



*A Great Read
... Cover to Cover!*

Webster Lake
Spring 2020 Newsletter
www.lakewebster.net



President's Corner

It's March 19, the first day of spring, as I write this greeting. At North Webster, small birds are busy building their nests. Flights of migratory ducks and geese, not unlike human "snow birds," pause for a rest stop and bite to eat on their way back north. Eagles, both Bald and Golden, along with swirls of seagulls are fishing the top waters of Webster Lake. Earlier this week fishermen have been on the lake searching for their first big catch of the season. Others of us have been hunting – hunting the aisles and websites of major chain stores in search of toilet paper and Lysol disinfectant (both as elusive as any quarry in nature) as we stock up and prepare to hunker down at home for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic.



I pray this greeting finds you and your family safe and well and that, as summer approaches, its sunshine and warmth will aid in halting the spread of this virus. If we learn nothing else from this medical and financial disaster, let us remember that in this, and all things in nature, we are in it together. Together we can make a difference.

Working together making a difference is what Webster Lake Conservation Association is about. By working and sharing the expenses together, WLCA members, through the Association's programs, make lake living and lake usage more enjoyable for all. WLCA programs of major expense include aquatic weed herbicide treatments, costs toward the operation of the Webster Lake dam, and the cost of the annual 4th of July fireworks show.

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WLCA's mission is to represent and cultivate the best interests of its membership and property owners by assisting in controlling the inlet and outlet of Webster Lake; endeavoring to keep the lake clean and safe for fishing, swimming, and boating; and encouraging the property owners and members to work together for the improvement of the lake. WLCA's purpose is to make the region healthful, restful, and attractive in the belief that doing so will help to enhance enjoyment of the lake and maintain and/or increase lake property values as well as benefit local businesses and the community as a whole. 🌸

Please Leave the Leaves Out of the Lakes!

The Watershed Foundation

Spring marks the beginning of a beautiful season here on the lakes. As the green shoots of spring begin to make their appearance, we begin to look forward to enjoying the beautiful outdoors once again.

Many lake property owners do a big 'spring clean' in the yard and garden, removing the accumulation debris of late autumn and winter. Getting chores done quickly and with minimal effort is always a priority, but taking care of the lake should also be at the forefront of everyone's minds.

It can be very tempting to simply use our lakes as nature's garbage disposal. Some homeowners may assume that their leaves will end up there naturally, so dumping a few more can't cause that much trouble.

This common misconception bombards the lakes in the fall with bonfire ashes, dead plants, and yard work remnants, introducing more pollution to our waters.

Emptying yard debris into the lakes can be a major water quality issue. The organic matter builds sediment that fills in the lakes nearshore. Then, as the debris decomposes it causes nutrient overloading in the water, feeding summer's algae blooms and increasing the growth of nuisance weeds.

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WLCA 2020 Calendar of Events

Saturday, June 20

Annual Dixie Ride ~ 9:30 AM

Friday, July 3

Webster Lake Fireworks ~ Approx. 10:00 PM
(Rain Date - Sunday, July 5)

Saturday, August 8

Annual Meeting/Election

9:30 AM ~ Community Center Party Room. 🌸

Visit the WLCA website @
www.lakewebster.net
for more information



President's Corner *Continued from front page.*

WLCA membership dues and additional voluntary contributions to the weed and fireworks funds pay for these major costs of lake maintenance and entertainment.

With spring and summer comes the onset of aquatic weeds, weeds that can be so thick boats can't navigate. Boats navigating through weed beds cause weed chop which floats, and then blows to shore on the prevailing winds leaving a mess for residents to clean from their shoreline. WLCA membership dues and voluntary contributions to the weed fund pay for 100% of the cost to apply herbicide to 60.5 acres of native weeds around Webster Lake shorelines and in channels in an effort to keep these areas open for navigation and minimize the weed chop. Treatment costs per acre can range between \$225 and \$325 depending on the depth of the area being treated.

Annually, Webster Lake also will produce an average of 100 acres of invasive weed growth. Invasive weed volume is down considerably from prior years. Invasive weed species, if left unchecked, will take over a lake and, in some cases, choke it off completely.

The State of Indiana has created a grant program, the Lake and River Enhancement Program (LARE), to assist with the expenses of maintaining lakes and rivers. This program is administered by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR).

