

Fish/Royer Lake Association

Newsletter: May 2019

Lake Association General Meeting

10:00 AM Saturday, June 1, 2019

Maplewood Center

Election of officers will be held at this meeting. If you are interested in running for an office, or being on the board, BE THERE! If you are unable to attend but are interested in being an officer or being on the board, contact Erik Pearson.

Did you know...?

- Larry Koza, District Fish Biologist from the DNR, said they will be doing fish surveys on both lakes this summer. This will entail netting and nighttime electrofishing. In June and July they will also be doing a small angler creel survey on Royer Lake. This will be done for four days each month.
- The Winter Blast at All Occasions Banquet Hall raised \$2600 for the Lake Association Treasury. Thanks to all involved!
- So far 90 lake residents have paid dues for 2019. The Fish /Royer Lake Association Website has the list posted if you are interested.
- East Fly Creek was cleared in January by volunteers and according to Ron Lucas, a nearby neighbor and board member, the lake level dropped 8 inches as a result. Thanks to all who helped!
- Minutes of the association board meetings and the treasurer's report are available on the website.
- The government shutdown in January is delaying our 501c3 confirmation, and we are just waiting for the process to be completed. Once this is accomplished, grant applications for channel clearing will begin.



Visit our website at fishandroyerlakes.com
LIKE us on facebook: Fish-Royer Lakes Association

- If you have zoning concerns, you may contact the zoning officer, Chris Paxson at 260 463-4179.
- You can report illegal fishing to 1-800-TIP-IDNR or the sheriff's office at 260-463-7491.
- An additional information box has been placed at the public landing.
- Ten new signs promoting our Catch and Release Program have been placed around the lakes.
- The LaGrange County Lakes Council is a group of concerned citizens dedicated to promoting networking and educational opportunities for individuals and lake associations. The Council meets the 4th Thursday of each month (April-October) at 7:00 Pm at the LaGrange County Annex, 109 W. Spring Street, LaGrange. All are invited to attend.
- Anyone interested in gathering hole sponsors or door prizes for the golf outing on July 6th, contact Erik Pearson.



Upcoming events

- May 25: Fishing Tournament
- June 1: 10:00 am General Meeting
- June 15: Fathers' Day Garage Sales; The lake association will advertise Saturday sales.
- July 4: Flotilla; meet at the public landing at 4 PM
- July 6: 8:00AM Golf Outing at Heron Creek
- August 23: Scholarship essays due

Chicago Joe Scholarship

For the past several years, the Lake Association has offered a scholarship to a current association member or family member, including children and grandchildren, for post-secondary education or training (colleges, trade schools, etc.).

This year's topic: Pollution in the Great Lakes has been a MAJOR problem for the past 50 years, affecting both Canada and the United States. In a 200 word, double-spaced essay, explore the topic of possible solutions to this problem.

Submit to: Nancy Block, 1785 S 445 E, LaGrange IN 46761 or nancyblock09@ligtel.com

Due by: August 23, 2019

Include the following on a separate piece of paper: Name, Address, Phone, School or program you will be attending, and which lake association member you are related to. Any questions can be directed to Nancy at 260 499-0087.

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One Call Does It All

May 25, 2019 Fishing Tournament (Memorial Day Weekend)

Purpose: To have a fun fishing competition, and to raise money for our fish restocking program.

Eligibility: F/R lake members in good standing (Dues paid) One entry includes the entire family.

Groups: 15 and under
16 and older

Entry fee: \$25 pre-registration, \$30 registration May 25
You can fish from a boat or your dock. Your choice.

Registration: Pre-registration can be completed on Facebook or the F/R website. Registration payment arrangements will be made upon confirmation of registration. All fees must be paid prior to contest start.

Duration: Contest begins at 8AM and ends at 8PM.

Prizes: To be determined by the number of entrants.

Prize Groups: Largest Walleye, Largest Bass, Largest Fish Catch and Release: Keeping with our Assn policy of Catch and Release, fish size will be determined by a good picture of the fish using a tape measure. The picture can then be posted on FB or the website for all to see.

Prizes will be awarded at the June 1st Assn meeting held at Maplewood.



Why Stock Walleye and Are You Up to the Challenge?

