

# Geneva Lake Guardian



**GENEVA LAKE ASSOCIATION**  
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*Our mission is to enhance the 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.*

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

## GLA reviews shore path rules, signage

### *A plan for consistency*

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In an effort to maintain the historical nature and purpose of the Geneva Lake Shore Path, the Geneva Lake Association has embarked on a multi-part program to codify the rules pertaining to the path and to better inform users of their special privilege and obligations in using the path.

The program is premised on the sometimes overlooked fact that the path traverses private property except for the areas owned by the five municipalities that border the lake. These include the City of Lake Geneva, the Village of Fontana on Geneva Lake, the Village of Williams Bay, the Town of Linn, and the Town of Walworth.

An integral part of the GLA initiative

was to get full Board approval of the rules that should pertain to the use of the path, along with the approval of several lake front property owners. The resulting rules are similar to the rules that have been displayed for decades on the 23 or more signs that the GLA has maintained around the lake, most recently revised and replaced in 2013. A major addition is the prohibition of commercial events.

A second part of the GLA initiative is to ask all of the municipalities to adopt the rules so that understanding of the rules is universal and enforcement is more easily effected. Currently, various municipalities address some of the issues, but there is no consistency. For instance,

*see Shore Path Rules, page 2*



**President Jack Goggin (center) and board members John Larson and Don Taylor placed eight new signs on the Geneva Lake Shore Path where the public gains access to the path.**

## The President's Desk...



GLA has had a busy and successful year. Here are some of the highlights:

1. In May, GLA Board and Officers joined and funded a group of lake shore owners to successfully dissuade the organizers of the Muck Suck Race from putting on a round-the-lake run which would have been on the lake shore path which traverses, in most part, private property.

2. GLA encouraged our local Assembly Members in Madison—Tyler August and Amy Loudenberg—to assist in getting the DNR to stop citing pier owners who have side curtains to protect their boats. A big shout-out both of them for getting an amendment placed in the Budget Bill allowing side curtains on piers to protect wooden boats, thus precluding any further DNR citations.

3. A GLA thanks to Ted Pankau of the Water Safety Patrol who testified in Madison against the passage of a bill which would allow a boat pulling a water skier, wake-boarder or the like from having a second in the boat. The bill passed but due to Ted's efforts, our Assembly Members August and Loudenberg got Geneva Lake exempted. There have to be two people on board such watercraft on Geneva Lake.

4. GLA continues to monitor the attempts by The Geneva Inn to either get a zoning change from Linn Township or be annexed by the City of Lake Geneva so that it can build and operate a wedding venue on the lake front. These attempts for commercialization of the lake front need GLA's efforts to assure that the area maintains its historical integrity.

5. Finally, as is mentioned in the previous article, GLA is continuing in its efforts to protect the lake shore path which has been in use for over one hundred years.

Thanks to all of you for your continuing membership support.

Jack Goggin

## Shore Path Rules

(Continued from page 1)

regarding bicycles on the path, the Town of Linn and the Village of Williams Bay have ordinances prohibiting them, but the Village of Fontana on Geneva Lake and the City of Lake Geneva do not.

A third part of the GLA initiative is to ask a dozen or more strategically located lake front homeowners to adopt the guidelines and record them with the Walworth County Register of Deeds. This will ensure that the same set of rules apply to respective lake shore path properties in each of the municipalities.

Public awareness of the rules is integral to the success of maintaining the lake path for historical use as a walking path. The signs posted and maintained by the GLA have been instrumental toward this goal, but public awareness can also be enhanced with the help of local news outlets. The GLA asks the local newspapers to help our visitors to understand their obligations to the private owners as they enjoy this unique recreational opportunity.

## Welcoming back Purple Martins

Walkers along the lake shore path are often greeted by the beautiful songs of purple martins, a migratory bird using the Geneva Lake area as a summer nesting site. These graceful birds arrive in mid to late April from South America and remain until early October.

