



Simonton Says...

July 2014
Volume 7, Issue 3

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

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In the meantime, keep checking the website for breaking news or Simonton Lake stories that you won't want to miss.

Garden Tour 2014

The Garden Tour Comes to Simonton Lake Again! The Michiana Master Gardeners have chosen Simonton Lake and area to host the Garden Tour on July 12 this year! In 2005, many of the gardens were on or

around the lake but this year 6 gardens are located directly on the lake! We are excited as a community to be asked to host this walk in our neighborhood gardens.

See **GARDENS**/pg.6



Why Dredge?

Please take a few minutes to read the facts below:

Why do we need to dredge?

WATER QUALITY AND CLARITY

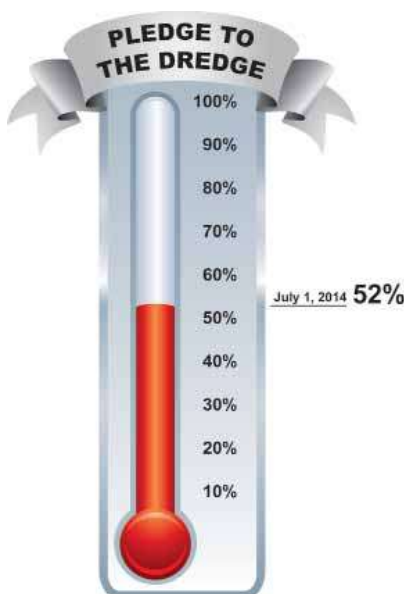
A water quality study in 2011 strongly recommended that we remove the sediment in our channels to improve water quality and clarity.

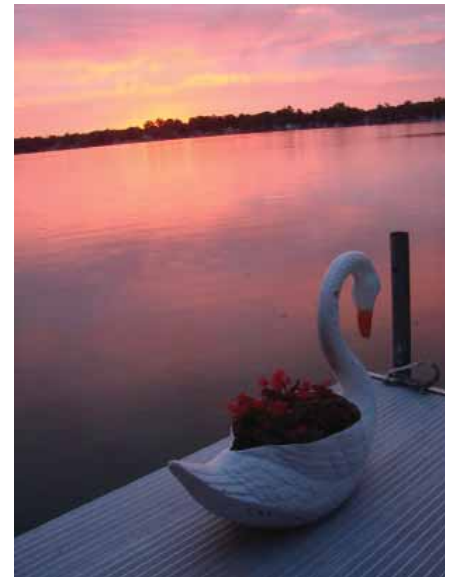
What is sediment and why does it need to be removed?

- Sediment is the small particles of decomposing plant life that accumulate on our lake bottom. It comes from grass clippings, leaves, animal waste and erosion of the soil.

- Even if you never launch a boat or ever go from one lake to the other, you are at risk. The sediment circulates right up to every beach on each lake.*
- Both the Army Corp of Engineers and the Indiana Department of Natural Resources agree that this sediment is a legitimate lake issue and will permit us to dredge down to the original lake bottom.

See **WHY DREDGE?**/pg.8





Spring sunrise on the lake

Photo courtesy of Ray Schuler

**Read all about the GARDEN
TOUR on page 1 and 6.**

Photos by Carole Foutz



17th Annual Garden Tour

**July 12th, 10am - 4pm
in the Simonton Lake area**

The Michiana Master Gardener's Association is hosting its 17th Annual Garden Tour in the Simonton Lake Area, Elkhart County. The garden tour showcases eight private gardens situated around the beautiful Simonton Lake and in the near vicinity. The gardens feature various styles from cottage garden to formal displaying the annuals, perennials, native plants and waterfalls. Various unique garden accessories are displayed throughout the gardens very artfully. The plants are marked for easier identification. Master Gardeners will be present at each garden to answer any garden related questions.

The Hospitality Center is at Simonton Lake Sportsman's Club, located at 51036 County Road 11. The center is open from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and the tour begins there.

**TICKETS: Presale \$10
Day of the tour \$12**

Tickets available at the Hospitality Center or at ticket outlets listed on page 6.

Association Board Members

Vaughn Nickell - President
51147 Maplewood Drive
574-262-3105
VLNickell@gmail.com

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

Ginny Bellamy - Secretary
50973 CR 11 North
574-262-3766
lgbellamy@msn.com

Bob Kelsey - Big Lake Director - North
26137 Lake Dr.
574-264-2233
zipi@choiceonemail.com

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

Jack Tucker - Little Lake/Channel Director
51110 Sail Bay Court
574-370-3326
jtu977@frontier.com

SLAHA Board Position Vacancy

Erin Harding, treasurer of the board, has resigned. The nominating committee: Sue Ward, Jack Tucker, Paul Wilson and John Rose, is accepting nominations or volunteers for the board. Erin has served 7 years on the board as our treasurer, worked on the Membership Committee, and also served to offer legal advice for SLAHA. Thank you Erin for your hard work and commitment to Simonton Lake.

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 sckjward@comcast.net

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

Our newsletter is published 4 times a year, but our website is filled with current information, stories, events, photos about the community. Check it out at:

www.simontonlake.org

For advertising information, call: 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

Go to our website and let us know how we are doing...

Events on the Lake

July 5	Poker Run (rain or shine) (sponsored by Sportsmen's Club)
July 5	FIREWORKS (sponsored by Sportsmen's Club)
July 6	FIREWORKS Rain date
Aug. 9	Youth Fishing Contest (sponsored by Sportsmen's Club)
Sep. 27	Hog Roast-Fall Festival

Lake Shorts features news about you... Tell us what is happening on your street. Do you know someone who is having a birthday, anniversary, etc?
Email: simon@simontonlake.org

Community Contacts

Simonton Lake Conservancy
(574) 206-8485

DNR

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

Sheriff Elkhart County

(574) 533-4151
Neighborhood contact person:
Cpl. Casey Lehman
General information or questions,
Email: clehman@
elkhartcountysheriff.com
Phone: (574) 535-6553

EMERGENCIES - CALL 911

Osolo Township Fire Dept.
(574) 264-1066

Osolo EMS

(574) 262-3052

Law Enforcement District

(574) 457-8092

Lake Safety Committee - Crime Tracking

Contact Chris Toles: 574-266-7768
or CMT6061@Comcast.net

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GARDENS

continued from page 1

Two of the gardens are very close to the lake, so the entire Garden Walk is in our area. Many of our gardens have been improved and are ready for your visit! Ideas and information from the Master Gardeners will be available at each site. You may start out by visiting one of the Ticket Outlets in the area and save \$2 a ticket. On the day of the event, you may buy tickets at our Sportman's Club where they will have plants and other information available.

PRESS RELEASE & TICKET INFORMATION

The Michiana Master Gardener's Association is hosting its' 17th Annual Garden Tour on July 12th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Simonton Lake Area, Elkhart County. The garden tour showcases eight private gardens situated around the beautiful Simonton Lake and in the near vicinity. The gardens feature various styles from cottage garden to formal displaying the annuals, perennials, native plants and waterfalls. Various unique garden accessories are displayed throughout the gardens very artfully. The plants

are marked for easier identification. Master Gardeners will be present at each garden to answer any garden-related questions.

