



Simonton Says...

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

May 2011

Volume 4, Issue 2

www.simontonlake.org

Special Points of Interest

- Photos - Ice Golf & Lake Leap
- Stories about the old days
- LARE Study Results
- Peacocks and Big Foot?



Reid Murray and Nathan Brekke made this great snowman on one of the beautiful snowy days this winter. They played for hours outside and had a ball. What a great job!



**The worst is over...
THE BEST IS YET
TO COME!!!**

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Ice Golf 2011

story and more photos on page 14.



(above) Cortney Snyder, Melissa???, Sue Snyder & Tina Coss of Maplewood Drive.

(right) Gavin Rumpf, grandson of Mrs. Leers (Platz) of Lake Drive with Franklin the dog.



Leprechaun Leap 2011

(photo below) ...see story and more photos on page 27.



Pet "Tails"

Hi, my name is Oliver and I'm the soulmate of Georgiana Spirito. She is ill, so I take care of her, sleep with her and make her smile. I'm just a little guy, cream colored and one and a half years old. I'm half Poodle (where I get my curls) and half Bichon Frise. I love to swim and watch the geese and swans. Wearing my life jacket is a must when I go boating or jumping in the deep blue water. I know I bring my master a lot of joy, hugs and kisses. I also want to introduce you to my brother, Sambo, who is a handsome black and white cat that my master rescued. This is my pet story about me (Oliver), Sambo and Georgiana. We're on this journey of life together and we're making the most of it. ■



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johnrose11@comcast.net

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574-262-3908
clfoutz@aol.com

Jack Tucker - Little Lake/Channel Director
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jtu977@frontier.com

New Neighbors?

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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 June 1st (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

May 23 - Association General Meeting 7pm

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)

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

August 6 - 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
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DNR

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

Sheriff Elkhart County

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Neighborhood contact person:

Cpl. Casey Lehman

General information or questions,

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Lake Safety Committee - Crime Tracking

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or CMT6061@Comcast.net



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

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simon@simontonlake.org

Newsletter Staff: Cathy Fleming, Carole Foutz, Dave Foutz, Maria Hopman, Janet Kelsey, Theresa Maier, Diane Marlow, Amy Matherly, Bob Meyers, Deb Pletcher, Dick Rhodes, Kay Rhodes



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A Romance that Began at the Lake

-by Susan Swathwood
(See color photo on back page)

Ben Swathwood & Ashli Fritz were married on October 9, 2010. It just happens that Ashli's Mom and I (were) best friends for years. Must note that I wrote "were best friends" only because Ashli lost her Mom very unexpectedly last May 10, 2010. She suffered a stroke and heart attack on April 12th, never recovered and sadly passed away a month later.

Ben and Ashli met on the day before Ben's 21st birthday (2006) at Lakeshore Grill. Ben walked up to Ashli and said, "Hi, did you know your Mom and my Mom are best friends?" Ashli reluctantly said, "Oh really" She knew Ben's older brother Josh but had never really met Ben. Their conversation continued into the night and the friendship began. They were pretty much together ever since that day in 2006.

Ben wanted to get Ashli the perfect engagement ring and couldn't find one at a jewelry store so he went to a local jeweler and purchased a single flawless diamond and had it set in the ring. He thought long and hard to come up with the perfect location to propose to her. His final decision was the Grotto at Notre Dame, as they are both big ND fans. Ben told Ashli that he wanted to go to Notre Dame to walk around to enjoy the day and his birthday. Once there, he told Ash he wanted to go to the Grotto to say some prayers, and after praying he proceeded to get down on one knee. He proposed to Ashli on that day, also his birthday, June 4, 2009, 3 years plus a day after their first meeting. They also had their engagement pictures taken at Notre Dame, which included Ashli's son, Ryan.

Ben and Ashli were married on October 9, 2010 at Calvary Chapel in Mishawaka and had their reception at Windsor Place. The wedding party, family and friends went to Lakeshore Grill after the reception to continue the celebration and to toast their marriage at the place where it all began. ■

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

will be held on Monday,
May 23rd at 7 p.m.
at the Sportsmen's Club.

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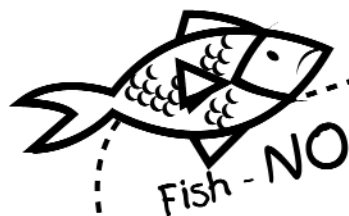
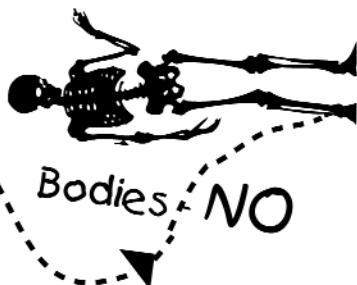
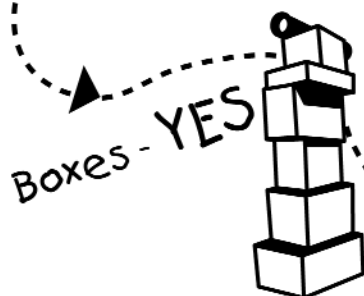
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Allenton, Michigan

-by Dave Foutz

How are your geography skills? You think you know the area pretty well, right? Here's a question for you. What's the shortest route from Simonton Lake to Allenton? Trick question, if you want to go to Allenton, first you must travel back in time, back to the time when World War II was just drawing to a close.

So it's 1944 on a warm July evening and you're a teenager living on Simonton Lake, what do you do for fun? Of

much later. For those more recent residents of Simonton Lake who drove that road twenty-five years ago, you will remember there was an old gas station that sat in that green space between the two roads. Back in the 40's that gas station belonged to Charlie Allen and was the epicenter of Allenton. Along with the gas station was a roadside stand run by Charlie's wife, along with a baseball field where regularly scheduled baseball games were played between local teams, and maybe best of all, an occasional donkey baseball game. Now that's real entertainment!

But the really big draw, big enough to entice teenagers to walk over a mile to see, was the free movies. As Gene Marchesseau remembers, the free movie rolled into Allenton on the back of in a 1931 A-Model Ford pickup truck. The driver would arrive and attach the screen, most likely a bed sheet, to the netting of the backstop at the baseball diamond. Then the

driver would turn the truck around so it faced away from the screen. In the back was a reel type film projector which projected the images on the screen. Charlie Allen's wife ran the concession stand where she turned a tidy profit and kept the customers happy. Now I know you're still struggling with the "free" movie concept. You learned in high school economics "There ain't no such thing as a free lunch." Your teacher was correct. This cutting edge entertainment mogul made his money by selling advertising which was added to the film and shown to his captive audience. That's the kind of thinking that made America great.

