LAKE GEORGE BREEZE

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Lake George Cottagers Association

2019 Calendar of Events

May 25 – Beach Director's Meeting
June 14-15 – Garage Sales
July 6 – Freedom Fest & Fireworks
July 20 – Annual Cottager's Association Meeting
August 31 – Beach Director's Meeting

A WINTER SOCIAL COMING RIGHT UP!!

Lake George Cottagers are invited to a Winter Social event on **Saturday, March 30th from 6:30 to 9:00pm.** The event will be held in the adjacent event room at Sutton's Deli on the Square in Angola. Hot and cold hors d'oeuvres will be served. A cash bar serving beer, wine and liquor will be available. **The cost is $16.00 per person,** which includes the room rental, food and gratuities.

To reserve participation, mail a **check to Robin Snyder, 300 LN 301B Lake George, Fremont, IN 46737 by the deadline of March 16th.** Limited to the first **seventy-five (75) registrations**.

LAKE GEORGE CONSERVANCY

During the winter of 2018 the Lake George Regional Sewer District decided to sell some unused property. The property was listed in two tracts and is located along Old 27 just south of the marina. The first tract is where the old carpet store used to stand and is now a gravel turn-around. The second tract a triangular tract south of tract one and reaching approximately half way to the four-way stop of Old 27 and Lane 201. The Conservancy was interested in the property since it is a nice wooded buffer along the east side of the lake and is adjacent to the original Lake George Preserve. The Conservancy was successful in acquiring the property with closing scheduled some time in the early spring. Planning will begin in the near future on the restoration of this property to its' natural state. At the same time, the Conservancy, after consultations with some of the lake residents and the Blue Heron Ministries, is working on a final plan for the orchard property. When the final plan is finished it will be posted on the Conservancy website (**www.lakegeorgeconservancy.com)** and on the Conservancy's Facebook site. Like the Conservancy's Facebook site to get the most recent updates of any projects, events or other communications. And you can always contact us via email at **lakegeorgeconservancy@gmail.com.**

On a sad note. The Lake George family lost several members during the past year. The Conservancy received memorial contributions in memory of Dick Burrows, Diane Brubaker, Duane Emerson, Jim Fox, Mary Jane Gray, George Hankins, Dianne Herring, Fred Marolf, and Don Wallis

MY FELLOW LAKE GEORGE LOVERS

Hello, my name is **DAVE SORG** your newly elected **Vice President** for the Lake George Cottager's Association (LGCA).

The responsibilities of the VP – LGCA includes managing the invasive weed control of our lake and the launch of the always spectacular July 4th fireworks display.

The control of **invasive weeds** while keeping our native weed beds healthy is a critically important effort to allow all of us to enjoy all the water activities we love. In case you may not be up to speed on this battle, we currently have two major types of invasive weeds in Lake George: 1) Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) and 2) Starry Stonewort (SSW). We have been battling these two species for years much like each of us battle dandelions in our yards. We know that not treating dandelions will result a yard full of weeds and less grass. Similarly, non-treatment for these invasive weeds will lead to the death of native weeds and a lake that is non-navigable for boating.

In 2018, $67,000.00 was spent to control these weeds in Lake George. This included one treatment of EWM for $24,000 and two treatments of SSW for $43,000. Fortunately, this cost was offset by Federal Government Program Grants totaling $48,000.00. This left $19,000 plus some permit and study costs for the LGCA to cover.

Even with the substantial sum spent in 2018, the second treatment for SSW only addressed half of the lake. In addition, our survey of the lake and discussion with our weed control contractor indicates the 2018 application for EWM was less effective than in previous years. This is due to the weed adapting/mutating to resist the current chemical.

The bottom line is that weed control for 2019 will be more expensive. The new chemical to treat EWM is more expensive and we plan to treat the entire lake twice for SSW. The total estimated cost for 2019 is $47,000 to treat EWM and $50,000 to treat SSW. At this time, we are assuming that Federal Government grants will remain at 2018 levels. This leaves $49,000 for the LGCA to cover - **an increase of $30,000.**

If you own property on Lake George this is a cost for which you need to feel accountable! If you have not contributed to this fund in the past I am asking you to reconsider this year. Please contribute the $125 to this **critically important** effort to keep our lake beautiful and useable in 2019 and beyond!

On the **Fireworks** front, we were informed in early January of a 7% (approximately $750) price increase due to the increased cost of importing material from China. In order to keep the show on par with our recent experience we will need to spend more. Please contribute $30 for this beautiful show we all enjoy.

We are really counting on YOUR financial participation more than ever this year!

