lake. Over 400 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? Ask on facebook!

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/winter issue of Loon’s Call will be sent only via e-mail unless you request a hard copy.