

Geneva Lake Guardian



GENEVA LAKE ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 412
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www.genevalakeassoc.org

FALL 2011

Our mission is to enhance the conservation, preservation, environmental integrity and general welfare of Geneva Lake and its surrounding area by timely and issue-centered communication and education through a wide membership base of residences and businesses.

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE GENEVA LAKE ASSC., INC. • PROTECTING GENEVA LAKE SINCE 1935

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GLA looks to enhance member communication

Members asked for email addresses

A newly revised draft of the GLA Mission Statement emphasizes 'timely and issue-centered communication' as a major purpose of the Association.

At its meeting following the Annual Meeting of Members on August 6, the Board of Directors passed a resolution authorizing the Executive Secretary to solicit email addresses from the membership.

These actions by the Committee and the Board recognize that while the publication of the *Geneva Lake Guardian* is important to the members, issues of great importance to residents of the Geneva Lake area can arise with little warning, and notification of meetings and discussions cannot be subject to the publication schedule of the *Guardian*.

Privacy a concern

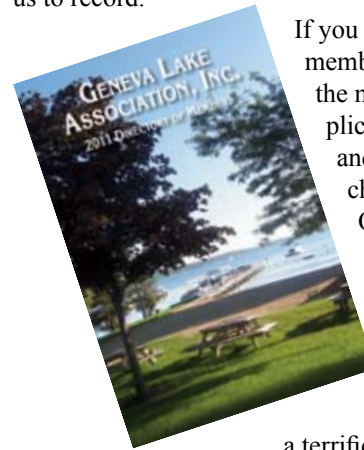
In authorizing the solicitation of email addresses, the directors emphasized the importance of member privacy. Email addresses will not be distributed under any circumstances to parties outside of the GLA, and the GLA will not use the addresses for any purpose other than to inform the membership of issues and developments that may affect their quality of life in the Geneva Lake area.

In other words, if you submit your email address to the GLA, don't expect to have your inbox cluttered with nonsense from the Association. We will use the access to your inbox judiciously.

Should you decide that you no longer wish to receive email notifications from the GLA, we will honor your request to delete your email address from the database.

How to participate

If you are already a current member, all you need to do is send an email message to the GLA at GlaOffice@aol.com. Use the address that you want us to record.



If you are not a current member, simply fill out the membership application in this issue and mail it with your check to the GLA Office. You will benefit as well by receiving the 2012 Directory when it is published next spring.

The directory is a terrific book listing the Geneva Lake area residences by pier numbers, along with other pertinent area information. In fact, if you act soon, we will send you this year's directory as a special welcome!

Am I a current member?

Just check your address on this publication (below). Above your name you should see three pieces of information. The first is the classification of 'current' or 'noncurrent.' The second is your membership category, indicating your past or current level of participation, such as 'regular' or 'sustaining,' etc., the third is your last date of payment. Current members are eligible to receive the GLA Directory.

A regatta on Geneva Lake is always picturesque



What is the GLA?

Since 1935 the Geneva Lake Association (GLA) has served as guardian of Geneva Lake and its surrounding area. GLA advances its mission of conservation, preservation, environmental integrity and general welfare of Geneva Lake with timely and issue-centered communications and education through a wide membership base of area residents and local businesses.

GLA services and benefits include:

- The attentive **oversight and monitoring of Geneva Lake area issues and concerns** through the GLA Executive Secretary and its 27 member Board of Directors;
- The annual publication of the **GLA Directory of residents and pier numbers** distributed to over 500 member families and businesses;
- The annual updating of the **GLA established pier numbering system as a cross reference guide (pier numbers to street address) to enhance Lake safety** and for emergency use by the Water Safety Patrol, police, ambulance, and fire departments around the Lake;
- The quarterly distribution to members and friends of the **GLA produced newsletter, the Geneva Lake Guardian.**

Background:

During its over 75 year history, the GLA has grown to a broad membership of residents and businesses representing every village, association, inlet, bay and shore path around Geneva Lake. Residents on the Lake and off the Lake look to the GLA as the Lake-wide organization in place to be attentive and pro-active with an emphasis on communications and education.

