



# INDIAN LAKE UPDATE

FALL 2021

## 2021 OFFICERS

President – Dale Frymyer  
Vice President – Randy Wax  
Treasurer – Pat Blinn  
Secretary – Linda Coil

## Board Members

2019: Pete Lowe  
2020: Rachel Kubic  
Charlie Strete  
2021: David Goff  
Ben Pile and Nancy Roeli

## Committee Chairperson

PR/ Communications – Randy Wax  
Memorial Trees – Dale Frymyer  
Parks/ Dredging Liaison – Bob Easterday  
ILDC Vounteers – Linda Coil  
Membership – Dave Leiter  
Special Events – Larry Blinn  
Park Volunteers – Dale Sullivan/  
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 approximate-  
ly one hour.

## Key Dates to Remember

Maple Syrup and  
Pancake Breakfast  
March 19 & 20

## Fox Island Playground Complete!

Cynthia Defibaugh  
Fox Island Playground Lead



As I write this article, the tile company is putting the final sections of tile down on the floor of the playground. This was the last piece of work that needed completion so we could open the playground up and invite the children to play. And that is just what we are doing now, inviting the children to “Come Play at the Lake” at Fox Island beach!

With parts issues due to a fire at the playground equipment factory, Covid-19 illnesses with crew, and rainy weather, delaying our project substantially, it is now November and there will be a few warm days and sunshine, not ideal for planning a dedication ceremony. Instead of holding a ceremony in the cold or keeping the children from playing on the equipment, it was decided to invite the children to enjoy the playground now, and then next Spring have our dedication ceremony when the weather will be better and the donor recognition pavers, sign and landscaping completed.

I cannot in good conscience let that much time pass without some accolades being given. First, we had a great core group see this project from beginning to end. Greg Ferrall was instrumental in getting our donation flyers out to the people and businesses, so our project was known. We appreciate the care he took in keeping the donations in their different levels correct. A big thank you to Pat

Blinn, our treasurer, for keeping us all straight on this.

Charlie Strete and Dale Frymyer were endlessly coordinating with Dan Reichert of Reichert Excavating along with Derek and Suzanne Gillespie of Shoreline Construction. Both companies donated so much time and equipment hours in preparing the site. They were instrumental in getting this project off the ground, literally! Charlie put a great team of volunteers together to do some very back-breaking work. Those 12”x12” timbers around the swing area were no easy task. Dale was right there running after needed materials, coordinating with suppliers, and beautifying the area. Suffice it to say, they really worked hard!

Dave Maier of Maier Concrete Construction donated his time and talents to form and pour the concrete for the curvy sidewalk area required to hold the tiles in place. It helped greatly to have the materials of stone and concrete given to us at cost by Ohio Ready Mix and Duff Quarry.

We also recognize the Logan County Board of Developmental Disabilities (LCBDD) for their dollar-for-dollar match on this project. ILDC and the LCBDD shared a common vision of making this playground accessible to all children of all abil-

*Continued on page 4*

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

The Indian Lake Memorial Tree and Bench Program increased by three trees and 11 benches this Summer. The state asked us not to plant memorial trees in 2021 until a plan was determined that more trees would benefit our park (quantity and location). The three new trees were planted off state park property along with one bench. We currently have 701 trees planted and 28 benches installed around our beautiful state park. Again, ILDC volunteers reset the wood posts of memorial trees as many were leaning or have completely come out of the ground. To those helpful volunteers, I would like to thank you for your efforts. There are still many posts that need to be reset or preferably replaced with the new plaque design. If you would like to help us with the memorial tree program, please contact Randy Sullivan.

The cost to purchase a memorial tree is \$350, which includes the tree with a one year warranty, and stainless steel laser etched plaque on a composite base. We are trying to procure larger diameter trees with the hope they will have a better chance of survival. A memorial bench can still be purchased for \$1000, which includes a 6' composite bench mounted on a concrete pad with a memorial plaque. Thank you again to those volunteers that have helped in pouring the concrete pads and mounting the benches. Indian Lake Memorial Tree and Bench order forms are available at the Indian Lake State Park office, Choice Properties Real Estate office, and on-line at [www.ILDCohio.org](http://www.ILDCohio.org).



