



GENEVA LAKE ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 412
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GlaOffice@aol.com
www.genevalakeassoc.org

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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Our little Smithsonian by the lake

Geneva Lake Museum is a local gem

by Chuck Ebeling

Like many in the Geneva Lake area, my exposure to our local museum had been brief and superficial, when we had some out of town guests and were looking for things for them to do on a rainy Saturday. Then, as a board member of the Geneva Lake Conservancy, I'd attended a meeting there in a very nice conference room the museum makes available for use by local not-for-profit organizations.

I stuck my head into the museum proper during a break, stepping out onto the cobblestone "Main Street" populated by store fronts of the 1870's to the 1930's, and I was transported into what I'll call "our little Smithsonian by the lake."

If you haven't lately been to the Geneva Lake Museum, right in downtown Lake Geneva at 255 Mill Street, you're in for a surprise. Even if you've visited some of the world's great museums, don't miss this gem.

When I recently visited Jim Gee at Yerkes Observatory, he showed me the observatory's original brass transit telescope being polished up in the historic observatory's machine shop. It's now on display in a special section of the museum devoted to the world's first astrophysical laboratory.

Nearby, is a brand new pavilion devoted to one of the great lost lake estates, Ceylon Court. The pavilion includes photos and artifacts, including original carved beams from the estate house, once called the Singhalese Villa, which had been rebuilt at the lake on Manning's Point following the close of the Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. Sprinkled with new, beckoning exhibits, the sprawling, 15,000 square foot, fully-renovated

museum is filling up what had once been a brick power station standing over a beautiful waterfall channeling the outflow from Geneva Lake. Inside, you are immediately surrounded by photos and artifacts from earlier times. You'll pass through an interesting small museum shop right onto the cobblestones of the downtown of yesterday, replete with a fire engine, car, carriage and even an original stage coach in place. You'll look into a general store, a telephone exchange, the projection room of an early movie theatre, a blacksmith shop and much more.

If you're a nautical fan, there are the boats, motors, and photos and artifacts of the great lake yachts and tour boats of the past. If you are a military buff, step into a special room and see the firearms, uniforms, radios and mementos of our conflicts. But if there is a kid with you or in you, yes there are arrow heads and model trains to oggle.

In May, the museum hosted a spring celebration, History Loves Company, the museum's first fund raising event of the year, which included exhibit previews, a taste of the lake, silent auction and other special activities. On July 27-29, the museum will hold its annual book and bake sale.

The museums regular summer hours began May 3rd, and it is open Mon, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday from noon to 3 p.m. The first Monday of every month is free at the museum. Admission other days is \$7 adults, \$6 seniors, \$6 students with ID, 11 years and younger, free. Memberships are available, and donations, both cash and historical items are welcome. Call the museum for details, 262-248-6060, or go to the museum's web site: www.genevalakemuseum.org



*The Geneva Lake Museum,
definitely worth a visit*

Photo courtesy of the Museum

Buena Vista Club celebrates 100 years of lake living



by **Mary Keeling**

100th Anniversary Chairperson

Buena Vista Club: forty-four spectacular acres shared by sixty-six families including eleven acres of woods, wildflowers and wildlife as well as a large common central green overlooking the north shore of Geneva Lake.

Buena Vista has a rich history that includes the lodge of Chief Big Foot and the existing development by Warren Furbeck, the secretary to Charles Yerkes. Furbeck purchased the properties in 1894, and it was he that named them “Buena Vista” or “Beautiful View.” In 1899 he subdivided his land into 100 residential and barn lots. In 1901 he filed the first plat in Elkhorn, and in January of 1912 it

was organized as “Buena Vista Park.”

Throughout the 100 years very dedicated volunteer boards of directors, along with various hardworking caretakers and park managers have served this community. In addition to general board responsibilities, the Buena Vista Board has provided many creative social and sporting events throughout the years. Various events include an annual family festival called “Buena Vista Day,” an annual cocktail party hosted by different families each year, annual tennis and golf tournaments, swimming and tennis lessons, and various clubs such as Tots’ Club, Boys’ and Girls’ Club, Bridge Club, and Bike Club.

The Club amenities include the community pier—the favorite gathering

place; but also volleyball, basketball, and tennis courts; a playground; and picnic grounds where the entire membership enjoys weekly potluck dinners throughout the summer season.

The highlights of this year’s 100th Anniversary Celebration include the creation of a commemorative album, a recipe book, and various commemorative items such as shirts, hats, glassware, and stationary. Special events will include a tour of historic homes for members only, a cocktail party at one of the homes built in 1912 and inhabited by the same family throughout the 100 years, a cruise on one of the excursion boats, and a pig roast followed by a family dance on the basketball court.

Games during Buena Vista Day will reflect those that would have been played in 1912, and members will dress in turn-of-the-century attire at the cocktail party.

