



Simonton Says...

January 2015
Volume 8, Issue 1

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.

Simonton Lake's early winter morning



photo by Leanne Brekke

Update on the Dredging Project

2014 was a busy year for our association. The whole year has been hurry up and wait, but we are making progress. Below is a recap and current status for our project.

First, John Lendman has lead our environment committee this past 2014 year focusing primarily on raising funds to complete the dredging project. This has been a difficult task, and John has done well leading this effort. John announced he is stepping down as the environmental chair at the end of 2014. John was elected president of the Sportsman's Club for 2015. We thank John for his volunteerism and desire to help our community be a better place. Thank you John!

Until the Association can find a person to head the environment committee, John Rose, SLAHA board liaison person, will head this committee. John Rose is the Association's VP and has been an active SLAHA board member since the Association's inception in 2008. John Rose is also the Treasurer of the Simonton Lake Preservation Trust. Anyone interested in chairing the environment committee should contact John or any SLAHA board member. *continued on pg. 5*

Lake Dredging Project Making Progress

See page 13 to understand how you can join the project.



Above photo by: Diane Marlow

Photo Below by: Maralee Macumber



*Taste of
Another Era.....*

SEE YOU MARCH 16TH!

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574-262-3105
VLNickell@gmail.com

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574-264-2233
zipi@choiceonemail.com

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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

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

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

Standing Committees

Membership: Ken & Sue Ward
sckjward@comcast.net
• New Neighbors
• Lake Events

Newsletter: Amy Matherly
ramatherly@gmail.com
• Submit information or pictures
• To become an advertiser contact Jon Hart at jkhadman@comcast.net

Environmental: John Rose
johnrose11@comcast.net
• Ecozone
• Weir
• Dredging

Safety: Paul Wilson
pwillson@markleyent.com
• Buoys
• Public Landing
• Hazards in the water

To activate our Neighborhood Watch or report a crime contact Chris Toles cmt6061@comcast.net (Always call the police first.)

Community Contacts

Simonton Lake Conservancy
(574) 206-8485
902 CR6, Elkhart, IN 46514

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

Events on the Lake

January 2015 January issue of "Simonton Says"

Feb. 28-Mar. 1 Sportsman's Club Spring Turkey Shoot 10-5

March 15 Articles due for the April issue of Simonton Says

April 2015 April issue of "Simonton Says"

April 25 Sportsmen's Club Spring Casino Night 6-11 p.m.

April 20 Registration forms due today for the Lake Association Neighborhood Garage Sale

May 2 Lake Association Neighborhood Garage Sale

May 16 Mostaccioli Open Golf Tournament, 7 a.m. tee-off

May 20 Lake Association Annual Dinner and Meeting

May 24 Memorial Day Weekend

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

Update on the Dredging Project

continued from pg. 1

Recapping 2014:

- After much work and planning in 2013, we submitted an application for a LARE (Lake and River Enhancement) grant in January 2014
- In March 2014 we learned we had won a \$200,000 LARE grant for sediment removal.
- In April the Simonton Lake Preservation Trust and the Environment committee began working to raise funds.
- May 2014 we met with dredging contractors and began accepting bids for our project.
- In June, after learning more about the Basin requirements for hydraulic dredging, we decided to rebid the project.
- July 2014 we selected All Things Water as our dredging contractor and mechanical dredging as the method. The dredging contract came in just under \$300,000.
- August 2014 we began a process of submitting plans and applications to numerous government agencies. One required application plan was over 200 pages.
- September 2014 we hand-delivered notices to property owners adjacent to dredging activity, and published public notice in the Elkhart Truth. The notice of intent (NOI) was approved for the project to begin on Oct 9th.
- In September, Amy Matherly announced the Trust had won a dredging grant from the Elkhart Community Foundation for \$50,000.
- The dredging contract took approximately 5 months to complete and was finally signed in mid-October.
- We began the land purchase negotiations in 2013 with an additional 4 months to finalize the purchase agreements and legal work. The Trust bought the property because the Trust is non-profit and does not pay taxes. The closing on the land acquisition was finally done at the end of October and after seed corn was harvested by the farmer. The SLPT's total land acquisition cost was approximately \$100,000.
- The total dredging project as approved in March 2014 is estimated at just over \$410,000.

continued on pg. 12

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Life on the Lake

by Amy Matherly

My mother has Alzheimer's. That's just a fact. I know it. There is no way around it. We are fighting it together. She knows she forgets things and it is frustrating to her. She still has a sweet demeanor, and a good sense of humor. I admire her for her strength in this battle. She is 84 years old. My step-dad is 87. He is in good health but he is frustrated, too. She loses things, can't remember what you just told her and can't really carry on a discussion.

