

Geneva Lake Guardian

SPRING/SUMMER 2013

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.

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

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Geneva Lake Sailing School turns 75

Sailing School and Yacht Club to honor Buddy Melges

Seventy-five years ago the Lake Geneva Yacht Club started a sailing school with one instructor, one boat, and a handful of students. Today the school has an executive director (Joe

Kutschenreuter, former captain of the UW-Madison Sailing Team and a member of the Inter-Collegiate Sailing Association

All-American Team), 13 instructors, enthusiastic hard-working board members, and friends and alumni around the lake whose interest and support help the Sailing School flourish. Last season, more than 300 students completed programs ranging from beginner classes to advanced racing and emphasizing self-reliance, confidence, and teamwork.

Lake Geneva Yacht Club was founded in 1874, but it was not until 1938 that its officers focused on offering children educational programs about sailing technique, seamanship, and safety. That year, with the encouragement of Commodore A. F. "Bud" Gartz Jr. and Secretary-Treasurer and Past Commodore Ernst C. Schmidt, the Yacht Club hired its first instructor and laid the groundwork for what has become a valuable community resource. Throughout those years, and for the rest of his life, Commodore Schmidt played a pivotal role in the School's positive evolution. The Sailing

School was incorporated in 1953 as a non-profit organization, and in recent years it has occupied a building just west of the Yacht Club.

Today, to meet the growing needs of both organizations, volunteers are working to fund and create a modern, efficient, and cost-effective facility that they can occupy together and that will reflect their histories. The first floor of the two-story building will supply the space and support systems needed by the Sailing School; the second floor will provide the services required by the Yacht Club with its active racing and social schedule. The projected required

funding is \$2.5 million, plus an additional \$1 million for Sailing School endowment.

The current Yacht Club and Sailing School property, from Lake Shore Drive to the lakefront and between the east and west boundaries, will be called the **Buddy Melges Sailing**

Center as a tribute to this great sailor's service to the sport and his outstanding achievements on Geneva Lake and in regional, national, and

see Buddy Melges Sailing Center, page 3



Lake Geneva Yacht Club's first home (1906 to 1916), was at Cedar Point.



Its second home (from 1926) was across the lake in a renovated farmhouse on the property that is occupied today by the current Yacht Club (built in 1969) and School. This is also the site for the new facility.



Museum exhibit celebrates Potawatomi heritage

Geneva Lake Museum's new Woodland People exhibit, dedicated to our community's earliest Native American residents, now is open to the public. This special exhibit features an authentic reproduction of a wigwam – a domed shaped dwelling favored by Lake Geneva's earliest residents. The exhibit pays tribute to the Three Tribe Alliance of the Potawatomi, the Ottawa and the Ojibwa who loved the same natural habitat of the lakes area which we enjoy today.

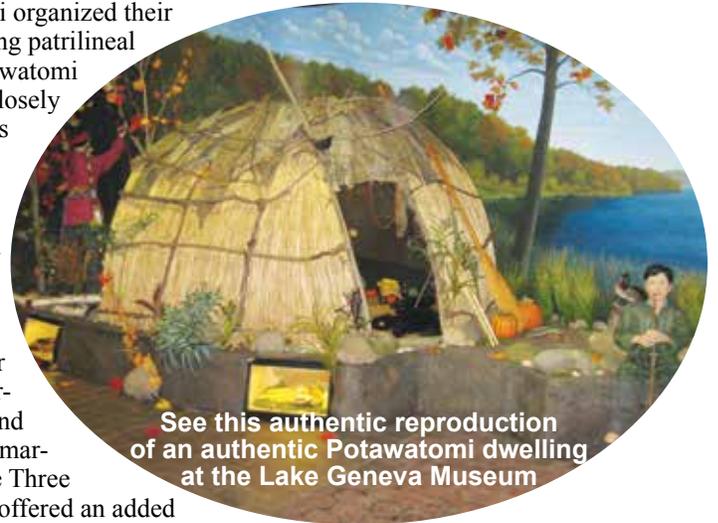
The word "Potawatomi" means "Keepers of the Fire" and refers to the fact that this Native American tribe participated as members of the Council of Three Fires. Potawatomi oral tradition tells of three brothers: Ojibwe, the oldest, was the Faith Keeper; Odawa, the middle brother, handled trade; Bodewadmi, the youngest, kept the Sacred Fires lit. The Potawatomi still refer to themselves as the "Keepers of the Fire."