The size of the Lake area and the wide, varied interests of its growing population require that the GLA Board include 27 Directors from all corners of the Lake. This group, plus several retired (honorary) Directors, the GLA officers and its Executive Secretary form the governing structure of the GLA.

The GLA's foundation is its membership base. It is the only organization of its kind around the Lake with dues-paying members as its financial support. All contributions are tax deductible as the GLA is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization under IRS and State regulations.

While it is virtually a volunteer run group, the GLA carries out its responsibilities with a paid part time Treasurer and Executive Secretary working within an operating budget to provide services and benefits to a growing membership of over 500 families and businesses.

The GLA will continue to serve and support the interests of the wider Geneva Lake community through coordinated relationships with other Lake-serving groups whose missions are compatible; such as, the Water Safety Patrol, the Geneva Lake Environmental Agency, the Kishwaukee Nature Conservancy, the Geneva Lake Conservancy, and the Environmental Education Foundation.

What has it done for me lately?

The following are a few good examples of GLA participation through communication and education in events of significant importance to Geneva Lake over the years:

- the early attention to forming a close relationship with the DNR in Madison to gain critical support in stocking populations of a wide variety of fish in our Lake on a regular basis;
- the turning of the Northwestern Military Academy property from a dense multifamily several hundred unit development to a high quality plan of upscale single family homes;
- the aggressive Lake community response to the emergency need for rebuilding the Lake Geneva City Dam controlling the water level of the entire lake;
- the resolution of the Black Point Peterson property crises that protects and prohibits the development of over 500 ft. of prime lake front land;
- the most recent successful Lake-wide initiative to stop the serious development effort of turning the Yerkes Observatory property into a large scale lake front hotel/spa complex with potential devastating environmental and land/lake conservation damage resulting;
- the ongoing over 30-year affiliation with its sister organization, the Environmental Education Foundation, as it provides scholarships and grants to Lake area students for environmental-centered studies and experiences.



GENEVA LAKE ASSOCIATION

Won't you consider joining?

See the back page

Shoreland zoning standards deadline extended 2 years

by Dianna Colman

The deadline for implementation of the new shoreland zoning standards outlined in NR115 has been extended for two years from February 2012 to 2014.

Charles Colman and Ted Peters discussed the import of these zoning standards at the Annual Membership Meeting of the GLA on August 6th.

Colman is a current Board member and Past Chairman of the Geneva Lake Conservancy, and Peters is the Executive Director of the Geneva Lake Environmental Agency.

According to Colman, Walworth County **must**, at the minimum, bring their shoreland rules up to compliance with the new regulations of NR115. However, the County also has the option of making these rules stricter. Once the state standards go into effect, they are unlikely to be changed for years to come.

Area residents have the option to

design regulations that best fit the area, or to live with what the State has proposed without amendment.

Peters described the effects that poor shoreland stewardship can have on the Geneva Lake area. Issues such as lot setbacks and shoreland vegetation versus impervious surfaces are critical to the welfare of the Geneva Lake area.

The Geneva Lake Association, committed to informing the public of issues affecting the quality of the Lakes area, was privileged to have Colman and Peters offer presentations on the subject. An informed public can help the County Board reach the right decisions for Geneva Lake but, as Colman stated, GLA members are needed at meetings where these issues are discussed, and where County Board members can hear the desires of the residents. Both Peters and Colman encouraged participation by anyone willing to support stricter standards for the county.

by the numbers...

Rauland Report

Walworth Realtor Bob Rauland's presentation at the GLA Annual meeting is always punctuated with the much-anticipated market comparisons. Here's the highlights from the Aug. 6 presentation...

State of Wisconsin New Home permits...

2003	30,300
2010	6,400

Average list price for vacant front footage on Geneva Lake...

1956	\$156
1988	\$2500
1998	\$22,500
2007	\$30,000
2009	\$24,000
2010	\$20,000

Oops!