It's pretty clear that there are lots of fond memories of Allenton. I don't think I will ever drive through that curve again and not think of how this is a very special place where young Simonton Lake

teens ventured out from the watchful gaze of their parents to meet new friends and enjoy secret moments which still hold a very special place in their hearts. Long live Allenton and its memory as part of the fabric of life on the lake. ■

Does Anyone Remember C-Breeze?

- by Staff Writer

In the early 1900's many Elkhart city families had cottages on our lake. It seems funny that Simonton Lake was far enough away for folks to feel that they were going away for the summer. Ann Turnock of Elkhart forwarded to me some pictures of the family cottage. The family name was Breeze and the cottage was known as "C-Breeze."

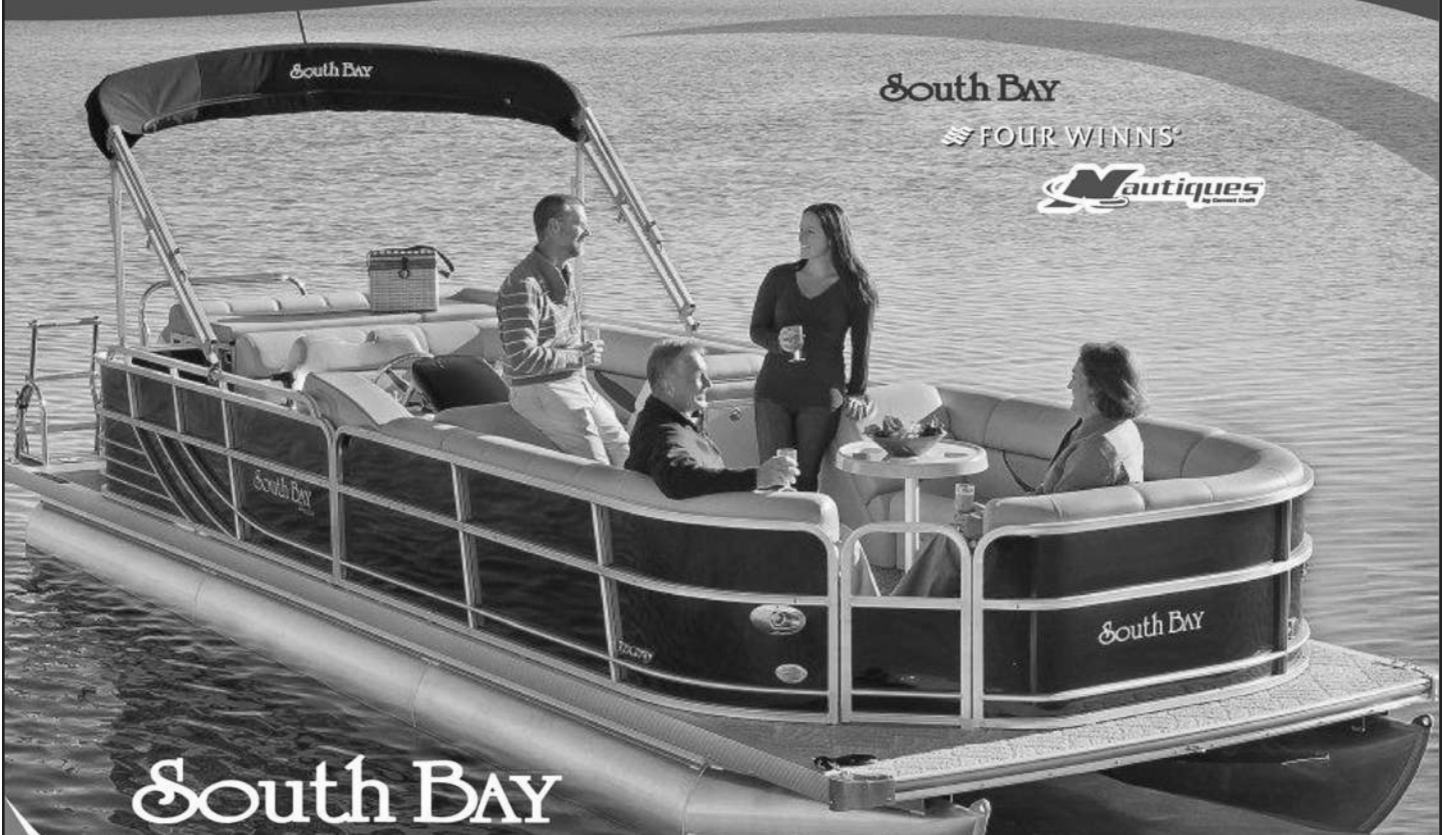
Here is a picture of Mary Breeze about 1918 and Mary with Netta Ball. If you remember this cottage please contact us at simon@simontonlake.org ■



course you and your friends take a hike up Cassopolis Street to Allenton and catch the free movie, watch an exciting game of Donkey Baseball, or more importantly, hook up with some of those Michigan hotties. We're talking about stories that can still make Nadeen Anderson giggle and blush to this very day. Well, for you newcomers who recently arrived on the lake in the last sixty or so years, you're asking where in the heck is Allenton? Well stay tuned as you are about to find out about what was the entertainment mecca in that bygone era.

Most of you have certainly ventured north on Cassopolis Street to the intersection with Redfield Road and noticed the stretch of pavement that arcs the corner where you will see an occasional truck parked. That pavement is the old M-205 road bed. The gentler curve to the east we drive along today was added

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Simonton Chronicles

Generations of Lake Families Span 87 Years Living on the Lake

-by Carole Foutz and Theresa Maier

The year Indiana became a state, 1816 the Congress designated that the 16th section of every township be the "school" section. Therefore, taxes, etc. that this section generated would be set aside for the township schools. Most of the South and East portions of Simonton Lake are in this 16th section. While browsing the abstracts of several Maplewood properties, this was stated for all parties to be made aware of as they became owners of their properties.

Much of this Section 16 was initially

Charlotte Replogle and husband Arthur. In 1928, the Replogles subdivided the lake portion of the 93 acres to create Maple Wood Addition I and II, Silver Beach Addition and Sandy Beach addition. (These sections are now located on Maplewood Drive and Lake Drive) The restrictions were: only cottages, no buildings less than 75 feet from the back of the lot and the cottage should not be less than \$400. (See plot of this 1928 subdivision)

The following is a recounting of how some families on Maplewood lived, passed on land and continue to live on Simonton Lake.

In 1924, 87 years ago William Kincaide and his family bought the land at what was the end of Maplewood Drive. This was the first generation of the Kincaide family to live on the lake. Mrs. Inez Kincaide had a spinal fusion in Elkhart

that year. Her doctor recommended she convalesce in the warm sunshine. Mr. Kincaide bought that property on Maplewood to build a cottage for his wife. The land was purchased for \$300 from Arthur Replogle.

