

INDIAN LAKE SMOKE SIGNAL

September 1979

Dear Fellow Residents of Indian Lake:

It is hard to believe the summer is coming to a close and the children are going back to school. It is also a time we all must drive carefully, to protect our children on our narrow and curving roads. We were all horrified to hear that Tim King was struck by a car while riding his bicycle on South Drive. I am pleased to report that Tim has been released from the hospital and is well on the way to recovery. Let's hope this is the last such accident we'll have for many years. To help insure this, the City of Lawrence has installed 20 mph speed limit and danger signs on both West and South Drive. Your Association has also instructed our security patrol and Lawrence police to arrest anyone not observing this speed limit. Let's all drive carefully.

In other parts of the Smoke Signal you will find a comprehensive fishing policy. Please study it carefully as the next two years are the key to the future of fishing in our lake. Incidentally, the new fish are adapting very well and with proper management should number a hundred thousand by next spring.

Last month a record rainfall fell on the lake's watershed with scary results. Several of our homeowners faced serious damage with the rising water. There has been some question of why the dam gate was not raised. It was not raised because the amount of water released by the gate is inconsequential compared to the volume going over the spillway. If the lake is to act as a flood control reservoir the lake must be lowered to a fraction of its capacity in anticipation of the forecasted heavy rain. This is not practical. Another consideration is that the carp and shad which are presently below the dam, upon the opening of the gate, return to the lake. One of the reasons our lake is so clear is that the bottom feeding carp and shad were killed last spring. Your Board is most sensitive to water problems caused by heavy rains and are studying the possibility of a secondary spillway to handle the problem of unusually high water. More will be reported on this later.

In order to quell the late night parties, a new Board resolution has been passed regarding the North Beach. Effective immediately, there will be no guests allowed on the North Beach after 9:00 p.m. It is unfortunate that this drastic action had to be taken but it became impossible to control outsiders. Recent parties degenerated to the point where one of our youth was severely hurt protecting a friend and many of our residents were afraid to go to the beach.

On the opposite shore, great progress is being made on the South Beach. It is becoming another showcase for Indian Lake community involvement.

I was honored to present to Mildred French and Ray Heinzen a framed picture of their properties and the North Beach, at the annual picnic. This was presented as a small token of appreciation for all they have done for our Association. The amount of effort and money that has been expended in hosting annual picnics, board meetings and special meetings is incalculable. Thanks again, Mildred and Ray.

The annual picnic was again a huge success, thanks to the work of Flo Peck, Zelda Upton and the Women's Committee. It was great to again be serenaded by Bob Marsischke and his group. Thanks, Bob.

Hats off to Kathyne Zainey for conducting another successful Tennis Tourney. Is there any reason that most of our winners come from 200 yards of the tennis court? Practice does make perfect!

Again, watch your driving so that all of our children have the opportunity to grow up and enjoy the pleasures of beautiful Indian Lake.

Sincerely yours,



Thomas A. Crouch
President

FALL SOCIAL

The Women's Committee is currently making plans for a Fall Social for the ladies around the lake to be held in late October. A Wig and Hat Show will be presented by the committee members and it promises to be a fun time for all, so make plans to attend and watch your mailboxes for further details.

It's been a particularly busy time around the Wagner household this past month. Elizabeth has begun her first year at the University of Southern California and Robert is busy making plans to re-enter I.O. at Bloomington. Maureen promises we'll hear from her in the next issue.

Deadline for the next paper will be October 15th. Please call Zelda Upton with any news.

PROJECT: FISH MANAGEMENT

- OBJECTIVES:
1. Maintain good bluegill and crappie fishing
 2. Prevent overharvest of largemouth bass
 3. Prevent reintroduction of carp and gizzard shad
 4. Channel catfish stocking program

INTRODUCTION: After making fish habitat improvements and conducting a fisheries renovation, Indian Lake is ready for a general fish management plan.

