



# DALLAS LAKE ASSOCIATION

## Spring 2022 NEWSLETTER

**Annual Meeting – Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup>** – The 2022 annual meeting will be held at the Dallas Lake Park Pavilion. At 9:00 A.M. a Pancake & Sausage Breakfast will be served followed by the Annual Meeting at 10:00 A.M. We hope to see you there!

**Fireworks – Saturday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>** – The fireworks will be held on Dallas Lake beginning at dusk. The total cost for an excellent show is over \$7,000. Dallas Lake Association's contribution is \$2,500 each year. Any amount raised above the total cost makes for a grander, more spectacular display. Please consider contributing towards the cost of the fireworks using your dues form (*at the end of this newsletter*). All contributions are greatly appreciated!

**WEBSITE** - [www.dallaslakeassociation.org](http://www.dallaslakeassociation.org)

**DIRECTORY** – download a PDF of the Directory from the Dallas Lake website

### DALLAS LAKE BOARD MEMBERS

**Officers:** Pete Kelly, **President** (260) 438-9232  
Steve Aspy, **Vice President** (574) 202-4022  
Marilyn Wingstrom, **Treasurer** (574) 206-6806  
Christine Cook, **Secretary** (574) 299-1851

**At Large:** John Bennett (260) 705-8921  
Chris Bouwkamp (317) 709-2864  
Deb Grobaski (260) 704-0299  
Kent Martz (260) 433-6256  
Angie Miller (260) 336-5983  
Maggie Pechin (260) 463-1766

*Election of officers will be discussed at the Annual Meeting on June 11<sup>th</sup>. A more formal nominating process will be put in place next year for those who are interested in serving.*

## BOUY AND BOATING LAWS

A “slow, no wake” buoy will be placed on the northeast side of Dallas Lake as you enter what is known as Pickerel Bay. The water level can get down to as low as a couple of feet along the entire length of the lake from north to south as you enter into the bay area and the bay itself has several very shallow areas as well. Please be mindful of this new buoy as well as others around our lakes – PLEASE DO NOT SKI OR TUBE IN PICKEREL BAY DUE TO SHALLOW WATERS.



As a reminder, per the Indiana boating traffic law –

**A person operating a boat shall observe the following traffic rules when applicable:**

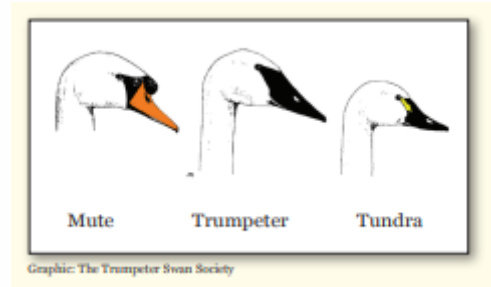
- When two (2) boats are approaching each other "head and head", or nearly so, each boat shall bear to the right and pass the other boat on the boat's left side.
- When two (2) boats are approaching each other obliquely or at right angles, the boat on the right has the right-of-way. However, when:
  - one (1) boat is under sail or is non-motorized, the sailboat or non-motorized boat has the right-of-way; and
  - two (2) boats are under sail or are non-motorized, the boat on the right has the right-of-way.
- A boat operated on a river or a channel shall bear to the right.
- A boat may overtake and pass another boat on either side if the passing can be done with safety and within the assured clear distance ahead, but the boat overtaken has the right-of-way.
- A boat leaving a dock, a pier, a wharf, or the shore has the right-of-way over all boats approaching the dock, pier, wharf, or shore.

**The following is considered reckless driving:**

- Operating a vessel at speeds that endanger human life, endanger human physical safety or property, or prevent stopping within an assured clear distance ahead. Be aware of and obey all regulatory markers, including those marked as “idle speed” or “slow, no wake speed”.
- Operating a vessel at speeds of more than 10 miles per hour between sunset and sunrise.

**Thanks for everyone’s help in keeping Dallas Lake a safe place to enjoy!**

## SWAN POPULATION – PLEASE DON'T FEED THE MUTE SWANS



As many of you are aware, Dallas Lake and to a larger extent, the Indian Chain of Lakes (Witmer, Westler, Dallas, Hackenberg and Mesick) has seen an increase in the number of Mute swans. Although most people are drawn to a swan for its elegance and beauty, many people are unaware of the problems mute swans can cause.

There are three species of swans that can be found in Indiana. At this time, the mute swan is the most abundant swan in Indiana and can commonly be found year-round, except perhaps during the harshest winter weather. Less abundant are native trumpeter and tundra swans.

As the mute swan population has greatly expanded over the last few decades, so has the destruction of habitats attributed to their presence. An adult mute swan consumes up to eight pounds of aquatic and wetland vegetation per day. In addition, they uproot significantly more vegetation than they eat, some of which can wash ashore and create an unsightly mess for shoreline residents to clean up. During nest building, they can destroy large areas of wetland vegetation. These disturbances can have a serious impact on water quality, aquatic habitat for fish and wildlife, and wetland functions. Major disturbance commonly leads to invasive species establishment. Mute swan feeding can reduce the available food sources that winter waterfowl and native birds require.

