



A Great Read
... Cover to Cover!
Webster Lake

Fall 2021 Newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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. 🍁

Dear WLCA Members,

Thank you so much for your support and continued investment in Webster Lake and the entire lake community. Your financial support in the form of dues and extra contributions to the weed fund this year has allowed WLCA to contract for the application of DNR approved herbicide treatments to 69 acres of shoreline and channel weeds plus the retreatment of 39 acres in these areas. Additionally, your contributions covered 20% of the cost to treat 100 acres of invasive Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM). The remaining 80% of the cost to treat EWM was covered by a LARE Grant secured by WLCA through the DNR. Thanks to your support and the earlier and repeated applications of herbicides allowed by the DNR, many residents have commented that the lake has looked the best it has in years.



Also, thanks to members and local businesses for their contributions to the fireworks fund. Because of your support, WLCA was again able to contract for an excellent fireworks program for the Independence Day weekend. WLCA also thanks the Indiana United Methodist Conference and the Epworth Forest Convention Center and Camp for allowing WLCA the use of Kline Island for the staging and launching of the show.

Have a great fall and winter season. See you next year!

Mike Wyrick, President, WLCA 🍁



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

WLCA is pleased to share these 2022 important dates:



**WLCA 2022 FAMILY DIXIE RIDE
Saturday, June 18 @ 9:30 AM**



**WEBSTER LAKE FIREWORKS
Saturday, July 2 @ 10:00 PM
(Raindate is Saturday, July 9)**

They're Back!

For all of the folks concerned about the missing smokestacks on the Dixie, well...good news!! They're back!! Our historic Dixie now has her proper look with the smokestacks back in place.



WLCA SUMMER PARTNERSHIP WITH THE LILLY CENTER FOR LAKES & STREAMS OF GRACE COLLEGE

Each school year, the Lilly Center of Grace College employs students to help manage scientific studies, develop and execute K-12 programs and manage collaborative projects relating to the study of lakes. WLCA has partnered with the Lilly Center for



many years by taking students out on Webster Lake every week during the summer as part of their study of Webster Lake. WLCA Board Member Dawn Meyer was the person who took this team out on

the lake for many years before her passing. This summer Jack Dabler and Mike Wyrick of the WLCA Board have filled this role. WLCA has also assisted the Lilly Center in many other ways over the years. You may learn more about this project at <https://lakes.grace.edu/about/student-team/>. Here are pictures of this summer's student team arriving at Webster Lake and working to obtain samples and data on Wednesday, August 4. 📷



"HOW DID YOU GET TO WEBSTER LAKE?"

This is the second installment in our new series called "How Did You Get to Webster Lake?" If you or your family would like to share your story of how you got to Webster Lake, please submit your article by e-mail to WebsterLakeAssociation@gmail.com or use the "Contact Us" tab on the WLCA website at www.lakewebster.net. Photos may be included as well. We plan to continue this series over the next few years, and submitted articles will be kept on file for future use.

Kim Murdock's Lake Webster Story

Like many fishermen from Muncie, Pappy Britt regularly made the pilgrimage up Highway 13 to fish at Webster Lake. Unfortunately, no one in our family knows when Pappy was first introduced to the lake. However, we know he introduced his 8-year-old step-grandson, Tom Shields, to the lake in 1934. Soon after, Tom regularly hitchhiked to Webster with fishing gear in tow to fulfill his newfound love for fishing and the lake when Pappy was unavailable.

Like any good angler, Tom planned all his family vacations at the lake. He and his wife, Martha Lou Fletcher Shields, reserved the old fishing cabins such as the Barney Google, Spark Plug, and Shady Rest, to name a few. These places offered such amenities as hand-pumped water, outhouses, and the sound of the screen door slamming shut after each entrance and exit. Lou fondly shared with her friends that she would be vacationing at Beautiful Scenic Lake Webster each summer. Look for this quote on Lou's bench located on the Dixie Sternwheeler.

After a bit of detective work comparing birth dates and summer vacations, it is believed the Shields family expanded in size during these trips.