At that time there was only a path down Maplewood near where Jackie Wilson now lives (of tornado fame). Mr. Kincaide could only drive his car that far onto Maplewood due to water in a gully. He filled it in to begin the process of building his cottage. He had to

dig dirt out of the yard to make a path through the swampy area.

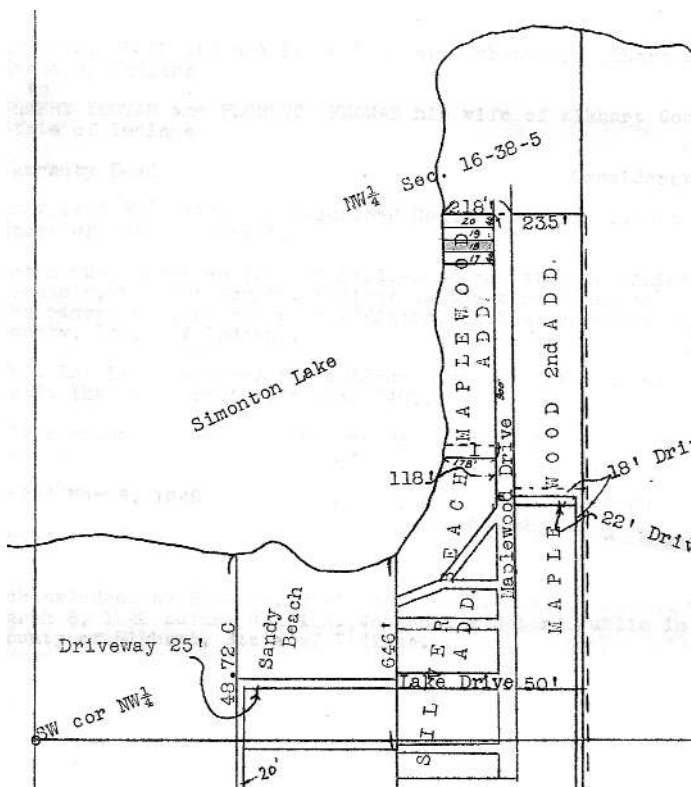
The four Kincaide children carried the lumber from the end of the street at Lake Drive to build the little gray cottage that their dad built until the gully was filled in and could get the car down. The only other person living on Maplewood at that time was Dan Dotson who spent his summers living the good life in a tent north of the newly purchased property. Mr. Kincaide and son, Bruce, built a cottage with 2 bedrooms down



and a ladder going up to a loft with two spring mattresses for sleeping. The windows were canvassed to block the strong west sun. That first summer Mr. Kincaide killed 7 rattlesnakes, blue racers and garter snakes.

Back then people lived in swimsuits when at the lake. The kids played in the woods by building string playhouses with moss for carpeting in their huts (snakes and all). The family bought a row boat and rowed all over the lake with Phyllis, Inez and Grandma Ellen Lewallen. Eighty some years ago there were no narrows to Little Simonton just brush and reeds. Grandma Ellen would take her sisters to a place between Co Rd. 4 & 6 Johnson...perhaps the Replogle Farm where it has been said to buy candy. Phyllis remembers using lake sand to clean pans. She also remembers that they had so much company on the weekends, some brought lots of food and some didn't (just like today)! Many wonderful times and good memories were made in that little gray cottage. Most recently, Richard Blake Dubbert lived in the original Kincaide house until his death last fall.

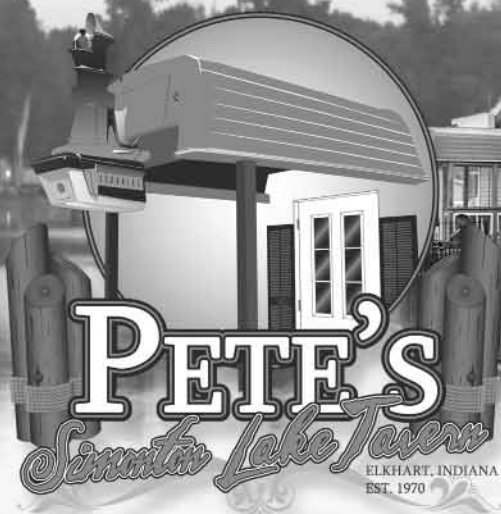
Phyllis Kincaide Kidder, daughter and current Maplewood Drive resident was 7 years old with 3 sisters and a



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A Community That Cares

-by Staff Writer

I wanted to share a story that was told to me by a member of our community, it will make you feel good about living among such great neighbors. In her own words...

Just wanted to mention to you something nice that happened the other day when I was on my walk. I was walking down North Shore Drive and my boyfriend pulled up beside me in his truck and was talking to me while I was walking along. I continued to walk and he drove along across the road from me. A truck approached from the opposite direction and passed very slowly. Shortly after that my friend went on his way and I noticed the truck coming back from the other direc-

tion. I kept walking and the truck turned around and came back to me and rolled down the window. A lady sitting in the passenger side of the truck asked me if I was okay and if that person in the truck was bothering me. I told her that I knew the man, but thanked them over and over again for stopping to check on me. I thought that was very nice of them to stop to make sure I was okay. I think they live on the lake because the truck looked very familiar.

It is a good idea for lake residents driving through our neighborhood to be the eyes for all the walkers and joggers that are out. I sure do see a lot of individuals out running and walking by themselves, which is a great thing to be able to do in our neighborhood. It is important for all of us to keep an eye on our energetic neighbors for their safety. I don't think I have ever heard of anyone being bothered while out and about, but it's pretty neat to know we have neighbors who will take the time to stop and see if someone is ok. ■

Generations

from page 10

brother Bruce Schneider who all lived on the lake during their lives.

In 1937, Kincaides sold their cottage to The William Dubbert Family grandfather of Jim Dubbert who is still

living on Maplewood Drive representing the second generation of their family to live at the lake. Chet & Marge Dubbert took over the cottage in 1944 around WWII. It remained a cottage for years

while they ran their grocery on Sherman St. in Elkhart. (another lake story for another day) George & LaVeda Pauley and Phyllis & Victor Kidder bought Shelley's (the former bike shop, Shelley's) property consisting of three lake lots. Uncle Bruce lived on North Shore Drive on the Gammon property. This shows how generations of families stay at the lake.

The third generation – Vickie & Jim Dubbert and siblings Larry

& Lynn Linton on Blue Ribbon Lane enjoy making more memories at Simon-ton Lake with their grandkids.

