



# Fish/Royer Lake Association

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## Newsletter: October 2018

### President's Corner

Our November 3, fish stocking fundraiser /dinner is just around the corner. There will be door prizes, numerous raffles, plenty of good food and conversation. If you have sold any tickets or have tickets please turn in the sales to Dave Arrington or myself on or before October 28. We still have tickets available, so please feel free to contact me if you would like one. Erik Pearson

### Hi-Lites from the Hog Roast

#### Thanks to Erik for donating the hog!

- The Chicago Joe scholarship was awarded to Ethaina Tofiga, granddaughter of Theresa and Roger Kirk of Royer Lake. Ethaina is working on a double major of Social Work and Business Administration at Keuka College in New York. Her winning essay will be available on the website. Congratulations!
- 3485 catfish were put into the lakes, with the help of Susan Glick and the DNR, at no cost to us. This was our first DNR stocking in 40 years!
- 3000 Walleye will be stocked in October. The association would like to promote a voluntary "Catch and Release" for the next few years.
- We are pursuing a grant to help with clean up of the dead end channel on Fish Lake.
- Complete minutes from board and general meetings are available on the website.

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### Did You Know??

Contributed by Dave Schnieders

...Raking leaves, grass clippings, or dog poop into the lakes is a big NO-NO. It takes a lot of the lakes' oxygen to break those down.

...Less than half of our lakes residents paid their \$20 dues for 2018? Many thanks to our dues paying members! You can check the membership list on the website to be sure you are current or contact David McIntosh at [davidmcintosh123456@gmail.com](mailto:davidmcintosh123456@gmail.com).

...When paying dues, please include your phone number and both your lake and second address away from the lake, if you have one. Your phone number would also be helpful! If you have an email address and would like to receive the newsletter and dues statement/receipt electronically, please let us know that as well. Dues can be sent to

David McIntosh, Treasurer  
1207 N. Meadow Lane  
Muncie IN 7304

... David has created a working spreadsheet to keep track of our members' home and lake addresses, e-mails, phone numbers, dues and donations and more. David works as a professor at Ball State when he isn't up here at his lake place fishing or working on the spreadsheet!

...Over thirty people have donated to our fish-stocking program, including ten donations in excess of \$100, and two donations of \$500! Thank YOU!

...A winter Lake Association fundraising event for March 3, 2019, is in the planning stages with more info to come in the January.



## Michael Troyer

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...According to Dave Arrington, our lake has so much potassium, it will take over 500 years for it to dissipate. It came from potassium fertilizers run off from fields and yards.

...Fish poachers, people taking more than their legal limit of fish or fishing illegally, can be reported at 1-800-TIP-IDNR or the sheriff's office 260-463-7491

...the legal size limit for walleye in Indiana is 16 inches and there is a limit of two fish per person. Presently our lakes are requesting a voluntary catch and release policy on the walleye and northern pike as we try to contain the exploding gizzard shad population.

...Our lakes flooding may be partially due to a clogged East Fly Creek, which is our lakes' only outlet. Contacting the LaGrange County Surveyors Office and politely expressing your concern about the flooding lakes due to the obstructed East Fly Creek may help encourage action on their part.

...Interested in being a road captain for your neighborhood? Contact any board member. We would love help passing out information, newsletters, and encouraging our neighbors to join our lake association.

...A Fish/Royer lake calendar is in the works and if you have great lake pictures you want to share, send them to Pam Deetz at [pjdeetz@gmail.com](mailto:pjdeetz@gmail.com)

...The Lake Association is continuing to look into available grants to use for cleaning up the dead end channel on Fish and the channel at the south end of Royer. For more info, contact Nancy Block at [nancyblock09@ligtel.com](mailto:nancyblock09@ligtel.com)

Denise Scott

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### WATER QUALITY

By David Arrington, Ph.D.

There are many misconceptions about the water quality in our lakes, especially about what is causing algal blooms and clarity. The truth is complicated and difficult to explain in simple terms but let's give it try in a few short

aging process; Oligotrophic (nutrient poor), mesotrophic (moderate nutrients), and eutrophic (nutrient rich) with all lakes in our region falling into the older eutrophic category. Second, all lakes handle nutrient loading differently based on many physical attributes such as size, depth, shape, topography, inflow, outflow, and bottom soil type. So you cannot do direct comparisons between lakes, each is unique. For example, our lakes will never be as clean as Oliver or the Twin Lakes. They have sand bottoms, the right topography, the right shape, and the right shoreline vegetation to handle more nutrient loading than our lake system. Lakes such as Shipshewana will never be as clean as ours. It's just a scientific fact!

Unfortunately human activity has accelerated the aging process in our lakes by thousands of years. We have modified virtually every piece of land for agriculture and living space. We have drained almost all the natural nutrient filtration wetlands that cleaned incoming water into our lakes. We have built housing around our lakes which results in heavier nutrient loading. Yes, we as landowners on a lake are major contributors to the problem. Fortunately, we have recognized human activities are contaminating our waters and have taken steps to mitigate the contamination. We have worked with farmers to reduce field runoff, put centralized sewer systems around the lakes, and provided lake front owners with simple land management techniques to reduce their nutrient loading footprint.



