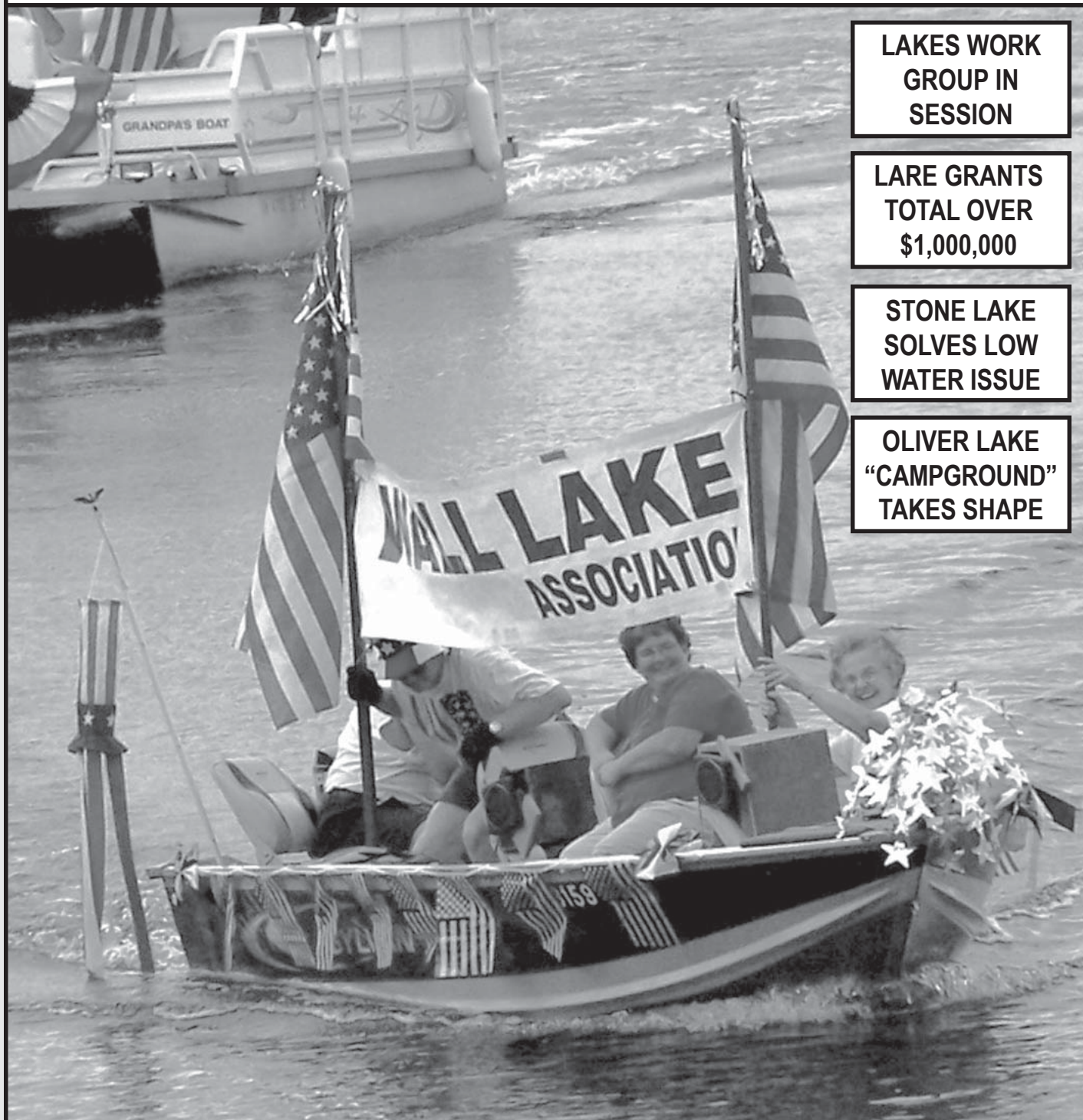


Fall, 2007



LaGrange County Lakes Council

"We've got the real Great Lakes!"



LAKES WORK
GROUP IN
SESSION

LARE GRANTS
TOTAL OVER
\$1,000,000

STONE LAKE
SOLVES LOW
WATER ISSUE

OLIVER LAKE
"CAMPGROUND"
TAKES SHAPE

Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!

A National Public Awareness and Partnership Campaign Addressing Aquatic Invasive Species

What is Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!?

- This is a national public awareness and partnership campaign designed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on behalf of the national Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force and its partner organizations. The campaign consists of various communications elements designed for any organizations interested in aquatic resource conservation to use, which promotes environmentally-responsible behaviors.
- The campaign simplifies the aquatic invasive species issue, makes it relevant to aquatic recreational users and empowers them to become part of the solution in preventing the spread of these harmful species.

What the campaign goals?

- As a multi-faceted campaign designed to do many things, the primary intent is to raise aquatic recreational users' awareness of this issue and to promote environmentally-friendly recreational behaviors. Secondary goals are to unite the conservation community to speak with one voice about this complex issue and to demonstrate the critical role that outreach, education, communications and marketing plays in dealing with challenging resource management issues.

Why target recreational users?

- Americans love to spend time on the water. Millions annually participate in boating, fishing, jet-skiing or sailing and travel extensively in pursuit of new opportunities. When viewed separately, these activities contribute positively to our society, but when combined with lack of issue awareness and knowledge of the prevention steps, the impacts of these species can become quite expensive.

What is the basis for Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!?

- Research shows water-based recreation is a potential pathway that could spread these nuisance species. Other studies show that participants in these activities will take preventive action to avoid invasive species introductions, *if* they know what to do. Conversely, without proper information, they will do nothing. Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers! promotes proactive prevention behaviors that limit the spread of aquatic invasive species like zebra mussels or hydrilla.