According to Mrs. Phyllis Kidder, "All told, someone of the Dubbert and Kincaide families has lived here at the lake for the last 87 years." Mrs. Phyllis Kidder has spent the majority of her life, all total 50 years, on the lake. At 93, Phyllis now lives above Jim & Vickie's home on Maplewood. Phyllis believes "there's no better place to live." ■



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

will be held on Monday,
May 23rd at 7 p.m.
at the Sportsmen's Club.

Seeking Simonton Shutterbugs!



More information on page 22.

Big Foot

- by Connie Hart

Like "Big Foot" up north, there have been no sightings of "Flat Tail." But we neighbors along the shores of Forest Road are not without signs of its existence.

During one of our get-togethers in the Forest Road neighborhood, several of us noticed a downed tree at the mouth of the channel, leading out to the little lake, across from the Roses' home. John Rose went so far as to go exploring one day and what he found was the result of a beaver's handiwork. It is thought that the beaver downed the tree to strip it of the branches for his or her den. Where that den is remains a mystery, much like the whereabouts of both "Big Foot" and "Flat Tail".

"Flat Tail" came by this descriptive name as we neighbors would claim we saw something swimming or playing along the banks. The response to this claim would be. . . "Ah, it's just a muskrat." Followed by . . . "No it wasn't." Then "Did it have a flat tail?" ■



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Ice Golf 2011

ELKHART -- A hole in the ice this time of year usually means an ice fisherman is looking to make a catch.

Saturday, though, the 144 people clustered around 18 holes on Simonton Lake weren't trying for fish, they were trying for birdies or eagles. It's the sixth year for the annual Simonton Lake Ice Golf Tournament, and the event just keeps growing. "I guess the draw is the uniqueness of playing in January," said Cam Snyder, who runs the event. The event raises cash for the Simonton Lake Sportsmen's Club. Last year they had to increase the course to 15 holes; this year, it's the full 18 holes.

This year's crowd broke last year's record of 120 people. "We started out with 20 people, now we have 144. We had to turn away a lot of people this year," Snyder said.



(below) Deb Williams and Susie Tucker
from one of the girls teams



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Wildlife in our Backyard

That's Right... Peacocks on Simonton Lake

- by Theresa Maier
(See color photo on back page)

Spring has arrived at the lake after a long cold snowy winter bringing wildlife to the backyard once again. Two loons and coots were seen swimming on little Simonton, probably migrating north. Swans and geese guard areas near their spring nests. The peacocks are out of their winter cover. That's right, peacocks, the colorful pheasant type birds with fans of brilliantly colored eye feathers.

The peacocks around Simonton Lake were brought here by Dr. Rudy Echeverria

to live on his 23 acre compound, shortly after building his home on little Simonton in 1969. Dr. Echeverria, a hunter, grew up on a farm in Cuba. Together he and his wife hunted, and as they travelled the couple dreamed of the things to include in their home at the lake. They added horses, Guinea hens, chickens, roosters and turkeys. The peacocks are from a farm in Shipshewana. There have been many peacocks over the forty plus years at the lake including a few sets of baby peacocks. Babies are fragile and the raccoons keep them from making it to adulthood according to Mrs. Echeverria. Rudy has many trophies from hunting mountain lions and bears.

There was a lot of clean up when they purchased the acreage in the late 60's, including dredging the lake and cleaning up the property for their farm and home. Among the menagerie, the Echeverria's raised four children, seven grandchildren and four great grandchildren in their Simonton Lake home. The couple love and enjoy living at the lake with their great memories.

Today the peacocks will peck on the door to be fed by Mrs. Echeverria who enjoys all the wildlife at the lake. She is a true nature lover and watches the sun rise and set as often as she can in her "God-made dream home." Over the winter the peacocks are kept in a sheltered pen. In

the spring the gate is opened for the birds to stroll. The birds have been known to roost on neighbors' rooftops, decks, and porches. When they are mating their plumage is beautiful as "God's creation makes them" according to Mrs. Echeverria. Mrs. Echeverria apologizes for the birds' sometimes noisy antics around the neighborhood.

National Geographic defines the peacock as a male peafowl, one of the largest flying birds when the combined length of its train and its large wingspan are considered. The relative size is comparable to a 6 foot man. Peacocks are large, colorful pheasants typically blue and green, like the ones here at the lake. Peacocks are known for their iridescent tails. These tail feathers, or coverts, spread out in a distinctive train that is more than 60 percent of the bird's total body length and boast colorful "eye" markings of blue, gold, red, and other hues. The large train is used in mating rituals and courtship displays. It can be arched into a magnificent fan that reaches across the bird's back and touches the ground on either side. Females are believed to choose their mates according to the size, color, and quality of these outrageous feather trains.

The term "peacock" is commonly used to refer to birds of both sexes. Technically, only males are peacocks. Females are peahens, and together, they are called peafowl.

Peacocks weigh 8-13 pounds with a lifespan of 20 years in the wild. Peacocks are ground-feeders that eat insects, plants, and small creatures. Just ask your lake neighbors who the peacocks visit, as pictured here on a front porch near the Echeverria's home. The peacocks can be heard cawing loudly perched on neighbors' rooftops. ■

(Peacock facts taken from National Geographic.)

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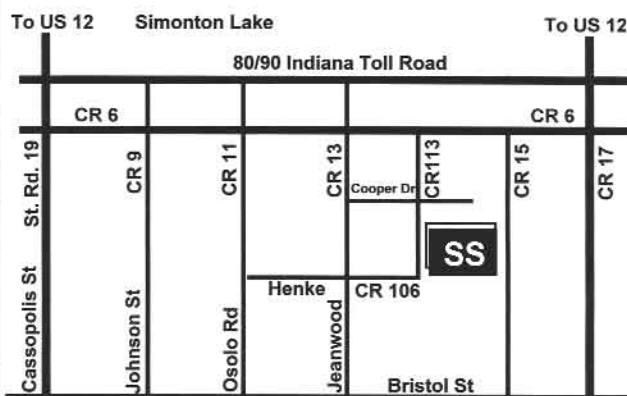


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-by Bob Meyers

Next, find the pictures shown with the article by Amy Matherly on page 18. Now look out your window at the lake. THE SNOW and ICE ARE GONE! It's spring. One of the most brutal of all winters has ended. Now that's a reason to celebrate.

The lawns are greening. The flowers are blooming. The

You are Judged by Your Piers

-by Bob Meyers

It's time to place your pier in the water. The state of Indiana and the Department of Natural Resources have rules and regulations for the placement of piers as well as shore stations and other structures that are placed in freshwater lakes. We hope you find the following information helpful. For all of this information, there is documentation available online from the DNR.