The Potawatomi of the Prairie resided in northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin dating back to the 1700s. Originally hunters/gatherers in the Great Lakes regions, upon relocation to Wisconsin, the adaptive Potawatomi learned farming from other Native American tribes and cultivated large fields of corn, beans, and squash, and even were known for their medicinal herb gardens. Agriculture was an extension of the women's role as gatherers, and other than clearing the fields, the men remained hunters.

The Potawatomi organized their village structure along patrilineal clans, although Potawatomi children were also closely linked to the families of their maternal grandfathers. This provided a wider kinship network and strengthened bonds between villages. Potawatomi always married outside their clans, often intermarrying with Ojibwe and Ottawa. These intermarriages reinforced the Three Tribes Alliance and offered an added measure of protection to Potawatomi families and villages, who could depend upon these kinship ties during times of military threat or stress.

Lake Geneva's Big Foot Beach State Park is named after the last Potawatomi chief known to reside in our community, Chief Big Foot, a nickname given him by his associates early in life. According to a 1933 interview of Chief Big Foot's grandson, Mr. Clearwater, Geneva Lake originally was referred to as "Big Foot Lake" by Native Americans and early white settlers. A government surveyor, John Brink, later renamed it after the lake in his hometown of Geneva, New York.

The Geneva Lake Museum currently is open Monday, Thursday, Friday and



See this authentic reproduction of an authentic Potawatomi dwelling at the Lake Geneva Museum

Saturday from 10-4 and Sunday 12-3. The staff invites you to visit the museum's latest exhibit and learn more about our community's rich Native American heritage.

No-wake area growing?

Have you noticed that the usable area of Geneva Lake appears to get smaller each year?

The Uniform Lake Law Ordinance of Geneva Lake provides in part that "a traffic lane is hereby established and shall be the greater distance between the shoreline and a line parallel to and 200 feet distant from it, and 100 feet from any dock, raft, pier, structure, mooring area or buoyed restricted area. No water traffic outside the traffic lane shall exceed the 'slow-no-wake' speed limit."

Questions regarding placement and/or enforcement of this lane or the associated slow-no-wake buoys can be addressed to the Director of the Water Safety Patrol and the Manager of the Geneva Lake Law Enforcement Agency.

Join us for the 2013 GLA Annual Meeting

August 3, 9:30 a.m.
Big Foot Country Club
Environmental
Scholarships/Grants

Speakers:

St. Sen. Neal Kedzie
St. Rep. Tyler August
St. Rep. Amy Loudbeck
Geneva Lake Level Corp.
and more

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.

Did you know?

Paddleboards are considered "boats" by definition of the Wisconsin DNR. Therefore, occupants and riders must have a wearable PFD (Lifejacket) on board at all times.

Boating Safety classes

The Water Safety Patrol offers its final boating safety class July 25-27. 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.

Buddy Melges Sailing Center

(continued from page 1)

international competition. The Sailing School and the Yacht Club will retain their names.

“The Geneva Lake Sailing School and the Lake Geneva Yacht Club have been a big part of many of our lives and brought much enjoyment for generations,” said Tom Freytag, President of the Sailing School and Fundraising Co-Chairman for the new facility. “This is an opportunity to not only honor Buddy’s sailing legacy but also that of our two organizations. Most importantly, the Buddy Melges Sailing Center will provide a strong foundation for the future of sailing on Geneva Lake.”

