



INDIAN LAKE UPDATE

FALL 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 Rolieg

Charlie Strete

Randy Wax

Committee Chairperson

PR/ Communications – Randy Wax

Memorial Trees – Dale Frymyer

ILDC Volunteers – Randy Sullivan

Membership – Cindy Richter

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.

Lake Heroes

Jeff Garlock

HondaGo Volunteer Coordinator



Have you noticed changes around the lake? You have seen people working together to make our lakeside more beautiful. Who are those “Lake Heroes?” They do not wear capes. They look just like you and I, ordinary caring people.

A huge thank you goes out to ILDC members and the “HondaGo” teams! Through their efforts, we were able to clear shoreline overgrowth for approximately five miles of Indian Lake shoreline! Everyone can now enjoy unobstructed views of the lake while traveling the shorelines. The same crew also worked on maintaining (pruning and weeding) the memorial trees in the area where shoreline was cleared. Additionally, the HondaGo teams and ILDC volunteers worked to paint trim and exterior walls for 10 restrooms at the Indian Lake State Park Campgrounds. Six of the restrooms are completely finished and the other 4 will be getting the exterior walls painted in the coming months. Wow! A



lot was accomplished this summer by the ILDC/ HondaGo partnership!

You might be asking yourself, “What is HondaGo?” We all have felt the impact of COVID-19 in our daily lives over the last couple of years. Due to post COVID-19 supply issues, Honda has been most generous in providing community outreach hours toward many efforts here and in other communities. Indian Lake has been a part of Honda’s continuous efforts to support local communities. Honda associates, alongside our ILDC members, have made much of our clean-up possible. These HondaGo associates truly are our “Lake Heroes!” Thank you so much, and we look forward to continuing our partnership.

ILDC’s work around the lake is ongoing. Please consider supporting your community. If you or your organization would like to help, please contact ILDC member and volunteer coordinator Randy Sullivan at drs10913@gmail.com.

Key Date to Remember

Maple Syrup and Pancake Breakfast

March 18 & 19, 2023

ILDC Projects List (Completed 2022 and Planned for 2023)

What did ILDC Accomplish in 2022?

- The Maple Syrup and Pancake festival returned to the State Park Campground with great success. Our volunteers, including Phil Tracy (the pancake flipping guru) served 711 meals over the two day period. The Sugar Shack was up and running for demonstration. We hope to expand the exhibits and vendors next year.
- ILDC completed the Fox Island Inclusive Playground and had the opening celebration on June 11th. The dedication was very well supported by our local leadership, those who donated to the project, state representatives and of course the kids. Everyone young and older enjoyed the activities. ODNR to install new ADA restroom in November. A special thank you to Cynthia Defibaugh, Charlie Strete and the rest of the playground committee (and volunteers) for your dedication to complete this major, major project. Well Done!!
- ILDC completed the design and construction of the Fox Island ADA wheelchair dock modification and handicap fishing pier with assistance from Shoreline Construction.
- ILDC completed phase one of the design, construction and installation of the Fox Island wheelchair water ramp. This was an Indian Lake Middle School 7th grade robotics club concept that supports the inclusive theme at Fox Island. Phase two will include a more permanent side railing and handicap beach chair.

ONGOING PROJECTS

- The Indian Lake Memorial Tree and Bench Program. (See article on page 2).
- Landscaping and planting flowers around 11 State Park signage.
- Shoreline clean up with support from HondaGo program. Over five miles of weeds and trees were cut down to improve the lake appearance by ILDC and HondaGo associates (many 1000's of hours).
- Annual Disc Golf tournament to raise money for course maintenance and local charities.
- ILDC Day! event to show local and state representatives what ILDC has accomplished and how they can help us in the future.
- ILDC sponsored the Taste of Indian Lake event. There were two reasons this event was added. Due to the weed problem in our lake this year many restaurants saw a significant downturn in sales. This event was intended to bring people back to the lake so they could see the lake is open for activities and secondly to boost ILDC memberships. Special thanks to Rachel Kubic and the event sponsors for your support to make this a successful event for Indian Lake.

Continued in next column

What's Happening at Fox Island Park?

Charlie Strete

Fox Island Playground Volunteer Lead

The official grand opening for the, "Come Play at the Lake," inclusive playground was held June 11, 2022. It was a beautiful day and the event was well attended by kids, parents, grandparents and the many people who contributed to this project. Dozens of children had a great time playing on the playground equipment while adults listened to the music provided and also enjoyed the picnic type party. Multiple speakers thanked the financial contributors and in-kind donors. This playground could not have happened without the community coming together to see it through to completion.