The placement of a pier or other temporary structure is authorized without written license issued by the DNR if it qualifies under these terms:

1. It is easily removable
2. It does not infringe on the access of an adjacent landowner to the public freshwater lake.
3. It does not restrict navigation.
4. It is not unusually wide or long relative to similar structures in the vicinity.
5. It does not extend more than 150 feet from the shoreline.
6. It is not a marina.
7. It is not a group pier.
8. It is placed by the riparian owner or with the written permission of the riparian owner.

The definition of a **"Temporary structure"**: a structure that can be easily installed and removed from the waters of a freshwater lake without using a crane, bulldozer, backhoe, or similar heavy or

Looking for something to celebrate? All right, here it is. First, grab your February 2011 edition of Simonton Says.....Go ahead, we'll wait.....Look at the pictures submitted by Dave Foutz on page 8.

boats and piers are going in the water. As you look forward to Memorial Day weekend, the unofficial beginning of summer, it's time to make plans for events that will make your summer even more memorable. The first Club-sponsored **Youth Fishing Contest** will be held **June 4**. Watch for the flier with information on place and time. The Sportsmen's Club **4th of July Poker Run** (which will not take place on the 4th of July) will be "run" **July 2nd**. The **4th of July Fireworks** (which will not take place on the 4th of July) will be "shot off" **July 3rd** with a rain date of July 4th. Confused yet? Mark your calendars. Pretty busy schedule, right? And yes, you **MUST** celebrate all weekend. There will be no excuses accepted for non-enjoyment any of the three days.

Once again, look at Dave and Amy's pictures in the February issue. Now don't just look outside, go enjoy spring. See you on the lake..... ■

large machinery.

Examples of a temporary structure include:

1. A pier that:

- A. is supported by auger poles or other poles that do not exceed 3-1/2 inches in diameter and rest on the lake bed; and
- B. is not mounted in or composed of concrete or cement.

2. A boat shelter, boat lift or boat hoist that:

- A. has a canvass top and sides;
- B. is supported by auger poles or other poles that do not exceed 3-1/2 inches in diameter.
- C. is not mounted or comprised of concrete or cement;
- D. is designed to float or to rest upon the bed of the lake under its own weight if any structure to which it is attached complies with this section; and
- E. is not wider than 10 feet nor longer than 20 feet.

All riparian owners have the same rights. A riparian owner is one who owns land bound by a waterway. A riparian zone is the portion of water where the riparian owner has particular right.

There are principles of Boundaries of Riparian Zones. These principles are designed to provide riparian owners with equitable access to public waters. Land owners have documents that show the boundaries of ownership. In order to determine the Riparian Zone for the owner of the property, follow the lines into the

water to an imaginary point in the lake. Application of this principle is used where land owners have used a perpendicular line to divide their riparian zones, however this principle should not be used where the result deprives a riparian owner reasonable access to public waters.

Where the shore is irregular such as an area that is substantially round, the riparian zones may be made by running lines from each owner's shore boundaries to the center of the lake.

All riparian owners should be given enough clearance to navigate boats from the owner's pier. The recommended space is 10 feet on each side of a riparian line.

My neighbor has the same rights I do. I cannot place my pier or boat at an angle that disrupts my neighbor's ability to safely navigate his boat to and from his pier.

This article is a synopsis of rules and regulations designed to make boating a pleasurable experience for all of us. On Simonton Lake, there may not be issues at this time, however if, at any-time, a neighbor attempts to infringe on your rights, you may contact the Department of Natural Resources if your neighbor chooses to not cooperate. The DNR hears these complaints often and knows how to respond. Sometimes these disputes have to be settled with legal action.

Have a terrific summer. ■

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328 Years of Living on Simonton Lake

-by Carole Foutz

What started out as a great idea to seek information from some lake “oldies” for future articles for our *Simonton Says* ended up as a fun-filled morning wondering where one might start to share stories of the combined 328 years of living on Simonton Lake!! Theresa Maier organized a meeting with a few “oldies” (the definition of the term oldies here is not necessarily related to age but having lived on the lake for decades or a part of a multi-generational family still living here.) We met at Deb Baskerville Weaver’s home on a Saturday morning in March. As a few were invited, they in turn invited others who might have interesting stories also to tell and the number attending grew!

Dave and I took our notepads ready to take notes and began in a semi-organized manner with a few directed questions. Well, that just warmed up those minds and the stories, tales; and memories just began to roll off where one story inspired another. I was hurriedly writing and really not keeping up. I was thinking between Dave and I, certainly we will be able to put this together. Not long from that point, Dave said to me, “Carole, are you getting all of this down,

I’m not???” At that point, in my mind our purpose of this meeting changed. We had all of these people together; we were just going to have a great time! How wonderful that living on Simonton Lake has brought these people together with that commonality and they still continue to hold fond memories and still love living in the Simonton Lake community. Hearing the stories just brought to mind the great way that neighbors and friends can enjoy our lake and neighborhood, over so many years, with Simonton Lake being the common denominator.

Simonton Lake is not just a geographic location but a tight, family friendly community. My article about the Maplewood families featured in *Simonton Chronicles* on page 10, speaks to the same idea. Simonton Lake lures so many people to its shores during our



(left to right) Gene Marchesseau, Sharon Marchesseau, Dave Foutz, Deb Baskerville Weaver

summer months but despite the many visitors, many of the same families remain and live here over several generations.

During our fun-filled story and reminiscing session, we talked about the various businesses which have been part of the lake community, the activities that the young kids found to do in the early days, going up to Allenton, the Sugar Shack and more. I decided that certainly I had hit a jackpot for possible future stories which I feel you all would enjoy hearing as much as we did. Being

a newbie on the lake (12 years) that morning was a great morning of fun and certainly the “oldies” enjoyed it. Next month, I will begin my journey sharing some of these stories and I hope you will enjoy them as much as I. ■



(left to right) Theresa Maier, Maria Hopman, Lori Kilgren Danis, Lucille Cappalletti Kilgren, Freida Baskerville, and Nadine Anderson.

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Life on the Lake

Who Holds the Tickets?

- by Amy Matherly

When you travel, someone in your family has to hold on to the tickets. I think this should be part of that pre-marriage counseling that churches do for young engaged couples. Perhaps they can already tell which one of them is the "ticket holder type." Maybe they already know who would be happy not to hold onto the tickets. In life there are people who want to hold tickets, push the final button, close the deal, make command decisions. And then there are other folks who just want to know that someone else has gotten these things in hand. These folks are not wimpy. They just want to be able to concentrate on other things. For instance, has everyone got underwear and toothbrushes and socks? Even if you have the tickets, you won't be happy if you don't have socks, underwear and your toothbrush.

The people with the tickets check the tickets five or six times the week prior to the trip. Then, the night before the trip they check them just prior to going to sleep. Then, they set the tickets in a certain place. No one, absolutely no one, can move these documents! Then in the morning this person puts the tickets (and passports and other documents) in his or her jacket pocket by his or her heart. The heart beats against the tickets, a comforting feeling to the ticket holder. Never the less, the person with the tickets checks them every 20 minutes or so.

