

- ❖ We will again use Squarespace for the electronic payment of dues. Please make sure we have your email address if you want to receive an invoice to pay electronically – send email to Treasurer, Rosie Risser [rmlrisser@gmail.com](mailto:rmlrisser@gmail.com).
- ❖ We did again receive a LARE grant for \$5,000 for weed spraying along with a generous \$1,000 donation from Indian Lakes. Aquatic Weed Control will be spraying the North Branch of the Elkhart River, “horseshoe” and transition areas that are just past Duke’s Bridge. The work we are doing, weed spraying and log removal, is making a difference. Comparing the substantial rain we have had so far this spring; the flood gauge has not gone over 8 feet with a flow of 330-375gps. In 2018 the flood gauge was a foot higher, and we only had a flow of 286gps. In general, 1” of rainfall over the 144 sq miles that drain into our lakes can cause the lake to rise 1 foot. Of course this depends on the time of year, soil saturation and how heavy the rainfall is.
- ❖ Have you ever wondered what a LARE grant is?

The Indiana Department of Natural Resource’s Lake and River Enhancement Program (LARE) was developed in 1989 to ensure the continued viability of public-access lakes and streams. The program’s initial goal was to utilize a watershed approach to reduce non-point source sediment and nutrient pollution of Indiana’s surface water to a level that meets or surpasses state water quality standards.

The 2003 Indiana General Assembly enacted House Enrolled Act 1336 which increased the LARE fee paid by registered vessel owners. The increase in fees provides funding to remove sediment and control exotic or invasive plant or animal species.

In addition, one-third of these fees will provide funding for the Law Enforcement Division to establish additional marine enforcement patrols on Indiana lakes and rivers. A portion of these funds also may be available for counties with supplemental law enforcement marine patrols. The LARE fee is based on the value of the vessel when new.

<b>Value of the Vessel</b>	<b>Fee</b>
Less than \$1000	\$5
At least \$1000, but less than \$3000	\$10
At least \$3000, but less than \$5000	\$15
At least \$5000, but less than \$10,000	\$20
At least \$10,000	\$25

From the Handbook of Indiana Boating Laws and Responsibilities, 2010, Pg 79

- ❖ Spring General Meeting is Saturday, June 8, 2024 at West Lakes Marina beginning at 10:00am.

**Free Fishing Days - May 12, June 1-2, and Sept. 28, 2024**

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# MAY 7<sup>TH</sup> is Primary Election Day!



Randal  
Sexton (R)

THERE IS A COUNTY POSITION  
ON THE BALLOT THAT IS  
IMPACTFUL TO  
WEST LAKES RESIDENTS

## Your Vote is Important



Joshua  
Lash (R)

I believe that my performance over the last eleven plus years proves that I am the most qualified person to be the Noble County Surveyor. I graduated from Purdue University in 1979 with a Bachelor of Science in Land Surveying, School of Civil Engineering. I have also worked in the field for over 45 years. I am a certified Flood Plain Manager. Because of my many years in this field of work I am very knowledgeable and have worked hard to help protect our lakes from excessive water and sediment as it is for upland areas of the county. Storm-water erosion control management is vitally important for the protection of all the land in Noble County. Myself and my office staff are ready to assist all landowners with drainage and sediment issues throughout Noble County. I hope to have the opportunity to be of further service to all of Noble County's citizens.

WE REACHED OUT TO BOTH CANDIDATES FOR A PHOTO AND BRIEF STATEMENT AS OF THE DATE AND TIME OF THE POSTING OF THIS ON FACEBOOK WE HAD NOT RECEIVED THE REQUESTED INFORMATION FROM MR. LASH

Note – At the time Mr. Lash was contacted he was heading on vacation.



**Bird Feeding – Hobby or Hindrance?** The first mention of feeding birds in North America comes in 1845 in Thoreau's "Walden," though this is only a mention of tossing some extra corn out to see which wildlife might visit. A concerted effort began in earnest in the 20th century when several publications offered advice for attracting and protecting wild birds. It was not until 1969 that the first modern tubular garden bird feeder was produced for purchase. Interest has expanded in

the 50+ years since the contemporary feeder was introduced. The most recent USFWS study (published in 2016) estimated that the number of wildlife watchers feeding birds was almost 60 million participants. In the United States, these bird lovers are supplied with approximately 500,000 tons of bird food annually. This increase in the practice of supplying birds with seed and suet evolved rapidly.

**A benefit to birds?** A study published in 2015 helped support the notion that bird feeders offer multiple benefits to birds. And that is not just feeder talk. This three-year study examined fat stores, antioxidant capacity, body condition, immune defense, and nutritional condition. The study results offered strong indications of what bird lovers have thought and hoped since the creation of the ornithotrophe; bird feeders help birds.

Birds using [supplemental feed](#) sources had a raised antioxidant capacity, which is critical to fertility, growth, immune function, and resistance to aging. Increased antioxidant levels allow birds to handle stressors more healthily, allowing for an overall better-conditioned bird. Additionally, birds using feeders had fuller fat stores, healthier and better-quality feathers, and increased body condition. Finally, the research continued for ten months after removing the feeders. It provided data to show that bird feeding is supplemental and wild birds are not dependent upon them as their primary food source. Evidence suggests that maintaining full and [clean feeders](#) is necessary to continue the improved health benefits for avian visitors.