

Geneva Lake Guardian

Spring / Summer 2016



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

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Black Point Historic Estate and Gardens

Planning on a facelift

Our very own historical landmark, Black Point, is going to have a face lift. Plans are in the making to restore the wraparound veranda and screened porch including the balustrades, stairs, electrical, gutters and all other structural supports. This project may start as early as late summer. Careful attention will be paid to every detail and the restoration will re-use as much original material as possible. The guidelines for structures on the historic register are very strict and must be followed exactly in any restoration project, but the project must be undertaken due to the evident weakening of the timbers and planking.

The work will be challenging in and of itself. However, the work will be done during the months that the house will be open for tours. Traditionally, the verandas and the screened porch were used extensively by the family during the summer months, and so it is today with the visitors who come to tour the house. Groups gather on the veranda for their introduction and are encouraged to linger after the tour to absorb the relaxed feel—just as the family did for generations. Thus, the restoration project will present a true opportunity for the

Wisconsin State Historical Society to inform visitors about the challenges of maintaining a 128 year old structure.

Following this project, restoration of the building envelope will be complete. Attention will then focus on garden improvements and interior restoration. The Black Point Horticulture Committee and the Wisconsin Historical Society have developed a plan with Chicago-based landscape architect Ted Wolff to refresh the estate's gardens. Garden improvements will be implemented in phases, starting with a Wisconsin woodland garden, as philanthropic cultivation permits.

In 2014, Black Point Estate and Gardens was selected by Fodor's Travel as one of the top ten Historic Home Estate Tours in the United States. With this restoration project and the forthcoming development of the gardens, it will only get better!

Tours continue throughout the summer months. If you haven't already, be sure to visit this historical and beautiful Geneva Lake gem. Information about the estate and tours can be found at <http://blackpointestate.wisconsinhistory.org>.



Black Point Estate docents waiting on the veranda for the boat to arrive with guests for a tour

Welcome, new members

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

Residential

James and JoAnne Ahern
George and Mary Antonopoulos
David and Sara Baughman
Michael Belsley and Nina Owen
Brian and Julie Benesch
Michael and Jolynn Blair
Bonnie Brae Partners, LLC
Frank Brewe and Pamela Monaco
Buena Vista Club
Steven and Betsy Carlson
Jon and Patty Clare
Daisy Collins and David Dickens
Randy Demke
Jennifer Forbeck
Edward Foulke
Jim and Nancy Heinz
Ernie and Karen Hirn
Rick and Chriss Johns
Mike and Lisa Jost
Richard and Kathleen Katz
Paul and Michelle Kelly
Brian and Joyce Michel
Shauna and Berry Montgomery
Rick and Nancy Neuman
Jim and Michelle O'Brien
Tim and Carol Ozark
Dan and Kristin Pecora
Tom Ramsey
Mary Kay Ring
John W. Rutledge
Clarence and Marilyn Schawk
Bradley Thor
Trinke Estates Association
Bridget and David Van Eekeren
Dan and Colleen Warner
Boyd Whiting and Beth Pernice
Worcester Family

Commercial

Gifford Tree Service
Jorndt Fahey, LLC
Keefe Real Estate / Rio Haman
Kunes Country Auto Group
Toynton Funeral Home

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.

See the Stars Again!

Geneva Lake Dark Sky Initiative

by Colin Griffith

If you ask them about it, many of Lake Geneva's visitors and residents fondly remember the splendor of the lake area's vibrant nighttime sky. I remember gazing upwards on the pier with friends and family watching shooting stars streak across the heavens. We would tell stories of constellations when I was young of Orion the Greek Hunter and his dog Sirius running across the sky.

These nighttime memories of being with people we care about are lit by silvery moonlight or the warm flickering flame of a campfire. But this certain magic and closeness of nighttime seems like it can be suddenly erased with the flip of a light switch.

As light pollution grows over Lake Geneva, the stars have gradually faded where artificial lights shine out and up into the sky. There still are parts of the lakeshore where the stars still twinkle and you don't find yourself squinting with your hand up to block a house light. These glimpses of a dark sky need to make us question, "What if we could see the stars again?"

Start of the Dark Sky Initiative

The Geneva Lake Dark Sky Initiative was formed last summer as a community wide movement to see the stars again. The Dark Sky Initiative is supported by partner organizations like the Geneva Lake Association, the Environmental Education Foundation, and Yerkes Observatory in advancing work on reducing light pollution.

