



FLM Public Meeting

The Friends of Lake Monroe is holding its next public meeting on May 22 (Wednesday) from 6-8 pm, at the Monroe County Public Library.

We are pleased to announce that Shane Gibson will be our guest speaker. Shane is the Environmental Education Director for Sycamore Land Trust. He'll be talking about their organization and the activities they have going on in the Lake Monroe watershed.

Please join us!

Water Clarity Monitoring

**Volunteers with Kayak or Canoe wanted for
Summer 2019 Water Clarity Sampling**

This is a great opportunity to spend some quiet time on the lake with other FLM members.

We are continuing our monitoring of the Ramp Creek area of Lake Monroe from May through September. Weather permitting, we go out for about an hour in the morning once a week and rotate dates among volunteers. We measure turbidity and secchi depth.

So this isn't a weekly commitment, but we would like you to commit to monitoring at least twice a month.

Training is quick and easy.

If you are interested, please contact Sherry at friendsoflakemonroe@gmail.com.

Indiana Water Summit 2019

The graphic features a blue background with white water droplet shapes containing images of a fish, a person kayaking, and agricultural fields. Text is arranged in green and white boxes.

**WATER SUMMIT
INAUGURAL EVENTS!**

**AUGUST 14 | 6-8:30 pm
CONNER PRAIRIE**

A kick off event featuring a hands-on workshop designed for learning 'all things water'. Diverse professionals will provide an educational tour through water infrastructure systems, key water regulations, water quality threats, and water use trends among major user groups. Small group activities will help 'connect the drops' and provide a great learning forum for everyone!

JOIN US EARLY 5-6 PM FOR LIGHT HORS D'OEUVRES, EXCLUSIVE HOT AIR BALLOON RIDES WITH VIEWS OF THE WHITE RIVER, AND TIME TO MINGLE WITH WATER EXPERTS READY TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS.

THIS IS AN ADULTS ONLY EVENT.

