



LOON'S CALL

LOON LAKE PROPERTY OWNER'S ASSOCIATION

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

WINTER 2025

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY GARY HICKS

It's officially 2025 and for me it's a welcome change. Personally, I was ready to put 2024 behind and move forward. With the beginning of a new year it's always been tradition to make a resolution for the coming year. Come to find out that's a little old school... just like me. The new thing, as I've just recently learned, is to pick a word for the coming year. The key is to find a word that reminds you of something you want to do to improve, add meaning to your life, or maybe have a positive impact on those around you. Actually, I like the idea. Resolutions get easily cast aside or lost in the hustle and bustle of the day-to-day but, perhaps a single word is something that could be more easily kept top of mind.

So if you're open to a new idea, spend some time thinking about a meaningful word, and maybe something will come to you. If not, I have a suggestion for a word to ponder... **Volunteer**. Thinking about doing things a new way, I wondered what Google might have to say about volunteering. As it turns out quite a bit actually, but what struck me was this..."volunteering can be a great way to meet new people, learn about your community, and gain valuable work experience". To that, I would add, have some FUN. The spirit of volunteering has always been a big part of the Loon Lake community and culture. So much of what we do as a lake community is the direct result of someone stepping forward and offering to lend a helping hand. Without your help we simply could not do what we do!

The 4th of July weekend here on Loon Lake has always been special for my family. It's filled with memories and traditions and I'm certain that's true for many of you as well. Every year we get calls from folks who want, no need, to know the date we've selected for our schedule of events so they can plan vacations and family gatherings to coincide with our festivities. One of those events is our annual Pancake Breakfast. Talk about tradition. It's an event that has persisted for almost 50 years. That's not a typo. That's 5 decades... a half a century!

Karen Treat and Mark Newman, our current event coordinators have followed a long line of folks who have chaired this event over the years. We're grateful for their leadership, but this will be their last year. So, you guessed it, we need someone, or better yet a group of someone's, to step up and volunteer to take over this event in 2026. By stepping forward now you'll have the opportunity to shadow Mark and Karen this year to get a feel for the event. What I believe you'll find is a task that's not as daunting as you might think. The ground work is all in place and there is a strong supporting cast of knowledgeable and experienced volunteers ready to support you. What's needed is someone to guide their efforts and keep this tradition alive. *Are you that person?*

Happy New Year and may 2025 be your best year yet!

Gary Hicks

President LLPOA

LOON LISLE NATURE RESERVE UPDATE

BY CATHY DAVIS

Spring 2024 and nature's growing season kicked off with Jan Barkley stepping down as chair of the Prairie Project. Jan was key to getting the project off the ground. She oversaw the original planning and coordination with other organizations to give this new idea the best possible start. The Prairie has flourished under her guidance. Now both Cathy Davis and Nancy Graft will co-chair to make sure the Prairie continues to provide beauty for the Loon Lake community.

Right now the Prairie is resting. The cold temperatures and snow cover will help the native plant seeds to stratify and be ready to germinate into beautiful flowers and grasses come Spring. The spent flowers provide food for the wildlife. The dried plants provide shelter from the cold for birds and other animals.

Last season we were able to establish a good maintenance plan with the help of volunteers. Plans are being discussed for some improvements this coming season.

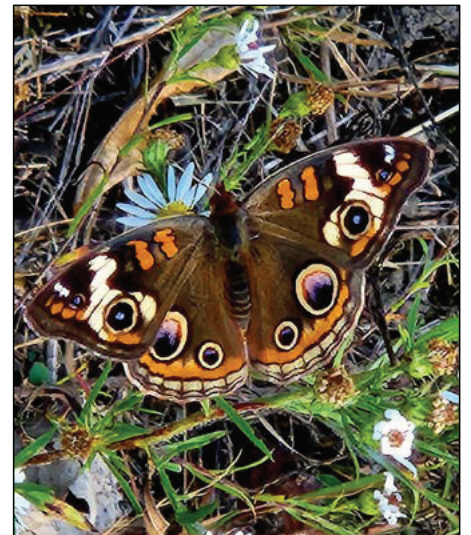
Gardening is a passion that never ends! Our Prairie Project is an ongoing activity. If you would like to get involved in the Prairie with 2x yearly Spring and Fall clean up OR monthly maintenance OR conversations about improvements, please reach out to Cathy or Nancy. We would love the help!