The Hospitality Center is at Simonton Lake Sportsman's Club, located at 51036 County Road 11. The center is open from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and the tour begins here. The Hospitality Center hosts several educational booths, plants grown by Master Gardeners, and an exquisite boutique displaying garden art handcrafted by the Master Gardeners for sale. Master Gardeners will be present at the center to answer any gardening questions. Complimentary light refreshments will be served.

Tickets are \$10 per person (presale) through Friday, July 11th and are available for purchase at ticket outlets. On the day of the tour, July 12, tickets can be purchased for \$12 at the Hospitality Center. To order tickets by mail, send checks payable to MMGA-Purdue Extension Elkhart County, 17746 County Road 34 Ste E, Goshen, IN 46528. For more information call the Elkhart County Extension Office at [574-533-0554](tel:574-533-0554) or visit <http://michianamastergardeners.com/>. ■

GARDEN TOUR TICKET OUTLETS

ELKHART

- Linton's Enchanted Gardens
574-779-9333
- Martin's Pet & Garden
574-295-1775
- Ron Martin Seed
574-875-5273
- West View Floral
574-264-3112
- Hearts Desire
574-970-0555
- Matzke's
574-293-5657
- Kryder's Lawnmower
574-264-7623
- Creative Village
574-326-3103

GOSHEN

- Wooden Wagon Florist
574-534-2595
- Elkhart County Extension
574-533-0554
- Better World Books
574-534-1984

SURROUNDING AREAS

BRISTOL

- Kruse Farm Supply
574-848-4151
- Camille's Florist
574-848-4904

GRANGER

- Ginger Valley Garden Center
574-282-1085

MIDDLEBURY

- Varns & Hoover
574-825-2705

MISHAWAKA

- McKinley Terrace Garden Center
574-255-0114

NAPPANEE

- Veni's Candy
574-773-4242
- Rise 'n Roll Bakery
574-773-9012

WAKARUSA

- Mom & Me Floral Boutique
574-862-4888

SWEET CORN CHARLIES AT SIMONTON LAKE????????????

It just might be. At the site of the old Maurek's IGA there is a yellow and white striped tent under which are some wooden display tables that look suspiciously like a *Sweet Corn Charlie's*. Oh, tell us it's true! I've got a stick of real butter just waiting for some good sweet corn. Now, all I need is a Panera Bread and a Hobby Lobby and I'll never have to cross the Toll Road. ■

*Taste of
Another Era.....*

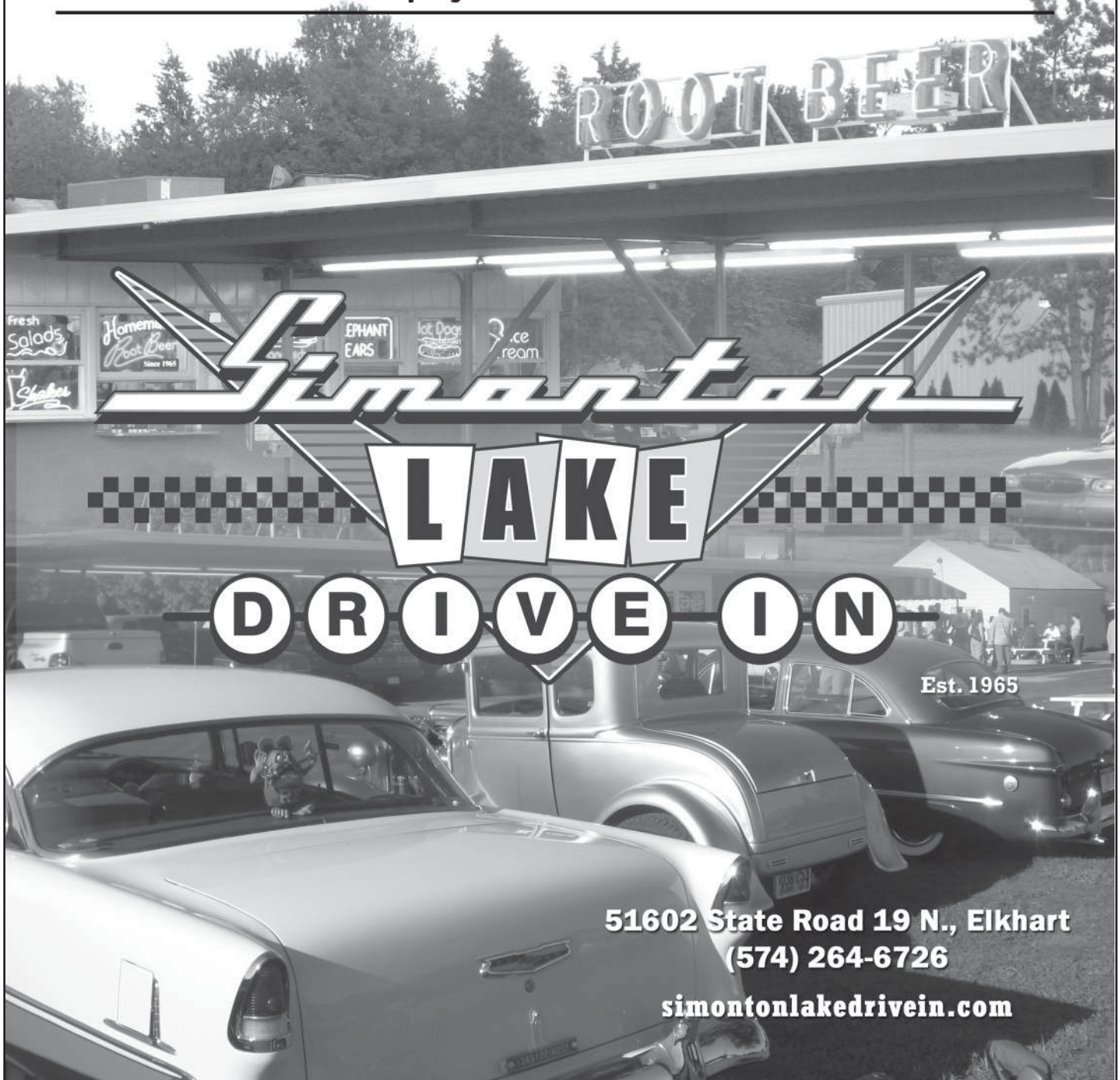
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WHY DREDGE?

continued from page 1

What do we need to dredge?

- The main channel from Big Simonton to Little Simonton.
- The area from the main channel to the boat landing.
- IF WE HAVE ENOUGH MONEY, the channel from the main channel to Forrest Lane.
- IF WE HAVE ENOUGH MONEY, the channel from the main channel along North Shore Drive.

NOTE: We will not invade any wetlands or destroy any natural habitat.

Who benefits from the dredging?

