



Simonton Says...

February 2013
Volume 6, Issue 1

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



Martha Nickell...story on page 8



"Junebug"...story on page 14



Winter on Simonton Lake brings us a beautiful shot of Ice Fog.

(photo by Carole Foutz)



Brave firefighters battle the blaze at a local lake area bar. Story on page 18.

(photo by Maria Hopman)



Above - This guy was walking along Maplewood beach...food hunting. A small, stocky wading bird, the Green Heron is common in wet spots across much of North America. It can be difficult to see as it stands motionless waiting for small fish to approach within striking range, but it frequently announces its presence by its loud squawking. (photo by Theresa Maier)

Ice on the lake at sunrise
(photos by Maria Hopman) (right & below)





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**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.

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

Our Mission

*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.*

Our Newsletter

The newsletter is published 6 times per year (every other month) - Feb, April, Jun, Aug, Oct & Dec. 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

Events on the Lake

February 23 Casino Night
(sponsored by Sportsmen's Club)
April 13 and 14 Spring Turkey Shoot
June 1 Youth Fishing Contest
(sponsored by Sportsmen's Club)
July 6 Poker Run (Rain, sun or snow)
(sponsored by Sportsmen's Club)
July 6 FIREWORKS
(sponsored by Sportsmen's Club)
July 7 FIREWORKS Rain date
August 10 Youth Fishing Contest
(sponsored by Sportsmen's Club)
TBD Corn and Sausage Roast
(sponsored by Sportsmen's Club)
Oct. 26 and 27 Fall Turkey Shoot
(sponsored by Sportsmen's Club)
November 9 Casino Night
(sponsored by Sportsmen's Club)

Community Contacts

Simonton Lake Conservancy
(574) 206-8485

DNR

Main office: (317)232-4160
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Sheriff Elkhart County

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Neighborhood contact person:
Cpl. Casey Lehman
General information or questions,
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TRUE LOVE
ROMANCE
BOYFRIEND
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RESTAURANT
BOX OF CHOCOLATES
SWEETHEART
LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT
BEAUTIFUL BOUQUET
SERENADE
FRIENDSHIP
BE MINE
FEBRUARY
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Life on the Lake

February 2013

-by Amy Matherly

It's a cold gray January day as I write this installment of *Life on the Lake*. The clouds are so low they seem to melt into the ice. There must be several hundred birds standing on the edge of the ice out towards the middle where the water has not yet frozen. This will be the second year in a row that we have gone into January with open water in Big Simonton. It's still, quiet, as if the earth is sleeping or resting.

We've had a number of lake folks pass away in 2012. Most recently and unexpectedly we lost our friend and neighbor, Rick Goddard. Rick and Pam moved in next door just a couple of years ago. You never know who you're going to get for a neighbor. And, especially on the lake where you share a common "back yard" you hope for good ones. We weren't disappointed. He loved the lake. He loved his family. Their grandkids claimed their yard, pier and lakefront every summer weekend. And, that's just what was happening across the fence at our house. They liked to boat down to Lake Shore (now Flipping Cow) and frequented Pete's for a burger.

Last summer on a hot and humid evening we loaded up Pam, Rick and a bunch of adult friends on the pontoon and anchored in the deep water. It was about midnight. We just jumped in and floated and laughed and reminisced. We shared lake stories and family legends. It was a simple night, a boat, a hot summer evening, and great friends.

Rick was only 61 years old. He died

on the golf course just before Christmas. It was a shock. It is still a shock. I still can't understand that he is gone. Rick was an active member of the Lake Association, a loving husband, father and grandfather. He was greatly respected by his business partners. Over one thousand people stood in line for hours to express their condolences to Pam and the family.

I went up to Varner's Greenhouse just before Christmas. I love to go in there and see the mass of poinsettias carpeting the building. Fields of red are dotted with patches of pinks, whites and striped plants. With Rick's passing, it was a pleasant diversion.

