

GLA ANNUAL MEETING Minutes

Saturday, August 10, 2019
Lake Geneva Country Club
Lake Geneva, Wisconsin
9:30 a.m.

WELCOME — President Goggin called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m. and thanked the attendees for their support. He welcomed invited speakers, members, and guests, and specially welcomed Mark Lillie who will take over as President. Goggin reminded the membership of the Mission of the GLA, and was pleased to have been involved with a donor membership which would rise to the occasion to fund a fireboat at \$440,000 within a few short months and accomplish additional services to the lake community. Goggin thanked Dianna Colman for taking the reins of the fireboat project and now the Yerkes Future Foundation.

MINUTES FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING, AUG. 4, 2018 — A motion to approve the minutes as published was passed (Taylor/Otzen).

TREASURER'S REPORT was deferred to the Board of Directors' Meeting.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORTS — Nominating Committee nominated the following, which were approved unanimously:

EEF Directors for three-year terms ending in 2022: Karin Bennett (1st term), Mike Hinske (2nd term), Mary King (2nd term), and Chuck Palma (1st term).

GLA Directors with three-year terms to expire in 2022: Brigid Cashman; Brian Griffith; James W. McAvoy; Robert T. Morava, Jr.; Thomas Nickols, Dana Hagenah, Robin Randolph, Karl Otzen, and William B. Duncan.

Retiring EEF board members Barbara Kelly, Harold Friestad, and Past President Chuck Ebeling were thanked for their dedicated service.

EEF Officers are Carl Rathmann, President; William Duncan, Vice President; Mike Hinske, Vice President; and James Smith, Secretary/Treasurer as elected by the EEF Board.

At the following meeting of the GLA Board of Directors, the following officers will be nominated: Mark Lillie, President; Lynn Grayson, Vice President; Robin Randolph, Treasurer; Robert T. Morava, Jr., Secretary; and James Smith, Executive Secretary. Jack Goggin was thanked for his many years of service on the board including his five years as President.

EEF SCHOLARSHIP/GRANT PRESENTATIONS — EEF President Carl Rathmann announced that thanks to the generosity of the community along with a grant from the GLA, the EEF was able to award nearly \$41,000 in scholarships and grants to a wide range of scholars to study environmental disciplines including graduating high school seniors, undergrads, and post graduates. EEF also awarded Outdoor Education grants to eleven elementary/middle schools in our area.

Rathmann announced new efforts to provide scholarships to Gateway students in pursuit of one of the several environmentally-based associate degrees offered. Additionally, the EEF is supporting the GLAS LENSS program in a study of the Geneva Lake area dark sky, and is supporting student involvement in a study of the creek entering Geneva Lake at Big Foot Beach.

Of the twelve scholars receiving scholarships in 2019, the following were introduced at the meeting:

Thomas E. Reynolds Endowment Scholars, each of whom receives a \$12,000 scholarship over four years. The endowment from the Reynolds family in 1980 fully funds the awards:

- Emily Sheen (freshman at UW-Platteville from Badger)
- Danielle Wrzesinski (sophomore at Iowa State from Big Foot)
- Casey Burmeister (senior at George Williams College from Badger)

High School Graduate Scholars:

- Christian Johnston (Northwestern Univ. from Badger)
- Lexie Judd (Roosevelt Univ. from Williams Bay)
- Julia Keenan (Montana State Univ. from Badger)

Undergraduate Scholars:

- Brooke Bowser (UW-Madison from Barneveld)
- Levi Myers (UW River Falls from Elkhorn)
- Natasha Trush (UW-Stevens Point from Williams Bay)

Makalyn Peterson (Big Foot TER scholar), Grace Spiegelhoff (Catholic Central High School Scholar), and Douglas Reuss (Badger Undergraduate Scholar) were unable to attend.

STARRY STONEWORT PANEL:

Goggin introduced GLEA Director Ted Peters and Trinke Estates President Tim Cavanagh to join him in answering questions about the invasive plant and current plans to deal with it. Peters gave a lengthy overview of the situation, including the considerations of the GLEA emergency meeting which had been held just days previous. The plant was initially found in a small area of Trinke lagoon, and has subsequently been found in two other locations on the south shore, one east of Trinke Lagoon and one at the mouth of Trinke Lagoon. More surveying will be taking place in the next week, and options on how to control its spread will be considered. Peters emphasized that there has been great cooperation from Trinke Estates members, neighbors, and the community at large, as well as the DNR.

Many questions from the audience were fielded by the panel members. Relevant responses include:

- Chemical treatment of the Trinke plant seems successful so far to kill the vegetative part of the plant; more treatment may follow. The quarantine curtain was vandalized rendering it partially ineffective.
- It is possible to mark additional sites, but difficult to quarantine sites.
- Unhealthy lakes are most vulnerable to infestation of Starry Stonewort. Geneva is very healthy and has successfully fought off other invasions like zebra mussels and milfoil. A healthy littoral zone is key. Deep water is important.
- Education of boaters entering the lake is key as is cleaning of boats before entering the lake. Implementation of state program 'Clean Boats/Clean Waters' would be helpful.
- The plant is not known to be toxic.
- All 40 Trinke Estate homeowners have been cooperative and have committed to continued cooperation.
- DNR has committed to two \$20,000 grants for education and dredging; total effort may involve several hundred thousand dollars. Lake communities are willing to stand behind a loan for needed funding via GLEA. GLEA is a governmental agency comprised of and funded by the municipalities around the lake.
- Local marinas and public launch officials are aware of the issue.

