LAKE GEORGE BREEZE

VOL 86 JUNE - 2025 No 1

SUMMER EVENTS CALENDAR

MAY

May 24 - Boutique Opening
Native Plant Sale
LGCA Beach Director Mtg

May 25 - Light up the Lake

JUNE

June 13 & 14 - Annual Garage Sale
June 21 - Annual Conservancy mtg
9:00 a.m.

JULY

July 5 - Chicken BBQ Fundraiser
Boat Parade
Fireworks

July 12 - LG Cottagers—Annual Mtg
LG Conservancy District
Annual Mtg

AUGUST

August 2 - Soarin' Hawk Raptor Event

August 30 LGCA Beach Director Mtg

August 31 Labor Day Luminaires

MORE DETAIL INSIDE BREEZE

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Welcome back Lake George Cottagers! It is great to see new homes being built while enjoying the timeless s beauty of sunsets and glassy water.

This issue of the Breeze includes articles about a new property acquisition by the Lake George Conservancy and an award was given to the Lake George Cottagers Association and Lake George Conservancy District for the dam construction project.

This winter, we worked with the Indiana DNR, Steuben and Branch County Sheriffs, and Michigan DNR to increase marine patrols on Lake George. Their presence should help maintain our safety record. Homeowners are responsible for safety; please ensure your family and guests read and follow the guidelines in this Breeze and the 2025 Directory.

If you have not paid your 2025 dues, please submit payment now. General Dues are only $45 per year and support many important needs which protect the value of your lake home investment. Payments can be made online at www.lakegeorgeinfo.net or by mail at P.O. Box 807, Fremont, Indiana 46737.

Have a safe and enjoyable Summer! Kevin Snyder, LGCA President (817) 247-8816

Greetings from the Lake George Conservancy Board.

As you and your family gear up for lake season, be sure to mark your calendars with the dates and times of the Lake George Conservancy events.

We also have a new and improved website - check it out!
https://lakegeorgeconservancy.com/

LAKE GEORGE CONSEVANCY DISTRICT

May Update

After incredible effort by many volunteers over almost a 20-year span, the Dam project was completed in December. The project was completed on time and slightly under our 1.5-million-dollar budget and is certainly a vast (and safer) improvement on what was previously there. With a little help from Mother Nature, this spring we will soon be treated to a beautiful display of native plants surrounding the dam. Last fall, we planted numerous native grasses and wildflowers, including Black Eyed Susans, Purple Coneflower, Coreopsis, Nodding Pink Onion, and others. The other advantage to this planting it will require minimal landscape care, reducing costs for all.

Also, this spring, the Lake George Cottagers Association and the Lake George Conservancy District were the proud recipients of the "Outstanding Project Award" from the Indiana Lake Management Society. Rick Weaver and John Ranshaw from the LGCD presented the project at the ILMS's Annual Indiana Lakes Management Conference on March 20 in Fishers, Indiana

Our efforts to combat two invasive plant species, Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) and Starry Stonewort (SS), will continue this summer. EWM can form dense mats on the water's surface, interfering with recreation and displacing native plants.

Starry Stonewort outcompetes native plants, especially in shallow water, endangering native plant life and water quality. It is unlikely we will ever be able to eradicate these two species, but beginning in June (after water temperatures begin to rise) the lake will first be surveyed for outbreaks of these two species, and a treatment plan will be selected with first treatments in mid-June.

Questions? Contact John Ranshaw @ 847 922 7814

INLAND CAT SAILORS - GET READY!!

The Inland Cat sailors are back on the lake! By now you've seen the Inland Cat Class Sailing Association boats out on Lake George wending their way around the buoys on alternate Saturdays. After 65 (!!) seasons, the sailors and their classic sailboats will be once again, having fun and as always, looking to welcome new sailors and crew.

The first day of the racing season is Saturday, June 7, with races scheduled every other week through the summer. Want a taste of sailing? Looking to learn a new skill? It's lots of fun for all ages all summer long. Interested in checking us out?

