



Simonton Says...

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

June 2011

Volume 4, Issue 3

www.simontonlake.org

Special Points of Interest

- This is Home for Nadine Anderson
- LARE Funds Explained
- Prepare for the Festival of Lights
- A Neighborhood United



A WAVE OF CONSTRUCTION



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Otter or muskrat?

...see story on page 14.



Postcards Portray our Lake's Natural Beauty!

This year, as a sign-up bonus when you register as a member of the association, you will be sent some postcards depicting picturesque scenes of our lake. **We want to thank the great photographers who caught the lake's beauty at its best: Sue Fleming, Theresa Maier & Erin Harding.**

Pet "Tails" from the Higgins Family

Kanuga is a ten year old Siberian Husky who has lived on Simonton Lake his whole life. Kanuga has traveled the country, hiked parts of the Appalachian Trail and has been on many camping adventures. He is an avid swimmer who keeps his cool by soaking in the lake during the hot summer days. His hobbies include digging holes, digging up flowers and digging for moles. He has also been known to jump from boat to boat to check out other people's snacks.

One of our fondest memories of Kanuga comes from our experience at Paul Groom's house. Kanuga somehow got off his leash and was found swimming after a few ducks in the lake. We panicked and took chase after him by boat. He swam from the north side of the Cove to the south side never catching a duck. However, we never caught Kanuga either. He evaded our boating maneuvers and made it back to Groom's shore looking like a drowned rat. Who knew that Siberian Huskies were great swimmers?

So if you see a snow dog swimming in the lake this summer, please send him back to his porch on North Shore where his family will be waiting. ■





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New Neighbors?

We would love to bring them a welcome packet and put their name in our newsletter. Please notify Sue Ward at 574-206-0450 or email skward@frontier.com

Pet Tails

We want to feature your pet in an upcoming issue.

Send us your pet stories & pictures by mail to: 26189 Lake Dr. or by e-mail to: simon@simontonlake.org

*The **MISSION** of the Simonton Lake Area Homeowner's Association is to foster the safety and quality of life in our neighborhood. We strive to protect the value of our homes, the wildlife and the environment surrounding our lake, support local and state law enforcement for the safety of our families and lake visitors, and encourage active involvement in the northern Elkhart area growth and development.*

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

Email to: simon@simontonlake.org or mail to:
Simonton Says... Newsletter
Simonton Lake Area Homeowners' Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 1706
Elkhart, IN. 46515-1706

THE NEXT ISSUE will come out the beginning of July (in the meantime, check the website for current news)

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

We are always looking for volunteers for our committees: Membership/Outreach, Environment, Lake Safety, & Newsletter/Website. Please send an email if you are interested or if you have a story for our newsletter.

Events on the Lake

June 4 - Youth Fishing Contest
(Sponsored by Sportsmen's Club)

July 2 - Poker Run (Rain or shine)
(Sponsored by Sportsmen's Club)

July 3 - Simonton Lake Fireworks
(Rain date - July 4)
(Sponsored by Sportsmen's Club & Homeowners' Association)

Late Summer - Festival of Lights

August 6 - Youth Fishing Contest
(Sponsored by Sportsmen's Club)

August 20 - Corn and Sausage Roast
(Sponsored by Sportsmen's Club)

October 15 & 16 - Fall Turkey Shoot
(Sponsored by Sportsmen's Club)

November 12 - Fall Casino Night
(Sponsored by Sportsmen's Club)

Community Contacts

Simonton Lake Conservancy
(574) 206-8485

DNR

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

Sheriff Elkhart County

(574) 533-4151

Neighborhood contact person:

Cpl. Casey Lehman

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Do you live in the lake area, but don't receive our newsletters?

Call Carole at
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simon@simontonlake.org

Newsletter Staff: Carole Foutz, Dave Foutz, Maria Hopman, Theresa Maier, Diane Marlow, Amy Matherly, Bob Meyers, Dick Rhodes, Kay Rhodes

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Behind the Scenes on the 4th

- by Amy Matherly

Last year, as usual, we had a wonderful weekend on the fourth. The Poker Run and the fireworks just make for a great weekend. It's a weekend we wait for and plan for all year. Memories are made on the 4th. We laugh about the exploits of family members or guests long into the winter. But while most of us are enjoying these events, there are scores of volunteers who have been working for months to make sure both these events go off without a hitch.

There is advertisement, selling tickets, hiring the fireworks company, funding for the fireworks, preparation of hundreds of cards in those secure envelopes. Then there are volunteers needed to sell, collect, and man the tables all afternoon of the Poker Run day. There is clean up, calls to be made, details to be ironed out and the inevitable glitch that needs to be handled.

The fireworks sponsored by the Sportsmen's Club for 30 years will now be getting some help with fundraising from the Simonton Lake Area Homeowner's Association. Those fireworks are not cheap. You still have time to get in a donation if you want to do so.

So the next time you think about this great weekend, take a minute to thank your neighbors and friends in the Sportsmen's Club for their efforts.

There's no place like Simonton Lake on the 4th. Until next time. ■

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"You Get What You Pay For"

-by Bob Meyers

If you register a watercraft in Indiana, you pay a fee that is to be used for lake enhancement. For the last two years, this money was confiscated by the State and placed in the general fund in case it would be needed for balancing the budget. In May, 2011 Governor Daniels signed a bill that reinstated this money for use on lakes and rivers.

Here is a synopsis of LARE and LARE fund collections and uses.