The people without the tickets are happy that the tickets are being watched over. But, they know that if the tickets are misplaced, somehow it will be their fault. The person with the tickets, upon finding they are not where they were supposed to be will immediately look at the non-holding person. The ticket holder will ask the non-holder what they have done with the tickets. Of course non-holder has no idea where the tickets are. They haven't even been allowed to look at the tickets since the travel agent sent them to the house. But, the non-holder knows that there's no reason to try to defend him or herself. This person just says how sorry they are and helps the person who was in charge of the tickets to find them.

Maybe this can't be part of pre-marriage counseling. I don't think young engaged people will get it. You just have to learn it over time.

So, to both kinds of you lake folks out there, the holders and non-holders, ponder this topic as summer begins. While this ticket scenario goes for Poker Run tickets as well as airline or train tickets, you can relax because there is no ticket needed for sunny skies, warm weather, and friends and family at the greatest summer vacation spot—Simonton Lake. ■

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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! ■

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New Maps Reveal what's underneath the Surface

- by Staff Writer

(Originally printed in the Elkhart Truth)

Haven't you ever wondered what's at the bottom of the lake? Well, we can't tell you where to find that anchor you lost a few summers ago, but the State Department of natural Resources' website has online links to several newly prepared lake depth maps created by agency staff members. The maps can be downloaded and they are free.

These maps can be useful in planning fishing trips and other lake excursions. In addition to the free online maps, the DNR has a Map Sales Section with almost 300 lake depth maps. The cost is \$2.00 each. Find the online maps at <http://www.in.gov/dnr/fishwild/5759.htm> ■



In this issue of the SLAHA newsletter, a LARE study recommendation is to limit phosphorus in Simonton Lake. One way to do this is to use an organic fertilizer such as Milorganite. Milorganite can be found at most leading lawn and garden centers. Milorganite is non burning allowing a foolproof application and is safe for children and pets. It can be used in lawns as well as vegetable gardens. It does not need to be watered in to work, and since it does not contain any salts, it will not burn plant leaves during dry or hot periods. Milor-

ganite can be applied any time during the growing season at any time of day. The slow moving phosphorus in Milorganite stays in the soil for the plants to use. University tests in the soil of Florida show that Milorganite's phosphorus is available to the plants but does not move into the groundwater. Although it will not kill weeds, a thick lawn will choke out existing weeds and help prevent weeds from germinating. It is ideal for the sandy soils found around Simonton Lake. ■

Neighbors Getting Together with Neighbors

- by Connie Hart

2nd annual Rib Cook Off

Those of us that live on Forest Road have come to realize or rely on a few things. Some of those are:

- If there's a bonfire in the neighborhood, there must be a party, too.
- If it's a warm summer night and you want to get a restful night's sleep, better close your window or you will be serenaded by a pontoon full of your neighbors.
- And, there is no better reason to come together as neighbors, than to celebrate something with food.



Stephanie Rose is presenting to our winner, Bob Church, his (literally his) trophy for the 2nd annual Rib Cook Off. You see, Bob made the trophy not realizing it would return to his own home and place of honor. Here's to our next event and more tasty

entries.

Side Note: *These entries must be homemade. One of our first year's contestants and front runner was disqualified after being found out. Dan, you should have thrown away the deli receipt and bag they came in before you walked in the door.* ■

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Cardboard boat race
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Simonton Lake LARE Study Results

- by John B. Richardson
Senior Project Manager
JFNew, Walkerton, Indiana

The Simonton Lake Area Homeowners Association (SLAHA) environmental committee recently met to review a draft report from JFNew on the water quality of Simonton Lake. The \$35,000 study titled "Simonton Lake Diagnostic/Feasibility Study" was paid for by IDNR Lake and River Enhancement Funds with a 10% cash and in-kind labor contribution by SLAHA. The purpose of this study was to document existing water quality conditions in the lake, compare those conditions to previous studies, and address how to improve water quality conditions in the future. A summary of the report findings will be presented at the annual meeting in May. A brief summary of the report follows.

Simonton Lake is a 301 acre groundwater fed lake with a drainage area (watershed) of 5,233 acres extending into Cass County, Michigan. The lake drains south through Lilly Creek (Oslo Township Ditch) into the St. Joseph River then to Lake Michigan. The soils around the lake were deposited by glaciers and are primarily sand. The watershed is approximately 60 percent agriculture and 40 percent low intensity residential development, with most residents in the vicinity of the lake connected to sewers since 1999-2000. The first homes on the lake were established prior to 1939; however, a good deal of development occurred in the early 1960's with almost 90% of the lake's 43,170 feet of shoreline developed by 1973.

The water quality of Simonton Lake is much better than most of Indiana's lakes; even though it is a shallow lake easily subjected to eutrophication. The lake has a volume of 1,555 acre-feet with a maximum depth of 24 feet and a mean depth of 12.1 feet. Approximately 86% of the lake surface area is less than 10-feet deep. The water quality has been sampled five times since 1988. Recent sampling showed dissolved oxygen is adequate for fish above

16 feet. Below that level, there is not enough oxygen to support fish at certain times of the year. Concentrations of total phosphorus and nitrogen have decreased steadily over the years; keeping overall densities of algae low, but the population of algae is dominated by the mat forming blue-green algae. Transparency depths ranging from 8.5 feet in the spring to 6.2 feet in the summer indicate good water clarity. Simonton Lake water quality parameters place the lake in the mesotrophic range with an Indiana TSI score of 22.

IDNR surveys from 1964-2007 indicate the fishery has remained relatively consistent in regards to dominant fish

The full report will
be presented at the

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

which will be held on
Monday, May 23rd at 7
p.m.
at the Sportsmen's Club.

species composition and their growth rates. The lake is dominated by bluegill, largemouth bass, and redear sunfish. Walleye continue to be stocked by the Sportsman's Club, but there are also northern pike available.

The plant community was surveyed in the two basins on May and August, 2010. Aquatic plants were found at all 70 sample sites with Muskgrass being the dominant submersed species of 16 different species collected. Three invasive species: Eurasian water milfoil, curly leaf pondweed, and brittle naiad were all found in sparse populations. The state listed threatened species, white-stem pondweed was documented during the surveys in two locations. The most common of seven emergent species documented were cattail and arrowhead. Two floating leaf species noted were spatter-

dock and white water lily.

