



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

Webster Lake

Summer 2020 Newsletter

www.lakewebster.net



The Webster Waves Newsletter is a publication of the Webster Lake Conservation Association.

Visit the WLCA website @
www.lakewebster.net

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WLCA Mission Statement:

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. ☺

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

This should prove to be a very different summer in North Webster and at Webster Lake. At the time of this writing, the Dixie Sternwheeler 2020 cruise season has been cancelled, as well as the Mermaid Festival sponsored by the Lions Club and Dixie Day sponsored by the North Webster-Tippecanoe Township Chamber of Commerce, all due to COVID-19. This means the Tom Plew Memorial WLCA Members Dixie Ride has also been cancelled as has the Webster Ski Bees' 2020 show season.



There is some good news in that several of the local churches are reopening to a new normal with social distancing. Check for times of service by church name via a web search. Also, live streaming or recorded messages have been posted on-line by some churches and are available for viewing.

Businesses are also open. Please support our local merchants. This has been a rough time for businesses, and the owners will very much appreciate your patronage.

Music in the Park programs are currently scheduled for Friday evenings beginning on June 19. Take your own lawn chairs.

The WLCA Board of Directors has been meeting and working via the Zoom platform.

- Our Spring and Summer Newsletters were sent out in April and June and are currently posted on our website at www.lakewebster.net for your review.
- WLCA purchased a used motor for its old pontoon boat that is used to place the safety buoys, move the fireworks to Kline Island, and haul away the debris after the fireworks.
- WLCA has determined to proceed with the annual fireworks show to be held on Friday, July 3, from Kline Island. Everyone is yearning for something that seems normal! So, get to the lake early on Friday, July 3, and enjoy a nostalgic display beginning at 10:00 PM.
- Bids for weed herbicide treatments for 2020 have been received, reviewed, and accepted with treatment dates scheduled. (See "In the Weeds" for more on this subject.)
- Invoices for dues have been sent for the 2020 lake season, and our Treasurer has been busy receipting your payments and contributions to the weed and fireworks funds.
- Research has begun regarding the efficacy of bacterial treatments to reduce muck in the lake.
- Research will begin soon as to the efficacy of a newer herbicide, which has not yet been approved for use on Webster Lake. DNR approval will be required before application.

We truly thank you for your membership and generous support towards the maintenance of Webster Lake. Without your participation and financial support, there would be no Webster Lake Conservation Association. There would be no coordinated efforts, programs, or events conducted with the intent to enhance Webster Lake and the enjoyment of lake living for all. Everything that WLCA does is paid for by member dues and extra contributions to the weed and fireworks funds. Your membership is important and valued. Thank you for being a member. ☺

WLCA 2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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



SKI BEES



Shows cancelled for
2020...See you in 2021!

www.websterskibeans.com



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

SUMMER EVENT CANCELLATIONS

Due to the challenging COVID-19 situation, the Annual Family Dixie Ride & Brunch has been cancelled for 2020, as well as the Association's participation in the Mermaid Festival due to the cancellation of the Mermaid festivities for 2020. We also regret to pass on the news that Dixie Sternwheeler, Inc. has made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 cruising season due to the difficulties social distancing would pose on board the Dixie. Sadly, the Webster Ski Bees have also cancelled their 2020 show schedule. With the cooperation of our community as a whole in doing our part to stop the further spread of the coronavirus, we can look forward to the anticipation of celebrating these annual events in 2021.

We encourage everyone to take the necessary steps to maintain social distancing guidelines as we continue to plan for the fantastic fireworks show on Webster Lake as currently scheduled. ☺

PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

In these quickly changing times, information about happenings in and around Webster Lake is important to all of us. Our newsletters provide wonderful information, but sometimes there are items of interest that all of us may need to know about between newsletter issues. For this reason, we ask that you provide WLCA with your current email address @ websterlakeassociation@gmail.com along with your name and property address for identification purposes. Please be assured that your address will NOT be shared in any way and will only be used by WLCA to communicate with you about pertinent information concerning Webster Lake and your lake community. ☺



2020 WLCA MEMBERSHIP FORM

(Please return this voucher with your mailed payment)

