

# Geneva Lake Guardian



GENEVA LAKE ASSOCIATION  
P.O. Box 412  
Lake Geneva, WI 53147  
262-203-7108  
GlaOffice@aol.com  
www.genevalakeassoc.org

SPRING 2015

*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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## Rock Central—for the musically inclined

*Lake Geneva rocks all year long*

In this area, summer rocks! But at Rock Central in downtown Lake Geneva, the whole year rocks.

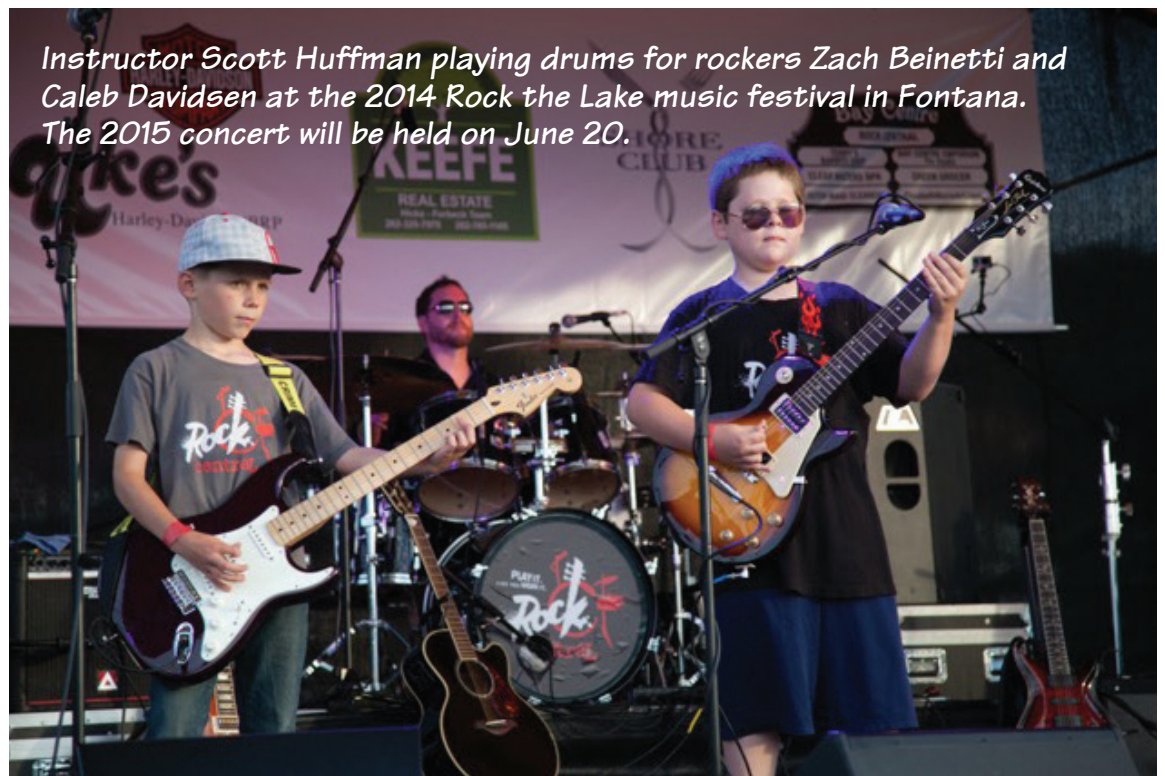
In late January, after several successful years, Rock Central moved from its original location in Williams Bay to downtown Lake Geneva. The concept is simple—provide an opportunity for kids of all ages to learn and perform rock music. Since it is a non-profit, Rock Central raises funds to assist students and families with tuition.

This community based music school provides music education to students of all ages (currently six months to 67 years) and skill levels. Students develop musical skills as well as confidence and self

esteem. At the end of each three to four month session, the groups perform with family, friends and community supporters cheering them on.

Young students have a short list of expectations: practice, say thanks, be respectful of your band members, stay on top of your schoolwork, and clean up! But, most of all, have fun and learn to rock. This summer, some of the “old” students who are finishing their first year of college, will be back as junior instructors.

Rock Central is just one more welcoming spot in our lakes area. Drop by or visit their website at [www.rockcentral.org](http://www.rockcentral.org) for information on lessons and events.