**STOP AQUATIC
HITCHHIKERS!™**

Prevent the transport of nuisance species.
Clean all recreational equipment.
www.ProtectYourWaters.net

When you leave a body of water:

- Remove any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting equipment.
- Eliminate water from equipment before transporting.
- Clean and dry anything that comes into contact with water (boats, trailers, equipment, clothing, dogs, etc.).
- Never release plants, fish or animals into a body of water unless they came out of that body of water.

What do you get by becoming a partner?

- By formalizing your partnership, you will receive cooperative marketing materials that allow you to take credit for the prevention message while benefiting from an information-packed web site maintained by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

What are the benefits?

- Access to a professionally designed national marketing campaign.
- Synergistic promotions amongst the 431 current partners including national media outlets (ESPN Outdoors), state and federal agencies, conservation organizations and others.
- Maximization of your organization's limited resources, and an understanding about and accountability for your ANS outreach activities.

How can my organization become a partner?

- Go to the campaign web site and sign up to become a partner. Once you do this, you will get a campaign partnership packet in the mail.

For more information, go to the campaign website:
www.ProtectYourWaters.net



LaGrange County Lakes Council

Fall, 2007 Newsletter

"To promote, protect and preserve the quality of the lakes and watersheds of LaGrange County"

President Jim Bugg, Stone Lake
Vice-President Dan Camp, Little Turkey Lake
Secretary Jack Dold, Pretty Lake
Treasurer Meredith Cameron, Oliver Lake

Directors

Larry Mayers	Big Long Lake
Barb Harper	Lake of the Woods/McClish Lake
Dr. Lynn Bowen	Oliver/Martin Lake
Bob Christen	Witmer Lake
Susan Anderson	Pretty Lake
Terry Gust	At-Large
Karl Reed	Big Long Lake
Jim Wise	Shipshewana Lake
ICO Andy Runyon	At-Large
John Buck	Dallas Lake
Bob Arnold	Big Long Lake
Herb Ulery, Sr.	Stone Lake
Jim Parker	Little Turkey Lake
Dave Arrington	Fish/Royer Lake
Larry Bontrager	At-Large
Stephen Scott-Welty	North Twin Lake
Katie Caldwell	Westler Lake

Newsletter Editor

Jack Dold 260-351-4915 Pretty Lake
 Secretary@LagrangeCountyLakesCouncil.org

This publication is sent by mail to more than 4,400 members and friends of the LaGrange County Lakes Council.

Membership in the Lakes Council is open to anyone with a desire to further the Council's mission: "To promote, protect and preserve the quality of the lakes and watersheds of LaGrange County."

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On the cover: The Wall Lake Association sponsors a boat in the Annual 4th of July Boat Parade.

About your LaGrange County Lakes Council...

The LaGrange County Lakes Council was formed in July 2002. A volunteer Steering Committee met in August 2002 and elected interim officers to conduct business for the Council until adoption of our Charter and elections. Wood-Land-Lakes Resource Conservation and Development, Inc. provided invaluable guidance and support through the organizing process.

Council membership has identified several issues of importance relating to LaGrange County's lakes at open general meetings which were held monthly. As a result of those meetings, our representatives met with consultants and provided input for the development of LaGrange County's new Comprehensive Plan.

In the summer of 2003, the organization became formally incorporated and received its designation of a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit Indiana corporation.

The first election of our Board of Directors was held in August of 2003.

Board meetings are held each month except November and December and are open to the public.

Since our founding in 2002, our activities have supported our mission "to promote, protect and preserve the quality of the lakes and watersheds of LaGrange County."

The Council has always encouraged involvement in County Government. At the present time, members of our board serve on eight of the eleven LaGrange County Boards and Commissions:

- Economic Development Commission
- Board of Zoning Appeals
- Plan Commission
- Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals
- Redevelopment Commission
- Board of Health
- Park Board
- Sewer District Board.

Your LaGrange County Lakes Council is working for YOU!

Stone Lake residents take charge of lake level

By Jim & Sandy Bugg

Residents of Stone and Brokesha (Mud) Lakes decided they were no longer willing to let nature alone take care of the low lake levels they have been experiencing for the last 6 years or more.

The low water level was beginning to impact the use of pontoons because piers were not long enough for the boats to dock, passage through the channel between the two lakes was impassible with anything other than a canoe and the unsightly appearance of the shoreline detracted from the appearance and the properties surrounding the lakes.

What caused the low water level of the lakes more than likely can be contributed to many reasons. Certainly lack of rainfall and snow cover for the last several years was the biggest factor, but added to that are the large irrigation systems for the corn fields just to the north and a large gravel pit located on State Highway 120 not far from the lakes. No one knows just why the water level was declining, but most residents were not willing to just wait and let nature take its course. As one 84 year



Stone Lake residents gather Aug. 4th for the 5th Annual Stone Lake Boat-In.

old long time resident stated,

“I want the lake level back up in my lifetime so I can use my boat.” There was lots of agreement on that statement from all ages.

Different options were discussed during the 2006 Stone Lake

Conservation Club Meetings. A resident of Mud Lake, came to a meeting prepared with facts on supplementing the lake level with its own well. Various members took the challenge of checking with other lakes in the area that had dug a well such as Barron Lake in Michigan and Bass Lake near North Judson, IN. Those reports were favorable and encouraging. A Well Committee was formed and all avenues explored with various agencies such as DNR, LaGrange County, NIPSCO and well drilling companies. Once the best site for the well was determine, another resident donated some land for the installation of the well and the associated equipment.

After a few dedicated residents spent hundreds of hours and after countless meetings were held for all interested parties, a letter was drafted and sent to all residents on the two lakes asking for support and voluntary contributions to the well fund. To date approximately 50% of the people living on the lake have contributed funds to pay for the cost of the digging the wells, installing the pumps and to cover the cost of operation for the next two years.

The drilling for the well was begun at the end of September 2006 and a trial test was run in the beginning of November. Once the well committee

was satisfied that everything was in order the pumps were turned off until the spring of 2007.