Dave Sorg—VP – Lake George Cottagers' Association

SPIRIT OF LAKE GEORGE AWARD – 2018

Many people devote their time and energy to make Lake George a great place to live. The contributions from these individuals should be given special recognition; therefore, originating the Spirit of Lake George Award since 1981 from "Reflections on Lake George".

The 2018 Spirit of Lake George Award is awarded to Thomas Dent and Mike Melchi. These two men (our past LGCA President and Vice President) have worked tirelessly over the past 3+ years to upgrade the systems used by the LGCA, consolidate what was previously random useless data into meaningful information, bring Lake George into the 21st Century with a presence on the internet and on Facebook, keep our lake relatively free of invasive weeds, upgrade the fireworks show to an annual extravaganza – to name a few of their accomplishments. From left to right: Dave Sorg (LGCA VP), Mike Melchi, Thomas Dent, Kevin Snyder (LGCA President)

Please congratulate and thank these young men for a job more than well done!

Letter from the President

Happy New Year! I hope 2019 will be a wonderful year for all at Lake George.

Dave Sorg and I have joined Linda Weaver and Rick Weaver on the LGCA Board of Directors for 2019. Linda will be serving as Secretary and Rick has taken over the Treasurer responsibilities. I want to thank retiring officers Tommy Dent, Mike Melchi and Danny King for their fine work on behalf of the LGCA. We look forward to building on the solid foundation they have established.

Article II of the Bylaws of the Lake George Cottagers Association states the purpose of our organization, that being "to preserve, protect, enhance, and promote Lake George and its environs." Many of our families have enjoyed Lake George for generations and we all want to preserve our beautiful lake environment for future generations.

The 2019 dues statements are being distributed with this mailing. We ask that you pay your dues by April 1, 2019. There are several options available. You can mail a check or you can conveniently pay online using Paypal, credit card or a debit card. Don't forget to update your personal information as that information is used for printing of the annual directory.

Dues for the Lake George Cottagers Association are voluntary, however full participation of all members is vitally important to our continued achievement of the purpose statement above. You might be surprised to learn that only 48% of cottagers pay the full amount of the dues assessment. Payment statistics for the individual components of the assessment are as follows.

77% - Association Dues **64% - Dam Maintenance** **52% Fish Fund**
72% - Fireworks Fund **65% - Invasive Weed Control**

2019 dues are being held constant at $270.00 as a result of good fiscal management in the past, however the financial needs of the association are increasing. In this winter edition of The Breeze, Dave Sorg reports on the growing challenge and costs of controlling invasive weed species in Lake George.

The 2019 assessment continues to include allocations for Dam Maintenance and Invasive Weed Control. These components will eventually transition to the Lake George Conservancy District (Indiana) and the Lake Board (Michigan). Rick Weaver has provided an update on the formation of these entities.

The dues assessment is a relatively small price to pay to preserve Lake George as one of the very best lakes in this region. I encourage all cottagers to pay the full amount of $270 so we may continue to preserve, protect, enhance, and promote Lake George and its environs.

The LGCA always needs interested cottagers to volunteer to assist with event planning and management, including the Freedom Fest 4th of July Celebration, the fireworks display and the annual boat parade. If you are interested, please email the association (email address below).

We encourage and value your feedback. Please do not hesitate to contact me and the other LGCA officers with questions, comments or concerns at LakeGeorgeCottagersAssociation@gmail.com. Follow us on Facebook and consult www.lakegeorgein.com or www.lakegeorgemi.com for additional information. Thank you for your continued support of Lake George and the Lake George Cottagers Association.

Kevin Snyder
President – LGCA
Mobile: (817) 247-8816

LakeGeorgeCottagersAssociation@gmail.com.
www.lakegeorgein.com or
www.lakegeorgemi.com

Indiana Conservancy District / Michigan Lake Board Update

The Indiana Lake George Conservancy District petitions in 2017 and the Michigan Lake George Lake Board petitions in 2018 resulted in favorable response to create these two organizations.

The Indiana Conservancy District was finalized in September 2018 with the appointment of the Directors by the Steuben County Commissioners. The Directors met and elected officers as follows: President Dave Sorg (Beach 3 & 4), Vice-President Jim Gallogly (Beach 11 & 12), Secretary Tom Strasser (Beach 6 & 7), Treasurer Rex Melchi (Beach 8, 9, & 10), Board Member Gary Zandstra (Beach 1 & 2).

The Board is currently working on various issues setting up the new organization and will coordinate with the Michigan Lake Board when it is created. The Board has begun working on the District Plan (required by Indiana DNR) which will also include the Michigan Lake Board.