I retired a year ago and so I have been able to drive down to Syracuse Lake and check in on them, especially in the winter. My dad and I work on balancing the check book, I take them to doctor appointments and well, just spend time with them. I really enjoy that time. I am sorry that I didn't spend more time with them when they were younger. I guess I was busy. It's not like they were sitting around waiting for me to show up. They were involved in town politics, church, and civic groups. They used to never miss a Wawasee High School basketball game, home or away.

All this has made me pause, again. There have been times before when circumstances have made me stop, stop, stop and look and listen. Then, I get busy again. Time flies. For we humans, time is limited.

Last month a 62 year old friend announced his retirement. He and his wife were going to travel and enjoy life after decades of working and raising kids. They were just going to soak up every day. He had a stroke last week. There was no warning. He died on Friday. There is no understanding of this.

Beyond the grief, I think, what is the lesson here? I guess I'm not that smart. But, once again I am reminded to live life each day as if it is my last. To stop in the woods and watch the snow fall, to sit down with my grandkids and play, to turn off the TV and my cell phone and get a cup of coffee and watch this lake put on its winter white cloak and dream of the summer to come.

Until next time.

*Check out: www.simontonlake.org
for all of your lake community events,
stories, information and photos.*



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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.

News from the Membership Committee



A big thanks goes out to all of you who are members of the Simonton Lake Area Homeowners' Association.

The **membership** year goes from June 1 to May 31st. We send out our dues reminders just prior to the Lake Association meeting in May. As neighborhood associations go our dues is very reasonable and helps support the fireworks, neighborhood garage sale, newsletter, new neighbor welcome bags, hog roast, dredging projects and the website among other things.

New Neighbor Bags

Please get names of new neighbors to Sue Ward at sckjward@comcast.net. Please include an address to aid in delivery of a bag.

Inside the bag we include:

- 2 Simonton Lake plastic drink cups complete with lid and straws. These blue cups have the Simonton Lake logo on the side.
- A gift certificate to Pete's Simonton Lake Tavern;
- a current copy of the newsletter;
- and some information about the Lake Association and Trust.

All of this goes out in a colorful cloth bag with the logo on the outside. The bag is perfect for carrying beach towels or snacks.

2015 Lake Calendar

We only have a few 2015 Lake Calendars left. Contact Sue or Ken Ward at sckward@comcast.net.

E-Mail Group

Would you like to:

- Be Reminded of Meetings and Events
- Be Kept up to date regarding ongoing projects
- Get Crime alerts
- Have an opportunity to get your news into "Simonton Says"

If so, please send your e-mail to ramatherly@gmail.com.

Lake Association Neighborhood Garage Sale

The second annual Lake Association Neighborhood Garage Sale has been scheduled for May 2nd, the first Saturday in May.

MAKE SURE TO REGISTER YOUR SALE. A REGISTRATION FORM IS INCLUDED IN THIS NEWSLETTER. See page 10.

- If you are a member of the Lake Association, registration is free.
- If you are not a member, registration is \$5.00.
- If you register, we place signs at the nearest cross-roads to your home, give you a sign for your yard and place the ad in the Elkhart Truth. If you don't register, you're on your own as far as directing folks to your sale.

Last year was a great success with lots of traffic and lots of sales. Mark your calendar for May 2nd!

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):

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Donation Amount: \$ _____

NEW MEMBER RECRUITED - \$10

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w/ Registration Form

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Second Annual Simonton Lake Neighborhood Garage Sale May 2

Mark your calendars for the 2nd Annual Simonton Lake Neighborhood Garage Sale.

The Membership Committee was so pleased with the response to the Neighborhood Garage Sale held last year that they have decided to sponsor this event once again this spring. The date is Saturday, May 2nd, 9-5.