- There have been comments made that only the folks who need the main channel to get to Big Simonton will benefit. But, the truth is wherever you live on or near the lake, you will reap some benefit. The sediment cir-

culates right up to every beach on each lake.

- The water you and your family swim in will be clearer and cleaner.
- Home values will go up because of the improved water quality
- Greater depth will improve boating.

When would the dredging take place?

Late this fall -
October/November, 2014.

How can you help?

The cost of the entire project is approximately \$500,000. We have a \$200,000 grant. We have raised about \$50,000. We are applying for additional grants and are planning fund raisers.

1. Personal Donation.

We are asking for a \$500.00 donation from each home on the

lake or with lake access. Your donation to the dredging fund will go through the Simonton Lake Preservation Trust, a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization, so that it is tax deductible for you.

2. Join the Simonton Lake Homeowners' Association.

When we apply for grant money from foundations and charitable organizations we must have a high percentage of members around the lake in order to be credible. The annual fee is only \$30 or less, so please join. You'll find a membership form in the newsletter.

Why Should you help?

We are fortunate people to have been given the opportunity to live on or near this lake. But with this opportunity comes the awareness that we are its guardians. We, the residents, hope to pass on this lake to

See **HELP/pg.10**

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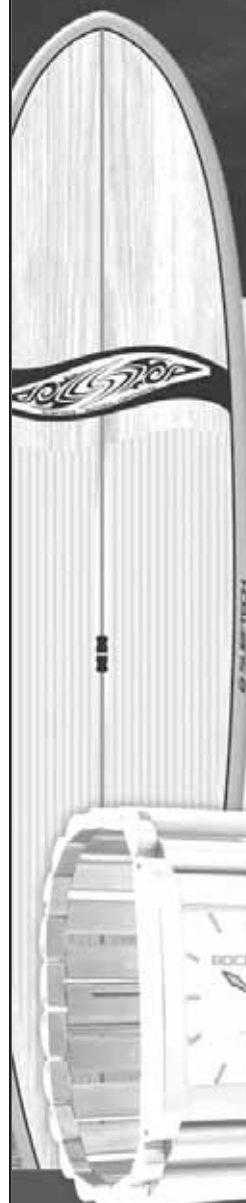
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HELP*continued from page 8*

future generations in better condition than we found it. And, that's saying something in the 21st Century. So many times we hear that we are leaving problems for the next generation to solve. But right here at Simonton Lake we can make a difference. We can keep this place a haven of relaxation and recreation for ourselves, for our grandchildren and beyond. What a great legacy!

In the end what good can a person say that he or she has done? We want to look out at the lake and see that we have stood together with our neighbors to protect, preserve and enhance the lake we love. Think back to last time you listened to your children or grandchildren playing in the water. Won't you help to keep our lake a place of beauty for our children and grandchildren? ■

What a Great Idea for the Lake!

One of our readers forwarded this picture to us. The full details can be found at the etsy website.



Just Where Is Our State Line?

Posted by Amanda Gray, South Bend Tribune

It was 1827 when Eleazer Kendrick drove wooden stakes into the ground, marking the 105-mile boundary between Indiana and Michigan.

Michigan was headed for statehood, and Indiana leadership would allow it only if the state line was drawn in such a way that Indiana had port access — moving the existing line, drawn in 1817, 10 miles north. And today, nearly two centuries later, Kendrick's survey is still the only government-recognized line between Indiana and Michigan, though many of the wooden stakes have long since rotted away, according to Indiana's St. Joseph County surveyor John McNamara.

That's why surveyors from five Indiana counties — LaPorte, St. Joseph, Elkhart, LaGrange and Steuben — have come together with surveyors from Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph, Branch and Hillsdale counties in Michigan to begin the process of resurveying and permanently marking the boundary with cement and metal monuments — for once and for all, McNamara said.

They have until July 2018 to get the surveying done and report completed, and \$400,000 for the next two years to fund the work, according to the legislation.

The Indiana-Michigan Boundary Line Commission met for the first time last month after years of legislative work in Indiana and Michigan to establish the group. Members began discussions on how the surveying process would go, and will continue them through the summer.

Ultimately the commission members settled on drafting a request for quotes for survey work from Mile 0 — starting at Lake Michigan — to Mile 20, which is somewhere around Tamarack Road in St. Joseph County, Ind., McNamara said.

The commission considered putting the entire 105-mile line in one bid, but decided against it. "I like five sections, because of the five counties on either side," said Rex Pranger, surveyor for LaGrange County. The line is roughly observed in the right place now, McNamara said, but it isn't definitive and could be a couple of feet off here or there. The original wooden stakes — or sometimes plow points, wagon axles or clay pots filled with stones — have often been lost to time.

Prior to the 2009 legislation that sparked this commission, volunteer groups of surveyors would hunt for the equivalent of a needle in a haystack, searching for these remnants so they could re-establish the mile markers, McNamara said. They've found at least four, but nowhere near what is needed for the entire line.

The uncertainty could lead to problems when it comes to assessments and taxes.

"I was asked by a judge once to testify in a court case where someone was shot on State Line Road," McNamara said. "I had to testify on what side of the state line he was shot on."

That situation was pretty clear, he said, but having a concrete answer is the goal of the commission. Should residents be concerned? McNamara said no, the commission doesn't intend to change people's state of residence.

"We're not going to tell someone that you live in Michigan when you live in Indiana," McNamara said. ■



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Life on the Lake

DOC'S YARD ART

-by Amy Matherly

Early in June when the threat of frost was finally gone, (I'm not sure if that's correct. It was 45 degrees outside last night!) the doctor who lives at my house decided some grass needed to be planted. We've got a tree in our road-side lawn that really cuts off the sunlight and the roots have worked themselves to the top of the soil. Over the years we have tried various things to get the grass to grow with limited success. We trimmed up the lower branches of the tree last year. Twice we added nice soil to counteract the roots and reseeded. But, we've still got patches with no grass.

That doctor of mine is pretty picky about the lawn and he went in to attack mode. New grass seed was purchased, the soil was prepared, and the grass carefully, oh, so carefully sown. We went on a strict schedule of watering. Every 4 hours that area was dampened to help that grass grow. I was waiting to be put on duty for the 2 a.m. watering but the doctor said we could skip that one. Maybe the grass sleeps at night. I didn't ask. After all, he's the doctor.

Well, the grass did finally come up, a little. But, Martin's Pet and Garden was due to visit us for the weed control application and the doctor did not want weed killer put on the seeded area of the lawn. He stopped by the store and the manager told him to mark the area of the lawn that should be avoided.

A year ago we had an electronic fence put in for our dog and the company marked the underground fence with small flags. We saved those flags. (Again, not sure why, but I didn't think I would ask.) So, Doc, as the neighbors call him, placed a small flag in the middle of each little patch of grass seed. This resulted in a cluster of about 30 little flags in the back one third of our yard, with a few single flags here and there on both sides of the driveway. It looked odd. But, seeding the lawn is not my department.