There were so many plants left. I asked the lady at the counter what would happen with them. She said they still had big deliveries to area churches, nursing homes and event centers. But she said that the left over poinsettias weren't their biggest concern. She said they were busy planting geraniums, spikes and vines which will go into their hanging baskets. You know the ones you buy around Mother's day that are bursting out of their plastic pots. Of course they have to be started now.

So, as I look out at the gray, cold lake, I have hope. On the darkest, coldest day of January, the cycle of the seasons continues. The flowers of summer are seeds in pots. Dormant bulbs are in the ground resting and gaining strength for new and better blooms. Bare trees hold within their branches the buds for a fresh set of leaves. It doesn't take away the heartache, but somehow it is reassuring that spring will come again.

Until Next Time. ■

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I count myself lucky to have such wonderful friends ... It's curious that so many live on the lake – you suppose it's in the water. I hope you know who you are and I thank you !

Connie Hart

(T, G, L, S, K, B, N, A, S, W, L, P, C)

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Simonton Chronicles

Martha Nickell's Nearly 60 Years on Simonton Lake

By Carole Foutz

As I was preparing to interview Martha for this article, my thoughts went back and recalled meeting Martha back in the mid-70's. Martha and Earl were the parents of our new neighbors on Christiana Creek, Vaughn and Cindy Nickell. In fact, it is probably because of Martha and Earl that we live on Simonton Lake today. We were invited to the lake over the years and loved it here! Eventually, we made Simonton Lake our home.

Martha had one date with Earl Nickell before he left for the Army serving in WWII at Guadalcanal and Okinawa. While away at war, their relationship grew via snail mail. When Earl returned from the war they were married on June 29, 1946. During the war, Martha worked at Miles making K-rations. After their marriage, the Nickells moved into the cottages which were at the end of the lake behind Pete's. There were 4 or 5



Vaughn & George

cottages at that time. These cottages were quite small not having a complete bath and definitely not family sized. Vaughn was born while they

lived there in 1947. In a short 14 months, George was born.

Looking for more space for their growing family, the Nickells bought an acre of land on Lakeview, west of Cassopolis, and built a home in 1948. Even though they were across the road from the lake, it did not keep the family from spending time on the lake and Christiana Creek through the years as the family grew.

In 1967, Nickells bought a very



small cottage on North Shore Drive. Their family had grown again with Kathy born in 1957. The cottage was quite basic with a limited bath and kitchen. They decided to rent it out for a while but their desire to live on the lake won out and they moved the family to the small cottage. They felt they were pretty tough and could handle the primitive living in the cottage for the opportunity to live on the lake.

When Nickells purchased the cottage, it came with a small, home-made pontoon. Eventually, they traded boats but ended up with a speed boat for the kids to ski on the lake. It was during this time an addition was added to the house to bring it up to modern standards. The ski boat was traded later for a large double decker pontoon. It was/is orange..."Big Orange" as family calls it. This was purchased from Ernie Johnson in the early 70's and it was



the second double decker pontoon on the lake at that time. Buba, the family's German Shepherd, could be seen out on the lake skiing also! If you look around the lake on a busy weekend afternoon, you may still see "Big Orange" out there being used by Martha's grandchildren.

Earl was forced to retire early with health issues. He fished quite a lot during this time. Martha worked at CTS and eventually retired after 30 years there in 1990. Earl passed away at 63 in 1988. Martha was involved with the first Simonton Lake Association when the process of getting the lake approved for skiing was happening. She believes what keeps her active and able to participate in many events her family participates in is keeping up with her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren's activities. Martha enjoys her reading, her games and activities on her iPad, and all of the activities she shares with her family.