If you register your garage sale with the Membership Committee, we'll place signs near your house and at the closest crossroad, give you a garage sale sign for your yard and include you in the ad we place in the Elkhart Truth. If you don't register, you're welcome to have a sale but you are on your own for getting folks to your sale.

Registration is free for those who are members of the Lake Association. If you are not a member, the registration fee is \$5.00. That's much cheaper than the cost of a newspaper ad and signs.

So, on these cold winter days, clean out your closets, drawers, storage unit, attic and garage and get ready to sell, sell, and sell!

\$50,000 Grant Given to Simonton Lake

The Elkhart County Community Foundation has awarded a \$50,000 grant to the Simonton Lake Preservation Trust to aid in the dredging project. An application for grant money was submitted in June and reviewed by the Foundation in the fall. "There are many wonderful organizations with great causes to support," said Trust Secretary Amy Matherly. "We think our dredging project was worthy of financial support but the competition was strong for the available funds. We had to demonstrate to the Foundation that our project would help protect the lake and keep it healthy and clean for generations to come. As the largest lake in the county, this is an advantage to all area residents."

The ECCF announced several of their fall awards in the Elkhart Truth.

"We are extremely grateful for the award," Amy said, "I believe the Foundation will be pleased with the use of the grant money."

MAKE SURE TO REGISTER YOUR SALE.

- If you are a member of the Lake Association, registration is free.
- If you are not a member, registration is \$5.00.

When you register,

- we place garage sale signs at the nearest crossroads to your home,
 - give you a free garage sale sign for your yard and
 - place a garage sale ad in the Elkhart Truth at no cost to you
- (If you don't register, you're on your own.)

SPONSORED BY THE SIMONTON LAKE AREA HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Simonton Lake Neighborhood Garage Sale Registration

Saturday, May 2nd 9-5

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____ PHONE: _____

_____ I am a member of the Simonton Lake Area Homeowners Association. My registration is free.

_____ I am not a member of the Simonton Lake Area Homeowners Association. I have enclosed my \$5 registration fee. Make your check payable to SLHA.

Become a member of the Lake Association by using the membership form found on the Notes from the Board page.

Email this form to rmatherly@gmail.com or
mail to: GARAGE SALE 26048 N. Shore Dr. Elkhart, IN 46514

Wildlife in our Backyard

The Simonton Lake Beaver Saga Continues

Remember that tree from Chuck Vetter's yard? The one with the knawed trunk?

Well, there was a discussion of whether that was or was not the work of a beaver.

Then, we were sent an actual picture of the culprit swimming along the shoreline.

Then there was a report of a beaver lodge on Lilly Creek. Now, we don't have a picture but those reporting the sighting were reliable.

But, still some were doubters. So, now here is Exhibit D, you doubters. Taken from North Shore Drive along Little Simonton, here he is, the 'Simonton Lake Beaver.' I rest my case!



The "Simonton Says" staff thinks we should have a naming contest. Send your entry to ramatherly@gmail.com. Already suggested was the name, "Bucky". Other suggested names for the little fellow are not names we can print in this newsletter.



Update on the Simonton Lake Dredging Project *continued from pg. 5*

Current Project Status

- The project has begun slowly. Despite the heavy precipitation in November the basin was 75% constructed and ready for dredging to begin. We are just waiting for the dredging equipment to be delivered to the lake.
- Other than the (approx \$58,000) up front mobilization charges, the contractor will invoice us twice monthly only for work completed. The Lake Association and the Trust will pay the dredging contractor approximately 40 days after work is verified and completed (not before).
- The road way from the lake's edge to the basin needs additional base buildup and this should happen as soon as the dredging begins. Some of the sandy sediment will be used to build this road base.
- Bob Evans and Stan Skinner volunteered to oversee and verify the daily dredging work. Both Bob and Stan have considerable excavation experience.
- The dredging contract has been extended to June 2015 which will still require dredging during the winter months (as weather permits) and special permitting to dredging this spring.
- The Environment Committee recently met and recommended applying for another \$100,000 LARE grant which must be submitted by January 31st. This grant will focus again in the main narrows area where our lakes only inflow exists. Again, LARE grants are awarded for areas that benefit a majority of lake users (not just property owners).....the State will generally NOT fund areas that are beneficial to small neighborhoods (like coves or channels). We should know by April if we receive an additional grant.
- The Neighborhood (Private) dredging areas will begin only after all of the public areas specified in our LARE grant application have been completed. One information meeting was held on November 12th and we hope to have 1 or 2 more information meetings this spring before our projected April 30th target deadline.
- We are asking residents to avoid walking near the dangerous dredging activity sites as all of the land is privately owned.