Unbeknownst to the doctor and me our neighbors were befuddled. There was quite a discussion up and down the street on exactly what those flags were all about. Finally, our neighbors and good friends, Brud and ElDonna Thorpe walked across the street as I was working in the lawn to ask.

"I don't mean to be nosy," ElDonna said, "But, what is



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Doc doing with those flags in your yard?" I explained.

Then, Brud said, "You know there's been a lot of theories going on along the street here. One guy told me that if that was Doc's marks for a new sprinkling system, that it was all wrong."

Other theories along the lake included a dog run, a new field system, a landing pattern for a drone and a complicated landscape plan. Everyone who walked by and looked at the flags had a theory and no one thought the placement of the flags was a very good plan.

The discouraging thing was that after all that, the guy who applied the weed killer ignored the flags and did the whole yard....Until next time. ■

Join the Simonton Lake Area Homeowner's Association TODAY

Your membership brings you

- Four issues of "Simonton Says"
- Maintenance of the boat launch
- Placement of Buoys
- The Annual Hog Roast, Luminary Night, the Annual Lake Garage Sale
- Special Projects like the Wier and the Ecozone
- Power in Numbers when we deal with the county and state
- Power in Numbers when we apply for grant money
- Additional funding for the 4th of July fireworks

Fill out and mail the membership form in the newsletter.

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Invasive Weeds - A Threat to Our Lake

-by staff writer

In 2011 a Water Quality study was done on Simonton Lake. While Simonton had only minimum evidence of invasive weeds, we need to be watchful. Weeds in the lake grow like weeds in your lawn. They pop up seemingly overnight and thrive even when the "good" plants fail. One of the most invasive is Eurasian watermilfoil. A couple of summers ago large areas of the upper St. Joe River was covered with mats of this weed.

Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) is an exotic aquatic plant that is spread microscopically through boats, buckets, boat trailers, jet skis. This plant forms dense mats across the surface of the water crowding out native species of aquatic vegetation. For a picture of milfoil you can visit <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/invasives/fact.milfoil.htm>. The earliest detection of Milfoil in our lake would take immediate action to stop its invasion.

Milfoil has little, if any, environmental value. Milfoil covers the water surface preventing sun from reaching any aquatic life. Can you imagine fishing, boating or swimming in water covered with Milfoil? Management options are available to control this invasive plant, should we have a problem. One option is biological control such as the introduction of fish, insects or swans to control milfoil. This is the good news for our resident swans. One pair of swans can maintain an acre of shoreline weed-free.

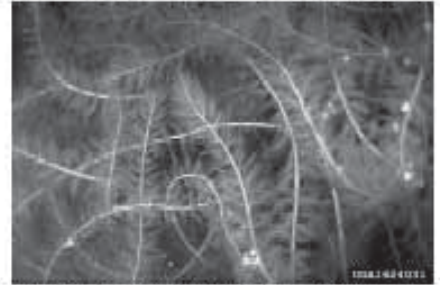


Photo: Above Fan, University of Florida, www.forestryimages.com

If you identify milfoil you MUST pull the plant up by the roots. Cutting the plant encourages growth. Pulling the weed without the roots just means it will return (Managing Aquatic Plant in Indiana Lakes prepared by the Division of Soil Conservation, Indiana Department of Natural Resources and Department of Botany & Plant Pathology, Purdue University).

Please report any sightings of milfoil to the Lake Environment committee at www.simontonlake.org. ■

Demo Truck • July 11 & 12
North End Cycle • 2426 Cassopolis Street, Elkhart

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Simonton Lake Preservation Trust

Is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

For more information see page 18.



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Wildlife in our Backyard

The Ugly Duckling (Swan) at Simonton Lake

Linda Jimison of Twilight Drive was delighted to see a family of swans swim up their channel but were shocked when the mother abandoned one of her four babies in their yard. Linda attempted to reintroduce the baby to the mother while others distracted daddy with some swan appropriate treats, but mama would have nothing to do with her “ugly duckling (swan)” Linda took in the poor little creature but he or she was quite the little pooper. So after a short while he/she was taken to a special care facility in Bristol.

Swans are known in the animal kingdom as good parents and mate for life. Wildlife experts tell us that mama swan knew something about that particular baby’s health and left him behind for that reason.

Wildlife in our Backyard

After the Simonton Lake meeting, Stacy Baskerville of North Shore Drive, noticed a car stopped in the street when she came home. The driver was out of the car and in her headlights was a big snapping turtle. Stacy called her husband, Kent, who tried to help it cross the street so it would not get run over. The turtle didn’t respond to the gentle prodding and instead stuck out his head in a menacing sort of way which made the bystanders back off immediately. Stacy however did get some great pictures.

Worried that the turtle would surely be hit by a motorist Kent went to his garage and got a wide shovel, picked up the turtle and laid him down gently on the other side of the road. The turtle was not measured but you can see in the picture that he is large enough that he hangs over the edges of the shovel.



Maria Hopman, “Simonton Says” photographer, contacted Tim Cataldo at the Elkhart Environmental Center. He explained that it was probably a **common snapping turtle**, and she was probably searching for a place to lay eggs. If you do come across a snapper in the street, do not attempt to pick it up to move it out of traffic! It can bend its head back and bite you. If you do pick it up, place your hands towards the rear of the turtle and grasp it by the shell above the rear legs. Do not pick it up by the tail as this can harm the turtle’s vertebrae. Also, place the turtle in the same direction that it was going, or it will just turn around and try to continue on its original course.



The carp were getting “frisky” in the lake, recently. You could hear all the splashing in the water (photo below taken by Maria Hopman). ■



Cindy Leslie sent in a picture of a **turtle** nesting in the North Shore Landings neighborhood just a half mile from the site of the Baskerville turtle. Cindy actually measured this turtle at 14 inches long and 12 inches wide.

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Simonton Lake Preservation Trust Update

The members of the Trust board would like to thank all those lake neighbors who helped with or attended the dinner prior to the Lake Association General Meeting. We got positive comments and hope to host the meal again next year.

We continue to work with the Lake Association on raising funds for the dredging project. The Trust, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, holds donated funds and pays the bills for the project. Because of our non-profit status all donations are tax deductible.

Your donations should be mailed to:

Simonton Lake Preservation Trust, Box 469, Elkhart, Indiana 46515

Questions should be directed to Ryan Harding at rharding@mwe.com, John Rose at johnrose11@comcast.net or Amy Matherly at ramatherly@gmail.com

After the dredging project, the Trust will continue to exist and pursue other efforts to preserve, protect and enhance the lake watershed.

Shaklee Fund Raiser Benefits the Trust

The Simonton Lake Preservation Trust is continuing to raise funds for the dredging project through our Shaklee Fund Raiser. Shaklee has cleaning products, beauty/personal care products and nutrition products. All of the products are toxin free. So, when you use them nothing will be harmful to you or the environment. Each month the profit from the sales goes directly to the Trust for the dredging project. It's an easy way

to raise money. We all have to buy cleaning products. Why not try the Shaklee products and give to the Trust at the same time.

