



A Great Read
... Cover to Cover!

Webster Lake
Spring 2022 Newsletter

www.lakewebster.net



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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

*Photo credit for Masthead Bird Photo:
Ted Sautter*

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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. ❖

It is a cold, cloudy, rainy, blustery day today, March 25, here on Webster Lake. Signs of spring lift the gloom and the human spirit providing visual entertainment that promises the return of warmer weather. Migratory birds have been visiting Webster this month. Most notably, a flight of 16 to 20 White Pelicans has been paddling its way around Webster Lake, along with a couple of Common Loons, Bufflehead Ducks, Mergansers, a host of Gulls, and the ever-present Canadian Geese. Eagle sightings are nearly a daily occurrence this Spring. Intermittent sunny days and warmer breezes are turning the dormant grass to green, and spring flowers can be seen popping up in small clusters. Every day is better at the lake no matter what the season.

Over the winter months, your WLCA Board of Directors has arranged for the complimentary Annual Dixie Ride to be held on June 18 at 9:30 AM and the Annual Fireworks Display to be held on July 2 from the big island at dark (approximately 10:00 PM). The weed survey and bidding process for 2022 has been completed for invasive weed control and for the shoreline and channel treatments of nuisance native weeds that are impediments to navigation.

WLCA has facilitated two island shoreline restoration projects under the LARE Grant program. The work on these islands should commence later this year. Seven Webster residents qualified to receive Healthy Shoreline Grants under the Dawn Meyer Memorial Grant administered by The Watershed Foundation. The initial funding for that grant program honoring WLCA's late, long-time Secretary and Webster Lake advocate has been used. These projects help reduce nutrient inflow into the lake which contributes to weed

growth and poor water quality. Kasco Water Circulators have a new design and new pricing. A guard adaptor kit is available for older models.

Additional information on these programs may be found in the body of this newsletter, on the Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/343088493575948>, and on the Website <http://www.lakewebster.net/>. **Costs have risen for the fireworks display and the herbicides used for weed control. Please consider increasing your contributions to each of these separate funds when sending your annual dues payment this year. A 25% increase over your prior year's contribution to these funds would be appreciated. Dues have not been increased.**

The Board of Directors meets monthly in the months of March through October. The WLCA Membership Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, August 13, at 9:30 AM in the Party Room at the North Webster Community Center. All meeting dates and times are listed on the Website, along with the intended method of meeting, i.e. In-Person, via Zoom, or both. May you enjoy a lake season filled with happy memories. Thank you for your investment in the Webster Lake Community. It is only through your support that these programs are provided.



*Photo courtesy of Jolene Hum/Portraits
by Jolene*

WLCA 2022 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, June 18
Annual Dixie Ride - 9:30 AM

Saturday, July 2
Webster Lake Fireworks – Approx. 10:00 PM
(Rain Date – Saturday, July 9)

Saturday, August 13
Annual Meeting/Election
In-Person and via Zoom

9:30 AM – North Webster Community Center Party Room (Invitation and link to meeting will be e-mailed by request)

Visit the WLCA website @ www.lakewebster.net
for information & updates

2022 WEBSTER LAKE FIREWORKS SHOW

The 2022 Webster Lake Fireworks Show will be presented on Saturday, July 2, with a rain date of Saturday, July 9. The show will start at approximately 10:00 PM and will be staged from the west end of Kline Island.

100% of the funding for this display comes from the support of the Webster Lake residents and business community - with lake residents providing approximately 80% of the funding. Putting on a fantastic fireworks display is a long-standing tradition here at Webster Lake. WLCA plans 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. The cost of the 2022 fireworks show has increased by 25% over the cost of last year's show primarily due to the increased costs of production of the fireworks and the cost of getting them shipped from the manufacturer to our vendor. Our long-time vendor had not increased the cost for a number of years but was forced to do so this year due to the huge increase in shipping

costs. Please keep this increase in mind as you make your 2022 Fireworks Fund contribution. The amount collected in 2022 will definitely be considered in determining the size of the 2023 show since only money contributed to the Fireworks Fund is used to put on this annual show. The show for 2023 will have to be ordered in late July this year (2022) to lock in the date and vendor for the 2023 show. If this year's show is not paid for entirely by 2022 contributions, the 2023 show will need to be downsized.