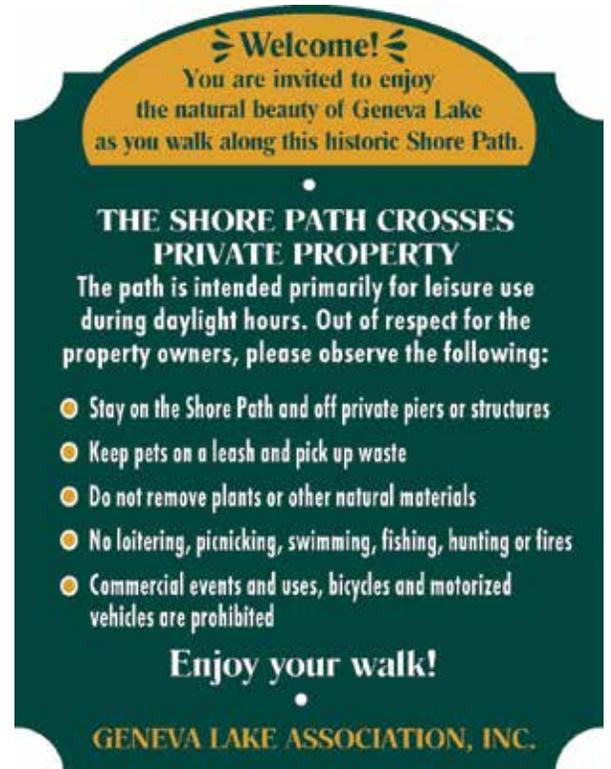
Beverly Leonard, owner of Delaney Street Mercantile and a member of the Avian Committee, explained the need for additional martin houses along the lake front to encourage more nesting. She is working to locate and place martin houses around the lake.

A federally protected bird, purple martins are dependent on humans as their natural habitats have been

reduced. Open areas near water without overhanging trees are ideal for establishing a colony of purple martins. The bird house structures are easily mounted at the end of a pier or in an open area.

In return for providing a martin birdhouse, a home owner will hear their melodious songs and watch their playful antics as they feed in mid-air by eating insects! And, a happy purple martin will return to its nesting site year after year.

Planning for a martin house takes place now and into early spring. Beverly has various booklets and information on ordering. She may be reached at [Beverly@delaneystreet.com](mailto:Beverly@delaneystreet.com) or 541-228-4062.



A representation of the new GLA Lake Path signs, including recently adopted rule revisions

# Geneva Lake Association Annual Meeting Minutes

**Saturday, July 29, 2017**  
**Big Foot Country Club**  
**Fontana, Wisconsin**

**WELCOME** —President Goggin called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and thanked the attendees for their support. He welcomed Senator Nass; Representatives Amy Loudenbeck and Tyler August, other invited speakers; members; and guests. Goggin reminded the membership of the Mission of the GLA, noted the involvement of the GLA in addressing the ‘Muck Suck’ race, and expressed pride in the scholarship awardees and the work of the Environmental Education Foundation, an affiliate organization.

**MINUTES FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING, JULY 30, 2016** —A motion to approve the minutes was passed (Taylor/Larson).

**TREASURER’S REPORT** — Treasurer Robin Randolph reported another successful year. Unexpected expenses of approximately \$15,000 for legal fees to address the ‘Muck Suck’ race were offset by approximately \$10,000 in special donations for that cause. The GLA committed nearly \$5,000 toward the effort. A substantial anonymous unrestricted donation increased GLA income again in the fiscal year, but for the sake of a conservative budget it is not included in the budget for 2017-2018.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORTS** —Nominating Committee Chairman Gee nominated the following, which were approved:

EEF Directors for three-year terms ending in 2020: Linda Ciaglia (2<sup>nd</sup> term), Bill Duncan (2<sup>nd</sup> term), Harold Friestad (1<sup>st</sup> term), Toni Harkness (1st term). Additionally, Doris Frentress for a 1<sup>st</sup> term ending in 2018, and Mary King for a 1<sup>st</sup> term ending in 2019. Approved (Gee/Williams).

GLA Directors with three-year terms to expire in 2020: David Anderson, Dianna Colman, Tricia Forbeck, John Goggin, Lynn Grayson, Scott Craven Jones, John Larson, William McClayton, and Donald Taylor. Additionally, Robert Klockars for a 1<sup>st</sup> term ending in 2018, and Karl Otzen for a 1<sup>st</sup> term ending in 2019. Approved (Gee/Morava). Retiring members Margaret Farwell Goes, Baxter Phillip, Marie Kropp, and

Robert Flannery, Jr. were thanked for their distinguished service on the Board.