In 1989, The Indiana State Legislature enacted a bill that allowed the Department of Natural Resources to develop Lake and River Enhancement (LARE) to ensure the continued viability of public access lakes and streams. The initial goal was to utilize a watershed approach to see that Indiana's surface water meets or surpasses the state water quality standards.

The 2003 Indiana General Assembly enacted House Enrolled Act 1336 which INCREASED the LARE fee paid by registered vessel owners. The increase in fees provides funding to remove sediment and control invasive plants and animals.

In addition, one third of the fees provide funding for the Law Enforcement Division (DNR officers) to establish MORE patrols on Indiana lakes and rivers. A portion of these funds may be used by counties for supplemental enforcement marine patrols by your county sheriff's department.

The 2003 increase is based on the value of the vessel when new.

<u>Value of vessel</u>	<u>Fee</u>
Less than \$1,000	\$ 5
At least \$1,000 but less than \$3,000	\$10
At least \$3,000 but less than \$5,000	\$15
At least \$5,000 but less than \$10,000	\$20
At least \$10,000	\$25

If your vessel is a pontoon boat or speedboat, your cost new was more than \$10,000. You are paying \$25 each

year to the LARE fund when you pay your boat registration fee for each of these boats.

On July 1, 2011, the new bill reinstates the use of LARE funds to be used for implementing lake and river enhancement projects and one half to be used by the Department of Natural Resources to pay for lake or river projects including removal of sediment and control of exotic or invasive plants or animals as well as the removal of logjams or obstructions.

More than \$3,700,000 is generated each year by the LARE fee. The Simonton Lake Homeowners Association recently had a study completed (summary of the study available on page 26 of May issue 2011 *Simonton Says* and the full study will be available online soon) for which LARE funds were used along with Association dollars. This LARE grant was one of the last issued by the state. However, now that the dedicated boat fees have been allocated to the LARE group, other grants will be..... well granted.

Just remember, this season, when you register a new boat, and when you renew your registration on your existing vessels, that your dedicated \$25 is going to, once again, be used for the improvement of our lakes and rivers. ■



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Simonton Chronicles

Nadine Still Calls Simonton Her Home After 67 Years!

-by Carole Foutz

As promised in the May newsletter, I wanted to continue to explore the memories of some of our "oldies" on the lake with whom we met in March and had a lively discussion about the early days on Simonton. I decided to "pick the brain" of Nadine Phillips Anderson. Nadine has lived on Simonton Lake since 1944 when she was 11 years old. Her parents, Roy and Eva Phillips moved from Goshen to the northern side of Elkhart to be closer to work. They found their two bedroom home on North

Shore. In comparison with some of the homes on the lake at that time, it was quite suitable for year

around living as it did have inside plumbing! Nadine recalls three families fairly close to her home whom were full time residents. It instantly provided opportunities for making friends and finding out what living on a lake was all about.

The fond memories of growing up on the lake center around friends, family and the lake. Her best friends were Anne and Marilyn Marchesseau, Wonda and Wilma Massey and Betty Bliss. She said the kids on the lake played and hung out in groups including boys and girls. In the summer, the bathing suit

was the dress of choice. Swimming and all that could be done on the lake was the most common activity. Of course, the boats were mostly of the row boat variety so one would

hop in and row across the lake to visit a friend. Also, permanent rafts on the lake were great attractions and places to hang out. Playing cards, riding bikes and going down to one of the gas stations were common activities. Did you know there was a gas station at the corner of Bell Avenue and Cassopolis Street? In the winter they had bonfires and ice skating. A rink was always kept clean and ready for skating. (Was the weather different back then? My experience today has been that we rarely have ice that is decent enough for skating??)

Nadine went to Osolo School (the old building sat at the corner where the present school sits today).

Ms. Mary Feeser was principal and known to be very strict; Nadine shared that her brother was paddled quite often.

See Nadine/ pg. 12



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Nadine

from page 10

There was a bus; Poppy Glick was the bus driver. He would pick them up in the evenings for special occasions and take them to football and basketball games in town. At that time she went to school at Elkhart High School, downtown. When the kids were in high school they would take the Greyhound Bus to town. They would go into a show or just hang out. They only had to stand out on Cassopolis Street at the end of the lake and, per schedule, it would pick up and bring them back.

Last month, you may remember the article on Allenton. Kids in the summer would walk up to Allenton and watch movies or just hang out and see who was there. Nadine remembers her mother carefully curling her hair to prepare for the big evening. And, there was the Sugar Shack in the woods that they were forbidden to go to by their parents, but they did seem to courageously make it there. It was an old shack that was far into the woods past where the road ended. Not much happened there (she chuckles) but it was a source of possible stories, adventure and a place to explore. Most of the land behind them was the Sellers Farm which consisted of a lot of woods to explore. They would also walk along the lake past where the road ended on North Shore

and a popular swimming hole welcomed them.

The Conservation Club, which was in the woods at the end of Lakeview, was a popular place during those days. They would have activities for families such as bonfires, free shows, ice skating and parties. (See the pictures of the Halloween Party). We are trying to find out more about this club, as our past stories have always included references to it. If any of you out there have more information, let me know. Sounds like an interesting place for the Simonton Lake residents of its day.