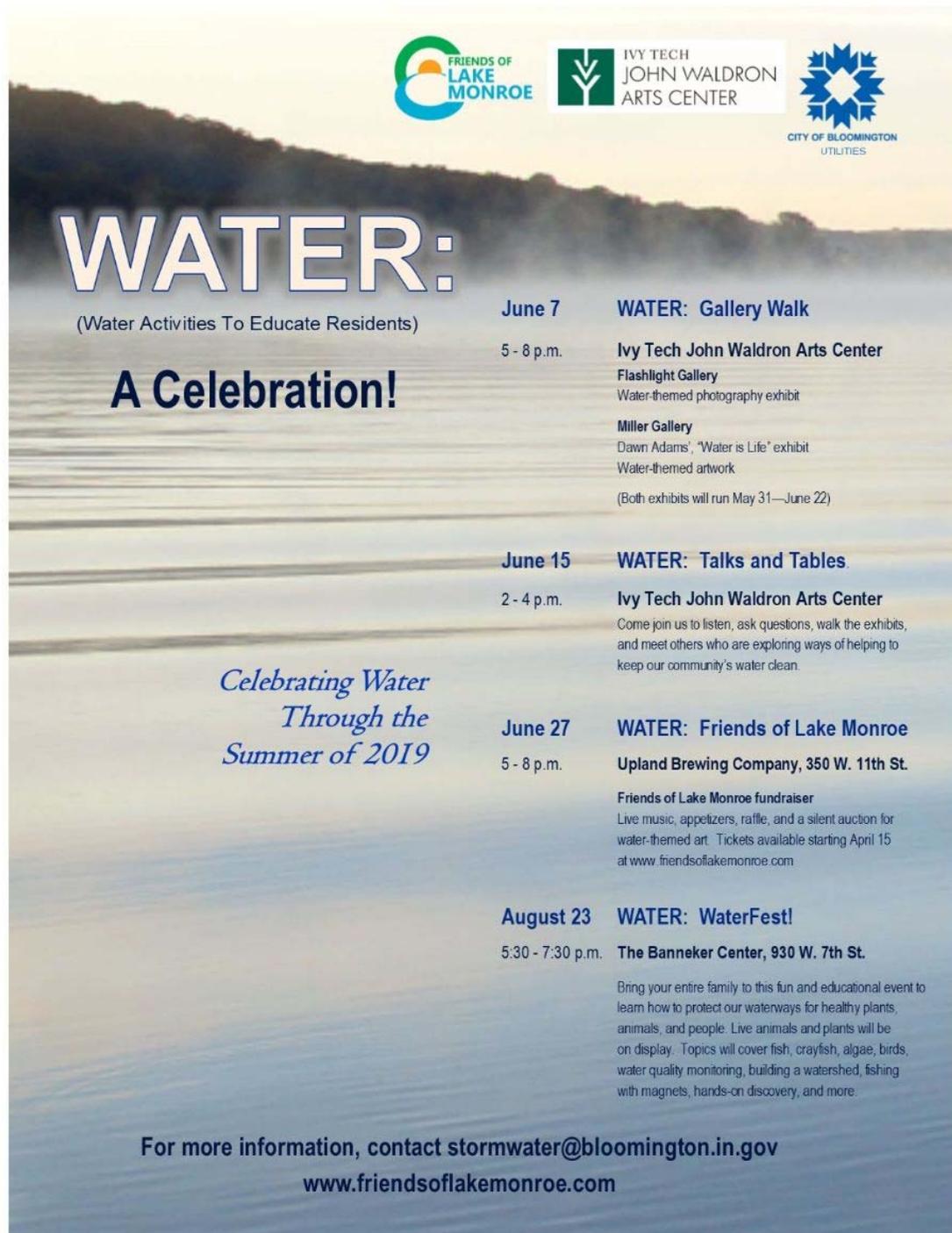
**AUGUST 15 | 8:30-5 pm
THE ATHENAEUM**

An action-driven forum aimed at building widespread understanding about competing water needs, best-practice water quality strategies, and regional water planning approaches needed to guide Indiana's water future. Interactive sessions, speakers, and panels will feature national, state, and regional experts across the full spectrum of water users, researchers, and policy makers.

STAY AFTER 5-6 PM FOR HAPPY HOUR NETWORKING IN THE RATHSKELLER BIERGARTEN.

MORE INFORMATION | IndianaWaterSummit.org

Water: A Celebration!



FRIENDS OF LAKE MONROE

IVY TECH JOHN WALDRON ARTS CENTER

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON UTILITIES

WATER:

(Water Activities To Educate Residents)

A Celebration!

*Celebrating Water
Through the
Summer of 2019*

June 7 **WATER: Gallery Walk**
5 - 8 p.m. **Ivy Tech John Waldron Arts Center**
Flashlight Gallery
Water-themed photography exhibit
Miller Gallery
Dawn Adams, "Water is Life" exhibit
Water-themed artwork
(Both exhibits will run May 31—June 22)

June 15 **WATER: Talks and Tables**
2 - 4 p.m. **Ivy Tech John Waldron Arts Center**
Come join us to listen, ask questions, walk the exhibits, and meet others who are exploring ways of helping to keep our community's water clean.

June 27 **WATER: Friends of Lake Monroe**
5 - 8 p.m. **Upland Brewing Company, 350 W. 11th St.**
Friends of Lake Monroe fundraiser
Live music, appetizers, raffle, and a silent auction for water-themed art. Tickets available starting April 15 at www.friendsoflakemonroe.com

August 23 **WATER: WaterFest!**
5:30 - 7:30 p.m. **The Banneker Center, 930 W. 7th St.**
Bring your entire family to this fun and educational event to learn how to protect our waterways for healthy plants, animals, and people. Live animals and plants will be on display. Topics will cover fish, crayfish, algae, birds, water quality monitoring, building a watershed, fishing with magnets, hands-on discovery, and more.

For more information, contact stormwater@bloomington.in.gov
www.friendsoflakemonroe.com

The Friends of Lake Monroe have collaborated with the City of Bloomington Utilities and the John Waldron Arts Center to bring the public three events this June, and one family event in August. The goal of these events is to encourage

our community to take action to make our waterways cleaner. During each one, participants will have the opportunity to sign an “action” pledge and be added to our “School of Fish” art installation.

June 7, 5:00-8:00 pm

WATER: Gallery Walk Art Openings at Ivy Tech John Waldron Arts Center

The Friends of Lake Monroe and the City of Bloomington Utilities invite you, your family, and friends to the Gallery Walk at Ivy Tech John Waldron Arts Center. Take in the beauty of water-themed art - paintings and photographs - in the spirit of strengthening our commitment to protecting Bloomington’s waterways; especially Lake Monroe. Sign an action pledge to improve our waterways, eat scrumptious goodies, feast your eyes on Dawn Adams’s “Water is Life” artwork in the Rosemary Miller Gallery, and discover your new favorite photographer in the Flashlight Gallery juried exhibit.

