



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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Area students benefit from EEF Scholarships

Environmental focus for student funding

The Environmental Education Foundation (EEF) was founded in 1980 as an affiliate of the Geneva Lake Association. During its 30-year history, the EEF has awarded over \$350,000 in college scholarships and camping and outdoor workshop awards to over 350 area youth, from 6th grade through graduate school.

Fifteen individual scholarships totalling over \$20,000 were awarded in 2011. Included in this amount is the Environmental Education Foundation Thomas E. Reynolds (TER) Endowment Fund, which annually contributes \$8000 in the form of a four-year scholarship to a local graduating senior interested in pursuing a degree in the environmental science field.

Past college scholarship recipients include students from Badger High School, Big Foot High School, Williams Bay High School, and Faith Christian High School. Funding for environmental activities such as Outdoor Education grants and Nature Adventure Camp scholarships are awarded to local elementary and middle school students.

Successful Graduates

Eric Tarman-Ramchek is a 2006 college undergraduate scholarship winner who currently owns and operates TR Natural Enterprises LLC, an East Troy company that assists clients in preserving the natural values of their land with affordable services in ecology, forestry, GIS, landscaping, and

environmental sciences.

Kelly Speare is a 2009 TER scholarship winner and a junior at the University of North Carolina. Kelly spent the summer of her freshman year collecting water samples from the BP oil spill in the Gulf, and is currently attending the Ocean and

Climate Program at Woods Hole Institute.

Badger High School graduate Andrea Schneider, past winner of the Willard Gross Scholarship and the Thomas E. Reynolds Scholarship in 2011, majors in

Biology at UW—Stevens Point.

Applying for Scholarships or Grants

The EEF maintains an informative web site at <http://envedfnd.org/>. The website includes descriptions of the funding that is available, as well as downloadable application forms. The application deadlines are varied, so applicants are encouraged to browse through the programs and applications to avoid missing out on the opportunities which are offered.

Donors Welcome

Contributions to the Environmental Education Foundation, Inc. are deductible for income tax purposes, and donation information is also on the Foundation's web site.

The mission of the EEF is to promote environmental awareness to all ages throughout the Geneva Lake area and to award educational scholarships to area students for environmental education.
<http://envedfnd.org>



Photo by Pat Dunsworth

Civil War General responsible for 137-year history of sailboat racing on Geneva Lake

In August of 1874, residents of the Wisconsin town of Geneva (as it was then known) and others around Geneva Lake welcomed to their midst a very important visitor—Lieutenant General Philip H. Sheridan, the famous Civil War army officer, who since 1869 had been stationed in Chicago as commander of the Department of the Missouri and who in 1871 had coordinated military relief efforts during the Great Chicago Fire.

To celebrate his stay in what was becoming an increasingly popular resort area, General Sheridan's hosts and friends selected August 31 for a special yacht race to be named in Sheridan's honor and held each year. Such was their enthusiasm, in fact, that they raised \$200 by popular subscription to purchase a perpetual trophy appropriate to the occasion from the Chicago firm of Giles, Brothers & Company. Though the actual Sheridan Prize would not be completed for more than a year, the promise of an annual competition with its elegant award generated an unusual spirit and unity among sailing enthusiasts. Thus it was that the date of the first Sheridan Race was chosen to mark the beginning of the Lake Geneva Yacht Club.

According to the Lake Geneva Herald, the excitement surrounding the inaugural event "was of the keenest kind." The fleet consisted of seven boats, of various lengths, and the course as described in the newspaper report was "a double triangular race, being 3 miles South from Whiting House pier, then 2 miles East into Button's Bay, then North to the place of starting, then repeat, being nearly 16 miles, besides tacking." General Sheridan observed the race from the judges' boat.

The wind was moderate, the competition intense, and the

winner on corrected time was the 21-foot topsail sloop Nettie, sailed by Billy Woods and owned by Julian S. Rumsey, a pioneer Chicagoan, successful grain merchant, and 22nd mayor of the city. Newspapers reported that Nettie's victory was greeted with "great cheering by friends and screeching of steam whistles." The races that summer had been few in number and casual in nature, and Nettie had won them all. She won the Sheridan again in 1875.



On April 29, 1876, the year of the nation's centennial, a small group gathered at the Whiting House, the popular hotel at the foot of Broad Street, to form what they called the Geneva Lake Yacht Club. It was a meeting of great accomplishment. They adopted a constitution and bylaws... and chose Chicago industrialist Nathaniel Kellogg Fairbank as their first commodore.

In May, the club elected 16 more members, one of whom was General Sheridan. In August, the Geneva Lake Yacht Club held the Sheridan Race for the first time under its auspices and rules, and the winner was Geneva, owned by General A. C. Ducat. General Sheridan presented the new trophy—a handsome 10-inch sterling silver model of the sandbagger Nettie.

Racing for the Sheridan Prize, one of yachting's oldest trophies, remains as annual competition to this day in Class A Scows under the auspices of the Lake Geneva Yacht Club.

Water Safety Patrol to offer educational programs

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.

The Geneva Lake Water Safety Patrol will be offering four Boating Safety Classes this summer. Each class is held over a three-day period (for about three hours each day). Students must be at least 12 years old to take the class, and anyone born after Jan. 1, 1989 must

complete the class in order to operate a motorboat in Wisconsin. Advance registration is required and there is a \$30 fee for the class.