Nadine continues to enjoy her home today. She lives across the street on North Shore from where her parents moved in 1944. Nadine and her late husband, Rodney, built a home on land her parents owned and raised their two sons where she still lives today. She has been urged by her family to maybe downsize and find a home easier for her to maintain. But,



Nadine has decided that she can't leave the neighborhood and Simonton Lake. As she states, "This is my home!" (If you know some of the history of the area, and would be willing to be interviewed for a story, please call Carole at 262-3908 or email simon@simontonlake.org) ■



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Wildlife in our Backyard

Otter Sightings Around the Lake

- by Theresa Maier

(See color photos on page 2...otter on the left, muskrat on the right)

Last week at the newsletter website committee planning meeting Diane Marlow mentioned seeing an otter in front of her home on little Simonton. I was puzzled about river otters on the lake. My husband used to trap them many years ago near the river but hadn't thought of them at the lake. Further checking found sightings on channels and big lake areas also. We recently visited the newly constructed otter habitat at Potawatomi Zoo with our grandkids. The little critters are fun to watch swimming above and under water, sunning,

and entertaining. Check them out and enjoy if you see them on our lake!

Many lake residents thought the sightings might be muskrats. **The muskrat is a much smaller rodent animal weighing 2-4 pounds length of 18-25 inches with an 8-11 inch tail.**



Muskrats are reportedly wreaking havoc on seawalls around the lake this spring. Muskrats do structural damage to sea walls and landscaping while otters spend most of their time in the water.

As it turns out, the DNR began reintroducing endangered otters from Louisiana to Indiana. As described in the DNR report their food source and habitat are a good fit for Simonton Lake. Beware of otters on the lake!

The DNR reported otters were returning to Indiana after 100 years through a DNR reintroduction in Indiana and Illinois beginning 15 years ago. Otters were officially considered extinct in Indiana in 1942, but they probably were wiped out decades earlier. "Unregulated trapping and hunting was the main reason



otters disappeared due to no limits, regulations or laws according to the Department of Natural Resources. This combined with a loss of habitat to farmland and subdivisions led to the otter's demise in Indiana. The reintroduction has been highly successful with otters spotted in Porter and Lake Counties.

River otter facts:

- * **The river otter is 3-4 feet long and weighs 15-25 pounds.**
- * Its long tail is thicker close to its body and tapers down to a point, making up one-third of the total body length. Rich, brown fur covers most of the animal.
- * A tan underside is topped off with silver-gray fur on the throat. The long whiskers are used for finding underwater food.
- * River otters feed on smaller, slower-moving animals that live in the water. Much of their diet consists of medium-sized fish, but they also enjoy crayfish and frogs.
- * River otters make their homes around marshes, sloughs, ponds, lakes and streams. For protection, they tend to use natural structures such as logjams, overhanging rocks and abandoned shelters built by other animals. ■

(Source: Indiana Department of Natural Resources)

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He Took it...Hook, Line and Sinker

- by Kay Rhodes

If you are a fisherman, I'm sure that each one of you has an interesting fishing story that you could tell. Whether it is about the big one that got away or a funny story that you remember while spending a few relaxing hours out on the lake.

One afternoon last week, while chatting with neighbor Jim Friend, the subject turned to fishing. If you know Jim, he is an avid fisherman and is known around the lake as a man "in the know" when it comes to the ins and outs of the sport. Jim told us about the evening he was at the end of his dock, spending some time doing one of the things he enjoys the most.....fishing.

He set down his fishing pole on the dock for a few minutes and wouldn't you know, just at that moment a big fish took

the bait... along with the whole pole and reel. Jim wasn't happy to see his equipment pulled into the water, never to be seen again.....or so he thought. He watched the bobber floating around, heading away from shore. But the strangest thing happened.....after a few twists and turns through the water, the fish turned around and started heading back, all the while pulling Jim's fishing pole. Luckily he swam close to the neighbor's dock and Jim was able to grab the treasured pole.....and he ended up with a fish as a bonus.

I guess there is a moral to the story which is: It's not always about the one that got away, but it's about the one that comes back. ■

If you have an interesting **Fishing Story** that you would like to share, please email to simon@simontonlake.org

A Love of Fishing turns into a Career

-by Maria Hopman

Captain Oliver Toles has been fishing Lake Erie most of his life. As a young boy he enjoyed going out on charters with his father, and as time went by it grew into a career that he loves. The Toles moved to Simonton Lake 9 years ago, when Oliver was 14 years old. His father, Chris (a valued member of our Lake Safety Committee) said he was born with a fishing pole in his hands. He had his mother, Kim, take him all over to go fishing.

As time went by his passion grew into a career that he loves. His dream to own a charter fishing boat came true one year after graduating from high school, when he bought a 27 foot boat that he named "Wingmaster", which he keeps in a slip in Oak Harbor, Ohio, with access to Lake

Erie. He started the business, Final Cast Charters, five years



ago and lives in Oak Harbor during the fishing season which starts in April and lasts until the first part of August. He loves having the opportunity to take young kids fishing so that they may enjoy the same experience he did as a child. You might say that Oliver has his dream job and the best possible view that anyone could ask for from their "office". ■



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Sportsmen's Club

Catch Phrases

-by Bob Meyers

Since this is the June edition of Simonton Says, let's get ready for the that greatest of seasons, which begins three weeks into this month. The season with the most sun, the season with the most fun, the season of SUMMER.

Before Summer even begins, the Simonton Lake Sportsmen's Club offers fun for the children.

The first **Youth Fishing Contest** of 2011.

Where: Sail Bay CT. (same location as 2010)

When: Saturday, June 4

Preregistration: Call Jim Friend 262-1417

Registration on contest day: 8:30 - 9:00 on Sail Bay CT.