## ILDC Projects Kept Volunteers Busy This Spring and Summer!

### Some HUGE accomplishments for ILDC in 2021

- The ILDC sponsored Maple Syrup and Pancake Festival was held at St Mary of the Woods Church. The Knight of Columbus supported the event by making the pancakes. Due to the event being canceled in 2020 we decided to have the event to prevent a nearly three year layoff. Turnout was light but not due to the efforts of many volunteers.
- Construction of the Fox Island Inclusive playground began in April and even though there were many delays, the project is now over 95% complete. Fortunately, the equipment installation was changed from a community build to factory install. The playground ILDC volunteer hours alone are well over 1000 hours to date.
- In addition to the inclusive playground, ILDC has partnered with the Indian Lake Middle School 7<sup>th</sup> grade robotic club and local businesses to design and install a wheelchair water ramp to be placed at the Fox Island beach. Construction to begin in Spring 2022.
- To further improve the inclusive on Fox Island, ILDC has proposed a wheelchair dock be installed. This would include a five foot wide dock and concrete path to the dock. Another project for Spring 2022.
- ILDC volunteers straightened memorial tree posts and trees, trimmed trees, replaced dead trees, put down river rock, mulched and picked up trash.
- Since 2015, ILDC volunteers have taken responsibility for landscaping and planting flowers around state park signage. They also maintained these sign islands throughout the year.
- The Indian Lake Memorial Tree and Bench program continued this year with the addition of three new memorial trees and 11 memorial benches
- ILDC Day! was successful in explaining to ODNR and State representatives what ILDC does for the Indian Lake State Parks and exhibited our nearly completed Inclusive playground at Fox Island. It also opened the discussions about what measures are being taken with lake weed problem.
- The Fall Harvest Festival was successful in its new location in the campground C area. Traffic and parking was much improved and turnout was increased especially Friday night and Saturday. The ILDC 50/50 raffle set a new record with the money going towards the new Fox Island playground.
- Maintain nine hole disc golf course at Old Field Beach

### What to expect from ILDC in 2022?

- Expand the Maple Syrup and Pancake Festival with exhibits and vendors. Next year's festival will be back at the Indian Lake State Park campground. We are seeking volunteers to assist with the maple syrup demonstrations. We have new equipment in the sugar shack to allow us to produce real maple syrup.

*Continued on page 4*



## ILDC ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Wednesday December 8, 2021 at Mimi's at the Lake

Social Hour with hors d'oeuvres Cash Bar 5:30–6:30pm Dinner at 6:30pm

Choose from one of the following entrees

1. Pasta (choice of Spaghetti and Meatballs or Fettuccine Alfredo) with salad and garlic bread
2. Salmon with salad, mashed potatoes and green beans
3. Grilled Chicken with salad, mashed potatoes and green beans

\$20.00 per person (pay at the door)

**PLEASE RSVP YOUR CHOICE OF ENTREE BY NOVEMBER 30, 2021**

to Larry Blinn ([ildc1983@gmail.com](mailto:ildc1983@gmail.com) or 937-243-4820)

Dessert: cookies included or you can order Mimi's Cheesecake (\$4.00 extra)



# Cutting to the Chase: Our Weed Problem

by Dave Helgeson, former  
Park Manager and former  
ILDC President

*A few weeks ago I came across a Facebook post which did an excellent job of explaining the Ohio Department of Natural Resources' response to the aquatic vegetation problem in Indian Lake. It so impressed me it is worth repeating. I am sure the author will not mind.*

"First, I have tried to remain positive about this all season. I have been cutting and raking weeds along my shoreline for the last six weeks. My wife started calling me the 'weed warrior.' The weed harvester has never come to our area and I finally got frustrated so I called the lake office. I went in guns hot.

But, I was immediately taken back by how forthcoming, professional, and accessible they were. By the end of the conversation I was very comfortable that there is a serious sense of urgency about the issue.