There are some outstanding issues to be resolved on the Michigan Lake Board. The committee continues work with Kinderhook Township, Branch County Drain Commissioner, and Branch County Commissioners to resolve these issues. It is hoped the issues will be resolved by Spring 2019 and then the two boards will meet to coordinate their efforts.

Please note there is a definite difference between the Lake George Conservancy (LGC) and the newly formed Lake George Conservancy District (LGCD).

The **Lake George Conservancy** exists to protect and preserve the quality of the ecosystems of Lake George and its watershed through education, research, and procurement of sensitive land.

The State of Indiana required the newly formed **Lake George Conservancy District (LGCD)** to have, in the title, the conservancy district designation. The LGCD will manage invasive weeds and dam maintenance and have the ability to secure loans and grants and assess for specific projects only. The **Michigan Lake George Lake Board (LGLB)** will have similar responsibilities as the District.

Respectively submitted: **Rick Weaver, LGCA Treasurer**

WELCOME NEW LG RESIDENTS!

KOPE KON and Lake George residents please **WELCOME** Tim and Cheryl MACHAK!! One thing to note is that Tim is very tall; he is standing down one step and Cheryl is standing up one step!!

CHERYL & TIM MACHAK

Tim and Cheryl purchased and moved into their new home at 1035 Kope Kon Road this past November. Their home, across from the Orchard, was formerly owned by Brian and Karen Hoeppner of Woodburn, IN.

Moving to Lake George will be the beginning of their retirement. Tim worked as an engineer for U.S. Steel and Cheryl retired from her Deputy Clerk's position.

They moved here to be closer to their two children and their grandchildren, Sophia, 3, and Connor, 5. The daughter and her husband live in Marshall, MI, and their son is from the suburbs of Detroit.

They both enjoyed living f on Merritt Lake in Metamora, MI .for the past 32 yrs. Now each look forward to making new memories here at Lake George. They love to boat, fish and snowmobiling in northern MI.

"Winter at Lake George"

We're almost half thru winter—
It seems to go so slow
So just relax and snuggle in —
As the winter winds still blow.
Still winter is a good time tho —
To do things you desire.
To play a game or read a book —
Get cozy by the fire!
Hope everybody's holidays —
Were happy — filled with cheer.
Here's wishing that each one of you
Has a fun filled, great NEW YEAR!

Thanks to Jackie Uslar who lives on LN 301B, for sharing a winter poem she wrote to share with all of us year-round residents! Thanks Jackie!

Appertaining to Memoriam

The LGCA would like to publish a list of cottagers and friends of Lake George who have passed in the last year. The list will be published in the:

Memorial Day edition of the Breeze annually.

We need your assistance in assembling this list and respectively ask that you submit the names of such individuals to the LGCA email address at:

lakegeorgecottagers association@gmail.com.

Thank you from LGCA

JACK L. MCAFEE

Jack, 83, past away September 9, 2018 Jack was born in Wells County IN and lived in Ft Wayne before retiring and moved into his Kope Kon Road home. He and his wife Mariene were long time permanent residents of Lake George and were married 63 years.

Jack worked as heavy equipment operator for Dehner, Shambaugh & Fox Construction for many years! Jack is survived by his wife, 2 children and 6 grandchildren and 1 great-granddaughter.

Jack loved cruising the lake on his pontoon with family and friends . He also loved fishing, corn-hole, and was a **BIG IU** fan!

SWAN THOUGHT IT WAS WATER!!

BILL SCHLATTER TO THE RESCUE!!

Sunday, January 12, a young swan, we think, thought he was landing on either solid ice or water! But he fell through the thin layer of ice! He was trapped! We watched him struggle to get out, he first tried to go back the way he came in—it closed! He turned back to the hole he created and tried to flap his wings and fly out, to no avail! He kept pushing forward and made some progress. After 45 minutes of watching him struggle, Bill finally got the kayak out and made his way to the swan and guided him to open water!! He's free!

LAKE GEORGE!

Please WELCOME new full-time and part-time residents!

Tim & Kristy Adams	100 LN 301B Lake George
Kathy Alvarez	1027 Nipigon Beach Rd
Tim & Connie Brennan	414 Sandy Beach Rd
Gary & Sarah Demaree	455 LN 201B
Mark Hoeppner	200 LN 301 Lake George
Kenton & Linda Kleine	1047 Nipigon Beach Rd
Tim & Cheryl Machak	1035 Kope Kon Rd
Ned & Vicki Melchi	1038 Bay View
Peter & Melody Wyall; Derek & Rhonda Paris; Kisamron & Sarah Wright	240 LN 301C Lake George