Concerns of lake residents included: overuse of the lake by nonresidents, too many boats accessing the lake, lake level control, aquatic plants in the channels, a decline in the fisheries, pier and funneling issues, water quality, and the need for dredging the channel between the lake basins. A boat count conducted by lake volunteers documented that pontoon boats were the most popular watercraft on all days. Excluding July 3, the average number of boats on the lake was 15.6 during any one counting period. Peak use occurred between 5pm and 7pm on the weekday, and around 3pm on the weekend. Social research on the boating capacity in many lakes suggests that Simonton Lake may be at, or close to its socially acceptable carrying capacity for watercraft during most of the summer.

The preliminary recommendations included limiting phosphorus in the lake by education of residents about its common sources, encourage continued sewer system hookups for new development, establishment of an ecozone to promote aquatic vegetation for fish reproduction, and the consideration of dredging between the lake basins. The projects tentatively selected as being feasible to implement are the establishment of an ecozone at little cost to the SLAHA and the dredging of the channel between the two lakes at a potential cost of \$195,000.

Simonton Lake's water quality has improved in the last 10 years and is good compared to other Midwestern lakes. This trend should continue with attention to management of phosphorus inputs from the vicinity of the lake through continued sewerage of adjacent residents, education of residents on the use of phosphorus free fertilizers, and enforcing idle speed limits in the shallow areas of the lake. ■

Lakes in Elkhart County - East is east, East is west, and never the twain shall meet.

- by Bob Meyers

This month, in our series of "Lakes of Elkhart County" we visit East Lake.....No, not the body of water in East Lake Estates north of Bristol Street, west of Jeanwood Drive in the city of Elkhart. The one we are talking about is considered the "official East Lake" because it meets the criteria of an Indiana lake. This one is east of Middlebury. Therefore we paraphrase the great poet, Rudyard Kipling when we say, "East is east (the eastern East Lake), East is west (the one in Elkhart), and never the twain shall meet".

East Lake is bounded by State Road 120 to the north; County Road 10 to the south; State Road 13 to the west and North 1100 W to the east.

If you are like me, and have been ordered by Judge Terry Shewmaker to "not leave Elkhart County or face the consequences of arrest", you must be careful if you recreate on this lake because it is

located in two counties, Elkhart and LaGrange. The dividing line between the two is not defined; therefore stay as far to the west as possible to avoid jail time.

To see East Lake, travel east on state road 120 past State Road 13. When you see Hunter Lake on your right, watch for, and turn right (south) onto Forest Lakes Drive. Forest Lakes runs

between East Lake on the left and Hunter to the right.



As you drive you will enjoy glimpses of both lakes. There are trees between you and the lake, however you should be able to get a good view of this serene, seemingly untouched lake from a few locations. You may see the pair of resident swans. This couple inhabits East Lake every spring to grow their family. Each year they hatch a few cygnets that they protect from rival wildlife including other swans. This couple "owns" East Lake

and will not allow another of their own to swim their water.

Homes are rare around this lake which is surrounded, almost entirely by wetlands. There is no public landing however, we have heard there is a man on the south side of the lake who will allow you to launch your boat from his property for a small fee.

On your return drive north on Forest Lakes Drive turn right onto Butternut and drive to the end. You will see a sign that informs you that if you were to continue onto the private drive, you would be in Colorado. Stop just short of Colorado and look to your right. This is a ter-

rific area to sit and look over beautiful trees to view the lake and wetlands.

I don't know if there is a way to see the lake from LaGrange

County because, remember Judge Shewmaker doesn't allow me to leave his county.

Next month we will visit another Elkhart County Lake, Fish Lake. Until then, enjoy YOUR lake. ■



More than 300 Leap for a Good Cause at Simonton Lake

ELKHART -- More than 300 splash landings in Simonton Lake helped raise tens of thousands of dollars to help local cancer patients. It was the sixth-annual Leprechaun Leap to benefit United Cancer Services of Elkhart County, put on by Pete's Simonton Lake Tavern and Froggy 102.7.

The difference between Saturday's event and last year's was "night and day," said Norton. While he was impressed with last year's turnout in lousy weather, this year the crowd in the sunshine was

packed. "I did it last year. It was awful weather, and I had the best time of my life," said Michelle Reiner. This time she

talked Danny Vanhoozer into jumping in, along with Jimmy Gaskill. "It's people helping people," Gaskill said.

Some people jumped for serious reasons, in honor of relatives with cancer. Conner Sowders, one of eight people on team "Jumping for Aunt Betsie," jumped in honor of his aunt who had a melanoma in her leg.

Others did it just to benefit a good cause. Carol Marquart of Berry Plastics in Goshen watched as the Berry team jumped. She took

See Leap/ pg. 28



These brave little girls are 6 and 8 years old. They jumped on behalf of their grandma.

Leap

from page 27

pictures, but laughed about not jumping in. "I talked all of them into it," she said as her co-workers climbed out of the cold water. That water led to, well, risque names for a couple of teams: The 36-member "Team Shrinkage" and a follow-up team, "Team Headlights."

The attire ranged from skimpy swimwear to shirts and shorts to fully clothed. There were also some costumes, including one man dressed as Super Girl.

When it was over, Peter Norton of United Cancer Services told the group, "You've done a great thing to help your neighbors with cancer." Norton guessed the funds would top \$20,000. Elkhart police gave \$1,000 alone, Norton said.

T-shirt sales raised \$10,000 before organizers ran out, which happened

well before the first person jumped into the lake, according to Kevin Musselman of Froggy.

"It's a great cause. We had the youngest cancer survivor, a 5-year-old. She's two years cancer free. That makes it worth it," he said.

-Reprinted from eTruth.com (Justin Leighty)



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Treasurer's Corner

Below is a brief financial update on the association:

Simonton Lake Area Homeowners' Association, Inc.
January 1, 2011 – April 18, 2011 (CASH Basis Accounting)

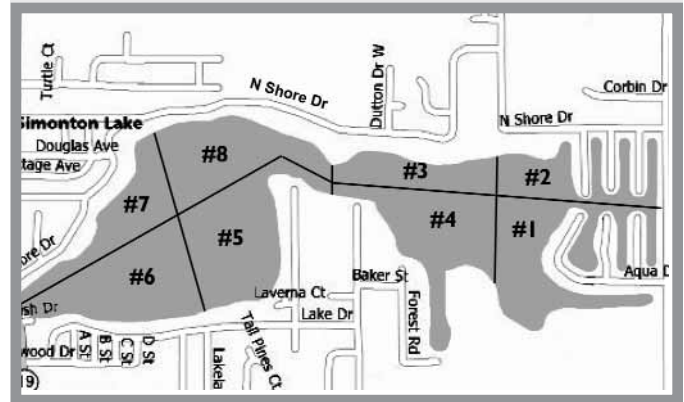
Item	Subtotal	Total
Advertising	\$0.00	
Events (Fireworks Donations, Boat Parade & Hog Roast)	145.00	
LARE Grant	5,209.96	
Membership Dues	80.00	
Sales (T-shirts)	0.00	
Other (e.g., interest income)	12.63	
Total Income		5,447.59
Cost of Goods Sold (T-shirts)	0.00	
Total Gross Profit		5,447.59
Board of Directors (e.g., Hog roast, general meeting expenses, insurance)	107.75	
Fireworks Transfer to Sportsmen's Club	0.00	
Lake Environment	5,209.96	
Lake Safety	108.00	
Membership/Outreach	0.00	
Newsletter / Website	495.00	
Total Expenses		\$5,920.71
Net Position as of April 18, 2011		(\$473.12)

