



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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Geo. Williams College in transformation

Learning by the Lake

by John Pyle, Senior Vice President, Aurora University, George Williams College

If you've driven down Ravinia Drive recently, you're probably well aware of the transformation that's been happening on the 133-acre campus of George Williams College of Aurora University during the past several years. New structures, renovated buildings and beautiful garden landscapes are creating a vibrant environment for learning. Student life has also become more active on campus with our first traditional freshman class enrolling in the fall of 2012 as well as other returning undergraduates, transfer students and graduate students.

Like our current freshmen, I'm relatively new to George Williams College, having arrived in the fall of 2011. What continues to impress me about the college is its relationship with the community. GWC hosts conferences, organizes cultural programs, such as Music by the Lake, and partners with local organizations, including the Geneva Lake Environmental Association and the Water Safety Patrol.

In addition to maintaining good community relations, I remain committed to renewing GWC's focus on education. One of our goals for George Williams is to make it a college of choice for prospective students. I'm seeing that happen as I greet students daily on their way to class, observe them working on campus projects or converse with them in the dining hall. To watch our campus come alive with the energy of students has been quite rewarding for not only me, but our faculty who are so dedicated to providing a positive educational experience.

Our students are enrolled in a variety of

academic disciplines. Majors include elementary education, parks and recreation, psychology, social work, sustainability and environmental management, and writing and English. We provide an integrated approach to learning based on the George Williams Plan, which promotes the concept of social entrepreneurship. That is, students learn to approach problem solving with an ethically sound perspective, and professors empower them to create sustainable solutions to societal needs and challenges. As a result, our students are prepared to become positive difference makers in the world.

The George Williams Plan involves students bridging the knowledge they gain not just within the classroom, but between classes. For example, a writing class might require a student to compose a research paper incorporating Geneva Lake water quality data gathered in a science class.

We teach students, in part, by example. In the next couple of months the college will be hosting several innovative leaders as part of The Chapin-May Lecture Series for Social Entrepreneurship at George Williams College. I invite you to join us in Duncan Hall in the Mabel Cratty Building for the free presentations listed on page 3. For more information about the speakers, visit gwc.aurora.edu/lectureseries.

I hope you'll visit George Williams College in the near future, whether for the lecture series, the upcoming 13th season of Music by the Lake or an admissions open house. Please consider us a resource in the community. I welcome the opportunity to learn how we can continue to partner with you.

Feel free to contact me at jpyle@gwc.aurora.edu or 262-245-8566. For more information on GWC, please visit gwc.aurora.edu.



George Williams welcomes its
first traditional Freshman Class

Wis. Historical Society assumes management of Black Point Estate

Black Point Estate, officially joined the other 11 historic sites and museums managed by the Wisconsin Historical Society, effective January 1.

Chicago beer baron Conrad Seipp built the grand Queen Anne-style home in 1888 as a summer family getaway to give his family respite from the heat and bustle of the city. Seipp's great-grandson, William O. Petersen, donated the 20-room house, its grounds and furnishings to the state of Wisconsin in September 2005 for use as a state historic site.

Following a \$1.9 million state-financed restoration overseen by the Department of Administration, Black Point opened for visitation in June 2007. Between then and January 1, 2013, the Black Point Preserve Inc. Board of Directors, composed of dedicated volunteers, ably managed the house and property.

During that time the Preserve shared the story of the house and family with tens of thousands of visitors who arrive at the estate the most authentic and popular way, by boat, just as family and friends

did in a bygone era.

The house is one of the oldest mansions on Geneva Lake. The Seipp family, while building Black Point, was simultaneously building a new mansion in Chicago and moved much of the furniture from the family's previous Chicago home into Black Point. The four generations of Seipp kept all of those furnishings in the house, making it a rare time capsule for historians. As each generation took its place, though, it added its own touches so that now everyday household items range from Victorian to modern but share the same family provenance.

"We're delighted to welcome Black Point into our network of historic sites and museums," said Ellsworth Brown, the Ruth and Hartley Barker Director of the Society. "We have a longstanding tradition of interpreting the state's history through historic homes and buildings,



and Black Point is a real treasure chest of Wisconsin history."

Black Point is open for tours from May through October. For the rest of the year, it quietly sleeps as it has for more than 124 years.

A conservation easement protects Black Point and its 620 feet of shoreline from future development, and a conditional use permit helps define the parameters of operation so that Black Point will continue the operating traditions that protect the privacy of nearby residents.

Black Point—A Family Tradition...

[Mary Kaye Merwin, Black Point Historic Preserve Director in 2012, has been named Interim Director by the Wisconsin Historical Society. Her roots in Black Point go back generations, as she tells us in her own words...]

by **Mary Kaye Merwin**

It has been my pleasure to volunteer and work at the Black Point Estate for the past five years. Growing up on a farm just a short distance from Black Point, my family has had ties to the Seipp family through four generations.

My great grandmother, Julia Kaye Reek, was a friend of Catharina Seipp and they often shared tea in the summer. My grandmother, Alice Reek Merwin, and later my mother, Gladys Merwin, both sold eggs to the family at Black Point when they didn't have their own chickens.

When I was a child, often Edward and Zeka Petersen would come to the farm to get the eggs for the house and their children would be with them to have a ride on one of our ponies. In return, as children, my brother and I would be invited to join them in swimming at the Black Point boathouse.

We are delighted that this very special property has been preserved and is now open to the public. The Black Point Historic Preserve Board has done a monumental job in bringing the prop-

erty to the point that it is now. It has taken countless hours of leadership and volunteer work to maintain and preserve the house and grounds, as well as make the story of the house and its contents appealing to guests. This past summer, over 50 people from the area worked to provide the tours of Black Point, in addition to the Preserve Board of Directors and its committees.