You can purchase from the website www.simontonlake.myshaklee.com at retail or join the Buying Club for \$19.95 and get a 15% discount. There is an online catalog posted there also. Click on the shopping button to order. For the month of July you can get a FREE buying club and a FREE product with a small order. Call Sue at 266-9996 to see if your order qualifies.

Estate Planning with the Simonton Lake Preservation Trust

If you would like to include Simonton Lake in your estate plan the Trust can be of help. Created in 2013 the Simonton Lake Preservation Trust is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Because of this status none of your gift will be spent on taxes.

You may specify how your gift is to be used. The list might include such things as beautification, land purchases, water purity, safety programs, environmental efforts or scholarships.

What kinds of gifts can you leave to the trust?

- A bequest through a will or trust
- A charitable life income plan or annuity
- A gift of property
- A gift of life insurance
- A retirement plan asset

It is the mission of the Trust to "Preserve, protect and enhance the Simonton Lake area watershed for present and future generations."

Your gift will help us in this mission. What a great legacy!

For more information contact: Ryan Harding, Trust President and lawyer at rharding@mwe.com ■



Simonton Lake Preservation Trust

Is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

Donations to the trust are tax-deductible

And can be made by mail at:

**Simonton Lake Preservation Trust
PO Box 469
Elkhart, Indiana 46515**

For more information call or e-mail: **Ryan Harding**, president and lawyer for the Trust, rwharding@mwe.com

John Rose, treasurer, johnrose11@comcast.net

Amy Matherly, secretary, ramatherly@gmail.com

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Your membership brings you

- Four issues of "Simonton Says"
- Maintenance of the boat launch
- Placement of Buoys
- The Annual Hog Roast, Luminary Night, the Annual Lake Garage Sale
- Special Projects like the Wier and the Ecozone
- Power in Numbers when we deal with the county and state
- Power in Numbers when we apply for grant money Additional funding for the 4th of July fireworks

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Frozen Simonton Lake Transforms into 13-Hole Golf Course



John Wright

-Photo reprinted from The Elkhart Truth, February 2, 2014



-Photo reprinted from The Elkhart Truth, February 2, 2014

Jim Troyer, Ft. Myers, Fla
played the round in shorts



Ice Golf Tourney on Simonton Lake was held Saturday, February 1st, 2014. Over 100 golfers played the 18-hole tournament with the proceeds going to the Simonton Lake Sportsmen's Club.



Lake resident Robbie Stockman, lake Resident Steve Snyder, Joe Greenlee, lake Resident Brian Shinnabarger



Gary Wetzel

-Photo reprinted from The Elkhart Truth, February 2, 2014

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Kayak Crisis Averted on Simonton Lake

Five Easy Tips Can Prevent Future Accidents

-by Andrea Stutsman

Late on the afternoon of May 30, a Lake Drive resident enjoyed the good fortune of finding himself in the right place at the right time.

My neighbor's timely arrival home on a Friday afternoon helped to prevent a serious accident for two kayakers.

In an instant, the light-hearted conversation he heard from the couple changed to one of concern and panic. The male kayaker had rolled his kayak and become extremely fatigued in the water. When he began to have trouble breathing, my neighbor sprang to action.

He met the couple at their location, provided a flotation device to the struggling swimmer and delivered the couple safely to the shore. Thankfully, a horrible tragedy was averted.

For the remainder of the boating season and future ones, kayakers--both novice and veteran--can significantly reduce the potential for accidents by taking a few simple precautions.

Let's work together to enhance everyone's safety and enjoyment of kayaking on Simonton Lake.

If You Fall, Get Back In

Once a kayak has tipped, re-entry can be tricky business. Practice this approach for the greatest success:

1. Slide your belly across the boat
2. Follow with your bottom
3. Finally, re-insert your legs

More information on solo and assisted re-entry techniques are available from the ACA (American Canoe Association), an organization serving

canoe, kayak, raft and other paddling publics. Visit www.americancanoe.org.



Get Your Gear...and Use It

Wear your life jacket fastened and snug; a stowed life jacket could prove useless in an emergency.

On rough and treacherous waters such as a rocky river bed, also consider wearing a helmet.

Pack plenty of drinking water too; kayaking is hard work and great exercise.

Be Smart, Stay Alert

First and foremost, plan an outing that is a suitable length and skill level for all participants. Conditions on Simonton Lake or another local waterway can change drastically, and everyone should be adequately prepared.

Take note of any shifts in the weather like fog or precipitation, and respond quickly.

Also, observe the travel patterns of boat traffic and any posted safety warnings.

Prepare for a Cold Snap

There's no doubt that summer is in full effect, but, the brisk weather of autumn will certainly return.

As cooler days approach, monitor the air and water temperature.

According to the U.S. Coast Guard, if either is less than 60 degrees Fahrenheit, wearing fleece layers or a dry suit

is recommended to prevent cold water shock.

So, on the lake, windy days and falling leaves just mean a few more layers and lots more enjoyment.

Play it Safe

Explore available water safety, CPR and first aid courses; the American Cross provides an online course

focused specifically on kayak and canoe safety. The Elkhart County chapter also can be reached at 293-6519 for local course offerings. ■

Life Jackets All are Not Alike

Follow these simple steps to select a safe and well-fitting life jacket:

- Choose the right type of jacket for kayaking and other water activities
- Ensure that the jacket's weight limits meet the needs of the intended user
- Select a U.S. Coast Guard-approved jacket, which is stamped as such
- Confirm that all buckles, straps and zippers function properly; replace any jacket with torn fabric or loose straps
- Become comfortable wearing the jacket for the intended activity

Source: American Red Cross ■

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NOT JUST ANY SATURDAY IN JULY....

-by Bob Meyers

The Simonton Lake Sportsmen's Club is presenting a spectacular Saturday in July for the residents of Simonton Lake.

The annual Poker Run will take place on the lake Saturday, July 5. Chairman Bill Leighton and his committee have planned a day of terrific fun and added new prizes.

The game will consist of \$5, \$10, and \$20 poker hands. Besides the cash prizes awarded for the best poker hands, five people who spend at least \$50 on poker hands will win Jägermeister baskets. The names of all who spend at least \$50 will be placed in a canister, five of those names will be pulled and those lucky five will be recipients of the baskets that include Jägermeister, one of the most popular of all fruit flavored liqueurs in the world as well as other great items. Baskets will be on display at both locations where hands will be sold.

