



Simonton Says...

Simonton Lake Area Homeowners' Association, Inc. Newsletter, Elkhart, Indiana

August 2008

Volume 1, Issue 2

Special Points of Interest

- f Stupid Boat
- f Milfoil? What Is It?
- f Your Lake Can Pick Your Pocket
- f Reflections on the Past

Dear Neighbors...

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

Although, our association has been operational less than 2 months, we have made great strides and have accomplished the following:

- f We've elected a board.
- f We've set up 4 standing committees with strong leadership. We have good participation in all of our committees.
- f We started as a club, but we have since incorporated the association as a non-profit and are currently in the process of drafting our By-Laws.
- f We published our 1st newsletter in July and sold enough advertising to pay for our newsletter for the year.
- f Our professionally designed website is up and running.
- f We've gone from \$0 to over \$4,000 in our bank account.

Yes, it has been hectic at times and we've made a few mistakes, but we're learning as we go. We have a lot of good people stepping up to the plate

to make our association successful. The board has been meeting every two weeks since we started May 22nd, and the standing committees are meeting at least every two to four weeks...so everyone has been busy.

For the most part, the standing committees have identified and prioritized the issues they would like to tackle. The committees are currently investigating and trying to understand what resources are available to us so we can develop some achievable goals and action plans. For example, we are now eligible to apply for State money to fund some of our Lake environment concerns. Soon, we will be hearing more about these projects as the committees zero-in and finalize their action plans. Watch your Newsletter and check the website for updates.

OUR IMMEDIATE CHALLENGES

Although we have many important issues being addressed by each committee our association needs to be looking ahead. Our committees will require member support and funding for the initiatives.

See **Neighbors**/pg. 10

Simonton Lake, the Place

-by Dave Foutz

Are you aware that Simonton Lake is actually a place, not just some geographical feature, but an unincorporated municipality? According to the United States Census Bureau, Simonton Lake has a total area of 3.7 square miles of which, 3.3 square miles of it is land and 0.4 square miles or 11.17 percent is water. Simonton Lake has a population of over four thousand people. Simonton Lake is defined as a Census Designated Place (CDP). That means the federal government looked at Elkhart County and determined that over four thousand people have a enough interests in common that they should be viewed as a more or less homogenous group.

See **Simonton**/pg. 17

www.simontonlake.org

In this issue:

Board Notes & Committee Reports	2
"Dream Come True" Wedding	2
Your Lake Can Pick Your Pocket	12
Life on the Lake	13
Simonton Chronicles	14
It's the 4th	16
Sportsmen's Club "Catch Phrases"	17
Wildlife in our Backyard	18
Classified Ads	19

Board of Directors Meeting Notes July 9, 2008

Erin Harding, Association Treasurer, informed the board that we are now officially incorporated. We also have a mailing address, which is:

Simonton Lake Area Homeowners' Association, Inc.
P.O. Box # 1706
Elkhart, IN 46515-1706

The board is in the process of drafting by-laws. We are encouraging each committee to work on short term

as well as long term goals. We discussed general meetings for all association members, and will have three each year: May, September and December. **Our first general meeting will be September 5th, at the Sportsmen's Club, at 7:00.** We hope to have a general speaker for the meeting as well as reports from each committee giving the residents time to pose questions or concerns. The board is communicating with the Lake Council in Steuben County concerning a number of issues relating to lakes in general. We continue to be encouraged by the number of volunteers working with the association and want to continue the momentum of the committees.

See **Board**/pg. 4

Dream Come True Wedding at the Lake for Jennifer Bradshaw & Nathan Montiel

A rainy morning opened to blue skies and Little Simonton Lake became an amazing setting for a beautiful outdoor wedding and reception on July 12th, uniting Jennifer Bradshaw, daughter of Don and



Carol Bradshaw, and Nathan Montiel, at the bride's parents' home on Beach Drive. Jennifer has lived at the lake her entire life and has always dreamed of getting married here.

After guests parked their cars, they were taken to her parents' home by golf carts. The wedding took place on the pier while their 250 guests witnessed the ceremony from shore, except for the photographer who stood in the lake capturing the moment. The celebration continued under a huge tent, complete with catering by Esssenhaus, a DJ and dance floor, making a childhood dream come true.

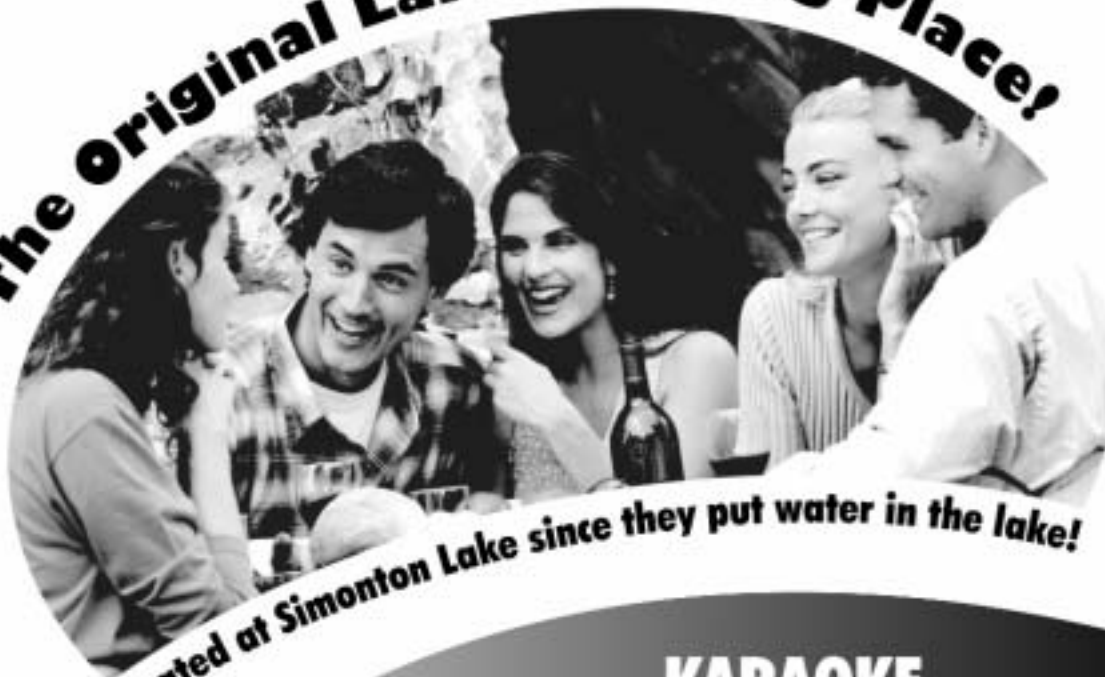
Love at the Lake Lives On!