The beautiful shore of Geneva Lake has a few uninterrupted stretches of homes and associations where you can look out at the horizon and see the stars. We could expand these scenic vistas, but we need your help.

Sensible Solutions & How You Can Help

Luckily, reducing light pollution at your home or in your neighborhood is fairly simple. Next time you're outside at night, think about how much more you could see if lights were directed down instead of into the sky or in your eyes. Simply put, improperly designed light sources create glare and impede visibility. Having the right type of lighting is key to seeing more at night. Purposeful Dark Sky lighting is ideally...

1. Pointed down at the ground
2. Shielded and shining only on what

needs to be illuminated

3. A reasonable brightness
4. On timers or motion sensors
5. Warm in color, and not blue or white LEDs

In addition to regaining a beautiful night sky, purposeful lighting provides other tangible benefits including nighttime home and personal safety and security while providing energy cost savings.

Education & Scholarship

We have some exciting projects started this summer with our partner organizations! The GLA Environmental Education Fund has recently established a Dark Sky Scholarship which was given this year to a Yerkes Observatory Dark Sky Internship. Kyle Bunne an Elkhorn high school graduate, was awarded the internship to assist with Dark Sky projects and further local education of light pollution issues. He will be assisting with projects such as the Dark Sky Mapping project which will track light pollution levels in Walworth County and Kishwaukee Nature Conservancy's works toward becoming an internationally recognized Dark Sky Park.

Restore and See the Stars Again

Look the Geneva Lake Dark Sky Initiative up at gldarksky.org and take action in your community. We are excited to work side-by-side with residents and community organizations to restore the remarkable night sky above the Geneva Lake area and see the stars again!

[Colin Griffith started the Geneva Lake Dark Sky Initiative. He is a sophomore at Colorado College and a fourth generation Geneva Lake summertime resident.]

The goal of Geneva Lake Dark Sky is to bring awareness of the importance of proper lighting to the Geneva Lake area. Accomplishments already include the installation of purposeful lighting to a portion of Theater Road in Williams Bay, and the next step will be to help the Geneva Lake Museum in choosing and installing purposeful lighting to its exterior. The Environmental Education Foundation is pleased to extend its Dark Sky Intern Scholarship, funded by the Griffith Family, to Elkhorn's Kyle Bunne, who will serve on Dark Sky projects at Yerkes Observatory this summer.

EEF Scholarships Grow in 2016

The annual environmental scholarships given to local students by the Environmental Education Foundation (EEF) have grown substantially this year thanks to increased support from the GLA Board of Directors and members and others throughout the Geneva Lake Community. The dollar amounts awarded were increased by nearly 30% overall across the board for scholarships for the 2016-17 academic year, thanks to this record community support for our local students studying environmental science at the college, high school and elementary levels.

Last year a new scholarship was established for local students attending George Williams College in Williams Bay. This year, a new scholarship created through the generosity of the Griffith family for the study of dark sky science has been awarded for the first time, to a summer intern at Yerkes Observatory.

Included in the portfolio of awards are annual scholarships named in honor of two former GLA leaders: the Thomas

E. Reynolds Sr. 4-year College Scholarship and the Thomas Cashman Postgraduate Scholarship.

The Outdoor Education Grants for Geneva Lake elementary school students is named after Charlotte Peterson for her love of education, environment, and youth. The 2016 recipient schools were Fontana, Genoa City, Lake Geneva Middle, Reek, Sharon, St. Francis, Traver, Walworth, and Woods.

"Many of our current scholarship winners will be introduced to attendees at the GLA annual meeting this summer," said EEF President Chuck Ebeling. "The GLA and the entire lake community can be proud of these young people, who are and will be among the stewards of the environmental health of this and other communities."

The EEF was founded in 1980 as an affiliate of the Geneva Lake Association. Over its 36 year history the EEF has awarded over a half million dollars in college scholarships, camping and outdoor education awards to our area youth.

This year, the EEF expects to award more than \$40,000 to deserving students. On behalf of these winners over the years, the EEF Board is grateful for the continuous, generous support from our lake community friends.