With the management transition to the Wisconsin Historical Society, we not only will see experienced management, but they will also add another very important component to Black Point - their expertise in archival recording and preservation. Both the contents of the house and the vast amount of family and area history that is also available in the house will now be permanently recorded, and additional steps will be taken to preserve these things.

Area people will still be needed to volunteer and work at the house, as it takes a good number of folks to offer daily tours and maintain the warm and friendly welcome to Black Point that has always been the family trademark.

GLLC and DNR work to resolve Geneva Lake level concerns

The Geneva Lake Level Corporation (GLLC) and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) are working toward a solution to a dispute over the operation of the dam that controls the water level in Geneva Lake.

According to GLLC President Karl Otzen, the greater Geneva Lake community will be notified when a resolution is reached; the GLA plans to inform its members by email as well.

Efforts on the part of GLLC included hiring experts in state law and hydrology in order to intelligently discuss and negotiate with the DNR.

As those assets come with substantial cost, the GLLC is accepting donations to restore reserve funds needed to repair and maintain the dam and raceway facilities.

The Geneva Lake Association donated \$2,500 to the GLLC in November, and encourages its members to help by making contributions to the GLLC at PO Box 656, Lake Geneva, WI 53147.

Scholarships benefit area students

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.

Over \$20,000 can be awarded in a single year to students in a variety of age groups and educational levels. 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.

Applying for Scholarships or Grants

The EEF maintains an informative web site at <http://envedfnd.org/>. The web-site includes descriptions of the funding that is available, as well as downloadable application forms. 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. *Many of the programs have an April 1 application deadline.*

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.

Yerkes 'Skynet' receives NSF Grant

Approximately 1,400 middle schoolers nation-wide will explore the universe with research-grade robotic telescopes over the next three years, thanks to a \$1.6 million program funded by the National Science Foundation and led by the University of Chicago at Yerkes Observatory in Williams Bay.

Called *Skynet Junior Scholars*, the program will train 180 4-H leaders and informal educators to engage their youths in telescopic observations of planets, asteroids, galaxies and other cosmic targets during summer camps or weekly club meetings at Yerkes Observatory in Wisconsin; the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Green Bank, West Virginia; and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

2012 EEF Recipients

Outdoor Education Grants to Schools

- Fontana School
- Traver School
- Joint School Dist. 2 School (Genoa City)
- Lake Geneva Middle School
- St. Francis de Sales School

Charlotte Peterson Camp Scholarships/ Essay Contest Winners

- Maureen Clifford, Lake Geneva
- Grace Gillingham, Walworth
- Rilyn Donahue, St Francis
- Jacob Sorenson, Walworth
- Laura Walczynski, St. Francis

Other Essay Contest Winners

- Emily Amann, Elkhorn
- Gracie Derrick, St. Francis
- Lauren Oliver, Walworth

High School Senior Scholarship (\$2,000)

- Andrew R. Oja, Big Foot
Microbiology at UW—LaCrosse

Undergraduate Scholarship (\$1,000)

- Elizabeth Lorenzi, Lake Geneva
Envir. Studies at St. Louis Univ.

Post Graduate Scholarship (\$2,000)

- Brittany E. Gallagher, Lake Geneva
Envir. Studies Masters at Evergreen
State College

Thomas E. Reynolds Endowment (\$8,000)

- Not awarded in 2012

Welcome, new members

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

Residential

Barry Diekelman
John Porter
Patricia Wales
John and Lori Ehlenbach
Frost Williams
Dana and John Rolander
Brent and Sharon Brodeski
Melissa and Robert Herrman
The Birches Association, Inc.
Karen Jo Walsh
Marsha Engquist
Sal and Corinne Dimiceli, Sr.
Brian L. Griffith
Daniel C. Ferguson
Bruce and Lynn Bartels
David and Maria Harrison
John A. Bollero, Jr.
Nick and Debbie Kallergis
Harry Hostetler
Dr. and Mrs. David O. Monson
R. Bradford and Charity A. Huss
Lisa and William Brogan
Melissa nad Greg Glyman
Emma Daisy
Lee Tenzer

Residential

VanZelst Landscape & Management

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 on page 4 to determine if your membership is current.

Chapin-May Lecture Series

Steve Wanta, **Whole Planet Foundation**
(Feb. 27, 6 p.m.)

F. Xavier Helgesen, **Off. Grid: Electric**
(March 13, 6 p.m.)

James Riordan,
Chemotronics International
(March 27, 7:30 p.m.)

Chad Pregracke, **Living Lands & Water**
(Chad was featured on CNN and the
Discovery Channel television show
"Dirty Jobs"
(April 18, 6 p.m.)

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 _____

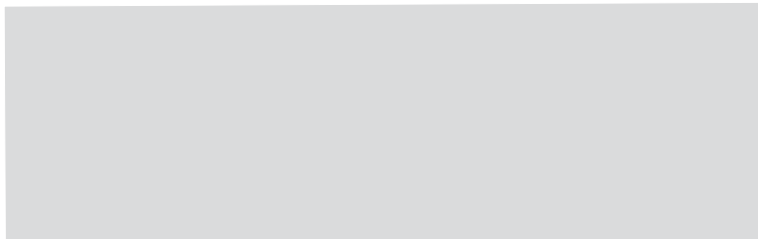
Send Membership Form and check to
Geneva Lake Association, Inc. (GLA)
PO Box 412
Lake Geneva, WI 53147

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!



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