Contest hours: 9:00 AM - 11:00AM

Watch for flier with all the information and see how much fun YOU will have with your children, grandchildren and neighbors as you watch them fish and wish for that large catch.

The first event of Summer will be the annual **Poker Run** on July 2 rain or shine. And then the main event, the big one, the annual **Fireworks Display** on July 3 with a rain date of July 4.

Please note a change of date for the Corn and Sausage Roast. It is now scheduled for August 20. Watch for the time of this fun event.

Remembering the harsh Winter, as you transition from Spring to Summer, enjoy all this wonderful lake has to offer. See you on the lake..... ■

Pete's and Lakeshore Clear the Air

-by Staff Writer

Our two lakeside restaurants have gone smokeless. The city of Elkhart banned smoking in restaurants and bars and the state of Michigan has a state-wide smoking ban in their eating establishments. But Lakeshore and Pete's were in the middle. With no ban coming out of the Indiana State Legislature, Merle Anderson (Pete's) and Cam Snyder (Lakeshore) decided to make the change on their own.

Both restaurants look so much clearer, the food, always good, seems better. Merle even says folks have commented on the tastiness of items

that have been on the menu forever. One evening after going smoke-free the kitchen took orders until 11:00 p.m.

Cam Snyder had already taken Chubby Trout non-smoking a year before the citywide smoking ban and saw a positive impact on business. He decided not to wait on the state any longer.

Other restaurants have done the same. The Hacienda Restaurant chain went smoke-free last year and reports that their business has increased. Beyond the cleaner air for patrons, the smoke-free air is a better work environment.

Smokers can still find a spot to smoke outside and both Cam and Merle hope they will continue to visit the establishments. ■

The Lake Safety Committee is seeking New Members

Find out what it's all about!!! Call Paul Wilson at 274-1411.



Quack! Quack! You may be tempted to throw those cute waddling ducks a cracker, but think twice before you do. There is plenty of natural food for the ducks to feed on. Feeding them anything not naturally occurring in the watershed will put unnecessary amounts of nutrients (duck poop) in the lake. The excess nutrients (duck poop) act as excess fertilizer, which can result in algae blooms, not to mention increasing the chances of getting duck itch. ■

Ready to list? I consistently receive calls from buyers looking to be on Simonton...Let me help you get yours SOLD!

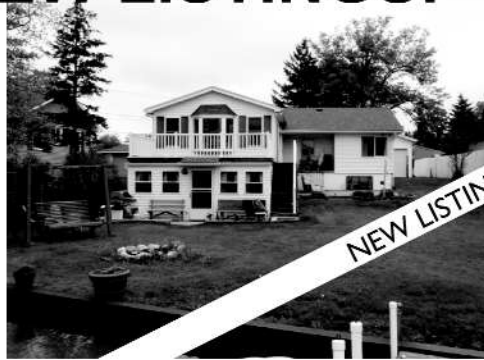
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25630 North Shore Dr. - \$950,000



SOLD!

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United We Stand

-by Dave Foutz

As Patrick Henry said in his last public speech in March 1799, "United we stand, divided we fall." Or possibly it might be more appropriate to say there is strength in numbers. However you say it, the potential for the Simonton Lake Area Home Owners Association to be an agent for positive change is directly proportional to the level of association membership by area residents.

The annual SLAHA spring public meeting was convened Monday, May 23rd. After the meeting as I was walking out of the door of the Sportsmen's Club, Bob Sampers said to me, "If more people had been at the meeting there would be a lot more people in the association." "Simonton Says" is hand delivered to seven-hundred homes in the area by dedicated volunteers, but the actual association membership is nowhere near that number. So being the economist that I am, I am reflecting on the meeting and doing a quick cost-benefit analysis of the many resident benefits presented at the meeting versus the annual cost of association membership.

Do you enjoy the newsletter? The first presentation at the meeting was by the literary staff of "Simonton Says." The newsletter is published six times a year, containing high interest, relevant information in an attractive, colorful format. The advertisers provide links to important services and often offer special discounts and coupons. In addition to the physical newsletter there is a web page where more timely information can be gathered and all past publications are archived. All of this is delivered to your door or to your computer. Now there's a pretty sweet deal.

Do you use the lake as a recreational facility? Do you host lake parties, especially during the holidays; do your relatives think your house is the only place to celebrate Independence Day? The membership and outreach committee was up next on the program. The Festival of Lights was extremely successful last year and is a go again for this year. The number of boats out on the lake to view the displays last year was impressive. The hog roast is a possibility for a return in the fall to end this year's lake activities. Something new this year... SLAHA is going to partner with the Sportsman's Club to provide an even more spectacular fireworks display over the 4th of July. Better get those invitations in the mail.

Are you concerned about the security of your property or water safety while skiing and boating on the lake? The lake safety committee was next to present to the assembled crowd. We were introduced to Officer Casey Lehman, our Sheriff's Department liaison person and Officer Dustin Whitehead, our Conservation Officer in an attempt to enhance communications between the two agencies that handle most of the problems on or around the lake. There was also continued conversation about the pedestrian safety issue on Cassopolis Street and what could be done to improve the situation.

