



Fish/Royer Lake Association

Lake Association Spring Meeting

The meeting will be held on May 6th at 10:00am at the Maple Wood Nature Center on 100S.

Erosion and Wave Buffering

Native plants that grow near shorelines have benefits: *Hold soil in place with either deep or laterally extensive root systems. *Absorb and lower energy from waves created by wind or boats.

*Slow down water runoff from a sloping yard or landscapes to allow pollutants such as sediment and contaminants to absorb before they reach the water. Native shorelines reduce runoff erosion by absorbing water, breaking the impact of raindrops or wave splash, physically slowing the speed, and diffusing the flow of overland runoff. *Absorb nutrient runoff, which helps keep the water clear of algae. *Provide key habitat for fish and native wildlife. *Reduce mowing and lawn maintenance. *They do not pond water, so mosquito habitat is not provided.

Native shorelines do not provide a complete habitat for snakes. "Geese tend to avoid native shorelines plantings. They cannot see through the vegetation and think a predator might be hiding there."(1) "Plants native to this area are adapted to our region's soil and climate. They are tolerant of fluctuating water levels and are more resistant to disease. They are also the preferred plants for native birds and butterflies."(2) "When choosing native plants for your waterfront garden, consider: (1) how high does it grow, (2) how much will it spread, and (3) when will it bloom."(3) Care should be taken not to plant invasive species. There are aquatic plants that should be planted in or near water. Aquatic plants absorb and buffer wave action before the waves reach the shoreline. Transition plants don't mind having wet feet. Do not be tempted to remove rocks from a lake bottom for shoreline use. These rocks are essential for absorbing and breaking wave action before reaching a shoreline.

English Ivy is not a good option to use for erosion control. It has a poor underground root system, causing surface flow to easily undermine the soil on slopes.

Solitude Lake Management's website has a great resource for identifying both common and scientific names for native plants. The site also contains growth type, best planting location, and photos for reference.

(1) indianaclearchoicescleanwater.org

(2) wacf.com native plants Wawasee area conservancy foundation

(3) conrmsui.edu Smart waterfront plants to enhance your shoreline.

(4) Solitudelakemanagement.com/beneficial-buffers-native-plants-for-ponds-lakes-in-the-midwest/

LARE Grant Update

The Lake Association Board's application for the LARE Grant was approved. The next step in that process was to get bids on the project. They required us to submit for 3 bids, we submitted for 4. Of the 4 requests for bids only one of them responded to our request with a proposal. Thankfully that bid came from a recommended contractor of the DNR. The Lake Association Board met to review the proposal and voted unanimously to approve the proposal submitted by Arion Consultants Inc.

Next steps: since we have decided on the contractor we will notify them we have awarded the project to them. We then schedule an in-

person meeting with them and DNR to discuss the scope of services. Once we get that finalized we will sign to do the agreed upon work. From there we wait for the results to come back to us and the DNR.

One thing that we have learned in this process is that now that we have been approved for a LARE grant we “are on their radar” or “under their umbrella” so to speak. This gives us a little preference in applying for additional LARE Grants for things like shore line erosion protection. Their thinking is why put all the effort into the comprehensive lake study if they aren’t going to support us on implementing the action items outlined in the results of the survey.

Fish Stocking Update

Walleye have been ordered for this YEAR’S fish stocking efforts. We placed an order for 1690 walleye this season. Our supplier noted a nominal price increase. \$2.60/fish up from \$2.40/fish last year.

REMC Broadband Status

Bring us the future, more quickly please! Many of you are waiting for signs of progress on the new fiber optic internet. As of this publication there isn’t any official news on when the installations for our zone will begin. We are currently in the sight survey stage. If you haven’t had a sight survey completed you will want to visit REMC’s website and complete that. It will get you a neat little sticker on the outside of your house where they are to connect you to the network.

Events

May 6th Annual Meeting @ 10:30

Memorial Day Fish Tournament - [Details/Date TBD](#)

June 06/15 - 06/17 Annual Garage Sales

July 4th - Flotilla @ 4:00

Labor Day Fishing Tournament - [Details/Date TBD](#)

Digital Payments

One thing the Lake Board is regularly getting asked about is the ability to accept payments via cash apps such as Apple Pay, Google pay, or Venmo? Do you use digital payments for other things? Would it help you renew your membership if we could send you a digital invoice to pay? Or would you prefer keeping things the same? When you see a board member let them know what you think. (This might come up as a poll on the FB page)

Speed Limit – You Can’t Drive 55

LaGrange County posted new speed limit signs of 35 mph on County Road 525 from 100 S to 200 S. This will hopefully get drivers to slow down at least some as they pass through the area. For residents along that stretch, if you don’t see people slowing down you can contact the county and encourage them to enforce it with some police presence.



Wall-eye-didn't-know

In both lakes and river systems, walleye generally spawn sometime during late March and mid-May, when water temperatures are between 40 and 50F. The time of the spawn depends on the walleye’s distribution. Walleye will spawn in water temperatures above 40 and up to 50 degrees Fahrenheit. Spawning activity will commence at a water temperature of about 44-46F and peak at around 50F. As walleye are nocturnal predators, meaning that they are most active in low light conditions, and at night, they will also spawn during the dark hours of the day. Their spawning activity generally stretches from dusk to dawn. If they spawn directly in a lake, the shallows they tend to seek out are usually close to the shoreline and exposed to winds, as the moving water will

cleanse the area from fine sediment that could harm the eggs. Female walleye can produce and store enormous amounts of eggs. On average, a female produces a staggering 27,000 eggs per pound. Egg production generally ranges from 12,000 to 55,000 eggs per pound. Amazingly, that means that a trophy-sized walleye of over 10lb has the capacity to produce and store over half a million eggs in her body. While the walleye's pre-spawn period often lasts weeks or even months, the actual spawning period typically stretches over 2 to 3 weeks. Pretty much all walleye in any given water body will have spawned out during that time. The very act of spawning typically only lasts for a few hours. Females will spawn out entirely during the spawning season, while males can spawn and eject milt several times with different females. While fishing for pre and post-spawn walleye can be fantastic and rewarding, trying to get them to bite during the actual spawn can be tricky and sometimes even nearly impossible. The weeks leading up to the walleye spawn are often well worth freeing up some of your time for, as the fish will still be in their feeding mode. Once the water temperatures hit 45F or so, the fishing will become considerably more difficult, as the walleye will cease to feed during most hours of the day and start to concentrate on the upcoming spawn. It's not impossible, there will still be smaller feeding windows, but you'll have to time those short periods and bring a lot of patience and dedication with you to the water because it won't be easy! On the contrary, post-spawn walleye will, once again, be much easier to catch. Now, the fish are done mating and will turn their attention back to the open water and feeding! The post-spawn period is probably the easiest time of year to target walleye.



REMINDER!!!! We are currently accepting Lake Association Membership dues. If you haven't sent it in yet there is a form included for you to do so. There you can also make the change to have the Association newsletter sent via email if that is your preference.



Indiana DNR Free Fishing Days 2023

May 7th

June 3rd & 4th

September 23rd

Thank You to our 2023 Sponsors!

We can continue to thank them by showing them support by using their services when able. Shop Local to support our community's growth.

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Treasurer's Report: \$

General Fund: \$10,924.27	Buoys: \$1,130.00
Fish Stocking: \$8,610.00	Scholarship \$1045.00
Comprehensive Study Fund: \$5701.00	

Total: \$27,410.27

OUR 2023 ASSOCIATION BOARD:

Jeff Slabaugh, President - Fish Lake – 1 year term
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Amy Coburn, Vice President -Fish Lake– 2 year term
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