



# Fish/Royer Lake Association

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I want to personally thank everyone that has contributed to our community and lakes this year. This past year has been a learning curve in regards to the amount of "behind the scenes" time, research and discussion that is involved being part of the association board. I have gotten to know and meet more of our lakes residents and develop new friendships and acquaintances along the way! This year has been our highest number of members ever in the association reaching 144 households! The residents of both Royer and Fish Lake have become more involved this past year than I have seen since I was a little girl and I hope that it continues into next year as well. As a recap we had quite the list of festivities over the year as you will see below:

- Adopted a family of 4 children this Christmas Season - our members generously donated \$900.00 to contribute towards gifts as well as the boards contribution of \$800.00 (\$200.00 for ea child) which included toys, clothes, hygiene items and gift cards to local restaurants
- Merchandise sales from shirts, magnets and drink koozies brought in a profit of \$1,339.33
- Our annual Chicken Dinner at the Legion was a huge success as well, again our members astounded us with the vast amount of items that were donated. Our total profit after the expenses was \$2421.00
- All new signs were purchased for all the yearly events and meetings
- New canopy was purchased that can be used for outdoor events
- Fish structures were placed in both Fish and Royer Lakes
- Trial aquatic plant transplanting on Royer Lake
- Multiple Fishing Tournaments hosted by the Benaks
- Ability to award 2 scholarships this year

## DECEMBER 2021

- Addition of duck boxes on both Fish and Royer Lake constructed by David Stokely, Skip Swopes, Jay Benak and David McIntosh.
- Stocked 1600 Walleye and another 360 Northern Pike
- Donated pizza luncheon to Parkview LaGrange for our local healthcare workers
- Boat in movie night hosted by the McCoys, McCues and McIntoshes
- Annual Flotilla and July 4th celebration hosted by the Considines
- Annual Association Hog Roast and Member Appreciation Day
- Fish Fry hosted by the Pearsons
- Kayak Club organized by Mendy Albert
- Wine and Unwind Painting class hosted by Carmen Pearson
- Annual Golf outing at Heron Creek
- Continuation of Fly Creek clearing / clean up
- Setting the groundwork for Indiana University's Clean Lakes Program to be implemented on our lakes this upcoming year

A huge thank you to everyone that has made donations whether it was monetary, goods, acts of service or time, it was all very much appreciated. Lastly, thank you to all my fellow board members for dedicating your time, knowledge, skill sets, ideas and opinions to make all of our homes a better place to live and make memories. I hope year two in my term is as fantastic as year one!

- Jolyn Strahm,  
Fish & Royer Lakes Association President



## Comprehensive Water Study

We have counted the member votes and out of 62 votes received 58 voted "Yes" for a Comprehensive Water Study through the LARE program. What is the purpose of a Comprehensive Diagnostic Study (CDS)? The purpose is to educate ourselves and learn what is going on in and around both of our lakes. To advocate for our lakes' health we must first know its current condition. Lake health is not a simple healthy vs unhealthy concept. Rather, lake conditions change and age over time based mostly on how much pollution the lakes receive and how many natural filters like wetlands and floodplains may have been impacted in watersheds (land area draining to the lakes). The study will indicate what is contributing to our lakes' health by looking at all of the factors that are impacting water quality. The CDS will generate specific recommendations that we as an association can implement whether that is better managing resources within our lakes, changing lakeside behaviors, or working with other partner organizations to prevent pollution and/or restore natural filters upstream in the watershed. If we do not receive the LARE grant we will continue on with the IU Clean Lakes program to improve our understanding of lake conditions and quantitatively track changes over time. If we do receive the LARE grant we will be responsible for 20% of the cost, which we will raise through donations and fundraisers.

Task List for the study is as follows:

1. Historical information on trends in land use and water quality will be summarized from several data sources.
2. Current watershed conditions including land use, wetlands, potential pollution sources, etc. will be mapped.
3. Information on water quality, biology, and habitat will be collected and analyzed .
4. Lake water quality sampling will include common measurements like dissolved oxygen and temperature, but several other measurements like nutrients, bacteria, algae counts, suspended sediments, and more. Together these will be used to score our lakes' health and allow us to compared our lakes to other lakes
5. Tributary sampling, like lake sampling, will include several measurements at three locations, twice (both during normal flow conditions and storm flow conditions). This will help identify where pollution might be coming from in the watershed so that voluntary solutions can be identified.
6. Biological community and habitat quality will be assessed in the tributaries, in addition to the water quality sampling. Since biological communities (like aquatic insects) have to live in streams year-round, they can often tell us more about stream health than simply sampling the water chemistry a few times. Likewise, the habitat of the tributary streams can impact the water chemistry, so it's important to measure it all in order to have a complete story about the health and impacts of each tributary on our lakes.
7. Aquatic plant communities will be mapped in a qualitative way that will identify the presence and extent of invasive plant species, as well as submerged and emergent native species. This mapping will not however be detailed enough for any future herbicide treatments, should those even be recommended for invasive species control.
8. Hydrology and Lake Habitat Quality will be analyzed to help understand how long water stays in our lakes (residence time) and what type of habitat we have in the lakes based on depth, oxygen, plant communities, native shorelines, etc.
9. Modeling of nonpoint source pollution in lakes and subwatersheds will analysis nutrient and bacteria loads from external (watershed) sources and flows, as well as internal loads from the sediments within the lake.
10. Assessing institutional resources will help us understand what partnerships could help us implement pollution prevention projects or increase educational efforts or funding opportunities.
11. Prioritized management recommendations will help us know what next steps to take after the study.
12. A public information handout will be created to help lake and watershed residents understand current conditions and possible solutions for healthier lakes and streams.