All classes are held at the Water Safety Patrol Headquarters (Styberg Hall) on the George Williams College campus

of Aurora University. The class schedule is as follows:

Class A: May 26, 27, 28

Class B: June 27, 28, 29

Class C: July 9, 10, 11

Class D: July 26, 27, 28

All classes meet from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

The Water Safety Patrol will also be offering Swim Lessons this summer at seven locations around the lake. Lessons begin June 22 and go through August 10. Registration dates are Friday, June 15 through Thursday, June 21.

For more information on Boat Safety Classes or Swim Lessons, please visit the Water Safety Patrol web site at www.watersafetypatrol.org or call 262-245-6577.

Need to reach the 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.

Protecting the rights of waterfront property owners

by State Representative Tyler August (R-Lake Geneva)

As you may know, there was a pier protection law enacted in 2008, which stated a pier is exempt from regulation if it is less than 200 square feet, was placed prior to Feb. 6, 2004, and is registered by April 1, 2011. There has been much confusion and frustration as well as the questioning of the overreach of government on waterfront property owners.

Therefore, earlier this session, I voted in favor of Senate Bill (SB) 59, authored by Senator Neal Kedzie (R-Elkhorn). The bill, which was enacted into law, extends the deadline for registering piers one year to April 1, 2012 to allow for the legislature to make further changes.

I felt changes needed to be made to existing law because it just makes no sense for the government to require pier owners to jump through hoops to register with the DNR to ensure they are not regulated. Therefore, I strongly support SB 326, authored by Senator Kedzie, which would make additional improvements to pier laws and regulations.

Essentially the bill will provide an overall protection of the rights of waterfront owners by simplifying the pier laws, repealing pier registration requirements, and exempting permitting requirements

for existing piers. Below are a few of the changes included in the bill:

- Piers placed after the effective date of the bill may have a loading platform with a surface area of no more than 200 square feet without a permit.
- Piers placed before the effective date of the bill are considered exempt from the permitting requirements, so long as they do not affect the riparian rights of others.
- Pier registration requirements are repealed.
- Permitted or authorized structures are exempt from permitting requirements so long as they are in compliance with their current permit or authorization.
- Exempt piers may be relocated or reconfigured so

Senate Bill 59, extending the pier registration deadline to April 1, 2012, may be nullified by a new bill (SB 326) which would eliminate registration requirements for all pre-existing piers. SB 326 is awaiting a vote in the Assembly and the Senate.

long as the pier is not enlarged. Currently SB 326 has passed both Assembly and Senate Committees and is awaiting a vote by both houses. I will continue to advocate for its passage before the end of our legislative session. *[Representative August represents Wisconsin's 32nd Assembly District, which encompasses southern Walworth County, including Geneva Lake. He can be contacted at his capitol office by calling 608-266-1190, or by visiting his website: www.repaugust.com]*

Member email drive continues

Acting on its mission of 'timely and issue-centered communication' as a major purpose of the Association, the GLA continues to solicit member email addresses via its membership application/renewal form.

We thank those of you who have included your email address with your renewal, as well as current members who have sent a short email to us with your address.

We renew our pledge to use your information only to alert you in a timely manner of issues that may be of importance to you, and for no other purpose than GLA business.

Welcome, new members

The GLA welcomes the following new or returning members. We appreciate your support. You will receive and be listed as members in the 2012 *Directory*. Thanks for your support!

Residential

- James and Georgia Athans
- Geraldine Audino
- Earnest Bayer
- Stephen Beers
- Walter and Nancy Bell
- Rosemary C. Blaskovich
- Kathy Brock and Doug Regan
- Dale and Bonnie Caputo
- Gwen Clausius
- Elizabeth H. Cox
- John and Michele Erikson
- Joseph Falcone
- Ray Fitzgerald
- Vicki and Jack Galbraith
- Carolyn Hager
- Dieter and Helen Holz
- Greg and Julie Huck
- Greg Kunes
- Thomas Kwiatkowski
- Thomas D. and Audry J. Langer
- Tom Leahy
- Paul and Joanne Lederer
- Donna D. Martin
- Bud and Nancy McKeon
- Nancy McCoy
- Loretta Michaels
- Thomas Nolan
- Greg and Patsy Pace
- John and Jennifer Plummer
- Terry and Debbie Reuland
- Mary and Mike Riordan
- Pat and Greg Samata
- John Scapin
- Mark Scharres
- John and Sara Schmitz
- Mr. and Mrs. Michael Solberg
- Mark Sopchik
- Kent and Christine Taubensee
- David Traut and Rosemary White-Traut
- Lael Vandenburg
- Carol Newman Wilkinson

Commercial

- Komfort Heating & Cooling
- Lake Geneva Area Realty
- Mid America Bank
- Scott Byron & Co., Inc.
- Skyline Landscape Design, LLC

Am I a current member?

GLA members are encouraged to maintain their memberships on an annual basis to receive the *Directory* and to be listed in the *Directory* as members. Just check your address label on this publication. 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. Members who have paid membership contributions within twelve months of May 1, 2012 are eligible to receive the 2012 GLA *Directory* and will be listed as current members at their level of support.

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**
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 \$75 or more

Name(s) _____

(as you want to be listed in the Directory)

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

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.

*Check your label to see if
your membership is current!*



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