Current members: Dues renewal notices should have arrived in your mailbox the week of April 18, 2011. This year, 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. SLAHA's annual **General Membership Meeting will be held on Monday, May 23rd at 7 p.m.** at the Sportsmen's Club. Please plan to attend this meeting for an update on our work together to improve our lake and our community. As always, if you have any questions about our association finances, please don't hesitate to contact Erin Harding at eharding@nd.edu. This month, I'd like to close with a personal thanks to several members of the extended Linn family for their assistance in collating, stuffing, and sealing more than 200 letters at one of our regular family Sunday dinners!! (see picture on back cover)

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

MESSAGE BOARD

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

will be held on Monday, May 23rd at 7 p.m.
at the Sportsmen's Club.

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).

We wish you a Happy Birthday!

4/25 Cindy Mansfield
5/2 Janet Kelsey
5/4 Sue Taylor - Is this the big one????
5/22 Nixon Barhydt (grandparents Jim & Chris Ulery, Maplewood)

Happy Anniversary

5/16 Katrina (Ulery) & Jason Barhydt
5/22 Adam & Rachel Meyers

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



Find us on
Facebook

**Join in the conversation about the history of the area or anything else you would like to chat about... For details, check our website:
www.simontonlake.org**

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.

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: Top of the line **1995 20' Hydra pontoon Boat**, 40 h.p. Mercury outboard motor with power trim and tilt, fish finder w/live fish tank, grill, refrigerator, sink am/fm radio, Cover. Stored inside with only 98.5 hours asking \$8,000.00 call 206-9209 to see.

www.simontonlake.org

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.

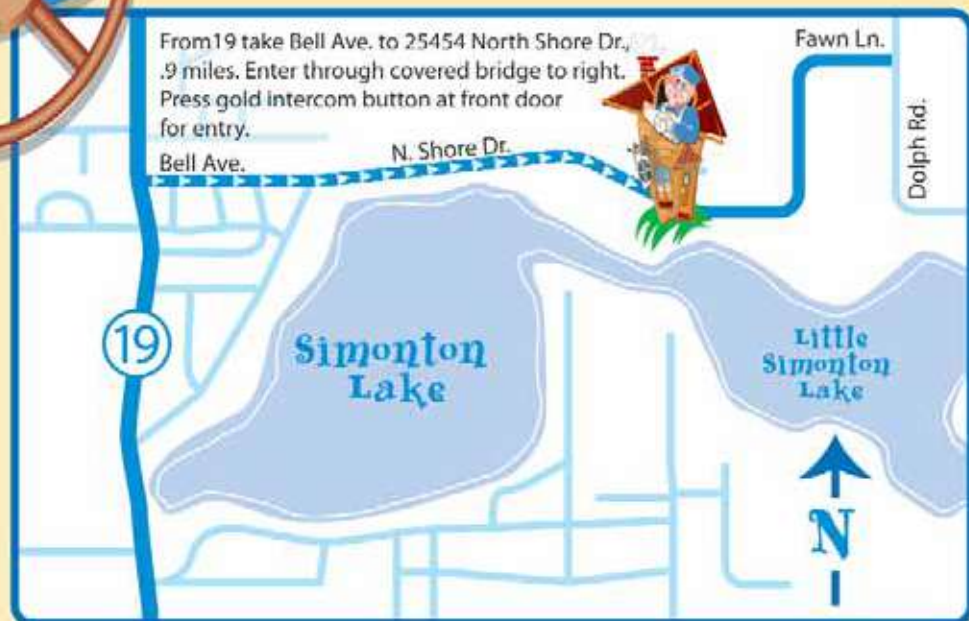
WANT TO BUY: I've lost my marbles. At least my wife, Pam, thinks so. Actually, I buy old marbles. If you have any **old marbles** tucked away in your attic or basement, and want to sell them, give me a call. Or, if you have old marbles and want to know more about them, call me. Bob Shultz, 51096 North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



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8:30am to 3:00pm Friday Closed Weekends

****While-you-wait service subject to equipment availability.***



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25454 North Shore Dr. / Elkhart, Indiana 46514
Phone: 574-264-3232 Fax: 574-264-0736
www.GraphicsGroupInc.net / E-mail: GGL@GraphicsGroupInc.net



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)

Bob Snedaker, 80, former lake resident, passed away on January 17, 2011. Bob worked for Riblet Products for 25 years. He was a USMC Korean War veteran.

Dick & Kay Rhodes are proud grandparents of Raymond Graham Duncan, who was born on February 16th, 2011. Graham (as he will be called) weighed 9lb. 7oz. and was 22 inches long. Parents are James and Megan Duncan, Westfield, IN. That makes 4 grandsons for Dick & Kay.

What a nice article about **David Obendorf** in the Elkhart Truth, April 16! The article, written by one of Dave's employees, thanked Dave for helping him through a time of illness.



(below) **Ben Swathwood** & Ashli Fritz were married on October 9, 2010 at Calvary Chapel in Mishawaka, IN. Ben is the son of **Lynn & Susie Swathwood**, Thompson Ave...story on page 6.



Long-time Simonton Lake residents **Curt & Wendy Willis** are in the process of building a new home on the site of their former house on Lake Drive. Curt grew up in the house which was razed in February. Completion of their new home is anticipated by summer's end.

Our sympathy goes out to **Marie Garatoni**, North Shore Drive, on the loss of her mother in April. Our thoughts are with you.

Peacocks on the lake?...story on page 16.



(below) Members of the extended **Linn family** who assisted our association... read more in "Notes from the Board" on page 29.



Our condolences go out to **Steve & Cindy Mansfield**, Lake Drive. Steve's father passed away this winter. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.

Robert Maier Sr. age 91, father of **Larry Maier**, Maplewood Dr., died on March 23, 2011. Most knew him as Bob who loved the lake and its residents. We offer our deepest sympathies to **Larry & Theresa Maier** & family.



(above) **Leprechaun Leap 2011**...story & more photos on page 27.