

Summer 2009

FISH & ROYER LAKES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Good water. Good fishing. Good friends.

Coming Events

August 15, 10 am. Full Member Association Meeting, Royer Lake, Northeast easement, Hickory Hills Subdivision

August 15th 11:00 Fish and Royer Lakes First Annual Hog Roast, same location

Wow! What a 4th of July!

Our 4th of July flotilla this year had a fantastic turnout, complete with decorations, costumes, Sousa marches, and even candy thrown to those on shore. We had at least 28 boats participating, loaded to the gills, and an enthusiastic audience on shore. Flags were flying all around the lakes, and the spirit was great. Thanks!

Website:

Thanks to **Gary Kurtz**, we now have our own Fish and Royer Lakes Association website! Gary set up the site and donated the fee for the setup. The web address is <http://www.FishandRoyerLakes.com>.

August 15th Meeting and Hog Roast

Our second annual meeting will be held at 10:00-11:00, August 15th. Our first annual picnic will begin at 11:00. All are invited! **Erik Pearson** is donating and preparing the hog. Bring a side dish or dessert to share, your own beverages, lawn chairs, or blankets for seating. The location will be the easement on the Northeast in the Hickory Hills Subdivision on Royer Lake. There will be games for the children and music. The Picnic Committee is **Jim Baranek, Randy and Pam Deetz, John and Joy Grose, and Cheryl and Joe Albergo**.

Financial Report

As of June 26 2009, our account had a balance of \$3,468.44. The new Board started with a balance of about \$278 last fall. The increase is from dues paid and donations for the fish stocking program. 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, and encourage your friends and neighbors to join and to donate to the fish stocking program.

Fund Raising

A **50/50 raffle** is to be held at the August 15th hog Roast. Residents can buy tickets at \$5.00 a ticket or 3 for \$12. **Norine Doig** is organizing the raffle. To purchase a ticket, please contact her at 463-4123 or buy a ticket at the picnic on August 15th. The person whose number is drawn will receive half of the proceeds, and the balance will go to the Fish & Royer Lakes Association. At the Hog Roast we will also be signing up for **aerial photographs** of individual lake homes. Two pictures will be made for each resident who signs up. The size of the photos will be 11' x 14". The cost for the photos will be \$40 per resident. We need a minimum of forty households to be able to do this. The association would make at least \$800 for the fish stocking program. Costs for such aerial photos from other providers are easily double this price. If you wish to have an aerial photograph taken of your home, please call and sign up with **Joe Albergo**, our president, at 463-4850, or sign up at the picnic. These photos will make a wonderful addition to your lake home!

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 sign up at the picnic on August 15th or call **Norine Doig**, if you are interested .

Seeking Fund Raising Committee

We are seeking creative and energetic (or at least willing) Fish & Royer Lakes residents to form a fund raising committee to help us generate and carry out ideas for fund raising. Please call Norine 463-4123 or Joe 463-4850, to help.

What is Making our Fish Bigger?

What do channel catfish and walleye do for our lakes? According to Dave Arrington, head of the fish stocking program, they are undercover operatives that are quietly working away at improving the quality of the fish population in the lake. Fish and Royer Lakes have long been known for our great pan fish—bluegills and crappies. The channel cats and the walleye are doing a fantastic job of eating the stunted fish that were spawning and creating more tiny fish. The larger bluegill and crappie are left to spawn and continue to create a population of larger fish. We are also seeing larger perch. The channel cats and walleyes do not breed in our lakes, so we have to continue stocking them in order to help them to do their job. They need ½ inch rubble to breed, and we do not currently have the correct conditions. However, we have been stocking long enough that we are eligible for the state DNR to take over the fish stocking, for at least one of the species, were it not for the 16% cut in the DNR budget this year. However, if we are patient, and continue to stock, when

times are better, we can expect the state to take over all or part of this program. Good fishing makes lake ownership more fun for us, our kids, and our grandchildren. Donate!

Bylaws Changes

The membership voted on 6/13/09 to change the association fiscal year to correspond with the calendar year. Instead of running from August to August, we will run from January through December. The membership also voted to change dues from \$15 to \$20 per year.

Keep Everyone Safe

Please read the boating rules listed in our new directory. Let's all especially remember: 1) all people on board a boat must have a Coast Guard approved life jacket (not seat cushions) and all boats must have a throwable flotation device; 2) No wake, no wash within 200' from shore, or entering or exiting dock; 3) speed limit of 10 mph on both lakes; 4) no one is allowed to ride on the gunwales of a boat or the bow decking; 5) boating and drinking do not mix, and tickets have been issued for violations; 6) Navigate safely at all times, watching out for other boats and swimmers. Be a good neighbor. Please use fireworks safely and carefully.

Water Quality

As Dave Arrington reported at our June 13th meeting, both lakes have good water quality. We have all heard stories about other lakes that became too built up, or where too many beneficial plants were destroyed, and lakes actually had to be restricted from swimming and fishing until conditions improved. In order to keep our good water quality and to improve it even more, we can all pitch in. Healthy lawns help to reduce runoff and erosion; they produce oxygen, absorb noise, provide cooling, reduce insect infestations, and beautify the lake. But take care: 1) Install a pump system and sprinkle your yard from the lake. The nutrients in the lake are natural fertilizers; 2) Never fertilize with phosphorus or potassium. Phosphorus stimulates algal bloom; 3) Never apply more than 1 lb. of nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft. to your grass; 4) Use organic nitrogen and apply only once per year. Reduce fertilization with nitrogen by mulching or composting your grass clippings and returning them to the yard. This reduces the need for nitrogen by 40%; 5) Maintain and encourage the native plants on the shoreline. Do not destroy them. These plants operate as the water cleaning system for the lake. Sandy beaches and loss of aquatic plants can ultimately kill the ecology of the lake. If you have questions about whether plants are beneficial or not, contact the DNR for specific information.

Membership Drive and your Participation: The Fish & Royer Lakes Association is your organization. We only exist through your voluntary participation. It is up to each and every resident of Fish and Royer to do their fair share and join the cause and show you care! Your \$20 dues are dollar for dollar being directly reinvested back into the lakes. We currently are concentrating on fish restocking every year because that's what the majority of the residents voted to pursue. All 228 households on Fish or Royer Lake are eligible to join and are urged to do so. Your dues are only \$20 a year (about 5 cents a day) and are used entirely for fish stocking and improving the quality of your lake and the value of your homes and property. This in and of itself is reason to pay your share and become a member! Please don't be one of those people who say "I never leave the house or fish or go out on the lake"; you still benefit through your children, your grandchildren or your family friends who do enjoy fishing, swimming, boating, or just the beauty of looking at our lakes. Please fill out the information below and join your neighbors in supporting your lake. It's the best investment you can make to protect what we all worked hard for: our home in the country on a lake where we are free to enjoy the beauty. If you cannot directly participate in the meetings; than show your support by at least joining the association. **Thanks to all who have already joined. Bring a neighbor into the association!**

Membership: Dues run from January of one year to January of the following year. Dues for 2009

Name _____ Address _____

Print name & address

Phone _____ Lake _____

Email address _____

Dues: \$20.00

Check _____ or cash _____

Donation for stocking fish _____

Total _____

Make checks payable to: Fish & Royer Lakes Association

Dues can be mailed to: **Norine M. Doig, Treas. (Tele.#: 260-463-4123),**

5070 E 100 S, Lagrange, IN 46761

If you have already paid your dues, THANK YOU!

E-Mail Addresses: Please email Carol Massat your email address at carolmassat@gmail.com