Name(s) _____

E-mail Address _____

Lake Address _____
Mailing Address _____

E-mail Statements Yes No

Contact Phone(s) _____

Check Payable to WLCA

Membership Dues \$ 100.00

Mail to: WLCA

Fireworks Fund \$ _____

P.O. Box 79

Weed Fund \$ _____

North Webster, IN 46555

TOTAL: \$ _____

PAYMENT MAY BE MADE THRU PayPal

Information at www.lakewebster.net,

Pay Dues Tab



LILLY CENTER FOR
LAKES
& STREAMS

GRACE
COLLEGE

By Dr. Nate Bosch, director of the Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams

Webster Lake is fed from a variety of sources. Some water comes directly from rain, snow, ditches and streams. Other water comes indirectly, flowing downhill over land or through groundwater before making it to the lake.

When water collects in a certain lake or a specific place along a river from a broader drainage area, the area is called a watershed. Watersheds are one of the most important factors when considering the water quality of lakes and streams. Any piece of land is part of a watershed; the only qualification is that water must be able to flow over it or through it before reaching a lower body of water.

But why talk about watersheds? What makes them so important? The water that hits your backyard (your watershed) will eventually make its way to one of our lakes or streams or both. Soil that has been washed into a waterbody, organic materials such as leaves and plants, nitrogen and phosphorus from fertilizers, toxins, bacteria and other contaminants, can all be considered pollutants that started out on the land in the watershed. What the water transports through the watershed is doubly important because water does not stop moving once it gets into a lake or stream; it usually leaves that lake and continues moving until it eventually gets to an ocean.

The actions we take on our property affect more than our lawn and driveway. They also affect our lakes and streams! It is so important to treat the land around our homes and in our cities

This spring,
impact your watershed for good

with care, not only the land directly along a lake or stream. If you are taking steps to protect water quality on your property, you are making a difference in the water quality of Webster Lake as well as downstream lakes and streams even beyond our county!

As we approach summer, consider taking these steps to protect Kosciusko County's waterways as you tend to your landscaping, lawn and garden:

- Do not dump yard waste (like leaves and grass clippings) into a lake or stream. Yard waste adds nutrients to the water, which can result in excess weeds and algae later on. Instead, bring your yard waste to a composting area, or dig leaves into your garden as a natural form of fertilizer.
- Trim back and properly dispose of dead branches that could collapse under the weight of snow or ice during winter or strong winds during summer thunderstorms, keeping them from contributing to any logjams in a nearby stream or lake.
- Keep stormwater on your property by installing a rain barrel or rain garden. Try planting with native plants! You can find a list of local nurseries that offer native plant varieties on our website.

There is so much more to learn about your watershed! Visit lakes.grace.edu/education/whatcanido to get started. Or, email lakes@grace.edu with questions. ☺

THANK YOU, SOCK'S MARINA



THANKS TO SOCK'S MARINA for supporting WLCA by storing the pontoon boat used by WLCA to put in the navigational buoys in the spring each year and for transporting the fireworks and workers to and from Kline Island for the Annual Fireworks Show. ☺

Thanks to Chris Trowbridge and his team at Maverick Promotions in North Webster for making and donating "Social Distancing Required" signs for posting at the Town Park during the Fireworks Show on Friday, July 3!



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See Pay Dues Tab to Make an EFT Payment

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"IN THE WEEDS"