Kelly Matherly, daughter of Ryan and Amy Matherly (Big Lake) was married to Greg Shewmaker, son of Terry and Kathy Shewmaker (Big Lake) on July 12th. Grandparents are Chet and Doris Matherly (Big Lake). Cami Broderick, daughter of Bill and Susie Broderick (Main Channel), Erin Nickell and Brock Nickell (Vaughn and Cindy), Jeremy, Tyler, Evan and Robin (Shewmaker) Hoff and Gina and Ben Matherly were also part of the wedding party. Dave Foutz (Big Lake), friend of the family, gave a special blessing at the reception. Ryan and Amy are recovering from the big day. It was

great but they're ok with only having the one daughter. The newlyweds, who had been friends for many years, had their first date on Labor Day weekend four years ago after running in to one another at the sandbar. **LOVE AT THE LAKE LIVES ON!**



The Original Lake Meeting Place!



Located at Simonton Lake since they put water in the lake!

KARAOKE

EVERY TUES, WED AND THURSDAY 8PM

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT 9PM

Specials

Sunday

- 4 Piece Chicken Dinner - \$6.95

Monday Night

- All You Can Eat Frog Legs - \$12.95

Tuesday

- Cheeseburger - \$2.00

Wednesday

- Hot Wings - \$0.30 each

Friday

- All You Can Eat Fish - \$6.95

www.petessimontonlaketavern.com

Order Carryout - 574-264-9033

51426 SR 19, Elkhart, IN 46514

Kitchen Hours: Mon. - Sat.: 10:00am - 10:00pm, Sun.: 11:00am - 8:00pm



Board
from page 2

Treasurer's Corner

The Simonton Lake Area Homeowners' Association, Inc. is now an official Indiana non-profit corporation, and we have opened a new bank account. All of the checks received by 7/19/2008 have been deposited. Please don't hesitate to contact me if your check has not yet cleared. As a next step, the Board of Directors will be drafting by-laws.

Seniors - we have great news!

As a result of a suggestion from the Newsletter / Website committee, we have modified our membership dues policy. Individuals who are age 80 or over will receive complimentary memberships. Even though the membership is free, please don't forget to join so we have your contact information. If you meet this new criteria of 80+ and you have already paid your dues, please contact me and I will be happy to provide a refund. Individuals 70-79 will still receive a senior discount of \$10 off of the regular membership price of \$30 per household.

Below is a brief financial update on the association (as of 7/20/2008):

Item	Subtotal	Total
Membership Dues - Regular	\$2,530.00	
Advertising	1,681.00	
Carryover	911.37	
Total Revenue		\$5,122.37
Printing	\$359.19	
Total Expenses		359.19
Net Position as of July 20, 2008		\$4,763.18

Please note that we will be developing an association budget based on the recommendations of the committees. In addition to our newsletter, there are a variety of ways that funds might be used - e.g., assessment of the environmental health of our lake, information signs about boating safety rules, hosting fees for our website. Don't forget to get involved by joining the association and a committee so you can help determine where our funding would be most effectively used!

As always, please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions. Or, stop by 25828 North Shore Drive by car or boat on the weekend!

Erin Harding, Treasurer
eharding@nd.edu
Cell: 312-771-6397

See **Board**/pg. 6

www.simontonlake.org

IRON GATE

self storage

2921 Johnson Street, Elkhart

located directly behind Menard's

(574) 264-5598



Affordable, high quality storage for residential and commercial storage customers. From our 5' x 10' units, to store a few boxes, up to a large 10 x 30 unit for auto's, boats and trailers, we provide storage for all your needs.



Kelly Cress...

Your Simonton Lake Specialist

Work with a REALTOR® — it's worth it!

- The home sales price received by sellers who use an agent is 16 percent higher than for those who don't.
- When selling your home, your REALTOR® can give you up-to-date information on what is happening in the marketplace and the price, financing, terms and condition of competing properties. These are key factors in getting your property sold at the best price, quickly and with minimum hassle.
- Your REALTOR® will know when, where and how to advertise your property.
- Often, your REALTOR® can recommend repairs or cosmetic work that will significantly enhance the salability of your property. Your REALTOR® markets your property to other real estate agents and the public. In many markets across the country, over 50% of real estate sales are cooperative sales; that is, a real estate agent other than yours brings in the buyer. Your REALTOR® acts as the marketing coordinator, disbursing information about your property to other real estate agents through a Multiple Listing Service.
- Nine out of ten home buyers use a real estate agent in the search process!
- The typical home sale today involves more than 20 steps after the initial contract is accepted to complete the transaction. The REALTOR®'s role is to coordinate these responsibilities, helping to ensure that others do their jobs promptly and correctly and that the closing isn't jeopardized.

*According to studies by NAR.



Prudential

One Realty

Know anyone who wants to be on the water?

Check out my new listings
in the Simonton Lake area
@ www.KellyCressHomes.com

25048 North Shore Dr. (Lake front)
25838 Lake Dr. (Lake access)

(574) 596-9776



Board
from page 4

Membership/Outreach Committee

The Membership/Outreach Committee met June 24 and July 17. Both of our meetings met at the home of Ken and Sue Ward on Twilight Drive.

Randy Hoff led each meeting.