*Instructor Scott Huffman playing drums for rockers Zach Beinetti and Caleb Davidsen at the 2014 Rock the Lake music festival in Fontana. The 2015 concert will be held on June 20.*

## Welcome, new members

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

### Residential

Darley Family  
 Ray Fitzgerald  
 Robert and Debbie Forbis  
 John and Mary Ann Foxley  
 Janis Hartley and John Kaminski  
 Gregg and Debbie Kunes  
 Ignas and Maureen Labanauskas  
 Marilyn J. Malles  
 Dennis and Carol Markos  
 William Maus  
 Daniel and Gretchen McCarthy  
 David and Jenny Patzelt  
 Fuad Puskar  
 Steve and Cheryl Smith  
 John S. and Mary Swift  
 Colin Taheny

### Commercial

Gardiner Koch Weisberg & Wrona  
 Lake Geneva Golf Car

### 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.

## Linn Township Fire Boat to be christened this summer

The Town of Linn is planning a christening celebration for its new fire boat once most area residents have returned for the summer, at a place where everyone can get a close view of the boat, as well as a demonstration of its capabilities. Announcements will be made inviting the public, and donors will receive invitations to the christening.

## Let's see the stars again!

# GL Dark Sky Initiative matures

by Colin Griffith

Once a source of wonder—and one half of the entire planet's natural environment—the star-filled nights of just a few years ago are vanishing in a yellow haze.

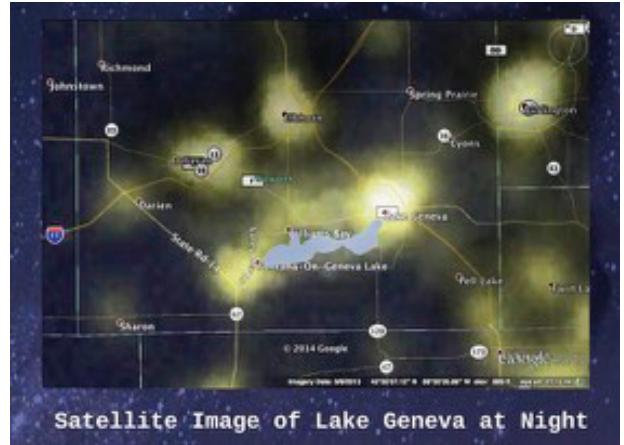
Human produced light pollution not only mars our view of the stars; poor lighting threatens astronomy, disrupts ecosystems, and wastes energy to the tune of \$2.2 billion per year in the U.S. alone. The Geneva Lake area is not an exception from the issues of light pollution. We know we can work towards a starrier night. Let's see the stars again!

The Geneva Lake Dark Sky Initiative is comprised of dedicated individuals and regional organizations working towards making the Geneva Lake area night skies more beautiful. We are partnered with local organizations such as the GLA, The Geneva Lake Conservancy, Environmental Education Fund, and Yerkes Observatory. Lake residents are an essential part of the GLDI movement and crucial to the initiative's success.

The GL Dark Sky Initiative is committed to advocating for intelligent lighting and promoting visibility. We would like to work towards lighting solutions that shine down with purpose, not in all directions. Many lights do not illuminate what they were intended to, and end up shooting unabated light into the sky. Improperly directed, over powered, and unshielded light sources create glare and impede visibility.

We are now a chapter of the International Dark Sky (IDA) an organization working towards making starrier skies all around the world. Along with a new network of global support, the Geneva Lake Dark Sky Initiative has received 501c3 non-profit status. The Dark Sky Initiative is in its formative stages as an organization and we are in the process of creating an advisory board. We are very open to anyone that would like to be involved in the cause.

A large part of the Initiative is fostering environmental education. We want to promote greater awareness of the natural world with a focus in astronomy. A new educational partnership with Yerkes will leverage their heritage as a local institution of higher learning.



We also are building partnerships with local elementary, middle & high school to mobilize kids with an interest in wonders of our universe while promoting an understanding of intelligent lighting.

Jonathan Adams of Twilight Solutions has signed on as the first of several lighting consultancy partnerships that GL Dark Sky intends to establish. We hope to enable residents to take action while also increasing lighting awareness. Lighting options can involve modifying, retrofitting or buying new IDA recommended lighting. Consultants like Jonathan provide easy access to good advice for solutions that have a positive impact throughout your neighborhood and along the shoreline.

