



# Fish/Royer Lake Association

JUNE 2020

**ASSOCIATION BOARD MESSAGE:** The Association is very disappointed that our 2020 calendar of events has not gone as planned. Cancellations or postponing of events were and will be decided based on the safety of our residents, while working within the LaGrange County guidelines during the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our intentions are to try rescheduling and/or having some events when, and as long as, our environment is safe to do so. We apologize for any inconvenience, but want to thank everyone for their understanding and support. - Your Association Board

*Denise Scott*

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## GENERAL MEETING and ELECTION: HOG ROAST - August 29, 2020 at 1:00pm

Since the May fund raiser at the Legion, the June General Meeting and the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Pig Roast had to be cancelled, we are going to attempt to roll them all together into a one event. Our General Meeting and Election Hog Roast is tentatively planned for Saturday August 29, 2020, at 1:00pm, at the Hickory Hills Public Landing.

Our intentions for this meeting: We will be holding our Annual Election. This year ends the terms for Erik Pearson, Pam Deetz, David Schnieders and Jeff Slabaugh. Our topics of discussions will be the Fish Attractor Project, the Weed & Plant Community, and updates on the Sewer Project. And, we are hoping to have Jill Hoffman of Fish Lake as a guest speaker! We hope those available can attend.

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**HOPEFUL FOR FIREWORKS:** Our residents really enjoyed the firework festivities last year, and since that allows for social distancing by enjoying them from our boats or shorelines, they would love to do it again. We already have posting on Facebook that there will be three different firework areas for viewing!

- Royer Lake by the Southeast Channel (*Andrea Hapeman-Perry*)
- Fish Lake in the Northeast corner (*Mike Gray*)
- Fish Lake on the Southwest side (*David McAlister*)



If you know of anyone having a fireworks display over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend, let us know by posting on Facebook or contacting a Board Member to get the word out! Thanks!

## REMINDER: ENTRY DEADLINE IS JULY 15<sup>TH</sup>!

**Annual Chicago Joe Scholarship:** For the past several years, the Lake Association has offered a scholarship to a current association member, their child or grandchild, for post-secondary education or training.

**2020 Topic: Lake Property Owners' Environmental Responsibilities.** Entry must be a 200-300 word, double spaced essay on the benefits of lake property owners being responsible in keeping our lake environmentally safe and helping maintain our lakes natural habitat. It must contain an introduction, a body and a conclusion.

The essay must include a cover letter indicating the writer's name, address and phone number, the name of the college or school attending, and the name of their relative, who must be a Fish/Royer Lake Member. Emailed entries must be submitted to Dave Schneiders at [davidschnieders@sbcglobal.net](mailto:davidschnieders@sbcglobal.net), by July 15<sup>th</sup>.

**The winner will be announced on August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020!**

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## FISH ATTRACTOR PROJECT

### - LAKE STRUCTURES & WEED / PLANT COMMUNITY:

Erik Pearson and David Schnieders have stayed in contact with Matt Horsley from DNR. Our lakes are still planning on the coordination of a Fish Attractor Project, but due to the pandemic guidelines, this progress has been delayed. A marine biologist will be looking over this to help determine what and where structures should be placed. Potential locations have not yet been decided, however, the structures will most likely be in 10-14 feet of water. We are hoping to begin structure placement in October. DNR is also still planning on continuing to monitor the plant community in 2020, and will attempt to visit our lakes in late summer to conduct a survey of the submergent plants and to possibly map out the emergent plant community. The Fish Attractor Project will be a topic of discussion at our General Meeting in August.

*Correction from March Newsletter:* Permits for weed killing will be severely limited due to our current lack of weeds. The purpose of taking care of weeds on our lakes is to allow people to get boats in and out, not to establish beaches for swimming and recreation.

Matt Horsely with the DNR has also forwarded the 2019 Fish and Royer Lakes Status and Trends reports. These have been added to our website [fishandroyerlakes.com](http://fishandroyerlakes.com) for everyone's viewing! Be sure to take a look!