Fall Sunset



Goldfinch



Common Buckeye Butterfly

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. This Community page was created and is administered by Jennifer Romano, a former Assn. Secretary... she created the page decades ago. While not a LLPOA official page, the Association participates on the page to add information and updates.

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.

JULY 4TH COMMUNITY PARADE - 2ND ANNUAL!

BY KATHY EHINGER



Please join us on Friday, July 4th for our 2nd annual parade around the lake! Decorate your golf cart, UTV, tractor, or bike and meet at the pavilion at 11:00 a.m. on July 4th. If you can't join us, please grab a chair and watch as our parade travels around the lake showing our Patriotic pride!

Reach out to Kathy Ehinger with any questions.



2025 Loon Lake Events Calendar

APR 12	April Can Pickup - 9:00am
MAY 10	May Can Pickup - 9:00am
MAY 17	Spring Meeting - 9:30am-10:30am
JUN 7	Kids Fishing Derby - 8:00am-11:00am
JUN 14	June Can Pickup - 9:00am
JUN 20-21	Garage Sales - 8:00am-4:00pm
JUL 4	Golf Cart Parade - 8:00am-5:00pm
JUL 4	Lighted Boat Parade - 9:30pm
JUL 5	5.5K Run/Walk - 8:00am
JUL 5	Pancake Breakfast - 8:00am-11:00am
JUL 5	Sailboat Race - 5:00pm-6:00pm
JUL 5	Fireworks - 10:00pm
JUL 12	July Can Pickup - 9:00am
JUL 26	Poker Run - 10:00am-12:00pm
AUG 9	August Can Pickup - 9:00am
AUG 23	Fall Meeting - 9:30am-10:30am
AUG 23	LLFMP Cornhole Tournament - 12:00pm
SEP 13	September Can Pickup - 9:00am
TBD	LLFMP Muskie Shoot-Out
OCT 25	Community Trick or Treat - 3:00pm-5:00pm

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!

BREAKING NEWS: LOON LAKE HAS FROZEN OVER!

BY WALT HESSLER

So, what happens beneath our lake's icy surface? Cold weather transforms Loon Lake in visible and invisible ways, and those changes definitely affect aquatic ecosystems. How much? Well, that depends on a few factors, including how cold the water gets and for how long.

Here are three key things to know about Loon Lake in winter.

1. Water freezes from the top down.

As air temperatures drop, the temperature of our lake drops too, starting at the surface. Once water at the lake's surface drops below 39 degrees Fahrenheit, it becomes less dense than slightly warmer, deeper layers of water. At about 32 degrees, liquid water becomes solid—in other words, it freezes.

Water freezes from the top down. Thanks to water's unique properties, solid water (ice) is less dense than liquid water, so ice floats.

The solid water (ice) at the surface of the lake is less dense than the liquid water below, so it floats. If that weren't the case, ice would sink, and the lake would freeze from the bottom up!

As the weather gets colder that floating ice may thicken. At a certain point, it actually provides insulation, keeping cold air from reaching deeper layers of lake water. Those layers can stay liquid even when it's crazy cold, like during a polar vortex.

That's why Loon Lake won't freeze all the way through—good news for plants and animals!



2. Life under the ice slows down dramatically.

When a lake freezes over, sunlight, air, and water can't mingle. That reduces the amount of dissolved oxygen in the water, which fish and other aquatic creatures need to live. Snow-covered ice also blocks light, which aquatic plants need to grow.

Ice prevents sunlight, air, and water from mixing. Snow-covered ice blocks the light aquatic plants need to grow.

To survive winter, plants and animals adapt. They get together, get cozy, and rest. (Like us!)

Plants take a break from photosynthesis and go dormant or die back, storing energy in their root systems for spring. That means fish and other aquatic creatures can't rely on them for oxygen or nutrition. Cold-blooded organisms often snuggle in groups near the bottom of the lake, where water is warmer in winter. Some species, like bullfrogs, hibernate in or on the muck, essentially sleeping away the season. Other species, like fish, just gather in the deepest water and go into a state of highly reduced activity. Because they don't move much, their heartbeats slow, and they need less food and oxygen—a smart strategy when resources are scarce.

continued on next page

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DONATIONS NEEDED



The Loon Lake Fish Management Program needs donations for the 13th annual fish stocking
2025 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

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LOON LAKE HAS FROZEN OVER (CONTINUED)

BY WALT HESSLER

3. Winter lasts just long enough—usually.

While aquatic plants and animals rest under the ice, humans have fun ON the ice! Once the ice is safe, we see residents skating, ice fishing, going for walks on the lake and even participating in the sport of Curling!



