

Tri-Lakes Property Owners Association

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May 2026 **THE TRI-LAKER**

A Publication of the
Tri-Lakes Property Owners Association

TLPOA Communications

Between newsletter mailings, the TLPOA emails news and various information. By providing your email address, it allows us to quickly and easily make you aware of new information.

If you are not already receiving our email notifications or would like to confirm we have you on our list, please send an email to: trilakesindiana@gmail.com

We will not share your email address or email you without your approval.

2025-2026 TLPOA OFFICERS

President - Todd Nichols (260-444-7306)
todd350e@gmail.com

Vice President - Tom Andreas (260-229-0014)
Tandreas59@gmail.com

Treasurer - Deanna Kissinger (260-213-0514)
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Secretary - Karyle Genth (260-438-9007)
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- Shannon Griffith (260-438-2271)
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- Gwen Yeager (260-691-3225)
gwen1860@gmail.com
- Bradford Staats
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- **Little Cedar Directors**
- Nancy Sherrick (260-609-2432)
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- Deb Farrell (260-403-7067)
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- Chris Winslow (419.308.4496)
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Committee Coordinators

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Newsletter/Website: Deb Farrell
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Round Lake Directors

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- Priscilla Peters (260-229-9973)
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- OPEN

Shriner Lake Directors

- OPEN
- Adam Ertel (260-417-1132)
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- Dan Mounsey (260-418-0542)
mounsey496@gmail.com



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

If there is a decal in your newsletter it's because your membership dues have been paid for membership year June 2025 - May 2026. Unfortunately, our membership is declining. Last year we had 350 members; this year only 289!! Please encourage your neighbors to join. Our mission is to be good stewards for our wonderful lake resources; we DO NOT tell you what you can or cannot do with your property. For those of you who are NOT members, please join us! For \$30 you can help ensure our water quality and you'll receive a decal for the upcoming year!

Our membership year is from June 1st through May 31st.

If you have any questions, please email trilakesindiana@gmail.com.

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

The TLPOA will be having their annual pancake breakfast on *Saturday June 20, 2026*, from 8-10:00 AM. at the Gene Heckman Community Park - Tri Lakes.

The cost is \$5.00 for adults, (3 pancakes, 3 sausages), \$3.00 for children (2 pancakes, 2 sausages). This includes coffee, juice or milk, butter and syrup. Carry-out is available.

Be sure to tell your family and friends. We sure hope to see everyone.
This is our main fundraiser!

PANCAKE BREAKFAST SPONSORSHIP

To become or continue being a Pancake Breakfast Sponsor, please include an additional \$30 with your membership dues (along with a business card) and note it is for Sponsorship. We will add you to our sponsorship page. Space is limited to the first 15 received.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

If you would like to run as a Director for your lake or any Officer position, please contact someone on the nominating committee (listed below) on or prior to June 12th.

Tom Andreas - tandreas59@gmail.com - 260.229.0014
Deb Farrell - torchsinger62@gmail.com - 260.403.7067

TLPOA Annual Meeting ***June 20, 2026 at 10:15 am***

Once again, the TLPOA annual meeting will be the same day as the pancake breakfast. The meeting will begin at 10:15 am and is scheduled to end by 11:30 am. If you can't attend the meeting as a member in good standing, we will continue to offer absentee/proxy voting by email, mail, or in person. Everyone will have the chance to meet with board members, and discuss various topics of concern, and celebrate. So go to Heckman Community Park-Tri-Lakes, eat pancakes, discuss issues, and pay dues for this coming year all in a single morning. Committee and business reports will be presented at the meeting.

Be sure to read the President's Corner on Page 4 to learn about important topics on the ballot. We NEED current members to vote.

President's Corner

The 2026 Pancake Breakfast is just around the corner, Saturday June 20th at Heckman Community Park. Pancakes will be served from 8:00am – 10am. The Annual Meeting will begin at 10:15am.

It has been a while since we've communicated with our membership and the Tri-Lakes Community at large. The board has been working on two critical projects for our organization to bring about improvements to our community for years to come.

First, we need to reorganize. TLPOA was incorporated in 1974. We are a non-profit in the eyes of the State of Indiana, and we are a registered business entity. However, we are not a 501c3 non-profit organization from the Federal Government's point of view. This situation has severely restricted our potential streams of revenue for grants and private donations. We have gotten grants in the past and successfully completed projects but it has been years since we've had a request for a grant approved. We need and MUST do something to improve this situation.