Poker hands will be sold at Pete's and Flippin' Cow the following days and times:

Wednesday, July 2, 5pm-9pm
Thursday, July 3, 5pm-9pm
Friday, July 4, 5pm-9pm
Saturday, July 5, 8am-noon

All other information on the card pick up points and tent for envelope

See **EVENTS**/pg.25



Simonton Lake Sportsmen's Club Youth Fishing Contest Trophy Winners June 14, 2014

<i>Front Row:</i>		
Ian Hanson	4-7 Boy	1st Place
Liliyana Colon	4-7 Girl	2nd Place
Lilly Bachman	4-7 Girl	1st Place
Ethan Pontius	4-7 Boy	2nd Place
<i>Second Row:</i>		
Grant Brekke	8-11 Boy	3rd Place
Brayden Hanson	4-7 Boy	3rd Place
Madison Law	12-14 Girl	2nd Place
Jaelei Wrigley	8-11 Girl	1st Place
Brandt Wrigley	8-11 Boy	2nd Place
<i>Back Row:</i>		
Dylan Eaton	8-11 Boy	1st Place
Keegan Thursby	12-14 Girl	1st Place
Nathan Brekke	12-14 Boy	2nd Place
Hailey Mullet	12-14 Girl	3rd Place
Chance Shank	12-14 Boy	3rd Place
<i>Largest Fish</i>		
Brayden Hanson	4-7 Boy	13½" Bass

PHOTOS on pg.25

Youth Fishing Contest Photos



Lilly Bachman gets a little help from Grandma Patty.



Above: Jack Tucker giving some fishing tips to Jaelie Wrigley.

Left: Lilly Colon all dressed up and ready to fish

Below: John Lendman with grandson Nicholas Hardy



Photos by Maria Hopman

EVENTS

continued from page 24

opening will be available at the hand sale locations during sale times. The Poker Run happens rain, shine, snow, ice, sandstorm, tsunami or hurricane. Bill and crew will be offering food and fun at the tent so you don't want to miss this fantastic annual event.

There are a number of happenings in this country that we remember and think about when we consider what has made the United States the great country it has become. **Three come to mind:** We remember the Revolutionary War. We remember the formation of our government of the people, by the people, for the people. And we remember the fireworks display, honoring the birth of our nation, at Simonton Lake.

The fireworks will begin lighting the sky shortly after the sun sets behind those trees in the west on July 5. So gather your family and friends, place those lawn chairs at the seawall and be entertained by the most spectacular fireworks display in the area.

If the fireworks have to be postponed because of weather conditions, the planned "rain date" is Sunday, July 6.

You just endured possibly the worst winter of your lifetime. Spring seemed to begin late, and summer is finally here. So take advantage of the terrific weather. Celebrate the birth of our great nation all weekend, the 4th

through the 6th and build new memories that will live for years to come. And as for the 5th, this is not just any Saturday in July, this is THE Saturday in July.....See you on the lake. ■



Emalina and Brayden Bachman with dad Johnny. Their grandparents are John and Patti of Aqua Drive.

Committee Reports

Newsletter & Website Committee

Our committee welcomes seven new members: Andrea Stutsman, Sandy Freet, Delores Troyer, Taylor Steed, Kathy Flinn, Deb Weaver, and Linda Jimison!

Kay and Dick Rhodes have sold their home and moved away from the lake. That has left us with many roles to fill. Thank you to Dick and Kay for the fantastic work you have done for us and the Association for the last seven years! Kay's designing and work on *Simonton Says* and our website along with Dick's expertise working to bring more than 20 advertisers has set a high standard for us to follow.

We are transitioning with Lou Putnam taking over the newsletter layout and Linda Jimison taking over our website responsibilities. Jon Hart will be taking over the advertising responsibilities which Dick handled.

We are still looking for someone to oversee the responsibilities of the committee as committee chairperson. This person does not have to write articles, do any computer design work but pull together and oversee the committee from issue to issue. Right now we have two volunteers doing this temporarily but need to step away due to other SLAHA responsibilities.

Membership Committee

Lake Association Garage Sale --a Big Success

The first of what we hope will be an annual garage sale was a great success. There were about 35 garage sales around the lake. We had reports of good sales and lots of shoppers all day long. **If you still have a garage sale sign, please return**

it to Amy Matherly on North Shore or Angie Fisher on Blue Ribbon. We'll re-use the signs next year. A big thanks to Angie for running this event.

We will choose a date that can be advertised in our February issue so that you can plan ahead. We have discussed running a chicken barbecue on Garage Sale Day 2015. More on that later.

Luminary Night



Photo by Andrea Stutsman

Luminary night, held on Sunday of the Memorial Day weekend was a good first start. Not everyone participated but those who did enjoyed the event. Riding around the lake, the effect of the luminaries was awesome.

Next year we hope to do this again and we are wondering if some enterprising young person at the lake would like to make luminaries and sell them. Contact us if your son or daughter is interested.

Hog Roast set for September 27th

The Annual **"I Survived the Summer" Hog Roast** will be held on September 27 at the Sportsmen's Club at 6:00.

- If your last name begins with the letters A-L bring a side dish.

- If your last name begins with the letters M-Z bring a salad or dessert.

We will have water but you may bring your own beverages of choice. Tickets will be available sometime in August from members of the Membership Committee or can be purchased at the door. ■

Simonton Lake Calendars for 2015

If you enjoyed your lake calendar for 2014, you'll want to plan to purchase the Lake Calendar for 2015. We need all of you lake photographers to send in your best pictures to: ramatherly@gmail.com or sjkward@comcast.net. Calendars will go on sale at the Hog Roast on September 27th for \$15.00. The supply is limited. ■

Are You A History Buff?

You can now access a number of interesting articles of history in Elkhart County now by going to (elkhartcountyhistory.org). When you go to their website click on "Elkhart County History Online". Here you will find a growing number of interesting articles and pictures such as "The Underground Railroad in Elkhart County", "River Ports of Elkhart County" (river boat traffic on the St. Joseph River), and "Pierre Moran and the Formation of Elkhart". Of course, there is much more information to find at the Elkhart County Historical Society and Museum in Bristol. ■

Minutes from SLAHA General meeting held 5/21/14

A great meal was enjoyed compliments of the Simonton Lake Preservation Trust committee. Committee reports were made. As part of the **Environment** report, Dave Foutz and Bob Evans reported on the progress of the weir. In 2014 borings were done around the site of the proposed weir. DNR has agreed to pay 50 % of the cost of the project, the County has agreed to pay 25% and 25% will be paid by drainage funds which has already been collected in our taxes. We are waiting on the approval of the Army Corp of Engineers before this project can go to bids. We are optimistic that the project could begin in late fall or winter 2014/early 2015.

Lake Safety-Paul Wilson

Keeping our landing clean is a priority. The DNR has recognized the efforts and thus decided to make the improvements that were made. Chris Toles is our established crime reporter and is in direct contact with the Sheriff's Department.

Membership/Outreach- Amy Matherly

Ken and Sue Ward share as chairs of the committee with Amy. The Garage Sale was a great success! Thank you Angie Fisher for organizing this event. Signs were purchased and posted for this event. This hopefully will be an annual event. Members will be able to participate free and a fee will be charged for non-members next year. Luminaries lined many shorelines around the lake on Sunday, May 25. Beautiful and will be continued next year. Lake calendars will be available at the Hog Roast, Sept. 27 which will be held at SLSC.