Our plants and animals (and people!) know how to outlast and survive the cold. Aquatic plants and creatures are able to make it through the winter even with limited resources. As winter months go by, even the oxygen decreases. If the ice hangs around too long, it can spell trouble for fish and other creatures. But that's uncommon.

This finely tuned dance of chemistry and biology means that unless we have a truly extraordinary winter, we'll see our usual plants and creatures springing back to life when warmer weather comes!

Even in the winter there is a lot of activity both under and on top of Loon Lake.

Thanks to Lyn Crighton and Sarah Marty-Schlipf of TWF for allowing the editing and use of this previously published article.

BEING NEIGHBORLY



Neighbors watch out for neighbors over the winter! Loon Lake is one of the most caring communities. Please take extra measures to assure your neighbors and their homes are doing well during our less active season. Stay alert of your surroundings and we will all be enjoying the summer breezes soon!

2025 LOON LAKE 5.5K RUN/WALK

BY SCOTT DAVIS



It is time! Time to get moving. I am sure that everyone has made their New Year's resolutions/ goals/promises. Most of those goals likely involve more active lifestyles and/or family. The **20th Annual Loon Lake 5.5k Run/Walk** is a great way to fulfill at least a part of most everyone's goals. It is a great community run/walk, electronically timed results, brings together family and friends of all ages, all proceeds support the enhancement of Loon Lake, and takes place as part of the Loon Lake 4th of July celebrations.

So start getting your family/friends/posse/neighbors together to sign up. The **20th Annual Loon Lake 5.5k Run/Walk** will take place on Saturday July 5th at 8:00 AM. We expect to have another great community run. The registration for the 2025 Race is now open. Come out and enjoy the fun. The link to registration can be found below or on the Loon Lake website:

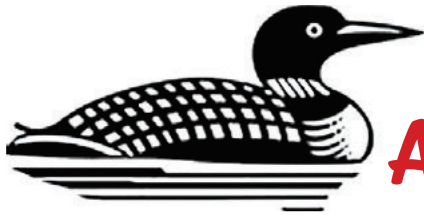
<https://runsignup.com/Race/IN/ColumbiaCity/LoonLakeRunWalk>

Last year's run had over 250 registered run/walkers, runners from 5 to 85 years, a beautiful day, and the Loon Lake community out in numbers to cheer on the run/walkers. It was an AWESOME race. We expect another great run in 2025. Please plan to come out and join the fun!



Also as an added incentive, the 2025 Run will mark the **20th running of the Loon Lake 5.5k Run/Walk**. You will not want to miss participating in the 20th running of this event. We also have a contest to design the front of the Race T-shirt for the 20th running. The 20th edition of the Loon Lake Run T-shirt will only be available to registered run/walkers. So you will not want to miss out on the run or the T-shirt in 2025. 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!





CALLING ALL ARTISTS/DESIGNERS!



The **20th Annual Loon Lake 5.5K Run/Walk** is coming soon and we need artists (or wannabe artists) who are interested in designing the **front of the 2025 T-Shirt for our race**.

The 5.5K is one of the biggest events for our Lake every year with over 250 participants. This race brings together our community and provides funds that directly benefit Loon Lake to keep it a beautiful place to live and play.

We will select 3 winners:

- 1st place will receive a \$50 cash prize and their design will be on the 20th running of the Loon Lake Run/Walk T-shirt.
- Two other winners will each receive a \$25 dollar cash prize and their design may be used on T-shirts for a future running of the Loon Lake Run.
- All winners will receive a FREE T-SHIRT and a FREE entrance fee into the 20th running of the Loon Lake 5.5 K Run/walk.

Deadline for submission is APRIL 15th, 2025

DESIGN REQUIREMENTS:

Must incorporate an image of a **LOON, 20th Annual Loon Lake Run/Walk, July 5, 2025, and Columbia City, IN**. The design must be one color. It will be printed on a colored shirt, so the shirt color can also be considered a color in the design.

