LAKE GEORGE BREEZE

VOL 76 - MAY/JUNE 2021 – NO 2

President's Letter

Welcome back to "the Lake"! To say a lot has gone on in the months since Labor Day is a great understatement! Planning has been underway for the boat parade, fireworks, weed treatment, fish study, dam repair, a new website, the 2021 directory and this weekend's "Light up the Lake" - to name a few. Many of these items are included in the articles in this newsletter.

Your beach directors will be distributing the new 2021 directory along with this edition of the Breeze. If you have not paid your 2021 dues, please use the form inside the directory to mail your payment or visit our website www.lakegeorgein.com to pay with Paypal. Your participation ensures the great experience we have come to enjoy! If you have questions or concerns – please call me!

Finally, please mark the annual meeting of the Cottager's Association and Conservancy District on your calendar (July 17 at 8:30am/9:30am Place:TBD). We will be discussing (among other things) the plans for the repair of the dam and the related property tax assessment.

Remember to Light up the Lake this Sunday night!!

I hope you will all enjoy Lake George to its fullest this summer – **SAFE – RESPECTFUL – FUN**!!

President, Lake George Cottager's Association Dave Sorg–765-637-8343

lakegeorgecottagersassociation@gmail.com

2021 EVENT CALENDAR

LGCA Beach Directors Mtg 5/29
Memorial Day Lights 5/30
Garage Sale 6-11 & 6/12
LG Conservancy Annual Mtg 6/19
Fireworks & Boat Parade 7/3
BBQ Chicken Pickup 7/3
Annual LGCA 7/17
Annual LGCD Mtg 7/17
LG Conservancy Hog Roast 8/28
LGCA Beach Directories Mtg 9/4
Luminaries 9/5

HONORING OUR LAKE GEORGE VETS

Robert (Bob) Larimore, 2nd generation on Lake George, entered the Army on March 3,1943. He received his training at Camp Blanding, Fla. and A.S.T.P. at Bowdoin College in Maine. He was a member of the 101st Infantry Regiment. On December 2,1944 near Saar Union, France, the 101st Regiment was temporarily halted by the direct fire of hostile tanks and machine guns. Enemy mines and booby traps along the road leading into the city prevented friendly artillery from moving into the city to deliver fire against the enemy armored vehicles and automatic weapons emplacement. Pfc. Larimore and a comrade volunteered to go forward and clear the road. Despite enemy mortar and small arms fire, they successfully swept the road of the mines and booby traps though forced at times to crawl forward because of tense enemy action. He was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his courage, strong initiative, and devotion to duty. He served in France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Czechoslovakia and Germany with the Third Army.

EDWARD C. SPRINGER

US ARMY VETERAN

Edward served in the Korean War 1951-1953. He worked with service men who returned every two weeks from active duty. He had high respect for all service men and all people there. Ed and his wife had a cottage on Lake George for 45 yrs. Ed passed away December 2020.

Inland Cat Class Sailing Association

All novice and experienced sailors are welcome to participate in the 2021 sailing season. The first Inland Cat racing session is June 5th at 1:30pm. This is a great opportunity for everyone interested in sailing to enjoy the start of summer and the excitement of sailing. If you are new to sailing, we'd love to introduce you to the fun of Inland Cat sailing.

Full racing calendar: June 5; June 19; July 10; July 18; July 24; Aug 7; Aug 21.

Contact Jonathan Larimore for more information (734-892-7131).

Lake George Conservancy BBQ Chicken Fundraiser Saturday July 3rd

Featuring Nelson BBQ Pick up 10 to 1p.m.

$8.00 for 1/2 Chicken, buy 10 get 1 free!!

Volunteers needed!! Work July 3 from 10–11:30 or 11:30 to 1 pm shift

CALL MATT MINNICK 563-613-3165 or mattandjulieminnick@gmail.com

LASER NEWS

Spring is here with some warmer temperatures, greening grass and de-iced lake water! Have your thoughts turned to sailing?

The 2021 Laser summer racing schedule begins on June 12 with each racing sessions having two back-to-back races which count toward the season's standings. The 11th Annual Laser Regatta will be held on July 17, and each skipper's two best finishes of the day will count toward the season's standings as well. More details about the Regatta will be available in June.