Newsletter-Carole Foutz

Amy Matherly and Carole coordinate the newsletter committee. Kay and Dick Rhodes are stepping down as Newsletter layout/chair and advertising respectively. If you have not signed up to receive notifications via our website: simonton-lake.org; go online and sign up to receive articles, updates and notifications. Volunteers are needed to fill many slots and help with the committee in many areas. All skill levels are needed we just need your willingness and interest to keep this great newsletter and website going as it is a great asset to our lake!

Environmental committee- John Lendman

John had a map of our lake and displayed for all to see. January the application for a LARE grant was prepared and submitted. In March we received the \$200,000 grant! We are hoping to use hydraulic dredging using a barge set up, and emptying the sediment into a local field/property. It is very possible that we could begin this project in Fall/2014. The different phases of the project were pointed out on the map.

Treasurer's Report-Erin Harding

Erin reported that we have 3 sources of income for the association: dues 190 members; monies for the fireworks; advertisers in our newsletter. A treasurer's report was available for all to see.

Final thoughts: Dredging is an investment. It was calculated that if 400 lake families contributed \$500 it would cover the expense of the dredging. Property owners should look at this as an investment of their own property and not an expense. Donations are tax deductible. Membership to SLAHA is mandatory so that as we apply for more grants, we have strength and show support in numbers. ■

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MESSAGE BOARD



Annual Lake Association Hog Roast September 27th Sportsmen's Club Time: 6:00 pm

If your last name begins with letters A-L Bring a side dish
If your last name begins with letters M-Z bring a dessert or salad
Bring your own beverages. Join us as we celebrate another wonderful summer at the lake.

Boat Raffle Postponed

Due to some unforeseen charity gaming license issues, the Boat Raffle, announced at the SLAHA General Meeting in May has been postponed. The Simonton Lake Preservation Trust is working with the Indiana State Gaming Commission to resolve these issues.

Lake Calendar 2015

On sale at the Lake Association Hog Roast September 27th. \$15.00 per calendar. Supplies limited.

WANTED-Administrative Assistant

The Simonton Lake Area Homeowners' Association is seeking a person to be an administrative assistant to the Treasurer of the Association. We are in a transition period and at this time the position involves carrying out duties directed by the Treasurer. It could be temporary or possibly lead to a more permanent position. This person will not need to be knowledgeable in accounting but will require some working knowledge of the computer and printer. If you are interested in volunteering for this job to help SLAHA, please contact Ginny Bellamy at 574-262-3766 or lgbellamy@msn.com.

SLAHA Board Position Vacancy

Erin Harding, treasurer of the board, has resigned. The nominating committee: Sue Ward, Jack Tucker, Paul Wilson and John Rose, is accepting nominations or volunteers for the board. Erin has served 7 years on the board as our treasurer, worked on the Membership Committee, and also served to offer legal advice for SLAHA. Thank you Erin for your hard work and commitment to Simonton Lake.

Let us know of new neighbors on your street so that we can deliver a Lake Association New Neighbor bag. Contact Sue Ward at sjkward@comcast.net



Simonton Lake Preservation Trust

Is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

For more information see page 18.

Join the Simonton Lake Area Homeowner's Association TODAY

Your membership brings you

- Four issues of "Simonton Says"
- Maintenance of the boat launch
- Placement of Buoys
- The Annual Hog Roast, Luminary Night, the Annual Lake Garage Sale
- Special Projects like the Wier and the Ecozone
- Power in Numbers when we deal with the county and state
- Power in Numbers when we apply for grant money Additional funding for the 4th of July fireworks

Fill out and mail the membership form in the newsletter.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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: by owner. Luxury condo in Cabo San Lucas. One bedroom, one bath. Furnished. Ocean Views. \$330,000. Call Maria at 361-9919



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

Happy Anniversary!

- 7/12 Jenny & Nathan Montiel
Daughter of Don & Carol Bradshaw
- 7/12 Kelly & Greg Shewmaker
Ryan & Amy Matherly's Daughter
- 7/17 Dave & Shirl Adams
- 7/19 Ryan & Erin Harding
- 7/20 Derek & Isabelle Sapakowski
- 8/1 Courtney & Patrick Qualls
Doug & Myra Cors' Daughter
- 8/6 Bob & Lou Putnam
- 8/18 Sue & Ron Taylor
- 8/19 Barb & Don Rospopo
- 8/25 Larry & Ginny Bellamy
- 8/28 Betty (BJ) & Dave Gawthrop
- 8/29 Kristin & Mike Newkirk
Daughter of Carole & Dave Foutz
- 9/1 Connie & Jon Hart
- 9/10 Pat & John Brown
- 9/12 Cam & Ab Saleh
Daughter of Susie & Bill Broderick
- 9/22 Pam & Richard Zinsmeister

We wish you a Happy Birthday!

- 7/1 Micah David Obendorf
Grandparents Dave & Tammy Obendorf
- 7/1 Susie Broderick
- 7/2 Elliot Reed Harding
Son of Ryan & Erin Harding
- 7/2 Katy Barhydt
Daughter of Jim Ulery
- 7/6 Gia Matherly
Granddaughter of Ryan & Amy Matherly
- 7/9 Cale Ulery
- 7/18 Molly Grace Kessler
Granddaughter of Van & Cathy Kessler
- 7/19 Cam Snyder
- 7/24 Emmett Riley Harding
Son of Ryan & Erin Harding
- 7/29 Leighla Kay Winchester
Granddaughter of Vaughn & Cindy Nickell
- 8/4 Ginny Bellamy
- 8/5 Jaxon Patrick Kern
- 8/9 Buck Ulery
- 8/19 Cindy Nickell
- 8/19 Amy Matherly
- 8/23 Henry William Saleh
Grandparents Bill & Susie Broderick
- 8/24 Sloan Cooper
Grandparents Randy & Wendy Cooper
- 8/26 Erin Hoffman Harding
- 8/31 Adam Moore
Grandson of Theresa Maier
- 9/3 Diane Marlow
- 9/12 Lincoln McIntire
*Grandson of Cam & Sue Snyder,
Brad & Pam McIntire*
- 9/8 Lois Sellers
- 9/11 Tim Taylor
- 9/14 Wyatt Samuel Skipper
Grandson of Bufford & Becky Skipper



Guess Who's 90 this summer?

The young fighter pilot pictured here will turn the big 9-0 this summer. This picture, taken in 1945, shows him as a 20 year old 2nd Lt. He flew a B-24-J Liberator Bomber for the 15th Air Force, Italy, 465th Bomb Group, 782nd Squadron. That's all the hints you are going to get. HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Joe Arredondo is celebrating his 75th birthday on July 5. His children are giving him a party in Chicago July 12. Joe and Esther will also be celebrating their 25th anniversary on July 16th. They'll be cruising on.....Simonton Lake.

