Lake George Breeze

Vol 84 - FEBRUARY 2023 - No 1

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY 27	LGCA BEACH DIRECTOR MTG	JULY 15	ANNUAL LGCA
MAY 28	MEMORIAL DAY LIGHT UP LAKE	JULY 15	ANNUAL LGCD
JUNE 9 & 10	GARAGE SALE	AUGUST 26	LG FAMILY HOG ROAST
JUNE 17	LG CONSERVANCY ANNUAL MTG.	SEPT. 2	LGCA BCH DIRECTOR MTG
JULY 1	BBQ CHICKEN PICK-UP	SEPT. 3	LUMINARIES
JULY 1	PARADE & FIREWORKS		

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Happy New Year! We hope 2023 will be another great year for all Lake George Cottagers!

2023 dues statements are included in this mailing and as communicated last year - the dues are the same as last year except the dues for the dam maintenance which have been eliminated (and added to your property tax bill). **Please make payment by April 1, 2023.** We are also planning for the best fireworks show ever on July 1st! **You can conveniently pay online with Paypal at** www.LakeGeorgeinfo.net

Please take a minute to review your directory listing let us know of any changes by **March 1, 2023** - it is really important to keep the current in case we or one of your fellow lakers need to contact you.

We are looking forward to all of the favorite traditions of Lake George this year starting with – **Memorial Day Lights on 5/28** (see article in this newsletter). Let's celebrate the beginning of summer fun with some beautiful lights around the lake. Just put up 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.

Lake George will continue to be patrolled by the Steuben County and Branch County Sheriff's Departments. Change always provides opportunities and we ask your patience as we continue to 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. Also, Boater Safety cards will be enforced in Michigan waters this year - **make sure you complete the Boater Safety classes and keep the card with you on the boat!!**

Consider becoming a member of the Steuben County Lakes Council. They provide focus on the environmental issues in Steuben County and are our partner in the water testing of waterways impacting Lake George. Go to www.lakescouncil.org for more information.

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 2023 Calendar will be in the 2023 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.

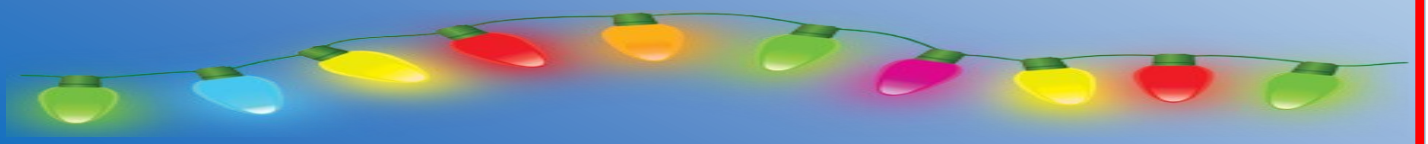
Dave Sorg - 765-637-8343 - lakegeorgecottagersassociation@gmail.com

NOTE WEBSITE: LAKEGEORGEINFO.NET

LIGHT UP LAKE GEORGE ON MEMORIAL DAY

Luminaries on Labor Day Weekend is a grand tradition at Lake George. Each year Lake George cottagers ring out the Summer season by enjoying the beauty of luminaries placed along the shoreline as they cruise the lake on Sunday night. Long-time cottager Peggy Behrendt suggested we should start a similar tradition to celebrate the start of Summer. We thought that was a great idea, so we are going to do it again in 2023. 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 30. Be careful with electricity around water!**
2. **Use any color lights you want. Christmas lights are a great idea.**
3. **Cruise the lake and enjoy the view.**



LAKE GEORGE CONSERVANCY DISTRICT INVASIVE WEED UPDATE

The LGCD continues to focus on managing the invasive weed population in Lake George while balancing the extent to which the associated treatments may affect the fishery of the lake. So far, based on the most recent fish studies conducted by DNR there has been no impact.

The largest threat continues to be the spread of Starry Stonewort. We treated approximately 60 acres of the lake two times last year focusing on those areas that are less than 8 ft in depth. This is actually an algae and has no roots - it is a rather fine consistency with small white structures attached to the stem . It grows into thick matts which can impact boating and fishery.

The other threat to the lake is Eurasion Millfoil which grows in large "clumps" and can top out creating a patch of weeds on the surface which is very difficult to navigate. We treated approximately 40 acres last June.

