

Fall 2009

FISH & ROYER LAKES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Good water. Good fishing. Good friends.

We Know How to Party!

Our second annual meeting was held August 15th followed by a hog roast and picnic. **Erik Pearson, of Schrock Builders** donated and prepared the hog, and delicious side dishes and desserts were shared by all. Many volunteers set up tents, prepared the site, helped roast the hog and tore things down afterward. The day was sunny and warm, and the karaoke brought out the hidden talents among us. The Picnic Committee was **Jim Baranek, Randy and Pam Deetz, John and Joy Grose, and Cheryl and Joe Albergo.**

Website:

Make sure to visit our website regularly. We will be posting newsletters, minutes of Board meetings, and other updates. Thanks to **Gary Kurtz**, our webmaster, who set up the site and donated the fee for the setup. The web address is <http://www.FishandRoyerLakes.com>.

Financial Report

As of 10/31/09, our account had a balance of \$1545.21. This reflects the following disbursements: \$85.00 for portable toilet for picnic; \$191.85 expenses for stocking smallmouth bass, and \$2150.85 for stocking 1,000 walleye. Dave Arrington and Erik Pearson each donated \$1,000 to stock the lakes with 700 smallmouth bass (that can reproduce in our lakes). The Fish & Royer Lakes Association paid for incidental expenses for stocking the smallmouth bass. The raffle raised \$253. A donation was made in memory of Ron Kuhn from his neighbors. We will begin collecting 2010 dues in January. At this time there are approximately 228 residents on the 2 lakes, of whom about half have paid dues. For all dues paying members: THANK YOU!

Fund Raising

A **50/50 raffle** was held at the August 15th hog Roast. Sharon Call was the winner. **Norine Doig** organized the raffle. Enough people signed up for aerial photographs of individual lake homes for this project to move forward. The pilot has waited to take the pictures until the leaves fell, so that houses surrounded by trees would be visible. Two pictures will be made for each resident who signed up. The size of the photos will be 11" x 14". The cost for the photos is \$40 per resident. We needed a minimum of forty households to be able to do this. The association will make at least \$800 for the fish stocking program. Costs for such aerial photos from other providers are easily double this price. If you have questions about this program please call **Dick Krull**, 260-463-5049, our vice president. A fund raising committee has been appointed. **Sharon Call, Cheryl Albergo, Brian Mervau, Marshall Doig, and Norine Doig** are our fund raisers. Many creative ideas are being discussed.

Need Help with your Dock or Boat Storage?

We are negotiating lower rates for homeowners who would like to have their docks removed in fall and replaced in spring and also for boat removal and storage. If we have enough people, we can do this for a lower rate. Please call **Norine Doig**, if you are interested.

Fish Stocking Report

Erik Pearson contacted Dave Arrington after the annual picnic informing him of interest in stocking the lakes with smallmouth bass for recreational fishing. We had 700 fish delivered on August 30th. **Erik Pearson, of Schrock Builders** and **Dave Arrington**, donated \$1000 each for the bass as a special donation. The lakes will support reproduction of the Smallmouth Bass so any supplemental stocking will be negligible. **Dave Arrington** has volunteered to take care of the entire cost for any future restocking of smallmouth bass. THANK YOU, Dave and Erik!

There have been some questions about stocking fish at the public landing only. According to Dave Arrington there are several reasons for that procedure. 1) Stocked fish will disperse themselves throughout both lakes. Dave Arrington was assured of this by both the hatchery and fishery biologists. Our past stockings have verified this through the years by anecdotal creel data. Walleye and Channel Catfish are actually being caught in higher numbers on Royer. Of course, part of that is that more fishing hours occur on Royer vs. Fish Lake. If we had actual fishing hours per lake for each species it is likely that we would see a fairly even catch history. 2) The public landing is used by the hatchery due to the weight of the vehicle. It is a one ton truck with a water filled tank in the bed. Overall weight is 4 1/2 tons to 5 tons

depending on water loading. They do not like to drive off-road. 3) They need to off-load the fish rapidly to enhance survival. At the public landing they can back into the water and accomplish this task efficiently. If we ever get a cemented landing on Royer we can deposit the fish there or split the load. However, due to even dispersal it is not really necessary.

The Walleye were delivered late in October. The Association funded 1000 fish. Walleye will not reproduce so continued restocking is necessary. This species is stocked not just for recreational purposes, but for stunted Bluegill control. The Channel Catfish play an equal role in removing stunted Bluegills from the population. They are relatively cheap at \$750 per 1000, 6-8" fish. The fishery biologists report that Walleye and Channel Catfish together is the best possible combination for Bluegill control. They state uses this approach on many lakes throughout Indiana. We are seeing the results with bigger panfish being caught. Dave Arrington suggests that the association allocate funds for 1000 fish (if funds are available) and he will donate another 1000. If we have additional funding for another 1000 channel catfish (3000 total) that is the true mark we are shooting for in the stocking program. Channel catfish are stocked in the spring.

Weed Control Initiative

Jim Donahoe, of Aquatic Weed Control, will be invited to our December 5th Board meeting. If you have questions or concerns about weed control, please forward them to Board members. **Brian Mervau** has headed a weed control committee. Jim Donahoe did a preliminary survey of our lakes and found three types of weeds, two native and one invasive. He found areas of substantial infestation by milfoil, an invasive species that can destroy native plants and impair fish habitats on the lakes. The Board voted to explore weed control further. A formal weed survey will need to be done in the spring. This would have a net cost of about \$800 to the association. The full cost of the survey is \$8,000, but 90% would be paid for by the state. If there is sufficient milfoil to warrant it, we can apply for state grants to treat the lakes. Some residents are already having their properties treated. It may be possible to work out a package deal if neighbors agree to have their areas treated. It is also permissible to rake a 25' by 25' area in the lake on your shoreline. Any weed treatment needs to be approved by the Indiana DNR. We are planning educational presentations for residents on beneficial and invasive species for future meetings.

Let's Clean Up our Act, Folks!

We have been getting reports of beer cans, plastic, and other debris being found floating on the lake. While we recognize that the wind can blow around lightweight materials, please avoid dumping trash in the lake. It is damaging to the environment and unsightly. On a similar note, some of us have been picking up trash along the roads that people have thrown out of car windows. Most of this trash is recyclable materials, such as aluminum cans and plastic bottles, as well as non recyclable cigarette packs, and cigarettes. Please help us keep up our beautiful lake neighborhoods. Avoid tossing trash, and when you're out, help us out and pick up the litter. Thanks to all who volunteer.

Watch those Fires

Most open burning, including burning trash or leaves, is illegal in Indiana. Fires are permissible if they are wood fires, for a camp fire or bonfire, but the size is limited. Some agricultural burning is permitted for maintenance on farms and orchards. However, if your neighbors have asthma, COPD, or other breathing problems, trash and leaf burning can be life threatening. A couple of years ago, an unattended leaf fire spread and burned down a neighbor's garage on Royer Lake and threatened nearby houses. Always stay with any fire you light. Unattended fires pose a safety and property risk and you could be held liable for damage. If you notice a problem, please speak to your neighbor. If that doesn't help, to report open burning, call the Indiana Department of Environmental Management at 800-451-6027. To paraphrase Smoky the Bear, "Only you can prevent neighborhood fires."

We would like to distribute the newsletter by email. Please help by sending your email addresses to carolmassat@gmail.com

Also, please let us know when you are resident at the lake. This will help us with mailing and distributing the newsletters.