Indiana Clean Lakes Program:

This program is a volunteer-based monitoring program that measures a few general lake conditions like water clarity, temperature, and dissolved oxygen levels at various depths. The purpose of the program is to gather data and information on a regular basis to gain a better understanding of our lakes trends both short and long-term. IU researchers will train volunteers this upcoming spring and supply all the necessary equipment, data sheets, training/educational materials and assistance if and as needed. The following are activities that the volunteers would be participating in from May through August or if enough volunteers April through October:

- Secchi Disk observations measure lake clarity, ideally at the deepest section of both lakes. This is done by lowering a black and white disk into the water and taking a reading at the depth when you can no longer see the disk. The results can identify conditions that impact water clarity such as algae and suspended sediment in the lake.
- Qualitatively Reports are done in conjunction with the aforementioned secchi disk measurements. The volunteers report what the lake looks like visually such as decreased/increased plant life, muddy waters, increased algae present or the water clarity improved.
- Dissolved Temperature and Oxygen measurements are collected by lowering a handheld meter provided by IU. The data collected by the meter show the conditions present for fish and plant species as well as provide seasonal trends that show when the lakes become stratified and/or turn over.

If you'd like to be part of the training and volunteer your time please reach out to Jolyn Strahm.



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<b>Treasurer's Report December 8, 2021:</b>		<b>\$ 19,307.62</b>
General Fund:	\$ 8,121.62	Buoys: \$ 795.00
Fish Stocking:	\$ 10,351.00	Scholarship: \$ 40.00

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Dear Santa.

*Hope you are doing well. We here at Fish/Royer Lakes were hoping you might deliver a few presents our way. We've been pretty good. There might be a few folks on the naughty list, but they aren't really that bad. So here's our list:*

*Crystal Clear Water*

*Bigger Walleye, bigger Bluegill, and more Bass*

*More weeds in the lake for the fish*

*Better Trash Service*

*A lower, safer speed limit on 525/500 E*

*More Wood Ducks and Osprey and Fewer Geese!*

*More fishermen catching and releasing, especially our Northern Pike*

*No more shad and suckers*

*No more farm or lawn fertilizer run-off into our lakes*

*50 more dues paying Association members*

*\$40,000 in the Lake Association treasury*

*And maybe some surprises.*

*Thanks, Santa. We are so excited you are coming soon. We can't wait! We will leave cookies and milk by the tree. Merry Christmas!*

*Yours truly,*  
*Fish/Royer Lake Association*

We Can't Thank Our Sponsors Enough!

Thank you to our 2021 sponsors who helped offset the cost of our mailings and other necessary expenses. We also want to thank all our wonderful friends and neighbors for thinking of them and utilizing their services to fulfill their needs.



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## OUR 2022 ASSOCIATION BOARD:

Jolyn Strahm, President - Fish Lake - one year term  
- contact: (260) 463-6135 or jolynstrahm@gmail.com

Jeff Slabaugh, Vice President - Fish Lake - two year term  
- contact: (574) 971-6814 or jeff@pbnj.org

Mark Albert, Treasure/Secretary - Channel - two year term  
- contact: (260) 499-1450 or mendyandmark@live.com

Tom McCue, board - Royer Lake - two year term  
- contact: (260) 442-7821 or cagermcq@aol.com

Ron Lucas, board - Fish Lake - two year term  
- contact: (260) 760-9091 or ronlucas48@gmail.com

Erik Pearson, board - Royer Lake - one year term  
- contact: (260) 463-6789 or erikpearson4@gmail.com

David Schnieders, board - Fish Lake - one year term  
- contact: (317) 345-2918 or djschnied@gmail.com

Bob Considine, committee - Fish Lake  
- contact: (513) 518-1473 or bobconsidine345@gmail.com