



## 2019-2020 CROOKED LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT

Given the COVID-19 Pandemic we remain uncertain whether we will be able to conduct our Annual Association Meeting at the Big Lake Church of God. We have tentatively blocked out a couple Saturdays in the month of August pending the church's decision expected in early August whether to open the gymnasium to the public. Given this uncertainty we wanted to share with you several accomplishments and milestones that your Board of Directors and other lake leaders have been working on over the past year.

### Lake Water Quality

Crooked Lake continues to experience high marks for water clarity with an average of 18.5 feet as measured by the Secchi Depth Transparency scale. Prompted by long-term residents of Little Crooked we focused our attention on the condition of Little Crooked which averaged only 3.8 feet of clarity last year. Based on this condition along with concern over Blue-green algae we commissioned a detailed study of Little Crooked by Arion Consultants who determined that:

- Little Crooked's total phosphorus score suggest that the lake is hypereutrophic; the transparency score indicates the lake is eutrophic; and, the chlorophyll score suggests that the lake is eutrophic to hypereutrophic. More than 80% of the water column was anoxic for dissolved oxygen.
- Data collected indicates little change over

time from 2004 and overall, Little Crooked possesses water quality poorer than most lakes in Indiana.

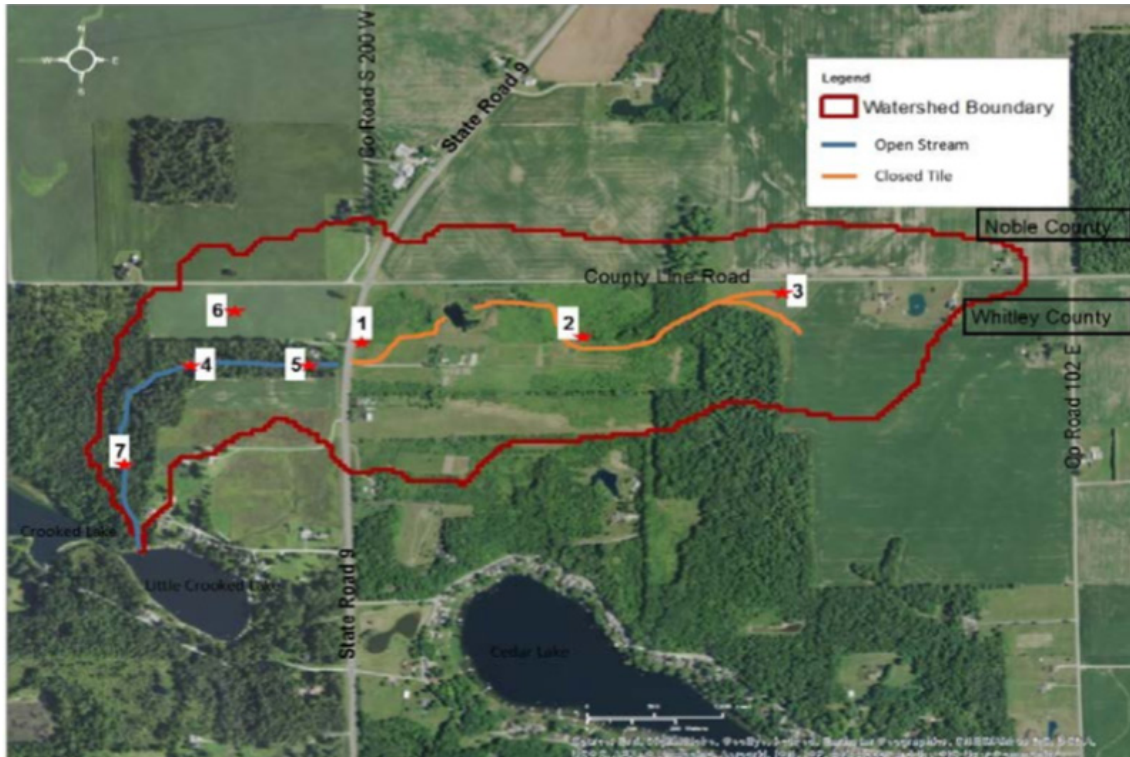
- Refer to Lake Enhancement section below for an overview of our corrective action plan to reduce sediment and nutrient inputs flowing into Little Crooked.