June 15, 2:00-4:00 pm

WATER: Talks and Tables

Please join us at the Ivy Tech John Waldron Arts Center to participate in a discussion about actions you and your neighbors can take to improve our waterways. Meet Sherry Mitchell Bruker, founder of Friends of Lake Monroe (FLM). Sherry will talk briefly about what FLM is doing to protect and sustain water quality in our lake. Learn about green infrastructure plans for the City of Bloomington and what you can do in your own landscape from the City of Bloomington Utilities Director, Vic Kelson, and Stormwater Coordinator, Kelsey Thetonia. Examples include plants that can help filter and slow waters down in order to improve water quality (WATER Tip: Native plants can be very helpful in this endeavor!).

June 27, 5:00-8:00 pm

WATER: A Celebration!

Fundraiser to support Friends of Lake Monroe. Live music, appetizers, raffle, and a silent auction for water-themed art and more. Upland Brewing Company, 350 W. 11th Street. Raffle tickets \$10.00 each.

August 23, 5:30-7:30 pm

WATER: WaterFest!

Please join us for this evening of family fun and exploration at the Banneker

Center, 930 W. 7th St. Identify practices of protecting our waterways for healthy plants, animals, and people. Build a watershed, check out an autonomous boat and robotic secchi disk, discover what makes a healthy environment for fish and crawfish, learn about the differences of green and blue-green algae, and what roles they play in the environment, try your luck at magnet fishing, learn about water quality monitoring, and so much more!

Largemouth Bass Released in Lake Monroe



The [Indiana Bass Federation](#) (IBF) released 3,200 largemouth bass into Lake Monroe on the evening of April 27, 2019. The bass released measured 8-to-10 inches and are part of a program to stock bass in Lake Monroe in 2019 and 2021.

Various IBF clubs and other volunteers previously assisted the DNR with placement of fish habitat in the lake in 2018. IBF Conservation Director Jason Hartz said the Indiana DNR has been crucial in the habitat planning and coordination of the fish release.

Lake Monroe is the third lake selected as part the [Indiana DNR Reservoir Habitat Enhancement Program](#). This five-year project began in 2016 to improve fish habitat in five impoundments around the state. Sullivan Lake and Raccoon Lake were the first two to have habitat placed in the lake. Raccoon

Lake was stocked in April of 2018. Projects will continue at Sylvan Lake in Noble County in 2019 and Lake Patoka in Dubois County near Jasper in 2020.

If anyone would like to support this cause, the IBF has a GoFundMe page: www.gofundme.com/ibf-bucks-for-bass-campaign?member=57458.

Young Fry



Let's give Katherine Zinkan and all the BHSS students involved in the Lake Action Committee a BIG THANKS for pitching in and cutting out fish bracelets for this summer's FLM events!

"School of Fish"



This spring, art instructor Ursena Hastings Heinz and her students created this “School of Fish” exhibit at Harmony School. Students, parents, and teachers learned about some of the actions they can take to both improve and conserve our water.

This project was the first of a series of events Friends of Lake Monroe and the City of Bloomington Utilities has created to strengthen the community's commitment to protect our waterways, especially Lake Monroe.

Trash Talk



The Friends of Lake Monroe participated in three recent shoreline cleanups.

On March 23, FLM board member Richard Harris and volunteer extraordinaire Megan Gokey picked up trash at the Paynetown State Recreation Area as part of FLM's participation in the DNR's Adopt-a-Shoreline program. On a beautiful spring day, Megan and Richard picked up approximately 30 pounds of mixed trash, about half of which was recyclable materials.

On April 13, FLM board member Bet Savich, along with Anna Hopkins, Nur Ain Nabilah Azwan, Stacie Paul, and Catherine Cardwell from Alpha Phi Omega –

Mu Chapter (a co-educational national service fraternity) picked up trash along the Lake Monroe shoreline bordering Pine Grove Road and the DNR boat ramp. Approximately 35 pounds of trash were picked up, of which about 10 pounds were recycled.