Peters was applauded for his passion dealing with the threat of the plant on Geneva Lake. The GLEA website will continue to publicize efforts related to the plant. GLA members can receive important updates from GLA if their email addresses are on file.

LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES:

Representative Tyler August announced that the state budget was completed in a timely fashion and that he appreciated having time to spend in his districts with constituents. He and Representative Loudenbeck accompanied Water Safety Patrol Director Ted Pankau and Geneva Lake Law Enforcement Agency Commander Hausner on a tour of the lake for the purpose of determining how the state can help with issues facing these two entities. August is involved with the Speaker's task force on water quality—lake, ground, and drinking water—which will make a report in the fall. August is proposing legislation to streamline adoption processes in Wisconsin.

Representative Amy Loudenbeck was unable to attend due to a prior commitment.

Senator Stephen Nass congratulated the scholars and seconded the idea of providing support to students pursuing associate degrees. He is active in legislation designed to assist in the training of fire and EMT volunteers. The budget is complete, but little is left for additional projects. Nass emphasized the importance of knowledgeable citizens to testify regarding local and state issues. The best governmental decisions evolve from critical information from constituents.

The state has held hearing regarding run-off from farms. Farmers have some means to control this and need to help. Representative Loudenbeck has been active in working with Yerkes Future Foundation.

YERKES FUTURE FOUNDATION:

Dianna Colman spoke on behalf of the Yerkes Future Foundation (YFF) Committee. The committee has been inundated with work including travel and meeting with national and international experts of all kinds, including astrophysicists, scientists, astronomers, etc. The Foundation has retained the *pro bono* services of a very respected law firm. The mission of YFF remains to preserve and maintain the architectural treasure, keep it open to the public and foster its educational and outreach programs, especially among the youth. The YFF has completed its 501.c.3. tax standing, and has hired two world-renowned consultants and studied issues such as zoning, titling, and sunset laws. Representative Loudenbeck has been very helpful.

The University of Chicago owns the land, and the heirs of Yerkes own the building if no scientific work continues there. Currently the U of C has continued studies there to comply with the original letter of bequest from Yerkes. The Yerkes family members are in full support of the YFF and are eager to help, expressing the same values as the YFF.

YFF and U of C are still covered by a non-disclosure clause which prevents publication of ongoing negotiations. Community volunteers will be in great need as things progress in the future.

AFFILIATED ASSOCIATION REPORTS

Geneva Lake Water Safety Patrol—Ted Pankau and Brigid Cashman spoke on issues affecting the WSP. After a slow June because of the all the rain, activity has exploded in July and August. The patrol has responded to hundreds of calls and assisted many pull-outs. Education remains paramount for water safety, and the Patrol's swimming and boating classes address that need. Propeller dangers are a key element in this year's safety tips. Boaters need to turn engines off and keep distance from their swimmers and skiers, who should swim to the boat when it is not running.

Cashman noted a loophole in the law which allows a child of 10 years to operate a boat but only when accompanied by an adult 18 years or older. The law neglects to require the adult to have a license or comply with the age requirement for operation. Representatives August and

Loudenbeck are working to get that loophole closed. Cashman noted that rental facilities are required to check the operating eligibility of boat renters. WSP remains as an educational entity, informing boaters of the law, but not as enforcement.

Geneva Lake Law Enforcement Agency — Commander Hausner was called to a lake patrol issue on the water and was unable to attend the meeting as intended.

Kishwaukee Nature Conservancy — President Harold Friestad noted the conservancy operates completely on donated funds, and no government funds are given to the project. Friestad thanked all donors and volunteers and for the financial support from the GLA. The conservancy will celebrate its anniversary next year, 30 years from when \$1,575,000 purchased 231 acres of pristine nature. The goal continues to provide nature experiences for youth and adults, as well as continuing education classed for youth. This summer 20-30 children attended two classes per week. The Conservancy also will host renowned author Emily Stone to lead a hike and discuss ‘finding stories in nature.’

Geneva Lake Conservancy — Treasurer Don Parker noted its goals are education and advocacy in preservation. It is currently involved in a phosphorous reduction project in conjunction with GLEA and GLA, including seminars, letters to property owners, and testing of streams. The conservancy will ultimately propose municipal ordinances to limit the amount of phosphorus that enters the lake and streams and groundwater. Many projects are working to protect oak trees and oak forests, by encouraging the purchases of oaks grown from acorns, and purchasing forests areas to become conservation easements.

Geneva Lake Environmental Agency — Director Ted Peters noted the project study of the creek entering Geneva Lake at Big Foot Beach is funded by grants from the Environmental Education Foundation and DNR and is being done by area teachers and Badger students.

Real Estate Market Trends — Bob Rauland, from Rauland Realty, highlighted real estate market trends especially those related to lakefront and lake access houses. Bob provided a hand out with current statistics and maps of Walworth County lakes. The handout was available in the room, and copies are available from the Rauland office.

One example of information in the handout shows vacant lakefront of 300 frontage feet for sale at \$3,375,000 or \$11,250 per front foot. Another example of 22 properties shows an average of improved lakefront properties for sale at \$4,403,227 or \$35,194 per front foot.

Rauland was thanked for his estimated twenty years of reporting at the GLA Annual Meetings.

President Goggin adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

James A. Smith
Executive Secretary