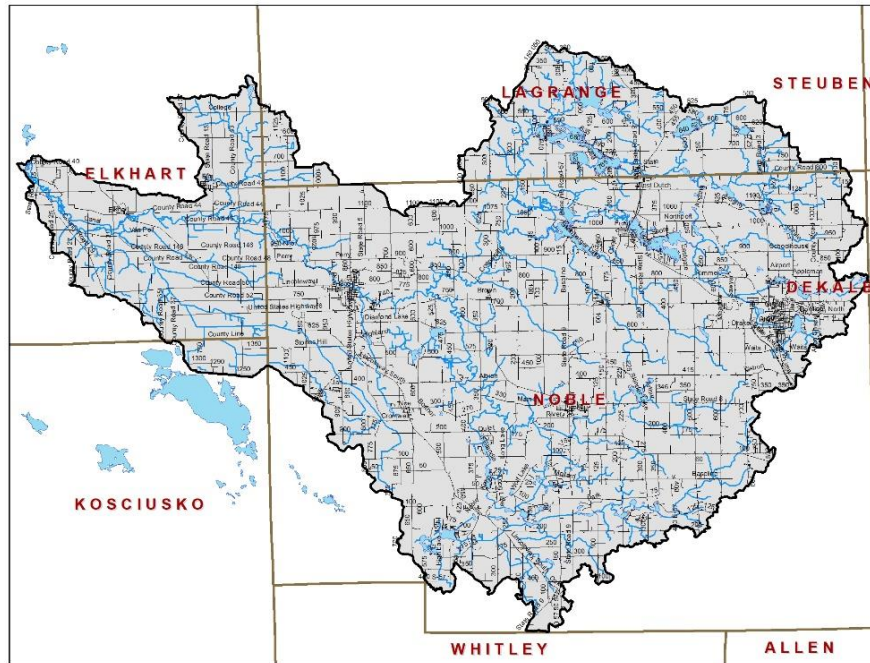
Adult mute swans may become especially aggressive toward people and pets in areas where they have become accustomed to food handouts. Any feeding of wildlife makes the animals feel safe and encourages them, and the impacts they cause, to remain in the area. Thank you for doing your part in controlling the mute swan population on our lake by not feeding them.

The above information was found on the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) website. To learn more about mute swans, visit the DNR website at:

<https://www.in.gov/.../wildlife-resources/living-with-wildlife/mute-swans>

## UPPER ELKHART RIVER WATERSHED PROJECT

In 2020, the Elkhart River Restoration Association launched efforts to protect and improve the Upper Elkhart River Watershed. This effort includes updating the **Elkhart River Watershed Management Plan** for the upper portion of the Elkhart River basin. The Upper Elkhart River Watershed drains 402 square miles including portions of Kosciusko, Lagrange, Elkhart and Noble counties. Dallas Lake lies within this Upper Elkhart River Watershed.



What is a watershed?

A watershed is the land area that drains to a common point, such as a location on a river. All of the water that falls on a watershed will move across the landscape collection in low spots and drainage ways until it moves into the waterbody of choice.

The goals for this project are integral not only to the beautification of the watershed, but also the health and wellbeing of the community and include:

- Connecting stakeholders concerns with water quality and computer-generated data to develop a step-wise plan to protect and improve the watershed, its landscape and its water quality. The planning process includes regularly scheduled steering committee meetings in which the *Five Lakes Preservation Association* serves as one of the stakeholders representing Dallas and the other member lakes.
- Water Quality Monitoring once a month per one year to provide a foundation for identifying water quality issues and probable sources of pollutants and provide a baseline for measuring future changes in water quality.
- Engagement and outreach through the Hoosier River watch monitoring; annual project meetings; agricultural and urban-focused workshops; newsletters; local tours; and more.

More info can be found at: [www.elkhartriver.org/](http://www.elkhartriver.org/)

## YOUR DUES AND CONTRIBUTIONS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The Dallas Lake Association maintains four funds – the Fireworks Fund was established to help fund the annual fireworks display. The Legal Defense Fund is used to pay attorney(s) if needed to pursue lake issues or complete legal documents. The legal fund is not used frequently, but when needed, it makes a difference. The Water Quality Fund is used for anything that pertains to keeping our lake water clean and safe for wildlife and humans such as goose round-up, water testing, drainage, erosion and other related issues. The General Fund is used for all other Dallas Lake Association expenses. This includes the annual meeting, newsletters, signage, and other items determined by the board of directors.

We appreciate everyone who pays their \$20 dues at the beginning of the lake season – you make a difference. We also thank those residents who contribute above the \$20 to ensure that water quality, legal issues and the fireworks display maintain a healthy balance. The Association Board is proactive and wants to ensure that adequate funding is maintained for all four funds so Dallas Lake continues to be a safe and fun place to be in the summer and throughout the year.

On page 6, there is a Dallas Lake Association form for you to use to provide any updated information and also pay dues (general fund) and make contributions to the other three funds (fireworks, water quality and legal defense).

A financial update will be given at the Annual Meeting on June 11<sup>th</sup>.

# THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE DALLAS LAKE ASSOCIATION!

Dallas Lake Association Form - Below are three items that need your action:

## #1 - 2022 Dallas Lake Association Dues and Contributions

- Enclosed are my \$20 dues for the 2022 Season \$20.00
- Enclosed is my contribution to the Water Quality Fund  
\$10 \$20 \$25 \$50 Other \$\_\_\_\_\_
- Enclosed is my contribution to the Legal Defense Fund  
\$10 \$20 \$25 \$50 Other \$\_\_\_\_\_
- Enclosed is my contribution to the Fireworks Fund  
\$10 \$20 \$25 \$50 Other \$\_\_\_\_\_
- Total enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to Dallas Lake Association

## #2 - RSVP for the Dallas Lake Breakfast and Annual Meeting – Saturday, June 11, 2022

- We will be attending the Breakfast and Annual Meeting on June 11<sup>th</sup>  
\_\_\_\_\_ Number of people attending

## #3 – Please provide your name and update your contact information for our records.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Number/Street City State Zip

Phone Number ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Lake Address *if different from mailing address:*  
\_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN YOUR COMPLETED FORM AND PAYMENT by JUNE 3, 2022 to:  
Dallas Lake Association / c/o Marilyn Wingstrom / 75 W 600 S / Wolcottville, IN 46795**