Our primary focus at this time is membership. The Section Representatives passed out the newsletters published July 1, door to door in their respective areas of the lake. We received a great response to our newsletter and acquired many more memberships. The July 17 meeting continued to focus on the August 1 edition of the newsletter and membership. The committee will follow up with neighbors who had not been contacted previously. It was brought to the attention of the committee that some residents had not received newsletters. Apparently when a resident was not home, a newsletter was left on a mailbox, etc. and had been not received by the resident. We are seeking an alternative way to deliver the newsletter since it is not legal to deliver them in the mailboxes. A mailing would be financially prohibitive. Our committee is planning the general meeting for the SLAHA for the month of September to be announced at a later date. We also are looking into T-shirts and hats for a possible money maker. The next meeting is scheduled for August 7 at 7:00 at the Wards.

Carole Foutz
Board Representative

Law Enforcement Committee

Roger Anderson, as chairman, called the meeting to order on June 19th and asked members to prioritize concerns. They began assigning tasks and responsibilities to each. Some of the concerns were: the size of the motors on the lake, the "no-wake" zones, the public access and its use, illegal parking around the public landing, behavior at the landing, the sand bar, pier rentals, trespassing, crimes around the lake, etc. Members volunteered to seek information about the above stated issues. Contacting the DNR, the Elkhart County Sheriff's department and STAR will be done to discuss various issues as well as invite them to come to the next meeting. The meeting will be determined when a date can be arranged with one or more of these agencies.

See Committees/pg. 8

www.simontonlake.org

Area Representatives

your delegates for neighborhood concerns

1. Tim and Phyllis Nusbaum 264-0965
2. Ann and Jerry Broderick 264-1331
John and Pat Brown 264-2258
Ken and Sue Ward 206-0450
3. Susie Broderick 262-0818
4. Jon Hart 262-1404
Randy Hoff 262-3432
5. Bob Meyers 675-0970
Cindy Nickell 262-3105
6. Dave Brown 266-0188
7. Jack Griffith 264-5460
Dave VanZile 264-5201
8. (Representative needed)



**Take advantage
of advertising**

**in the official Simonton Lake
Area Homeowners' Association
Newsletter today!**

Simonton Says...

- 8 1/2 x 11 Multi-page Newsletter published 6 times per year
- February, May, June, July, August & November
- Distributed to 500+ homes in the Simonton Lake Area
- Custom designed ad

Call: Dick Rhodes - 574-370-7884 Call: Bob Meyers - 574-361-4445
or email: ads@simontonlake.org

Prepaid annual pricing (6 issues)

1/8 page.....	\$120 per year
1/4 page.....	\$192 per year
1/2 page.....	\$312 per year
Full page.....	\$480 per year

Bonus:
Banner ad on the community website
(with prepaid annual commitment!)
www.simontonlake.org

TRUST THE WAKE



BENNINGTON
FOUR WINNS


**Best Gear.
Best Boats.
Best Service.**



574-264-2874

Located just one mile north of the Toll Road.
Exit #92 and one mile south of US 12.

**WakeSide
Marine**
WakeSideMarine.com
51305 S.R. 19 North • Elkhart, IN 46514

Committees

from page 6

Lake Environment Committee

The committee met on July 14th. Bill Broderick will start working off of an agenda as we start to develop this committee, and to better utilize our time discussing lake projects.

Items discussed:

1. This committee would like to poll the entire HOA to see what the lake concerns are around our community. Probably will use the HOA Web site to accomplish this.
2. This committee would like to get a professional lake assessment done to disclose any major issues that needs to be addressed right away to keep our waters clear and pollution free.
3. Discussion of contacting other lake associations to see what they are doing and apply some of their best practices to ensure our clean waters. Jim Flemming and Richard Zinsmeister will be investigating this.
4. Bill Broderick and Bob Evans will be working on the Lake Assessment project.
5. Van Kessler will be working on an information board to put down at the boat launch so that everyone putting their boat in, will see information about lake rules, Zebra mussels and anything else this committee thinks will be important to the lake environment. Also suggested to put another sign down by the boat slips at the west end of the lake. Will need to ask Cam for permission to put this up.
6. Bob Putman will be working on contacting the people who said that they would like to be on this committee to get them to come to the next meetings.
7. Looking into the leaf pick up around the lake so the leaf burning in the fall will slow down, along with this maybe look at one company for around the lake to do our recycling and garbage pick up to save everyone some money.

Next lake environment meeting is on Monday, August 18th at 7:00pm, place to be announced.

Recipes from the Lake

Share your favorite lake recipe.

See the website for details.

www.simontonlake.org

www.simontonlake.org

Newsletter/Website Committee

To date the committee has had two meetings. We are an enthusiastic and talented group. Our next meeting will be held on July 23rd. We will finalize our August newsletter at this time.

We have accomplished the following during our first few weeks in operation:

1. Designed and produced "Simonton Says" the SLAHA newsletter
2. Established regular features for the newsletter
3. Chosen Theresa Maier as our secretary
4. Created an informative SLAHA website
5. Sold 11 advertisements for our July edition. (Ten of those advertisements were purchased for the entire year.) Sold two new ads starting in the August edition.
6. Already made additions to the website (Lake Area Alerts, Lake Recipes, 4th of July photos)

Next issue - November 1st

In the meantime, get the news at:

www.simontonlake.org

HIGLEY
TV & Appliance

**GREAT PRICES
GREAT SERVICE**

Your neighborhood electronics
Experts

TOSHIBA
DIRECTV
Rigidair
MAYTAG
Whirlpool
Fisher & Paykel

2901 Cassopolis St.
574-264-2315



KOHLER
engines



HONDA
E N G I N E S



**If you need a ryder,
come see
Kryder!**

Kryders Lawn Mowers

**— SALES AND SERVICE
— ALL BRANDS REPAIRED**

**LITTLE
WONDER®**

 **Simplicity**

Mantis

TORO

LAWN-BOY

ECHO

shindaiwa

51543 SR 19 N Elkhart, IN 46514

Phone: (574) 264-7623

Neighbors

from page 1

These are our immediate challenges:

f **Growing our membership**

c Obviously, the larger our membership the more influence we have. We need everyone around the lake to join....THIS IS IMPORTANT!

f **Increasing member involvement**

c We need more members to get involved in our association. Join one of the committees. If we get more involvement we can spread the workload making it easier on everyone.

f **Raising funds to finance the projects our committees will require**

c Even with State money we will be responsible for a certain percentage of the costs. At this point we have yet to determine what our funding requirements will be. We won't know until each committee has finalized goals and action plans. So membership dues are important.