A need was identified and ILDC took on the project lead. Endless labor hours went into completing it. To make it financially successful, donations were accepted going back to 2018. As progress was made, we picked up steam and it rolled forward to fruition.

How has the All-Inclusive Playground been received by the community?

The simple and honest answer is that we hit a grand slam! It is used every day by an endless number of kids. Some even said that on a scale of one to ten, it rates infinity! It doesn't get any better than that. We are thrilled that our goal has been met!

What do adults do while the children play?

A picnic patio has also been added beside the playground with three picnic tables, benches and metal artwork. It is used by parents, grandparents and kids to relax, eat a snack or enjoy lunch. It's a hit! It is very common to see 2-3 tables being used simultaneously.

Have there been other projects completed at Fox Island?

Yes. A boat dock has been renovated with wider boards to accommodate a wheelchair. A new seawall was installed along with a concrete sidewalk/decking. This is a great tie-in with the all-inclusive playground.

What is still planned for Fox Island?

Although not yet completed, ILDC is working with ODNR to evaluate the opportunity to have a ramp from the beach that goes out into the water for wheelchairs. The goal is to allow people restricted to a wheelchair to have the opportunity to also 'get wet' in the water. Muck mats, posts and fencing have been installed as a 'test area.' As the evaluation develops, more information will be shared.

ODNR is planning to remove the existing restroom and replace it with a modern restroom this November. They will widen the sidewalk from the parking lot to be ADA compliant. A walkway is also being considered to go from the restroom to the shelter house.

What might be a "pipe dream" at the park? How about a new shelter house on the south side of the park? You never know... It's a very popular destination at the lake with the new additions and the existing beach. It's another project to start kicking around and thinking about.

We sincerely appreciate ALL the support from everyone who also sees the needs for these type projects. Our community is reaping the rewards of many volunteers across our community? Thank you all!

ILDC Accomplishments... (Cont. from column at left)

TARGETED PROJECTS/EVENTS FOR 2023

- Continue the ILDC-sponsored Maple Syrup Festival and Pancake Breakfast.
- Install security cameras around Fox Island Playground after ODNR installs ADA restroom and lighting.
- Design/planning and fundraising efforts for Indian Lake Gateway sign at Lakeview harbor.
- Begin the design/planning and fundraising efforts for Pickleball courts (location TBD).
- Straighten/replace the Indian Lake Memorial Tree posts and trees, trim trees, replaced dead trees, mulch and pick up trash.
- And as always, work with the State Park manager to improve all aspects of our beautiful Indian Lake State Park.

The Indian Lake Memorial Tree Program has strong roots!

by Dale Frymyer

As was stated in the 2022 Spring Update, the ILDC Memorial Tree and Bench program is open again. We will be planting an additional 20 Memorial Trees this late October. Unfortunately, our cost for the tree had to increase to \$350 to cover our cost. With these new 20 trees, our database now has over 735 memorial trees planted at the Indian Lake State Park! The State Park Manager requested the old wood posts be replaced with the new plaque design or lowered to max height of 18" to improve their appearance and they do look better. We have started to lower the wood posts and will continue as volunteer help is available.



The ILDC Memorial Bench program now includes 26 installed benches along the lake shoreline, bike path, beach and the Russells Point harbor. The Memorial Bench price has also increased to \$1,200 each due to reason you are aware of. Some open areas where benches are needed include along Old Field Beach, south bank bike path, and Moundwood playground. We will place them per your re-



quested location with the park manager approval.

Memorial Tree and Bench order forms are available at the State Park office, Choice Properties Real Estate office, or online at www.ILD-Cohio.org.

David L. Leiter

Editor's Note: We thought it appropriate to reprint this article on who Dave Leiter was from the Spring 2021 ILDC Update.

BELLE CENTER -- David L. Leiter, 88, of Belle Center, OH, passed away Thursday, May 27, 2022, at St. Rita's Medical Center, Lima, OH.

