

SYLVAN LAKE ASSOCIATION NEWS

SLIA News contains articles from our board members and local community leaders



**SPRING 2023
Annual Meeting
Saturday, June 10
10:00 AM**

Lunch Provided by Orange Twp Fire Department

Meeting will be informative with state, local and area professionals who research, collaborate and provide services for our waterways and the Rome City community

SLIA NEWS From the desk of: Vicky Fiandt

Few Sylvan Lake Improvement Association board members hibernate in the wintertime! Many actively participate in on-going meetings pertaining to water quality, conservation, preservation and our Rome City community.

December SLIA board members participated in Salvation Army "Take A Day Challenge" Red Kettle Campaign in Noble County. For the first time every hour in every location within Noble County was covered 11 hours on a single day (9 AM - 8 PM) SLIA along with Avalon Village & Inspiration Ministries accepted the challenge for the Rome City Miller's Super Valu location. SLIA challengers were: Larry Allen, Allen & Margaret Baskett, John Lipasek, David & Cathy Putman and Mike & I.



SLIA Bingo Hall remains active thanks to David "Doc" Holliday, dedicated workers and board members. **COME PLAY BINGO! IT IS FUN** plus it funds our water projects and local organizations within our community.

To stay current on lake postings, Bingo activities or Advance Rome City please "like" the following Facebook pages:

- Sylvan Lake Indiana
- Sylvan Lake Association Bingo
- Advance Rome City

Visit our website: sylvanlakeindiana.org

*See you at the meeting!
Thank you Everyone!*

NEWS & EVENTS



"IN THE SPOT LIGHT"



SLIA Board Member, John Lipasek

John Lipasek's interests and background match perfectly for Sylvan Lake's Big Island.

John, now retired, has always been an avid outdoorsman who loves to hunt, fish, hike and travel. And has traveled throughout North America enjoying all of these adventures.

John and his lovely wife, Pam, are often seen walking the Gene Stratton-Porter Historical Site (GSPSHS) trails with their gorgeous dogs (trained by John) most any day and time of the week.

Since 2015 John has been an Advanced Indiana Master Naturalist. Annually completing 8 hours of naturalist training on various topics including 30 hours of volunteer time to various organizations. John assists Gene-Stratton Porter Historical Site teaching and participating in the school children's field trips. He has taught classes to Junior Indiana Master Naturalists about waterfowl, frogs, toads and salamanders and has done presentations for the Audubon Society. He is also actively involved in Christmas Bird counts, US Fish & Wildlife and waterfowl surveys. Assists and supports Indiana Department of Natural Resources with Walleye density studies, Aquatic surveys on Sylvan and is active with the GSPHS prairie restoration project.

2022 Big Island Season:

For 2022 an enhanced walkway with a new handrail system was installed in the chapel area. Routine maintenance was performed by volunteers who trim trail edges, attend to fallen trees and limbs across the trails, trim chapel and dock areas providing ease and safe access for our Big Island visitors.

Two weddings were held at the Big Island Chapel last October which involved collaborative efforts of numerous shuttle pontoons from Gene Stratton-Porter Historical Site to Big Island chapel.

Winterization of Big Island involves removal of docks within the two docking areas. This year the chapel floating dock/pontoon was expertly eased upon the shoreline by Stan Atha and John Lipasek.

The 2022 achievements, studies and events on Big Island would not have occurred without the help of volunteers which include but not limited to: Indiana State Representative Dave Abbott, Stan Atha, Wanda Bair, Allen Baskett, Mike & Vicky Fiandt, Pat & Karen Fox & family, Carl Grove, John & Pam Lipasek, Stan Loos, Tiffany Parker, Dave Shook, Roberta Stone. Vineyard Christian Church, Weston Street Bible Church & Rome City United Methodist Church.

NEWS & EVENTS



"IN THE SPOT LIGHT"

Continued



2023 Big Island Season:

For 2023 SLIA and Gene Stratton-Porter State Historical Site (GSPSHA) plan to continue removing invasive plant and tree species from Big Island. The benefits of clearing invasive plants and trees provides space to replant native trees such as Dogwood and Red Buds.

In 2022 Tiffany Parker and Vicky Fandt planted native Dogwoods along a portion of the west shoreline. And to continue the restorative project into 2023 a joint effort has been developed between SLIA, GSPSHS and the Boy Scouts of America.