Contact this summer's commodore, Julie Zinsser 717-304-4272

3rd ANNUAL PLANT SALE

The Lake George Conservancy is having it 3rd NATIVE PLANT SALE and FUNDRAISER!! scheduled SATURDAY, MAY 24!! From 9 till noon at the Lake George Boutique Building, 1042 S. Angola Road.

There will be dozens of varieties including Milkweed, Iris, Coneflowers, Black-eyed Susans and many more, but come early as quantities are limited!! ALL PROCEEDS GO TO BENEFIT THE LAKE GEORGE CONSERVANCY!!

A SHOUT-OUT TO ALL YOU BOOK LOVERS!!

The Lake George Book Club has been busy reading since 2009 and new members are always welcome!!! It's a low key, no pressure book club. Books are selected in the Fall for the coming year, and we try to have a good balance of fiction-non-fiction-old and new.

Mark your calendar as we meet at the Conservancy Boutique building, 10:00 am the 4th Thursday of the month.

Upcoming 2025 books are as follows:

June 16	Lion Women of Tehran, historical fiction Marjan Kamali
July 24	Deacon King Kong, fiction, James McBride
August 28	James, fiction, Percival Everett
Sept. 25	All the Beauty in the World, memoir, Patrick Bringley
October 23	The Art Thief, A True Story of Love, Crime and a Dangerous Obsession, Michael Finkel

Join us! – for more information, contact: Maizie Andrews or Renate Brenneke

ACHIEVING A GREEN LAWN WITHOUT CREATING A GREEN LAKE!!

The Lake George Conservancy conducts water quality testing annually and one of the pollutants tested for is excess phosphorus, which can lead to algae blooms and oxygen depletion. While we generally look to farm run off as the source for phosphorus it's also introduced into our lake through improper lawn fertilization. It is highly recommended that cottagers use light nitrogen fertilizers with 0 phosphorus content. These products are designated by a 0 in the numbering system, for example, a 15 – 0 -15 product would contain zero phosphorus. If you use a lawn care service, please request that they use an appropriate fertilizer.

If a tree falls into the Millpond, does anyone hear it?

This past spring we had a very large tree fall into the Millpond, causing an issue for boats and potentially a hazard for the newly constructed dam. The Cottagers Association contacted the property owner who no longer visits the lake, and on her behalf, we checked with the Indiana DNR to see if the state had any responsibility for the removal, which it does not. We then contacted three tree service companies for clean-up quotes on the owner's behalf. The cottagers would like to thank the property owner and Your Guy Tree service for being very responsive to this situation and getting the tree removed very quickly.

Stueben County Lakes Council (SCLC)

One of the partner organizations for both the Cottagers and the Conservancy is the Stueben County Lakes Council. This 52-year-old organization is comprised of various lake representatives and local government agency personnel. Their focus is on protecting the lakes and streams in our county. The SCLC manages the annual county wide water quality testing program the Conservancy supports. Recently, a subset of this group has started to work collaboratively with the Stueben County Sheriff's office and Indiana DNR about improving law enforcement efforts on the county's lakes. The SCLC is membership funded; the Cottagers Association would encourage everyone to support this group. You can visit their website at: lakescouncil.org to review their mission, projects and membership information.

Thank you! Submitted by: Matt Minnick

THIS "AUGUST" WATCH THE HAWKS!

SAVE THE DATE - MARK YOUR CALENDAR!!!

The **Soarin' Hawk Raptor Rehab** program in conjunction with the **Lake George Conservancy** will be bringing their birds and their program to Lake George on **Saturday, August 2 at 10:00**. This will be a Meet & Greet event with the Rehab staff and their birds, suitable for adults and children. The event will be held on **Bayview Dr**, details to follow.

This program is "free", however donations to the Conservancy gratefully accepted.