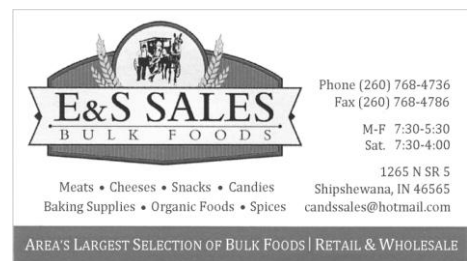


**2020 Fish Stocking:** On March 25<sup>th</sup>, 360 Northern Pikes were added to our lake. A shout out to Erik Pearson, David McIntosh, Russ McCoy and Patti Koza for being there to assist and photo opt the fish drop. Future plan is to add another 3600 walleye in October, as well as any extra walleye provided from the state. Be sure to post pictures of any pike and walleye you catch on our Facebook page!

**OSPREY NESTS/WOOD DUCK BOXES:** The Osprey population had declined rapidly between the 1950s-1970s due to DDT, loss of breeding grounds and poaching. This decline resulted in placing the Osprey onto the Indiana endangered list. Between 2003-2006, Indiana acquired 96 young Ospreys from nests in Virginia and released them at four Indiana locations. Releasing them, along with adding of nesting platforms, has resulted in Indiana's osprey population showing steady growth. As of 2018, the Osprey was moved from endangered to the special interest list.

Many found it a little exciting that we had a couple around our lakes last year. So, Tom McCue, being a lifelong wildlife enthusiast had the thought of bringing nest platforms in the hopes to encourage their returning each year to our lakes. So, as indicated in the March newsletter, Osprey platforms were set up at three locations on our lakes, with thanks to REMC for supplying and placing the poles. (REMC also published an article in the mailings that we will post on our website and Facebook pages.) The April-May Nesting season is over for 2020, so hopefully the Osprey chicks born nearby will seek out our platforms over the next couple months, and return to build their own nests here next year.

The idea of bringing and keeping different types of wildlife coming to our lakes has peaked interest in adding other wildlife structures as well. Therefore, David has suggested building and placing Wood Duck boxes around the lakes. The Board has approved \$200 to spend on materials. We are looking for volunteers to craft the boxes as well as places to install them. Please let Tom McCue or David Schnieders know if you are interested in participating.



## COVID-19 - Do Your Part To Help Stop The Spread:

1. washing hands often and for at least 20 seconds;
2. limit going to stores, groceries, etc.;
3. use hand sanitizer;
4. practice social distancing - maintain at least 6 feet;
5. use paper towels to open doors, touching carts, etc.;
6. sneeze into your elbow bend, not your hand;
7. don't touch your face.

*Thank You - Connie Ross McIntosh*

## CURRENT 2020 EVENTS:

*All of these events are open to change depending upon county and state regulations relating to the pandemic.*

July 3<sup>rd</sup>: Family Fishing Tournament

July 4<sup>th</sup>: Flotilla - 3pm  
Music at the Considines'  
Hopeful for Fireworks

August 1<sup>st</sup>: Golf Outing Fund Raiser

August 29<sup>th</sup>: General Meeting & Election  
Hog Roast at Hickory Hills

September 5<sup>th</sup>: Family Fishing Tournament

September 6<sup>th</sup>: Fish Fry by The Pearsons'  
Games & Raffles

## FAMILY FISHING TOURNAMENTS:

- 4<sup>th</sup> of July Weekend: Friday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> 8am-8pm
- Labor Day Weekend: Saturday, Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> 8am-8pm


**EXCITING NEWS:** The Memorial Day Tournament Entry Pot totaled \$200 - \$100 Winner & \$100 Fish Stocking Fund - Our Winner, Brad Pearson, has donated \$50 of his winnings to our Fish Stocking Fund and \$50 of his winning to the Entry Pot for the July 3<sup>rd</sup> Tournament to sweeten the pot!

Tournament Day Rules: Start fishing our lakes after 8am; take a picture of the caught fish next to a ruler; release the fish; forward your picture to Jay Benak before 8:00pm.

\* To be eligible, entry must be a 2020 paid Association Member. The entry fee of \$20 should be paid to Jay Benak prior to 8am on tournament day. The entry fee will cover the member's entire family. Winners will be contacted the following day. Be sure to visit our Facebook and website pages to stay updated as the tournaments approach, and after, as winners are announced. Entry fees will be split between winner(s) and our Fish Stocking Fund. Prize(s) will be determined upon the amount of entries, so we encourage early sign up!

**4<sup>th</sup> of JULY FLOTILLA:** Decorate your boats, meet up at the public landing at 3pm, and float parade around our Fish & Royer Lakes in celebration of Independence Day!