When you see "Big Orange" out on the lake this summer, give her a wave! ■



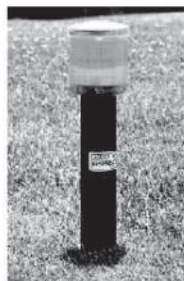
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New Neighbors in the "Hood"

-by Connie Hart

When I was younger, I remember thinking that living on Forest Road was such a blessing that you would have to move to an address in Heaven before you would ever willingly leave. Now that I and some of my neighbors have grown older – this has become more of a reality for our residents. After losing Whitney Ort and Pauline Chester this past year, we had openings in the Hood for new neighbors and boy have we been blessed.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the arrival of Dee and Leroy Graber and Mike and Debby Wheeler. Both couples moved into our neighborhood this last summer.

Did you happen to see the transformation of the Chester homestead while pontooning down the channel? What was once red brick is now stone and siding of a totally different style and color and their boulder seawall is quite impressive. The Graber's hosted an open house party for us to see all the changes they made inside and they have changed a lot; not without those dreaded remodeling hiccups. They have a wonderful home and really did a bang up job at decorating it inside and out. Dee and Leroy are collectors and why shouldn't they be, they had the perfect opportunity to find treasures as the owners of Peddlers Auction for 35 years. It was recently sold so that they can enjoy their retirement here on the lake. Dee and Leroy both grew up loving to fish so decided to look for a home on Simonton. They are old fashion folks, what I mean is their drink of choice is an "Old Fashion" and Leroy has his own tasty recipe for becoming our new

favorite neighbor. They have been married 19 years and have 4 kids with 7 grandchildren.

Our other new neighbor, Mike Wheeler, is in the running for favorite as well, with his awesome leaf blowing efforts to clean the whole Hood - street and all. He made quick and easy work of this dreaded chore by what appeared to be a casual walk up and down the street with this great blowing machine in front of him.

Jon and I first met Mike and Debbie at a Halloween party in their barn in Mishawaka a few years back. We had attended with our other neighbors, Dan and LeAnn Gregory, and it was at this party where we learned about Malibu Rum soaked maraschino cherries. Yummy! Wheelers asked the Gregory's to keep them in the loop for any homes that might come up for sale and as fate has it, one just one door down did. So how perfect for them to find a home on the water and one close to their good friends. Debby has worked in healthcare for 25 years and dreams of starting her own home based business designing cottage style tablecloths, chair dresses, pillows and slipcovers. She is a collector of new and vintage fabrics. Mike and Debby have 4 kids (2 boys and 2 girls) and 3 grandkids that are looking forward to time on the lake.

So for many years, I have been able to spot and recognize most of the vehicles traveling by on our short street, but since this last summer, I find myself saying who was that driving by waving at us? ■

Updates from the Environment Committee

ECO-ZONE

Amy Matherly is heading this project and it continues to move forward. This winter we intend to visually mark the proposed eco-zone boundaries and record the GPS boundary locations. We've had numerous open meetings and are scheduled to submit our proposal to the State by summertime 2013.

WEIR

Although this project effort is outside our association structure it continues to move forward....sometimes sideways and backwards, but we think the County and State are coming to terms. We could see this project begin as early as fall of 2013, but more likely fall of 2014.

SEDIMENT REMOVAL (DREDGING)

This project is still developing. We received the rough draft of our sediment plan at the end of December... it still needs tweaking to fall within the \$300,000 LARE funding limit. Five of the Seven sites proposed require 46,000 cubic yards of sediment removal (4,600 cubic yards fully drained). The total project will add approx 10 million gallons of water volume to our lake and should improve the production of our underwater springs. With a total estimated cost of \$435,000, the Environment committee has decided to delay our application to LARE for funding until we can 1.) secure a basin for sediment disposal and 2.) Secure approx \$60,000 for our matching share as required by the State. Bottom line this project will not move forward until these two critical hurdles are cleared. ■

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Hart (heart) felt Family Traditions and Memories

-by Connie Hart

After reading Amy's Christmas tree adventure story last month, I felt perhaps you would like to hear our tale on the same tradition.....