Kirsten Meyer continues to serve as our fleet treasurer and welcomes your dues of $25, check payable to LGSA, and mailed to her at 1081 Kope Kon Road, Coldwater, MI 49036.

Since we hope COVID will not be as much of a consideration this summer, we will have a couple of social events as the summer progresses with details as they become available. Plan on our final party and awards ceremony following the August 28th race, and the Regatta party and awards ceremony on July 17th, locations to be announced.

June 12–Laser Races 1 & 2
July 17-- Laser Regatta (best 2 finishes = Races 5 & 6)
Aug. 14--Laser Races 9 & 10
June 26--Laser Races 3 & 4
July 31–Laser Races 7 & 8
Aug. 28–Laser Races 11 & 12

Edwin Boknecht, Veteran, Friend, Resident

Forest Park South residents lost a long-time neighbor and friend when Ed passed away on Dec. 2, 2020 at the age of 96. Ed served his country in the Army Air Corps flying 13 combat missions on a B-24 Bomber while stationed in the Philippines during WWII. He retired from Phelps Dodge after 39 years in the "Rolling Mill."

Ed's many interests included the Cubs, IU Basketball, golf, and flying/crashing remote controlled airplanes. His greatest passion was Lake George where he enjoyed friends, boating, fishing, sailing his Inland Cat, greeting passers-by and telling speeders to SLOW DOWN from his back porch on Lane 201.

RIP Eddie, you will be remembered always by your many Lake George friends, especially those on the "South Shore."

Phyllis Castle, Wife, Mother, Grandmother & Great Grandmother

Phyllis was born October 14, 1928, Ft. Wayne, the middle child of 11. She attended New Haven HS. She met Wally "Butch" Castle in 1947 and married in 1950. She and Wally were married 71 yrs! She is survived by Wally, her husband and 2 of 3 children. Wally and Phyllis built their home on Kope Kon back in 1970 and moved to the lake in 1973. They both loved gardening and planted flowers, several fruit trees and a big vegetables garden. Phyllis greeted everyone with her big beautiful smile and invited everyone in. Phyllis passed away on January 2, 2021 at the age of 92, and was a lovely lady!! Phyllis will reunite with her oldest daughter who passed away in 2008. Phyllis will be missed dearly by family and friends. Rest in peace.

LAKE GEORGE FRIENDS WHO PASSED AWAY

Delmar Karnes, 800 Lane 301, passed away January, 2021

Bud Kemp, 315 Caroline Drive, passed away April 30, 2020 at 83 years of age

Victor (Vic) Martin

Victor (Vic) Martin died on Sunday, March 7, 2021. Vic was born April 28, 1947 in Fort Wayne and started coming to the lake in the early 60's with his lifelong friend, Dennis Mahuren. From those trips he found a love for lake life.

Vic earned a Bachelor of Architecture degree from University of Oklahoma and also completed classes at Harvard University's Graduate School of Design. In 1971, Vic married Nancy Kimmel in Tulsa, Oklahoma and soon thereafter moved to Fort Wayne where Vic established Martin-Riley Architects & Engineers.

For over 30 years, Vic designed many projects in the Fort Wayne area. He also had a love for trains from early childhood, and when the City of Fort Wayne planned to demolish the Pennsylvania Train Station on Baker Street in downtown Fort Wayne, Vic purchased it, restored it, and located his offices in the building.

While Vic designed many architectural structures, he also began designing quality homes on the lake. He and Nancy had a unique love for Lake George and began renting in 1974 and purchased their home in 1985 where they had many happy times with family and friends. It is estimated he designed new or renovations to more than 50 homes on the lake in addition to unique renovations to his home.

Vic is survived by Nancy, two sons Jim (Zoe) Martin and Jeff Martin, three grandsons Cash, James, and Arley Martin, a brother, David (Cathy) Martin, niece, Becky Martin; nephew, Seth (Jessica) Martin; in-laws Bill Kimmel, Janice Scudder and Doris Mathews.

Vic was involved in many activities helping people. He was active in his church and one activity that was special to his heart was working with The Carriage House in Fort Wayne (an organization assisting people in their recovery from mental illness and reintegration into the community).