Kenny Chapp

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Mon-Fri 7:30-5:30

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Ok, with that lead-in, let's look at Fish and Royer Lakes specifically. The incoming nutrient and sediment loading coming into our lakes have been mitigated over the last seven years to a level that falls well below the acceptable level of federal and state agencies. We installed a centralized sewer system in the mid-90s that dramatically reduced nutrient contamination by lake property owners. We have provided management techniques to lake property owners to further reduce their contamination footprint. But, everyone must understand we have to live with the damage we have done for many, many years. Phosphorus is one of the primary culprits. The phosphorus cycle is very complicated and I won't even attempt to put it in layman's terms. But one portion of that cycle I'll attempt to explain. Phosphorus has an affinity to bind with soil particles and is very slowly removed by

bound phosphorus in our lake sediments that even with zero input, it will take many decades to be removed by the phosphorus cycle. There is absolutely nothing we can do about it on a lake size system.

Water clarity is affected by many factors, and again, a very complicated process. Weather patterns play a large role. This year we had very large rain events in the spring followed by a prolonged and hot mid-summer, followed by a very wet late summer. This promotes a certain type of algal species that resembles sediment particles in the water column. Many lakes, that generally have very clear water, had this situation this year. So in a nutshell, it was not sediment in our water, it was plant growth and was not caused by excessive agricultural runoff. Unfortunately with a warming climate, this may become the norm rather than a limited short-term event.

Our lakes will continue to age at an accelerated rate but we can continue to strive to slow down the process. Some things you can do to help are very simple. One, maintain your grass at 4 inches. Research has shown that increasing grass height from 2 to 4 inches can reduce nutrient runoff into a water system by as much as 75%. Two, if you fertilize your yard, use those that contain zero phosphorus and maintain a buffer from the lake edge. Grass needs nitrogen to get a jump start, not phosphorus. If you use lake water to water your lawn, you actually get all the fertilizer yard grass needs. Three, do not tile gutter drainage directly into the lake. Research as shown that water from our roof gutters contains very high levels of nutrients. There are extremely beautiful, simple wetland systems that anyone can build to filter roof runoff. Jill Hoffman, another watershed scientist like myself that lives on Fish Lake, has years of experience with these systems and is a true expert. Four, do not remove all the lake vegetation along your shoreline. Our shoreline vegetative production zone is very small due to the rapid drop off in our lakes. This vegetation is critical to remove nutrients and to provide habitat for fish and other life. Five, never put leaf or yard debris into the lake. It will cause damage not only to water quality but to the entire biological cycle. One last item that is very important to the health of our lakes, we need to control the Gizzard Shad. In fact, if the shad go unchecked it can affect the water clarity and quality negatively. Once they have depleted their food supply in the water column, which will decimate native fish species, they will turn to bottom sediments that will actually cloud the water column. This has been documented by research. So support the fish stocking program that is designed to control this invasive species.

Ok folks, I've tried to put into a few paragraphs what should take about 300 pages to explain fully. The bottom line is our lakes aren't as bad as many of you think and we have made some great strides to reduce any further contamination. Although, all the lakes in our region have sustained serious damage, we can continue to reduce our

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### Treasurer's Report 10/15/18

General Fund (Dues, Donations, Advertising, Interest, etc.).....\$6006.90  
Fish Stocking Fund.....\$5,464.00  
Buoy Maintenance Fund.....\$65.00  
\*Scholarship Fund.....\$0.00

**Fish/Royer Lake Association Checking Balance as of October 15, 2018.....\$11,535.90**

#### Expenditures Since August 25, 2018:

\$400.00 Scholarship Award (9/21/18)

\*Note: \$245 was transferred from the General Fund to the Scholarship Fund (Balance = \$155) ad the Board awarded a \$400.00 scholarship. At this time, the Scholarship Fund has a zero balance. However with the 2019 membership renewals, the Scholarship Fund is sure to rebound.

Comments: There has been an excellent response from lake residents to the latest membership drive. As of October 15, 2018 the Lake Association had 101 members! The Shad Fest resulted in \$783 being raised for the Fish Stocking Fund, and the Fund Raiser resulted in another \$340 for the Fish Stocking Fund. Overall, a total of \$5464 has been raised specifically for fish stocking through extra donations from members and fund raising. Also, the board has raised \$1400.00 from advertising, which was directed into the General Fund. With the General Fund at \$6,006.90, good progress is being made to ensure funds are available to meet Association goals and objectives.

Respectfully submitted, David McIntosh, Treasurer



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*Carmen Pearson*  
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**Fundraising Event to benefit the Fish Stocking  
Program**  
**Food, prizes, raffles, fun!**

What: Roast Beef Dinner

When: Saturday, November 3 5-7 PM

Where: Lagrange American Legion

How: Tickets are available for \$20 from Erik Pearson (260-463-6789) or Dave Arrington (260-463-8890)

**Dues for 2019**

The association board has voted to raise dues for the coming year to \$40. We have not had a raise in many years and many surrounding lakes have much higher dues than ours. We are pursuing a number of projects that impact all households on the lakes, such as cleaning up the channels, providing better communication, and sponsoring more activities for lake residents. These projects improve life on the lakes for all of us, and can help to increase our property values.



**Barney V Bryan, Agent**

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**Your Lake Association Board**

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