**EEF SCHOLARSHIP/GRANT PRESENTATIONS** — EEF President Chuck Ebeling recognized the following 2017 EEF Scholars in attendance. Over \$33,00 in scholarships are awarded from donations of GLA members and others:

- Heidi Lininger (High School Senior Scholarship, Badger)
- Douglas Reuss (High School Senior Scholarship, Badger)
- Hannah Peterson (High School Senior Scholarship, Faith Christian)
- Christine Wen (Cashman Graduate Scholarship)
- Brooke Berryman (Undergraduate Scholarship)
- Shanell Budleski (Undergraduate Scholarship)
- Derek Waulet (Dark Sky Scholarship)
- Madeline Neubauer (Dark Sky Scholarship)

John Reynolds introduced the 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:

- Makalyn Peterson (Big Foot, Freshman)
- Casey Burmeister (Badger, Sophomore)
- Molly Cocroft (Badger, Junior)

President Ebeling thanked the EEF directors and donors.

**ASSOCIATION HONORS** —President Goggin announced the Honorary Directorship of James Hanny for his 38 years of service to the association. Hanny spoke of the numerous accomplishments of the GLA over the years, and emphasized how much good can be accomplished when people aren’t concerned with who gets the credit.

## **PROGRAM SPEAKERS:**

Senator Nass congratulated the scholars and noted that a state tuition freeze has saved students over \$6,000 in increased costs and possibly more in the pending budget. Nass and Loudenbeck co-authored a bill on beekeeping. The Foxconn project has been called a ‘gamechanger’ for Wisconsin and will be a ‘lifechanger,’ as technical schools and universities will provide programs to train vast number of employees. Nass noted that citizens can request automatic updates

on the action of any pending bills in the legislature.

Representative August reported no major changes on water-related zoning. August spoke extensively on efforts to kill a waterski proposal eliminating the spotter in boats towing skiers, etc. August thanked Water Safety Patrol Director Pankau for testifying on behalf of the Geneva Lake area along with Lake Police officer Hausner. Their testimony about the density of boats on Geneva Lake will likely effect an amendment exempting Walworth and Waukesha Counties from the new law.

Representative Loudenbeck described her successful efforts to expand the services authorized by EMTs in an effort to decrease unnecessary emergency room visits, and to eliminate unnecessary work permit applications each time a youth under 18 changes or takes a new job. The budget should be providing property tax relief, investment in higher education, welfare reform, and transportation funding and DOT reform.

## **AFFILIATED ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

*Geneva Lake Water Safety Patrol* —Ted Pankau spoke on opposition to the waterski proposal. Regardless of state regulations, Geneva Lake can pass more restrictive regulations. The problem is with educating boaters from out of town or out of state. Area flooding has caused some area lakes to enforce no-wake rules, which has brought more boaters to Geneva Lake where no wake was not prescribed.

Brigid Cashman reported concern regarding boaters riding on transom swim platforms while the boat is in motion. Member Darre reported the difficulty in seeing paddleboarders who do not wear bright PFDs. He suggested more to be done to educate them and the vendors on the danger.

The issue of noise from sound systems and the related issue of inappropriate lyrics in noisy sound systems was discussed. Pankau reports that while noise levels are limited by statute, they were originally purposed to limit exhaust noise, and according to Lake Police officer Hausner “it is difficult

*see Meeting Minutes, page 4*

## Meeting Minutes

(Continued from page 3)

to enforce or prosecute” noise from sound systems. The WSP asks boaters to keep the noise down but cannot enforce it. Goggin suggested taking the issue to the Lake Use Committee.

*Kishwaukee Nature Conservancy* — President Harold Friestad reported that the 230 acres survived the extensive rains. Four interns help to maintain the conservancy grounds. The conservancy is taking steps to get schools and very young children involved in nature clubs and events at Kishwaukee. With the help of interns from Yerkes, Kishwaukee has applied to become the first Dark Sky park in the state.

*Geneva Lake Conservancy* — Chairman Dennis Jordan reports great efforts over their 40-year history, preserving lands for conservation along the lake front and in other Walworth County locations, preventing obtrusive waterparks, promoting better shoreline regulations, and erecting signs denoting the Geneva Lake watershed. The GLC was pleased to join with GLA in opposition to the ‘Muck Suck’ race. The conservancy has a new, experienced Executive Secretary, and a ten-year plan for the further preservation of sensitive areas.

*Geneva Lake Environmental Agency* — Director Ted Peters introduced Hayden King whose summer internship was made possible by a GLA grant. GLEA is studying the effect of a retreating zebra mussel population and a related loss in plankton and other microscopic fish food. Geneva Lake ‘took a beating’ from the heavy rains, and the surrounding areas are so saturated, that additional rains move directly into the lake without being absorbed. Water clarity and quality is improving as the levels recede. Peters emphasized the importance of good shoreline zoning.