His humor, easy laughter, love of life, friendly smile and welcoming handshake will be missed by all who knew him. A Celebration of Vic's Life is set for June 17, 2021 from 4-7 pm at the Baker Street Train Station in Fort Wayne.

DONATIONS TO THE LAKE GEORGE CONSERVANCY IN HONOR OF ROBERT ALAN JOHNSTON

Robert Alan Johnston, 52, passed away Monday, January 27, 2020. Rob was born September 13, 1967 in Fort Wayne, Indiana, the son of Stuart and Theresa (Niegos) Johnston. He was a graduate of Northrop High School. He received his Bachelor's degree from Wabash College and a Master's degree in Archeology from Florida State University. He was a proud member of the Phi Gamma Delta fraternity and Studebaker Museum Club. He spent a career working in the financial industry, most recently with Nicholas Financial. His true passion in life was spending time with family and friends at Lake George. He grew up on Lake George and returned as a cottage owner near his mother's cottage on the Mill Pond.

He is survived by his wife, Averna; sons, Stuart and John; mother Theresa Johnston (Walter Brock) of Fort Wayne; brothers Louis (Rita) Johnston of Westlake, Ohio, David (Melissa) Johnston of Greenwood, Indiana, Christopher (Leann) Johnston of Leesburg, Indiana; and 12 nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father, Stuart Adams Johnston. He is buried in West Jamestown Cemetery in Fremont.

A memorial has been established at the Lake George Conservancy. You can contribute by sending a check made out to Lake George Conservancy, 1042 Angola Road; Coldwater, MI 49036; or going on-line at LakeGeorgeConservancy.com. Be sure to note on your check that this donation is for the "Rob Johnston memorial".

REMINDER - Light Up the Lake on Memorial Day!

Don't forget to light up your shoreline on Sunday, May 30! **RULES:**

Light up the lake side of your cottage or shoreline with electric lights on the evening of Sunday, May 30.
Be careful with electricity around water!
Use any color lights you want. Christmas lights are a great idea.
Cruise the lake and enjoy the view!

LAKE GEORGE WALKING GROUP

LG walking group has consistently walked all over the lake shores for a full year now. We celebrated walking enough miles to make it to NYC. Left to right: Renate Brenneke, Kate Ranshaw, Maizie Andrews, Jody Larimore, Mary Albright, Anne Ferguson, Diane Davis, Sue Boomer, Deb VanAman, Julie Minnick. We leave at 9 AM, mon- fri, from different locations around the lake. We walk 3-4 miles a day, and anyone can join us!! Call Diane Davis— 312-933-5877.

BABY BOY "GEORGE"

Alyssa Zinsser and Max Hall were Lake George neighbors, childhood friends but this friendship grew into a summer and then college romance! Julie and Max were married January, 2019 .

They would like share and introduce to all their Lake George friends and family, their new son

"George Hall"!

George was born May 18, 2021! The new family live in Ft Wayne and plan to make many trips to the lakes this summer. Welcome to the Lake ,Baby George!

BLUE HERON MINISTRIES & LAKE GEORGE CONSERVANCY

Volunteers from both groups planted more Oak trees to turn the former Orchard into an Oak Savanah—just off Kope Kon Road.

The Oak Savanna Restoration

In early April, the Lake George Conservancy planted 285 trees in the final phase of the Oak Savanna property restoration. The actual tree planting was performed by Blue Heron Ministries. Following the planting, a volunteer group of members spread mulch and installed stakes and deer protection tubes over the trees.

As we have previously communicated, this final planting utilized smaller trees in greater number for each memorial tree cluster. Unfortunately, given the very large deer population in the area these smaller trees are susceptible to complete ruin as the deer eat them down to the roots. The result is a visual of many blue tubes, each of which has a tree planted in it. The experts tell us the tree tubes should be expected to stay over the trees for several years.

The next project on the Savanna restoration will be to create a walking path which will meander close to each memorial tree cluster. After that we will install the commentative brass plaques to memorialize the beneficiaries.

Families or individuals, please note: the Conservancy has new clusters of Oak trees available for families or individuals to make a donation in the amount of **$1200** to be designated for as a memorial for you or loved ones. A plaque will be placed along the path in front of the cluster of trees. Please contact Matt Minnick about information and acquiring a cluster of trees.

