

FISH & ROYER LAKES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Good fishing. Good times. Good friends.

Coming Events

Nov. 12—Board Meeting, Chicago Joes, 9 am

Dec. 10—Board Meeting, Chicago Joes, 9 am

Pen up the pooch!

The Board has been contacted by multiple residents about loose dogs. Residents are asked to leash their dogs, tie them up, or fence them in. Your neighbors are distressed by dogs running loose, scaring children, pooping on yards, and getting other pets agitated. If there is a chronic concern, residents are asked to notify the Lagrange County Animal Shelter to pick up feral cats, loose animals, or apparently abandoned pets. The shelter is at **260-463-4142**. They can also be called if you find an injured wild animal. The Ark is a great local organization that raises funds to place animals in homes. The Lagrange County Animal Shelter is now almost entirely a no-kill shelter, due to their efforts. The Ark runs the Paws and Claws bookstore in Howe. To find out more: Ark Animal Rescue & Adoption, Inc. PO Box 95, Howe, IN 46746,

For more information email: gratefulbc@aol.com, 260-562-2100 or 269-808-1208

arkanimalrescue.weebly.com

Gun Safety

The Board has been contacted about hunters shooting geese on the water, just offshore, in the shallows, within 50 feet of inhabited residences, with guns directed towards the shoreline. This shooting and killing of migrating birds so close to a residence was frightening to the neighborhood. The DNR has stated that it is legal to hunt on our lakes. We would ask that hunters shoot far enough away from homes that stray shots will not endanger residents. One goose is not worth a human life. We also wonder about placing a sign at the public access about hunting at a reasonable distance from inhabited homes. No one has complained about hunting as a practice, but hunting in close proximity to homes and play places for children is a concern. Our research has yielded conflicting results, but sources indicate that 40 yards is an average “lethal range” for a shotgun, with maximum range being potentially 300 yards. Every shooter is responsible for the final destination of their ammunition. If someone shoots towards shore, from a distance of five feet from shore, a child playing in the sand is definitely within “lethal range.” While some insist that it is every gun owner’s right to blow up his neighbors, other say that responsible gun safety is an essential part of gun ownership.

DNR rules

Before altering the shore line residents are reminded to consult DNR regulations. For new or refaced sea walls railroad ties are no longer permitted by law. Residents are encouraged to use glacial rocks and native plants to secure the shoreline and to prevent erosion. Adding fill to the shoreline is also prohibited. To report such illegal activities contact the DNR.

T-shirts

T-shirts are now available for pickup from TJ Hemlinger. Give him a call at 260-854-3070 or email him at tjhemliner@gmail.com to set up a pickup time for the shirts you ordered. We are now looking “good in the ‘hood” with our Fish and Royer Lakes shirts!

Thanks to Joy Grose!

Many thanks to Joy Grose who volunteered to send out a reminder letter to former members of the association who had not yet paid their dues. As a result, 16 people of 34 contacted paid their dues. Thanks to all who have paid dues, and/or donated funds.

Website:

Check our website for board meeting minutes and newsletters. Only 6 of 70 Lagrange County lakes have websites. Thanks to **Gary Kurtz**, we are among this select group. The web address is <http://www.FishandRoyerLakes.com>.

Silent Auction

Marshall Doig already has two items valued at over \$100 for next year's silent auction. Please be developing donors and saving your funds for a spectacular auction in summer 2012!

Cookbook

Our cookbooks are published, thanks to many superb cooks and to Pam Deetz, who created this masterpiece. For \$10 you can own a beautiful memento of Fish and Royer Lakes. These are lovely gifts, and are a limited edition. To get your cookbook(s) contact Pam Deetz at pdeetz@hotmail.com

Fish Stocking

Upon consultation with Dave Arrington, the board cancelled fall fish stocking due to a reduced number of dues paying members. If we had done our usual fall walleye stocking, our balance, as of September 2011, would have fallen to around \$800 because of a reduced number of dues paying members. This did not appear to the Board to be responsible financial stewardship. We will stock catfish in the spring, and hope that next year's finances will permit the walleye stocking as well.

Buoys

Doug Bowlby sent us the following report:

"All four of the Fish Lake warning buoys have been removed and have been stored at Marshall and Norine Doig's cottage. All four of the cables (ropes) were replaced with new stainless steel cable and quick disconnect links. To the cables new Taylor made Tuff End inflatable buoys, orange in color, were attached to them which will make for easier installation of the warning buoys in the spring. I was not able to do this on my own but only did the purchasing of the equipment and the use of my pontoon boat. I think there should be a thank-you in order for Jeff Klebe who lives at 1195S 495E who furnished the manpower as the weights and buoys themselves are very heavy. Invoices for cables, disconnects and buoys were forwarded to Norine.

Regards Doug Bowlby"

Jim and Patti Koza removed and refurbished the buoys on Royer Lake.

MANY THANKS TO DOUG BOWLBY, JEFF KLEBE, JIM KOZA AND PATTI KOZA!!!!

Those buoys are heavy, dirty and hard to handle. Thanks so much for taking care of this dirty and difficult and necessary task for all lake residents.

Membership

The numbers of association members has risen to 109 in October thanks to the efforts of Joy Grose who sent out the reminder letter to former members who had not paid dues this year. Next year the Board plans to send out reminder letters in the spring and to post the names of all dues paying members in the newsletter and the website, so that people can easily check to see if they have already paid dues or not. It is easy to forget whether this has been done or not, and some people have paid twice, by accident.

NIPSCO

The petitions have been forwarded to NIPSCO in regards to natural gas service to the lakes. We look forward to hearing from NIPSCO about their plans.

New Board Members

Please attend a board meeting and check it out. Our meetings are short, lively, and always full of ideas and fun. Two people retired from the board this year, Dick Krull, and Brian Mervau, and we need new members. This is a great opportunity to give back to your community and serve as faithful stewards of the beautiful lakes where we are privileged to own land

The Story of George and Gracie

Carol and Helmuth Massat were recently entranced by an unexpected friendship of a pair of Canadian Geese. Apparently tame, the pair swam out to Carol's rowboat to greet her, making soft murmuring sounds. Without being fed by the Massats, they followed Carol and Helmuth around the lake as they aquacycled, making the same quiet murmuring and contented noises. Sadly, this week, the tame geese were shot and killed directly in front of a neighbor's house, at a distance that endangered the humans on shore. As Carol and Helmuth paddle around the lakes they see other signs of people unnecessarily killing aspects of the natural world. Every tree does more to clean the air than any invention made by human kind. Trees provide shade and beauty, and their roots hold the shoreline and prevent erosion. We are reminded of the 1837 poem quoted below.

WOODMAN, SPARE THAT TREE

WOODMAN, spare that tree!
Touch not a single bough!
In youth it sheltered me,
And I'll protect it now.
'T was my forefather's hand 5
That placed it near his cot;
There, woodman, let it stand,
Thy axe shall harm it not.

That old familiar tree, 10
Whose glory and renown
Are spread o'er land and sea—
And wouldst thou hew it down?
Woodman, forbear thy stroke!
Cut not its earth-bound ties;
Oh, spare that aged oak 15
Now towering to the skies!

When but an idle boy,
I sought its grateful shade;
In all their gushing joy 20
Here, too, my sisters played.
My mother kissed me here;
My father pressed my hand—
Forgive this foolish tear,
But let that old oak stand.

My heart-strings round thee cling, 25
Close as thy bark, old friend!
Here shall the wild-bird sing,
And still thy branches bend.
Old tree! the storm still brave!
And, woodman, leave the spot; 30
While I've a hand to save,
Thy axe shall harm it not.

George Pope Morris