



# INDIAN LAKE UPDATE

SPRING 2022

## 2021 OFFICERS

President – Dale Frymyer

Vice President – Rachel Kubic

Treasurer – Pat Blinn

Secretary – Linda Coil

## Board Members

David Goff

Ben Pile

Cindy Richter

Nancy Roeli

Charlie Strete

Randy Wax

## Committee Chairperson

PR/ Communications – Randy Wax

Memorial Trees – Dale Frymyer

ILDC Volunteers – Open

Membership – Dave Leiter

Special Events – Larry Blinn

Park Volunteers – Jeff Garlock/  
Randy Sullivan

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.

## Key Dates to Remember

**Disc Golf Tournament**

June 11, 2022

**Fox Island Playground Ribbon Cutting**

June 11, 2022

**ILDC Day!**

September 9, 2022

**Fall Festival**

September 23-25,  
2022

## JUST WHAT DOES ILDC DO?

*Check out all that we've done in 2021 and have planned to do this year!*

*Accomplishments for ILDC in 2021:*

- Initial construction of the Fox Island inclusive playground began in April. The playground was open for play by the end of September. Additional improvements will be made in 2022. The ILDC volunteer hours alone for this playground are well over 1000 hours (to date),
- The ILDC sponsored Maple Syrup Festival and Pancake Breakfast was held at St Mary of the Woods with support from the Knights of Columbus. Turnout was light but not due to the efforts of the many volunteers,
- ILDC volunteers straightened Memorial Tree posts and trees, trimmed trees, replaced dead trees, put down river rock, mulched, and picked up trash,
- HondaGo associates and ILDC volunteers cleared shoreline along the south and west banks and picked up trash and around Fox Island.,
- 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 Park and flaunted our nearly complete inclusive playground at Fox Island,
- The Fall Harvest Festival was successful in its new location in C area of the campgrounds. Parking was much improved and turnout was increased especially Friday night and Saturday,
- Maintained nine hole disc golf course at Old Field Beach;

*What to expect from ILDC in 2022:*

- The Maple Syrup Festival and Pancake Breakfast returned to the state park campground. The weather impacted Saturday's attendance but Sunday's attendance was great. The sugar shack was up and running for demonstrations. We hope to expand the exhibits and vendors next year,
- **Complete the Fox Island inclusive playground and will have opening celebration on June 11th. Please plan to attend and help us celebrate this huge accomplishment for ILDC and Indian Lake,**
- Complete design and construction of ADA wheelchair dock modification at Fox Island (May),
- Complete design and construction of ADA handicap fishing pier at Fox Island (May),
- Complete design, construction and install the Fox Island Wheelchair Water Ramp (Summer). This was an ILMS 7<sup>th</sup> grade robotics club concept that supports our inclusive theme at Fox Island,
- Continue the Indian Lake Memorial Tree and Bench Program. Trees can now be ordered for planting this fall,
- Continue landscaping and planting flowers around state park signage (11 locations),
- Continue shoreline clean up with support from HondaGo program and volunteers,
- Maintain disc golf course. Continue the annual tournament on June 11th to raise money for course maintenance and local charities,
- Continue with design/plan and fund raising efforts for Indian Lake gateway sign at Lakeview harbor,
- Continue ILDC sponsorship of the ILDC Day! event and co-sponsor of Fall Harvest Festival,
- And as always, work with the state park manager to improve all aspects of our beautiful state park.

# Weeds, weeds, and more weeds! *What's being done?*

from the Indian Lake Watershop Project Website

The Indian Lake Watershed Project Board and ODNR are in the process of developing a Private/Public Partnership to effectively harvest aquatic weeds on Indian Lake for the 2022 season. The focus of the partnership is to secure grant funding to operate numerous weed harvesters through a private contractor. The specifics of this plan are currently being reviewed and finalized. The Indian Lake Watershed Board intends to have updates throughout the season at their monthly meetings (Third Wednesday of each month at 6:00pm at the State Park Campgrounds Multi-Purpose Building) preceding the ILDC monthly meeting.