THIS SUNDAY - DON'T FORGET TO LIGHT UP LAKE GEORGE

BOAT PARADE THEME - FAIRY TALES

Thank you to all who made the 2024 Lake George Boat Parade a successful event. The participants did a fantastic job of decorating their boats.

I want to challenge you to start thinking of our theme for 2025: FAIRY TALES. Let's see if we can double the number of boats on the lake to 20 this year and make the competition for prizes even better. It will be so much fun to see Cinderella, Snow White, The Ugly Duckling, The Frog Prince and even more, floating by on the lake! We couldn't do this without our judges either so if you aren't able to decorate a boat, you might want to think about volunteering to judge. The 2025 festivities will be held on Saturday, July 5th! Please watch for a sign up link on the Lake George website and Facebook page. If you have any questions or can't access the link, feel free to send an email to: Kathy at adamonisKL12@gmail.com

Fairy Tales fun is coming to Lake George so don't miss out!!!

LAKE GEORGE CONSERVANCY

Late last summer the Lake George Conservancy ("Conservancy") was approached by the Meredith family regarding their 27-acre farm. The Conservancy believes this land to be a strategic asset which will protect Lake George for generations to come. This beautiful piece of property, consists of woods, meadows and registered wetlands. The family donated a sizable portion of the lands value; however, the house and outbuildings were not included in the LGC acquisition.

The Conservancy closed on this transaction with funds accumulate from previous donations. Since this purchase significantly depleted our financial resources, we will be conducting a special fundraiser this spring/summer to replenish our accounts. We hope that residents and friends of the Conservancy will continue to support the Conservancy allowing for future purchases of strategic properties, along with the required maintenance cost for our existing properties.

PELICANS VISITED LAKE GEORGE

Wait...What...Where am I?!? On Lake George, MI-IN of course! It took us a few moments to realize what we were actually seeing as we watched this incredible group of five, known as a Squadron. The large, white birds with black wing tips flew gracefully around the kettle of our lake. We identified them as the American White Pelican, also known as the Rough Billed Pelican due to the large fibrous growth or nuptial tubercle on the upper bill that develops in both sexes during the breeding season.

The American White Pelican is the second largest bird in North American after the California Condor. It can weigh between 8 and 30 pounds with a wingspan as wide as 10 feet. Their bill is known to grow up to 15 inches on the males and a body length reaching 70 inches. They were definitely easy to see!

We were fortunate enough to witness their eating pattern where all five Pelicans lined up in a single row which is meant to drive the fish into a tight group in front of them. Then they all plunge their large beaks into the water to scoop up the fish and crustations, tilt their heads back to drain the water before swallowing the fish whole. They only hold the fish captive in their pouches when they need to feed their young.

The Squadron hung out for a few hours before retreating into the wet land area of the north-west corner of our beautiful Lake George. You just never know what beautiful display of wildlife will appear next as we continue to keep our lake healthy and protected from the outside elements. SUBMITTED BY JULIE PUTMAN, CAROLINE DRIVE!

TIME FOR LASER SAILING!

Have any of you sailed on Lake George in late winter before March 13? If not, we have a new record holder for the "first on the lake" after the start of a new year. Ben Hart was sailing on March 13 when there were still patches of ice on the lake! It was a pleasant sunny day, and Ben reported that the sailing was fine, but he did confess that the water was cold!

Since Ben's inaugural venture, the weather has been a real mix. Winter did not giving up easily. The calendar, however, says it's spring, so it's time for all Laser sailors to have this summer's sailing schedule. Here it is:

May 31	Session 1 (2 races)
June 14	Session 2 (2 races)
June 28	**15th Annual Regatta** (up to 5 races; the first two will count as regular season races)
July 19	Session 4 (2 races)
August 2	Session 5 (2 races)
August 16	Session 6 (2 races)

Regular season racing sessions will start at 1:00 PM. Racing will occur on a triangular course. Captain Kev Ahaus and Jack Stiefel are always available to answer any questions about racing procedures.

