

Indian Lake Watershed Project  
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## Upcoming Events

- Conservation Tillage Club Breakfast  
– Jan 7,21 Feb 4,18
- Indian Lake Boat Show—March 6-8
- Maple Syrup Festival—March 14-15
- Antique Boat Show—July 18
- Nashville Hitmakers—August 15
- Fall Festival—September 25-27
- ILWP Banquet—September TBD

## Upcoming Meetings

All meetings are at **6:00 PM** at the State  
Park

- February 19
- March 18
- April 15
- May 20
- June 17
- July 15
- August 26
- September—Banquet
- October 21
- November 18



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Non-Profit Organization  
US Postage Paid  
Bellefontaine, Ohio  
Permit No. 324

# INDIAN LAKE WATERSHED PROJECT

WINTER 2020

## 30 Years in Conservation!

2020 celebrates 30 years of the Indian Lake Watershed Project! Thank you to all who have supported the ILWP with your membership dues, donations, sponsorships, time and talent. Its because of this community that the ILWP can continue to maintain the water quality and the health of Indian Lake and the surrounding watershed.

In 2020 we will continue to monitor the lake for microcystin and the blue green algae that causes it. If funding allows, we will also expand out monitoring program to include nutrient and sediment testing on the tributaries flowing into the lake. This will give us a better idea of what projects will benefit the watershed the most.

The Indian Lake Watershed Project was “born” on July 11, 1990. On this day the organizational meeting of the Indian Lake Hydrologic Unit Project met with agency representatives from the Agriculture Stabilization Conservation Service (ASCS), now the Farm Service Agency (FSA), ODNR—Division of Parks and Recreation, Division of Wildlife, Ohio EPA, ILDC, OSU Extension, Hardin, Logan and Auglaize Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) and the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), now the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

On October 22, 1997 the Indian Lake Watershed Project Board of Directors was established with Frank Phelps as President, Cliff Hoenie as President-Elect and Garis Pugh as Secretary/Treasurer.

There have been eight directors/coordinators in the lifetime of the project. Martin Joyce (1990-1993), Jim Fisher (1993-1994), Athel Dodds (1994-1995), Greg Nageotte (1995-1998), Gerry Tussing (1998-2000), Jack Webb (2000-2008), Vicky Boots (2008-2018) and Abbi Hastings, (2018-Present).

Through all the progress and changes the Indian Lake Watershed Project will continue to monitor and maintain the water quality and health of Indian Lake!

## Nashville Hitmakers Wrap up

Thank you to all who came out to the 8th annual Nashville Hitmakers concert. This fundraiser supports the Indian Lake Watershed as well as music programs for Indian Lake Schools. Just by attending the concert you are supporting the continued water quality efforts in and around Indian Lake.

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor for the show, visit the [nashvillehitmakers.com](http://nashvillehitmakers.com) website or give the ILWP a call. To help with ticket sales in 2019 the ILWP started taking credit card sales to make the ticket buying process quicker and easier!



The 2020 lineup has just been set! Nashville Hall of Fame member and Indian Lake alumni Even Stevens, Guitarist Extraordinaire Mike Loudermilk, hilariously talented Wynn Varble, world famous Big Al Anderson, two time Grammy Award Winner Rebecca Lynn Howard, and player/producer/songwriter “Big E” Elisha Hoffman, all will be on the Indian Lake Highschool Stage for the 9th Annual Nashville Concert on August 15th 2020! For tickets Call 937-935-9325

## WATERSHED NEWS

### Paper (Chinese) Lanterns

Paper lanterns are becoming more popular and available to the public. They are beautiful but dangerous. Imagine this beautiful light floating through the sky and landing in a crop field or on the roof of your home or business. Paper lanterns are a small uncontrollable fire that is released into they sky at the mercy of the wind. Users of paper lanterns can be held responsible for any fire or damage caused by the lanterns.

Below is a letter from the Ohio State Fire Marshal to all Ohio Fire Departments explaining the use and regulation regarding, paper/sky/Chinese lanterns.

Dear Ohio Fire Departments:

I am writing to you to provide clarification on the use of sky lanterns in Ohio. During the summer months, many people want to purchase and use such devices. To make sure these lanterns are both legally and safely used, please note the following information.

To start, be advised that sky lanterns do not meet the R.C. §3743.01 based definition of a firework. Thus, consistent with guidance the State Fire Marshal (SFM) has received from the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and definitions used in the Ohio Fire Code, sky lanterns in Ohio are considered flame effects. As a flame effect, the regulation of sky lantern devices is a part of the general fire safety sections of the Ohio Fire Code. See Ohio Administrative Code 1301:7-7-33 and Ohio Fire Code [OFC] §3311.

To use a flame effect in Ohio in front of an audience, a person must first have a flame effect exhibitor license (also known as a "Type III" license) issued by the State Fire Marshal (see OFC §3319). To conduct an actual display of a flame effect (either indoor or outdoor) in front of an audience (almost all uses of a flame effect), an exhibitor must obtain a permit from the local fire code official. These permits can only be issued and maintained if the display occurs in accordance with OFC §3311.

If a person does not comply with the licensure or display permit requirements, they are subject to citation under R.C. §3737.42 for violation of the fire code and civil penalties as described in R.C. §3737.51(B) and (C). Also, since these devices are not fireworks, R.C. §3737.51(A) applies instead of R.C. §3743.65 as the relevant criminal code statute. Per R.C. §3737.51 (A) & R.C. §3737.99, it can be a 1st degree misdemeanor to violate the OFC. Thus, use of an unpermitted flame effect could also trigger significant criminal penalties (in a worst case scenario). Ohio also has criminal and civil prohibitions against negligent and intentional ignition/spreading of fires.

As for the sales, possession and storage of sky lanterns, the sale and storage of sky lanterns does not require the seller to have a specific license in Ohio and a purchaser does not need a license or permit to acquire or store such devices. However, again, a flame effects exhibitor's license and a locally issued permit are required to display/use sky lanterns. And, as always, the Ohio Fire Code sets forth the general minimum standards for any possession and storage of flammable/combustible or otherwise hazardous items (regulations that are unlikely to be triggered by purchase, possession or storage of a small quantity of sky lanterns).

Sincerely,



Larry L. Flowers  
State Fire Marshal



## WATER QUALITY NEWS

### 2019 Water Quality Report

The microcystin water quality testing is done for 2019. Microcystin is the toxin produced by the abundance of Blue Green algae, also know was a Harmful Algae Bloom (HAB).

Spring of 2019 started with a lot of rain. More rain means more erosion, more erosion means more available nutrients in the water, more nutrients in the water mean more food for algae, and that means more Blue Green Algae and its microcystin toxin. Blue Green Algae can also feed on nutrients found in manure. One of the samples that was taken this summer was taken at a beach where there was an abundance of geese. The samples tested in that location will be higher due to the availability of nutrients.

There are four measurement levels for microcystin in parts per billion (ppb).

- 0.3-1.6 ppb Drinking water advisory for infants and people with compromised immune systems
- 1.6-6.0 ppb Drinking water advisory for adults
- 6.0-20.0 ppb Public Health advisory
- Above 20.0 ppb Elevated Public Health advisory

The highest recorded microcystin level found in Indian lake in 2019 was 1.544 ppb. No need to panic. Indian Lake is not used as a drinking water source. This is still under the drinking water advisory for adults.

In 2020 the ILWP will continue monitoring the microcystin levels in Indian Lake. The ILWP will also begin nutrient testing on the tributaries that feed the lake to better determine what areas need more focused attention. If you want to help our monitoring program, please consider donating to the monitoring fund in 2020.