One of our family traditions which have given us countless memories is our annual trek to get the Christmas tree. Even though prices have risen beyond what should be reasonable for "the tree" we continue to give over to the growing costs of cutting your own at Eby Pines. Knowing in part that it is due to the fact that it's not just a tree; just like the expense of what to eat at the Thanksgiving meal; it's not about the food...

Going for the tree is about being together – the loading up of everyone in one vehicle so that you can all sing along with the Fisher Price cassette tape of Disney characters singing our favorite Christmas songs. It's the hot chocolate, it's the football tossing behind and between the boughs, it's the chasing of the dog. It's the giving up of one of your mittens or scarf to mark your tree. And as you brush up against the tree branches – it's the smell of pine. Keeping in mind as you walk, jump and run thru the trees, not to stumble and catch a toe in the briars that have brought many of us down over the years. I know first hand, after pulling a muscle in my

behind and it taking months to fade away that memory. It's the barn cats roaming the field and the horse on the other side of that barn you pet while the Dads are getting the tree shook and bailed with string.

Who can forget the year our son Matt was into tree hugging. It was more like tree tackling. Then there was the year that the movie, *The Blair Witch Project* had come out and Juan, our son Austin's friend, who quickly became another son in our family, used his creative skills, taking our old "sit on the shoulder/the size of a bread box movie camera" and in a hushed voice stalked tree hunters (instead of ghost hunters) around every trunk haunting them. There have been some cold years with "hurry up and just pick one" yells coming from those that won't venture from the car. Then there are years that it is so warm it just didn't feel right. I remember one year after driving in a down-pour rain with my mom, 2 teenage grumpy boys and a not so happy husband that once we were there, we couldn't or wouldn't get out of the car. So we headed back home. After making it almost all the way back into Elkhart, I began expressing my disappointment so strongly that the end conclusion was to turn around and go back; we would just have to get wet.

Once we had found that perfect tree; (now due to the number of family members that continue this tradition – 4 trees and 3 cars) we follow up this adventure with going out for lunch. It used to be the restaurant at Eby Pines. Back in the day when I was

younger, some 40 + years ago with my parents, we would sit and eat next to the windows and watch skaters in the rink on the other side. Gosh, the sounds, the smells and the feel of this place – it was great. Once my boys came along it was on every Saturday after Thanksgiving a staple we served our family; along with the buffet of crispy chicken and the beef manhat-tans. Since the restaurant's closing we have had to find other locations for lunch – River Inn in Bristol, Firehouse for mojos and at one of these favorite places, the Pigeon Inn they provide other entertainment besides coloring on placemats - Keno. Yes, we have our chosen picks that have paid out well over the years.

Gosh there are so many different memories that come to mind just from this one day's adventure. I wonder about the little nostalgic lots on corners all over our area which have trees strung up from one stand to the next under the clear glass light bulbs. These places look like the perfect setting for discovering a tree worthy of being brought home. Even the trees at Menards look fresh enough and the price is appealing. As I get older, the deals that the big box store offer for the pre-lit trees (what's the new acceptable word for "fake") is awfully tempting. But for now and for the Harts – it's over the snow and thru the woods and in the rain and via the toll road to Eby Pines we go. See you there -- maybe. ■

Notice: Spring must be coming soon...Mark your calendars

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will be opening on March 15th**

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A Celebrity Server

-by Dave Foutz

The worth of the dining experience is dependent on three variables: the atmosphere of the restaurant, the quality of the meal, and the service. Recognizing the importance of the service experience, Michiana Human Resource Association (MHRA) presents an annual award to the two most outstanding wait staff in Michiana. This year we are extremely pleased to report that June "Junebug" Kershner of Pete's Simon-ton Lake Tavern has been awarded a top prize. June, accompanied by her employers, Linda and Merle Anderson, was presented her award at the association's December meeting



at the Matterhorn Conference Center. Throughout the year MHRA receives nominations from the community of prospective candidates, who are unaware of being named. Beginning in the month of June judges

begin clandestine evaluations of the nominees. After all the data is collected the winners are announced.