See *United*/ pg. 21



LAKESHORE

NEW SPRING MENU
A few of the NEW menu items...
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United

from page 20

Is the quality of lake water, the aquatic habitat for fish, or ability to pilot your water craft between the two sides of the lake without running aground important to you? The lake quality committee presented the results of a \$35,000 comprehensive lake study implemented and partially paid for by SLAHA. The report generally suggests that the lake is in an improving condition. The construction and operation of the sewer system has had a significant positive impact on water quality. There are some problematic invasive plants growing in the lake, but their locations have been identified and volunteers are monitoring their growth in order to stave off disruptive advance. A list of procedures that residents could implement that would further improve the lake was also offered. And finally, a committee is being formed to pursue the dredging of an enhanced

35 x 2000 foot channel between the two sides of the lake. After it is completed, you will be able to review the full fifty-page report online at the association web site. Won't that make it much better to go between the two parts of the lake?

Do you have water in your basement or are you dealing with sea wall erosion due to the high lake level? It seems that after nineteen years the weir may be moving forward. It appears that the county has an agreement with the landowner regarding right-of-way access for construction of the weir. If things fall into place the way they should, the weir could be constructed this winter and Simonton Lake will finally have a much needed water control device that will maintain a consistent lake level and reduce or eliminate many of the high water issues. How can you put a price on

that?

This is just the tip of SLAHA meeting iceberg. There were many other programs discussed to enhance the quality of life on the lake for all residents. It seems pretty clear to me that \$30 annual membership fee would have to be one of the best values when you consider the many benefits derived. Another important point is that as the membership field increases, the larger the financial base becomes and even more important projects can be undertaken. All you have to do is locate that membership application in this newsletter, fill it out, and send it in with your check and you too can become a member of a dynamic organization whose only mission is to improve the quality of life for lake residents. It just kind of makes you feel good doesn't it? ■

Neutralizing Skunk Odor

- by Staff Writer

When spring arrives so does our favorite friend the skunk. There is no doubt of that particular odor. And there is nothing like the scent of your dog when that dog has had the unfortunate meeting with a neighborhood skunk. Here is some advice from Purdue University School of Agriculture:

A skunk's odor on pets, clothing, under buildings, etc., may be neutralized by the liberal application of a veterinary use deodorizer. Vinegar, tomato juice, or a weak solution of household ammonia can help remove the odor from clothing. Use lime to deodorize the soil. A few drops of oil of wintergreen on pieces of corrugated cardboard or cotton balls also helps mask the offensive odor. A mixture of 32 ounces (1 quart) of 3% hydrogen peroxide, ¼ cup baking soda, and 1 teaspoon of liquid soap (ex. Dawn dish detergent, etc.) will neutralize scent when applied to the source of the odor. ■

Sign Promoting Safety

- by Staff Writer

The Lake Safety committee is working with the DNR, County Sheriff and other officials to promote a safer and more secure neighborhood for our families. Have you checked out the information sign posted at the landing? ■



Life on the Lake

June 2011

- by Amy Matherly

One thing you notice once spring arrives is the change in temperature and the blooming of plants. There's an overwhelming infusion of green as the grass comes back to life and leaves replace bare branches on the trees.

The sounds are different from season to season. Fall brings the crackling of burning leaves and the sounds of leaf blowers. Spring brings the sounds of mowers, boat motors on the lake and sounds of birds returning from their winter homes. Winter is pretty quiet except for snow blowers and the occasional snow plow. I can't say I like winter much. But, that quiet out here at the lake is nice on a snowy dark evening.

But, have you ever considered the smells of summer? Boat gas is a welcome smell. When you smell boat gas, then you know summer is near. Skunks are a sign of spring and summer. You don't smell skunks in the winter. If you do, let me know. Then there's that week in April when the lilac bushes bloom. There is no better smell, except maybe for the peonies. I wish I could bottle that smell so it lasted for more than a couple of weeks. And what about grill smell? Ahh, the smell of grilled burgers or steaks! Then there's the smell of moth balls as the boat comes out of storage, the smell of fresh cut grass, and the goose droppings that you've run your mower through. Recently I was told that the smell of a long dead turtle was a particularly amazing smell of spring. The poor old guy just didn't make it through the winter. These neighbors said it even outdid the smell of deceased fish.

I'm not sure what the dog rolled in out in the lawn but she thinks she smells great. I think she's been waiting all winter for whatever it was to show up in her lawn. She had to search for it all over the yard. Once she found it, she got just about as excited as a 14 year old beagle can get. Then she flipped over like a canine gymnast and rolled in it, making sure it got all over her coat up by her ears. She rolled for quite a while and then got up and shook, for good measure. She sprinted into the house and came to me in the kitchen. Then she looked up as if to say, "Don't I smell great?"

Another smell of spring is dog shampoo and freshly washed dogs. Until next time. ■

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Seeking Simonton Shutterbugs!

-by Erin Harding

Do you love Simonton's beautiful sunrises and sunsets? Have you marveled at the fall colors while kayaking the little lake or watched snow drift across the big lake in winter? **The association is interested in capturing these moments for everyone to enjoy through a 2012 calendar, but we need your help!** To create a truly representative calendar, though, I will need help from neighborhood photographers



who live on different parts of the lake. Please keep your cameras handy for beautiful shots of the scenes that surround us in all seasons. Then, submit your digital

photos to me at eharding@nd.edu.

We'll try to have the calendar ready to publish by next fall's Hog Roast, so you'll have the perfect stocking stuffer gifts for the lake lovers in your family! Thanks in advance for your assistance and happy snapping! ■

www.simontonlake.org

Get a Taste of Spring.....

Wine Tastings

Every Friday from 4-6pm

Craft Beer Tastings

Every Wednesday from 4-6pm



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Give a Man a Fish and You Feed Him for a Day. Teach a Man to Fish and You Won't See Him All Summer

- by Bob Meyers

That's because he has been reading about the **"Sixteen Lakes of Elkhart County"** and this month the lake is named for its good fishing.