*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, produced with help from Realtor Bob Webster, is available from the Rauland office, and will be posted on the GLA website.

*Town of Linn Fire Department* — Chief

Jason Smith reported that the Linn Fire Boat, purchased with funds generated by the GLA, has been used for training for many area fire departments, has answered many distress call, and a missing person call, and has helped with over 16 incidents on the lake. The department recently upgraded the sonar system to a 3D sonar. Goggin presented the Fire Department with a check for \$3,350, representing remaining donated funds from the GLA Fire Boat Fund.

*Geneva Lake Museum* — Jim Gee reported a vibrant Geneva Lake Museum currently working on a Northwestern Naval and Military exhibit with help from many alum and St. Johns in Delafield. The museum, which had 150 members five years ago, now has 700 members and a healthy endowment from which to draw.

*Lake Shore Path* — President Goggin reported ongoing efforts by the GLA

to further protect the Lake Shore Path, hereafter to be known as the Lake Shore Foot Path. GLA has been involved with the path since 1935 including signage for over 50 years. Approximately 23 recently revised and installed signs located in strategic positions around the lake, remind visitors that they are on private property. The GLA intends to amplify the language of the signs, ask the surrounding municipalities to accept the proposed path rules by ordinance, and reference strategically located riparian GLA lakefront owners on their tax key numbers. The purpose of the efforts is to prevent commercial events and maintain the historical purpose of the path as a foot path.

President Goggin adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m. on a motion by Taylor and second by Stuhley.

Respectfully submitted,  
James A. Smith, Executive Secretary

## EEF picks up the pace in scholarships

Geneva Lake’s Environmental Education Foundation (EEF) is picking up the pace of its scholarship program for the 2017-18 academic year, and is awarding a record \$45,000 in college scholarships and grants to area schools.

Founded 37 years ago by Thomas E. Reynolds, a Geneva Lake Association president, the EEF has made more than a half million dollars in scholarship awards and school grants to local benefit local students, with the support of contributions by local people and organizations, including the GLA.

Some of the careers EEF scholars are preparing for include physical geology, forest and land management, environmental science, hazardless waste management, natural resources and conservation, environmental law and policy, and fish and wildlife management.

More than 475 local youth have received EEF scholarships to date.

The EEF is affiliated with the GLA as an independent 501c3 not-for-profit foundation. You can learn more about the EEF and its work at its website: [www.eefscholars.org](http://www.eefscholars.org).



A group of EEF local scholars were introduced at the 2017 GLA Annual Meeting

*Supporting science and research on Geneva Lake*

## GLA grant finances GLEA summer intern

For years the Geneva Lake Association has been a significant supporter of the Geneva Lake Environmental Agency intern program. Through the GLEA's intern program, the Agency can conduct significant and important scientific research on Geneva Lake. With this research a better understanding of Geneva Lake is gained and used in making decisions that impact Geneva Lake.

Research projects that the GLEA's interns have been involved in include looking at the effect of zebra mussels on the lake bottom community, as well their impacts on the lake biology and chemistry; a complete inventory of the aquatic plant community; bacterial quality at the municipal beaches; Geneva Lake area groundwater quality;

and a better understanding of the source and how much pollution (phosphorus) is being retained by the lake.

During the summer of 2017 the GLEA hired Hayden King, a George Williams College graduate. Hayden was involved in the day-to-day lake management activities such as municipal beach monitoring, groundwater elevation monitoring, and statistical analysis of previous lake data. He was also involved in assessing the suitability of aquatic plant chemical treatments based upon community structure, and participating in the North American Lake Management Societies' "Secchi Dip-in" event, during which water clarity data is uploaded to their website as part of a citizen science initiative.

With funding cuts at both the state and federal level, it is important that this type of research continue. It will only continue if the initiative and efforts are made at the local level. The Geneva Lake Association's support of the GLEA's intern program facilitates the local level research needed for successful lake management.