Again we will announce the next neighborhood dredging meetings to answer questions. Anyone interested in deeper water along their shoreline or pier should plan to attend the meeting. For Example.. a 50 foot shoreline 20 feet out and 1 foot deep is

approximately 37 cubic yards. The Environment Committee has negotiated a \$10-\$12 per cubic yard rate.

.....

Simonton Lake Ecozone Passes Final Hurdle

The Ecozone Committee has been notified that the final step in getting approval for the Simonton Lake Ecozone has been passed. Doug Keller, Aquatic Habitat Coordinator for the Indiana Department of Natural Resources believes that the official and formal approval of the ecozone will come this spring.


You may remember that an ecozone is an area where natural aquatic plants are allowed to grow creating a natural water filter for the lake. This was just one of the recommendations made by a Water Quality Study done on Simonton Lake in 2010.

Our ecozone will be located in the far southeastern corner of Little Simonton Lake, an area that is just a few inches deep. The ecozone will be marked by special buoys provided by the IDNR. Restrictions in this zone are: only trolling motors, and no anchoring.

Look for a final approval in the April issue of "Simonton Says."

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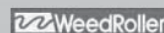
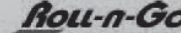


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Neighborhood Dredging Information



With the dredging project a go, lake property owners wondered if it would be possible to take advantage of the dredging equipment already being on the lake to do dredging at their own lake front. The Environmental Committee discussed this possibility but put it on hold during the summer and early fall until the final pieces of the dredging plan were put in to place. With that done the committee, in consultation with the dredger, agreed that this would be possible. A plan was developed.

DREDGING AT YOUR BEACHFRONT WILL BE KNOWN AS "NEIGHBORHOOD DREDGING."

On Wednesday, Nov. 12 at 7:00 a Neighborhood Dredging information meeting was held at the Simonton Lake Sportsman's Club. About 100 persons attended.

To qualify for Neighborhood Dredging:

- **You must be a member of the Simonton Lake Area Homeowners Association.** Dues is \$30.00 and can be paid using a SLAHA Membership form. Checks should be made out to the SLAHA.
- **You must have made a prior contribution of \$500.00 to the general dredging fund.** This contribution is payable to The Simonton Lake Preservation Trust and should be mailed to Simonton Lake Preservation Trust, PO Box 469, Elkhart, Indiana 46515. **Your donation is tax deductible and you will get a receipt letter for tax purposes.**

Here is Information on and Procedure for Neighborhood Dredging

- The cost is **\$10.00 per cubic yard** of sediment removed from your beach. This should be contrasted at the rate you would pay if you did this on your own with a dredging company. In that scenario the cost would be hundreds of dollars per cubic yard.

- **You must be a member of the SLAHA, make your \$500.00 donation and pay the cost that will cover your specific neighborhood dredging by April 2, 2015.** No dredging can take place at your beach unless all of these qualifications are met.
- You must submit an **Application** for Neighborhood Dredging.
- The dredger and a member of the Environmental Committee will then come to your home and **estimate** the cost of your project.
- The Environment Committee Members will assist you in securing paperwork including Notice of Intent, permits and agency approvals.
- Once the actual dredging begins the dredger will proceed around the lake in an orderly fashion coming to your area of residence one time and then moving on.
- If the dredger completes your project with fewer cubic yards than what was estimated, then you will be refunded the difference.
- If more cubic yards than was estimated is required to do the job, dredger will contact you prior to removing that sediment so that you can approve the additional cost.
- Property owners are responsible to carry their own insurance.
- *Simonton Lake Area Homeowners Association and The Simonton Lake Preservation Trust* are not liable for any injuries or damage which occurs during your neighborhood dredging.
- Property owners are responsible for the removal of piers or boat lifts (if applicable) that might impede your neighborhood dredging.