We will continue to sample both lakes at least 4 times this year as part of the Indiana Clean Lakes Volunteer Monitoring Program. Many thanks go to Chuck Farris and Barry Nagle for conducting sampling.

### Lake Enhancements

The highlight of this past year was the expansion of the Crooked Lake Nature Preserve by nearly 20 acres in late January. The acquisition of this property by the Division of Nature Preserves-IDNR from the Indiana University Trustees makes permanent the preservation of this wonderful property and further enhances the quality and value of our lake for future generations. We continue to expect the demolition of the former Biological Research facilities later this year.

Back in 2015 an engineering feasibility study has commissioned to investigate potential water quality improvement projects to address non-point source pollution for both lakes. This study, funded in part by a LARE grant and association dues, is referred to as the Farm Ditch Watershed Study was completed in 2017 and identified 7 sites needing attention.



- The first priority was State Road (SR) 9 Ditch Stabilization, which according to the engineers will reduce sediment loading by 11 tons. Thanks to the persistent efforts of Denise McCann INDOT finally broke up the concrete lined ditch that was undermined on both the east and west sides of SR 9 and added rip-rock along with grass over-seeding. (Site #1)



- Another important recommendation included the re-grading of the Johnson wetlands and pond, the replacement of the water control structure in the dam, and replacing over 800' of drain tile. This accomplishes slowing the release of stormwater downstream and provides habitat for a variety of plants and animals. Special thanks to Mike Johnson and his family for their tremendous work in completing all these needed improvements. Project cost totaled \$7,000 and was substantially under budget estimates. (Site # 2)





- We are now focusing efforts on the Westside of SR 9 to address the large retention pond along with streambank stabilization before the Farm Ditch enters the Nature Preserve. The scope of this project will include dredging and retro-fitting the pond outlet structure for increasing stormwater storage thereby slowing the release of water downstream. Additional grade control structures made from rip-rap gabion baskets are needed to address streambank erosion, tree removal along with regarding and reconstruction. Also the use of grassed waterways, cover crops and converting 20 acres of row crops to hay/pasture land. A significant LARE grant along with a generous association match will be necessary to fund this huge initiative. (Sites 4-7)

In July 2019 our application to the IDNR for LARE funding to build three additional Water and Sediment Control Basins (WASCOBs) at a cost of \$48,000 along the Southside of Spear Road was not selected for funding. We have reapplied for these grant monies and hope to hear soon. Meanwhile we are collaborating with Gary Wilson to install an inline manual water control mechanism in the uppermost WASCOB to better control stormwater runoff management. This initiative will be funded by association dues for approximately \$1,400.

We are currently teaming with The Watershed Foundation (TWF) to address increased runoff of sediment from the Golf Course along E. Morsches

Road that is flowing into the lake. A WASCOB with a blind inlet is being planned for this summer. Total project cost is estimated at \$20,000 and we will be responsible for a 10% in-kind contribution and 10% cash.

With Scott Ziegler's assistance, TWF conservationist, we have identified needed major lake improvement projects for the next 3-5 years to maintain and improve water quality. Capital cost estimates are now being gathered.

Lastly, a special thanks to Tony Gatton and his "Purple Loosestrife Hit Squad" to mitigate the spread of this invasive weed.