We talked to June on a very snowy night in January about her newfound celebrity status. She said, in addition to the dinner, she received an engraved trophy and a gift certificate to the South Bend Chocolate Factory. She related that she has been a waitress for thirty-one years, nine of which have been at Pete's. She said she loves working at Pete's and that Linda and Merle treat her like family.

No one who is a regular at Pete's is surprised that June has been recognized for cheery disposition and friendly service. Next time you're there for the "all you can eat" fish you'll have to give June a big "Atta Girl!" ■

Where'd we get that Name? Names of our County Rivers and Creeks

The following information, found at the Elkhart County Surveyors website, is accredited to H.S.K. Bartholomew, author of *Stories and Sketches of Elkhart County* printed in 1936.

The **St. Joseph River** was named for Father Joseph, a prominent priest in the area who led a small band of French missionaries, some of the first white people to visit the St. Joseph Valley. His grave is said to be marked by a small wooden cross at the bank of the river, just south of the Niles city limits.

The **Elkhart River**, and in turn the **Little Elkhart River**, derives its name from the original Miami Indian name for the river, "Mishiwa-Teki-sipiw," which literally translated means "Elk-Heart-River." The Potawatomi

Indians adopted the name into their own tongue, calling the river "Misiwa-Odaik-Sebi," and in turn the French, some of the first white explorers in the area, labeled the River "Coeur-de-Cerf," which means "Heart of a Stag." The author of *Stories and Sketches of Elkhart County* notes that the Reverend Isaac McCoy (see Christiana Creek below) used the name "Elksheart" in his writing in 1822, and six years later in 1828, in the Carey Mission treaty of September 20th, the "s" was dropped to become "Elkheart." Finally, during the conception of St. Joseph and Elkhart counties, the "e" was removed and the Elkhart River and Elkhart County were given the names we use today.

Christiana Creek flows south from Osolo Township into the St. Joseph River. The creek was named for Christiana McCoy, wife of a prominent Elkhart County Baptist missionary, who supposedly named the creek after his wife due to the "purity of the

