



INDIAN LAKE UPDATE

SPRING 2020

2019 OFFICERS

President – Dale Frymyer
Vice President – Randy Wax
Treasurer – Pat Blinn
Secretary – Brenda Moots

Board Members

2018: Sharon DeVault
Pete Gerace
2019: Pete Lowe
Nathan Thatcher
2020: Racahel Kubic
Charlie Strete

Committee Chairperson

PR/ Communications – Randy Wax
Memorial Trees – Dale Frymyer
Parks/ Dredging Liaison – Bob Easterday
ILDC Vounteers – Linda Coil
Membership – Dave Leiter
Legislative – Sharon DeVault
Special Events – Larry Blinn
Park Volunteers – Charlie Strete/
Jeff Garlock
Historian – Dave Helgeson

MEETINGS

All are welcome to attend!
Our meetings are held at the Indian Lake State Park Campground Multi-Purpose Building the third Wednesday of every month except December. Meetings begin at 7:30 pm and last approximately one hour.

NOTE: Meetings have been suspended until ODNR reopens the campgrounds and it is safe to meet in groups larger than 10 persons.

Key Dates to Remember

ILDC Day!
September 11

Fall Festival
September 25-27

ILDC Accomplishes Many Projects and Plans Ahead for the Future!

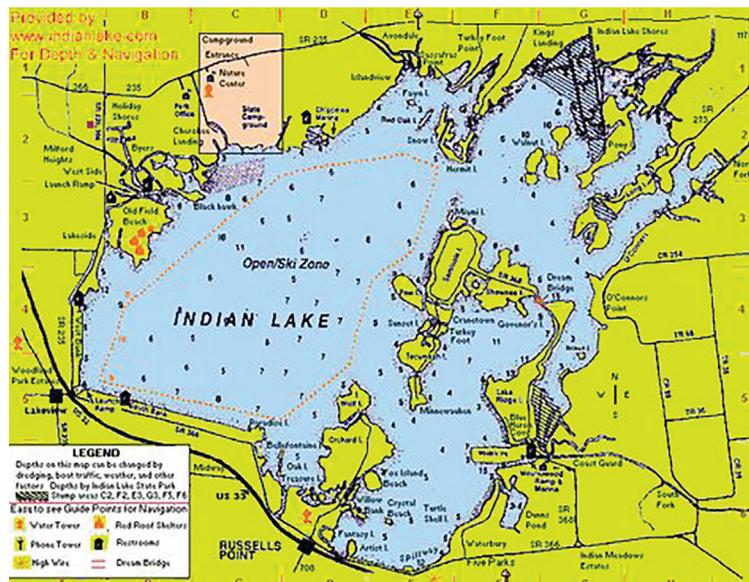
What a year of accomplishments for ILDC in 2019!

- ILDC took over full sponsorship of the Maple Syrup Festival and Pancake Breakfast
- In the spring and early summer, on two separate days, HondaGo volunteers (25+) and ILDC members cleaned shoreline debris, placed stone along dock seawall, mulched around memorial trees, replaced sand on playgrounds and painted restrooms
- Shade shelters (North and South) previously purchased and installation was completed at Old Field Beach
- ILDC volunteers took responsibility for landscaping and planting flowers around state park signage, including two new locations. They also maintained these sign islands throughout the year.
- Assembled and installed ADA handicap ramp and dock at Russells Point harbor with funds donated by a local resident
- ILDC volunteers replaced several damaged sections on wood ship playground equipment at Moundwood Park.
- The Indian Lake Memorial Tree and Bench Program continued this year with the addition of 20 new memorial trees and five memorial benches

- Install a nine-hole disc golf course at Old Field Beach

What to expect from ILDC in 2020?

- Continue to expand the Maple Syrup Festival and Pancake Breakfast with exhibits and vendors. We have already purchased new equipment for the sugar shack to allow us to produce real maple syrup. **Event canceled due to COVID 19 shutting down the state park.**
- Continue the Indian Lake Memorial Tree and Bench Program.
- Continue design/plan and fundraising efforts for an all inclusive playground at Fox Island
- Continue landscaping and planting flowers around state park signage. New areas will be added for 2020.
- Maintain disc golf course. Still need hole sponsors!
- Additional repairs are required to playground equipment at Moundwood Park to meet state safety requirements.
- Continue design/ plan and fund raising efforts for Indian Lake State Park gateway sign.
- Continue ILDC sponsorship of the ILDC Day! event and co-sponsoring of Fall Festival
- Work with the new state park manager to improve all aspects of our beautiful state park.