YES, that's right, the Boy Scouts of America will be returning to Big Island

September 2023, Big Island will be the location for the Boy Scouts Merit Badge College. With SLIA and GSPSHS co-sponsoring the event. Providing a location for the participating Boy Scouts to learn, study and earn specific merit badges. With the closing awards ceremony being performed at the chapel for all of us to witness and celebrate along with the Scouts and their families. The overall objective is to make the Boy Scouts Merit Badge College an annual event for generations to come.



Importance of Volunteering:

At this time SLIA wishes to extend a heartfelt thank you to Hal and Kandi Schafer for donating the chapel area floating dock/pontoon. SLIA appreciates any and all people willing to volunteer for the betterment of Big Island and Sylvan Lake. it is only through volunteers and donations that SLIA and Big Island can move forward in it's conservation efforts.

Please consider volunteering for the 2023 season. If only for an hour or two the support is greatly appreciated.

To be added to our list of volunteers for Big Island 2023 please

Email: duckhunter84@gmail.com

NEWS & EVENTS



From the desk of: Tiffany Parker
Northern Regional Director
Gene Stratton-Porter State Historic Site
& Limberlost State Historic Site

BACK TO BIG ISLAND

Scouting is returning to Big Island this fall. The Anthony Wayne Area Council in partnership with Gene Stratton-Porter SHS and Sylvan Lake Improvement Association will be hosting a Merit Badge College. This event will give Scouts a chance to earn a Merit Badge or two for their advancement.

Experts in the field of soil & water, reptiles & amphibians and a few other topics will be on hand to guide Scouts through the badge earning process.

Scouts will be utilizing both Big Island and GSP for different requirements to earn their badges. Scouts will also begin the tradition of a conservation project on Big Island to aid in the restoration and preservation of native trees and plants.

Collectively our goal is for the Merit Badge College to become an annual event to help preserve the legacy of Big Island and Scouting on Sylvan Lake for future generations.

The 2023 event happens Saturday, September 9 and Sunday, September 10. More details will become available as the schedule and Merit Badges are set.

To follow all of our GSP events please visit our website: www.indianamuseum.org/gsp or stop at the GSP Visitor's Center located at 1205 Pleasant Point.



NEWS & EVENTS



From the desk of: Leigh Pranger
Manager Town of Rome City
402 Kelly Street, Rome City, IN 46784
B: 260-854-2412
E: lapranger@romcity-in.org

Permits are required for any building project, garage sale and golf carts (annual renewal required). Permits are obtained at RC Town Hall, 402 Kelly St. or call: 260-854-2412 or on-line at www.townofromecity.org. Anyone interested in building (i.e. new home, additions, garages, decks, shed, porch or remodeling) please contact the Town Hall, a minimum of TWO MONTHS PRIOR to beginning of project in order to inquire about codes and building restrictions. This will insure your project will not be delayed.

Recycling bins / compost drop off area is located on 150 Kerr Avenue. The south bay with the concrete pad is for **disposal of lawn clippings and leaves ONLY!**

DO NOT USE BAGS recyclable or otherwise. The north bay is for the disposal of limbs & branches ONLY. This area is for citizens and for residential use ONLY.

CONTRACTORS NEED TO PROVIDE THEIR OWN DISPOSAL AREA. The recycling area is open 24/7 and we encourage our citizens to use this in order to reduce the amount of open burning in town and around the lake.

WE DO NOT WANT tree trunks, stumps, building materials, furniture, pots from plants or other non-compostable materials disposed of in the bays.

Recycling of old medications: Drop off at Rome City Town Hall, 402 Kelly Street.
Monday thru Friday 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

Please make sure your house address is visible from the roadway for your safety, should an emergency occur. Contact the Orange Township Fire Department, Business Number (260) 854-3875. Leave a message requesting to purchase reflective green & white address signs and someone will get back to you.

Trail Update: The Town, Park Board, Conservancy District and Noble Trails have been awarded the Next Level grant to complete the trail connections through town, along the top of the Dam, across SR 9 then north to Wolcottville. If all goes well we hope to begin construction in the late summer. We would like to thank, Rome City Conservancy District, Sylvan Lake Improvement Association and Advance Rome City for their generous donations to meet the matching grant amount. We look forward to a healthy, walkable, bike friendly town.