*The GLA takes pride in its support of area non-profit groups whose missions complement that of the GLA. Over the years the GLA has provided support for the Water Safety Patrol, Geneva Lake Level Corporation, Environmental Education Foundation, Kishwaukee Nature Conservancy, Geneva Lake Museum, and other deserving local entities.*

### Welcome, new members

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

#### Residential

Lauren Asplund  
Dean and Eilena Athans  
George and Jeanne Atkinson  
Daniel Barker  
William T. and Beverly M. Birck  
Ruth Anne Campbell  
Bartley J. and Diana J. Carlson  
Brigid J. Cashman  
Sarah and John Cobb  
Ernest Cochans  
Michael and Jennifer Covey  
Richard C. Crandall, Jr.  
Gary R. Dunham  
John and Susan Eklund  
Rita Ferretti  
Gina Fisher  
Mary Kay Frazier  
Farrell and Doris Frentress  
Tom and Lisa Ganzer  
Joe Gardella and Leta Corbin  
Alec and Karen Gizzi  
Tykee Green  
Erick A. and Betty Haglund  
Dennis J. Healy

Dick and Gina Heise  
Lynn Henderson  
Ryan Hurley and Tanya Volk  
Linda and Charlie Johnston  
John and Kelly Jouris  
Tim and Sheila Kane  
Maureen and Steve Kaufman  
Shawn and Barbara Reid Kelly  
Tim and Heidi Kilpin  
Peter and Mary King  
Tim LaBrecque  
Joshua LaCroix  
Lakewood Lodge  
Jeff and Ellen Liljeberg  
Tom and Kelly Lothian  
Ed Maloney  
Cathy Munro and Steve Burandt  
Jeffrey Neal and Susan Cellmer  
Tom and Donna Neshek  
Dan and Karen Nordsieck  
Pete Novak  
Leigh and Kelly Otzen  
Roger and Ruthie Parsons  
Lisa Sorrento Pavett

Arvid Petersen  
Mike Pfammatter  
Carl and Joyce Ann Rathmann  
Martha Redeker/John and Barbara Snell  
Suzette and Rob Rowe  
Chester and Mary Ellen Rozny  
Peter and Kim Strothman  
Gwen and Ken Swanson  
Chris and Wanda Timmons  
Craig Tomera  
Linda Tonge  
Ellie and John Tucker  
Tom and Ellen Tully  
Bart and Nina Vittori  
Julia and Ken Wegner  
Amy R. Weiler  
Wooddale Lakeshore Prop. Owners Assn.  
Manny and Shelly Yonan  
George and Carol Zimmermann

#### Commercial

Chuck's Lakeshore Inn  
First National Bank & Trust  
Kelly Design Group, LLC  
Munson Ski & Marine  
Sitzberger, Hau & Co., S.C.

### Am I a current member?

GLA members are encouraged to renew their memberships on an annual basis to receive the *Directory* and to be listed in the *Directory* as members. See the note under your mailing label to determine if your membership is current.

# 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 welcome as members. The tax deductible contributions requested of members are as follows:

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY:

- \$ \_\_\_\_\_  **Regular Membership**  
Annual Contribution \$40
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_  **Sustaining Membership**  
Annual Contribution \$75
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_  **Contributing Membership**  
Annual Contribution \$100
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_  **Donor Membership**  
Annual Contribution \$150
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_  **Benefactor Membership**  
Annual Contribution \$250 or more
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_  **Commercial Membership**  
Annual Contribution \$100 or more

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

(as you want to be listed in the Directory)

Check here to use the data that is on file and or...

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

(for all mailings) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Geneva Area Address \_\_\_\_\_

(if not the same) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Pier Number \_\_\_\_\_ (if none, use LG, F, WB, WAL, etc)

Subdivision or Association (If any) \_\_\_\_\_

Estate Name (ex. "Heavenly Acres") \_\_\_\_\_

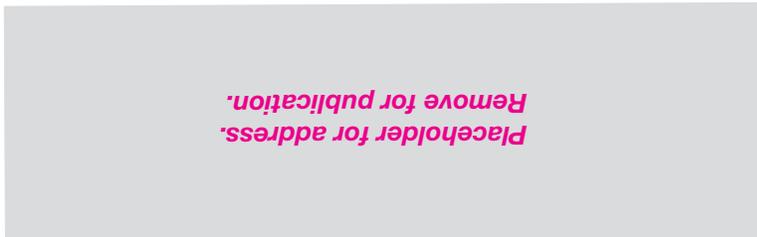
Send Membership Form and check to:  
Geneva Lake Association, Inc. (GLA)  
PO Box 412  
Lake Geneva, WI 53147

**All Contributions are Tax Deductible**

**How do I know if my membership is current?**

Just check your address on this publication (below). The status of your membership in the GLA is noted in the line above your name.  
Online membership application/payment is also found on the GLA website: [www.genevalakeassoc.org](http://www.genevalakeassoc.org)

*Check your label to see the status of your membership!*



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