The 2011 Directory mistakenly listed the wrong email address for commercial member Sheldon Landscape, Inc. The correct email address is Don@Sheldonlandscape.com.

GLA supports lake-friendly organizations

by Tom Reynolds, Jr.

At its summer Board meeting, GLA directors, via recommendations from its Mission Committee, elected to contribute \$1,500 each to the Water Safety Patrol, the Geneva Lake Environmental Agency, and the Kishwaukee Nature Conservancy.

For many years the GLA has supported the financial needs of other lake-serving organizations whose missions are compatible with the GLA's, particularly in emergencies. The Water Safety Patrol continues to need funds to cover the increasing fuel costs to run their boats. Grants this year to the GLEA and Kishwaukee helped fund the hiring of two college student interns for environmentally important work on and near the Lake.

Thanks to the generous annual financial support from members and friends, the GLA is able to consider helping others as opportunities for need arise around the Lake...all of this from available funds after operating expenses and reserve requirements are covered.

Welcome, new members

The GLA welcomes the following new members. We appreciate your support.

Residential

- Lo & Mary Ellen Alt
- Mick Balistreri
- Francis Beidler III
- Bodine Family
- Ed Burke, Jr.
- G. Joseph Cosenza
- Robert & Marletta Darnall
- Jim & Kathy Federighi
- John & Mary Ann Foxley
- FJ & Kimi Frazier
- Bob and Eva Grady
- Donald E. Getzen
- Janet Giovanetti
- William G. Hameister
- Janice L. Hartley
- Jay Hicks
- Bob & Jan Janess
- Charles & Marguerite Klimkowski
- John & Patti Koltes
- Kris & Kirsten Larsen
- Michael & Julie Loeber
- Tom Marek
- Melissa & William McClayton
- William & Lois McEssy
- Thomas & Anne McNeill
- Brian & Joyce Michel
- Gina Nocek
- Jeff & Susan Noll
- Roger & Darlene O'Neill
- John Pagliari
- Jim & Vickie Peck
- Wallie & Kathie Perkins
- Doug & Mary Perks
- Raymond & Patricia Potucek
- Dave and Joanne Prudden
- Robert & Mary Quinn
- Mary Reed
- Barbara & Earl Roloff
- Arlene & John L. Rose
- Beatrice Sheehan
- Holly Starck
- Linda Tonge
- Diane Urlakis
- James & Denise Vitale
- Bob Webster, Jr.
- David & Nancy Williams
- Yerkes Observatory
- Sara & George Zick

Commercial

- By the Seat of Our Pants Catering Co.
- Comfort Zone Window Tinting, LLC
- Jorndt Builders LLC
- Jorndt/Fahey Remodelling LLC
- Daddy Maxwells
- Keefe Real Estate
- Streblov Custom Boats, Inc.

Rep. August touts Wis. property tax freeze as a first

by State Representative
Tyler August
(R-Lake Geneva)

I had the distinct honor of speaking at the Geneva Lake Association's annual meeting in August. I was joined by State Senator Neal Kedzie (R-Elkhorn) to discuss action that has been taken in Madison that affects area residents. For those who were not at the meeting, I hope to take this opportunity to provide a brief summary of what has been happening in the state legislature over the past few months.

Perhaps the largest concern of area residents continues to be property taxes. I share those concerns, and that is why I supported the property tax freeze in Governor Scott Walker's budget bill.

The property tax freeze that was instituted in the budget is the first permanent tax cap in our state's history. It is estimated that the freeze will protect homeowners with a median-value home from an expected property tax increase of \$736 over the next two years. In addition, the provision keeps property tax increases below 1% in 2011 and 2012. I believe this was a step in the right direction toward reducing the tax burden in our state.

Overall, the legislature has been

focused on improving the business climate so that the private sector can create jobs, and on balancing the budget, while reducing the tax burden.