With the break in the weather during the month of March, the pumps were turned on and along with the rains



Boaters can once again moor their pontoon boats at the shoreline.

that were provided by Mother Nature, the lake was back to its normal level by the end of March. The pumps were turned off until the middle of June when it was decided to turn them on again after very little rainfall during the months of May and June. They have remained on all summer because of lack of rain and we have been able to keep about even with the normal evaporation rate. We anticipate we will continue to run the pumps during the rest of the boating season and again turn them off for the winter months.

On going costs for operating the pumps will be taken care of by contributions from the residents and through various fundraisers. As people can see what a difference the additional water has made, contributions continue to come in. This last summer we held a successful garage sale, worked at several fish fry's and continue to re-cycle aluminum cans to supplement our well fund.

Anyone using Stone and Brokesha Lakes this summer will tell you what a

Continued on page 5

Meet us on the Internet

Wall Lake celebrates another successful season

Submitted by Bob Hedges

Wall Lake residents met on June 9 to hold their fourth annual Chicken BBQ. Residents brought a covered dish to share and gave a freewill offering to pay for the chicken.

A short general meeting was held to



Wall Lake boaters celebrate Independence Day with a boat parade.

update those present on important lake information and to answer questions on the proposed dairy operation on CR 1100.

Concerned residents in the Wall Lake area have formed a new group, Hoosiers for Sustainable Agriculture, Inc. The basic purpose of the group is to promote sustained family owned produce— beef, pork and chicken operations as well as to oppose the proposed mega-cow dairy operation.

As part of the update, members were

told that the sewer project is progressing and the expected completion date is August, 2008.

Board members collected dues door-to-door on Memorial Day weekend. Wall Lake dues are \$25 per household and the club also asks an additional \$35 voluntary donation for the Lake Enhancement Fund. A membership directory was also published this summer.

The fall of 2006 was the second year of a three-year walleye stocking program. Fish samples will be taken this year to check their growth and determine the effect of the stocking on other

fish. So far, the results seem favorable.

Wall Lake has again qualified for a LARE grant totaling nearly \$10,000 with a 10% matching provided by the Association. The target this year is the Eurasian watermilfoil and curly leaf pondweed. Two applications were applied after notifying residents of the program.

Visitors and residents alike are reminded of the 10 mph speed limit on Wall Lake at all times. Boaters are asked to re-

Westler Lake holds first goose capture

By Mark Dumont

The homeowners on Westler Lake participated in our lake's first Goose Roundup this past June. We rounded up and relocated 75 geese with fantastic results. Within a week our duck population doubled and we have reclaimed our yards.

We have enjoyed our lake immensely this summer— boating, cruising, fishing and relaxing. It has been a very safe and happy summer for all at the lake.

We invite anyone to come and marvel at the beauty and convenience of Westler Lake. A great place to visit and a great place to live.

spect the posted speed limit.

A 4th of July Boat Parade was led this year by Dick and Marian Harber. The club's entry is shown on the cover.

A new event this year was the "Sandbar Party." Pontoons met at the west end of the lake to enjoy the sun-shine and party together.

Wall Lake Association officers include: President, Bob Hedges; Vice-President, George Griffith; Secretary, Mary Menze; Treasurer, Richard Kelly. Directors are Tom Johnson, Roger Jones, Val Holicky and Dennis Hieber.

It's the law!

Marine Events IC 14-15-7-3(a)/312 IAC 5-3-1

A permit may be required for any of the following situations when placed or conducted on public waters. Permits are issued following a site investigation.

Persons planning an event or wanting to place a structure in the waterway must contact the DNR, Law Enforcement Division headquarters for

more information and forms. This applies to events or structures such as:

- Boat race
- Water-ski event
- Water-ski course or jump
- Swimming platform or anchored swim raft
- Buoys, markers or flags

Major organized boating activi-

ties to be conducted on public waters will require a permit. If you plan to host an event that involves fifteen or more watercraft as participants, or the event will draw 50 or more boats as spectators you will need this permit. If you conduct an event on public water, which also will disrupt normal boat traffic, then you too will need to apply.

Sunny skies greet visitors to “The Old Mill Festival”



View of Greenfield Mills from the east. Craft vendors were set up east of the mill. Hidden from view and west of the mill, members of the Steuben County Lakes Council Land Trust and the LaGrange County Lakes Council flipped flapjacks and served coffee and juice to hungry visitors. LCLC helpers included: Larry and Janeen Mayers, Dan Camp, Katie Caldwell, Bob and Barb Hedges, Meredith Cameron, Stephen Scott-Welty and Susan Anderson.

Lakes Councils from LaGrange and Steuben join forces at historic Greenfield Mills

Sunny skies and refreshingly cool breezes met visitors at the first annual “Old Mill Festival” held at Greenfield Mills on



Hungry festival-goers line up for flavored pancakes at the first annual “Old Mill Festival, held at historic Greenfield Mills on banks of the Fawn River.

Saturday, August 18.

In 1832 Samuel Burnside built a saw mill on the banks of Crooked Creek (now the Fawn River). A few years later Peter Beisal began construction of a grist mill nearby. This mill was put together with square nails and wooden pegs.

Unfortunately, Beisel ran into financial trouble and wasn't able to complete the mill. It was completed in 1846 by Amos Davis. In the following years the mill went through several different owners until it was purchased by Henry Rinkel in 1904. At the time of this purchase, the mill was being used as a dance hall because the dam had been washed out months before.

Even though many neighbors thought Rinkel was crazy for trying to make a go of the “jinxed” old mill; they came with their picks and shovels to help rebuild the dam two different times. It took two long, hard years to fix up the old mill.

Finally in 1906, Henry Rinkel began producing “New Rinkel” Flour. Over the last 90 years the spelling and machinery have been changed but the same quality product, “New Rinkel” flour, is being produced.

Over the years they continued to upgrade the mill with much of the equipment being purchased from other small mills that had gone out of business. Sadly, while there were once hundreds of small wheat mills in Indiana alone, there is now only a handful left in the state. It is also one of Indiana's smallest electric utility companies; presently serving 2 mills and 11 homes.