The couple's youngest daughter, Kim Shields Murdock, remembers hearing the sound of her father's fishing boat leaving just before dawn. Her afternoons were filled with swimming, fishing, catching turtles, and making ceramic ashtrays at the pottery shop. Often the day ended with a walk along the seawall to purchase candy at Ruppel's Grocery.

One vivid memory took place at Ruppel's Beach. Kim loved jumping into the water from the pier. This particular afternoon Lou stated, "Alright, you have had enough, no more jumping in the lake." Not entirely satisfied with this request, Kim jumped in once again when her mother was not looking. Shortly after a splash, Lou heard a young boy say, "Hey lady, is this your kid?" as he pulled Kim from the water.

As time passed and families grew, connections to the lake became a gathering spot, especially on July 4 picnics. Memories of siblings, cousins, aunts, and uncles crammed into cabins fill family history.

Tom and Lou looked at several cottages on the lake but never purchased one. After Tom's passing, Lou purchased a house on Lake Webster upon the suggestion of son-in-law Bruce Carmicheal in 1993. Lou eagerly anticipated the opening of the cottage each spring as Lake Webster became her summer home. Many lifelong memories were created in the cramped bunk room, including the legend of "The Blue Flame."

Upon Lou's passing, architect Ignacio Moreno Elst, daughter Katie's (Kim's daughter) husband, designed a two-story remodel to accommodate the growing family for Kim and her husband. Today, you may witness the 4th generation swimming, fishing, or hunting turtles. If you are lucky, you may catch Kim's husband Matt playing trumpet for the Dixie.

Whether it is baiting a hook, catching fireflies, or putting on a grandchild's lifejacket, Kim is constantly reminded of her family's connection to this lake. 📷



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If you wish to receive informative Mailchimp e-mails from WLCA about weed treatments and other events and news about Webster Lake, please provide WLCA with the e-mail addresses of interested members in your household by sending those e-mail addresses to WebsterLakeAssociation@gmail.com or use the "Contact Us" tab on the WLCA website at www.lakewebster.net. WLCA must receive the name, e-mail address and lake address for each person to be added to the mailing list. WLCA and MailChimp will NOT sell or share your e-mail address with others. 📷

THANK YOU TO OUR 2021 FIREWORKS DONORS— IT WAS A GREAT SHOW!

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 Tom's Truck Repair
 Webster Bay LLC
 WLCA Members 🤝



WLCA WELCOMES BRANDON CORTEZ TO THE BOARD

Hello Neighbors!

My name is Brandon Cortez and Webster Lake has become a second home to my family. Most weekends you will find me, my wife Alexa, our two daughters Charlotte (4) and Dawsyn (1), and our Bernese Mountain Dog Sammy at our cottage in Epworth Forest. We make the two hour drive north from Westfield, Indiana as many weekends as possible in the spring, summer, and fall.

We are one of the newer additions to the Webster Lake community. Owning a lake house had always been a dream of ours, and we spent years searching for places. After one trip to Webster Lake we both realized how



The Cortez Family

special this community is. We purchased our home in 2020, and it was one of the best decisions my family has ever made. It has allowed us to spend more quality time together with friends and family while appreciating all that nature has to offer.

I graduated from Purdue University with a Bachelors Degree in Economics and Management Information Systems. I have a background in Information Technology Consulting where I have held various sales and leadership positions, and am currently a Client Director for Ahead.

I look forward to contributing to the WLCA as a way to give back to an environment that has provided so much to my family! 🤝

SEWER SERVICE COMING TO THE EAST SIDE OF WEBSTER LAKE?

Residents on the eastern part of Webster Lake have started a committee to explore the feasibility and community interest in bringing sewer service to that part of the lake. Currently, sewer service is established for all parts of the lake except for areas such as High Banks, Webster's Landing, Weimer's Landing, and Miller's Landing. The project would service approximately 180 households.

How wastewater is managed and treated is critical to the long-term sustainability of Webster Lake. Sewer service can have a dramatic impact on improving water quality, clarity, and the reduction of weeds, and has a significant economic impact on the area and homes, such

as increased property values and expanded possibilities for home remodeling and expansion.