New members are heartily welcomed to join in the racing fun and social events throughout the summer. Contact Kev or Jack to get involved. In the meantime, get your Laser ready for another fun season. It's time to launch!

Lake George Cottager's Association

For Your Safety!

Emergency Numbers

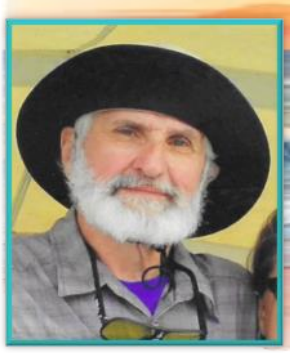
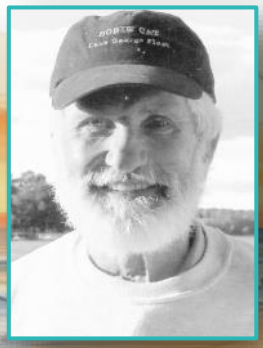
Steuben County Sheriff	(260) 665-3131
Branch County Sheriff	(517) 278-2325

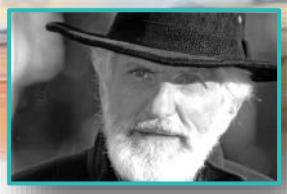
Lake George Boating Rules

- High speed boating allowed from 10:00 AM to 6:30 PM
- Boat speed limit 10 mph before 10:00 AM and after 6:30 PM
- Power boats must travel in a counter-clockwise direction
- Pulling someone requires a driver and an observer
- All occupants must be seated inside the boat while the prop is turning
- Maintain 100 feet of separation from other watercraft
- When overtaking another watercraft, the boat in front has the right of way
- The State of Michigan requires persons born after certain dates to have a boating safety certificate in their possession in order to operate a watercraft. The law is enforced on Lake George.
  - ◊ For **Personal Watercraft**, if born after December 31, 1978
  - ◊ For **Boats**, if born after July 1, 1996

LAKE GEORGE VETERANS
WE SALUTE & THANK YOU!!!

Remembering David Patrick Hart



David Patrick Hart, 84, passed Jan. 5, 2025. Born Dec. 14, 1940, Indianapolis. Dave was the only child of Clifford and Ruth (Bell) Hart. He was preceded by his parents and remarkable wife of 18 years, Sylvia (née Ehrman) Michau Hart. Surviving are his children Benjamin (Alexa) Hart and Molly Michau; grandchildren Adelaide, Barrett; partner Cecelia Morris-Walton.

Dave graduated Broad Ripple High School in 1958 as Lt. Col. ROTC, and earned degrees from Indiana University and the University of Indianapolis. His innumerable careers included surveyor, teacher, boat-maker, et. al. He retired an ED crisis nurse, Community Hospital.

An avid sailor, he sailed the Mediterranean, Caribbean, and 3 Mackinac Races. Earning trophies in the Lake George Inland Cat Class Sailing Association and the Lake George Sailing Association (5 years 1st place). A lifelong eccentric, Dave leaves a legacy beyond his memories.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Lake George Conservancy http://lakegeorgeinfo.net/sustaining-campaign-donations.

KATHLEEN MARIE SKINNER

Kathleen "Kathy," born Francine in Kansas City, Missouri on May 26th, 1947, was lovingly adopted by Norm and Barb Bell from Fort Wayne, Indiana. Raised by a skilled carpenter and a talented seamstress, Kathy had a joyful childhood filled with summers at Lake George, where she delighted in boating, sailing, and skiing with her many cousins. A true adventurer, she even had her own sailboat.

Kathy pursued her passion for education, graduating from Ball State University with a degree in teaching. She dedicated herself to shaping young minds as a middle school teacher in Fort Wayne, IN. Always eager to grow, she earned a master's degree in counseling from Xavier University and completed two years of clinical work at the Athenaeum.