2016 Scholars to date:

THOMAS E. REYNOLDS ENDOWMENT SCHOLARSHIP

Casey Burmeister
Molly Cocroft
Paige Stork

BRITTANY RAMBATT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Kylie Smith

UNDERGRAD SCHOLARSHIPS

Brooke Berryman
Joshua Kundert

THOMAS J. CASHMAN POST GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

Kelly Speare
Christine Wen

GENEVA LAKE DARK SKY SCHOLARSHIP

Kyle Bunne

GEORGE WILLIAMS COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

Pending

2015 GLA Grants

The Geneva Lake Association is proud to have supported in 2015 the following local non-profit organizations with grants to support their missions which align with the goals of the GLA:

- Environmental Education Foundation
- Geneva Lake Environmental Agency
- Geneva Lake Level Corporation
- Geneva Lake Water Safety Patrol
- Kishwaukee Nature Conservancy
- Wisconsin Shoreland Initiative

2016 GLA Annual Meeting

The 2016 Geneva Lake Association Annual Meeting of the members will be held at Big Foot Country Club in Fontana, Wisconsin on Sat., July 30, 9:30 a.m.

The Environmental Education Foundation, an affiliate of the GLA, will open the meeting by honoring its 2016 scholarship winners.

The featured speaker will be Mary Panzer, former Wisconsin Senate Majority Leader, who will represent the concerns of the newly formed Wisconsin Shoreland Initiative (see notes on this page).

Additional speakers, representing government and local organizations have been invited to make short reports.

...from the Wisconsin Shoreland Initiative

[John Richter, a northern Wisconsin resident, recently helped establish the Wisconsin Shoreland Initiative following legislation enacted in the 2015 session of the Wisconsin Legislature. The following information is taken from an article he wrote for publication in various newspapers and the WSI website:]

Mr. Richter's article explained how late last summer (2015), the Wisconsin Legislative Act 55 removed local control of shoreland zoning and replaced that local control with a common, bare minimum, state standard. The bill was proposed by two state legislators from northern Wisconsin. No debate nor public hearings were held. The lake classification system, a system established over years of work through both Republican and Democratic sponsorship, was the centerpiece and foundation of local zoning codes. That system was essentially eliminated along with the stricter local zoning codes.

To address the issue, Richter and others formed a coalition of more than 70 lake associations [including Geneva Lake Association] aimed at correcting this situation. Sadly, additional bills were placed

on the 2016 docket including removal of spawning habitats for fish through extensive dredging and permission for ATV's to race through shallow lake areas. The WSI was somewhat successful in stopping both the dredging and ATV bills but has not been able to correct the initial zoning control issue.

WSI is joining with other water groups to educate the Wisconsin Legislature and to introduce legislation which would return data driven regulation and ensure protection of our lakes. In essence, WSI seeks to recover local control of our lakeshores, protect our lakes and rivers and our local economies. Their website is www.wisconsinshoreland.org.

[GLA President Goggin met with John Richter and other representatives of the Wisconsin Shoreland Initiative as it was being formed, and the GLA has given the organization a grant to help with its early efforts. Mary Panzer, former Wisconsin Senate Majority Leader, will be the featured speaker at the GLA Annual Membership Meeting, July 30, at Big Foot Country Club representing Wisconsin Shoreland Initiative.]

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 \$30
- \$ _____ **Sustaining Membership**
Annual Contribution \$50
- \$ _____ **Contributing Membership**
Annual Contribution \$100
- \$ _____ **Donor Membership**
Annual Contribution \$150
- \$ _____ **Benefactor Membership**
Annual Contribution \$250 or more
- \$ _____ **Commercial Membership**
Annual Contribution \$75 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) _____

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

Subdivision or Association (If any) _____

Estate Name (ex. "Heavenly Acres") _____

Phone _____

Send Membership Form and check to:
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Lake Geneva, WI 53147

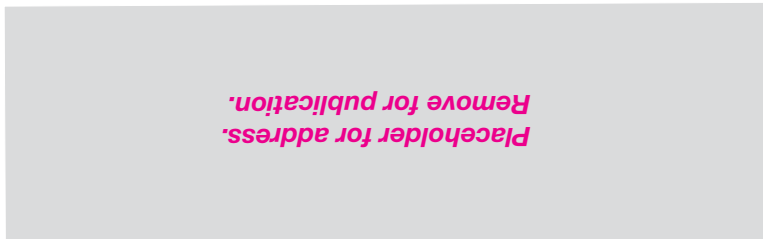
All Contributions are Tax Deductible

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.

A membership application is also found on the GLA website: www.genevalakeassoc.org

Check your label to see the status of your membership!



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