LAKE GEORGE BREEZE

VOL 80 - FEBRUARY - 2022 - NO 1

LAKE GEORGE'S CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY

28th - LGCA Beach Director Mtg
29th - Memorial Day Lights

JUNE

10 & 11th - Garage Sale
11 th - LG Annual Conservancy Mtg

JULY

2nd - Boat Parade & fireworks

JULY

2nd - CHICKEN BBQ -
16th - Annual LGCA Mtg.
16th - Annual LGCD Mtg.

AUGUST

28th - LG Conservancy Hog Roast

SEPTEMBER

3rd - LGCA Beach Director's Mtg.
4th - Luminaries

Letter from the President

Happy New Year! We hope 2022 will be another great year for all Lake George Cottagers!

2022 dues statements are included in this mailing and there is no change in dues from last year.

Please make payment by April 1, 2022. We are continuing to collect dues for dam repair/maintenance again this year as we work on the design process (see article on legal lake level and dam update). We are also planning for the best fireworks show ever on July 2nd!

You can conveniently pay online with Paypal at www.LakeGeorgeinfo.net

We are looking forward to all the favorite traditions of Lake George this year – and - we are going to continue – Memorial Day Lights (see article in this newsletter). Let's celebrate the beginning of summer fun with some beautiful lights around the lake. Just keep a few strands of Christmas lights and you are good to go!!

We continue to gather the stories (including tall tales), pictures and maps to memorialize the great history of Lake George. Please contact us if you want to share some of your history! We will continue sharing this information in the Breeze.

One significant change this year will be how Lake George is patrolled. The Steuben County and Branch County Sheriff's Department will take over primary responsibility for patrolling the lake this summer. Change always provides opportunities and we ask for your patience as we move to this method of law enforcement. The high speed boating hours are still 10 AM to 6:30 PM - whether there is a siren or not - it's the law and a long time 'tradition' of our lake. Please continue to respect these times.

Finally, we have a new website! www.lakegeorgeinfo.net There you will find EVERYTHING Lake George. The Conservancy and Cottager's Association have teamed up to make this possible. On the LGCA side, check out the new "activities" tab (under "about") to see schedules and contacts for sailing, the book club, and the walking group. Find Conservancy District information and check the Calendar for important dates, pay dues with PayPal under Membership/Dues, find Sewer District emergency and billing contact information. On the Conservancy side, find everything Conservancy related iincluding: The Boutique, Water Quality info, important dates, membership sign up, project information and more.

Your LGCA officers again this year are Rex Melchi (Vice President), Kevin Snyder (Treasurer), and Rick Weaver (Secretary). The list of Beach Directors and the 2022 Calendar will be in the 2022 directory and on the LakeGeorgeinfo.net website. Please let any of us know if there is something that we can do to make Lake George everything it can be! If you are interested in joining this terrific team, please let one of us know.

Dave Sorg, President - 765-637-8343 - lakegeorgecottagersassociation@gmail.com

Lake George Conservancy District (LGCD)

Invasive Weed Update

The LGCD concluded another successful year of controlling the ever-increasing invasive weed problem, while protecting the habitat for a heathy fish population. The fine balance between invasive weed management (for swimming and boating enjoyment) and protecting the fishery is a joint effort of the LGCD, the Michigan and Indiana DNRs, hired aquatic weed control professionals, and the Federal Government (represented by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative – GLRI).

Last year approximately 15 acres were treated twice for Eurasian Milfoil. Milfoil is primarily a nuisance weed that grows to the surface and restricts boating. The biggest issue on Lake George (and many other lakes in the Midwest) is Starry Stonewort. SSW is actually algae and has no roots. The primary concern with SSW is that it grows in thick matts and not only restricts boating, but it also destroys native weeds necessary for a healthy fishery. 88 acres were treated for SSW in late June with a second treatment of 77 acres in late July.