Why do we want to stock Walleye in Fish and Royer Lake? Why stock Walleye over other fish to help address the shad problem? Can we stock other fish? Why are we encouraging catch and release? These are all excellent questions that members of the Fish/Royer Lake Association have asked. To be blunt, Walleye like to eat and eat often! Iain Loveman (*Not Just Fishing*) noted that once Walleye reach 6 to 10 inches in size they will begin to stop eating insects and start eating minnows or bait fish (e.g., Gizzard Shad). Loveman goes on to state, "Walleye, at this stage will eat ravenously, grow quickly, and will need to eat as much food as they can to sustain their rapid growth and once a Walleye is mature, and large, they must continue to eat large amounts of food, just to maintain themselves." Walleye grow fast! Depending on the food supply, a 1+ year (13 to 14 months) old Walleye can grow to 10 ½ inches! By 2+ years, 14 ¼ inches and by 3+ years, 17 ¼ inches. A 10+ year old walleye can be over 27 ½ inches in length! Research has shown female Walleye tend to grow larger than males. It also is not uncommon for Walleye to live over 20 years! It is easy to see that stocking Walleye is a good investment and can help as a long-term solution to managing the Gizzard Shad problem in our lakes. Encouraging catch and release is also an excellent way to help address the Gizzard Shad problem. Just think about how many Gizzard Shad the 17 inch Walleye you caught, took a picture of to show your friends, and then released back in the lake will eat over the next 3 to 4 years! Think about catching a 26+ inch Walleye in our lake in 7 to 8 years! It will be well worth the wait!

At this time, we have stocked catfish and Walleye and there are plans to stock Northern Pike and/or Muskie. However, Northern Pike and Muskie are more expensive compared to Walleye. The plan is to alternate between Walleye and Northern Pike/Muskie to add to the diversity of predators to address the Gizzard Shad problem. Northern Pike and Muskie will eat both the smaller and larger (6 inch plus) Gizzard Shad. It is genuinely exciting to think in 3 to 5 years that we can fish on our lakes and catch Walleye, Northern Pike, Muskie, Large Mouth Bass, and big slab Crappie! We also should start catching some nice size Blue Gills!

So, here is the challenge! Catch the longest Walleye during 2019, take a picture of the length when measuring it, video releasing it back into the lake, post the picture and video on the Fish/Royer Facebook Page and you will win \$100! Catch the longest Northern Pike (Yes, there are some good size Northern Pike in our lakes!) during 2019, take a picture of the length when measuring it, video releasing it back into the lake, post the picture and video on the Fish/Royer Facebook Page and you will win \$100! The \$200 challenge is funded by a private donation.

Written and Submitted by David McIntosh



Michael Troyer

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Our Lawns and Our Lakes

As spring arrives, we all start thinking about our lawns and what to do to make them look good. But slow down, lake homeowners. Your lake does not need any more fertilizer in it. Instead of fertilizer, use your decomposing grass clippings to do the job. Avoid putting fertilizer on your lawn near the lake as runoff from the fertilizer will end up in the lake and result in algae blooms, cloudy water, and a decreased level of oxygen in the water. Absolutely NEVER USE PHOSPHORUS fertilizer products near a lake. Presently, according to Dave Arrington's report last fall, our lakes have so much phosphorus from fertilizer runoff, it will take 500 years to eliminate it. Never use any phosphorous based cleaners, shampoos, or soaps in the lakes.

To prevent runoff water from getting into the lake, consider creating a buffer zone along your lakeshore by planting some native plants along your shoreline to absorb nutrients and slow runoff. A helpful website is titled: "Plants for Inland Lakes-Michigan Natural Shoreline Partnership." This website has lots of information about building a healthy inexpensive shoreline along your property. It also lists several good plants with deep nutrient absorbing root systems to use in your buffer zone along your shoreline.

Also, keeping your lakeside lawn's grass higher helps absorb run off water. Keeping your grass four inches high rather than two inches high can reduce water and nutrient run off by 75%.

Also the water runoff from roof gutters and driveways oftentimes contains nutrients not good for the lake. Try directing that water into an artificial basin of rock, gravel, and native plants to collect those nutrients before they drain into the lake.