Greenfield Mills, owned and operated by the Rinkel family for over a hundred years is truly a family business.
(History courtesy of: <http://www.newrinkelflour.com/>)



Craft vendors were set up on a grassy area east of the working flour mill.

Stone Lake holds fishing contest

Submitted by Jim Bugg

For many years the Stone Lake Conservation Club has sponsored a fishing contest for young and old alike. This year the contest was held on July 13, 14 and 15, with prizes being awarded at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday afternoon.

The event was chaired by Don and Melody Hamm and Jerry McCoy. Tickets were sold for \$5.00 a person or \$10.00 a family. Anyone entering the contest took his or her catch to either the Hamm's or McCoy's to be measured. Sixty people bought tickets to enter the contest.

The largest bluegill caught by an adult was 9.5" and by a child, 9.75".

An adult caught a 12" perch and by a child, 11.5".

The kids caught the largest bass at 20.5" with the adult's measuring at 16.25".

Both a child and an adult caught crappies measuring 11.125".

The biggest fish caught was by an adult was a 26.5" catfish.

Prizes were provided by the Conservation Club, individual members and from the money collected for the registration fees. Two residents donated water and soda for the contestants and those watching the awarding of the prizes. Anyone entering the contest left with some type of prize making it a fun event for everyone.

On second thought, maybe we shouldn't be sharing with other fisherman what a good fishing spot we have in Stone and Brokesha Lakes!



Steven Seeling

Austin Ferguson holds his 26-1/2 inch long catfish, caught during the Stone lake fishing contest. Austin is the grandson of Stone lake residents, Steve and Margaret Delucenay.

It's the law!

Marine Events IC 14-15-7-3(a)/312 IAC 5-3-1

Effective January 1, 1996, all motorboat or PWC operators must have a valid driver's license to operate on all Indiana public waters.

Motorboat operators who are 15 may operate a motorboat or PWC until they become a licensed driver *only if* they complete a boater education course approved by the Department of Natural Resources and have on board an ID card issued by

the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV). A person who has never been licensed by the BMV must successfully complete an approved boater education course and have on board an ID issued by the Indiana BMV to legally operate a motorboat.

No one under 15 years of age may legally operate a motorboat greater than 10

horsepower or a PWC.

If you recklessly operate your motorboat while intoxicated, or break the PWC laws, you could have points assessed against your driver's license.

On Indiana boundary waters, Indiana residents are required to have a Driver's License. Non-residents are not required to have a license unless operating in an embayment, river or stream in Indiana.

Meet us on the Internet

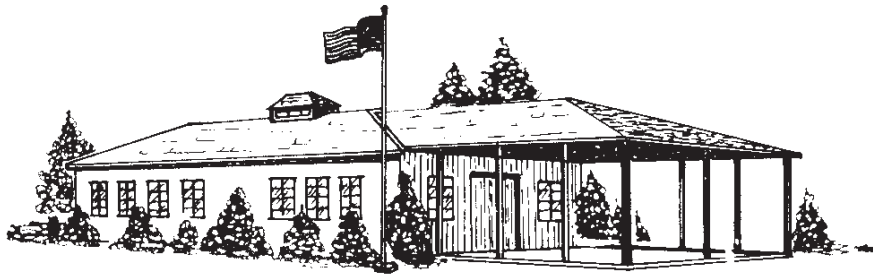
Pretty Lake, a lake that lives up to its name

By Jack Dold

Pretty Lake, 184 acres of peace and tranquility in southeastern LaGrange County, has approximately 220 homes.

results for the lake.

The LARE-funded diagnostic study, conducted last year, shows



Family gatherings are the order of the day with an active conservation club that arranges activities throughout the lake season. From the grounds cleanup in April to the fall campfire in September, there's always something going on at the clubhouse. One new resident remarked, "living here is almost like being on a cruise all summer."

For many years, Pretty Lake was known throughout the tri-state area for its beach with the "big slide." The slide was taken down in 2000 and the former "beach house" is now a private home with adjoining lakefront lots either rebuilt or waiting for construction.

Through the efforts of the Pretty Lake Conservation Club, the lake has qualified for LARE grants to further improve their water quality. For many years the club has maintained a water quality testing program, mainly conducted by Dr. Arthur Hall, a resident since the 1940's. An extensive monitoring record demonstrates the lake's water quality through years of change. Agricultural runoff, a neighboring hog-farm and the recent sewer system installation have all impacted this small lake but through the efforts of the club, every negative influence has been turned into positive

Pretty Lake to be rated among the highest in the state for water quality. Aquatic vegetation, a problem on many lakes, seems to be pretty much in balance with numerous desirable species including some on the endangered list.



What d'ya mean, force a smile?

Pretty Lake Family Picnic

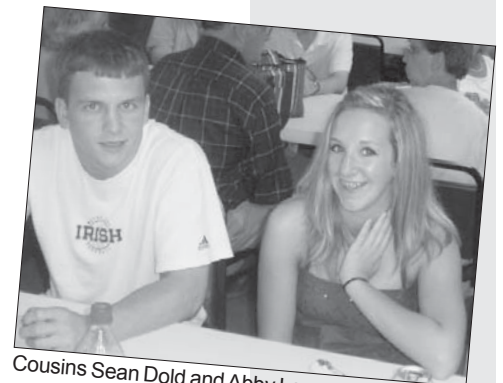
More than 200 residents and friends enjoyed the annual Pretty Lake Family Picnic under sunny skies and balmy breezes. Along with plenty of good food, the club had pony rides, games for young and old, and lots of good conversation.



Well, it looks like someone has a tummy-ache.



The 4-H Horse and Pony Club gets a workout!



Cousins Sean Dold and Abby Larowe enjoy a chat.



Young at heart, Midge and horseshoe champ, Bill

One fine day on Big Long Lake

By Kathy Smith

Where can you see a classic wooden boat parade, a flotilla featuring several themes, fireworks which rival any city in Northeast Indiana and music all night long? Why Big Long Lake in Lagrange County of course!