NEWS & EVENTS



Town Manager, Leigh Pranger CONTINUED

ROME CITY PARK BOARD:

Opening Celebration of the **Gaff Park Pavilion/Fishing Line Trail head on Saturday, June 3.** time to be determined. The park board celebration will include band, food trucks, yard games and community information. Park Board is currently working to upgrade Lakeside Park, new fenced in half-court basketball / pickleball court, upgrades to the play equipment and possible small boat launch for kayak, canoes and paddleboards.

CHAUTAUQUA DAYS: Saturday, August 12 Pickleball Tournament at Kelly Park

Grant Park & Kelly Park:

Enhancing the quality of life for both pets and their owners! The Rome City Park Department has set aside three quarters of an acre to be used as an OFF LEASH area for a dog park. This area will be between Grant Park & Kelly Park. We need to raise money for the fence, and we would like to add some benches and trees. The Town of Rome City has graciously offered to mow and take care of minor maintenance. Please help us bring this dog park to Rome City by donating. You can drop off a check with your sewer bill or donate online to:

<https://pay.paygov.us/EndUser/PaymentAgency.aspx?ttid=21846>

Note dog park in the memo area of your check or in the purpose of payment box online.

For more information email: romecity.parks@gmail.com

Or visit us at: www.townofromecity-in.org

WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT:

Power Outages - Sewer Lift Stations: Should you experience a power outage, see a red flashing light, or hear a loud bell ringing, these indicate an EMERGENCY.

Please Contact: Rome City Wastewater Dept 260-367-1710.

Your call is THE ONLY WAY employees are notified of the problem. And the only way to ensure the stations will continue to operate properly. Please do not silence the alarm without calling in the emergency or assume your neighbor called the problem in.

"FLUSHABLE WIPES - ARE NOT FLUSHABLE - OR - BIODEGRADABLE"

The Wastewater Department has an overwhelming number of calls about lift and grinder stations due to items clogged in the pumps. The main culprit is the supposedly "flushable wipes". THEY ARE NOT FLUSHABLE please dispose of them within your wastebaskets. The town strives to keep your wastewater rates low, however new pumps for the grinder stations run \$9,000 per pump and every station has two pumps. Please inform your family and visitors. Toilets are for bodily waste and toilet paper only! The town spent \$200,000 over the last year to upgrade our lift stations to try to eliminate the issues with the "flushable wipes" in the pumping stations. However, that only gets the wipes through the pumps, once they are through pumps and pipes, they end up in the wastewater lagoons floating or sinking to the bottom of the ponds where it takes **100 years for them to biodegrade**. The estimated cost to clean the lagoons of the wipes as of 2022 was \$685,000.

NEWS & EVENTS



From the desk of: David "Doc" Holliday
SLIA Bingo Hall
844 Kelly Street, Rome City, IN 46784
P: 260-854-9812

SLIA BINGO IS PLAYED TUESDAY & THURSDAY EVENINGS

Please consider joining us for a night of Bingo. The games are simple. Nothing complex at all. Come with a group of friends for a night of Bingo fun! AND you may win a little money!!!

We offer \$10 Birthday Discount within one week of your birthday! (7 days "prior to" and 7 days "after" restrictions apply.)

Special Sessions:

Each year SLIA Bingo includes special sessions like:

Blackout Bingo.

Blackout Bingo is played in the dark under black lights with special paper and daubers.

\$10,000 Special Sessions

Two \$10,000 sessions....yes, that's right \$10,000 sessions!

SLIA Bingo has been the main fund raiser for our lake and community enhancement projects for many years.

GATHER FRIENDS AND COME PLAY BINGO!

To stay current and follow our events "Like" us on Facebook: **Sylvan Lake Association Bingo**



From the desk of: RC Marshal, Paul Hoffman
Rome City Marshal's Office
402 Kelly Street, Rome City, IN 46784
P" 260-854-3113
F: 260-854-9270
E: pnhoffman@romecity-in.org

Earlier this year the Rome City Marshal's Office inserted into our water treatment booklets a KeyPoints folding reference card stressing the dangers of Social Networking.