I invite everyone to visit the Oak Tree restoration, located behind the remnants of the old Apple Orchard.

LAKE GEORGE CONSERVANCY NEWS

The Lake George Conservancy 2021 membership drive is underway, and to date we have received a good response to the annual appeal for renewals and new members. Membership dues are one of four primary sources of our annual operating funds, with the Boutique, Fourth of July Chicken BBQ and Sustaining Campaign being the others. Please consider joining our growing list of members to ensure that we can continue to meet our goals for preserving the quality of life at Lake George.

The board expects restoration of the Swift acreage to begin this fall. We again will have the local farmer plant soybeans, as this is an ideal crop for our planned clover and tree planting. Following his harvest and tillage, we will be able to get on the land and start our restoration efforts.

The Boutique opening is on the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend. Hours are from 10am to 1pm. Sue Boomer and Pam Lauts are working on getting the new merchandise readied for sale. **Also, this will be the last year for Sue and Pam running the Boutique. If anyone would be interested in taking on this project, please contact any board member**. We will set up a time to define the roles and processes used.

Lastly, the **Chicken BBQ fund raiser is July 3rd**. Tickets have increased to $8.00, as our cost for the chickens have increased nearly 30%. The pickup location will remain the Shelton Fireworks parking lot, from 10 AM to 1 PM.

Thanks, and have a terrific Memorial Day Weekend

Matt Minnick-President Lake George Conservancy

DISTRICT DIRECTOR OPENING—WILL YOU HELP?

(Beach 6 and 7)

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, we created the initial board with staggered terms. Tom Strasser who represents beach 6 and 7 (Lake George Beach – West and Forest Park - South) has his term expiring in July of this year. We wish to recognize and thank Tom for his service!

As you recall, the LGCD is currently responsible for invasive weed management (in conjunction with the Michigan Lake Improvement board) and is planning to be responsible for dam maintenance beginning 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 lakers, please call me at **765-637- 8343 or email me at davesorg54@gmail.com**

Gratefully, Dave Sorg. President - LGCD

THIS IS YOUR BOUNDARY LAKE – ENJOY IT – KNOW THE RULES

Lake George is a boundary lake because the lake encompasses two states and therefore special laws apply: **IC14-15-3-9**

Restrictions of Operation on boundary lakes

Between 6:30 p.m. and 10:00 a.m. boaters may NOT do the following:

1.Operate a boat at a speed greater than 10 mph

2. Tow an object with a boat except a disabled boat or an object incidental to fishing

In addition, the law provides that:

Power boats must go directly out or directly in to shore at idle speed and idle speed must be observed inside all buoys. Powered craft **MUST REMAIN OUTSIDE** of the buoys which are placed to protect designated swim areas.

Life Jackets - one per person required. Children under six (6) years of age must wear an approved life jacket. Being pulled by any vessel requires a person to wear an approved life jacket.

Boat registrations must be in all powered crafts at all times.

Lake George follows the Michigan Law of all motor power crafts are to operate in a **counter-clockwise direction** when traveling around the perimeter of the lake.

Non powered (no motor) vessels have the **RIGHT OF WAY**! (Sailboats, canoes, paddle boats and boards, kayaks)

Two vessels approaching each other - the vessel to the right has the right of way.

Motored vessels **prop law** provides that no person should sit on the side (gunnel) of the vessel or on the swim platform while the vessel is in motion and the prop is turning.

All motor powered craft must be properly **lighted** for night operation.

Jet skis - life jackets are required at all times. The State of Indiana requires a jet ski operator to be at least **15 years of age** and have proof of certificate of passing the Indiana boaters safety course.

EMERGENCY- 911	Steuben County Sheriff - 260-665-3131\
	Branch County Sheriff - 517-278-2325
FIRE - 911	
HOSPITALS	Cameron Hospital - Angola, IN - 260-665-2141
	Coldwater Hospital - Coldwater, MI - 517-279-5400

LAKE GEORGE BOOK CLUB BEGINS

2021 Book Club has resumed after a very confusing year. At this point we are still meeting in the Conservancy building and maybe as the weather will allow we can meet outside. We meet on the fourth Thursday of the month at 10:00 A.M. If you are interested and want to be added to our email notifications, contact: **B Sue Scatterday at 614-354-5175 or b_sue_s@hotmail.com.**

FOLLOW THE RULES AND LAW

While we are "residents" of Lake George, we are here primarily to enjoy the beauty and the recreation this body of water can provide. As a deputy of Steuben and Branch counties, one of my main goals is to insure our Lake is a safe place for water recreation.

