

LAKE GEORGE BREEZE

Vol—75, February –No 1

THE 2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 4: Freedom Fest - Boat Parade & Fireworks

May 23: Beach Directors Meeting

July 25: Annual LGCA Meeting

June 12-13: Garage Sales

July 25: Annual LGCD Meeting

July 3: Freedom Fest Music

Sept. 5: Beach Directors Meeting

Letter from the President

Happy New Year. We hope 2020 will be a great year for all Lake George Cottagers.

2020 Dues Statements are included in this mailing. Please make payment prior to April 1. You can conveniently pay online with a credit card or Paypal at www.LakeGeorgeIN.com.

Great progress was made in 2019 on transitioning the management of invasive weeds and dam maintenance to new organizations. The Lake George Conservancy District (not to be confused with the Lake George Conservancy) was formed in Indiana and the Lake Board was formed in Michigan to manage invasive weed control. You will notice we are not asking you to pay dues for invasive weed control this year as that charge will now appear on your property tax bills.

The Lake George Conservancy District will work with another entity to be formed in Michigan to manage maintenance of the dam. See Rick Weaver's update in this Breeze for details. We are charging dues for this item in 2020, but we expect it will transition to your property tax bill in 2021.

The remaining dues elements (LGCA, Fireworks, Dam Maintenance & Fish Fund) have been left at the same total level as the past two years. We increased the amount for Fireworks by \$10 to \$40 to account for increasing costs and to maintain the high level of quality for our annual show. The LGCA line item was decreased by \$10. We hope all Lake George Cottagers will consider paying the full amount of \$145, which is a small annual contribution to the success of our community.

We would like to increase the number of human interest stories in The Breeze this year, particularly focusing on the history of Lake George. As we get older, the rich stories and lake lore might get lost. Publishing stories in The Breeze will keep this history alive and will serve as a refresher for young and old. If you have a story you wish to share or just have a topic you want covered, please submit your ideas to the email address below. Here's a sample topic: "When did the lighthouse go up and what's the story behind it?"

July 4 falls on a Saturday this year, so the boat parade and fireworks show will happen on Independence Day. The theme for the 2020 boat parade is Favorite Movie!

The LGCA Officers remain the same in 2020. Dave Sorg (Vice President), Linda Weaver (Secretary), and Rick Weaver (Treasurer) join me in serving you. If you are interested in becoming an officer in 2021, please contact me. New officers will be elected at the annual meeting on July 25.

Kevin Snyder
Mobile (817) 247-8816
lakegeorgecottagersassociation@gmail.com

LAKE GEORGE CONSERVANCY UPDATE

The Lake George Conservancy Board has terrific news. On Friday, January 24, we closed on 16.5 acres of the Swift farm. This is the property on the southwest corner of Angola Road and Lane 201, best described as the corner of the 4 Way Stop with all the ugly business signs!!

The Board is excited to add this property to our holdings as it represents the biggest commercial development threat surrounding the lake. As we presented at our special meeting, the property appraised for \$465,000 but the owners agreed to sell it to the LGC for \$340,000. The Capital Campaign that was started to replenish some of the restricted funds raised roughly \$130,000. This is a great testimony to the level of commitment the LGC membership had for locking down this property.

We would like to thank John Albright for his assistance with the legal work and Beth Beach for providing advice as we approached the closing process. With their support, we were able to minimize our closing cost to roughly \$8,000, including survey fee.

The board has begun the process of eliminating the commercial signs on the Swift Corner and we have targeted March 31 as the date to begin removal.

The projects for 2020 include continued development of the Oak Savana at the Orchard, with additional tree cluster plantings and the establishment of the butterfly sanctuary. The Preserve will continue to have invasive weed eradication. The parking lot on the carpet store land, along the western side of Angola Road, will be removed and replaced with the fill dirt on site.

The board is anxiously awaiting the warmth of spring to get started on these and other new projects. Once again, thank you for your support.

Matt Minnick, President

Lake George Conservancy District Director Opening (Beach 1 and 2)

The Lake George Conservancy District Board is made up of 5 directors - each of which has a 4 year term and each representing different beaches in Indiana. At our inception last year we created the initial board with staggered terms. Gary Zandstra who represents beach 1 and 2 (Spring Bank North and South) is the first director to have his term expire in July of this year.

We wish to recognize and thank Gary for his service!

As you recall, the LGCD is currently responsible for invasive weed management (in conjunction with the Michigan Lake Improvement board) and are planning to be responsible for dam maintenance beginning later this year. We meet either in person or via conference call approximately 4 times a year including the annual meeting in July. It is likely that several special meetings will also be required as specific decisions regarding weed management and dam maintenance are needed.

If you are interested in these critically important activities and want to serve your fellow lakera please call me at 765-637-8343 or email me at davesorg54@gmail.com

**Gratefully, Dave Sorg
President - LGCD**

Invasive Weeds and Legal Lake Level Update

The Conservancy District and the Cottagers Association have continued to make strides in completing the necessary work to finalize legal issues on Invasive Weeds and the Legal Lake Level.

In October 2019, the Conservancy District received approval from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources for the District Plan. The plan covers both Invasive Weeds and Dam Maintenance / Improvements and outlines future work to be undertaken by the Board. To finalize the legal portion, a final hearing is required. On January 24, 2020, the Steuben County Circuit Court held a hearing in which the District Plan was officially approved. The final order is expected to be received in early February 2020. This approval means no other review process is required for the Indiana Lake George Conservancy District. The signed, final order was received January 30, 2020. The Board, however, is still working with the Kinderhook Township Attorneys to get the Interlocal agreement approval through the Michigan State Attorney General's Office. Approval is expected in February 2020.

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Both the Conservancy District and the Cottagers Association Boards continue to work with Branch County to create a legal lake level on the Michigan side for dam maintenance and improvements. The legal lake level on the Indiana side was set in 1947.

In October 2019, the petitions were submitted to the County Drain Commissioner's Office for verification. We were notified in November that we had met our goal and they would begin the next phase. A **huge thank you** to all the Michigan residents for your patience and understanding in successfully completing the petition portion of the Legal Lake Level process.

The final process is now in the hands of Branch County. They are to submit a petition to the Branch County Circuit Court and obtain a formal ruling on the legal lake level in Michigan. The process is anticipated to take approximately six months (July 2020) and then an Interlocal Agreement needs to be approved. The anticipated timeline to totally complete the Legal Lake Process is December 2020.

Respectfully submitted:
Rick Weaver
LGCA Special Projects Coordinator

LAKE GEORGE VETERANS!!

One last chance before the Memorial Day Breeze comes out in May to submit your name, when and where you served this great country.

Please take a moment and email me:
fschlatter@frontier.com

We would love to honor you and your service.

Thank you! Breeze Editor
Faye Schlatter

HONOR A LOVED ONE!

If you have lost a loved one who lived on Lake George and would like to honor this person, please submit details email: fschlatter@frontier.com. before the May Breeze comes out.

Thank you!

Faye Schlatter, Breeze Editor

LAKE GEORGE IT 'S TIME TO THINK SPRING!!!