FORMATS ACCEPTED:

- If computer generated: jpeg, pdf, or Photoshop files
- If hand drawn: dark clean lines will scan in best

The run is a very family friendly event with over 250 runners/walkers with ages spanning 5-85 years old! Have fun with this. You may submit more than one entry. Entries will be anonymously numbered and voted on by the race volunteers. A decision will be made by May 1, 2025.

Please email submissions to: **LoonLakeRunDir@gmail.com**

Mail or drop off at: 5530 S 600 W-57 Columbia City, IN 46725

Please call Scott with any questions: 260-799-4377

LOON LAKE APPAREL

BY DEBBIE BAUERMEISTER

Hopefully, you have all seen someone around the lake wearing some type of Loon Lake apparel. It's now easier than ever to order your own.

LLPOA has teamed up with Running Around Screen Printing. This will allow for ease in ordering and receiving your merchandise. It should also take less time to receive your order.

**All you need to do is 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 2024

- Click Here to Order (takes you to Running Around Screen Printing website)
- Click on Loon Lake logo
- Start shopping: 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:

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

For questions or if you need help with the website, contact Karen Treat at 260-438-7968.

That's it! Spring will be here before you know it. We hope to see you wearing Loon Lake apparel.

Aquatic Weed Control

Jim Donahoe
Owner/Operator
P.O. Box 325
Syracuse, Indiana
46567
574-533-2597
Fax 534-8230
jim@aquaticweedcontrol.com

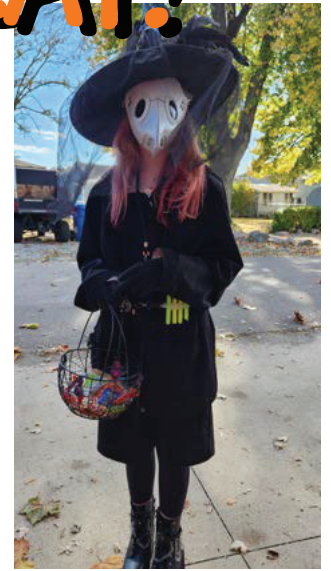
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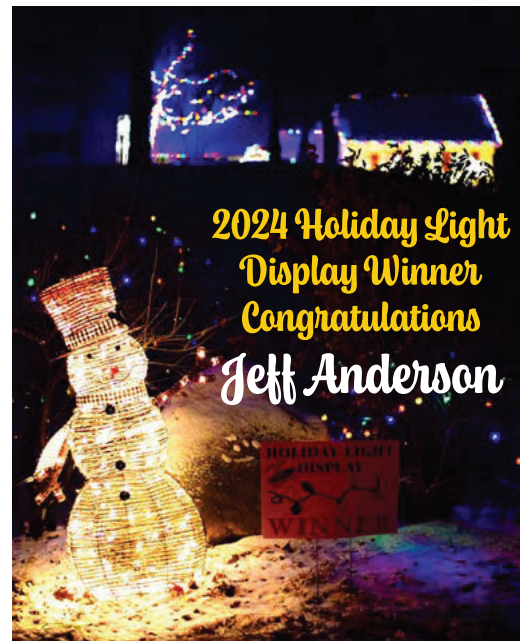
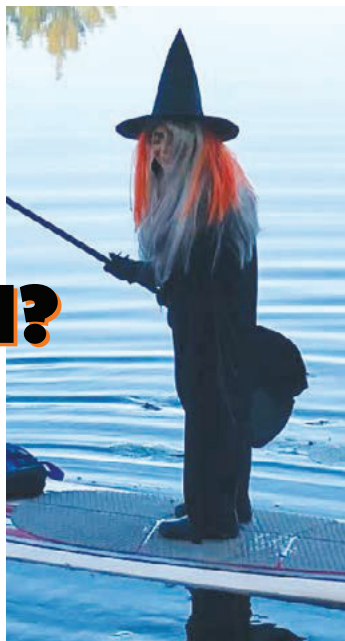
It's Fall Y'all



TRICK OR TREAT!



SUP WITCH?



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, Secretary 799-4980

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Brian Clark.....438-2322
Michael Cornyn 337-344-0177
Bob Gallivan820-1240
Karen Treat..... 438-7968
Geoff Velpel 602-5996

CHAIRPERSONS *Denotes Board Liaison

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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) 403-1173
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 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 Dept248-3121
Noble County Sheriff.....636-2182
Noble County Fire 799-9987
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

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