After analysis of the actual cost, success in receiving grants and conservative original estimates for these treatments, we have reduced the annual assessment from $140 to $90.

Questions? Email us at: lakegeorgeconservancydistrict@gmail.com

LAKE GEORGE VETERANS , WE WANT TO HONOR YOU!

We again would like to honor our Lake George Veterans this upcoming Memorial Day. If you could email me a brief history of their service, about when, where, and what branch and any special story of interest, that would be welcomed too! If you have a picture from the past and/or present, I would also like to include it. Just email me at:

fschlatter@frontier.com - Thank you!

Faye Schlatter, Breeze Editor

JULY 4th BOAT PARADE THEME IS "AMERICAN PRIDE"!

IT IS TIME TO CONSIDER HOW TO DECORATE YOUR BOAT FOR THE BOAT PARADE!! DETAILS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE MEMORAL DAY BREEZE!!

DAM UPDATE

The Cottagers and Conservancy District directed the engineer in November 2022 to proceed with the final design for the dam improvements. It is anticipated the final design will be completed in March 2023. The two associations are also working to transfer the ownership of the dam from the Cottagers to the Conservancy District and anticipate completing the transfer in the first quarter of 2023. They are also working with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to pursue a construction grant from FEMA. We will know more in the coming months if FEMA will allow construction applications to be submitted. At this time, it is anticipated dam improvements will be completed in 2024. We will continue to keep you updated as we proceed and if you have any question on the dam project, please contact Rick Weaver at LakeGeorgeCottagersAssociation@gmail.com or call 517-462-5854

Rick Weaver, LGCA Secretary

LAKE GEORGE CONSERVANCY

Once again, the excitement is building for a wonderful 2023 lake season. So far this winter, the ice has come and gone but will probably come again this winter.

The Conservancy continues to make good progress on the Oak Savanna project. As you will recall, the apple trees have suffered from wind and disease damage, and we had over 60 that required removal. With the late fall windstorms, we had several more that required attention. This has prompted the board to begin implementing Phase Three of the Oak Savanna restoration, which will be done over the next several years. In the spring, we will be planting the first new cluster of larger oak trees. This will be further south near the road and fill in the void created by the dead apple tree removal. We are fortunate that a donor has stepped up to offset most of the cost for planting these larger oak trees. The plan for the immediate future is to maintain the current orchard grass ground cover and not replant with other grasses and wildflowers. Those can be planted in the future. We will eventually extend the walking path into Phase Three.

Additionally, we are exploring the feasibility of continuing the red bud and perhaps dogwood clusters immediately along Kope Kon Road. The addition of more flowering native trees is likely to be a little more expensive and an unplanned cost we may need to seek targeted donations to offset some of the investment.

The board will be having a leadership change at our annual meeting – President, John Albright Treasurer, Brenda Finkbiener Secretary, Renate Brenneke

We are looking to fill the role of vice president.

The Conservancy 2023 calendar:

April
2023 Membership Drive

May 20
Boutique Preview sale
More details to come

May 27
Boutique Opening Day
First LGC native plant sale
More details to come

(Cont'd on page 4)

(Conservancy Update Cont'd)

June 17
Annual Meeting

July 1
Chicken BBQ Fundraiser

August 26
Family Picnic

In closing, the board would like to thank everyone who supports the cause with your membership and Sustaining Campaign donations. Our family memberships were up 8%, which calculates to roughly 65% of the cottage ownership. Additionally, the 2022 Sustaining Campaign exceeded our goal, these funds are critical to replenishing our land acquisition restricted account for future land purchases.

Thank you and see you in the spring. Matt Minnick

OLD ORCHARD IS A WORK IN PROGRESS

Jim Mills Tree Service was contracted to the removal of several rows of the smaller apple trees next to the road on Kope Kon; plus the removal of some larger apple trees from the older section. A warmer than usual January prompted the work to begin and was finished within 2 weeks. One crewman is using a leaf blower to keep the flames going until the pile was burned down before heading home. A stump grinder eliminated all the stumps which will make planting the new oak trees and prairie vegetation much easier! For residents of Kope Kon, this has been hard to see the orchard go, but they realize the apple trees were reaching the end of their useful life. They are happy though, that the new Oak Savanna well be a special retreat for future generations and for nature's wildlife, big and small!!

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