The Webster Ski Bees will present a free water ski show at the North Webster Town Park on Saturday, July 2. 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.



SKI SHOWS - NORTH WEBSTER TOWN PARK 6:00 PM - PRE-SHOW ACTS PRIOR TO 6:00 PM Bring Your Own Lawn Chair

June 11 • June 25 • July 2 • July 16 • July 30 • August 13

The Webster Ski Bees are looking for new Ski Bee Members for the 2022 Ski Bee Season. Go to www.websterskibeas.com for more information on becoming a Ski Bee and the 2022 Ski Bee Show Schedule.

WLCA 2021 FINANCIAL INFORMATION



Expenses:

Invasive weed treatment costs after LARE reimbursement	\$ 6,121.60
Shoreline weed treatments	\$31,916.50
Annual Vegetation Management Plan required by IDNR after LARE reimbursement	\$920.00
Other Expenses: insurance, newsletter, printing, mailing, safety buoys, expenses related to the dam (including attorney fees), education expense, and miscellaneous	\$16,186.60
Total Expenses excluding Fireworks*	\$55,144.70



Income:

Total Income from Dues and Weed Fund Contributions excluding Fireworks*	\$64,666.82
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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 are only used for fireworks and, therefore, are not included above.

IN THE WEEDS

Gross costs for herbicide treatments on invasive, shoreline, and channel weeds and the cost to prepare the annual vegetation management program (AVMP) required by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for Webster Lake in 2021 totaled \$67,124. \$28,166 of this expense was paid by grant money that WLAC received under the Lake and River Enhancement (LARE) Grant Program administered by the DNR. The remainder of this cost, \$38,958, was paid by WLCA from the receipt of members' dues and extra contributions to the WLCA Weed Fund. Costs were higher in 2021 than in years past as conditions required that 48.8 acres of shoreline and channel needed to be retreated. A late season spot treatment of algae was also applied.

Currently projected gross treatment costs for 2022 are \$63,060 plus tax with NO allowance for any second treatments or special Algae treatments. WLCA has again secured a LARE grant of up to \$34,380, leaving WLCA to pay the balance of \$28,680. Again, this estimate does not include extra cost for retreatment or special Algae treatments. LARE grant funds apply at the rate of 80% only to treatment costs for invasive species and the cost of the AVMP. WLCA must pay the remaining 20% of costs for invasive weed

treatment and 100% of all shoreline/channel and algae treatments.

The DNR has approved the treatment of up to 50 acres of Curlyleaf Pondweed (CLP), an invasive species, under the 2022 AVMP and LARE grant. Reimbursement is limited to \$5,000. Treatment costs for CLP were not previously allowed under the WLCA grant.

Individual property owners are granted an aquatic vegetation permit exemption by the DNR for treatment of up to 625 sq ft of their shoreline. Please see the WLCA website (www.lakewebster.net) to view the new flyer developed by the DNR outlining the regulations associated with this exemption.

Please consider increasing your extra contributions to the weed fund in 2022 to assist in covering the increases in chemical costs and the added cost for treating 50 acres of CLP. This treatment is anticipated to be of substantial benefit to the lake as CLP has caused spring-time navigation problems which also cause additional weed chop.

Your continued investment in Webster Lake is very much appreciated. Thank you.

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"Thanks" to Sock's Marina for supporting WLCA by storing the pontoon boat used by WLCA to put in the navigational buoys each Spring and used for transporting the fireworks and workers to and from Kline Island for the Annual Fireworks Show.

thank you



2022 WLCA MEMBERSHIP FORM

(Please return this voucher with your mailed payment)

Name(s) _____

E-mail Addresses for Contact Purposes:

Lake Address _____

Mailing Address _____

E-mail Statements Yes No

Contact Phone(s) _____

Check Payable to WLCA

Membership Dues \$ **100.00**

Fireworks Fund \$ _____

Weed Fund \$ _____

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

TOTAL: \$ _____

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

Code: *Spring Newsletter*

Zone _____

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

HOW DID YOU GET TO WEBSTER LAKE



My name is Jim Kerwin and this is how we made it to Webster. About three years ago I had a battle with cancer. It was "Large B Cell Lymphoma" that filled my entire abdominal cavity with, as the doctor told me, too many tumors to count. They put me in an aggressive chemo regiment where I would be hospitalized for a week and receive 24 hour IVs and in twenty days start the process again. As I laid in the hospital bed not knowing the outcome of this road I was traveling, my mind became clear on what I would miss. My list became simple and focused. I would miss my wife Patti, my four boys Boomer (James), Joe, Jake and Josh, and my grandchildren. The other thing I dreamt about as I was lying in bed was fishing. I haven't fished in years because my work gobbled up all of my time. When the six months of treatment ended, Patti found a lake house rental on Webster Lake. So Patti, my four boys and their wives had the most wonderful week of family time and we fell in love with Webster. After that trip we started looking for houses on lakes, all the while dreaming, knowing it was highly unlikely.

We contracted a real estate friend of ours to give us an idea on what we would have to do to ready our house for sale. The next day she called us with a family that wanted to buy our house and

instantly put in a bid without ever having it on the market. Our house was sold before we had a chance to look at a house. That weekend we drove to this area to look at the available houses. We drove around all of the lakes looking at the homes for sale. We were overwhelmed by the number of lakes and drove home more confused than ever. That next day Patti found a home that was just listed. We drove out for a walkthrough of the house. We found out there were many people (10) that already viewed the house before we had our showing. As we arrived, I walked around outside as Patti walked around on the inside. When I got to the back of the house I said out loud "There's a LAKE in the backyard!!" Being a guy, at that point I didn't care at all about the house because we would be living on a lake. We made our offer immediately and were competing with four other offers. God at that moment took over our lives and somehow made all of this happen!! They accepted our offer and we moved in in October. Every day my wife and I tell each other "we live on a LAKE!!!!" So the long and the short of it is God opened all the doors that led to this perfect home.



KASCO WATER CIRCULATOR – 2022 NEWS

In the last few years, the Kasco brand circulators sold by Clarke Aquatics have changed the game (or at least the view) for many lakefront homeowners as an effective way to aerate stagnant dead plant matter and duckweed and move them to less offensive locations. For many, the only drawback was the rinse-and-repeat maintenance they require to keep running well--unplug, pull out of water, clear clogs on the guard, drop back in the water, plug back in. To their credit, Kasco took this feedback seriously, and has introduced a new guard system on their active line of circulators, and are also offering a retrofit-kit for circulators equipped with the older "cage" style guards. The new guard design looks less like a "tomato cage" and more like a spiky-crown surrounding the propeller blades. These spikes are angled to help weeds slide-off instead of getting stuck, and there is no longer a closed circle at the end of the guard. The retrofit-kit consists of a new guard, propeller assembly, and the hardware required to install it. Installations can be accomplished with simple hand tools. The circulator models and the retrofit kits can both be ordered from Clarke Aquatics and can be drop-shipped or installed for an additional fee.

As always, with improvements come trade-offs. The new guard style is more "open" by design. This will help weeds go out, but it also may leave more potential for feet/fingers/paws to go in. The WLCA recommends that users of ANY circulators, especially users of the new models and retrofit-kits, take care to position the circulators away from where people and pets may be swimming or have their hands/paws and to never attempt to clear weeds from the guards while the circulator is running. It is also recommended that some signage or bright colored paint be used to warn curious neighbors and children to use caution. Owners should familiarize themselves with the instructions/warnings that accompany the circulator/retrofit-kit and use caution at all times with circulators to maximize safe operation to their specific circumstances. The WLCA is not responsible for owners' circulator use/misuse, and this article is provided for informational use only.



WLCA FAMILY DIXIE RIDE - SATURDAY, JUNE 18, 2022 AT 9:30AM

The Dixie ride is planned to be a fun event for WLCA members and their families of all ages. Snacks and beverages will be provided on the boat by WLCA, along with activities and prizes planned for our young cruisers. Please mark your calendar to attend and enjoy an hour of cruising on the Dixie around beautiful Webster Lake. This event

kicks off the summer season at Webster Lake and is a great time to meet and visit with other Webster Lake residents. Dixie Sternwheeler, Inc., **CONTRIBUTES** this "Tom Plew memorial Family Dixie Ride" in memory of Tom, who volunteered numerous hours of service to both the Dixie and WLCA.