During her life, Kathy married and was blessed with one son, Andrew (Rachael) Skinner, who, along with her four grandchildren, Nora, Julia, Luke and Maria, became her greatest pride and joy. Even in retirement, her generous spirit led her to volunteer with the ASPCA, tutor children at Winton Terrace, and spend six fulfilling years in patient relations at Bethesda Hospital.

Kathy's love for the arts and nature enriched her life. She danced for over 35 years, actively contributing to the dance community. Her creative soul found expression through painting and music; she rediscovered her passion for the piano, playing on the cherished family piano at home. A devoted animal lover, she supported conservation efforts through the Sierra Club, combining her love for nature with her commitment to preserving it.

Her hobbies were as vibrant as her spirit-card games, theater, dominos with dear friends, and winning blue ribbons in the garden club. She traveled the world, experiencing the beauty of diverse cultures and landscapes.

Kathy's warmth, kindness, and dedication touched many lives. She leaves behind a legacy of love, resilience, and service. The family extends heartfelt thanks to all who shared in her journey and offered friendship and kindness over the years.

May this tribute honor the beautiful life Kathy lived and bring comfort to all who knew and loved her.

Remembering LuAnne Warkoczeski

The matriarch of the Warkoczeski family passed away peacefully on February 24. 2025 at the age of 86. LuAnne was born on January 10, 1939, in Fremont, IN, to Dale and Ruth (Young) Pifer. On August 29, 1964, she married Ralph James "Jim" Warkoczeski, affectionately known as "Jimbo," in Coldwater. They shared a beautiful life together until his passing on February 6, 2020.

LuAnne had a gift for connection—whether in Coldwater, Tekonsha, or the Lake George community, she thrived on seeing familiar faces, sharing stories, and asking about everyone's family. LuAnne's father and mother had one of the very first cottages on Lake George and she loved spending time with her children, grandchilddren and friends at the lake house.

Remembering Andy Warkoczeski

Our brother and Uncle passed away on April 9, 2025 unexpectedly at the age of 59. Andy worked in grocery retail management for many years. The family owned and operated the former Newt's market in Tekonsha and he spent his younger years working for Kroger and Hawkins Produce. For the past 20 + years, Andy worked in management for Walmart in Auburn, IN and most recently Angola, IN. Andy enjoyed life! He was selfless and kind and enjoyed socializing with others, especially at the lake. He was a one-of-a-kind brother, brother-in-law and funcle to his nephews and nieces who loved him so much.

Andy and LuAnne were loved by so many and we will all miss them each and every day. The Lake will not be the same without the both of them. Blue 42! WE ARE ND!

MISCELLANEOUS WINTER NEWS

WHO KNEW?

Late March, early April on a very nice sunny day, I noticed my bird feeders had some unusual activity. Apparently the warm day brought out hundreds of very hungry bees! With nothing for them to eat this time of year, they decided eating bird seed was better than nothing!!

TRAGIC DAY FOR THIS LITTLE DEER

March 29, 2025 early Saturday morning at the north end of Lake George between Kope Kon and Nipigon Beach, several residents noticed a struggling deer on the ice-covered lake. Residences called the Bronson Fire Dept to tell them about that a deer stranded on Lake George. The fire department and the DNR came ready, willing and able to help rescue this poor creature and get him/her back on dry land. The deer constantly struggled to stand, but just couldn't get on his feet because of the slippery ice. This rescue was quite dangerous as the ice had become very think this time of year. The men wore dry-suits to protect them just in case anyone fell though the ice! For extra precautionary measures the fireman chosen to rescue the deer was tied with rope around his waist as others on shore held the other end. The rescuer finally got to the deer, who I think might have know this man was here to help and it did not struggle much at all as the fireman tied the rope around the deer and both were pulled slowly and safely to Kope Kon shore. After hours of planning and gearing up to save the deer, it was noted that the deer had a broken leg and was euthanized immediately.

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