EXTEND MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

We need members to recruit non-members. If you know neighbors who have not yet joined, please encourage them to join. If every member would recruit 4 non-member households we would quadruple in size! So we challenge each member to identify the non-members, make a personal visit, complete their application form, collect their check and get it to:

Erin Harding, Treasurer
Simonton Lake Area Homeowners' Assoc., Inc.
P.O. Box 1706
Elkhart, IN 46515-1706

BENEFITS OF BELONGING TO OUR ASSOCIATION

- f Improve the safety and environment of our lake.
- f Help us make our neighborhoods safer and crime free.
- f Opportunity to improve the value of our properties.
- f Give residents a stronger voice in the development of northern Elkhart.
- f The association is publishing and distributing newsletters 6 times per year.
- f Members can advertise in the classified section for free.
- f An opportunity to meet and work with your neighbors for the common benefit of our lake and neighborhoods.

Please join the association. If you're already a member, recruit those who are not. All of us will benefit and get a return on our investment.

Thank You,
Vaughn Nickell

www.simontonlake.org

Boat Lifts, Dock and Accessories




**Sales
and
Excellent
Service**

**Authorized
Dealer for:**





O' Donnell's Docks LLC

12097 M-60, Jones MI 49061
269.244.1446
www.odonnellsdocks.com

Next issue - November 1st

In the meantime, get the news at:
www.simontonlake.org



Heating, Air Conditioning,
Indoor Air Quality, Plumbing

Serving the Michiana Area for Over 60 Years

- Heating & Air Conditioning
- Plumbing
- Stand-by Generators

- 24-Hour Emergency Service
- PLUS Maintenance Program

Call Cook
Service Experts Today

293.0063
877.628.COOK

www.cook-heating.com

SLAHA MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

Dues: \$30 per household per year **Senior Discount** (70 and over): \$20 per household per year
Senior Honorary Membership (80 and over): FREE lifetime member

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____ 2nd/Spouse Email: _____

Preference for contact: ☐ Email ☐ Phone ☐ Mail

Participation Interest: _____

Current committees: Lake Environment, Law Enforcement, Membership/Outreach, Newsletter/Website

Please mail your completed form and check made out to **SLAHA** to: Simonton Lake Area Homeowners' Association, Inc., P.O. Box 1706, Elkhart, IN. 46515-1706

Please check the appropriate box below if you are **NOT** willing to share this information in a directory sent to members. We will not share this list outside of the association without your permission.

☐ Address ☐ Phone ☐ Email

www.simontonlake.org

Your Lake Can Pick Your Pocket!

- by Vaughn Nickell

As I was enjoying the July 4th week on Simonton Lake, I happened to notice beer cans and bottles floating by ...sometimes sinking before I could get to them. On some mornings we had lots of bottles floating around the lake. It's disappointing to see this happen to our lake. I can't imagine what the bottom of our lake looks like. I think the following article might help put this issue in perspective for property owners living on our lake. I find it interesting that enough has been written on this subject, that if you Google lake quality property value you'll get 1,230,000 returns!

In my mind, if our association can help bring focus and ultimately resolution to this problem, we are adding value to all our property owners.

The following article can be found in its entirety on www.indianalakes.org. Find the link on the "News & Events" page at our website www.simontonlake.org.

Studies reveal there is a direct link between your lake's zoning restrictions, its water quality, and the value of your lakeside real estate!

If your money grows on trees...Just forget about reading more...

Some studies suggest that property values decline more than 20% when the water clarity (a measure of how deep you can see into a lake) declines. A Minnesota study, for example, calculated "...if the water got clearer-so you could see down another 3 feet - a lake property's value would rise by \$423 for each foot of frontage. For a 40-foot lakefront lot, that amounts to nearly a \$17,000 gain in value." In the same study, a lakefront parcel would lose \$23,760 if the water clarity decreased by three feet. (Duluth, MN, News Tribune, 5-27-03)

Heavy boating traffic also causes a decline in property values because excessive boating can reduce lake clarity significantly. Excessive lake use causes numerous other lake ecosystem problems as well, studies say.

"Poor water quality and loss of habitat are two of the biggest problems impacting Orange County, Florida lakes, the county says. Degraded water quality is generally caused by nutrient-laden and contaminated runoff from landscapes, driveways, rooftops, parking lots, roads, and poor storm water management practices..."

Find out more at www.simontonlake.org



Monday - Steak and Taters \$5.95

\$2 Tuesdays - Half Pound Burgers,
Fish Sandwiches, Domestic Bottled Beers

Wednesday - .40 Wings and .40 Shrimp

Thursday - Jumbo Burritos (Jumanguritos)

NEW MENU ITEMS

Pecan Crusted Walleye * Macadamia Crusted Chicken
Bone-In New York Strip * Charbroiled Sirloin

Breakfast Buffet Sat-Sun 8-12 Noon \$6.95

Have you tried our new Pizza??

**We now offer: A NON SMOKING DINING AREA
CARRYOUT BEER, WINE AND LIQUOR..!**

51330 State Road 19 . Elkhart, IN 46514 . (574) 266-0606

More than a Fish Place!



80 Beers to choose From • 20 Beers On Draft
Specializing in Local Craft and Imports
30 Martinis • Affordable Wine List

**Full Dinner and Lunch Menu
Starting at \$5.95**

Fresh Sushi Bar
Featuring: Blue Gill, Lake Perch, Walleye, Salmon
Great Steaks, Chops and Chicken

Near the corner of State Road 10 and County Road 610 Elkhart
(574) 264-5700

STUPID BOAT! STUPID, STUPID BOAT!!

- by Amy Matherly

I don't have to even go on from there, do I? If you own a boat, you've been there. It's the "Murphy's Law" for watercraft. We've been fortunate the last couple of years. Knock on wood, our boat has started every time we've turned the key. That doesn't mean we haven't had some minor repairs done over the winter. I walk my beagles, Sadie and Abbie, down North Shore Drive most every day. The week of the 4th as the dogs stopped to smell yet another fence post I saw that all too familiar site: One boat, motor dead as a doornail, slowly being towed home. STUPID BOAT!