Here is what I remember from the conversation: 1. The weed problem is a top priority for ODNR and Indian Lake management. 2. Next year has the potential of being much better...I think it's fair to say that the extent of the weed problem this year caught them by surprise. How could it not? There is no historical equivalent. So they have been playing catch-up all season without the manpower or equipment. They appear to have a more aggressive plan to get ahead of it next season. 3. Spraying: They probably won't spray much more this season because things are beginning to die naturally. They will spray much more next year while trying to keep a balance so as not to trigger toxic algae.

4. Weed Harvesters: The current weed harvester is small. We also have to keep in mind that weather, including high winds, can prohibit it from running. However, they have ordered a much larger machine that can attack more than just channels, but it takes at least 6 months to build. They hope to take delivery by spring. They also will be hiring and training more people to tackle the problem next season. 5. Long. Term: There is a process in motion to develop a long-term strategy with consultants and experts that will likely move slowly. It's government so they have to issue RFPs, receive proposals, interview and try to find the right people to protect and enhance our lake. This will likely involve a lot of studies, lab work, and testing before they attack the entire lake. Be patient. In my opinion we want them to take their time and get this right.

In summary, I feel confident to push back on the doom sayers... the lake is not going to die, the problems will not persist forever, and our property values are not in any immediate danger."

**My postscript:** In addition, there is an organized community group working with the Indian Lake Watershed Project on the weed issue. There are some very concrete plans that include the purchase of additional weed harvesters that will be operated by the private sector. These plans include major fundraisers to bear some of the expense to operating the machines. Spraying chemicals may be limited in the future because of environmental concerns, and that spraying may actually worsen the problem. Stay tuned for more.



## Projects (Cont. from page 2)

- Complete the Fox Island inclusive playground and have opening celebration in early Spring.
- Develop design, construction and install the Fox Island wheelchair water ramp (Spring).
- Execute design and construction of wheelchair dock modification (Spring).
- Continue the Indian Lake Memorial Tree and Bench Program. Next year we are hopeful we can again plant memorial trees due to the high demand.
- Carry on landscaping and planting flowers around state park signage (11 locations).
- Maintain disc golf course. Advance the annual tournament to raise money for course maintenance and local charities.
- Work on the design/plan and fundraising efforts for a Indian Lake gateway sign.
- Continued ILDC sponsorship of the ILDC Day! event and co-sponsor of Fall Festival
- Work with state park manager to improve all aspects of our beautiful state park

## Fox Island Playground (Cont. from page 1)

ities. Fox Island's playground will be the second inclusive playground in Logan County to have this distinction.

A special recognition should also be given to Ohio Representative Jon Cross of the 83<sup>rd</sup> District, who helped us secure a \$50,000 grant through the State of Ohio. Furthermore, this project would never have gotten off the ground without the cooperation and support of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) and Indian Lake State Park Managers George Sholtis, who helped begin this project, and Hiedie Whitman who helped complete it. Because of this project, ODNR has budgeted a new ADA-compliant restroom facility for Fox Island for the next fiscal year.

Everyone will be notified through the next newsletter of the date of the dedication ceremony. We hope you can attend with your children or your grandchildren. Help us thank everyone who gave so generously to make this vision become reality.

Thank you! YOU helped make this possible through your membership, your volunteering, and your donations.

## MEMBERSHIP

Unfortunately, the ILDC organization did not meet our membership goal of 700 members for 2021. There could be many reasons for this like Covid, the lake weeds or maybe we are not getting the message out about the wonderful projects that ILDC has accomplished through the years. I still come across lifetime locals that do not know about the ILDC organization and our mission. We barely broke 600 memberships for 2021. Even though we

took a more aggressive approach of mass mailings we did not see a return on our investment. Again, our hope is that more full- and part time residents will learn of our accomplishments around the lake and want to support this organization. Please share our information with your neighbors! Below is a membership application form if you have not already signed up for 2022. You can also go online to [www.ildcoho.org](http://www.ildcoho.org) to complete the form.

## 2022 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



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 ☐ future ILDC projects