

LAKE GEORGE BREEZE

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 29, Beach Directors Mtg
May 30, Memorial Day Light up Lake George
June 11 & 12 , Garage Sale
June 19, Annual Conservancy Mtg
July 3, Chicken BBQ
July 3, Boat Parade & Fireworks

July 17, LGCA Annual Mtg
July 17, LGCD Annual Mtg
August 28, LG Hog Roast
Sept 4, Beach Director's Mtg
Sept 5, Labor Day—Luminaries

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Happy New Year! We hope 2021 will be another great year for all Lake George Cottagers!

2021 dues statements are included in this mailing, and there is no change in dues from last year. Please make payment by April 1, 2021. We are collecting dues for dam repair/maintenance this year as we begin the preliminary design process (see article on legal lake level and dam update). We are also planning for the best fireworks show ever on July 3rd! You can conveniently pay online with a credit card or Paypal at www.LakeGeorgeIN.com.

We are looking forward to all the favorite traditions of Lake George this year – plus - we are going to try to begin some new ones – Memorial Day Lights (see article in this newsletter). Let's celebrate the beginning of summer fun with some beautiful lights around the lake.

Although it's a matter of perspective, I have been told that some of us are getting a little older. We would like to gather the stories (including tall tales), pictures and maps to memorialize the great history of Lake George. I'm still waiting for someone to tell the story of the lighthouse. By the way, do you know the colors and their order (red, green,)? Please contact us if you want to share some of your history! If you are interested in working with us to collect and document this information, please contact us. We will be sharing this information in a new section of the Breeze called "Memories" beginning this summer.

Speaking of memories – I think all of us have heard the stories of the famous "double-bottom" fishing boats on Lake George. But where are they now? If you have one, please contact us for a picture and consider being in the boat parade this year!!

Have you lost something or found something floating in front of your cottage and said "How do I deal with this?" Of course, the best and easiest situation is when there is a name and cottage/phone number on the item! You can also post on the community portion of the Lake George Facebook page, and you can post on the "Nextdoor" site. Also, the marina has graciously agreed to put up a lost and found bulletin board – feel free to post your lost or found items there (Thank you Troy!).

Your officers this year are Rex Melchi (Vice President), Kevin Snyder (Treasurer), and Rick Weaver (Secretary). The list of Beach Directors will be in the 2021 directory. Please let any of us know if there is something that we can do to make Lake George everything it can be! If you are interested in joining this terrific team, please let one of us know.

PRESIDENT, LAKE GEORGE COTTAGERS ASSOCIATION

Dave Sorg - 765-637-8343

lakegeorgecottagersassociation@gmail.com



CORRECTION – LAST YEARS BREEZE

It was brought to my attention there was more to the Memorial article for Rob Johnston that I hadn't noticed; therefore, see the below information! My apologies to the Johnston family. Faye Schlatter

MEMORIAL BENCH FUND FOR ROB JOHNSTON

As was announced over the summer, lifelong Lake George resident Rob Johnston passed away in early 2020. His family and friends have established a memorial fund to place a bench up on the hill of the Conservancy's Preserve property. To date, the fund has raised just over half of the \$1500 necessary to accomplish this goal.

If you would like to contribute to Rob's memorial bench drive, please send a donation to:

Lake George Conservancy

1042 S. Angola Road

Coldwater, MI 49036

(P.S. Please put Rob Johnston Memorial on the check's memo line)

Thank you for your consideration!



Lake George Conservancy Update – 2021 Winter

I'm sure everyone would agree that it's a relief to put the year 2020 behind us. With so much turmoil around, it will be healing to get back to a sense of normal. Our beautiful Lake George presented a safe sanctuary this past year. From my observation it was one of the busiest lake seasons ever.

The Lake George Conservancy concluded another productive year, with land acquisitions and restoration continuing to take the forefront of our activities. With the addition of the property on the NW corner of Angola road and LG lane 201, we now have 108 acres under our management. The restoration of the Oak Savana at the old Apple Orchard is accelerating with a total of six memorial tree clusters being donated and planted to date. In addition, we had four new memorial benches donated for the Preserve in 2020.

The board has decided to reduce the cost of both the memorial tree clusters and benches for 2021. The reasoning being, we would like to make these memorial opportunities more readily affordable to our membership and lake George residents. Moving forward, the memorial tree clusters in the Oak Savana will be available for \$1,200. This will include the cost and installation of the trees, as well as placement of a brass plaque with inscription. The 2021 tree clusters will have much smaller trees but in larger tree count. Roughly 30 trees per cluster will be planted.

The memorial benches on the Preserve hill crest will be \$1,500. This location presents a beautiful overlook to Lake George. We currently only have five bench pads remaining, with the potential for an additional seven pads to be installed in the future. Please contact any LGC Board member for further details.

In closing, the board would like to thank everyone for your support in 2020. Though a challenging year, the LGC experienced outstanding support in membership, Boutique sales, Chicken BBQ results, and the current Sustaining Campaign. These are the four pillars of our financial foundation which in turn allows us to make the investments in water quality monitoring and land acquisition.

See you next spring!!

President, Matt Minnick - Lake George Conservancy

Lake George Conservancy District Director Opening

(Beach 6 and 7)

The Lake George Conservancy District Board is made up of 5 directors - each of which has a 4 year term and each representing different beaches in Indiana. At our inception, we created the initial board with staggered terms. Tom Strasser, who represents beach 6 and 7 (Lake George Beach - West and Forest Park - South), has his term expire in July of this year. We wish to recognize and thank Tom for his service!