As we research the lakes, this

Where will you find the most sportsmen?

Answer: Simonton Lake Sportsmen's Club

Where will you find the most Simonton Lake Area Homeowner's Association Members?

Answer: Simonton Lake

Where will you find the most fish?

Answer: Fish Lake

month we visit **Fish Lake** which is bound by County Road 34 to the north, County Road 36 to the south, State Road 13 to the West and East County Line Road to the east. It is located in Clinton Township where the largest and only metropolis is Millersburg.

This lake is easy to find because it's right across the street from the home of the Miller family of Elkhart County. Just find a mailbox that has the name Miller written on it, and look across the street.

Your best view of Fish Lake is from the public access which is on County Road 34 just east of State Road 13. Next to the public landing you will see several fishing boats that are turned upside down. Those row boats are owned by nearby residents, you know, the Millers. You will also see a tremendous view of untouched land and seemingly untouched water.

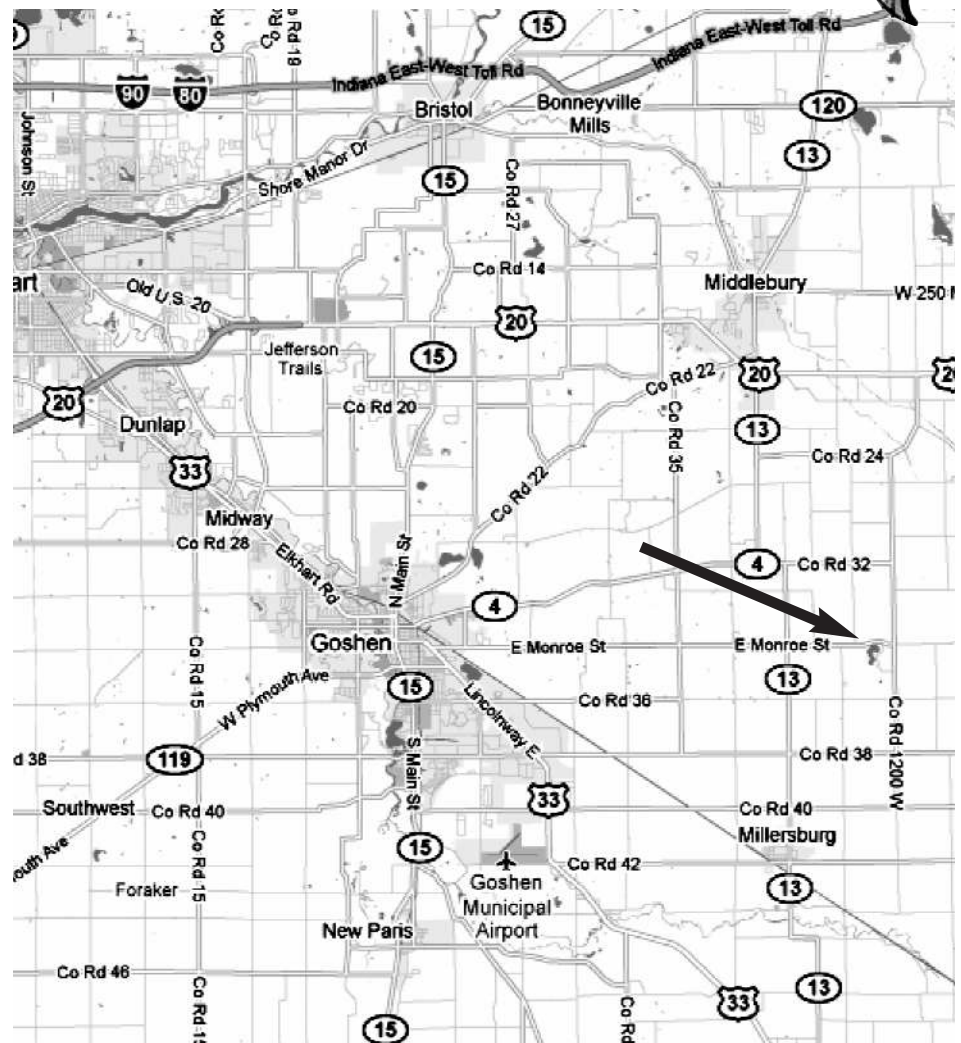
You may launch your boat from the public site and fish this beautiful "no wake" lake. Once on the water, when you have found "your spot", cast your line so you can enjoy the serenity of this laid-back scenic area with no sound of speedboats or wave runners.

The countryside is not filled with automobiles, trucks and motorcycles.

No, around Fish Lake you see bicycles, horse-drawn buggies and wagons. The only noise you will hear is from the occasional vehicle that may travel one of the county roads.

Instead of signs that read "Pete's", "Lakeshore", "Wake-side Marine", "Kryder's Lawn Mowers" and "Simonton Lake Drive In", you see signs that read, "Harness Shop", Horse Shoeing", "Tiller Rebuild Shop" and "Wagon Wheel Repair".