WLCA has annually applied for and participated in the LARE grant program thus reducing the cost to lake residents in controlling or eliminating invasive weed species. WLCA has received a grant award letter for 2020. This grant will reimburse 80% of the cost to create a formal aquatic vegetation management plan, 80% of the cost to treat up to 100 acres of invasive Eurasian Watermilfoil, and 80% of the cost to treat up to 4 acres of the invasive Starry Stonewort, not to exceed a total of \$35,640. WLCA member dues and contributions are needed to pay for 20% of the treatment of invasive weeds covered by the grant and 100% of native weed treatment cost for the shoreline and channels plus the cost of any IDNR allowed/permitted additional treatments that might be required.

The annual 4th of July Fireworks Show is paid for mainly by WLCA member contributions to the Fireworks Fund. Some additional contributions for fireworks are received from area

businesses. Excluding incidental expenses, the show cost alone for this year will be \$13,000. Membership dues are not used to pay for the fireworks show.

Please continue to work together with your neighbors and Webster Lake property owners through your membership in the WLCA and help defray maintenance expenses so all may enjoy a good summer season here on Webster Lake, and please join in the 4th of July celebration and other sponsored fellowship activities.

Please see website www.lakewebster.net for dates and times of meetings, events, and much more. 🌸

Sincerely,
Mike Wyrick
President, WLCA

Please Leave the Leaves... *Continued from front page.*

In certain instances, it also increases the necessity to dredge out parts of the lake. The decomposing plant matter also reduces dissolved oxygen levels that can lead to the death of aquatic organisms like fish.

As tempting as it is to simply dump instead of properly dispose, we all play a part in keeping our lakes and rivers healthy. Keeping them around for future generations is as simple as making small conscientious decisions every day. Taking care of the lake can be as easy as mulching or bagging your leaves, or for the more ambitious, starting a compost pile for your garden next season.

Thank you for doing your part for healthy lakes! 🌸

Water circulators, to help keep shorelines clear of weed chop and duckweed, are again available from Clarke Aquatic Services. 2020 pricing and order forms, as well as information on additional remedies to improve water circulation, can be found on our website at www.lakewebster.net. 🌸



WLCA 2019 Financial Information



Expenses:

Invasive weed treatment costs after LARE reimbursement	\$ 4,830.00
Shoreline weed treatments	18,290.90
Miscellaneous weed treatment expenses	175.59
Annual Vegetation Management Plan required by IDNR after LARE reimbursement	800.00
Other Expenses: insurance, newsletter, printing, mailing, safety buoys, expenses related to the dam (including attorney fees), education expense, and miscellaneous	20,108.61
Total Expenses excluding Fireworks*	\$44,205.10

Income:

Total Income from Dues and Weed Fund Contributions excluding Fireworks*	\$56,777.65
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*Expenses for fireworks are paid by special contributions from both members and local businesses with the majority of the funds coming from the members. Moneys designated for fireworks can and will only be used for fireworks and, therefore, are not included above.

THANK YOU, LAKELAND PIER & LIFT LLC



SPECIAL THANKS to Lakeland Pier & Lift LLC for its generous support of WLCA and our lake community each year by putting the pier in (and out) on Kline Island for the fireworks show. The pier is used for the boat transporting the fireworks and the workers. Lakeland

Pier does this at no cost to WLCA as a very generous contribution to the Webster Lake Fireworks Show.

Lakeland Pier also provides a great service to WLCA at a very good cost at the end of the lake season when it removes the navigational buoys from Webster Lake. Lakeland Pier uses its barge to pull those heavy buoys out of the lake and place them in storage for WLCA. 🌸

75TH ANNUAL MERMAID FESTIVAL

The North Webster Lions Club will be celebrating the 75th annual Mermaid Festival from June 24th - June 27th 2020. The 2020 Mermaid Parade theme will be "Through the Years", and the Webster Lake Conservation Association will be participating in the parade as well as hosting a booth within the Merchants Building at the festival. Please plan to visit the WLCA booth for the most up-to-date information regarding Webster Lake, and show your support for our local community by attending the 2020 Mermaid Festival Parade. Mark your calendars! 🌸

Mermaid Festival



North Webster
Lions Club, Inc.