In order to assess the feasibility of sewer service for this section of the lake, the East Webster committee wants to hear from each affected household in order to continue moving forward. Please visit: www.sustainwebsterlake.com for more information and to fill out the survey, or email questions directly to: sustainwebsterlake@gmail.com. [This is not a WLCA organized or funded project - this information is being provided for informational purposes only.] 🤝

2021 WLCA MEMBERSHIP FORM

(Please return this voucher with your mailed payment)

Name(s) _____

E-mail Addresses for Contact Purposes: _____

Lake Address _____

Mailing Address _____

Contact Phone(s) _____

E-mail Statements Yes No

Membership Dues \$ **100.00**

Fireworks Fund \$ _____

Weed Fund \$ _____

TOTAL: \$ _____

Check Payable to WLCA

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

Code: Newsletter Fall

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

WLCA is a Not-for-Profit Charitable Corporation Under IRS Section 501(c)(3).

TWF Launches Dawn Meyer Memorial Healthy Shoreline Grants for Webster Lake

The Watershed Foundation is excited to announce the launch of a new grant program to protect and improve water quality in Webster Lake!

TWF will provide grant assistance of up to \$1,200 for shoreline projects that improve water quality and shoreline habitat, while reducing erosion and decreasing runoff. This program is offered through the Dawn Meyer Memorial Fund to benefit the lake she loved so much.

What are healthy shorelines?

The accepted norm on many of our local lakes is to have a mowed lawn up to the edge of a concrete seawall. Concrete seawalls are not natural. They disrupt the critical ribbon of life on lake shorelines, create added wave action, and stir up the bottom sediments.

Healthy shorelines have an abundance of plants both on the land and in the water which work to filter pollutants from runoff, deter nuisance wildlife, stabilize the shoreline, and slow wave action. Glacial stones also help slow wave energy reducing scouring and the resuspension of nutrients. Natural shorelines can also be incredibly beautiful and easy to maintain without interfering with recreation.

Example Healthy Shoreline projects include:

- new glacial stone seawalls
- bioengineered seawalls (combining native plants with stones)



- re-facing concrete or other hard seawalls with glacial stone.
- Combined, these practices reduce erosion and nutrients from the shoreline, disperse wave action, and reconnect the ribbon of life along the lakes' edge.

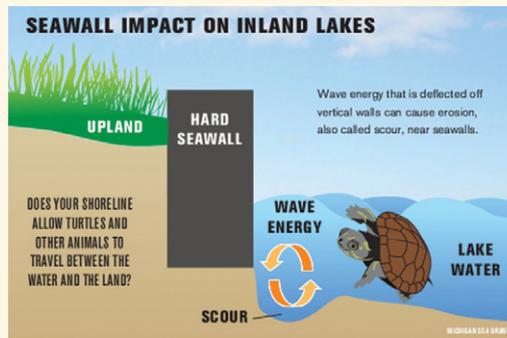


You Can Make a Difference!

Making a healthier transformation to your shoreline has many benefits including stopping property loss due to erosion, deterring nuisance wildlife like muskrats and geese, beautifying your property, and improving water quality in Webster Lake. Healthy shorelines are a good investment.

To be eligible for the Dawn Meyer Memorial Healthy Shoreline grant, the project must be located on Webster Lake, and the applicant must pay at least 25% of the total cost. Payments will be made as a reimbursement. The application, contractor list, and detailed information packet are available on the TWF website at www.WatershedFoundation.org - click "Take Action."

For detailed questions contact paige@watershedfoundation.org or (574) 834-3242.



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Prevent Transport of aquatic invasive species.

Clean **all** recreational equipment.

- INSPECT and REMOVE aquatic plants, animals, and mud from boat, motor, trailer, and equipment.

- DRAIN water from boat, motor, bilge, livewell, and bait containers away from landing.
- DISPOSE of unwanted live bait, fish parts, and worms in the trash.
- SPRAY/RINSE boat and equipment with high-pressure or hot water, OR

- DRY everything for at least five days before going to another water.
- NEVER release organisms from one waterbody into another.

www.ProtectYourWaters.net

PHOTOS FROM THE WELL-ATTENDED ANNUAL DIXIE RIDE