First, the Indian Lake Watershed Project (ILWP) Board of Directors voted to purchase an EcoHarvester to help combat the growing weeds in Indian Lake. "This purchase is a step toward improving recreational conditions and controlling the abundant weed growth," said Frank Giannola, 2021 ILWP board president.

The \$93,000 weed harvester will pull the weeds out by the roots instead of cutting them, reducing weed growth. The EcoHarvester will also be able

to skim floating algae and weeds off the surface. The harvester was delivered to the waters of Indian Lake in the fall of 2021 and an in-water demonstration was completed. Proceeds from the 2021 Nashville Hitmakers show went toward the purchase of the equipment. The ILWP is also accepting donations.

Second, the Indian Lake Watershed Board wants to assure residents and the community that there are many concerned parties involved in this plan. They understand the seriousness of this situation and are doing all they can to get the funding allocated for our cause. Thus far, the State of Ohio has allocated \$500,000 towards the partnership.

Third, if you would like to get involved, ILWP can use your help in several ways. The most important step is to become a member of the Indian Lake Watershed Project. Dues are just \$15 and membership will help give financial support for the mission of the Indian Lake Watershed Project. By becoming a member you will receive important updates about the weed harvesting project and support.

Finally, if you would like to volunteer to assist with this project, the Indian Lake Watershed Board has established a volunteer committee called "Save Our Lake" (SOL). This volunteer committee will be working on education, distributing information, and campaign funding raising to assist with costs. To get more information about the SOL committee, email [saveindianlake@gmail.com](mailto:saveindianlake@gmail.com) or visit the Save Our Lake Facebook group.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation as ILWP works through this challenge. It is their hope that once funding is secured, we will have a healthy, safe, and reduced weeds in the lake this summer.





*Second Annual*  
**NATHAN T. THATCHER MEMORIAL  
DISC GOLF TOURNAMENT**  
**Saturday, June 11**  
**Old Field Beach**

Entry Fee: \$20  
9:00am Sign Up/Check In  
9:45am Players Meeting  
10:00 Shotgun Start  
*Note: Custom discs available for \$20*

**Levels: Recreational/Novice/Pro**  
**Closest to the Pin EACH hole!**  
**Prize payouts to Top 50% of field**

*75% of proceeds benefit Chippewa Neighborhood Outreach Center*

# History of the Indian Lake Maple Syrup Festival

by Dave Helgeson, former Park Manager and former ILDC President

The Ohio Division of Parks and Recreation was promoting winter use of State Parks in 1985. Bob Hammond, District Supervisor, came to me in the Fall of 1985 and suggested that Indian Lake have a Maple Syrup Festival similar to ones held at Hueston Woods and Malabar Farm State Parks. Come to think of it, he didn't suggest it, he said, "you WILL have a Maple Syrup Festival!"

We had three months to organize and pull off the festival. So in the space of a couple of months maintenance staff built a sugar shack. Several of us attended a maple syrup workshop to learn all about about syrup production. The workshop was sponsored by Ohio Cooperative Extension Service and held at Mt. Gilead, Ohio. While at the workshop we learned of a "hobby" maple syrup evaporator for sale in Ashland, so we made the trip up there and purchased the evaporator.

I approached the Indian Lake Area Chamber of Commerce to co-sponsor the Maple Syrup Festival. Their role was to make and serve a pancake breakfast, while park employees gave wagon tours through the super bush in the campground and demonstrated how to make maple syrup.

In 1986 the park staffing level was such that maintenance employees actually tapped sugar maple trees in the campground and outlying areas. Park rangers would then empty full sap buckets and take them to the sugar shack for future "boiling down." One of our park rangers, who will remain nameless, was rather naive. Maintenance personnel hung a sap bucket on a power pole in Blackhawk. The ranger could not understand why the bucket was always empty!

The public turnout at the initial festival was overwhelming. So much so that Jim Wolfe Sr., the chairman of the Chamber festival committee, was constantly making trips the Northside Market for extra pancake batter and sausage.