Treasurer's Corner

Below is a brief financial update on the association:

**Simonton Lake Area Homeowners' Association, Inc.
January 1, 2014 – June 2, 2014 (CASH Basis Accounting)**

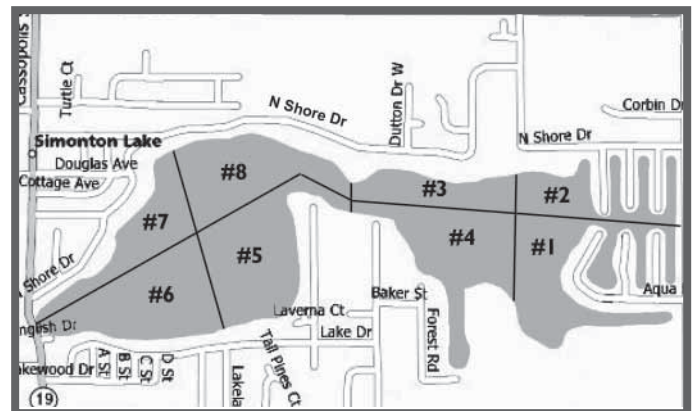
ITEM	SUBTOTAL	TOTAL
Advertising	\$275.00	
Fireworks Donations	3,670.00	
Other Events (e.g., Hog Roast)		
LARE Grant from State of IN	7,500	
Membership Dues	4,560.00	
Sales (T-shirts, Calendars)		
Other (e.g., interest income)	5.68	
TOTAL INCOME		\$16,010.68
Board of Directors (e.g., Hog roast, general meeting expenses, insurance)	766.28	
Fireworks Transfer to Sportsmen's Club	3,670.00	
Lake Environment	8,496.87	
Lake Safety		
Membership/Outreach	380.51	
Newsletter / Website	1,939.06	
TOTAL EXPENSES		\$15,252.72
NET POSITION AS OF 6/2/1014		\$757.96

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

It is not too late to join the association and support the fireworks! Please fill out the membership form contained in this newsletter. Thank you for your support of our association through your membership – this support allows us to advance the interests of our lake!

Area Representatives
-your delegates for neighborhood concerns

1. Van Kessler	262-1685
2. Ann and Jerry Broderick	264-1331
John 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	264-7792

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 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:
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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

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New Arrivals

Kelly (Matherly) and Greg Shewmaker are the proud parents of **Finley Allen Shewmaker**. Finley came into the world on April 19 at 9 lbs. 12 ounces! Grandparents are **Kathy and Terry Shewmaker** (Lake Dr.) and **Amy and Ryan Matherly** (North Shore Dr.). Great-Grandmother is **Doris Matherly**. Finley has already visited the lake and enjoyed a pontoon boat ride.



Cody and Michelle Skipper, son of **Bufford and Becky Skipper** just had a son, **Liam Trevor**, born May 28th, 2014. He was 6lbs and 15oz, 19" long.

New neighbors



Erin and Mark Lucas were married on June 7th. Erin and Mark bought the Todd home on Lake Drive.

Transplants from North Shore to Lake Drive, **Steve Wogoman and De-lores Troyer**, are getting married this summer. They have been busy painting the new house and are selling two homes on North Shore. We'll publish the wedding pictures as soon as we get them.

Stephanie and Craig Miller are moving from Cottage to North Shore Drive. Also on the move are daughter Rylee and the dogs Molly and Lizzie. The Millers have lived near the lake for 15 years.

Graduates

Blake Kramer, son of **Ed and Gina Kramer** (Lake Drive) graduated from Elkhart Memorial High School with the class of 2014.

Austin King, son of **Tim and Kelly King** and grandson of **Shaylor King** has graduated from Elkhart Memorial High School with the class of 2014. He was the class president and had a perfect 4.0 GPA. He is the water polo club president and co-founder. His extra-curricular activities includes National Honor Society and student government vice-president. He was captain of the swim team. This fall he will continue is education at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts majoring in Economics or Computer science. We wish him well.

Haley King, daughter of **Tim and Kelly King** and granddaughter of **Shaylor King** just finished her third year in college at Colorado State University where she is double majoring in bio-medical engineering and mechanical engineering. She has been accepted for a research position for the fall.

Tracy Kelsey, daughter of **Bob and Janet Kelsey** (Lake Drive) has graduated from Indiana University and will be going to continue her education at Tufts University School of Dentistry. Congratulations.

Farewells

Our sympathies go to **Dan Brekke** (North Shore Dr.) and family on the loss of Dan's grandmother **Ruth Brentlinger**. Mrs. Brentlinger was 94 years old. She attended Bowling Green State University and married Donald Brentlinger on June 30, 1940.



She was the secretary of the Elkhart District of the United Methodist Church for 11 years. After retirement she volunteered at Oaklawn Psychiatric Center and in the office at Trinity United Methodist Church where she was a member and played in the handbell choir. Ruth was a lifetime member of Bashor Home Auxiliary.

Mary "Henrietta" Wenger (The Hen) passed away on Friday, May 23 just two days shy of her 94th birthday. She and her husband Galen lived on North Shore Drive for many years. Henrietta and Galen had two daughters, Sally (Jim) Lindsey of Elkhart and Mary (Martin) Bell of Louisville, Ky. She had four grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. She worked for over 20 years as a pre-school teacher at First Presbyterian and later at Trinity United Methodist. Henrietta was pictured on the cover of the September 2013 "Simonton Says" on a wave runner. Her grandson Jamie took her on a "spin" around the lake. We should all be so fortunate to do this when we are in our 90's. She will be greatly missed.



Carter Elliott, 87, of North Shore Drive, passed away on Thursday, April 24. He was born on Nov. 8, 1926 in Elkhart to the late Harvey B and Ethel V (Schrock) Elliott

His wife Mary "Betty" Elliott preceded him in death as did his son Lee Elliott and step-son Dr. John Bates. He is survived by two stepsons, five stepdaughters, 20 step-grandchildren and 17 step-great-grandchildren.



Carter was a 1945 graduate of Elkhart High School, Elkhart Business University and Woodbury College where he received a degree in advertising.

Carter served as a medic in the U.S. Army from 1945 to 1946. He founded the Carter Secretarial School and remained owner and manager until 1971. Carter was owner of Elliott

Personnel Services and founded Elliott Advertising. He will be remembered for his quick wit, intellect and kindness and generosity to all who knew him.

Elizabeth Jane (Comer) Abel, 94, has passed away. She was a 1937 graduate of Elkhart High School. On June 28, 1940, she married the late John Richard Abel. Together, John and Elizabeth owned and managed North Side Tool and Engineering in Elkhart until their retirement in 1992.

Elizabeth is survived by two children, Marilyn (Wayne) Peavy and Steve (Jill) Abel.



Elizabeth was a longtime member of Albright United Methodist Church, which was reorganized in 1988, emerging as New Hope United Methodist, where she belonged. In honor of her 90th birthday, the Elizabeth Abel Food Pantry was established through the generous donations of family and friends. The pantry was dedicated in 2009. Outside of her New Hope home, Elizabeth enjoyed her fitness group at Elkhart YMCA for over 40 years. She was a member of Red Hat Society and Purdue Extension Homemaker's Club.