Every year around the 4th of July the Big Long Lake Association puts together a day of family fun. The day starts with people preparing their entries for our annual flotilla. Some families have spent months and hours in preparation for this friendly competition while others spent a few hectic hours madly decorating and transforming their boats and pontoons into floats.

This day doesn't just happen. Some Big Long Lake residents choose to make a contribution toward the fireworks. A small portion of our association dues go toward them. We also sponsor a can drive and collect pop and beer cans all year long which helps to defray the cost of our Celebration.

We even award prizes for everyone's hard work! While themes vary widely prizes are awarded in two categories, original and patriotic. This year all participants received gas cards and small American flags for their boats. Monetary awards are \$150 to 1st place winners, \$100 to 2nd place winners and \$50 to 3rd place winners. This year we saw Rednecks, Pirates, the McBride Bunch, a 4th of July Picnic and boats decorated in red, white and blue. Classic boat entries received \$25 gift certificates to The Woods Too.

Another part of our day of activities is a parade of classic wooden boats. This gives all the lovers of wood on our lake a chance to shine and polish

their pride and joy and let everyone on the lake appreciate what they already know. That wooden is beautiful!

After the judging, awards are handed out and all the boats in the flotilla make a parade lap around the lake. Now the fun really begins. Because everyone on the lake knows the night will culminate with fireworks all the houses and cottages are filled with visitors. As the flotilla begins we all head to the end of our piers or migrate to our decks to cheer and clap for the entries. Of course there is also a little critiquing going on as each boat floats past us.

"It's like double fireworks as you watch not only the sky but the water..."

The big event of the evening comes later. Just as the light begins to fade the fireworks barge and the safety boats from our local volunteer fire department, South Milford, emerge. They clear the middle basin of the lake of all boats as they pull the barge made from three pontoons strapped together and filled with explosives into the center of the lake. The excitement

begins to build. As the sun sinks on the western shore of the lake the test rockets go up and signal that the fireworks will begin. Anyone who lives on or visits our lake can tell you that our fireworks rival most cities. The colors are reflected in the water and the sound reverberates in the sloped hollow of the terrain around the lake. No matter how hard you try it's impossible to keep yourself from sighing and letting out a little ooh or aaaah. It's like double fireworks as you watch not only the sky but the water for the display now occurring.

When the grand finale is complete if you are watching from the shore you get an added bonus of a light show. As the boats that have collected around the ends of the lake disperse it

reminds you of fireflies being released from a jar. Only the outlines of the boats are visible and the running lights of the boats scatter across the lake as they hurry to their cottages and home.

As with all good parties the evening doesn't end with the fireworks. Although the rest of the activities around the lake are not association sponsored they can be enjoyed by all of us who are on the lake that evening. More small displays of fireworks occur all over the lake and inevitably someone has music playing or a band in their yard.

If you haven't experienced fireworks on a lake there is something extra special about them. We vow the next morning to begin collecting our cans again for next year but we just can't believe that next years 4th of July celebration could ever be any better than what we just watched.



Big Long Lake news

By Jim Williams

The Big Long Lake Association has had a very busy summer schedule this year. We have had our 1st two association meetings to update and inform our members of the ongoing projects for the health of the lake:

- Replacement of the DAM by the DNR
- L.A.R.E. Weed GRANT for 16,000.00 to treat the Milfoil.
- New L.A.R.E. Grant to investigate the Sediment removal at the public access site which required the hiring of a

Continued on next page

Meet us on the Internet

Big Long Lake news

Continued from page 10

consultant to oversee the project. Commonwealth Biomonitoring was selected with Andrew Kennedy as the project manager.

We had a very successful 2006 membership campaign with 381 out of a possible 525 residents choosing to support BLLA with their membership.

We are continuing the clubhouse remodeling to provide a place for our members to use for weddings, reunions, graduations, etc.

Our association continues to be proactive in supporting the local agencies and other organizations such as the Lagrange County Lakes Council, local Fire Departments and Lagrange County services such as 911 and Code Enforcement services. We also belong to the Indiana Lakes Management Society and support all the work of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources at the state level.

Big Long Lake Association Board:

Jim Williams, President
Roger Lake, Vice-President
Megs Mosser, Secretary
Sherrie Flaig, Treasurer

Directors:

(25, representing each addition)

Executive Board/Committees

Carl Mosser

Gary & Linda Miller, Yankee park

Larry Mayers, Lagrange County Lakes Council Rep.

Pat Wilkinson, Directory

Kim Flaig, Clubhouse

Pat Teagarden, Membership

Janelle/Mike Wagner, Can collection/
Flotilla

Howard Pratt, Water Quality

Phil Hartman/Deb Paschen,
Beautification

Phil Hoag, Fundraising

Dick Dirig, Goose roundup

Utilities & Emergency Services, Judy
Cooper-Schurr

The Mission of the BLLA is to monitor, protect & enhance our most important asset [Big Long Lake].

www.LaGrangeCountyLakesCouncil.org

A little history...

By Larry Mayers

Big Long Lake was formed during the Ice Age. Glaciers pushed its sandy soil into many hills and the melting ice formed the lake.

There was

an Indian settlement on the lake until the 1930's

Before prohibition, in 1919, Stanley and Mary Burke moved from Chicago to the area and purchased the Big Long Lake Tavern from John Enclert. Rumor was, the tavern was still doing

business during prohibition.

Al Capone and some of his cronies were occasional visitors and hung out at nearby cottages. The Burkes built an icehouse nearby and cut ice every winter to use in the tavern. Ownership has changed five times over the years.

The burkes also established the Catholic church on the lake. They called it St. Mary's after Mrs. Burke. The church still serves weekend parishioners.

Big Long Lake built up in the 1920's and 30's with fishing cottages. Most have since been replaced by modern homes. The lake has some 520 dwellings and approximately half are year-round residences.

Fishing is still popular on the lake with bluegill, bass and perch being most numerous in its 365 acres. Water clarity has increased by 10 feet since the completion of the sewer system in 1999.