**MUSIC AT THE CONSIDINES'** Even though Bob & Mary Considines' Pig Roast Fund Raiser was cancelled due to the pandemic concerns, they still wanted to support the band they had booked. Feel free to either bring a lawn chair and cooler, or just float on by, to enjoy the music provided by "Motor Folkers!" Show Time: July 4<sup>th</sup> 6:00pm to 9:00pm.



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## GOLF OUTING TO BENEFIT LAKE ASSOCIATION:

- Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup> – 8:00am Start
- Heron Creek Golf Course, Lagrange
- 18 hole, four person scramble
- \$55 per person: includes golf, cart, lunch, prizes
- A Variety of Games and Challenges will be available!

Sign up and pay fees by contacting Erik Pearson, or just show up and join at Heron Creek Golf Course on August 1<sup>st</sup>. If you are unable to golf, but are available to volunteer to help with activities, please let Erik Pearson know.

**FISH FRY:** Our Association Board President Erik Pearson, and his wife Carmen, are still planning to host a Fish Fry on September 6<sup>th</sup>, at their Royer Lake home - 2065 S. 445 E. Gathering will begin at 4:30pm, with fish served at 5:00pm. All are welcome to join, so grab your chair and come on by!  
- This event is a B.O.Y.B.

To try make up for the cancellation of our Fund Raisers in the first half of the year, there will be games and raffles. If you have any items you would like to donate to be raffled, please contact Erik or Carmen Pearson prior to the event.

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## A Big Thank You to Our 119 Current Paid Members!

An updated list of these members can be found on our website.  
If not on the list, please consider paying the 2020 dues today!

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## JUNE 10<sup>TH</sup> STORM: A COMMUNITY DURING CRISIS

We would like to take a moment to acknowledge the initiative that many of our members took upon themselves right after the storm of June 10<sup>th</sup>. It was amazing to see everyone immediately checking up on others safety, and then moved right into gathering for roadway clean-ups. So many members have since volunteered their time, efforts and equipment to help with the removal of trees and debris. Thankfully all appeared to be safe and most clean-up issues have been addressed. If some assistance is still needed, reach out and ask. Thank you to everyone who pulled together as a community and make our lakes such great place to live!



**FLY CREEK PROJECT:** Thanks to the following individuals for their time and efforts in completing the Fly Creek Clean-Up Project! Volunteers have gone out at least 15 different days, removing dead and fallen trees, as well as other debris, which had fallen into or across the creek between US20 and 100N. Not only have their efforts improved our lakes water flow, but they also raised \$8,750.00 for our Association Fish Stocking Fund!

A Huge Thank You: Jay Benak, Erik Pearson, Joey Albergo, Andy Ault, Kyler Bayes, Christine Benak (promoting), Randy Bixler, Dick Boggess, Tom Drew, Kyle Pearson, Loren Lehman, Eric Maginn, Russell McCoy, Tom McCue, David McIntosh, Connie McIntosh (promoting), Gavin McIntosh, Ross McIntosh, John Murphy, Ken Ostermeyer, Heidi Rupley, David Schnieders, Sue Schnieders (promoting), Jeff Slabaugh, David Stokley (photos), Joe Youngblood, Jennifer Walker, John Walker, Ron Wilson, and anyone we may have accidently forgotten to list. Your name may have eluded us, but your efforts haven't.

## TREASURER'S REPORT Total May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020: \$ 12,797.82

General Fund:	\$ 4,183.82	Revenue:	\$ 7,620.00
Fish Stocking:	\$ 7,829.00	Expenses:	\$ 6,025.76
Buoys':	\$ 355.00		
Scholarship:	\$ 430.00		

**SPONSORS:** We now have a sponsor tab on our website fishandroyrelakes.com. Under this tab, you will find a copy of our paid sponsors' business cards. Their sponsorship fees help to keep our quarterly newsletters in production, so please help support them by utilizing their business for your needs.

**ABANDONED TRAILER ON THE CHANNEL:** Concerns regarding the abandon trailer on the channel have been brought to the attention of the Association Board, as well as other properties around the lake that have been abandoned or in disrepair. Board President, Erik Pearson will be checking into what actions can be taken to take care of these situations. In the meantime, if you have the same concerns, anonymous complaints can be made to the county code enforcer at (260) 499-6318. For complaints about burning inappropriate materials, IDEM can be called at (800) 451-6027 Option 3, or complete a form found at <https://www.in.gov/idem/5274.htm>.

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## Our 2020 Fish Royer Lake Association Board:

### President:

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### Vice President:

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### Treasurer:

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