Like many of you, I grew up on Lake George and have watched the substantial change in the use of our lake. The waterfront docks grew from one fishing boat with a 5 ½ hp Evinrude to 4 or 5 boats per dock including high horse power watercraft. The lake traffic is comparable to auto traffic in that the movement needs to be controlled safely.

Please see the Rules of operation on a Boundary Lake.

- Here are a few of my safety concerns:
- "Pinching" - when boat A is motoring along the buoy line and boat B attempts to cut in front of boat A, often times pulling a skier or tuber. Boat A has the right of way as it is behind and to the right of boat B;
- Maintaining the counter clockwise operation when motoring around the perimeter of the lake. This is not unlike a one-way street and it dramatically reduces the chance for collisions;
- Keeping distance of 100 feet from another boat;
- Non powered vessels (sailboats, canoes, paddle boats and board, kayaks) have the right of way. **ALWAYS!**
- **Jet Skis**, need to maintain the 100 foot distance from another boat when at speed.
- There is a tendency for jet ski operators to do 180 degree "dipsy doodles". This is all fine and good as long as these are performed in the middle of the lake or the Kettle. Jet ski operators should not perform "dipsy doodles" near the buoys. Also, Jet ski operators can be cited for not following the counter clock-wise law.

  Nearly 80 per cent of our accidents on Indiana waters involve jet skis. Not on Lake George

PAUL SCHLATTER, LOCAL LG SHERIFF

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR!!

Where do you get rid of all the grass clippings, sticks and the occasional old tire? Of course, in the old days, you threw them in a back lot! But, there is a better answer! Check out the **Steuben County Convenience Center** (over by Dry Dock). Summer Hours: Monday – Friday | 8 am – 7 pm – Saturday 8 am – 3 pm – https://www.niswmd.org/

BOUTIUE NEWS

The Boutique will be open again this year every Saturday from 10 am until 1 pm from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Stop by and see all of the new styles and designs or visit us on Facebook. All proceeds benefit the Lake George Conservancy.

We would like to extend a big thank you to Judy Wannemacher for spending countless hours cleaning out and separating the perennials in front of the Boutique. Lake George continues to be a very special community thanks to all who volunteer.

JULY 3rd BOAT PARADE REGISTRATION

Reminder the Annual **Lake George Boat Parade** is Saturday July 3rd at 6:30pm starting at Browns Point. This years theme is

Favorite Board/Video Game!

We'd also love to have vintage boats, clubs, businesses or beaches enter a boat for some fun!

To register please email Randie Stone at Stone.Randie@gmail.com

or join the Facebook pagehttps://www.facebook.com/groups/lakegeorgeboatparade/

HELP US REMEMBER THE HISTORY OF OUR LAKE!

Lake George has a long and colorful history as home to generations of families dating back to the 1800's. Some residents and home-owners have an interest in gathering and sharing what we know about our lake.

Did you know?

- Two fishing licenses, IN and MI were required until the Cottager's Association arranged for permission to share one in 1951.
- The first mill pond dam was built in 1836 and raised the lake water level by 4 feet. The dam was lowered in the fall so folks would not need to take their boats out.
- Jamestown had a population of 779 in 1870 and a store, hotel, sawmill, churches and a school and was a stagecoach stop from Fremont. The flour mill built in 1862 operated until 1926.
- A 1938 spearing contest netted 313 dogfish and garfish.
- Electricity finally came to the lake in 1930, prior to that a local photographer would fire up a diesel generator and light 25 watt bulbs.
- There were 4 grocery stores on Lake George: Grimmies, Wolf's, Leininger's, and The Millpond.

Do you have a great story about Lake George that should be shared? Do you have photos of your early cottage? Fishing? Activities? We know there's lots and lots of history on these shores.

Each edition of the Breeze will dedicate a page to Lake George history. If you have a story, contact Faye Schlatter (fschlatter@frontier.com) or Renate Brenneke (brennekr2000@yahoo.com) We also need old photos and postcards. The success of this project depends on you. With your help, we'll all learn much to share with the next generation.