The LGCD ended the year in strong financial position primarily due to our success in obtaining Federal and State grants. Last year invasive weed treatments cost $64,000 with 56% being covered by Federal and State grants. Our strong balance sheet will ensure that needed weed control will be accomplished in the near future, even in the event of reduced grant funding.

Just a reminder, the LGCD taxing district was established to control invasive weeds only. **Native weed control in beaches and around docks is the responsibility of the individual cottage owner.**

WALLEYE

Bill King

Once again the LG Cottagers' Association added to our walleye population another 2,900 - 6" to 8" Walleye !! In October, 2021, Bill King and Gary Zandstra introduced those babes to our lake and then again in November added another 2000 with help from the Indiana DNR . Thanks to Gary and Bill for making this happen!

2022 BOAT PARADE

An early heads-up for the upcoming 4th of July boat parade. Turn your boat into a clever masterpiece to win prizes!

Theme of this years parade is:

FAVORITE TV SHOW!!!

More details to follow of course!

Light Up the Lake on Memorial Day Weekend

Light up your shoreline on **Sunday, May 29!** This is our 2nd year for a new Lake George tradition which we hope will be as spectacular as the Labor Day luminary tradition. **Here are the ground rules**: **1.** Light up the lake side of your cottage or shoreline with electric lights on the evening of **Sunday, May 29.** (Be careful with electricity around water)! **2.** Use any colored lights you want. Christmas lights are a great idea. **3.** Cruise the lake and enjoy the view!

Traffic Speed Sign on Lane 201 Report

The installation of a speed limit sign in 2021 on Lane 201 displayed speeds for vehicles traveling eastbound (toward Angola Road). Vehicles traveling westbound (toward the dam) were recorded but not displayed. Data collected over the summer months from May 29th to October 11th indicated that 112,908 vehicles traveled on Lane 201 equating to Average Daily traffic of 830 vehicles per day. The majority of eastbound vehicles were recorded at 25 mph or less while the majority of westbound vehicles were recorded in a range from 25 mph to 35 mph. The data showed a substantial reduction in vehicular speeds with the presence of a speed sign. Interestingly, the maximum eastbound speed was 62.00 mph (7/1/21) and the maximum westbound speed was 83.00 mph (5/30/21). All traffic data results (including each holiday during the summer) are shown in the News Section on the cottagers' website, www.LakeGeorgeinfo.net. Based on the results of the speed limit sign, the LGCA Board voted to install another speed sign on Lane 201 east of Lane 201A in the spring of 2022 for vehicles traveling westbound toward the dam.

Dam Update

The Cottagers Association (LGCA) and Conservancy District (LGCD) continue to make strides toward improvements to the dam. In September 2021, the LGCD was notified that they received a loan of up to one million dollars from the Steuben County Commissioners for dam construction. This loan will be used to cover any funds not covered by grants.

Also in September 2021, we were notified by the Indiana Dept. of Natural Resources (IDNR) that the LGCD and LGCA received a FEMA grant for the final design phase. The grant will save the two organizations approximately $53,000 that will not have to be financed. At present, we are working to complete the final design in the spring of 2022.

In January 2022, the LGCA and LGCD met with an IDNR representative to discuss a FEMA application for the construction phase. If FEMA decides to fund construction grants this year, we should find out in the fall of 2022 if our application is successful. At this time, the plan is to begin construction in 2023 and have the improvements completed in the fall of 2023.

On January 4th the Michigan governor, Gretchen Whitmer, approved the Interlocal Agreement between the LGCD and the Legal Lake Level District. This was a very important decision which will allow the two organizations to move forward with dam financing once the final design phase is completed.

As we move forward and more information becomes available, the Boards will keep the cottagers informed of their progress. The LGCD and LGCA thank the cottagers for their patience as they work through various issues with agencies from both Michigan and Indiana. If you have any questions pertaining to dam improvements, please contact

Rick Weaver at 517-462-5854 or by email: rick40425@gmail.com.

Respectfully Submitted

Rick Weaver LGCA and LGCD Special Projects Coordinator

FOUND A LOST CAT!

