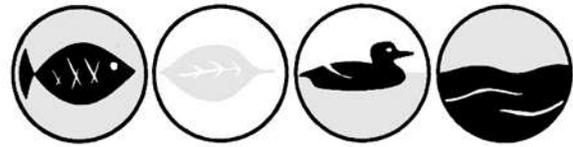


N.I.C.C.

May 2018 Newsletter



Northern Illinois Conservation Club Pond



The pond at the NICC grounds has been neglected over the past few years. It has had a lot of plant growth which makes it quite unsightly. Starting last year, steps have begun to get the pond back to the gem it once was. The aerator was repaired, some trees that were felled into the pond by the beavers, were removed. Some invasive shoreline vegetation was removed, a portion of the shoreline was stabilized and native plants were planted. This year NICC will be participating in the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency. This program will allow us to collect valuable water quality data. The pond will receive a treatment to keep the aquatic plants from overtaking the entire pond.

Too many aquatic plants are not beneficial for a pond the size of ours. The submerged plants get so thick that aquatic organisms have a tough time getting around. This includes fish, frogs, turtles, and tadpoles. The free-floating plants, such as watermeal and duckweed, overtake the entire surface of the pond causing it to be bright green. This also makes it difficult for wildlife to inhabit the pond. Sight feeding birds like Green Heron, Great Blue Heron, and Kingfisher are unable to feed effectively.

In addition to being a physical hindrance to wildlife, abundant plants also cause dramatic dissolved oxygen swings that can also negatively affect the biology of the pond. Plants release oxygen during the day, however they consume it at night.

The NICC pond committee has decided that it is time to develop a long-term management plan for the pond. I had attended a workshop in February put on by the Lake County Health Department – Environmental Services and Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning sponsored by the Illinois Lake Management Association, that taught participants how to write a lake management plan. The NICC pond committee is using this model to develop a plan for the pond. As part of the development of the plan, we will be sending out questionnaires to get your input. We will also be meeting on a monthly basis with hopes of having this plan finalized by the end of the year (hopefully sooner).

The plan will have a vision statement with outline goals and objectives that we have for the pond and actions to achieve them. The first step in the process is to identify what the uses and potential uses are of the pond. From there, we seek to determine what the major problems causing us to not use the pond as we would like. We also need to gather any historic data available for the pond to determine what new data needs to be collected. Once these steps are completed, we will prioritize the issues and develop our goals, objectives and actions. This will be a living document with the intention to review and modify over time. Please watch your inbox for your opportunity to participate in the development of the Pond Management Plan.

Leonard Dane
NICC President

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY



Spring cleanup at the club grounds, will follow after the highway cleanup. With winter weather behind us, the grounds at NICC need a good facelift to clear fallen branches, leaves and trimming of dead branches on several trees. One of our plans is to give the house a good cleaning after being closed up since November. So, there's something to do for everyone.

Lunch will be served to all the volunteers. This is a perfect time to give some of your yearly 5 hours of time to the club. We understand some members are unable to help with the cleanup of the highway and the club grounds. Come on out and meet some of our members and enjoy. If you can help out, please send me an email at bletich@att.net.

COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

On May 5, NICC is participating in the Antioch Community Garage Sale taking place at Williams Park. We will have a booth promoting our organization that day and will need some volunteers to help. Even though it falls on the same day as our Adopt-A-Highway, this is a perfect opportunity to promote the club. Call Ron Lobodzinski if you can help out.

ELECTIONS.



Elections will be held on Monday, **May 14** at the combined Board/General meeting at 7 pm.

NEW MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Ron Lobodzinski has taken the position of Membership Chairman. He has been a member of NICC since 1996 and a board member for the past year. It's membership renewal time again. Remember, the combination of the lock will be changed on May 1. If you have any membership questions, give him a call.



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| May 5 | Adopt-A-Highway 10 am | |
| | NICC grounds cleanup at NICC | 11:30 am |
| May 14 | General/board meeting at NICC property | 7pm |
| | Elections | |
| June 11 | General/board meeting at NICC property | 7pm |