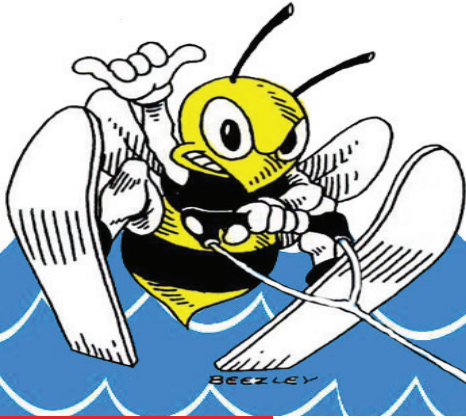


Webster Waves

Catch THE LATEST LAKE NEWS



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

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PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE WLCA FAMILY DIXIE RIDE EVENT - JUNE 13TH

Saturday, June 13, 2026, the Dixie will leave the North Webster Town Dock at 9:30 AM. The ride is provided by Dixie Sternwheeler, Inc., at no charge for WLCA members, in memory of Tom Plew. The ride is planned to be a fun event for WLCA members and their families. All ages are welcome. Snacks and beverages will be provided by WLCA. Activities and prizes are planned for our younger cruisers. Please mark your calendar to attend this enjoyable hour of cruising on the NEWLY RENOVATED Dixie around Webster Lake. This is a great time to meet and visit with other Webster Lake residents. All WLCA members and their families are encouraged to attend this kick-off event to the summer season.

Operation of the Dixie is subject to fair weather and maximum load restrictions. In the event the Dixie is unable to operate on June 13th, this family event will be held in the North Webster Town Park. A covered pavilion, playground and swimming/beach areas are available at the park.



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. ❖

WEBSTER SKI BEE SHOWS FOR 2026 North Webster Town Park

6:00 PM - Pre-Show Acts
Prior to 6:00 PM
Bring Your Own Lawn Chair

June 13 - June 20 - July 4 -
July 25 - August 8
(All Shows Weather Permitting)



THE LAKE, AQUATIC VEGETATION, AND ITS CONTROL

by Jim Kerwin

Spring on Webster Lake always brings dramatic change. This year, fishing was excellent until heavy spring rains raised water temperatures nearly 10 degrees, accelerating vegetation and algae growth. Strong currents made the tubes impassable, and Backwater briefly stood 8–10 inches higher than Webster. Spring's constant weather swings continue to affect water temperatures—and aquatic plant growth.

Native Plants vs. Invasive Weeds

Not all aquatic vegetation is a problem. Moderate growth of native plants benefits the lake by providing fish habitat and spawning areas, helping stabilize shorelines, and competing with algae for nutrients.

Invasive species, however, can create dense mats that interfere with boating, swimming, and fishing while contributing to oxygen fluctuations when excessive growth dies off.

Our two primary invasive concerns are:

Curlyleaf Pondweed (CLP) – Often declines naturally as water warms, so treatment is usually limited to heavily infested areas.

Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) – A more persistent invasive that spreads aggressively and disrupts native plant communities.

Encouragingly, native Large Leaf Pondweed is returning in areas once dominated by EWM, creating excellent spawning habitat. (I can personally confirm the fish appreciate it!)

Prevention Matters

The best weed control is prevention.

WLCA continues to study phosphorus reduction strategies to limit nutrient-driven plant growth. Boaters can

also help significantly. Running motors through weed beds chops invasive plants into fragments that drift across the lake—especially toward the east side with prevailing winds—where they can take root and spread.

During our first vegetation survey on April 21, EWM was already breaking the surface earlier than we have ever observed.

Treatment Options

Our licensed aquatic applicators use DNR-approved herbicides applied directly to target areas.

- **Contact herbicides** act quickly for short-term suppression.
- **Systemic herbicides** work more slowly but kill roots and reduce regrowth.
- **Selective herbicides**, such as ProCellaCOR, specifically target EWM while preserving native vegetation.

Selective treatments can provide control for 2–3 years and allow native plants to recover, but cost remains a major limitation. Reduced LARE grant funding this year further impacts how much treatment can be done.

Safety and Stewardship

Fish stress after treatment is generally caused by oxygen depletion from decomposing vegetation—not herbicide toxicity. To reduce this risk, treatments are carefully timed and spread across smaller areas.

Lake management is essential for preserving Webster as the all-sports lake we all enjoy. Boating, shoreline activity, and nutrient runoff all affect lake health. WLCA works to balance recreation, safety, and environmental stewardship with limited resources.

Your membership and support of the Invasive Weed Fund help make that work possible—and help keep Webster Lake healthy for everyone.

2026 WLCA MEMBERSHIP FORM

(Please return this voucher with your mailed payment)

Name(s):

Lake Address:

Mailing Address:

Contact Phones:

Membership Dues \$ 125.00

Fireworks Fund Donation \$ _____

Weed Fund Donation \$ _____
(native/non-invasive)

TOTAL: \$ _____

Code – Summer Newsletter

E-mail Addresses:

E-mail Statements ☐ Yes ☐ No

Check Payable to WLCA

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

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).