Next month we visit Goose Pond. This month, as we transition from Spring to Summer, enjoy the lakes of Elkhart County, especially yours..... the best the county has to offer. ■



Treasurer's Corner

Below is a brief financial update on the association:

Simonton Lake Area Homeowners' Association, Inc.
January 1, 2011 – May 21, 2011 (CASH Basis Accounting)

Item	Subtotal	Total
Advertising	\$0.00	
Fireworks Donations	\$1,520.00	
Other Events (e.g., Hog Roast)	0.00	
LARE Grant	5,209.96	
Membership Dues	2,780.00	
Sales (T-shirts)	0.00	
Other (e.g., interest income)	15.79	
Total Income		9,525.75
Cost of Goods Sold (T-shirts)	0.00	
Total Gross Profit		9,525.75
Board of Directors (e.g., Hog roast, general meeting expenses, insurance)	466.43	
Fireworks Transfer to Sportsmen's Club	0.00	
Lake Environment	5,209.96	
Lake Safety	108.00	
Membership/Outreach	0.00	
Newsletter / Website	1,225.92	
Total Expenses		\$7,010.31
Net Position as of May 21, 2011		\$2,515.44

Current members: Please don't forget to pay your SLAHA dues for this year! For the first time, you can both renew your membership in our organization and contribute to the fireworks at the same time. We encourage you to support both SLAHA and our awesome fireworks that are organized each July by the Sportsmen's Club!

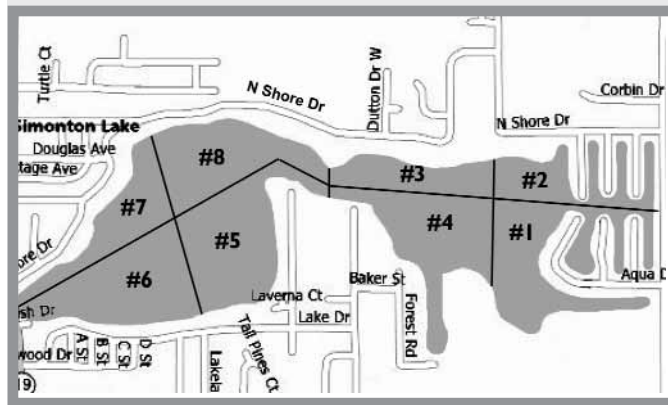
If you haven't already joined SLAHA, we welcome your involvement! Please fill out the member information card below. Use the same form to support the fireworks as well.

As always, if you have any questions about our association finances, please don't hesitate to contact Erin Harding at eharding@nd.edu.

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. Dick Martin | 264-7656 |
| Ron Taylor | 262-1332 |
| 7. Dave VanZile | 264-5201 |
| 8. Theresa Leighton | 361-8514 |



SLAHA MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

DUES: per household per year

- ☐ **Household:** \$30
☐ **Senior:** (70 and over): \$20
☐ **Senior Honorary Membership**
 (80 and over):
 FREE lifetime member

FIREWORKS FUND DONATION:

Donation Amount: \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED:
with Registration Form

\$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

2nd/Spouse Email: _____

Preference for contact: ☐ Email ☐ Phone ☐ Mail

Participation Interest: _____

Current committees: Lake Environment, Lake Safety, 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

CLASSIFIED ADS

POST your Garage Sale, Items for sale, Want ad, etc. **FREE!!***

To place a classified ad, email: ads@simontonlake.org. Classified ads are ***free for paid members of the association**. Non-members pay \$5. Ads will have to be resubmitted for additional issues. *Ads are limited to 100 characters. No commercial business ads will be accepted to protect our sponsors who are supporting this newsletter.* Deadline: 20th of month prior to publishing date.

MULTI-FAMILY GARAGE SALE:

51234 Aqua Drive. **June 10 and 11, 9:00 to 2:00**
Tools/Furniture/Housewares/Lots of Misc.

FOR SALE: Four passenger paddle boat with canopy, \$100.00. Call after 5PM Ken & Sue Ward 574 206-0450.

FOR SALE: Fisher Marine Jon Boat 14 ft. Aluminum, 14" deep, 4 seater, 2 swivel seats, 2 oars. Call Jim at 574-262-1417. \$300.

FOR SALE: Water Wheeler MK 111 Paddle Boat: 5 Person w/ built in cooler, excellent condition. Call Randy Hoff at 574-262-3432. Buy now and paddle it home this spring! \$400 OBO.

FOR SALE: Two Thule Hullavator Kayak Carriers. The hullavator not only sits atop your vehicle but also lifts and lowers up to a 40 lb kayak from the side of the car up to the top and back down again with just the touch of your hand. No need to have another person to help you load your kayak. No need to buy, store and pull a trailer. Thule is the leader in kayak carriers. Aluminum, double coated steel construction. Accommodates Kayaks up to 36" wide. Two carriers fit on the top of an SUV. Visit Thule.com for Hullavator video. Call 262-4773.

WANT TO BUY: I've lost my marbles. At least my wife, Pam, thinks so. Actually, I buy old marbles. If you have any **old marbles** tucked away in your attic or basement, and want to sell them, give me a call. Or, if you have old marbles and want to know more about them, call me. Bob Shultz, 51096 North Shore, 536-6960 (mobile)

MESSAGE BOARD

Join in the 2nd Annual Lakeside Festival of Lights (Late summer - date to be announced)

Simonton Lake is planning the 2nd Annual Lakeside Festival of Lights. Get your creative juices flowing and begin planning a light display on the lakeside. The plan is simple: display lights of your choice (any theme you want). Our lake residents and friends will go around the lake after dark and enjoy the display. There will be no prizes, just lots of fun and enjoyment!