This is how it works for boat motors: Where ever you are on the lake you have just motored to the farthest point away from your house. That's when it happens or I should say, doesn't happen. It won't be something simple

like a loose wire or no gas. This will be the only time you've ever gone out without a paddle and or a rope.

Here's another scenario: You've got a yard full of people from town. Perhaps it's a family reunion. Then it's time for the highlight of the afternoon-- a boat ride. These folks run to the pier, don the orange life preservers you have under the seats and pack themselves in until the pontoons are just above the water line. Town folks don't know lake etiquette. They don't help untie the boat or push off or make sure the prop is in the water. They just sit there excited to be on a boat. You turn the key and it grinds, but won't turn over. Everyone looks at you. You pray for the motor to start.

I think those orange life vests are a signal to the motor not to start. STUPID BOAT!

The last time we were faced with this situation we had our pastor on board. Swearing does not help your motor to start and when your pastor's in the boat, swearing is not an option.

LAKE SHORTS - by Amy Matherly

Erin Nickell, daughter of **Vaughn and Cindy Nickell** (Big Lake) will be married this fall to **Chad Winchester**. Congratulations!

.....

Lindsey (Wilson) Andrews and sons **Chase and Aiden** are spending the summer here with her parents, **Paul and Linda Wilson** (Channels). Lindsey's husband, **Travis Andrews** is a Staff Sergeant with the Air Force. He is serving with an Army Unit called a Provincial Reconstruction Team. He will return in November to Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri. Paul and Linda are enjoying time with their grandsons and awaiting the birth of their first granddaughter who will be named **Addison**. Travis, Lindsey and the family are in the thoughts and prayers of all of us at the lake.

.....

Jenny Bradshaw, daughter of **Don and Carol Bradshaw** was married to **Nathan Montiel** on July 12th on her parent's pier on Little Simonton. 250 guests attended the ceremony. The reception was held in the yard. Congratulations to the newlyweds! See photos and details on page 2.

.....

Kelly Matherly, daughter of **Ryan and Amy Matherly** (Big Lake) was married to **Greg Shewmaker**, son of **Terry and Kathy Shewmaker** (Big Lake) on July 12th. See photo and details on page 2.

.....

If there was a contest for the most beautiful gardens around the lake it would be impossible to choose a winner. **Cathy Kessler's** (Channels) flowers are just beautiful. **Susie Broderick** seems to grow hydrangeas like I grow

dandelions. **Carole Foutz's** yard was featured on a garden tour a few years ago and looks better every year. I think my most favorite are the gardens in **Norma Lockwood's** yard. Norma lives in the neighborhood on the north side of the lake. She has so many varieties of hostas she has lost count. She has at least four different varieties of hydrangeas. Her front yard is beautiful but her back yard is filled with plants. I don't think she can stand to throw away anything. So she just keeps dividing and planting. Talk about a green thumb!

.....

In case you don't know, the man in the red kayak you see most every morning is my father-in-law, **Chet Matherly and his dog Skeeter**. I won't tell you how old he is but he served at Pearl Harbor during World War 2. My mother-in-law **Doris** has been known to get a little worried when they're out too long. She's not worried about Chet. She just wants her dog back.

.....

My little neighbor **Maddi** is just learning to ride her two-wheeler. She's got training wheels but it's still all new to her. Out here at the lake our roads are narrow. Folks walk or run for exercise, walk their dogs and bike. When you are driving (too fast) down one of our lake roads next time, remember that Maddi or someone like her is also on the road. You might not think so but just around the curve, just out of sight, there she'll be on her bike. So, please slow down and move over if you can. Oh, and don't forget to wave.

Don't forget to let us know about the special events in your lives. Help us to spread the word about those who are recovering from illness or have been in the hospital. Just a simple email will do. Thanks!

Simonton Reflections

- by Carole Foutz

I volunteered to write this feature because I have a special interest in history. I taught social studies to my students for 34 years. Why not find out more about the history of where I begin each day? Wouldn't it be interesting to find out more about what used to lie on the shore across the lake or actually where my house is now? My quest began on the internet which was quickly found non-productive. Hard to believe that today's technology has not included much on Simonton Lake! I then went to the library and while I found a wealth of materials on Elkhart's history, very little referring to the lake "a ways" north of town. My best source has been our residents! I began talking with neighbors. I have only begun to scratch the surface of memories that brings back a great history that Simonton Lake obviously has.

I didn't have to search far to find my first residents who could help me with my endeavor. I interviewed Chet and Doris Matherly of Lake Drive, my next door neighbors. Chet was able to take his ties to Simonton back to the 1930's when he visited the lake as a small child. His family would come out from town to stay in small cottages. Johnson Street and Lake Drive were dirt roads. The east end of the big lake was so full of lily pads that you couldn't row a boat successfully. At that time, going from the big lake to the little lake was almost impossible. Summer cottages were found mostly on the south side of the lake.

The Matherlys recall after World War II people began to permanently live on the lake. The Conservation Club was organized shortly after. Its goals were to keep Simonton a natural lake.....trying to keep boats with motors off of the lake, in fact, at one time from April to June 21 motors were not allowed to be operated on the lake. This was the time for fish spawning.

In the 1920's and 30's, Lakeside Place was developed. This is the Lake Drive area with A,B,C, and D Streets. These were small homes but mostly permanent. A lot in the 1940's went for \$300-400 which was not on the lake and by the 1950's a lot could be purchased for \$5,000 on the lake.

