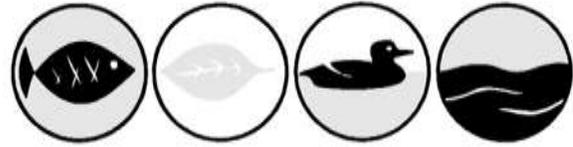


N.I.C.C.



April 2019 Newsletter

We started actively managing the NICC Pond last summer. That management included water quality monitoring, running the aeration system, aquatic plant treatment, and conducting a fish assessment. The ultimate goal was to get base line data to determine future management of the pond.

The water quality was assessed as part of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency's Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program. The lake was sampled at least once a month from May through September. Water clarity, dissolved oxygen, pH, temperature, and conductivity were measured at the pond's deepest point (9 feet). The IEPA-VLMP program has been suspended in 2019, however the Lake County Health Department is the coordinator for the county and will be allowing us to continue to collect the data in 2019 with hopes the IEPA reinstates the program in 2020. This program is valuable to all lakes in Illinois. There is a push from many organizations to get this program funded. Feel free to contact your legislators to express your support of the VLMP program.

The pond was initially treated for aquatic plants in May with follow up visits twice a month through October to ensure the pond wasn't being overtaken by watermeal and duckweed, two free floating aquatic plants. The pond will undergo the same treatment again in 2019.

Also in May 2018, a fish assessment was conducted of the pond to determine the species present and species abundance. The entire shoreline was electrofished. The study yielded a total of 82 individual fish representing 4 families and 6 species. The catch was dominated by Fathead Minnow (34%), Green Sunfish (22%), Golden Shiner (20%), and Black Bullhead (20%). NICC Pond has a tolerant fish population with abundant forage species. This species composition is common in ponds that have experienced a fish kill. It is unknown when a recent fish kill may have occurred, but all the species present are tolerant of low dissolved oxygen.

The aeration system was turned on in May and run through October. This helps to keep the water in the pond circulation to minimize the aquatic plant abundance as well as add oxygen to the water column. The aerator will also be running again in 2019.

As stated earlier, the data collected in 2018 is baseline data to help guide the future management of the pond. There is a committee that has been formed that is working on establishing a Pond Management Plan. This plan will lay out the goals of the pond and the management strategies needed to achieve those goals. If you would like to be part of this committee, please let us know.

One of the popular comments about the pond is to establish a fishery. We are hopeful to have some fish stocked this spring. Musky Tails has agreed to pay for a portion of the initial fish stocking. Before we start this stocking program, some adjustments to the aeration system are needed to ensure the fish stocked will survive.

If any of you visited the club grounds over the winter, you may have noticed that the large willow tree between the pier and the pondside bench had a portion of the top break off and fall onto the ice. On March 16th members, Ken Golonka, Mike Venet, Jim Waldow, Janelle Butler and Leonard Dane removed the entire tree. The tree was dead from damage caused by beaver and we felt it was safest to take the tree down. The wood has been stacked near the pond and we are in need of helpers to split the wood and bring it all up to the fire pit area. There are a couple of branches to be removed from the pond once the ice is fully gone.



I hope you are all looking forward to enjoying the NICC pond and grounds in 2019. Remember we have a pedal boat and row boat available for use, but please wear your life jackets! The trails have been cleared and are marked with white ribbons or paint if you would like to venture through the woods. Please remember the north bridge is need of repair so use the south bridge to access the trails.

If you would like to help with any of the projects or serve on the pond, landscaping, or any other committee, please let us know.

Have a great spring and I hope to see you at the grounds this summer!

Leonard Dane
NICC President

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY SATURDAY MAY 4 10 AM



It's that time of year again when NICC volunteers grab their gloves and head for the highway. Have you noticed NICC's name on the two signs on Grass Lake Road between Rt. 83 and Rt. 59? NICC signed an agreement each year with the Lake County Division of Transportation Adopt-A-Highway program, to help clear debris on this section of highway. This year will be our 21st year to participate in this program. We would like it to have all volunteers meet at the corner of Rt. 83 & Grass Lake Rd next to Triangle Bait and Marine at 10 am.

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.

Give me a call at 847-395-2642 if you can make it to either one of our projects.

ELECTIONS.



Elections will be held on **May 13** at the combined Board/General meeting at 7 pm. Nominations are now open until **April 8** for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and two directors, positions that are 3 year terms with responsibilities include, serving on at least one committee, provide support for club programs and activities and assist any officer as needed

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- April 8** General/board meeting at Antioch Library 7pm
- May 4** Adopt-A-Highway 10 am
NICC grounds cleanup at NICC 11:30 am
- May 13** General/board meeting at NICC property 7pm
Elections
- June 10** General/board meeting at NICC property 7pm



Gerard Urbanzo
Alana Bartolai