Are you missing a beautiful black cat??? Please call me or text: Faye Schlatter: 260 704-1055

Lake George Conservancy

Your Lake George Conservancy Board closed out the 2021 calendar year with a flurry of activity.

Financially, in 2021 (through November reporting) we increased our current assets (non-land) on the balance sheet by 27%. The use-restricted funds (land acquisition only) increased by 31%. While not back to historical levels, the land acquisition fund is steadily building back through our fundraising activities and generous donations from you, our membership.

The new website (*lakegeorgeinfo.net*)is up and running. In December, we added a PayPal function to our new 2022 electronic membership page. You can now elect to use this to pay your 2022 dues with either your PayPal account or via a personal credit card. We will continue to send a membership mailer to those not using the PayPal option. The new website still needs a few edits, and plans are to have these completed along with new informational content and links added by the spring.

The LGC Board will have two seats opening as Steve Boomer and Rick Altekruse have their terms expiring. If you would like to learn more about the responsibilities of being a LGC Board member, please reach out to Matt Minnick @ 563-613-3165, or via email @ MLM4IU@gmail.com.

Our land restoration work on the Swift Acres property has started with the fall planting of a cover crop. This spring we will follow that up with the planting of a mixed variety of 1,700 hardwood trees. Additionally, we have received a grant to have the existing woodlands on this property treated for invasive, non-native weed control.

Our two memorial programs are quickly approaching capacity. The Savanna tree cluster memorial plaques have been installed in Phase 1. There has been one installed in Phase 2 with another two clusters being reserved. The Preserve memorial bench program is similarly reaching capacity. We have several additional cement pads to install this spring for the benches, with two of these reserved. Due to vendor cost increases, effective January 1, 2022 we have been forced to increase the cost of the memorial benches to $1,750 in the Preserve and $1,400 for a memorial plaque in the Oak Savanna.

(Cont'd next page)

(LGC cont'd)

The Lake George Conservancy Volunteer of the Year for 2021 is Judy Wannemacher. Judy has been donating her knowledge and skills as a Master Gardener by designing, planting, and maintaining the landscaping beds around the Boutique for several years. The fruits of her work earlier last summer were visually stunning. On behalf of the board, I would like to convey our thanks for the time and effort Judy has invested in the Conservancy.

Lastly, we have been hit with a 30% cost increase for the annual July 4th BBQ chicken fundraiser. We increased our ticket prices modestly in 2021 to partially cover that year's increase. We have made the decision to hold our ticket prices in 2022 which will reduce our fundraising by roughly $2,000 for this event. We feel that these current increases are probably temporary, and the current ticket price is fair to our members.

LGC Memorial Plaques at the Oak Savanna

2021 LGC Volunteer of the Year

Judy Wannemacher

LGC Benches at the Memorial Preserve

Board would like to thank everyone who supported the Conservancy during 2021 and we look forward to an exciting 2022.

Matt Minnick - President
Lake George Conservancy

LAKE GEORGE VETERANS

It is that time of the year to remind our Vets to think about submitting information on yourself and your service to our great nation. We would like to honor our veterans in the Memorial Day Breeze. Please take time to submit information about yourself, when and where you served, along with other interesting information. I would like to include your photo in uniform, a current photo or both. If you have none, please let me know and I would be more that happy to come to your cottage and take a picture (I am capable of scanning photos if you need me to do that). Give it some thought and I hope to hear from you before May 15th. Email: **fschlatter@frontier.com** or text me: **260-704-1055**. Thank you!!

Faye Schlatter, Breeze Editor

LAKE GEORGE BE ON THE LOOKOUT!

This massive creature was spotted on Kope Kon around Christmas! He tried attacking this innocent polar bear, and who knows what else! If anyone sees this monster again, please don't try anything yourself, you could be in danger!

Immediately call 911!

This special message is brought to you by residents of Kope Kon!

Be aware, he is still out there!