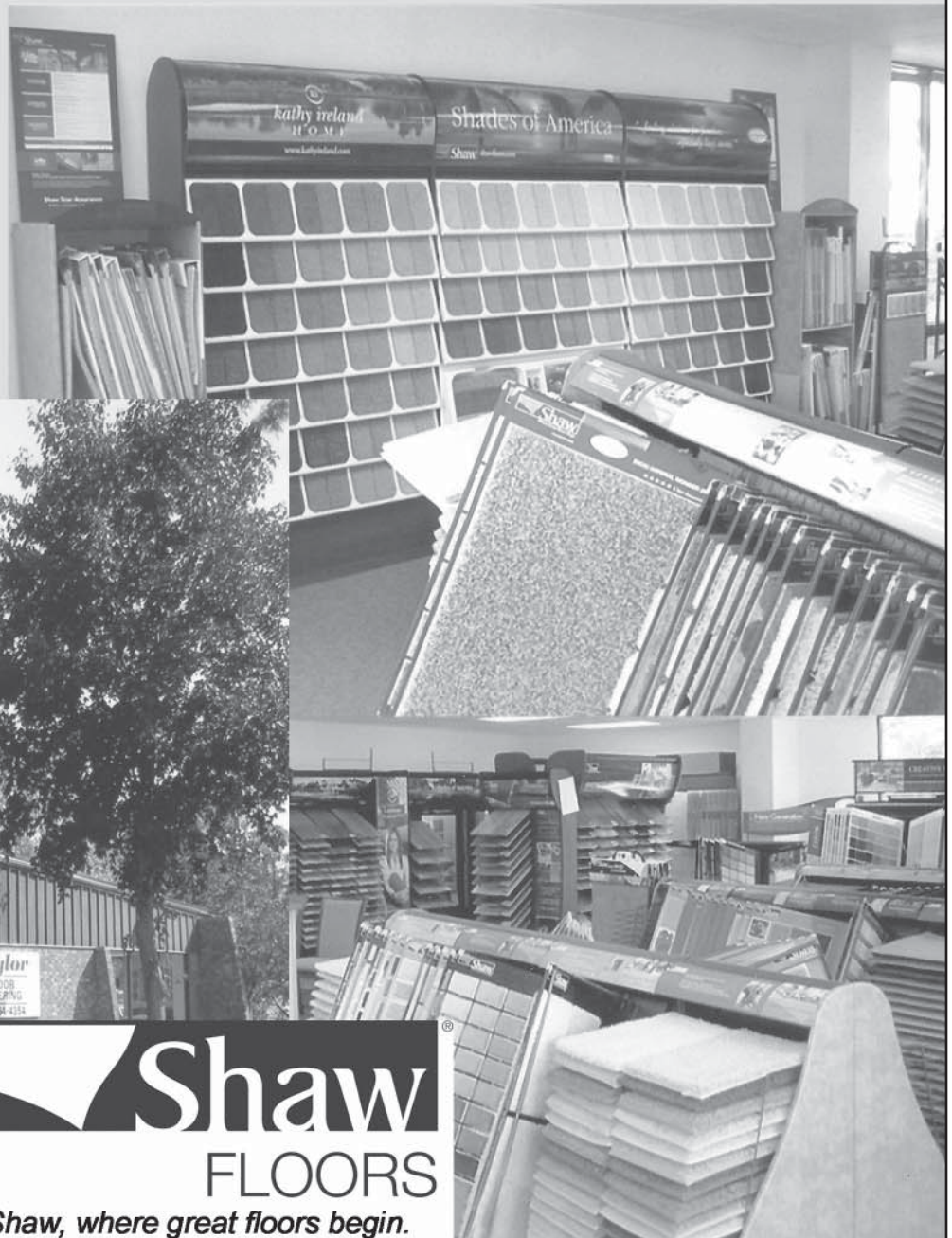
waters and beauty of its surroundings." Christiana McCoy washed the family's clothes in the creek, and Mr. McCoy was rumored to have said the true reason he named Christiana Creek after his wife was "because it is rapid at the mouth."

Where Did the Name Simonton Come From? Samuel Simonton Jr. was the 4th recorded landowner of this area around the lake. In 1845, Samuel bought at public auction 63 acres for \$133.34. The previous owner of the land, William H. Wood, had purchased this land for \$1.25 an acre. The village of Elkhart was incorporated as a town in 1858. This created a town government establishing trustees which were comparable to our City Council currently. A.P. Simonton was one of three elected citizens to be one of the trustees for that premier position. (*Abstract of Title*, Elkhart County Abstract Co. Inc., [Taproots of Elkhart History](#), Emil V. Anderson) ■

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Vernal Equinox

-by Bob Meyers

Freezing? Not for long, hopefully. Before you receive your next addition of this publication, it will be spring. You will soon see the first robin and first crocus. They usually appear about a month before that first day of spring which begins with the Vernal Equinox.

Equinox comes from the Latin word meaning, "equal nights". This year Spring will begin at 7:02 AM (SLT) {Simonton Lake Time}, March 20. At that time, you will have 12 hours of day and 12 hours of night. 12 hours of light, 12 hours of dark. From February 1 to February 28, you will gain 67 minutes of sunlight. On the 21st of March (first FULL day of spring), you have gained 116 minutes of sunshine per day since the beginning of February. This will be the rebirth of flora and fauna.

As you move forward into 2013, don't say to your children, "I don't have anything to do. I'm bored". By March 21, you will have **played golf on the ice at The Flippin' Cow**, played at **Casino Night at the Sportsmen's Club** and

taken a **Leprechaun Leap at Pete's Simonton Lake Restaurant**.