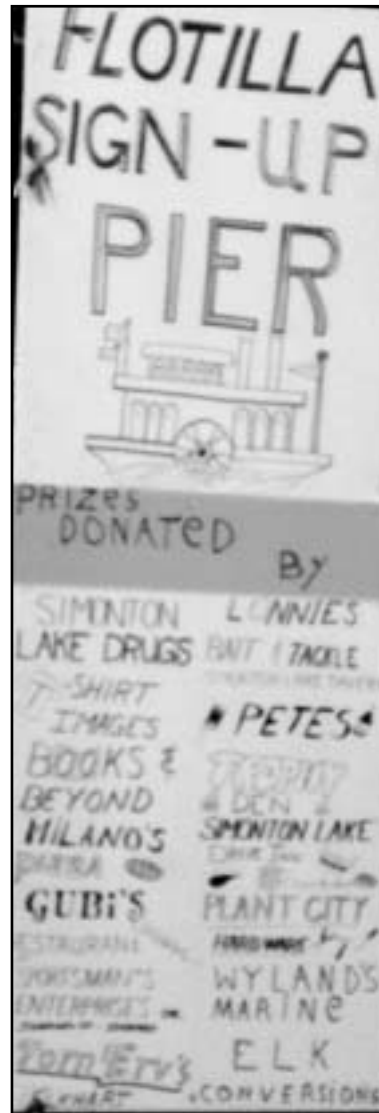
Chet and Doris reminisced about some commercial properties that Simonton Lake attracted over the years. During Prohibition, it is said that there was a "speakeasy" that was in the area of A Street and Lake Drive. When it was rumored that the federal officials were in the area, bottles could be disposed of in holes in the floor. Bottles have been found to back up this story. There was also a dance hall on the west end of the lake during this time.

A tavern was also located close by in the vicinity of Pete's.

Tourist cabins, a motel, a grocery store and rowboat rentals were also available for people seeking a retreat on Simonton. These were available on the west side off of Cassopolis Road. Chet and Doris rented their tourist cabin (3 rooms) for \$20 a month with shower room privileges once a week and an inside water pump!

Neighbors Jim and Janie Friend have lived on Simonton Lake since

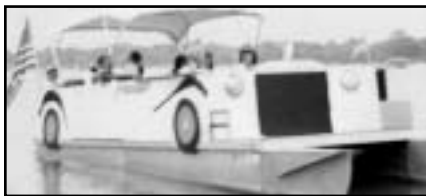
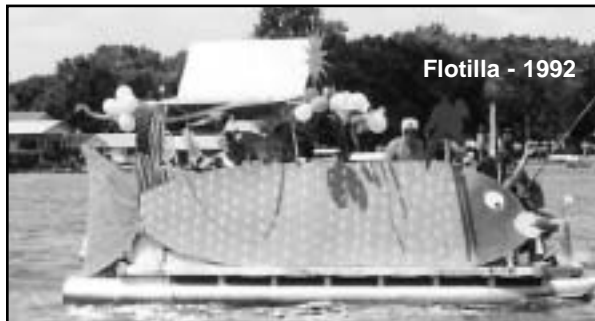
1974. They are also veterans of past events on the lake. Jim has been a member of the Sportsmen's Club almost since its beginning. In fact, Jim is a past president. He shared that



some of the major accomplishments of the club are spearheading the sewer system, fish stocking, fishing contests, work on the public landing, fireworks, building of the clubhouse, and past Flotillas, etc. Both Chet and Jim remember the Ski/Boat Club which initially entailed going to court to enable the boats to use motors greater than 10 mph! Eventually, it did happen by including Little Simonton in the size of the lake and opening the channel. Boating and skiing then became a major activity for the club on Simonton. Jim and Janie fondly remember the years when the lake would host the Flotilla. It served to bring out the fun and creativity of our residents.

See **Reflections**/pg. 15

Reflections



I obviously heard so many more stories than I could share from these two groups of neighbors. Simonton's past history is fascinating! It becomes apparent that Simonton Lake has a long history of providing a venue for recreation, entertainment, and a captivating place to live. I will certainly have many more stories to share.

Until next time, Carole Foutz

Where Did the Name Simonton Come From?

Samuel Simonton Jr. was the 4th recorded landowner of this area around the lake. In 1845, Samuel bought at public auction 63 acres for \$133.34. The previous owner of the land, William H. Wood, had purchased this land for \$1.25 an acre. The village of Elkhart was incorporated as a town in 1858. This created a town government establishing trustees which were comparable to our City Council currently. A.P. Simonton was one of three elected citizens to be one of the trustees for that premier position.

"Abstract of Title", Elkhart County Abstract Co. Inc.
Emil V. Anderson, "Taproots of Elkhart History"

Do You Really Know Where You Live?

You believe you live in Elkhart, Indiana, right? You are correct, however, prior to 1816, this area was part of the Michigan Territory. In 1805, the Michigan Territory was created. The southernmost boundary of Michigan was located 10 miles south of where it is now. Within that boundary were the cities of Michigan City, South Bend and Elkhart. When Indiana was granted statehood in 1816, the newly proposed northern boundary was extended 10 miles north to allow for Indiana to someday establish a port on Lake Michigan. The first recorded land owner of this area, James Holstead was a resident of the Territory of Michigan. So, you are living in Indiana which was once Michigan!

"Abstract of Title", Elkhart County Abstract Co. Inc.
Amy Wenger, "Images of America"



Family, friends, fireworks, food and fun

IT'S THE 4TH, OF COURSE!

- by Diane Marlow

One year's fireworks are barely history when plans are being made for the next one. Each year brings a varied group of participants. Sometimes it is family from Florida, or maybe a phone call from relatives in Cleveland, "Can we come to the lake for the 4th? The kids love it so much!" Or maybe one of the younger ones promises he can stay awake *next* year.

No doubt about it, though, a lot of work goes into the preparation for the 4th. It starts months in advance with the planning for the fireworks, the various fundraisers that are held by the Sportsman's Club and finally sending out the flyers for the donations.

All the neighbors around the lake are busy too - putting the last touches on their landscaping, making sure the flowers look just right in their pots...and hauling in tons of food and drinks for everyone.

Once everyone is stuffed and it is finally getting dark (will that ever happen?), the exodus to the Big Lake begins.

For those of us from the Little Lake watching the fireworks with a boat-load of family and friends, with all the Little Lake neighbors in their boats, the Big Lake neighbors on the shore - hearing "Taps" wafting over the water while waiting for the fireworks to begin...then picking out which display our donation contributed to...(that one - no that one - how about that one?) and all the clapping, horn-honking, whistle-blowing gasps of appreciation to the awesome pyrotechnic displays, is what gives us the great feeling of Simonton Lake camaraderie.

And last, but not least, the moon-lit boat-light flotilla winding its way back through the channel to the Little Lake has always reminded me of the scene from "E.T." where they are riding their bikes up into the sky across the moon...