The original writers of our corporate documents did a great job, and little change needs to be made to them. Our commitment remains steadfast to maintain and improve water quality and to facilitate education regarding safety on the water and in our community. In general, to promote, conduct, and foster civic interest in programs to improve and protect the environmental character of the Tri-Lakes area.

Second, the TLPOA board has voted to change the organization's name to "The Tri-Lakes Alliance". Many people associate Tri-Lakes Property Owners Association with a homeowner's association. We have never been an HOA. This name change would accurately reflect the organization's commitment to the community at large going back to the creation of the sewer district. It reflects our achievements in sediment reduction, dredging, and water testing. A name change to Tri-Lakes Alliance is a re-commitment to water quality, safety, and overall health of our community.

If you are a member in good standing, please vote "YES" to change the organization to a 501c3 status and change our name to Tri-Lakes Alliance. If you are NOT currently a member, please consider joining us at the Pancake Breakfast on June 20th; visit with others in the community, learn about the important things our Board does, and maybe join our organization for just \$30/year.

Safe home- Safe travels - Todd

PORTSIDE PIZZA EVENTS!!



Poker Run - June 13

\$100
Golf Cart Giveaway
2025 Evolution
back up cameras, touch screen
street legal

For Tickets Call
Britt Bireley - 260.229.0420
Jeanette Crance - 260.609.4438

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TLPOA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

It's that time of year again for the annual TLPOA Membership Drive. Thank you to all last year's members. Unfortunately, our membership is dwindling. As you can see by the projects listed below, we're concerned with our environment and water quality. We **DO NOT** tell property owners what they can or cannot do with their property.

Enclosed is our 2026 Membership Form. Membership is voluntary, dues are only \$30, and we appreciate any extra you can give. **Dues are accepted at any time of the year, but we hope to get most in on or before our Annual Meeting, June 20th.**

We appreciate your taking time to complete the membership form. For those who receive the newsletter via email, if you are unable to print it, we ask that you send a note with your payment such as property address along with email address/which email option. We have almost 800 properties within our membership area. By providing the requested information, it helps us keep everything properly accounted for.

We do not have online payment available, however, there are multiple options to pay your dues.

- Mail them via USPS to TLPOA, PO Box 821, Columbia City IN 46725
- Drop box at Shriner Lake Marine
- Reach out to any of your lake directors or TLPOA officers

Environmental Accomplishments

- Provided initial funding toward establishing the Tri-Lakes Regional Sewer District
- Funding for the 1992 Feasibility Study
- Shriner Lake Erosion Control Project (Late 1990's)
- Round Lake Weevil Project to reduce Eurasian Water Milfoil (2000)
- Design Work of Little Cedar Sediment Control Project (2005)
- Aquatic Plant Management Design Plan (2006)
- Construction of Little Cedar Sediment Control Project (2007)
- Tri-Lakes Dredging Project with Karen Kove Property Owners Association (2011)
- Big Cedar Wetland Restoration Project (2014)
- Professional Water Quality Testing of all lakes (2017 & 2018)
- Watershed Diagnostic Study (2019/2020)
- Volunteer Water Monitoring Program with Indiana Clean Lakes Program (2022)
- Applied for a Feasibility Study Grant through Indiana LARE Program (2023, 2024, 2025)

LARE (Lake & River Enhancement) assist with the cost of our environmental projects. These grants **do not** pay for the entire project. TLPOA is required to contribute 20% of the cost.

Miscellaneous Accomplishments

- The TLPOA originally worked with the county to establish the Tri-Lakes Park which is now under Thorncreek Township. We have an agreement to spend \$1000/year on the park if/when necessary.
- Purchase Buoys for all our lakes.
- Donate monies to the Tri-Lakes fireworks.