Not only does Buena Vista provide a “Beautiful View,” it provides a unique culture, an extended family of sorts, a magical place where lifelong friendships are made, a place where neighbors care for you when you are injured or ill, a place where you can exercise, relax, or just reflect on all of your blessings.

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 on-land responders have a cross reference guide linking property addresses with GLA designated pier numbers.

Timely communications via emails

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 renewals, 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.

So far our judicious use of emails has informed members of late-breaking legislation on DNR pier registration rules, just in time for our members to avoid unnecessarily registering or modifying existing piers.

When public hearings on the proposed Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge were scheduled between issues of the Guardian, our email was able to give

you a few days notice in case you wanted to attend.

It's a fact of life that people often misprint their email address when asked for it, and that's why many forms ask for the email to be printed twice. If you submitted your email address, but didn't get one of the few emails we have sent, please send us your address again with your next renewal, or send an email with a short note to GLAoffice@aol.com.

In authorizing the solicitation of email addresses, the directors emphasized the importance of member privacy. Email addresses will not be distributed under any circumstances to parties outside of the GLA, and the GLA will not use the addresses for any purpose other than to inform the membership of issues and developments that may affect their quality of life in the Geneva Lake area.

Should you decide that you no longer wish to receive email notifications from the GLA, we will honor your request to delete your email address from the database.

Kedzie, others to speak at GLA meeting

State Senator Neal Kedzie and will head a distinguished group of speakers at the Geneva Lake Association (GLA) Annual Meeting, Saturday, August 4, at the Big Foot Country Club, Fontana, Wis., 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

GLA members and guests are invited

to hear Kedzie speak on state issues affecting the Geneva Lake area. No reservations are needed, and admission is free.

After a short presentation, Kedzie will spend some minutes answering questions from the audience.

The Environmental Education Foundation, an affiliate of the GLA, will award scholarships to deserving area students.

Short reports will be made by Walworth County Realtor Bob Rauland, who will speak on real estate trends and values in today's economy; Ted Pankau, Director of the Geneva Lake Water Safety Patrol; Ted Peters, director of the Geneva Lake Environmental Agency; and Harold Friestad, chairman of the Kishwaukee Nature Conservancy.

In addition, a presentation will be made by the Friends of Hackmatack regarding the Hackmatack National Wildlife Refuge, portions of which will include southern Walworth County.

The directors of the GLA will meet immediately following the presentations to discuss the business of the association and elect directors.

Questions about the meeting, membership, or donations should be directed to GLA Executive Secretary Jim Smith at 262-203-7108 or GLAoffice@aol.com.

Welcome, new members

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

Residential

Gary Ampulski
 Richard S. Bain
 Francis Beidler III
 Michael Belsley & Nina Owen
 Michael & Jolynn Blair
 Bernadette Bisailon
 Mr. & Mrs. Paul R. Borg
 Jeff & Diane Brassel
 The Chicago Club of Lake Geneva
 Craig & Linda Curry
 Steven B. &
 Peggy Mathy Diamond
 Joe Dymek
 Tom & Kathy Elwood
 Stuart & Callie Erickson
 Mr. & Mrs. Rob Funderburg
 Robert Gibbons
 Thomas & Catherine Gibbs
 John & Judy Graff
 Gary W. Griffin
 Jane Hoffman
 Patrick & Lisa Kenny
 John & Sharon Larson
 Edward Lyon Family Partnership
 Marilyn S. McPherson
 Dana & Patti Mecum
 Margaret McNally
 Ed & Elaine Nekarda
 Leigh O'Connor
 Maureen & Mary O'Connor
 Marian L. & Donald A. Potter
 Larry & Cindy Rademaker
 Robert & Suzette Rowe
 Jerome & Linda Schain
 Don & Jo Soderquist
 Richard J. Steinbarth
 Randy & Colette Szczesny
 Mark Tebbe
 Charles T. Wegner IV
 Gary Weiler

Commercial

Matustik Builders, Inc.
 Paul Swartz Nursery
 The Rauland Agency, Inc.
 Roses Fresh Market
 Southern Lakes Plumbing &
 Heating, Inc.

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 on page 4 to determine if your membership is current.

Official Notice Annual GLA Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Geneva Lake Association will be held at Big Foot Country Club, Fontana, Wisconsin, at 9:30 a.m., on Saturday, August 4, 2012. Official business of the GLA will be conducted, including the election of Directors to the Board.

The Chairperson of the GLA Nominating Committee is Jim Hanny. Members desiring to submit nominee suggestions to the Committee should send them to the GLA Office.

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. Please renew within twelve months of that date/

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

*Members Only: The 2012 GLA Directory
is in your hands by now. Please send any
corrections to the GLA office.*

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