On Saturday, April 27, 2 pm, Joe Ryan, Megan Gokey, Mary Reardon, and Patrick Dunigan joined Richard Harris for the monthly shoreline cleanup at Paynetown. Approximately 40 pounds of trash were collected, and about 15 pounds of that was recycled.

As of early May, Lake Monroe is approximately 14 feet above normal pool, which means significant portions of state properties around the lake, including the Paynetown State Recreation Area's shoreline, are under water. The access road to the Paynetown beach and the Activities Center have been under water and inaccessible since January. Due to flooding in the White River downstream from Lake Monroe, the Army Corps of Engineers is only releasing a limited amount of water from the lake. Consequently, water levels are likely to remain high for several weeks.

As a result, the Friends of Lake Monroe will not conduct a monthly cleanup at Paynetown in May. Hopefully water levels will recede and we will be able to resume our monthly cleanup in June. Please visit the [Events Calendar](#) on our web page for current information.

Is Your Organization Interested in Hosting a Cleanup?



Words of encouragement from FLM's shoreline clean-up guru, Richard Harris:

Is there an area around Lake Monroe that your organization is interested in cleaning up?

FLM encourages any and all efforts to remove trash around the lake and anywhere in the watershed. This can be done by individuals any time they visit the lake, or through larger efforts of a group or organization.

These efforts not only help to protect wildlife and our drinking water supply, but also make visiting the lake a more pleasurable experience.

The DNR is ready to help you organized your service. The process of coordinating with the DNR for a group cleanup is really quite simple.

Contact DNR Interpretive Naturalist Jill Vance (jvance@dnr.IN.gov, or 812-837-9967) to let her know the date and location of your proposed cleanup.

Jill may have advice or suggestions for your cleanup and can answer questions. She will let you know the best location to leave the collected trash and send you the required Volunteer Service Agreement. If needed, Jill can give you trash bags and arrange for the bags to be picked up when you're done.

On the cleanup day, Jill **MUST** have the completed Volunteer Service Agreement before you start the cleanup. If you can, have your volunteers sign the Agreement and submit it to Jill in advance. Otherwise, assemble your volunteers when you're all together and ensure that each person signs the Agreement. Then, take a photo of the completed form and email it to Jill before beginning.

Be sure to discuss safety concerns with your volunteers. Remember, what is obvious to you may not be obvious to other volunteers. Volunteers are encouraged to wear rugged shoes and gloves and to park all vehicles as far off the roadway as possible.

Things to watch out for:

- Uneven ground, holes, obstacles, old fencing, and steep hillside slopes.
- Snakes, noxious weeds, ticks, and other biting or stinging insects.

Other tips:

- If everyone isn't working in a single group, have a minimum of two people per group and arrange a time for all groups to meet up.
- Pace yourselves, take breaks, and drink plenty of fluids.
- Use gloves for picking up trash, and do not pick up dead animals, or anything that might contain hazardous materials or sharp objects. Note the location of these items and include it in your follow-up report.
- Do not consume alcohol or drugs before or during the clean-up.
- Maintain safe distance from any vehicle traffic.
- Do not work in bad weather.

When the cleanup is completed, send Jill an email message to let her know the number of volunteers, total number of volunteer hours, and location of the trash for DNR to pick up. If desired, take photos of the volunteers and the

accumulated trash for your group's records.

Don't forget to thank your volunteers for their efforts in helping to protect Lake Monroe and our drinking water supply!

Winter Is Coming (?)



Shady No More

A record-breaking flood of mixed metaphors was unleashed in the minds of the living by late-April news reports illustrating alternative visions of lakeshore management.

For a recent update, see [here](#).

Upcoming Events



Mark your calendars! Here's what we have coming up.

[See All Events >](#)

May 22, 6:00pm

FLM Public Meeting

Guest Speaker: Shane Gibson, Sycamore Land Trust.

May 31 - August 23

WATER: A CELEBRATION

A series of public educational events at several venues around Bloomington.

June 27

SUPPORT FRIENDS OF LAKE MONROE!

Enjoy an evening of music, appetizers, silent auction, and a raffle at the 11th Street Upland Brewing Company. Festivities start at 5 pm and run until 8 pm.

Volunteer Opportunities



Check FLM's [website](#) for future opportunities, including monthly shoreline cleanup get-togethers.

Got a friend or neighbor who should know about Friends of Lake Monroe?