Steve Heller submitted the following of what we hope will be many *Tales of Lake George,*. Thanks Steve!

RUMBLE AT THE MILLPOND

It was in the late 50's or early 60's and the feud may have started at Bledsoe's Beach. It was to be settled by a rumble at a later date, three of ours against three of theirs, meeting at the Millpond after dark to "duke it out." We were over 16, had driver's licenses and some of us had cars. Our threesome consisted of Bud Hall driving his Buick convertible with two warrior buddies (whose names escape me now) alongside in the front seat. We also had a second car with me and two others to serve as backup "just in case." Bud arrived at the Millpond at the appointed time and the rivals showed up in their car. There were three of them in the front seat, but someone in Bud's car spotted glowing cigarettes in the backseat, meaning there were most likely six of them altogether. Bud's backup had not yet arrived and were nowhere in sight. Being outnumbered two to one, he and his buddies decided they weren't "ready to-rumble" after all and sped off.

As they hurriedly left, the rival gang followed in hot pursuit. Bud ended up leading them on a high speed chase all over northeast Steuben County. Do not know where the Fremont town cop was that evening, but I hear tell they zoomed through Fremont at 30 to 40 miles per hour over the speed limit. That would make it about 70. Bud eventually eluded his pursuers, with no accidents, no arrests, and no bloody noses. I don't remember who the other four good guys were that night, but in addition to Bud and I, it would have been from among Sam Bender, Jay DeVoss, Al Townsend, and maybe Rick Zintsmaster, Rick? Weaver, and Cliff Young.

By: Steve Heller

WHO DIDN'T DO THIS BACK THEN - MEMORIES

Back in the Mid 70's when I was around 10 years old. I fondly remember all of us riding our bikes past the Mill Pond & Dam on our way to Franks to buy candy. And of course going over to the Dam & jumping on our cushions to cruise down it, what fun. Oh and my brothers & cousins doing some Spearing down in the Channel. Great Lake George Memories. **Submitted by: Douglas Foy**

HOW YOUR LAWN AFFECT S OUR LAKE

What you put on your lawn you also put in your lake.

Or, why is the water as green as my grass?

Immediately after Memorial Day, I was contacted by a concerned lake resident about a large amount of green biomass floating up on our shoreline. His concern was Lake George was suffering from an early algae bloom. I contacted Dave Sorg of the Lake George Conservancy District, and Jim Lake of the Lake George Conservancy (confusing I know) about the matter, and it was determined what we were seeing is churned up lake weeds from the busy holiday weekend.

This prompted a discussion between Dave Sorg and myself about the need to provide educational material to our lake neighbors about responsible lawn maintenance. After agricultural runoff, excessive and improper lawn fertilization (product containing phosphorous) is the next biggest cause of algae blooms during the hot summer months.

Below is a simple guide on the best lawn management steps to take to protect the lake ecosystem and Lake George water quality:

- Avoid using fertilizers with phosphorous
- Use fertilizers with slow release nitrogen
- Use lawn herbicides sparingly and ideally spot treat weeds
- Never fertilize if the ground is frozen, it produces undue run off
- Mow your lawn high, I realize this has different meanings in Michigan. But basically,
- keep your mower blades set to 4 to 4-1/2”
- Mulch grass clippings and leave on the lawn, natures fertilizer
- Apply iron to achieve that emerald green your neighbors will envy

It is good to know what your lawn care companies are applying to your lawn. They might be more interested in cost than our lake water quality. Lastly, please make your lawn care company aware that you do not want them to blow leaves and debris into the lake, as was witnessed several times this spring.

Thanks everyone, and let’s all enjoy a terrific 2021 season on beautiful and clean Lake George water.

Matt Minnick – President, Lake George Conservancy

LEGAL LAKE UPDATE

As reported in the Winter Breeze, the Association hired Patriot Engineering to prepare the preliminary design and assist in submitting for a grant to complete the final engineering. The grant comes from FEMA and is administered by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR).

The association has been informed that the grant process will take several months to complete, and the association should hear by September if they receive any funds and how much grant money will be made available.

