

Webster Waves

Catch THE LATEST LAKE NEWS

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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

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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. ❖

The Annual Membership Meeting of the Webster Lake Conservation Association was held on Saturday morning, August 10, 2024, with approximately 30 members and directors in attendance. Justin Blotkamp of Aquatic Weed Control presented a summary of the 2024 weed treatments and initial suggestions for next year's vegetation management program. Weed treatment expense year-to-date has totaled \$68,553.40 with \$25,000 having been reimbursed by a Lake and River Enhancement (LARE) Grant.

Justin then shared a pictorial slide presentation of potential dredging sites. Prior to site determination, a DNR required study of sediment samples was conducted for use in determining areas where LARE Grants may be applicable. Final determination of eligible sites for dredging and LARE coverage is pending. WLCA is currently seeking required dewatering sites for dredging projects.

The first item of business was the presentation and approval of minor amendments to the WLCA bylaws, the most important of which was increasing the maximum number of directorships from 15 to 19. Five of the maximum fifteen Board directorships were expiring. There was one vacant directorship prior to the above-mentioned amendment to the bylaws. Brandon Cortez, Robyn Gerstbauer, Mike Ripley, Ryan Spahr, and Mike Wyrick were re-elected to serve another three-year term. Doug Moore, who was on the initial slate of candidates, was elected to

the vacant directorship along with two additional nominees, Joseph Toth and James Kerwin, who were elected to fill two of the new directorship positions. 17 of the 19 directorships are currently filled. Brief biographies of each of these new Board members are featured in this newsletter. The meeting concluded after a Q&A session for all people in attendance. Thank you to the membership for attending and participating in the discussion. Thank you to all Board members and volunteers for your efforts on behalf of Webster and Backwater Lakes.

In other news, a second sediment study will be conducted later this fall regarding the locations and abundance of phosphates in Webster and Backwater Lakes. This study is a precursor to the Board's consideration of a whole lake restoration project directed at minimizing phosphate levels to better control algae and slow weed growth. Each of the referenced sediment studies costs about \$10,000 with only one study being subject to 80% reimbursement through a grant from the Lake and River Enhancement Program (LARE).

WLCA will also be facilitating another island shoreline restoration project with an application to LARE to be submitted this fall with a determination to be announced next spring.

Wishing you a fantastic fall and a wonderful winter,

Mike Wyrick

THE WLCA WELCOMES DOUG, JIM & JOE TO IT'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

My name is Doug Moore. My wife Carol and I have cherished our cottage on the southeast side of Webster Lake since 1995. Though our children have moved away, they hold fond memories of their summers here, and now our grandchildren eagerly visit us every July.

I grew up in Springfield, Ohio, and earned both my undergraduate and medical degrees from Indiana University. I practiced medicine in Carmel from 1979 until my retirement in 2019, just before the onset of COVID.

Since then, we've spent most of our summers at the lake, enjoying time with friends, boating, and fishing. We deeply value our lake neighbors and the North Webster community.

I am thrilled to join the WLCA Board and contribute to improving the quality of the lake for all property owners. My particular areas of focus include our work with the DNR and effective weed control.



I'm Jim Kerwin and I grew up on Chicago's south side before relocating to Lowell, Indiana, where I lived with my wife, Patti, and our sons. For the past four years, we have enjoyed life by the lake, a transition that holds a story of its own. As an avid fisherman and conservationist, I am passionate about protecting natural resources.



I am a retired horticulturist who majored in botany and specialized in water quality. I managed a 120-acre organic farm focused on native dairy cattle, where I implemented innovative practices for water collection and irrigation. My last role was overseeing the R&D Greenhouses for the country's largest horticultural company. With my extensive knowledge and experience, I aim to contribute to the WLCA's efforts to improve and safeguard the health of the lake for future generations.

Hello, my name is Joe Toth. I recently retired and moved to North Webster from a small town in northwest Indiana where I worked as the maintenance and reliability engineering superintendent for a Fortune 100 energy company. My wife, Laura, and I have been blessed with three children and five grandchildren. We all love the area and the abundant natural resources that Webster Lake provides.

Drawing on my professional experience, I now hope to help preserve the lake and its surroundings for the benefit of my grandchildren and future generations. I look forward to serving the community through the WLCA board.



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S & S Truck & Auto Care LLC • Sue's Creations • Roger's Auto Center
Rhodes Insurance Agency • Clark's Marine, Inc. • Guy's Lawn Care • Socks Marina • Lakeland Pier
The Contributing Members of WLCA

And a special "thank you" to Guy's Lawn Care and Lakeland Pier for all the extra work they do every year to get the island and pier ready for the fireworks display!

WEBSTER AND BACKWATER LAKES DAM PROJECT MATCHING FUNDS OFFER
August 25, 2024 - Update

Thank you for your tax-deductible donations in support of this project.

Lake and North Webster residents have responded well to the recent two-part \$20,750 Matching Funds offer, (1) of \$10,750 made by local businesses and (2) of \$10,000 made by a couple who wish to remain anonymous.

The Match sponsored by local businesses ran from July 15 to August 5 and resulted in total cash donations of \$15,158, plus an additional gift of stock certificates with an estimated value of \$3,200. The Match sponsored by the anonymous donors was to run from August 5 through the end of September and has already resulted in additional donations totaling \$13,748, per the most recent report to WLCA. There is a slight delay in the reporting of checks received so it is expected that this last Match will be larger than reported at this time.

We are still short of our stated goal of \$200,000 with current donations totaling \$166,984. Invoiced expenses towards this project received through August 25 already total approximately \$80,000 with more to come.

Victory in the current litigation undertaken to obtain state funding for dam upgrades, the establishment of a tax-funded conservancy district for the future maintenance of the dam, and initial maintenance to the dam prior to the conservancy's establishment are

the driving factors for this fundraising effort. The existence of Webster and Backwater Lakes is important to everyone receiving this newsletter or reading this on Facebook. The existence of the lakes is dependent on the existence of the Webster Dam. Your property values are dependent on the lakes, you receive enjoyment because of the lakes that the dam creates, some make an income from the lakes, and others, located below the dam, are threatened by a potential failure of it.

Some of you receiving this letter have not yet donated to this project.

You need to donate!

You have a stake in this project and, therefore, an obligation to support it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Information and links for online donations for this project may be found on the WLCA website at www.lakewebster.net. You can also make on-line donations through this QR Code



2024 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

Check Payable to WLCA

Contact Phone(s) _____

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

Membership Dues \$ **100.00**

Fireworks Fund \$ _____

Weed Fund \$ _____

PAYMENT MAY BE MADE THRU PayPal

Information at www.lakewebster.net,

Pay Dues Tab

TOTAL: \$ _____

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WLCA DIXIE RIDE