And then we start making plans for next year!

Other Thoughts on the 4th...

I once heard my son talking to his friends about some summer plans. Ben insisted that he absolutely had to be at the lake on the 4th. His friend wondered why this was such a big deal. Ben said, "You don't understand. At our house the 4th is almost as big as Christmas!" There haven't been too many times when the kids haven't been here over the last three decades. And now they bring their friends here as well. We have several young couples from Indianapolis and Cincinnati who make the yearly journey and swear they wouldn't be anywhere else. Even when it rains, they claim it's the best time ever. This year we couldn't have asked for better weather. Not too hot but hot enough. No rain. Not too windy. The fireworks were wonderful and the Poker Run was great fun even though I didn't win. Thanks to all of the folks who make this a wonderful day every summer.

Amy Matherly

.....

I love our home on the channel and our neighbors are some of the best! We are a family of friends which have come together while keeping our home fires burning. Personally, I have always wondered and aspired to live on the Big Lake. Is the view better or the water wetter? (The old grass is always greener scenario.) There are benefits to both. But here is a benefit of living on the channel or the little lake following the 4th of July fireworks activities. After watching the wonderful multi-colored displays bursting in the sky - you can now enjoy the parade of red and green flickering lights above and below the water line of boaters returning home. What a feeling of community.

Connie Hart



Bruce & Diane Marlow with the Cleveland great-nieces and nephews.



Simonton Beach Beauties

Simonton Lake Sportsmen's Club "CATCH" Phrases

The Fourth of July this year continued on the fifth. WHAT? That's right, the Simonton Lake Sportsmen's Club held it's annual Poker Run and Fireworks display on Saturday, July 5.

Thanks to you, the "people of the lake", the Poker Run was a HUGE success. It's always fun to see so many having a great time boating from pick up point to pick up point, and smiling with the anticipation of producing a winning hand.

Thank you also for your donations for the fireworks. We hope everyone had as much fun watching as The Sportsmen's Club had "shooting them off". We could tell by the "oohing and ahing", as well as the applause and cheering, that many enjoyed the show.

Fall Photo Contest

Check the website for information about our Fall Photo Contest and win prizes. www.simontonlake.org

The officers, board members and membership appreciate your support and look forward to seeing you at our future events including:

August 2 - Kids' Fishing Contest

October 18 and 19 - Fall Turkey Shoot

November - Casino Night (date to be determined; fun to be had by all)

See you on the lake.



Poker Run on July 5th

Simonton from page 1

The CDP is made up of four neighborhoods, the largest being the area represented by the Simonton Lake Area Homeowners' Association, plus Sturdy Oaks, Northfield, and Northpointe Apartments-Winding Waters South. The area is generally bounded by the state line to the north, the toll road to the south, CR 11 on the east, and Christiana Creek on the west.

Importantly, the "Main Street" in Simonton Lake, SR 19, is recognized as having gateway status. In other words, it is an entrance or access point for the state, county, and for the city of Elkhart. That is significant because government entities, just like residents, want their front doors to be attractive. This cements the impression of visitors, investors, and potential homeowners entering an area for the first time. The City of Elkhart, along with the Elkhart County Convention and Visitors Bureau, commissioned *The SR 19 Corridor Vision/Northpointe Neighborhood Conceptual Redevelopment Strategy*. This initiative launched a thorough study of Cassopolis Street from the northern city limits to Bristol Street. The findings took the form of a comprehensive plan for the development and enhancement of the area. That the study area lies in proximity to Simonton Lake gives those findings some applicability to

our lakeside community.

Elkhart County has been slower to appreciate its gateways with real dollar support and planning. In January of this year, the Redevelopment Commission of Elkhart County appropriated funding for a study of the Northwest Gateway, the area along old US 20 from the city limits to the county limits. This unincorporated area shares unfortunate characteristics with north Cassopolis Street: tired manufacturing, underutilized commercial strips, blighted structures, and toxic brownfield sites. The Redevelopment Commission has recognized the similarities of these two areas and has agreed to place Simonton Lake on its agenda for the July meeting to consider options for Simonton Lake enhancement and managed growth. It would be wonderful for residents to have the opportunity to walk to the new Martin's, for children to safely ride bikes to the Simonton Lake Drive-in, or to have sustainable commercial opportunities along our "Main Street." Others are starting to recognize what we have known all along..... **Simonton Lake is a great place to live!**

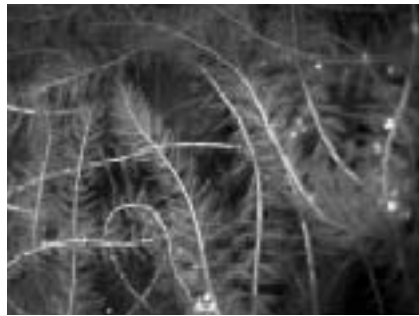
This article was submitted by Simonton Lake resident Dave Foutz. Dave represents the area on the Elkhart County Council and is a member of the Elkhart County Redevelopment Commission. Your questions or comments can be sent to him at dfoutz61@aol.com.

Milfoil? What is it?

- by Lisa Kime, Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator

Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) is an exotic aquatic plant that is often spread microscopically through boats, buckets, jet skis, and primarily boat trailers. Once introduced into a body of water, it spreads by fragmentation, breaking off from the plant and then floating to other parts of the lake where the weeds can sink to the bottom and start new plants. This plant forms dense mats across the surface of the water crowding out native species of aquatic vegetation.

Milfoil has little, if any, environmental value. It covers the water surface preventing sun from reaching any aquatic life. The dense growths inhibit water recreation like boating, swimming and fishing. Management options are available to control this invasive plant. One option is biological control such as the introduction of fish, insects or swans to control milfoil. This is the good news for our resident swans. One pair of swans



can maintain an acre of shoreline weed-free, according to *Managing Aquatic Plant In Indiana Lakes*, prepared by the Division of Soil Conservation, Indiana Department of Natural Resources and Department of Botany & Plant Pathology, Purdue University. Removing plant fragments and bilge water from watercraft and trailers before leaving lakes and rivers can help prevent the spread of Eurasian watermilfoil and also zebra mussels.

