

2010 DUES NOTICE

FISH & ROYER LAKES ASSOCIATION

Good water. Good fishing. Good friends.

Membership: Dues run from January of one year to January of the following year. Dues for 2010 are now due.

Please 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

ANNUAL DUES ARE \$20.00. PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING AN ADDITIONAL DONATION TO SUPPORT OUR FISH STOCKING PROGRAM. THIS PAST YEAR, DUE TO GENEROUS DONATIONS, WE WERE ABLE TO STOCK SMALL MOUTH BASS, WALL EYE, AND CHANNEL CATFISH IN OUR LAKES.

Name _____ Address _____

Print name & address

Phone _____ Lake _____

Email address _____

Dues: \$20.00

Check _____ or cash _____

Donation for stocking fish _____

Total _____

Dues can also be given to road captains. Road captains include: Cheryl and Joe Albergo, Brett Elliot, Dave Arrington, Dave Bowlby, Pam and Randy Deetz, Norine and Marshall Doig, Les and Pat Fogle, Betty and TJ Hemlinger, Jim Kennah, Dick Krull, Carol and Helmuth Massat, Brian Mervau, and Erik Pearson.

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!**

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

Winter 2010

FISH & ROYER LAKES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Coming Events

Board Meetings at the Maplewood Nature Center: 9 am on Feb. 13, March 13, April 10, May 8

Annual Meeting; June 19

Members are welcome to attend Board meetings.

Website:

Visit our website at <http://www.FishandRoyerLakes.com>.

Financial Report

As of January 2010, our account had a balance of \$1941.21. Dues for 2010 are now payable to the Fish and Royer Lakes Association and mailed to Norine Doig at 5070 E. 100 S. Lagrange, IN 46761. The dues form is attached to the newsletter.

Fund Raising

Aerial photographs are now being distributed and can still be ordered. All photos are posted at our website. A single 11" x 14" photo can be purchased for \$25.00. Two photos can be purchased for \$40. A 20" x 30" framed photo can be purchased for \$75.00. If you wish to order a photo or photos, call Dick Krull, 260-463-5049, Dave Mcalister, at 260-463-3706 or follow the link on the website. Find the number associated with the photos you wish to purchase before calling or ordering.

We also are investigating T-shirts with pictures of the lake for sale. We will do 50/50 raffles at both general meetings. We plan a lake cookbook. We are asking everyone with a garage sale on Father's Day weekend to set out a donation can to benefit the fish stocking program. Other fund raising ideas are very welcome.

Winter Fitness

In the snow, ice, and extreme cold conditions, it can be difficult to find enough activity to shed those holiday pounds, but we have some ideas for winter fitness. Walk the dog. Shoveling snow, if your heart is up to it, is vigorous physical activity. Ice skating on the lake is a good cardio workout. Go mall walking or walk around a large store for half an hour with a friend (but don't send the shopping bills to us!) Cross country skiing is fun. Climbing stairs, vigorous housework, and that good old stationery bike (hang up those clothes in the closet, instead of on the bike!) can all get you bikini ready for summer fun! Park a little further from your destination,

Weed Control

The lakes association board has submitted an application for a grant to fund a weed survey of the lakes. If we are funded, the state will pay 90% of the cost of the survey. The lake association would be expected to pay about \$700 or \$800 of the cost of the weed survey. If a large amount of milfoil is found, the state will pay for eradication of the milfoil. If only native weeds are found, neighbors can get together and fund weed control in problem areas, or the association may help team up partners to help fund the problem areas. We do not want to damage or destroy beneficial, native plants. However, an overgrowth of weeds, particularly invasive species, can create problems.

Ice Safety Issues

Please be careful on the ice. Rotting vegetation or plants in the water can weaken the ice or create gas bubbles that make holes. Currents under the water weaken the ice. Snow is an insulator and can slow down strong ice formation. The thickness of ice can vary dramatically from one area to another. If the area is close to an inlet or an outlet, or where there is current, the ice will be thinner. Try not to be on the ice alone. Keep a life jacket with you. Commercial products are available that are like ice picks attached to a rope. These can literally save lives and you may be able to make something like this yourself. If you do fall in, don't panic. Try to shift your weight to the leg that is not through the ice. As you are falling, try to fall forward, not backward, to avoid hitting the back of your head on the ice. Upon making it out

of the water, don't stand up. Slither across the ice on your belly to spread your weight out as much as possible. Get to a warm place as soon as possible.

Guest Article, Scott Beam, Naturalist

I know lots of guys who like the game we call Name This Movie.

"Snakes. Why'd it have to be snakes?" Here is another hint. Shortly after fleeing ancient booby-traps and scrambling aboard the leaving seaplane, he finds a snake in the plane and panics. The pilot replies, "C'mon, show a little backbone, will ya?" The film? "Raiders of the Lost Ark. 1981" The hero of the film just happened to be terrified of snakes.

Many folk share this fear as well as many wild creatures. It is something deeply programmed in to how we react to our environment. I, myself, have been known to defy gravity while tromping a trail and nearly stomping a slithering shape under me. But we have an ability around snakes that nothing else seems to have, we can control ourselves.

We have developed great powers as we learn how to use things we find in the world. We have changed marshes into fields. We have flooded valleys into lakes. We have leveled mountains into plateaus. We have eliminated some living things from existence. Our greatness, so to speak, allows us to stand back and make thoughtful decisions about what we do, rather than react according the first emotion.

Be thoughtful and observe some of the snakes that live around here.

Garter Snake – voracious appetite for earthworms, other small invertebrates and amphibians.

Eastern Ribbon Snake – hangs out along streams and hunts salamanders.

Eastern Milk Snake – lovely pattern, hangs out around barns and sheds reducing rodent populations.

Black Rat Snake – black and long, good climber and lover of eggs and rodents.

Eastern Hognosed Snake – upturned snout, acts out great scary bluffs and convincing death scenes

Northern Ringneck Snake – small, cute, golden ring of a necklace, eats bugs and larvae

Most of these snakes are great sentries for a garden. They NEVER seek out a person to bite, lick, taste, gum, or anything ridiculous like that. Some of them are even rather pretty, if you are into stripes or patterns.

There is one snake around here that is venomous (no snakes are poisonous, taste them and see). The Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake is a resident. It is in the pit viper family. It is also extremely rare and loves habitats that humans avoid, like shallow wetlands. The scientist I know that has been handling them for over 20 years has never been bitten. Every recorded massasauga bite in Indiana in the past 10 years has involved alcohol (in the person not the snake).

The next time you see a snake think about it, admire its colors or pattern, observe it enjoying the sunshine just like you do, then thank it for the pest control. Snakes have been here for a long time and so have we. If you are truly concerned about something dangerous ,destroy somebody's cigarettes and avoid cars.

Naturally,

Scott Beam

Interpretive Naturalist, LaGrange County Parks

for the best information

<http://herpcenter.ipfw.edu/>