## CLA Membership & Primer

During the past year we welcomed 13 new families to Crooked Lake. Thanks to Sue Farris for providing “Welcome to the Lake” packets to our new neighbors. An excellent comprehensive primer on Crooked Lake, developed by John Meier, has been added to the welcome packet providing newcomers with vital information. New residents include:

- Kari & Mike Hyndman 1231 E. Fry Road
- Karis & Nathan Norden 972 E. Gatesworth Drive
- Tracy & Chris Hamilton 3231 W. Northshore Drive
- Andres & Steve Leszuk 3157 W. Northshore Drive
- Tammy & Tom Lickey 3217 W. Northshore Drive
- Ellen & Warren Pryor 3275 W. Northshore Drive
- Jennifer & Brien Friend 345 Morsches Road
- Dot & Joe Cochran 833 E. Spear Road
- Suzette & Jay Creeden 601 E. Spear Road
- April & Chris Gross 669 E. Spear Road
- Carol & Sean O’Brien 5921 S. Woodstrail Drive

## Digital Resident Directory and Publishing

Appreciation for Karl Fuerste coordinating the needed updates to our digital formatted Lake Resident Directory. He pulled together the many changing names and phone numbers of residents over the past three years of our 160+ addresses around both lakes. Regular directory updates will be provided with our CLA Newsletter.

We not only appreciate Tim Dygert’s technology and videography skills overseeing the adventures of Noble & Whitley, but also for publishing our newsletters.

## Financial Condition

As of June 12th we have 82 due paying members. Those names along with any additional payments

will be forwarded to Washlers Waste Management next week so it’s not too late to get those due paid. \$970 was contributed to our CLA Foundation account managed by the Whitley County Community Foundation.

Our association balance sheet stands at:

• Cash on hand and Checks	\$ 220.00
• Checking Account	19,551.95
• Savings Account	17,558.72
• Restricted Foundation Funds	50,253.48
<i>(Interest Only accrues to operations)</i>	

## Recreational Activities & Fund Raisers

During the past year we sponsored the following events:

- Pancakes on the Lake & Blazing Paddles — thank you to Vi Runkle & Chuck Farris and many great helpers.
- Family Fun Night for Children — thanks to Diane Meister & Sam Riesen
- Guided kayak tours of the lake — thank you to Phil Walker
- Golf Outing & Picnic — thank you to Jay Hilgenberg & Kevin Runkle
- Sale of newly designed Crooked Lake logo apparel featuring our ospreys Noble and Whitley — thank you Lindsey & Sam Riesen

## Association Bylaw Amendments & Governance Guidelines

Special thanks to Jerry Hoffman, Barry Nagle and David Nelson for their excellent research and recommendations leading to several Bylaw amendments to enhance continuity of board membership by way of staggered terms and increasing terms from two to three years. They also developed guidelines for board member nomination and selection.

## Special Thanks to TWF

Special thanks go to TWF leadership team for their

advice and guidance during past years. Scott Ziegler has been selfless with his time this year and his collaborative style is greatly appreciated.

### **Crooked Lake Golf Course for Sale**

Sad to confirm that the Crooked Lake Golf Course is for sale. The owners hope to be able to sell the course and equipment to a party interested in continuing its operation.

### **Priorities for 2020-2021**

Priority initiatives for the year include:

- Continue and evaluate expansion of water quality testing.
- Increase association member recruitment and retention.
- Drafting a lake enhancement maintenance manual of key items to be handled on an ongoing basis.
- Engage more volunteers in lake maintenance responsibilities, fund raising and group activities.

### **Suggestions Please!**

We always appreciate hearing your suggestions to improve environmental conditions and group activities around our lakes. Please feel free to contact any of us on the Board and we will follow-up. We look forward to your participation in association events.

*Thank you for making Crooked Lake the best lake in Indiana!*

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### **2019-2020 Board of Directors**

Cindy Fitch	Stu Shipman, <i>Treasurer</i>
Barry Nagle	Karl Fuerste, <i>Vice President</i>
Mandy Thomson	Ken Engh, <i>Consultant</i>
David Nelson	Jerry Hoffman
Roger Dinkel, <i>Secretary</i>	Chuck Farris, <i>Consultant</i>
Sam Riesen	John Meister, <i>President</i>
Tim Dygert	John Meier, <i>Consultant</i>

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