

Indian Lake Watershed Project  
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## Beach Roller

Our Beach Roller is available at no cost to current members.

Not a member? Call for details  
937-404-3148



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Permit No. 324

INDIAN LAKE WATERSHED PROJECT  
324 COUNTY ROAD 11  
BELLEFONTAINE, OH 43311  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

# INDIAN LAKE WATERSHED PROJECT

SUMMER 2021

## Nashville Hitmakers Returns to Indian Lake - August 21, 2021

We expect to have a full house again this summer for the 2021 Hitmakers!! We are bringing seven wonderful, award-winning songwriters back to our stage for another evening of wonderful music, stories, fun and education.

This Fundraiser is sponsored by many of our faithful businesses around the lake and made possible by their participation, and yours! Ticket sales bring us necessary funds for an annual scholarship to an Indian Lake High School graduate pursuing music or the arts. It also supports our Watershed Project needs.

Indian Lake High School graduate; Even Stevens, perennial favorite Guitarist Extraordinaire, Mike Loudermilk; the hilarious Wynn Varble; bassist Alison Prestwood and Elisha Hoffman and Rebecca Lynn

Howard (musicians/singers with Steven Tyler of Aerosmith), are all returning this year! We are excited that Big Al Anderson, of The World Famous Headliners, was named one of the top 100 guitarists of the century by Musician Magazine.

This musical event promises to be a varied and actively energetic show. We hope you will attend and bring your friends! It has been too long without this event and we have all missed it!

Tickets are available at The Depot in Lakeview, and by calling 937-935-9324. Come join us!

## WEEDS! WHY, WHAT, HOW

Lets talk about the GIANT green growing, mess that has bloomed over the summer. Many rivers, lakes and ponds are experiencing a dense growth of aquatic plant life. Indian Lake is not alone in this issue. These “weeds” are wreaking havoc all over the State of Ohio. Weeds are defined as any plant that is not valued where it is. They are not valued in the path of boats and around docks and beaches. The good news is, as problematic as the weeds are, they are not toxic or harmful to humans or animals. Phew!

Over the past 31 years the clarity of Indian Lake’s water has improved from 4 inches to 4 feet in 2021! Driven by the conservation efforts by farmers and landowners in the watershed and with assistance from the Indian Lake Watershed Project (ILWP), these efforts have reduced 75% to 80% of the sediment runoff from entering the lake. This is great for the water quality in Indian Lake. Keeping sediment out of the lake also keeps nutrients out that feed the Blue/Green Algae. From recent ILWP sampling of microcystin levels, Indian Lake is not currently in any danger of Blue/Green algae.

A lot of factors contribute to our current weed situation. Indian Lake was created from five natural shallow lakes as a feeder revivor for the Miami Erie Canal system. The overall shallowness of the lake and water clarity gives sunlight a chance to reach deeper into the lake creating more plant growth. The weather has also played a large role this summer. There hasn't been a lot of rain to introduce new water into the lake. Filamentous Algae (pond scum) loves stagnant and slow moving water. It be found along the banks, coves and channels.

The Indian Lake Watershed Project is working with the Indian Lake State Park and other partners, to address the problem. The “Lake Raker” weed harvester has been in operation since May! So far it has reached it’s personal record of removing over 10,000 cubic yards of plant material. It is owned by the Indian Lake Watershed and is operated by the State Park. Due its size, it is unable to maneuver close to shore or around docks. In this case manually pulling or using tools such as the “beach roller” to remove the weeds is more effective. Chemical control works by spraying water safe herbicides to kill the weeds. Another option is blocking the sun from reaching the bottom by using a tarp or “lake mat”. This will kill the weeds underneath and can be moved to a new spot after about a month.

Maintaining the balance between a healthy lake and aggressive weeds is work in progress. We are here working hard to find a way to control the weeds.

## WEED IDENTIFICATION



**Blue Green Algae** is toxic to humans and animals. It grows in lakes that are abundant in nitrogen and phosphorus fertilizers. Indian Lake does NOT have a problem with this algae.

**Filamentous Algae (Pond Scum)** forms mats floating on the surface. It grows and collects around the shoreline. Not toxic.



**Spatterdock.** It has heart shaped leaves and yellow flowers. Grows from the bottom and the leaves float on top. Often mistaken for Lillypads.

**Duckweed** is the smallest flowering plant known! Forms long chains and grows rapidly. Great food source for fish and waterfowl.



**Coontail** can be identified by the racoon tail leaves. Called hornwort when sold for aquarium decorations.

**Pondweed** has long thin stems and branching thin leaves. It grows from the bottom and in thick layers.