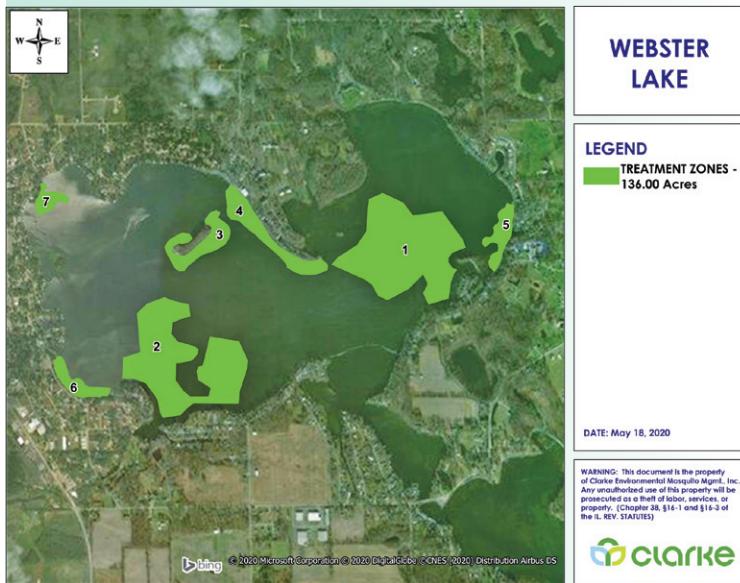


Below are various maps of the vegetation survey of Webster Lake made during the week of May 10, 2020. A table showing the number of acres in each numbered "plot" shown on the "All Area Map" is also provided. The third and fourth columns in the table identify the percentage makeup of the weed population in each of those plots. CLP = Curlyleaf Pondweed, EWM = Eurasian Water Milfoil. There are other species of weeds in Webster Lake, but these two are the most prevalent and are invasive species.

The All Area Map shows treatment zones for both the invasive weed treatment areas and the shoreline and channel treatment areas.



The Webster LARE Map shows the areas that will be treated under the LARE grant program.



WLCA applied for and received a LARE grant which will pay 80% of the cost to treat up to 100 acres of EWM. WLCA is responsible for paying the other 20% of the cost. Additionally, WLCA must treat all EWM in the lake to be eligible to participate in this program. This spring there are approximately 136 total acres of EWM in the lake, which means that WLCA will be responsible for paying 100% of the cost to treat EWM exceeding 100 acres amounting to 36 acres. WLCA is also responsible for paying 100% of the cost to treat the shorelines and channels estimated at approximately 60 acres.

Based on current estimated treatment costs per acre and assuming that there will be no additional treatments required, this year's net cost to WLCA for weed treatment will be approximately \$40,000.

It is usually required by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources that LARE treatments be done prior to the shoreline and channel treatments and that there be at least 25 days between treatments. As the weeds in Webster Lake seem to be developing earlier than usual, probably because of the relatively mild winter and lack of a heavy ice field, property owners would be happier if both treatments were applied at the same time. However, our request for same-day treatment was not granted. The DNR did agree to relax the normal 25 day period to a shorter period of 21 days and indicated that this might be reconsidered at a later time. On May 20, the DNR issued WLCA's Aquatic Vegetation Control Permit.

However, due to a significant rain event at that time which caused the lake level to rise to its initial flood stage, the LARE treatment could not be applied until after the Memorial Day weekend. With untreated spring weeds reaching nearly to the top of the water, the delay in the treatment that would have laid the weeds low, and the excessively high volume of powerboat traffic over Memorial Day weekend, conditions were perfect for the creation of a great deal of weed chop. In many coves, the wind driven weed chop reached 30 to 50 feet from the shoreline out into the lake. Along some of these shorelines and under the new coat of weed chop, there lay a bumper crop of Chara algae intermixed with CLP and EWM. What a mess!

On May 26, WLCA sent the DNR a description of the weed conditions resulting from the above described causes with a request that the DNR reconsider the 21-day waiting period between treatments.

On May 27, the same day that Clarke Aquatic Services arrived to apply the LARE treatment for invasive EWM, WLCA received permission from the DNR allowing WLCA to order shoreline and channel treatment in areas outside of the LARE treatment areas as early as WLCA desired. Treatment in these areas was ordered immediately and is scheduled for June 3 (weather permitting).

Shoreline and channel treatments in areas within the LARE treatment areas are to be completed after the 21-day waiting period. Those areas will, however, receive residual benefit from the nearby treatment of the invasive weeds. A shoreline treatment date in these areas is not yet scheduled, but anticipated to be about June 27. ☀

NAME	ACRES	CLP (%)	EWM (%)
1	52.62	1	99
2	47.48	1	99
3	15.99	99	1
4	16.8	80	20
5	8.83	75	25
6	9.3	1	99
7	11.68	1	99
8	20.43	99	1
9	11.23	99	1
10	17.32	95	5
11	5.87	20	80
12	5.17	60	40
13	6.44	99	1
14	8.54	95	5
15	5.25	99	1
16	6.67	50	50
17	8.61	50	50
Total: 258.23			