

# Winona Lake Preservation Association

## 2011: A Wonderful Summer

Greetings members of the WLPA. I hope you're having an enjoyable summer. We have had two extremes this year: heavy rainfall and flooding in May. My family and I opened and closed the dam three times to try to stabilize the lake level. The last several weeks we've had minimal rain. In this time, water has not been flowing over, but under the dam's 3" opening at the bottom of the gates. I was hoping for some major rain to bring up the lake level, but it hasn't happened. We are looking at stemming the underflow of the gates that allows water to continually flow down stream. State law prohibits us from completely closing off the water flow. I know how difficult it is on many members in getting boats off your lifts. We will keep you

posted. We are establishing the first website for the WLPA. The address: winonalakepreservation.net. It will be fully functional soon. I think you will find this a useful and informative tool to keep updated on the happenings around our beautiful lake. A special thanks to Doug Miller for volunteering his time in helping spearhead this project. We will be applying for a LARE grant this year for the Cherry Creek stabilization project. We hope to accomplish this in conjunction with the Town of Winona Lake. Special thanks to Joy Lohse and Pat Miller for spending a Saturday setting up and manning the WLPA booth at the Lakes Festival this summer. A gentle reminder: if you haven't mailed your membership donation, please do so. Thank you all for your continued support and enjoy the fall!

Chris Cummins  
- WLPA President



The race is on between a bass boat, plane and pontoon.  
Photo by McCarrick

## Treasurer's Report

The treasurer's report shows that memberships are currently due for a large number of WLPA members and we appreciate your participation as always. If you haven't paid your 2011 dues, a form is included in this newsletter. For a copy of the report, contact [catwars1369@yahoo.com](mailto:catwars1369@yahoo.com)

## Lakes & Streams Festival

The WLPA had a display at Central Park focused on lake preservation, conservation and protection of our delicate resource. We showed people how storm drain run-off is draining into the lake and explained how everyone can impact the local lake water quality. Over 200 people came by the WLPA booth. We also had

Fall Newsletter

# 2011

a fun fishing game for children. Special thanks to Peter at the Boat House Restaurant on Winona Lake. Peter donated a gift certificate that attracted people to our booth to sign up for the give away.

### **Weed Spraying**

For the first time ever, the spraying of the weeds happened after the July 4 weekend. Due to the odd weather, the weeds didn't start growing until later than normal. Weeds are like your lawn: you don't mow it until it's grown, thus the later application. Unfortunately, the engine blew on the famous loud Air Boat used during spraying so we were delayed by 10 days in July. The Algae blooms exploded! That shouldn't happen again and we appreciate your patience. Last week we sprayed again for Algae and weeds in channels and other hard hit shoreline areas. Next year, I will post when the weeds will be sprayed on our website so you can know a week in advance.

### **Goose Hunt**

Dan Hampton indicated that a goose hunt planned for September on area lakes including ours is postponed until February, 2012. Area lake associations are working in cooperation with the Department of Natural Resources to carefully lower the current population and reduce E.coli entering the lake. We maintain a balance of a beautiful goose population. The geese will be donated to food banks.

### **Water Testing Bottles**

The WLPA board will be purchasing approved collection bottles. All board members will be prepared to take water samples should further spilling from storm water drains or watersheds occur. We'll be ready. Should you see any questionable material or water flowing into the



"PRESERVE | PROTECT | CONSERVE" was the theme to the WLPA booth at the Lakes Festival. Pictured are Joy and Pat. To volunteer next year, call 265.4866.

lake, please contact a board member immediately.

### **Silver Bass Kill**

An unusual amount (200+) dead adult male Silver Bass floated to the north shore this spring. Samples were impossible to take by the DNR as the fish were too decomposed to conduct autopsy. Because the only species that died was the one type of fish, a possible explanation is overstimulation during breeding; while the deaths remain inconclusive. No chemical issue is suspected.

### **Lake And River Enhancement Grant**

\$875,000 in grants were given through the State of Indiana via LARE grants. Winona received no grant dollars. The WLPA plans to work with the Town of Winona Lake on the grant application process that closes on January 15, 2012. The WLPA plans to re-apply for assistance in assessing Cherry Creek/Wyland Ditch as a vast amount of sediment flowing from this creek runs into the lake and clogs the outlet. The sediment is naturally pushed to the north by north winds and flows into the canal. Reducing sediment can improve the overall water quality for everyone.