Payment of dues and contributions to the fireworks & weed funds may be made thru PayPal. Find information at www.lakewebster.net, Pay Dues tab. 🌸

"SKI SHOWS IN THE PARK"

**Saturday Nights
at 6:00 PM**
(Pre-Show Acts Prior to 6:00)
Bring Your Own Lawn Chair



2020 Show Dates:

June 13
June 27 (Mermaid Festival Show)
July 4 (4th of July Show)
July 18
August 1
August 15

*No Labor Day Weekend Show
All Shows Weather Permitting*

www.websterskibeas.com

HOW YOU CAN TAKE ACTION FOR HEALTHY LAKES

- 1 Reduce stormwater on your property by using materials such as mulch and gravel.
- 2 Use native plants in your landscaping and shoreline.
- 3 Create and maintain a natural shoreline with glacial stones.
- 4 Pick up your pet's poo.
- 5 Maintain septic systems and support community sewers.
- 6 Don't feed the waterfowl.
- 7 Get involved! Volunteer at upcoming TWF events.
- 8 Financially support TWF, as well as your lake association! 🌸

2020 WLCA MEMBERSHIP FORM

(Please return this voucher with your mailed payment)

Name(s) _____

E-mail Address _____

Lake Address _____

E-mail Statements Yes No

Mailing Address _____

Contact Phone(s) _____

Check Payable to WLCA

Membership Dues \$ 100.00

Fireworks Fund \$ _____

Weed Fund \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

Mail to: WLCA
P.O. Box 79
North Webster, IN 46555

PAYMENT MAY BE MADE THRU PayPal
Information at www.lakewebster.net,
Pay DuesTab

4th of July Events



The 2020 Fireworks Show will be presented on Friday, July 3, with a rain date of Sunday, July 5. The show will start at approximately 10:00 PM and will be staged from the west end of Kline Island. The Friday date is because the 4th of July falls on a Saturday this year. Our fireworks vendor has longstanding agreements with other organizations to stage their shows on July 4 each year. Our arrangement with the vendor is for the Saturday closest to July 4 so that more of our summer residents can be at the lake for the Fireworks Show. When July 4 falls on a Saturday, the Webster Lake fireworks are staged on Friday night rather than Saturday night. This arrangement with our vendor gives us a larger show for a better price since shows presented every year on July 4 are much more expensive. July 4 usually falls on a Friday every five or six years.

100% of the funding for this display comes from the support of the Webster Lake residents and business community—with lake residents providing approximately 75 percent of the funding. Putting on a fantastic fireworks display is a long-standing tradition here at Webster Lake, and we plan to continue to provide the very best show possible with your support. In addition to purchasing the fireworks display, site preparation, staging and permit expenses are required. WLCA needs your financial support to continue this tradition at its current level or add to it in the future.

A free music concert will be provided by the North Webster Park Board at 7:00 PM on Friday night, July 3, at the Town Park—bring your own chairs. More information about the

summer Music In The Park schedule is available in the North Webster-Tippecanoe Township Chamber of Commerce Community Guide which may be picked up at local merchants. It is a very informative guide as to summer events in the area—and the guide is free!

The Webster Ski Bees will present a free water ski show at the North Webster Town Park on Saturday, July 4. The Ski Bee Show will start at 6:00 PM with a pre-show warm-up starting about 5:45. Best to bring your own lawn chairs if you plan to view the show from the Town Park. Many people “boat over” and park just outside the show area to view the ski show.

Dixie Rides will be available during the entire 4th of July weekend, including a special cruise during the fireworks—be sure to get your tickets in advance for the fireworks cruise. Visit www.ridethedixie.com for information. 🌸

WLCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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SAVE THE DATE: Free Annual Family Dixie Ride & Brunch - Saturday, June 20, 2020 at 9:30 A.M.

Provided by Dixie Sternwheeler, Inc. at no charge for WLCA members and their families. Dixie Sternwheeler contributes this "Tom Plew Memorial Dixie Ride" in memory of Tom Plew. Mr. Plew volunteered many hours of service to both the Dixie and WLCA, and both organizations are better because of his efforts. This event kicks off the summer season

at Webster Lake. All WLCA members and their families are welcome to attend and enjoy a beautiful ride around Webster Lake on the Dixie. Bring nothing. Come and relax and enjoy a provided light lunch with your neighbors while cruising on the Dixie around one of the most historic lakes in Indiana. *Kids receive a free gift!* 🌸