As for your shoreline, plants are a good thing. They absorb nutrients heading into the lake. And in your lake, plants are an important part of the lake's ecological balance, so try to keep them. Those water lilies and cattails can be good for the lake. And the fish like them too!



Denise Scott

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Lastly, keep the leaves and grass clippings out of the lake. The lake must use up its oxygen to break that organic material down. And as for the ducks and geese, well, the more they eat, the more they poop. Our lake doesn't need those "nutrients" either. Avoid feeding the ducks and geese, as they will think they have a great place to live and will multiply in number.

It's a lot of little things that add up to help our lakes stay healthy. Hopefully these efforts and the efforts of our neighboring farmers and homeowners will help preserve lakes today and for the future.

Submitted by Dave Schnieders



Kenny Chapp

Phone (260) 768-4736
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M-F 7:30-5:30
Sat. 7:30-4:00
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Golf Outing

To benefit

Fish/Royer Lake Association

Saturday, July 6, 2019

Heron Creek Golf Course, LaGrange

4 Person Scramble/\$55 per person

Includes golf, cart, lunch

Start time: 8:00 AM

Pre-register at Heron Creek, or contact

Erik Pearson by phone or email.

Erikpearson4@gmail.com or 260 463-6789

OR, you can just show up at the course on 7/6!



All Occasions

Banquet & Event Hall

260-463-6085

Carmen Pearson

204 N. Detroit St.

LaGrange, IN 46761

carmen@alloccasionsbanquet.com

Why pay dues???

Sometimes people ask, "Why should I pay those lake association dues. That lake association has never done anything." Take a minute and READ THIS! Your lake association is really working for you and trying hard to improve our lakes. In the past twenty years the lake association has:

1. Successfully added sewer system to our lakes and that prevented dangerous e-coli from continuing to leach into our lakes from faulty septic systems.
2. Added access to natural gas line service to our lake properties
3. Secured and utilized a \$100,000 grant to clean up the watershed feeding Royer Lake's south inlet. Water monitoring of these inlets continues.
4. Organized the dredging of the channel between the two lakes.
5. Stocked 15,000 channel catfish and 10,000 walleye in our lakes over the past 15 years through fundraising and donations. We funded the stocking of 3000 walleye and the DNR stocked 3500 channel catfish this past fall, their first stocking of our lakes in years!
6. Published an informative quarterly newsletter and kept a website and Facebook page for our lake residents.



Fish/Royer Lake Association Day of Caring

Our goal is to organize a few days in which we can work together as a community to assist fellow Association members who need a helping hand. We will take a team or two of volunteers to do some home and yard work for those who need assistance. If you would like to help, or know someone who is a Fish/Royer lake resident and 2019 member of the association, and could use some help, fill out this application and mail it to Erik Pearson, 2065 S 445 E, LaGrange, on or before June 1st. We will contact everyone to discuss dates/times after June 1, 2019.

7. Organized a scholarship fund available for lake residents and their children.
8. Recently applied for 501c3 non-profit status with our federal government in order to more easily obtain grants, individual, and corporate donations to support our lake improvement projects including fish stocking and channel dredging projects.
9. Cleared the fallen trees and debris from East Fly Creek outlet for our lakes to allow faster drainage of our lakes after heavy rains and thaws.
10. Organized and maintained a financial spreadsheet which details all income and expenses as well as membership for the lake association.
11. Is presently working with the DNR and Fish Biologist Larry Koza to get our lakes surveyed and an up-to-date fish count. It is scheduled for this June.

Dues of \$40 per year are payable to the Fish and Royer Lake Association

Send to David McIntosh, treasurer
1207 North Meadow Lane
Muncie IN 47304

Support YOUR Fish Lake Royer Lake Association by paying your annual dues. Thanks for doing your part!

Treasurer's Report

General fund: \$5662.57
Fish Stocking: \$4708.00
Scholarship: \$ 125.00
Buoys: \$ 125.00

Total Balance as of 3/1/2019= \$10,620.57

Name/Address _____

Contact information _____

Please check one:

1. I would like to be part of a team _____

2. I could use a helping hand _____

Please leave a description of projects that you, or someone you know who lives on the lake, needs help with.