The Maple Syrup Festival has evolved over the years. ILDC is now the sponsor. Initially the festival was held in the camp commissary, it has now moved to the larger campground multi-purpose building. Because of staffing levels the park no longer taps trees and produces syrup, however demonstrations at the sugar shack and wagon rides still occur. For many years because of the expense of real maple syrup, grocery store syrup was served with breakfast and only samples of the real stuff was available at the sugar shack. Since ILDC has sponsored the festival, they have incurred the expense of serving REAL maple syrup with breakfast.

The Maple Syrup Festival is as popular today as

ever. The festival is held annually the third weekend in March. It serves as an ice breaker for the Indian Lake community and a harbinger of Spring to come.



## Fore! Disc Golf Tournament

Rachel Kubic, who was instrumental in getting our Disc Golf Course installed, has announced the Second Annual Disc Golf Tournament for Saturday, June 11th at the course at Old Field Beach. Registration begins at 9:00am, players meeting at 9:45am, tee off at 10:00am. Check [ildcoho.org](http://ildcoho.org) for additional details.

## Did You Know?

... **Ohio Outdoor News'** December 2021 issue called Indian Lake "best saugeye lake" in Ohio? In addition to saugeye, shad, bluegills, crappies, channel cats, and of course, large mouth bass, there also a few perch are found in our lake. °°

... **Post Office Island** is named after the small, original post office located there? This building was the first to serve the southern Indian Lake Postal Region. With the will and determination of Mrs. Isabelle Wicker Pusey and the Indian Lake Historical Society, it was refurbished and moved to this location, a 1 acre site leased from ODNR, on July 29, 2004, on the 92nd anniversary of its first day of service.



## Indian Lake Memorial Tree and Bench Program

Donors may purchase a memorial tree for planting late this Fall. The cost has increased to \$350 per tree which includes the plaque and a one year guarantee. Our tree database has over 715 memorial trees planted at the state park. The state park manager has requested that the old wood posts be replaced with the new plaque design or lowered to max height of 18" to improve their appearance. You will see crews all Summer lowering the height of these posts. Any help would be appreciated.

The ILDC Memorial Bench Program includes 20 installed benches along the shoreline or along the bike path. The memorial benches are very popular and also provided additional funding for mulch to be placed around memorial trees. Early this Spring we plan to place three more purchased benches. We have five benches in stock for future purchases and placement as requested. The memorial bench price has also increased to \$1,200 each.

Memorial Tree and Bench order forms are available at the state park office, Choice Properties Real Estate office, or on-line at [www.ILD-Cohio.org](http://www.ILD-Cohio.org).



## Burning Prohibited in Spring

Ohio law states that most outdoor debris **burning is prohibited in unincorporated areas from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. during March, April, and May** (Ohio



Revised Code 1503.18). Burning is limited in the spring due to the abundance of dry grass, weeds and leaves on the ground. Winds can make a seemingly safe fire burn more intensely and escape control. If a fire does escape control, immediately contact the local fire department. An escaped wildfire, even one burning in grass or weeds, is dangerous.

"A major cause of escaped wildfires in Ohio during the spring is the careless burning of trash and debris that accumulated during the winter months," said Greg Guess, fire program administrator and assistant chief for the ODNR Division of Forestry. "Unnecessary risk to people and property can be minimized by following safe burning practices and being aware of the burning regulations."

## MEMBERSHIP

ILDC's membership goal for the last several years is 700 memberships. As of the middle of April ILDC has 546 memberships for 2022. There are over 270 2021 members that have not renewed for 2022. We will send out a mass email to members from the last two years encouraging them renew their membership for this year. As an organization we are completing some major projects around the lake and our hope is that more full- and part-time residents will learn of our accomplishments and want to support ILDC. The BIG project for the last year was the all-inclusive playground called "Come Play At The Lake" on Fox Island, which was installed in September. Further improvements to the playground include a picnic area with sculptures and picture mural.

## 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_