Strong Roots Form the Indian Lake Memorial Tree Program *by Dale Frymyer*

Our Tree and Bench program now has over 675 trees and nine benches in the registration database. This Spring we added 2 more benches to Moundwood Park. The Memorial benches are becoming very popular and also provide additional funding for mulch to be placed around memorial trees. Also this Spring, our goal is to reset, as needed, the wood posts at each memorial trees as many are leaning or have completely come out of the ground. Anyone who would like to help with this process, your support would be much appreciated. The ILDC goal still exists to edge, spray and mulch around each memorial tree as time and funds are available.

A memorial tree can be purchased for \$250, which includes the tree and stainless steel laser etched plaque (like the example pictured below). A memorial bench can be purchased for \$1000, which includes a 6' composite bench mounted on a concrete pad with a memorial plaque.. Memorial Tree and Bench order forms are available at the State Park office, Choice Properties Real Estate office, The Depot in Lakeview and on-line at www.ILDCohio.org.



Meet Hiedie Whitman

After a lengthy search, Indian Lake State Park has a new manager.

The Ohio Department of Natural Resources has announced that Hiedie Whitman from St. Paris, Ohio, will lead our local state park.

ODNR officials said, "We're pleased to welcome Hiedie Whitman as the new park manager for Indian Lake State Park. An experienced Ohio State Park manager, Hiedie was most recently the manager at Kiser Lake State Park. "She brings a wealth of facility management, customer service, retail marketing, and people skills with her," states the ODNR press release.

In her free time, Hiedie is an active mom who explores the outdoors and shops for vintage finds, but most of all, loves spending time laughing with family and friends.

"Like most Ohio State Parks & Watercraft staff during the stay-at-home order, she may be working remotely at times, but feel free to contact her at hiedie.whitman@dnr.state.oh.us to talk about Indian Lake."

Hiedie succeeds George Sholtis, who retired in December.



2020 Boat Show Weekend

by Linda J. Coil

I would like to thank all the people who volunteered their time to help with our ILDC display at the 2020 Boat Show. It was a beautiful weekend, but who could have guessed what was to come. Thank you Tim Andrews, Larry Blinn, Skip Dailey, Sharon DeVault, Bob Easterday, Dale Frymyer, Pete Gerace, Deb Innis, Dave Leiter, Pete Mariotti, Pat McAtee, Ben Pile, Fred Reichert, Nancy Roelig, Charlie Strete, Nathan Thatcher, and Randy Wax.

Special thanks to Bud's Marine for letting ILDC set up inside their building and for their continued support of our organization. Thank you also to the Division of Wildlife for the handouts they provided to us.

Phil & Kimberly Schaeffer of Marysville won the decorative laser cut wood anchor and Julie & Leo Schmerge of Botkins won the laser cut wood map.



by Dave Helgeson, former
Park Manager and former
ILDC President

Dredging Up History

ILDC is an organization with a 2019 membership of more than 600. Memberships are coming in slowly this year due to the cancellation of several special events and the delay in sending out dock permit notices. Membership applications are made available at these special events and with the dock permit notices. For these reasons, you'll find a membership application included with this newsletter.

ILDC has a large core group of volunteers that accomplishes projects that benefit Indian Lake State Park. I'd like to recognize a few volunteers who have taken leadership roles in implementing these park projects.

Several years ago Rachael Kubic and Bill Golden, representing the Chippewa Park Community Improvement Group (CPCIG), approached ILDC about expanding recreational opportunities at the Chippewa Marina. The CPCIG had begun a fundraising campaign to install a playground at Chippewa Marina; the campaign included neighborhood special events and solicitation of donations. ILDC voted to add \$9,000 to this worthy cause.

As a result of this new partnership, both Rachael and Bill have become active members of ILDC. Rachael has taken a leadership role in the installation of the Disc Golf Course at Oldfield Beach. She also has become "The Cookie Lady" for our monthly ILDC meetings.

Two years ago the Indian Lake Area Chamber of Commerce asked ILDC to take over the annual Maple Syrup Festival, which had begun in 1986. This event is an Indian Lake icebreaker that brings the community together after a long winter. However, it takes a lot of volunteers to administer this event and historically it was not a big money-maker. After much discussion, ILDC decided to not only take on the Maple Syrup Festival, but expand it with more activities. Brenda Holder and Nathan Thatcher agreed to plan the event.

The first decision was to offer real maple syrup with the Pancake Breakfast. In addition to traditional wagon rides and maple syrup production demonstrations at the sugar shack, craft vendors, living history demonstrations, expanded entertainment and kids activities were featured. Through the efforts of Brenda and Nathan, many

Indian Lake businesses contributed with sponsorships. In 2019, ILDC generated more than \$5,000 from the Maple Syrup Festival, with proceeds going to renovation of the sugar shack and the new Fox Island Playground Project.

Unfortunately, the Covid-19 Pandemic forced cancellation of our 2020 event. Look for the Maple Syrup Festival to resume in 2021.