We are developing a new mobile website coming in mid-May that will serve as a resource and communication platform for awareness, education and action. You will be able to learn about the great pipeline of fun events lined up for the summer including: star parties, "lights out" evenings in each month, and meteor shower viewings! Look us up at [www.gldarksky.org](http://www.gldarksky.org). We are excited to work side-by-side with residents and community organizations to restore the remarkable night sky above the Geneva Lake area. Let's See The Stars Again!

*[Colin Griffith is a sophomore at Colorado College studying Environmental Policy. He is a fourth generation Geneva Lake summertime resident. He decided to start the Geneva Lake Dark Sky Initiative because he saw an opportunity to make a difference and to give back to a place he loves. The idea came to him one summer night out on the lake, and inspired him to help everyone enjoy Geneva Lake's natural beauty.]*



## Buddy Melges Sailing Center nears completion

Construction of the new Buddy Melges Sailing Center is well underway, according to Commodore Terry Blanchard, despite the slower than expected start.

The Buddy Melges Sailing Center will house the Geneva Lake Sailing School and the Lake Geneva Yacht Club.

Two issues caused delay to the construction which was to have commenced in September. First, the DNR raised concerns regarding certain surveys done in the late 1800's, noting there may have been Indian artifacts from a possible camp site on the northwest corner of the property. Secondly, there were potential environmental issues with the underground gasoline storage tanks from Geneva Lake Boat Company, which was the previous owner of the west portion of the property. The tanks had been removed soon after the club acquired the property in 1989. Both issues were resolved to the satisfaction of the DNR.

Once the final permits were received, construction started in earnest. At this time, the building is under roof, windows are installed and exterior siding nearly completed. Interior framing is completed,

some drywall has been hung, and some rooms are already painted. The Briohn construction team is committed to completion of the building at the end of May.

A late May occupancy will give the Sailing School time to organize its new home in preparation for classes starting in mid June.

As for the Yacht Club, its biggest challenge will come in mid August when

it hosts the 2015 Inland Lake Yachting Association Annual Championship Regatta. The ILYA is 118 years old, tracing its roots in competitive scow sailboat racing back to 1897. Five fleets of scows will be skippered and crewed by locally, nationally, and internationally recognized sailors, many of whom call Geneva Lake their home.



*A lakeside view of the Buddy Melges Sailing Center under construction shows the upper level, which will house the Lake Geneva Yacht Club, and the lower level, which will serve as headquarters for the Geneva Lake Sailing School.*

## EEF: 35 years in partnership with GLA

To some it may seem like yesterday, but 35 years ago the Environmental Education Foundation (EEF) was founded as an affiliate of the Geneva Lake Association. Thomas Reynolds, Sr. and Fillmore Galaty, both past presidents of the GLA, recognized an opportunity to support environmental education by offering scholarships and environmental experiences to Geneva Lake area youths. Thomas Cashman, another former GLA president, became the first EEF president, in 1980.

Over the intervening years, the EEF has awarded more than \$450,000 in college scholarships, camping, and outdoor education awards to more than 400 lake area youth. And the beat goes on.

In 2015, in recognition of 35 years of success and growth, the EEF is marking its anniversary with a series of special events and announcements.

In January, the EEF board of directors voted to name its annual \$2,000 collage postgraduate scholarship after its first president, Tom Cashman. Beginning this year, it will become the Thomas A. Cashman Graduate Scholarship.

On April 19, in honor of Earth Day, the EEF will join other lake area environmental groups in sponsoring the Fabien Cousteau lecture—*One Ocean, One People*—as he discusses his family's commitment to conserving the waters of the earth, certainly a timely topic. More information can be obtained from George Williams College in Williams Bay.

This year, the EEF is also launching a brand new annual scholarship, for an area student studying the environmental sciences at Aurora University's George Williams College, here at the lake.

"This new scholarship will recognize local lake area students studying the environment right here in our local community," said Chuck Ebeling, current EEF president.

A celebration event is being planned for this summer to recognize all who have contributed and made possible the 35-year educational track record of the EEF.

For more information on the EEF, inquire at the EEF office, [EEFoffice@aol.com](mailto:EEFoffice@aol.com), check the web site at [www.envedfnd.org](http://www.envedfnd.org), or call 262-203-7108.

## 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.

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.

# 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

**All Contributions are Tax Deductible**

### Am I a current member?

Just check your address on this publication (below). The status of your membership in the GLA is noted in the line above your name.



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

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. "Our House") \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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