Yacht Club Commodore John Simms, Jr. agrees wholeheartedly: “The Lake Geneva Yacht Club has long endeavored to bring sailing to our local community through its programs and support of the Geneva Lake Sailing School. Our membership voted overwhelmingly to support this new initiative, the Buddy Melges Sailing Center, to provide an improved and more functional facility for youth and



An architectural rendering shows the lakeside view of the proposed facility for the Geneva Lake Sailing School (first floor) and the Lake Geneva Yacht Club (second floor) at the Buddy Melges Sailing Center.

adult students alike. We fully endorse the goals of the school and its mission and share in the desire to increase their knowledge of sailing and appreciation of our beautiful shared resource: Geneva Lake.”

For information about 2013 Sailing School programs visit www.glss.org. For information about the Lake Geneva Yacht Club visit www.lgyc.com. To learn more about making a tax-deductible gift to the Geneva Lake Sailing School and creating the Buddy Melges Sailing Center contact Tom Freytag (tfreytag@email.msn.com or 312-296-6031) or visit www.buddymelgessailingcenter.org.

Scientists, engineers at Yerkes finish NASA infrared camera for SOFIA flights

Visitors to Yerkes have seen the cutting edge engineering done at the Observatory. An infrared camera designed and built at Yerkes for NASA shipped recently.

The HAWC instrument (High-resolution Airborne Wide-band Camera) is designed to photograph things like cosmic background and cosmic dust in the infrared light wavelengths.

HAWC was shipped from Yerkes to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California for upgrades, then on to NASA where it will fly in a modified 747 SOFIA (Stratospheric Observatory for Infrared Astronomy) aircraft.



Observatory Manager Jim Gee and scientists preparing HAWC for NASA



Welcome, new members

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

Residential

- Carol Bernick
- Skip and Linda Bliss
- Marianne Bonifacio
- Bob and Peggy Borg
- Don and Carolyn Carlson
- Catherine Carpenter
- Stephen and Tammi Dawson
- Melinda Deuster
- Vicki and Chuck Ebeling
- John and Madeleine Engerman
- Robert Fates
- Dan Gallagher
- Andrea and Jerry Gibbs
- Marjorie H. Greenfield
- John and Louise Hummel
- Carl and Jacqueline Lowry
- Daniel and Mary Maus
- C. Barry Montgomery
- G. William Moore
- William J. Morrissey
- Ronald and Carol Pankau
- Christopher and Magdalena Pauly
- Schneiderei Family
- Nick and Cheryl Scouffas
- Ron and Jan Sheppard
- Kent W. Shodeen
- Brian and Sandy Stearns
- Frank and Mary Lou Stellato
- The Folly Partners LLC
- Dr. and Mrs. R. Zimmerman

Commercial

- Bio-Aquatic Services LLC
- Edward Jones, Daniel Maus Financial
- Geneva Lakefront Realty
- Grand Geneva Resort and Spa
- House Check, Inc.
- Matt Mason Photography
- U.S. Bank, Delavan Branch

Am I a current member?

GLA members are encouraged to re-new 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 \$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. "Our House") _____

Phone _____

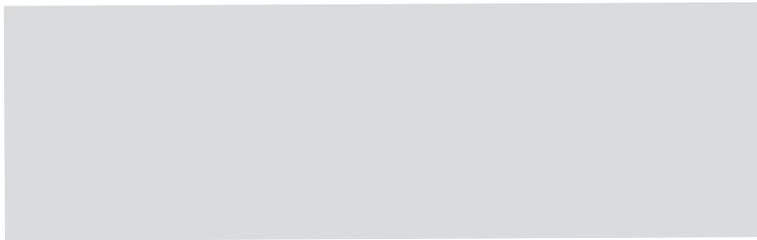
Send Membership Form and check to
Geneva Lake Association, Inc. (GLA)
PO Box 412
Lake Geneva, WI 53147

All Contributions are Tax Deductible

Am I a current member?

Just check your address on this publication (below). 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!*



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