When I came to Indian Lake State Park in 1982 the only public beach area was Fox Island. For those unfamiliar, Fox Island is located just east of Spend-A-Day Marina on Orchard Island. Prior to the development of Oldfield Beach, Fox Island was so busy that a park ranger was stationed at the entrance to direct overflow weekend traffic a secondary parking lot behind Spend-A-Day. In the early 1980s State Park beaches were life-guarded. One of my Fox Island lifeguards was Cynthia Friesthuler (now Defibaugh).

Fast forward to the present: ILDC has a history of providing funding to Indian Lake State Park for the construction and installation of playgrounds to park areas. Playgrounds have been installed at Chippewa Marina, Moundwood, Old Field Beach and Blackhawk. Recently, ILDC voted to fund a playground at Fox Island. The Fox Island playground will be the largest project undertaken by ILDC. Public input has indicated the need for an all-inclusive playground (meaning that those with disabilities will have access and can easily play there). This playground will be large, with many fun components. Additionally, upon completion, ODNR Division of Parks and Watercraft will probably earmark funds to replace the existing, obsolete, restroom with a new, all-inclusive restroom facility.

Cynthia Defibaugh, the Fox Island lifeguard from the early 1980's, is the project manager for this Fox Island Playground project. She is actively seeking funds and grants from non-profit organizations. In addition, many of the ILDC fundraising efforts such as the Fall Festival are earmarked for the Fox Island project.

You can check out our progress by going to the ILDC website or Facebook page. There is also a place to donate to the Fox Island Playground Project on your enclosed membership application.



Fox Island Playground Project

Cynthia Defibaugh, Project Lead

Everyone (and everything) has been interrupted by the Covid-19 virus, that includes the **“Come Play at the Lake” Fox Island Inclusive Playground**. We still plan to do mailings to ask for donations from corporations, apply for grant dollars, and ask for individual and small business donations through social media and the like. The Covid-19 event has hindered our progress and will continue to do so, but it does not mean that the project should be scrapped or scaled back. It only means that we MAY have to adjust our timeline of a Spring 2021 completion date for the park.

The **Logan County Board of Development Disabilities (LCBDD)** has been working in tandem with ILDC on this project and had planned its fourth annual charity basketball event “Come Play at the Lake” to benefit the Fox Island inclusive playground for this past March. This has been postponed until this coming fall IF the current crisis is over or has not reemerged. Stay tuned on that. The **LCBDD Annual Flower Sale has continued and wraps up on May 8th** with those proceeds benefiting the playground. We are still working diligently to further this project along regardless of the virus. Our team is comprised of Dale Frymyer, Charlie Strete, Greg Ferrill and myself. Greg Ferrill is working on grants. I’m working on site preparation and with the office of Congressman Jim Jordan for available federal grant dollars. Dale Frymyer is working on some corporate donations.

Charlie Strete will be working on presenting our program to service and charity groups once the Covid-19 restrictions have been eased or lifted. Again, grants and corporate dollars may be in short supply due to the current global situation. Anyone interested in helping with fundraising is welcomed and encouraged to contact any one of us.

We have met with Hiedie Whitman, the new Indian Lake State Park manager and she is excited about the playground project and the potential that Fox Island has for the area. The Washington Township Trustees have agreed to haul dredge “soil” for us to build up the low areas that have plagued Fox Island for sixty-some years; however, a plan for the installation of drainage tile will most likely be required by the State of Ohio before any dredge soil is put in place. We are currently working to make that happen.

Here is what we can do right now. Encourage even small donations to the project from our full-time and summer residents along with local businesses. We have been placed at a “standstill.” But, then again, pretty much everyone is right now.

ODNR has also budgeted funds to replace the current restroom facilities with ADA compliant restrooms on Fox Island once the playground is installed.

ILDC welcomes any and all donations would assist this project and we thank you in advance!

Stay safe out there!

MEMBERSHIP

Our 2020 target goal is 700 memberships. In 2019 we obtained 640 memberships, even with the increase in membership dues from \$10 to \$15. To date, ILDC has received considerably fewer memberships due to what’s going on in the world. In addition, our membership application, usually included in the state dock permit notices, has not been mailed to local residences. As people see and

learn of ILDC’s accomplishments in and around the lake, such as Old Field Beach shelter houses, new playground equipment, the disc golf course, ADA handicap boat ramp and dock, our hope is even more people will join our worthy organization. Below is the ILDC membership application form if you have not already renewed or joined for 2020.

ILDC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION \$15 Family or Business

Make checks payable to ILDC and return to ILDC, PO Box 103, Russells Point, OH 43348

Please print clearly Check here if you would like a membership card



Name: _____ Spouse: _____

Mailing Address:

Street: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone #: (____) _____

Lake Address (if different than above):

Street: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone #: (____) _____

Email Address: _____

I would like to make an additional donation to ILDC in the amount of \$ _____

for Fox Island Playground Other: _____