As you recall, the LGCD is currently responsible for invasive weed management (in conjunction with the Michigan Lake Improvement board) and is planning to be responsible for dam maintenance beginning this year. We meet either in person or via conference call approximately 4 times a year, including the annual meeting in July. It is likely that several special meetings will also be required as specific decisions regarding weed management and dam maintenance are needed.

If you are interested in these critically important activities and want to serve your fellow lakers, please call me at 765-637- 8343 or email me at davesorg54@gmail.com

Gratefully, Dave Sorg, President - LGCD

LET'S LIGHT UP LAKE GEORGE ON MEMORIAL DAY!!

Luminaries on Labor Day Weekend is a grand tradition at Lake George. Each year Lake George cottagers ring out the Summer season by enjoying the beauty of luminaries placed along the shoreline as they cruise the lake on Sunday night. Long-time cottager Peggy Behrendt suggested we should start a similar tradition to celebrate the start of Summer. We thought that was a great idea, so we are going to try it out in 2021. Here are the ground rules:

Light up the lake side of your cottage or shoreline with electric lights on the evening of Sunday, May 30. Be careful with electricity around water!

Use any color lights you want. Christmas lights are a great idea.

Cruise the lake and enjoy the view.

LAKE GEORGE DAM UPDATE

On September 10, 2020 the Branch County Circuit Court heard a petition to create a Legal Lake Level on the Michigan side of the lake. The petition was brought forth by the Branch County Drain Commissioner on behalf of the Cottagers Association. The circuit court judge ruled on the Legal Lake Level, setting it the same elevation as the Indiana side. The court decision now allows the Lake George Legal Lake District (administered by the Branch County Drain Commissioner) to assess for any future dam improvements for Michigan cottage owners while the Lake George Conservancy District administers the same for Indiana cottagers.

In November 2020, a committee consisting of Dave Sorg, Jim Getz, Jim Gallogly, Gary Davis, and Rick Weaver prepared and sent out Request for Qualifications to four engineering firms. These firms are recognized by IDNR as proficient in dam design. The qualifications were reviewed and ranked, and in December 2020, the firm of Patriot Engineering and Environmental was hired to complete the task of preparing preliminary improvement plans.

The firm will be working with the Cottagers Association to complete the preliminary design by May 1, 2021 and also assist the association with a FEMA grant application through the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. There is no guarantee we will receive the grant, but if successful, the grant will pay up to 60% of the Final Engineering which we hope to have completed by the end of 2021. If the FEMA grant is still available in 2022, the association will make an application for another 60% grant to cover construction cost. We will continue to look for other grant opportunities in both Michigan and Indiana.

The association wants to sincerely thank all the cottagers who have given of their time and patience collecting signatures and answering questions on the petitions (Lord knows there were enough petitions). Thank you for your hard work and diligence to make Lake George safe for everyone who lives and visits the lake.

Rick Weaver— LGCA Secretary

MEMORIAL DAY

We again would like to honor our Lake George Veterans this upcoming Memorial Day. If you could email me a brief history of their service, about when, where, and what branch and any special story of interest, that would be welcomed too! If you have a picture from the past and/or present, I would also like to include it. Just email me at:

fschlatter@frontier.com - Thank you!

Faye Schlatter, Breeze Editor





Walleye Update

We once again added to the walleye population. 2,770 - 6- to 8" Walleye were added to the lake on October 22. Thanks to Gary Zandstra and Bill King for making this happen!

THE LIFE OF NINA MCCLELLAND



To her many life-long friends in Forest Park South, Nina McClelland was known for her quick wit, eu-chre prowess, engaging conversation, and love of Lake George. What many did not know about Nina was that she was a world-renowned expert on water quality and traveled the world representing the United States and several administrations promoting safe drinking water practices in developing countries.

Nina held a BS and MS in chemistry from the University of Toledo, a PhD in environmental chemistry from the University of Michigan, and an honorary Doctorate in Science from the University of Toledo.

For thirty years Nina worked for the non-profit National Sanitation Foundation, based in Ann Arbor. For fifteen of those years she was its President, CEO and Board Chair, during which time she oversaw the name change to NSF International which recognized that the corporation had expanded into a global entity working in fifty foreign countries under her leadership.

Nina served on numerous Boards of Directors of non-profit and for-profit corporations and two Universities. She led the International Clean Water Program and served on the National Academy Sciences Committee on Water Treatment. In the 1970's, she helped create the governmental standard for the treatment of drinking water. In 1986, Nina sat on the US Environmental Protection Agency Advisory Committee. She was later elected American Chemical Society Board of Directors Chair in the 1990's. After her retirement from NSF International, she joined the faculty at the University of Toledo and was Dean of the Chemistry Department.

Her long list of awards and accomplishments culminated by being inducted into the Ohio Women's Hall of Fame, and at the age of 89, being honored in front of the United States Congress for her accomplishments in preserving clean water. The University of Toledo has dedicated a new laboratory for water chemistry in her name.

Nina McClelland died on August 16, 2020, five days before her 91st birthday. RIP Nina. A life well lived.



WEBSITE: LAKEGEORGEIN.COM