2026 Calendar of Events

June 13 - Dixie Ride

July 3 - Fireworks

July 11 - Fireworks rain date

August 8 - Annual Meeting

“HOW DID YOU GET TO WEBSTER LAKE?”

Hope you have been enjoying the “How Did You Get to Webster Lake?” articles. If you or your family would like to share your story explaining your history 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. This series will be continued over the next few years, and articles will be kept on file for future use.



LITIGATION/CONSERVANCY UPDATES

1. Litigation: WLCA v. DNR

The Trial between WLCA and DNR over DNR's responsibility to make repairs to the Dam has concluded. The Judge will deliver his decision in late July.

2. Webster/Backwater Lakes Conservancy District

The 2nd Public Hearing on this matter was conducted by the Natural Resources Commission Board on Wednesday, May 6, 2026. Presentations were made as to the economic impact of Webster & Backwater Lakes to the County and Town and the studies completed relative to the Dam's condition. Communications were filed with the Board. All who came were given the opportunity to speak for or against the creation of the conservancy District. The Commission is to act on this in July.

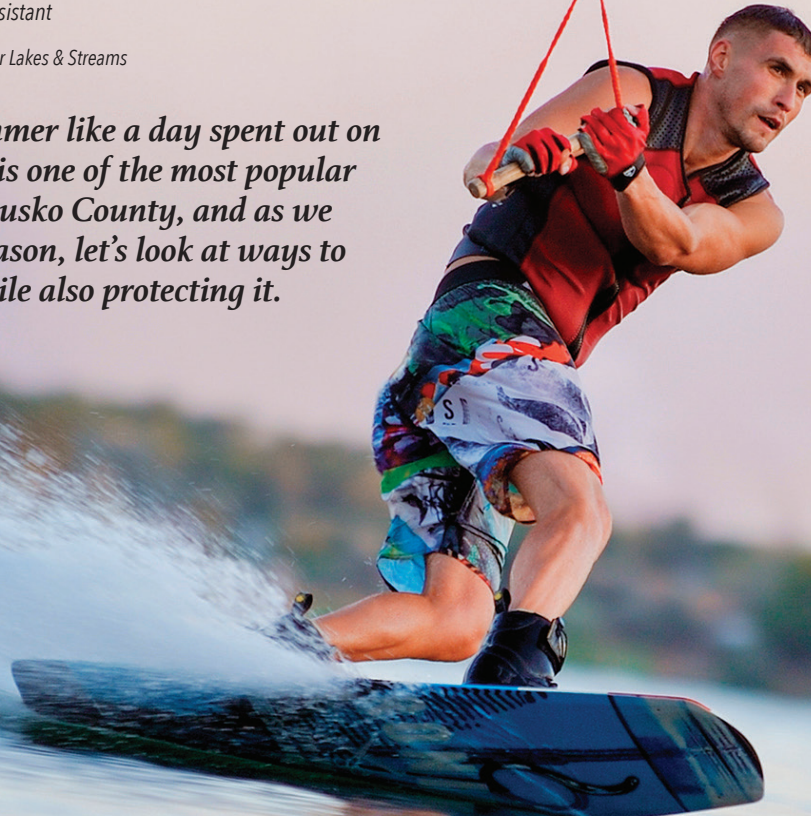
Responsible Boating

Reprinted with permission from
LAKElife Magazine, May 2026 issue.

by Claire Sprankle, Lilly Center for
Lakes & Streams marketing assistant

photos provided by Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams

Nothing says summer like a day spent out on the lake! Boating is one of the most popular activities in Kosciusko County, and as we approach peak season, let's look at ways to enjoy the lake while also protecting it.



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- There's no need to hang up the wakeboard this summer, but finding a depth of over 10 feet before creating a wake will leave the bottom of the lake undisturbed.
- When substrate is disturbed, it releases nutrients that have been stored in the sediment, which often causes excess algae and aquatic weed growth in the lake.
- Blue-green algae can release toxins that are harmful to human and pet health, while weeds often catch in boat motors and end your day at the lake before it even begins.
- Boating in depths of over 10 feet significantly reduces the level of substrate disturbance, and therefore the nutrient release, regardless of watercraft type or speed of the boat. But the deeper the water, the less of an impact you will have!

This summer, enjoy the cool spray of water as you rush across the waves, knowing the lake will be healthy for generations to come. 🚤

The Lilly Center for Lakes & Streams at Grace College conducts research, provides resources, engages and educates residents, and collaborates with local organizations to make the lakes and streams of Kosciusko County clean, healthy, safe, and beautiful. To date, the Lilly Center has conducted scientific research on over 30 streams and 45 lakes. The Lilly Center is driven to create a legacy of stewardship by equipping community members, visitors, and future generations with understanding and to enjoy the county's natural beauty. For more information, visit lakes.grace.edu.