Big Long Lake has an active lake association that is responsible for many improvements and events.

BLLA President,

Jim Williams

Mailing address:

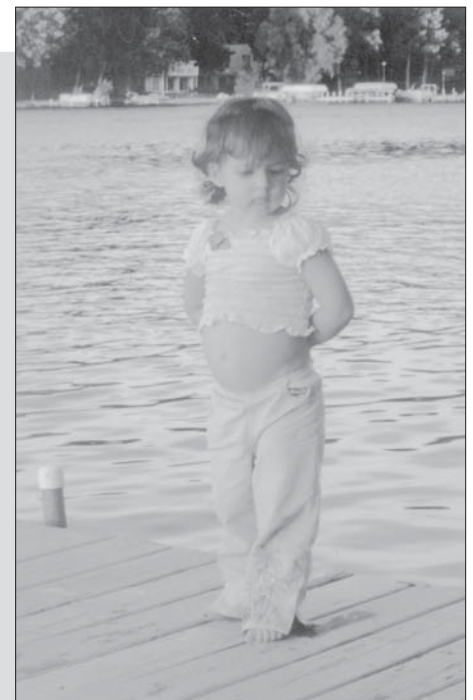
PO Box 203

South Milford, IN

46786-0203



What's not to like at the lake? From left: Dave Mayers, Portland, OR; Laurie Mayers, Plymouth, MI; Julie LeGassick, Portland, OR and with no time to pause, Larry Mayers.



Ivy LeGassick, age 2-1/2, visits her grandparents on Big Long Lake. Ivy's home is in Portland, OR.

DNR announces LARE grants totalling more than \$1,000,000 to benefit Hoosier lakes and streams

Oliver, Olin and Martin Lakes (LaGrange) – The Oliver Lake Conservation and Improvement Association represents about 85% of the residents of the chain of three lakes. Olin Lake, the intermediate lake in the chain, at 103 acres, is the largest undeveloped natural lake in the state and its entire shoreline is protected by a surrounding dedicated nature preserve. Volunteer monitoring efforts by residents have led to concerns about future potential water quality issues and growth of exotic plant species such as Eurasian watermilfoil. The association would like to document current lake conditions and determine whether remedial actions are warranted to protect the lake. The total estimated cost of a diagnostic study of the lake is \$42,000, of which the association is willing to pay 10%. **It is recommended that a grant of up to \$37,800 be awarded for a diagnostic**

study, that a detailed scope of services be prepared by the sponsor for approval by LARE staff prior to initiation of any work, and that the sponsor pay a minimum of 10% of the total cost of the study.

Local sponsor contact: Lynn R. Bowen, 260-463-7006, waveman55@earthlink.net.

LARE Project Manager: Gwen White, 317-234-4407, gwhite@dnr.in.gov.

Pretty Lake (LaGrange) – A diagnostic study of the 184 acre lake revealed that, although its quality is relatively high, there are sediment, nutrient and pathogen water quality concerns that should be addressed in inlet streams. The Pretty Lake Conservation Club, Inc. is therefore requesting funding for an engineering feasibility study to address these matters.

Among the needs that would be investigated are 1) headwaters retention along Deal Ditch, with the potential for restoring floodplain connections in the downstream portion; 2) control of erosion with check dams or a rock chute along a minor tributary; and 3) cataloging of storm drains and determining whether they would require work to remediate any of their impacts on the lake. The total estimated cost of the effort is \$32,000. **It is recommended that a grant of up to \$28,800 be awarded for a study, that a detailed scope of services be prepared by the sponsor for approval by LARE staff prior to initiation of any work, and that the sponsor pay a minimum of 10% of the total cost of the study.**

Local sponsor contact: James Mertz, 260-351-3404, fisherman050440@yahoo.com.

LARE Project Manager: Doug Nusbaum, 260-244-5613, dnusbaum@dnr.in.gov.

Lake Name(s)	County/Counties	Type of Project	Amount
Oliver, Olin, Martin Lakes	LaGrange	Diagnostic	\$37,800
Pretty Lake	Marshall	Diagnostic	\$32,400
Rock Lake	Fulton	Diagnostic	\$31,500
Yellow Creek Chain	Kosciusko	Diagnostic	\$54,000
Ten Lakes (Messick, Adams, Little Turkey, Witmer, Latta, Jones, Cree, Waldron, Steinbarger, and Tamarack)	LaGrange/Noble	Diagnostic	\$57,495
Wolf Lake	Lake	Watershed Plan	\$67,500
Pretty Lake	LaGrange	Engineering Feasibility	\$28,800
Village Lake	Noble	Design	\$31,500
Skinner Lake	Noble	Design/Construction	\$78,750
Cedar Lake	Lake	Design/Construction	\$56,250
Dewart Lake	Kosciusko	Construction	\$39,375
West Boggs Creek Reservoir	Daviess/Martin	Construction	\$49,500
Waubee Lake	Kosciusko	Construction	\$ 6,000

Rivers and Streams:

Salt Creek	Decatur/Franklin/Rush	Watershed Diagnostic	\$39,600
Upper West Fork White River	16 counties (portions of Boone, Brown, Clinton, Delaware, Hamilton, Hancock, Hendricks, Henry, Johnson, Madison, Marion, Monroe, Morgan, Owen, Randolph, Tipton)	Watershed Plan	\$81,000

Watershed Land Treatment:

Big & Little Turkey Lakes	LaGrange/Steuben	Ongoing-WLT	\$56,000
Locust Creek	Vanderburgh	Ongoing-WLT	\$95,000
Lost River	Orange	Ongoing-WLT	\$30,000
Upper Mud Pine Creek	Benton	Ongoing-WLT	\$60,000
Pigeon Creek	Steuben	New-WLT	\$40,000

Hydrilla Treatment

Lake Manitou	Fulton	Continuing	\$113,954
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Fish-Royer holds two meetings

By Judy Bowlby

Fish-Royer Lake Association holds 2 meetings during the summer. One in June and one in August. Our August meeting was held at Par Gill Natural Resource Center. Dave Arrington our Vice President presented a report on "Lake Friendly Living" covering fertilization and shore stabilization. We also discussed the on-going project of fish stocking and the dredging of the channel or ditch that runs between Fish and Royer lakes.