There is so much to do at your lake, residents of other lakes are jealous. Here are the events planned this year by The Simonton Lake Sportsmen's Club:

February 23 -	Casino Night at the Club house (see a member for tickets)
April 13 and 14 -	Spring Turkey Shoot
June 1 -	Youth Fishing Contest
July 6 -	Poker Run (Rain, sun or snow)
July 6 -	FIREWORKS
July 7 -	Rain date for FIREWORKS
August 10 -	Youth Fishing Contest
TBD -	Corn and Sausage Roast
October -	SLSC will be stocking walleye in the lake.
October 26 and 27 -	Fall Turkey Shoot
November 9 -	Casino Night

And, of course there will be more, so get out and enjoy life, you've earned it. Only 5 months until summer.....
See you around the lake. ■

A few notes to add from the recent club meeting (from Jim Friend): A plaque will be made to honor "Bugeye" and will hang in the clubhouse. This past year's very successful Fall Turkey Shoot was a family event that included activities for women and children. The annual Christmas party held on December 8th was a great success, with over 40 people attending. Bob Putnam was re-elected as president for 2013 and he also received the honor of being named "Sportsman of the Year 2012" for the second year in a row. Bob goes over and above to help make the organization a great one. Congratulations Bob!

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*The figures above are based on closed residential sales reported through the Elkhart County Board of REALTORS® and are assumed to be accurate.



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The Fire That Destroyed My Dad's Place brings Out Caring Neighbors

-by Bob Meyers

On January 12th, an early morning fire destroyed a popular Simonton Lake bar, My Dad's Place on Cassopolis Street. Osolo Township firefighters responded after the fire was reported at 4:52 a.m. Bristol, Cleveland Township and Porter Township departments assisted Osolo on scene. No one was in the building at the time of the fire. One firefighter was taken to Elkhart General Hospital with minor injuries. The Elkhart County Sheriff's Department says the fire has been ruled arson. Owner Sandy Rogers is focused on plans to rebuild.

All of you know Simonton Lake is a neighborhood of caring and sharing. Many stories of people going "above and beyond" to help others go un-

heralded. We can't let that happen in this one instance of compassion and appreciation.

According to Jerry Miller, Chief of the Osolo Township Fire Department, the morning of the fire at My Dad's Place, Merle Anderson opened the doors of Pete's and invited the fire crews, working the fire, into the restaurant to use the facilities, sit for a while and warm themselves. If that wasn't enough, he also cooked and served hot food for the firefighters as long as they were at the scene.

YOU may give credit to Mister Anderson for being a great guy by going above and beyond, however I

know he only did these things because his wife and mother-in-law told him he had to.....but seriously friends, our Simonton Lake community sends a big thank you to Merle and Linda Anderson for their generosity. And of course we send a huge thank you to our brave firefighters, who risk their lives to protect all of us. ■

(photos by Maria Hopman)



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**2012 Memories from the
Maier family, Maplewood Dr.**

Send your photos to simon@simontonlake.org



Treasurer's Corner

Below is a brief financial update on the association:

Simonton Lake Area Homeowners' Association, Inc.

January 1, 2013 – January 25, 2013 (CASH Basis Accounting)

ITEM	SUBTOTAL	TOTAL
Advertising	\$5.00	
Fireworks Donations		
Other Events (e.g., Hog Roast)		
LARE Grant from State of IN		
Membership Dues		
Sales (T-shirts, Calendars)		
Other (e.g., interest income)		
TOTAL INCOME		\$5.00
Board of Directors (e.g., Hog roast, general meeting expenses, insurance)		
Fireworks Transfer to Sportsmen's Club		
Lake Environment	25.00	
Lake Safety		
Membership/Outreach		
Newsletter / Website		
TOTAL EXPENSES	520.00	\$545.00
NET POSITION AS OF 1/26/2013		(\$540.00)