According to the *Simonton Lake Elkhart County 2007 Fish Management Report* by Rod A. Edgell, Assistant Biologist for the Fisheries Section of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources Division of Fish and Wildlife, Eurasian watermilfoil was collected at 9% of the sites used in their study.

This is an area of concern for all of the people who use and enjoy Simonton Lake. More information needs to be gathered and with the benefit of having the Simonton Lake Area Homeowners' Association and a concerned Environmental Committee, a plan of action will be determined. The plan will hopefully include prevention involving public education and monitoring, suppression and control, and eradication, if needed. Please report any sightings of milfoil to the Lake Environment committee at www.simontonlake.org.

Find out more information and view the resources used in researching information for this article, at our website: www.simontonlake.org. Click on **Wildlife In Our Backyard**.

REUSE, RECYCLE, REPAIR

Cars, appliances, and lawn equipment are better repaired than replaced. Repairing worthy equipment instead of replacing it stimulates the local economy and keeps large amounts of waste out of our natural earth.



Smaller Bank, Bigger Service!!!

~Personal and Business Solutions~

- Checking, Savings and CD's
- Wealth Management
- Home Loans
- Consumer Loans
- Commercial Loans
- Cash Management
- Internet Banking
- Business Sweep Accounts
- NEW - Remote Deposit

\$ Save Your Gas Money - Deposit Checks Right at Your Desk \$

For More Information Contact:

Cami Broderick

Retail Relationship Manager

camibroderick@elkhartbank.com

574-295-9600

www.elkhartbank.com



Nature Notes

We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect - *Aldo Leopold*

To place a classified ad, email: ads@simontonlake.org or fill out form below. Classified ads are **free for paid members of the association**. Non-members pay \$5. Ads will have to be resubmitted for additional issues. Deadline: for May issue - April 20th, June issue - May 20th, for July issue - June 20th, for August issue - July 20th, for November issue - October 20th, for February issue - January 20th.

SERVICES OFFERED

Dog Grooming, House Cleaning, Childcare.

Please contact Lisa Kime at 266-8772 if you are in need of my services.

REAL ESTATE

Move-in Ready Home on Big Simonton Lake with sandy beach and gorgeous sunsets. Totally remodeled 2 BR, 1 BA, 2 decks, 2 car garage. All new large waterfront kitchen. All appliances stay including laundry room with washer and dryer, water softener. New wiring, well, furnace/ac, septic, and appliances within the last 5 years. Go to Lakehouse.com Ad #47157 for more info. Priced to sell at \$224,000. 25739 Laverna Ct. 574-320-7649

FOR SALE

GET CLEAN Products. Do you know that ALL the cleaning products you are using in your home are SAFE? Try GET CLEAN products as seen on the Oprah & Rachael Ray Show. Safe for your family, pets & our lake plus saves you money. Call Sue Flemming at 266-9997 or email HealthWellness4you@gmail.com



Classified Ad Submission Form

Date: _____ Newsletter _____ Website _____

Name: _____

Address: _____ Elkhart, IN 46514

Phone (Daytime): _____ Evening: _____

Email: _____

Details of ad: _____

Category: _____

Please mail your completed form and check made out to Simonton Lake Area Homeowners' Association, Inc. (for non-members) to: P.O. Box 1706, Elkhart, IN 46515-1706 or give to your area representative. Classified ads are **free for paid members of the association**.

Association Board Members

Vaughn Nickell - President
51147 Maplewood Drive
Elkhart, IN 46514
574-262-3105
vaughnnickell@msn.com

John Rose - Vice President
51332 Forest Road
Elkhart, IN 46514
574-333-2433
johnrose11@comcast.net

Connie Anderson - Secretary
51191 Maplewood Drive
Elkhart, IN 46514
574-262-1045
canderson@churchworldservice.org

Erin Harding - Treasurer
25828 North Shore Drive
Elkhart, IN 46514
Cell: 312-771-6397
eharding@nd.edu

Bill Leighton - Big Lake Director - North
51134 North Shore Drive
Elkhart, IN 46514
574-361-8514
orngegal42@yahoo.com

Carole Foutz - Big Lake Director - South
26109 Lake Drive
Elkhart, IN 46514
574-262-3908
clfoutz@aol.com

Jack Tucker - Little Lake/Channel Director
51110 Sail Bay Court
Elkhart, IN 46514
574-262-1335
frenchic@aol.com

Simonton Lake Area Homeowners' Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 1706
Elkhart, IN. 46515-1706
www.simontonlake.org
info@simontonlake.org

The newsletter is published 6 times per year - Feb, May, Jun, Jul, Aug, & Nov. For advertising information, call: Dick Rhodes - 574-370-7884 or Bob Meyers - 574-361-4445 or email: ads@simontonlake.org

IN THE NEXT ISSUE: which will come out November 1st (until then, check the website for current news)

~Autumn on the Lake: wildlife, people, activities...

~General Meeting Update

Newsletter Staff

Carole Foutz
Dave Foutz
Janet Kelsey
Lisa Kime
Diane Marlow
Amy Matherly
Theresa Maier
Bob Meyers
Dick Rhodes
Kay Rhodes

Simonton Lake Events

Sportsmen's Club Events

August 2 - Kids' Fishing Contest

October 18-19 - Fall Turkey Shoot

November - Casino Night

➔ Mark Your Calendars!

General Meeting of SLAHA -

open to all members or residents wanting to join, at Simonton Lake Sportsmen's Club, Thursday, September 4th, 7:00 P.M.

*We will discuss goals of our association plus have speakers of special interest.

Community Contacts

Simonton Lake Conservancy
(574) 206-8485

DNR

Main office: (317)232-4160
or toll free 1-877-928-3755
Fax: (317)233-4579

Sheriff Elkhart County
533-4151

Osolo Township Fire Dept.
(574) 264-1066

Law Enforcement District
(574) 457-8092

Would you like to contribute information, pictures, or stories to "Simonton Says...?"

Email to: info@simontonlake.org
or mail to:

Simonton Says... Newsletter
Simonton Lake Area Homeowners' Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 1706
Elkhart, IN. 46515-1706