The dredging should begin sometime this fall after crops come off the fields. We plan to have a pre-sale of Chicken and Ribs if Kings is available the last weekend in September.

Members also enjoyed a carry-in meal at the August meeting.

Oliver / Martin development activities continue

By Pat Wiltshire

2007 has been busy on Oliver and Martin Lakes. The Oliver and Martin Lakes Conservation and Improvement Association meeting was on Saturday, June 23 at Peterman's Camp. Lynn Bowen, President, reported that the Association had been notified of approval of our application for a DNR LARES grant. The Lake and River Enhancement Program provides technical and financial assistance for qualifying projects, for purposes such as investigations to determine what problems are affecting a lake/lakes or a stream segment, Evaluation of identified problems and effective action recommendations to resolve those problems...as well as other projects. We look forward to the initiation of the first phase study that will help the Association identify and prioritize issues and potential projects for future LAREP funding.

On Sunday morning following our Association meeting, a number of volunteers aided in the round up of and removal of Canada geese. Approximately 140 geese were successfully removed from both Oliver and Martin Lakes by mid-morning, most of which were to be processed for meat and donated to food banks and others to be released in the wild.



A new real estate development project has begun at the site of the old Misner Campground, on the North side of Oliver Lake next to the public access

site. A number of Oliver Lake residents have expressed concern about the proposed purpose and density of the development, and its potential "funneling" impacts on the watershed. The developer, Oliver Lake Resort



Cooperative, Inc., had obtained a permit from LaGrange County to develop a seasonal campground at the site, however, there is indication that it will more closely resemble a year round residential community, with up to 36 manufactured homes on lots which are leased to tenants for a period of 88 years, which can be renewed at any time.

Chris Godlewski, Planning Administrator for the LaGrange County Plan Commission has recently notified Oliver Lake Resorts Cooperative, Inc. that they are in violation of the County's subdivision statutes as well as regulations regarding the advertising of real estate. We will watch this development very closely over the coming weeks and months.

A severe storm moved through the area around 9:30 p.m. EDT Wednesday, July 18th. Around 3 inches of rain was reported in areas around Oliver and Martin Lakes, with 2 more inches falling the following afternoon. Kyle Schwyn of Oliver Lake reports that strong winds caused damage around the north and east sides of the lake. Numerous tree tops fell, with some parts falling onto property. Boats, docks, decks, and homes were damaged from the winds. At the time that the damage report was made, no

Little Turkey Lake gains grant, names new officers

By Dan Camp

We at Little Turkey Lake have had a pretty good year. We have an ongoing weed problem as do many of the lakes in the area and after applying for funding to correct the problem, we were awarded a grant for the five year plan on control of these aquatic nuisance weeds. We have already had our spring survey and many of the problem areas have been identified. The company that we have contracted is Aquatic Weed Control out of Syracuse. Mr. James Donahoe is the president of the company and he has been extremely helpful on our problem. I would recommend him highly.

We had a very successful lake association yard sale this summer, taking in nearly \$500.00. This money will be very helpful in the financing of our weed control applications.

There was a very surprising occurrence this year with the annual Canada geese problem. We didn't even have enough geese on the lake to apply for a permit for their removal. This was very surprising— and good news.

Walleye stocking on Little Turkey

Continued on page 16

evidence of any tornado like activity was observed. Damage was most likely caused by a brief gust of straight line winds.

Oliver Lake has a new website! Thanks to the great work of webmaster Kyle Schwyn, Oliver Lake and other area residents have access to a new website to help keep everyone informed of what's going on and provide a repository for scenic photos, history and other useful information. Visit our site at www.OliverLake.org and to ask questions or contribute content please contact Kyle at: schwyn_kyle@hotmail.com

Basin Lake report

By Dr. Linda Bartrom

Basin Lake is the outlet end of the Martin, Olin, Oliver, **Basin Lake** Chain. With the outlet, a natural stream



Dr. Linda Bartrom

controlled by the Indiana Department of Conservation, leads to Dallas and Witmer lakes. When my folks bought this lakehome back in 1954 from Ralph Weber, the only other house on **Basin Lake** was Weber's. Now every lot *and* the lots on the other side of the road, which used to be farmland, are occupied! I recently completely updated the house and installed an interesting feature bringing a little bit of the Southwest to Indiana, with the installation of *Saltillo Tile* to the dining, kitchen, hall and bath. This tile is made in Mexico, is hand cut, highly irregular, sometimes with chicken or dogprints in the tiles, (these are especially highly valued and placed in the floor so they can be seen) and mortared with a one inch divider. With an application of sealer it mellows to a warm red/yellow tone which wears like iron and lends an incredible warmth to a casual room setting. If you are interested in this, call my builder Sam Schwartz. He may be the only person in northern Indiana who now knows how to lay this!!