Do you know someone who is having a birthday, anniversary, etc?
Email: simon@simontonlake.org

BE AWARE OF CRIME IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

- 1. When a crime occurs:** Make sure you **first** report the crime to the Elkhart County Sheriff's Department. **Call: 911**
- 2. Secondly - CRIME TRACKING:** We encourage lake residents to forward safety issues (break-ins, vandalism, other crimes, etc.), so we can notify residents. Report to:

Chris Toles, Lake Safety Committee.

Contact info:

Call: 574-266-7768

Email: CMT6061@Comcast.net

We want to keep people informed about what is happening in our neighborhood, so you can keep a watchful eye. **If you would like to be notified when crimes occur around the lake, send your email address to simon@simontonlake.org** (Your information will not be used for any other purpose).



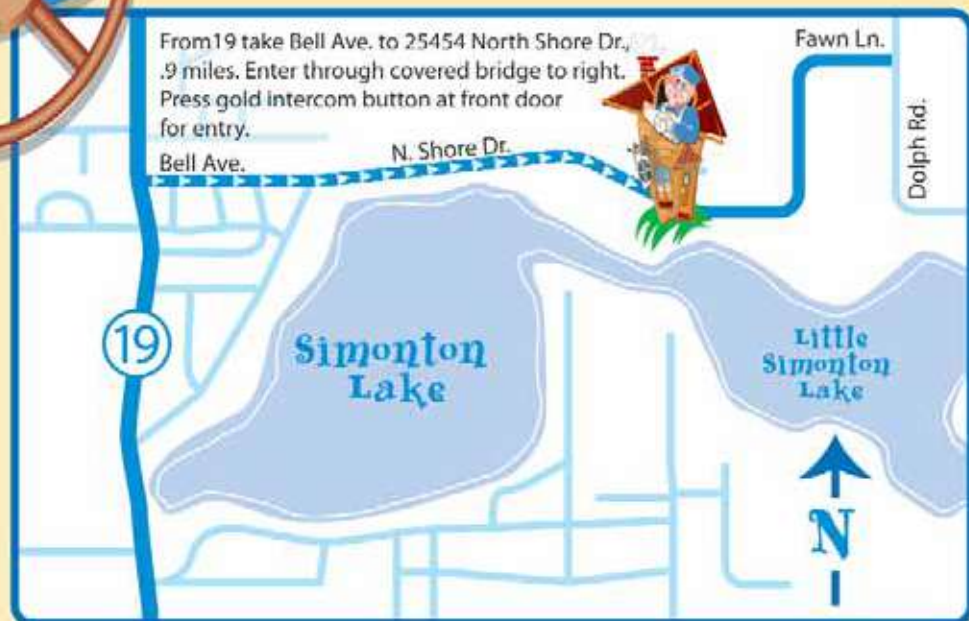
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Show us what makes the Simonton Lake Area special and unique. Tell us your stories, your events, birthdays, anniversaries, etc. Send us your photos, we want to hear from you.....

(Call Amy at 262-4773 or email simon@simontonlake.org)

Your Lake Safety Committee Trying to Keep Safety Afloat

A big thank you to Chris Toles and his son Oliver for helping to keep our lake safe by putting in the "No Wake" buoys. Let's start off the boating season on the right note. You can review the "Handbook of Indiana Boating Laws and Responsibilities" on our website: simontonlake.org

Read more about Chris' son Oliver and how his passion turned into a career on page 16. ■



Michael Thomas Fix (right) was born to Katy Rutter and Ryan Fix on April 28, 2011. He weighed 7lb. 5oz. and was 21.5 inches long. Grandparents are Margot and Thomas Rutter.

Chris Slabaugh, Linnwood Dr., has a new baby grandson (her 3rd grandchild), Owen Michael Slabaugh. Born 3/14/11, 8 lbs 5 oz. Parents are Nick & Melissa Slabaugh, and big siblings are Ethan and Mallory. (below)



Patti Stabler, long-time resident of North Shore Drive passed away on May 5th. She was 73 years old. Patti was married to Rollo Stabler who died in 1991. Randy (Rhonda) Stabler and Ronnie Stabler, former North Shore resident are stepsons. Patti worked as a paraprofessional at Mary Feeser elementary for 26 years, retiring in 2003.

Charlie and Laura Byrns, Cottage Avenue, have announced the engagement of their daughter Katie to Neil Lane. Neil's parents are Mark and Raeanne Lane of Corbin Drive. The wedding is to be on June 23, 2012.

We wish you a Happy Birthday!

5/4	Jim Friend
5/25	Henrietta Wenger celebrated her 91st
6/11	Dick Rhodes
6/13	Jacob Moore turns 3 (grandson of Larry & Theresa Maier)
6/14	Alex Freshour (grandson of Larry & Theresa Maier)
6/14	Pam Shultz
6/14	Randy Cooper
6/16	Bill Leighton

6/23	Charlie Byrns...the big 5-0
6/24	Theresa Leighton
6/25	Linda Jimison
6/25	Wendy Cooper
6/27	Elizabeth Abel
6/28	Martha Nickell
7/1	Micah David Obendorf is turning 1 year old (grandson of Dave & Tammy Obendorf)
7/1	Susie Broderick
7/6	Gia Matherly is turning 1 year old (granddaughter of Ryan & Amy Matherly)
7/19	Cam Snyder

Happy Anniversary

5/2	Larry & Theresa Maier
5/18	Dan & Leanne Brekke (Happy 15th)
6/13	Vaughn & Cindy Nickell
6/19	Christi & Erik Smith (daughter of Dave & Tammy Obendorf)
6/28	Gary & Marlene Taska