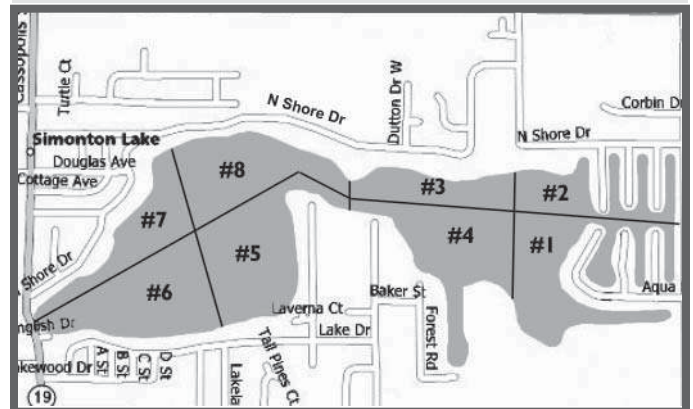
If you haven't paid your dues for 2012-2013, it isn't too late! Our dues year runs from May – April, and we need your support! Please fill out the member information card below.

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. Maria Hopman 262-1655
Anne Harbaugh 264-7792
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
Jon Hart 262-1404
8. Maria Hopman 262-1655
Anne Harbaugh

**SLAHA MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION**

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

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

\$ _____

www.simontonlake.org

MESSAGE BOARD



We wish you a Happy Birthday!

- 2/12 Bob Shultz
 2/16 Graham Duncan
 Grandson of Dick & Kay Rhodes
 2/18 Kathy Shewmaker
 2/23 Terry Shewmaker
 2/25 Vaughn Nickell
- 3/26 Eulah June Shewmaker
 Grandparents are Amy & Ryan Matherly,
 Terry and Kathy Shewmaker
- 3/27 Bill Broderick
 4/2 Ryan Matherly

Happy Anniversary!

- 2/19 Don and Carol Bradshaw

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.
 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).

CLASSIFIED ADS

To place a classified ad, email: ads@simontonlake.org or call: 262-9816. 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.

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)

Safety Committee Update

The Safety Committee has spoken with the DNR and would like to report that there is a strong possibility that there will be upgrades to the Public Landing this summer. Of course, money available will be the deciding factor. Also, it was reported that the wash out/hole at the end of the ramp will be repaired, if needed, after the winter.

The Simonton Lake Area Homeowners' Association website can offer you lots of information.

Do you know what the lake level is today?
 Do you want to go back to a past Simonton Says for an article?
 And much much more.... What would you like to see on our website?
 Email: simon@simontonlake.org

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1st robin sighting of the winter by **Jerry Broderick**....Spring must be getting closer.



Theresa Maier's grandson, Jake getting ready for a big Thanksgiving kiss from Herman the Great Dane being held by **Michelle Maier**.



Photo by Theresa Maier

Maria Hopman celebrated her January birthday rocking at the Northpointe Cracker Barrel! Left to right **Marie Garatoni, Brenda Seifert, Maria, Terry Abbott, & Anne Harbaugh**.



Photo by Theresa Maier



Deanna Foster of North Shore, and runs almost every day, no matter what the weather. On most days she takes her son Caden 2 1/2 years old and her yellow lab Bogey. On warmer days she will also take her daughter Ilsa who is just 3 months old. She has been run-

ning for about 10 years and runs 2 to 5 miles a day. Deanna and her husband Justin, have lived on North Shore for 1 1/2 years moving from Texas, back home to Simonton Lake to be closer to family. Please slow down when you see the trio zipping down the street-she is pushing precious cargo!



Amy and Ryan Matherly have a new grandchild. Graham Ryan Matherly was born on January 23rd. He weighed 7 lb. 7 oz. and was 21 inches long. The parents are **Ben and Gina Matherly**. Everyone is doing well. Older sister Gia likes him but he doesn't play or talk and she is disappointed at that.

Grandpa Ryan is pretty proud of his first grandson and third grandchild. Great grandparents are Chet and Doris Matherly.



Photo by Maria Hopman

Winter has its grip on the area. **Marie Garatoni**, North Shore, digging her steps out of the ice.