Facing a \$3.6 billion budget deficit, tough decisions had to be made to balance the state budget. The budget repair bill, which put Wisconsin in national headlines, resulted in laying the foundation to balance the state's budget. We gave school districts and local governments the tools they would need to offset the absence of one-time stimulus money used by the last administration and reductions in state aid.

Peters preaches shoreland stewardship

Addressing the Geneva Lake Association Aug. 6, Geneva Lake Environmental Agency Director Ted Peters emphasized the importance of the "buffer zone" around Geneva Lake in maintaining its health.

Wisconsin has 'Rules' governing these buffer zones. NR117 applies to incorporated areas of villages and cities, and NR115, which is in its formative stages, will govern the unincorporated areas, of which there are many around Geneva Lake.

The goal of the shoreland rules are to protect the areas that nourish the lake, for the sake of the lake itself,

In the end, the budget was balanced for the first time in over a decade, and it was done without raising taxes on families or our job creators. We also enacted sweeping business reforms that encourage job growth.

As a freshman legislator, this session hasn't been easy, but it continues to be a humbling experience. It is an honor representing you in the State Assembly. Please contact me with any questions or concerns you may have by calling 608-266-1190, emailing rep.august@legis.wi.gov or by visiting my website at www.rep-august.com.

and for the property values which are tied to its health. "Clear water demands higher prices," said Peters. Lakefront owners can help the lake by maintaining a buffer zone. A 35' buffer zone of native vegetation is best for the lake shoreland areas. Natural plants indigenous to the area need no fertilization to survive the winters and other hardships that the climate can provide. In areas where the natural plants have been displaced, landscape architects are able to help redevelop the vegetation needed for nourishing and filtering lake water.

Geneva Lake has been very resilient throughout its history, according to Peters. In spite of increased boat traffic, the invasion of Zebra Mussels, and the constant threat of invasive weeds, Geneva lake remains one of the most beautiful and healthy in Wisconsin. But Peters warns that the lake may not always be able to tolerate the pressures that are put upon it.

Self regulation by lakefront property owners, and reasonable regulations by government such as those outlined in NR117 and NR115 will help keep Geneva Lake healthy.

An on-line search for "Wisconsin Shoreland Zoning" produces numerous resources on the topic.

Need to reach the Water Safety Patrol?

262-245-6577

Director Ted Pankau advises that the Water Safety Patrol is best reached by calling its office at 262-245-6577. This will produce a quicker on-the-water response in the case of emergencies than by calling 911.

Pankau recommends writing this number on your pier, on your boat, on your boat key float, and anywhere it might be handy.

If you do call 911 for help, it is thanks to efforts of the GLA that

community emergency responders have a cross reference guide linking property addresses with GLA designated pier numbers.

Need a license?

Any operator of a motorboat or personal watercraft (PWC) who was born on or after January 1, 1989 must have a valid Wisconsin Boating Safety Certificate (boating license). The Water Safety Patrol provides four or five boating education classes each season.

Sen. Kedzie updates pier registration requirements

by State Senator Neal Kedzie

Last month, I had the pleasure of speaking at the Geneva Lake Association's annual meeting and offering members my insight to the activity of the Wisconsin Legislature. I enjoyed meeting several of you, and look forward to seeing many more of you at various events in the district in the coming year. One important topic I'm frequently asked to speak to is the new pier registration law and how it relates to lake property owners in my district, and around Wisconsin.

The original pier registration requirement was a component of the 2008 Pier Protection Act, which created standards for the placement of piers, including square footage criteria for loading platforms, and exemptions for certain piers. The law was intended to apply to new piers, while at the same time, create a process to exempt – or “grandfather” – existing piers which have been in the water before the law went into effect. 000

Under the Pier Protection Act, existing piers with a loading platform of less than 300 square feet needed to be registered with the DNR by April 1, 2011 in order to be grandfathered. While the law

created a three-year window of time for pier owners to comply, I recently learned less than 50 percent of the anticipated registrations had been received by the DNR, as many pier owners were either unaware of this new requirement, or uncertain as to whether or not they needed to register.