Meet Dave Leiter

by Dave Helgeson

Long time ILDC member, Dave Leiter, recently turned 87. Dave, affectionately known as the unofficial mayor of Long Island, is one of the few remaining charter members of ILDC. He remembers our very first Dredge Day in 1983, which was held at old Schuler's marina at the end of Clarmont Street in Russells Point, next to the Yacht Club. That Dredge Day became an annual event (*renamed ILDC Day a few years ago*) which brings state officials and local leaders to our lake to see our beautiful recreational resource first hand. It is an opportunity for our community to bring issues affecting the lake to the forefront of these state and local leaders agendas.

Dave's role in Dredge Day, practically from day one, is the grilling of mass quantities of barbecue chicken. Legislatures and local folks of influence only have to be asked once to come to Dredge Day. Once they hear Dave's barbecue chicken is on the menu, that's all it takes. Who knows what promises have been made due to Dave's chicken!

In 1997, Dave became president of ILDC. He enjoyed the job "so much" that he held the post for 17 years. One of the things Dave was known for

was a "bee in his bonnet," he was quick to whip off a letter to the state. All Indian Lake park managers during Dave's tenure could expect a call from Columbus as a result of Dave's letters!

Once Dave relinquished the presidency he still maintained his role as ILDC membership chairman. Also a position he has had ever since! He takes that position very, very seriously. If you fail to renew your annual membership be it inadvertently or not, be prepared to be called on "the carpet."

Seriously, you will find no one else who is more dedicated or has more of a love for Indian Lake than Dave Leiter. Some of the projects completed during his years as president include:

- Funding to renovate the park office conference room
- Funding to construct handicapped fishing access areas
- Construction of park benches along the bike paths and boat ramps
- Funding of new playgrounds at Moundwood and Old Field Beach
- Donation to help the ILWP purchase a weed harvester
- Testify in Columbus in support of state parks and dredging
- Key player in obtaining a new suction dredge for Indian Lake
- Assisting in obtaining funds for the multi-purpose building in the campground
- Funding for water bags for memorial trees
- and probably much more!

We wished to recognize Dave for his many years of dedication to ILDC. Happy birthday and thank you, Dave!



WOW!!! What amazing feedback and success for this first year

TASTE OF INDIAN LAKE Restaurant Trail

by Rachel Kubic

This concept all started by a simple conversation about how restaurants were first hit by COVID and then by invasive weeds in our lake. There has been so much negativity that we had the idea of bringing people back to the lake for some positive fun. We wanted to get people physically into our local restaurants, Let them taste the great food while putting a little extra money back into our economy that have been hurting,

The community stepped/showed up; they went from restaurant to restaurant getting their stamps and raffle tickets to win something at each restaurant and 86 of you showed up to Old Field Beach to get your extra bonus raffle tickets!

The feedback has been absolutely OUTSTANDING! It was better than we could have hoped for. People loved this event! Many said they had been to restaurants they had not been to or had stopped going to. These same people said they would go back again. Some said they were able to try food they would have never ordered before. All of these people stated they will be back...Mission accomplished!

Thank you to all of our sponsors and restaurants who jumped right in ready to do this event. The people have spoken and they want it back again next year!

Thank you!

by Dale Sullivan

A big THANK YOU to all the volunteers that helped set up our pop-ups and tables and chairs and manned the booth, selling 50/50 tickets and writing names and phone numbers on them! From the above numbers, you can see that they did a fantastic job!

Also, thanks to all who stopped by to purchase 50/50 tickets and those who made donations to ILDC projects! All much appreciated!

2022 Fall Festival 50/50 Jackpot hits new high!

by Linda Coil

The payout for the 50/50 ILDC Raffle at the Fall Festival was \$1,661.50. It was won by Kevin Woods of Conover, OH.

That's \$88 higher than last year!

MEMBERSHIP

We have good new and sad news regarding the 2022 ILDC membership. The good news is we achieved our membership goal of 700 members! This is the first time we have been able to brake this barrier. We are hoping that more and more full- and part-time locals and visitors are becoming aware of the projects that ILDC has accomplished in recent years. We believe the hard work and dedication of our wonderful volunteers is starting to pay dividends and that even more will want to support this organization in the future.

Now for the sad news. We lost our membership chairperson with the passing of Mr. Dave Leiter. He will be missed by ILDC and Indian Lake. Mr. Leiter told me that he believed everyone that lives around Indian Lake or enjoyed our State Park should be an ILDC member... just ask those residents on Long Island about his strong belief of ILDC membership! Dave's daughter, Cindy Richter, has volunteered to fulfill the vacant chairperson position.

Membership forms are available on our new website: www.ildcoho.org.

2023 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 \$ _____