Mississinewa Lake was designed and built by the U.S. Corps of Engineers to provide water supplies for the Lower Wabash and Ohio River floods. Situated seven miles southeast of Peru in Deaf Man Township, Jay County, Indiana, the lake has a maximum water surface area of 8,800 acres and a drainage area of 809 square miles. MISSISSINEWA LAKE—boating, boat ramp, fishing piers, docks, marina, swimming area, restrooms, cabins, camping, and other recreation facilities are designed to protect your property for future generations.

Mississinewa Lake was named for Frances Slocum, a Delaware/Seneca Native American woman who spent her childhood years at a Delaware camp on the Miami River near Deaf Man, Mississinewa Lake. She died on March 9, 1847, and was buried next to her cabin. In May 1900, that area was named the Frances Slocum Cemetery. The site of the present cemetery and a white Delaware/Seneca/Miamian monument at the Deaf Man spring are major points of interest in Deaf Man Township. The monument, erected by the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1923, was donated to the State of Indiana in 1923 and is maintained by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. The Deaf Man spring was used as a drinking source by the Miamian as early as A.D. 1000 and is believed to have been a source of water for the Mississinewa Native American village located upstream from Deaf Man. The spring is believed to be the source of the name Mississinewa.

HISTORY AND POINTS OF INTEREST

Deaf Man died in 1833 and Frances built a two-story log home at Deaf Man. In 1836, she married Eli Slocum, a Quaker home at Wilkes-Barre, Pa., by the Delaware, Seneca, and Shawnee. Because of her knowledge and her ability to speak English fluently, she became a social center, not only for the residents but also for the white men. In 1837, after her divorce, she moved to Concord and married George H. West, a farmer. Frances and George had two daughters. Frances and her family identified as an Indian, for the pension made possible by the Treaty of 1833. Two years later, two daughters were given 640 acres of land, including their mother’s original homesite. Frances and her family made Concord their home. In May 1900, that area was named the Frances Slocum Cemetery. The site of the present cemetery and a white Delaware/Seneca/Miamian monument at the Deaf Man spring are major points of interest in Deaf Man Township. The monument, erected by the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1923, was donated to the State of Indiana in 1923 and is maintained by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. The Deaf Man spring was used as a drinking source by the Miamian as early as A.D. 1000 and is believed to have been a source of water for the Mississinewa Native American village located upstream from Deaf Man. The spring is believed to be the source of the name Mississinewa.

Activities and facilities

Beach—Swimming is available during posted hours from Memorial Day through Labor Day. A modern beachhouse and shower changing area are also available to beach goers.

Lake Use—An annual lake-use permit is required for both motorized and non-motorized watercraft using the lake from the LaFontaine car top access to the lake. A brochure is available at the property office.

Boat Ramps—Each of the four state recreation areas has a concrete boat ramp. There are six car top access sites located in the resource management areas east of State Road 13.

Camping—Mississinewa SRA has modern campgrounds with hot showers and flush toilets. Full Hookup (sewage, water and electric hookups), Electric and Non-electric sites are available for overnight and consecutive nights. Three playgrounds, horseshoe pit, volleyball and basketball courts and 24-hole disc golf course available. A swimming area is provided by the lake. Puppies are not allowed on the boat ramp. A brochure is available at the property office.

Fishing—Many varieties of fish are caught in the lake. Fishing piers are available in Miami SRA during May and into October.

Hiking—Marked trails are available all year.

Hunting—All hunters are required to law to sign in and return a hunting permit card to a hunter at the sign-in station. Hunting is allowed in designated wildlife areas in season. No hunting is permitted within areas marked as safety zones, seasonal refuge or restricted areas. Hunters are not required to sign in and out of the Corps hunting areas.

Interpretive Naturalist Service—Programs are presented in the summer at the Miami modern campground. Program schedules are available at Interpretive Services, (260) 243-1960 or 1-800-297-3544.

Picnic Areas and Shelters—Both the Miami and Frances Slocum SRA provide shady and scenic views of the lake with access to picnic tables, grills and water. There are two shelters in the Miami SRA and one shelter in the Frances Slocum SRA. Reservations for shelters are available through the Central Reservation System. The Corps of Engineers maintains two shelters, one at the Outlet Fishing Site and one at the Observation Mountain Recreation (ORM) site. They can be used on a ‘first-come, first-served’ basis or reserved through the Corps of Engineers Office.

Central Reservation System

Reservations for all types of camping, family cabins, group camps, and cabins, and picnic areas may be made online or by calling toll-free.

For more information

Write: Mississinewa Lake
4673 S. 625 E.
Peru, IN 46970-9745
Call: 765-473-5946
Fax: 765-473-7942
Online: Mississinewalake.com

Lake levels, water releases, and the dam:
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
565 E. Mississinewa Dam Rd.
Peru, IN 46970-9745
Call: 1-866-ecampIN
Online: camp.IN.gov

Reservations for Indiana State Park Inns and Indiana Inns are available through Indiana Inns.com or by calling 866-6campIN

Special Note

Receipts from admission and service charges are used to help defray the operation and maintenance costs of the lake. List of fees available in the main office.

Special Note

Please carry out all trash you produce in order to keep your park clean and beautiful for others to enjoy.