Because good fishing is no accident, a fisheries plan is needed to insure a quality fishery. Preparation for management has been completed with the stocking of largemouth bass, hybrid bluegill, crappie, channel catfish and redear sunfish.

Management of the fishery is the responsibility of the owners and users. Complete understanding of why certain fish are removed and others are thrown back is important for proper management.

FISH MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS: Maintaining good bluegill and crappie fishing can only be accomplished by establishing and maintaining a good largemouth bass fishery.

The cornerstone to any fish population in the Midwest is the recruitment and maintenance of a largemouth bass population. Largemouth bass are the most efficient predator on bluegill and crappie. Since bass are predators and bluegill and crappie are prey, a lake with inadequate predators would soon find the prey species large in numbers, but small in size.

A bass/bluegill fishery is judged to be in good to excellent condition if 7½ inch or larger bluegill can be caught consistently. Lakes that produce only large bluegill and/or only large bass are not healthy. To ensure good fishing for all species the bass population needs to be protected from overharvest.

The 3-inch largemouth bass that were stocked in June, 1979, will be 10-11 inches long in June of 1980. Largemouth bass in Central Indiana will grow to four inches the first year, nine inches the second year, 12½ inches the third year, 14 inches the fourth year and 16 inches the fifth year. From the fifth year on, growth rates vary considerably, even between fish that were hatched at the same time. Five or six pound bass should be 8 to 10 years old.

The majority of the bass in a healthy fishery are 8 to 14 inches. Maintaining this healthy population will ensure good fishing for bluegill, crappie and bass.

There are several techniques that can be employed to maintain a fishery. The first is a quota system, but quota systems are hard to enforce. Size limits are more frequently used because they are easily implemented and regulated.

I am recommending that largemouth bass not be removed from Indian Lake during 1979. Fishermen should be encouraged to catch bass, but they should not be removed from the lake. During 1980 and 1981 a 14-inch largemouth bass size limit should be imposed. No bass smaller than 14 inches should be removed during this period. In 1982 a slot size limit should be enacted. Only largemouth bass between 12 and 14 inches should be returned to the lake. All others may be caught and removed.

Preventing the re-introduction of carp and gizzard shad may be the hardest management recommendation to follow. Carp are usually brought in by fishermen. If a strong bass population develops during the first three years there is very little chance that a carp population would become successfully re-established. The critical stage for re-introduction of carp, shad and other undesirables is the first year of the fishery. If the bass population can successfully spawn in the spring of 1980, the lake will be home free. But if carp are introduced into the fishery before the summer of 1980, there is a good chance the carp will spawn and re-establish themselves.

Channel catfish should be stocked again in 1980 and 1981. The Indian Lake Association should stock 1,500 10" channel catfish during the fall of each of the above years.

If the initial stockings of channel catfish are not successful in maintaining a reproducing population by 1983, the Indian Lake Association should stock 3,500 8-10 inch channel catfish every two years.

SUMMARY: Maintenance of a good bluegill/crappie/largemouth bass fishery will depend upon fishermen cooperation during the first two years of the fishery and the implementation of a three-phase size limit regulation on largemouth bass.

If carp or other rough fish do not become re-established in Indian Lake the above fish management recommendations will provide good to excellent bluegill/crappie/largemouth bass fishing for the next ten to fifteen years. Good fishing is no accident! It takes time, it takes work, and it takes cooperation.

Prepared by: Joseph L. Janisch
Fisheries Staff Specialist
Division of Fish & Wildlife
607 State Office Building
Indianapolis, IN 46204

The following was written by Gary Benjamin, a member of the Board of Directors for the lake:

"Because of new problems and the largest problem of Indian Lake for years, the NORTH BEACH has new regulations that will be enforced by Security. NORTH BEACH shall be closed at 9:00 p.m. every evening to all persons except lake residents. This applies to persons who are guests of lake residents. The Lake By-laws state anyone wanting to have a party must notify the Board in writing days in advance and they will notify security. Residents could be asked to show driver's license or some form of I.D. They should not be upset but glad that Security is trying to upgrade the NORTH BEACH.