SAFETY INFORMATION & REMINDERS

- Marker buoys are placed on Tri-Lakes at points requiring special attention for speed, nearness to the shoreline, and for boating safety. Navigation near shorelines, piers, swimming areas and swim rafts should be at idle speed.
- Minimize your boat's wake to reduce washout of the shoreline and damage to moored boats and property. Under the state law, the watercraft operator is liable for any damage caused by their boat's wake.
- Speed limit on Round Lake and Little Cedar Lake must not exceed 10 miles an hour.
- Shriner Lake has unlimited speed during the hours between 1:00 and 4:00 pm local time. The speed limit outside of these hours cannot exceed 10 miles an hour.
- Big Cedar Lake only the east and west basins have unlimited speed during the hours between 1:00 and 4:00 pm local time. The speed limit outside of these hours cannot exceed 10 miles an hour.
- Proceeding in a counterclockwise direction must be followed between 1:00 and 4:00 pm. Please follow the traffic pattern.
- Do not overload watercraft. The weight/passengers limits of the watercraft should stay within the watercraft's limits. A watercraft is considered overloaded when either the passenger number limit, regardless of size of the occupants, or the weight limited is exceeded, whichever occurs first. Those in tow on skis or other devices are considered passengers of that watercraft and must be considered in determining the watercrafts capacity.
Example on jet skis: Your jet ski was manufactured as only a two-passenger watercraft. You have a driver and an observer/watcher, and then, you add a person being towed on a tube. Driver, observer/watcher, and towed person equals three – over the limit of the watercraft.
- Be observant of traffic, swimmers, downed skiers, and other watercraft; and maintain a safe distance.
- Ensure persons using your watercraft are experienced in the operations of the watercraft, are informed of these boating rules, and know the hazards of our small lakes.
- When starting or changing towable riders and skiers, try to use a location that is away from congested areas.
- Any skier or towable rider who falls off/down should raise an arm up in the air so they are seen by watercraft operators, skiers, or tubers.
- Ensure the watercraft has life preservers that are the proper size for each passenger/rider.

Channel Between Round Lake and Little Cedar

The channel is an "Idle Zone." It is **not** a 10-mph zone.

Thorn Creek (Karen Kove Entrance) on Round Lake

This creek is an "Idle Zone." It is **not** a 10-mph zone.

Bridge Between Little Cedar and Big Cedar

The bridge is an "Idle Zone".

Narrows between the Basins on Big Cedar

The body of water between the east and west basins ("the narrows") is an "Idle Zone." From shore to shore, this body of water is less than 400 feet across; therefore, is under further restrictive state rules and it is **not** a 10-mph zone.

**THESE SPEED LIMITS ARE REQUIRED TO FOLLOW THE LAW
AND PROTECT OUR SHORLINES AND RESIDENTS**

SAFETY INFORMATION & REMINDERS CONTINUED

Wake Boarding and Wake Surfing - House Bill 1062

For more information go to the Indiana DNR Boating Education & Safety link::

<https://www.in.gov/dnr/law-enforcement/education/boating-education-and-safety/>

Quick Key Overview Points:

Wake surfing is prohibited between sunset and sunrise on **all** public lakes in Indiana.

Wake surfing is prohibited on small lakes (299 acres or less*), which have a **10-mph speed limit**, unless a special ruling has been granted from the Natural Resources Commission, if a small lake has speed exemptions already in place (for example, skiing only between the hours of 1-4 pm), then wake surfing must align to the same hours.

*Each lake in Tri-Lakes is under 299 acres.

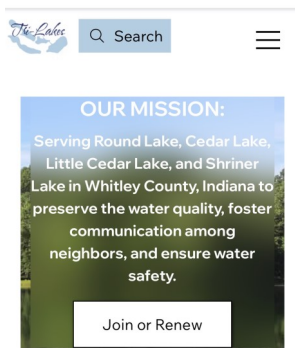
Restraint of Dogs Whitley County Ordinance No. 2009-08



To ensure a safe environment for walkers and bicyclists, just a gentle reminder on restraining your dogs to your properties' boundaries. Section 1 of Ordinance No. 2009-08 (Whitley County Recorder document no. 2010040105).

Ordinance Regarding Golf Carts On County Roads - Ordinance No. 2012-10

No person shall operate a golf cart on the roads of Whitley County State of Indiana unless such golf cart has been issued a permit under Ordinance # 2012-10. The link for this ordinance is:

<http://www.whitleygov.com> (go to SHERIFF/JAIL under Departments and scroll down and click on GOLF CART REGISTRATION). You will need to contact the Sheriff's office of Whitley County to obtain a copy of the ordinance and permit application if the website application for this Ordinance is not working. You will need to follow all the requirements of the Ordinance and the application.



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OUR MISSION:
Serving Round Lake, Cedar Lake, Little Cedar Lake, and Shiner Lake in Whitley County, Indiana to preserve the water quality, foster communication among neighbors, and ensure water safety.

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COMING SOON!! Tri Lakes Website