### **Measuring Water Clarity**

Chris Rankin has been checking the clarity of our lake once a month and making notations for the State of Indiana. Having this data over time allows us to learn whether our water quality is improving or not and compares our lake clarity to other lakes in the state. This process is done through utilizing a Secchi Disk. To obtain a measurement, the disk is lowered into the water while observing the depth at which it disappears. It is lowered some more and then raised while observing the depth at which it reappears. The Secchi disk measurement is the average of the two observations. The date, Secchi disk measurement and source of turbidity should be recorded each time water clarity is measured.  
(continued on back cover)

**WINONA LAKE  
PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION  
2011 MEMBERSHIP FORM**

January 1, 2011 - December 31, 2011  
PO Box 13 Warsaw, IN 46581-0013



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Lake address: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (if different from above): \_\_\_\_\_

City/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Winter Address if different: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates at Winter Address: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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**CONTRIBUTION LEVELS**

MEMBER: \$50.00 BRONZE MEMBER: \$100.00 +

SILVER MEMBER: \$200.00 + GOLD MEMBER: \$300.00 + PLATINUM MEMBER \$500.00 +

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Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$50.00 for my 2011 membership, plus a contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to be used to continue the efforts of the WLPA.

Please return to Winona Lake Preservation Association  
P.O. Box 13, Warsaw, IN 46581-0013.

The association is a 501(C) (3) organization under the Internal Revenue Code. Donors may deduct bequests, contributions, and gifts if they meet the applicable provisions of sections 2055, 2106, and 2522 of the code.

For office use only:

Membership Paid \_\_\_\_\_ Contribution \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount Paid \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Received \_\_\_\_\_ Check Number: \_\_\_\_\_ To Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_

**Your WLPA Board of Directors for 2011**

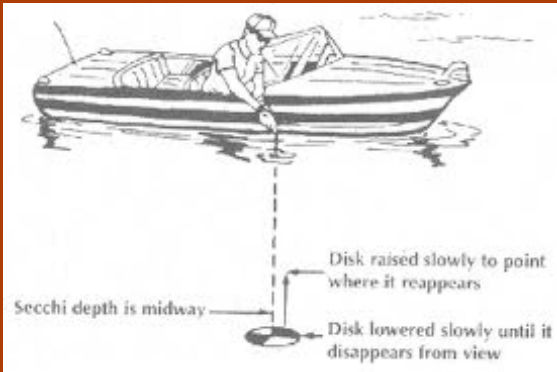
**Chris Cummins, President**  
**Joy Lohse**  
**Dr. David Dick**

**Chris Rankin**  
**Tony Elliott**

**Dodge Elkins**  
**Pat Miller**

**Peggy Lieftring**  
**Cathy Carter**  
**Bill McCarrick**





## SECCHI DISK MEASUREMENT

Example of how to measure water clarity utilizing a Secchi Disk

The Secchi Disk, created in 1865 by Fr. Pietro Angelo Secchi, is a circular disk used to measure water transparency in lakes and oceans. The pronunciation is SEK-ee.

Source: Michigan Lakes & Streams Associations, Inc.

(continued from page 2) Sources of turbidity are usually sediment (brownish muddy color), phytoplankton (greenish color), humic stain (tea color from decaying leaves or plants) or some combination of these. Secchi disk measurements are most accurate when taken on relatively calm, sunny days during the middle of the day from a dock or some type of floating device such as a boat, float tube, air mattress or life preserver.

### Fair Ground Signage Posting

Two signs have been posted at the fairgrounds for boaters to create awareness concerning cleaning the bottom of boats prior to entering our lake.

### WLPA's Position: Lake Septic Systems

At the spring annual meeting, the WLPA members voted to notify the Town of Winona Lake about our support of completing city sewer access around the lake. Chris Cummins will be attending a Town Council meeting and expressing our support for creating the infrastructure around the remaining areas of the lake that are currently using septic and making hook up convenient.

Winona Lake Preservation  
Association

PO BOX 13  
WARSAW, IN 46581  
574.267.7500

ADDRESS

SERVICE REQUESTED