To help with this situation, I authored Senate Bill 59 earlier this year in order to grant a one-year extension for registering grandfathered piers. The bill was passed by both houses of the Legislature and signed into law by Governor Walker. Pier owners now have until April 1, 2012 to register their pier, if they need to do so. There is no charge to register and registration forms may be found on the DNR's Web site at <http://dnr.wi.gov/waterways/recreation/piers.html>

It can be a little tricky for a property owner to determine whether or not they need to register their pier and how to go about doing so. The DNR's Web site includes an interactive decision tool to help property owners determine whether they need to register, or in many cases, simply do nothing. The good news is that most piers do not need any DNR permit or registration, as long as they meet both the

DNR's Pier Planner requirements and the DNR's Pier Exemption Checklist.

Both documents are also available on the DNR's Web site. Piers placed in the water after February 6, 2004 that do not meet both the Pier Planner requirements and the Pier Exemption Checklist will need a DNR permit.

While the Pier Protection Act was a significant change in the way piers are regulated, I know many continue to express concerns and confusion as to what is required under the law, and why it's even required at all. I continue to work on this issue with my colleagues in the Legislature, and am hopeful we can find a resolution to address those concerns and allow property owners to continue to use their piers as they wish. If you need any assistance with pier registration or any other topic, feel free to contact my office at 608-266-2635, or on the Web at www.SenatorKedzie.com

[Sen. Kedzie can be reached in Madison at P.O. Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707-7882 or by calling toll-free 1 (800) 578-1457. He may be reached in the district at (262) 742-2025 or through a link on the State Web site at www.wisconsin.gov.]

“Evening Sail” limited edition print available



The Environmental Education Foundation (EEF) invites you to enjoy an “Evening Sail” while supporting the EEF's mission*. The provocative image is of an A Scow crew, silhouetted in the last light of a red hot summer sunset. The limited edition print represents the breathtaking magnificence of life on Geneva Lake.

The EEF is pleased to offer this exclusive print by local artist Bruce Thompson to help fund the EEF scholarship programs. Bruce has expertly crafted the high quality giclee print of “Evening Sail” on the finest 100% cotton canvas available. The brilliance of colors is achieved by using state of the art high dynamic range pigmented inks.

Your print, triple-coated with UV protection, may be enjoyed by future generations. “Evening Sail” will be offered to you elegantly framed or unframed. Each print will be signed and numbered and will include a brass nameplate and certificate of authenticity.

To purchase the framed 23 ½” x 29 ½” print for \$750, or the unframed 18” x 24” for \$550, please call the EEF at (262) 745-0465. Leave your name and contact information, and we will call you to process your order.

The tax deductible amount for your contribution will be \$300.

**To promote environmental awareness to all ages throughout the Geneva Lake area and to award educational scholarships to area students for environmental centered studies.*

GLA Membership Application/Renewal Form

All persons interested in enhancing the conservation, preservation, environmental integrity and general welfare of Geneva Lake and its surrounding area are invited to become members. The tax deductible contributions requested of members are as follows:

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY:

- \$ _____ **Regular Membership**
Annual Contribution \$30
- \$ _____ **Sustaining Membership**
All members who so elect,
Annual Contribution \$50
- \$ _____ **Contributing Membership**
All members who so elect,
Annual Contribution \$100
- \$ _____ **Donor Membership**
All members who so elect,
Annual Contribution \$150
- \$ _____ **Benefactor Membership**
All members who so elect,
Annual Contribution \$250 or more
- \$ _____ **Commercial Membership**
Annual Contribution \$60 or more

Name _____

E-Mail Address _____

Mailing Address _____

(for all mailings) _____

Phone _____

Geneva Area Address _____

(if not the same) _____

Pier Number _____ (if none, use LG, F, WB, etc)

Subdivision or Association (If any) _____

Estate Name (ex. "Rock Haven") _____

Phone _____

Send Membership Form and check to
Geneva Lake Association, Inc. (GLA)
PO Box 412
Lake Geneva, WI 53147

All Contributions are Tax Deductible

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