Both Marshal Paul Hoffman and Chief Deputy Marshal Dustin Fike cannot stress enough the importance of monitoring children's privacy settings on their devices and accounts.

Please stop by RC Marshal's office for additional reference cards.

REMEMBER: TECHNOLOGY is a useful SERVANT but a dangerous MASTER

NEWS & EVENTS



From the desk of Shawn Wilson
Orange Township Trustee
101 Warrener Drive
Rome City, IN 46784

B: 260-854-2912
C: 260-502-1557
E: orangetownshiptrustee23@gmail.com
FB: Orange Township Trustee

With elections, come change.

Such was the case for Shawn Wilson, our newly elected Orange Township Trustee.

Shawn Wilson is a United State Marine Veteran having served 4 years at Camp Lejeune from 2013-2017 as a motor transportation operator. Obtaining the rank of E-4 Corporal. When he received his honorable discharge, Shawn returned home to Indiana. Shawn is no stranger to our community, prior to entering the military, he was an Orange Township Fire Department volunteer.

He currently works at a machine shop specializing in welding and at times drives a truck to deliver and pick-up molds and dies. Married to his beautiful wife of 10 years and they have a lovely 7 year old daughter.

One of Shawn's many duties includes overseeing the Orange Township Community Room. The community room offers a full kitchen for easy meal preparation. A great large gathering area complete with tables and chairs able to seat up to 125 comfortably.

To reserve the Orange Township Community Room for your next family celebration, special luncheon, or business meeting please contact:

Shawn by calling 260-854-2912 or by Email: orangetownshiptrustee23@gmail.com

Shawn believes in and understands serving others.

And looks forward to serving Orange Township and the community of Rome City.



NEWS & EVENTS

From the desk of Fire Chief, Christopher G Landers
Orange Township Fire Department
PO Box 398, Rome City, IN 46784
B: 260-854-3875
E: orangetownshipfd@gmail.com

Raised in a family who understands serving others our newly appointed Orange Township Fire Departments' Fire Chief Christopher G Landers began his firefighter experience in 2008 along side of his father and mother who served as Johnson Twp Fire Chief & Deputy Chief for more than 20 years. His mother also worked as LaGrange County Sheriff's Dept as a 911 Dispatcher. In 2017 Christopher's wife also joined the LaGrange County Sheriff's Dept as a 911 Dispatcher. He and his wife are proud parents of 4 beautiful children.

2020 after joining Orange Twp Fire Dept as a volunteer, Christopher was hired part-time at Butler Fire Department where he was able to advance his education in "National Incident Management", including on scene management skills and mitigation techniques. Then in the fall of 2022 he was honored when asked to consider leading the Orange Township Fire Dept.

To get to know Christopher more, please stop by Orange Twp Fire Department where he would be happy to share his plans and show you around.

House Signs:

Now is a good time of year to check the condition of your sign marker along the road. The visibility of these markers is essential for any emergency situation. EMT's, Fire and Police depend on homes being properly marked especially in a lake community. Markers are available for road side and dock side. To obtain, please call: 260-854-3875

Equipment Needs:

Fire Departments / First Responders are always in need of equipment. Whether it's from wear and tear or required updates. Emergency equipment is essential in serving our community. And lake communities have unique requirements.

Please consider donating to:

Orange Township Fire Department, PO Box 398, Rome City, IN 46784

Current Equipment Needs:



Reel-a-Pail Water Rescue Rope
\$ 500.00



G3 Responder EMS Backpack
\$ 400.00



ZOLL AED 3 Defibrillator
\$ 1,700.00



Fireworks Over Sylvan

Saturday, July 1

Rain Date

Sunday, July 2

2023 Lake Directories

Lake Directories will be available for SLIA members at the Annual Meeting.
Also available at:

- ADVERTISERS SUPPORTING SLIA LAKE DIRECTORY*
- Limberlost Branch Library, 164 Kelly Street, Rome City
- Nancy's Cutting Room / Inn Stitches, 180 Front Street, Rome City
- SLIA Bingo Hall entryway

PLEASE THANK THE ADVERTISERS WHO SUPPORT THE PRINTING OF SLIA DIRECTORY



DUES ENVELOPE:

ALONG WITH ANNUAL DUES PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING TO:

***FIREWORKS *SCHOLARSHIPS *WATER QUALITY**