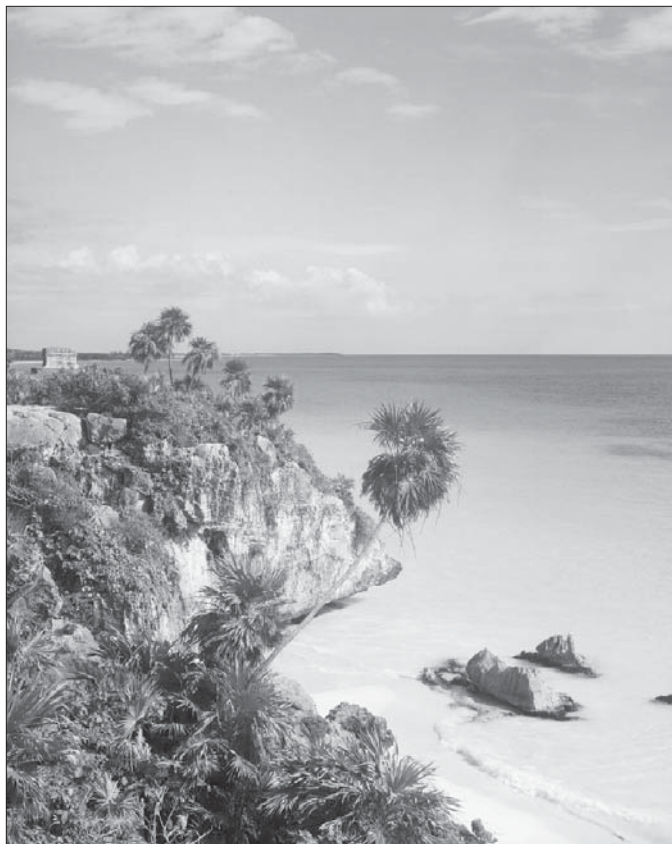
My neighbor down the way, the 2nd family to live on **Basin Lake**, Lucretia Noward, is doing a summer improvement as well. Lucretia and Dale bought their home in '56. I still remember the evening my folks and I walked down and met the Noward family. Lucretia's children became like my own brothers and sisters. It is so hard to believe that was over half a century ago! Lucretia is adding a back porch to her house to make a weather break for the winter and to make (so I hear) a place for son Myron to read the newspaper of an evening. Lucretia's Yorkie, "Cooper", pretty much

rules 495S road!

I gotta tell you folks, **Basin Lake** is an undiscovered jewel. With our homes all facing the back of the farm and woods across the way, the beauty and tranquility of a morning on **Basin Lake** is unparalleled. When the morning mists rise off the lake, I can walk down to my seawall and like as not see a deer come down from the woods drinking at the edge of the lake across the way. This fills the soul with the power of nature to overwhelm us with its delicate gentle beauty. I love coming home every summer!! The one thing boaters and fisherman should know is that the outlet is narrow, there are kids swimming and docks very close, so please be courteous and turn those engines WAY down as you pass. Thanks!!

On another note, if you ever get out to **Orange County CA**, give me a call and I'll show you some *hidden jewels* here on our West Coast. The picture at above right is **Crystal Cove**, a ten minute drive from my home. It is inside a huge protected area, with boardwalks down to the beach which is a bit of a hike, but this keeps it fairly quiet here. A great place to go for summer reading on the beach, usually joined by maybe a couple of surfers and the usual seagulls. The only sound will be the gentle waves. Just gorgeous! I'll be talking about other hidden gems here in the next issues. 'Til then, *peace out!*

Ed. note: Dr. Bartrom stays in touch by e-mail from California. She responded to my plea for reporters. Her e-mail address is: lbartrom@hotmail.com



Pretty Lake

By Peggy Jones, Secretary

Pretty Lake has been very active this year. Residents and visitors have been keeping busy with all the events going on at the Conservation Club. Bingo, a spaghetti dinner, and pancake and sausage breakfast are the favorites every year with record attendance this summer. The picnic was the first weekend in August with pony rides, games, prizes, and great food. Upcoming events include the rummage sale on August 25 – the club's largest fund raiser of the season, and a bonfire in September to close out the season.

The members of the board, as well as numerous lake dwellers, have been involved in the ongoing lake diagnostic study. The study has shown excellent plant growth in the lake, along with recommendations of getting rid of undesirable plants. The issue of water quality is one that is still being studied. Always a great fishing lake, Pretty Lake is working on putting fish attractors in key areas around the lake to encourage the fish to grow larger and multiply.

Lake of the Woods / McClish Lake enjoys annual picnic and elects new officers

By Barb Harper

The Lake of the Woods/McClish Lake Association met for our annual picnic and board meeting. We held election of officers and then enjoyed a picnic lunch of Hot Dogs and Hamburgers, chips, pop, bottled water and delicious covered dishes and deserts brought by the members.

The pictures show how our members enjoyed the event.



Have a safe and healthy winter. For lakes news, visit: www.LaGrangeCountyLakesCouncil.org

Is your lake represented in this issue?

Dear Friends,

The Lagrange County Lakes Council is looking for volunteer reporters for our new and expanded newsletter. This is the first issue of what we hope to be a new and expanded means of communication with our members and friends.

This newsletter goes to more than

4,000 LaGrange County lake enthusiasts and we want it to carry stories of interest to all of you.

Next spring, another newsletter will be mailed, probably around the 1st of April. In that issue, we'll carry important news of the Lakes Management Work Group, The Indiana Lakes Management Society, DNR and whatever else we think will be

important to LaGrange Lake property owners.

To do all this, we need your help. You don't need to be invited to contribute. Just send interesting stories and information, with pictures if possible, to the editor: Jack Dold, 4460 S 930 E, Wolcottville, IN 46795 or to: secretary@lagrangecountylakescouncil.org.

Yes, I want to support the

LaGrange County Lakes Council!

I am enclosing my tax-deductible donation/membership in the amount of:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$_____

Name

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Your greatest lakes concern or interest:

Please make your check payable to LCLC and mail to:

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Little Turkey Lake

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is going very well. We have stocked over 1000 walleye in the lake since we began raising money for this project. It will be a little time yet before they are large enough to make happy fishermen, but we know that time is coming soon.

Our efforts at Little Turkey Lake continue to move forward for the wellbeing and protection of our lake and the surrounding area. We also enjoy a very good working relationship with the Lagrange County Lakes Council. Without this association, we would not have been privy to much-needed and beneficial information for the betterment of our lake.

The following members of the Little Turkey Lake Association were elected to the respective positions at our June Annual Meeting:

- President: Pat McClelland
- Vice-President: Jim Fischer
- Secretary: Carolyn Thatcher
- Treasurer: Tammy Furniss
- Board of Directors: Bill Copeland
- Board of Directors: Dan Camp
- Board of Directors: Diane Rhodes

LaGrange County Lakes Council

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