The preliminary designs are complete, and the information required by IDNR for the grant application has been submitted. Also, the land survey to transfer the parcel from the Cottagers to the Conservancy District is almost complete.

Once the association knows the outcome of the grant request, the next step is to complete the final design and request grant funds for the actual construction of the improvements. The association anticipates this action in 2022 with potential construction in 2023.

HISTORY OF THE LAKE GEORGE DAM

The history presented herein is based up public records including the “Reflections on Lake George.” If anyone has personal information or photographs, they want to share of the dam, the association would consider including in future Breeze publications.

Old James Town (platted in 1836) was located near the present-day Indiana Turnpike. The community failed to grow despite the construction, in 1836, of a dam, grist mill, and sawmill by John Knott at the outlet of Lake George. The town either vanished or moved to the present-day Jamestown which was platted in 1853 as Eagleville and recorded as Jamestown.

(CONTINUED)

(Lake George Dam, Cont'd)

The grist mill remained in operation under many owners until 1926 / 1927 at which time it was abandoned.

The Lake George Cottagers Association was formed in 1927 and shortly thereafter, in 1928, acquired 10 acres of land which included the abandoned grist mill and dam. The parcel of land was purchased from two individuals, Bert and Nellie Sprague and Harry and Maude Taylor.

In 1927, the Lake George Cottagers Association, by resolution, set the high and low water levels of the lake in accordance to existing structures at the site of old grist and saw mill. They allowed a two-foot fluctuation of the water elevation during the year for cottager maintenance. In 1928, Court documents appear to show Court set an elevation of the lake at 985.28 and allowed for two-foot water elevation fluctuation.

The Association, in 1929, decided to replace the existing dam structure with concrete and set at the high-water mark and was not to exceed $250.00 ($3,911 in 2021)

In 1947, the State of Indiana legislation enacted the "Lake Preservation Acts" which gave the State "full power and control of all of the public freshwater lakes in Indiana". Subsequently, the Steuben County Court Document (Cause #2456) set the legal level of the lake at 985.28.

The United States Army Corps of Engineers completed a report on the dam in 1981 and cited in their document that in 1976, wooden logs allowing water fluctuations were removed and concrete poured to prevent allowing any future water fluctuation in the lake level elevations and set the overflow weir elevation at 985.28

Concerns about vehicular access over the dam brought about the authorization by Steuben County and the State of Indiana, in 1982, to construct a new bridge over the dam. The work was completed in 1985 and is currently the structure over the dam.

The ownership issue started by the State of Indiana began in approximately 2003 or 2004. The State authorized an engineering firm to complete an hydraulic analysis of the dam and the watershed. The report was completed in 2006 and the Cottagers Association was informed that the dam ownership and maintenance was the Association's responsibility. The Association filed a lawsuit and in 2007 the Steuben County Circuit Court issued a summary judgement in favor of the Association, stating the dam was owned by the State of Indiana.

The State of Indiana immediately filed an appeal and in 2008, the Court of Appeals reversed the original court ruling and found in favor of the State of Indiana thereby making the Association responsible for dam ownership and maintenance.

The Cottagers then filed a petition to the Indiana Supreme Court and in October 2008, the Supreme Court denied the petition to hear the case.

The Association is not an organization that can levy assessments to cottagers for any work on the lake including improvements to the dam. The process of creating an assessment organization was made more complicated since Lake George sets on the Indiana / Michigan line. Each State has its own regulations on creating an organization and after many meetings, the organizations were created.

On the Indiana side of the lake, the Lake George Conservancy District was created in September 2018 by the Steuben County Circuit Court to address the issues of invasive weeds and the dam.

Michigan, however, took longer and required two organizations. The Michigan Lake George Improvement Board, administrated by a committee from Kinderhook Township was created in October 2019 to address the issue of invasive weeds. In September 2020, the Michigan Lake George Lake Level District was approved by the Branch County Circuit Court.

The dam is considered by the State of Indiana to be a high hazard dam, which if breached, could result in the loss of life. The Cottagers Association, the Lake George Conservancy District, and the Michigan Lake George Lake Level District are in the process of working together to make the necessary improvements that will bring the dam into compliance with the State of Indiana Dam Design Standards.

THIS WEEKEND IS ALL ABOUT REMEMBERING THEM!