Progress on the Dredging Project

These pictures were taken by Simonton Says photographer, Maria Hopman of preparations being made for the dredging project.



Sediment dredged from the lake will be loaded on trucks and hauled down this temporary road to the farm land that has been purchased for use as a sediment basin. This north-south road is on the land across the channel from Forest Road.

The south end of the road meets the farm land purchased by the Simonton Lake Preservation Trust for use as a sediment basin. The land had been planted in corn last summer and work could not begin until the crops were harvested. Located just to the south of the Forest Road Channel, the land had to be cleared as specified by state and local government.





One of those specifications was that a barrier had to be built around the 12 acres of land. If you look closely in the picture below you can see the beginnings of that earthen barrier.



Dredging Donors

A

Nora Allen
Refugio Arredondo

B

Tim Bair
Mary Anne Ballard
Jason & Katrina Barhydt
Kent and Stacia Baskerville
Larry and Ginny Bellamy
Joe Bonacorse
Dwight and Linda Bowser
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Mary Spicher
Carlton & Pam Staines
David & Jane Steed
Dale & Mary Swihart

T

Ron & Sue Taylor
Adelaide Thomas
Bryan & Jennifer Thursby
Chris & Kim Toles
Jim & Dorothy Troyer

V

Nancy VanBrauaene
Rod VanZile
David & Kristine VanZile
Randy & Rose Verspelt

W

Phyllis June Warrick
Leland & Sigrid Weldy
David & Brenda Willis
Phillip & Terry Wilson
Steve & Dolores Wogoman
Kay Wuchner
Tom & Kristine Wyncott

Z

Richard & Pam Zinsmeister

***The Simonton Lake
Preservation Trust would
like to publicly thank the
following businesses, and
private citizens for their
financial support of the
dredging project.***

- Indiana Department of Natural Resources Lake and River Enhancement Program (L.A.R.E.)
- Flippin' Cow
- The Graphics Group
- Indiana Micro Metal Etching
- Irongate Self Storage
- Martins Supermarkets
- ObeCo, Inc.
- Pete's Simonton Lake Tavern
- Pfizer Corporation
- Superior Space
- United States Charitable Gift Trust
- Wakeside Marine

***A special thank you goes
out to the
ELKHART COUNTY
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION***

Thank You for Your Investment in Simonton Lake

Neighborhood Dredging Application

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ CELL PHONE: _____

_____ I am a member of the Simonton Lake Area Homeowners Association.

_____ I have made a prior and separate contribution of \$500.00 to the dredging fund.

- I understand that the dredging company will dredge the area indicated below at the rate of \$10.00 per cubic yard.
- I agree to donate the cost of this specific neighborhood dredging by check or credit card to *The Simonton Lake Preservation Trust*.
- I understand that I must be a member of the Simonton Lake Area Homeowners' Association and make a \$500.00 donation to the general dredging fund prior to this specific neighborhood dredging.

YOUR SIGNATURE: _____

Description of Area to be dredged:

Mail your application to:
Simonton Lake Preservation Trust
PO Box 469
Elkhart, IN 46515

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_____ \$500 Donation to general dredging

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by Dave Foutz

What is it about the Christmas season and model trains? When I was a kid each December my dad would take me to downtown Cincinnati to the Cincinnati Gas and Electric corporate office where the model railroad club would erect an enormous model railroad display. I would stand for hours watching the trains as they chugged through the tiny towns, over bridges and through the paper mache' mountains. As I got older, I

received my own American Flyer set and looked forward to each Christmas, setting up the display under the tree. I was lucky enough to grow up when "Iron Horses" were still pulling freight across the fields and over the mountains in our heartland. They were steam trains, real trains, the sounds, the smells, and the motion of the drivers! They inspired us, we had train songs, Midnight Flyer, City of New Orleans, Orange Blossom Special and Wabash Cannon Ball to name just a few of my favorites. I mean how can you get excited about a diesel-electric train?

So you can understand how pumped I was when our daughter, Kristin, called and explained that she had just left Mr. Muffin's Trains and how thrilled the grand-twins were when they saw the display. I had to see this for myself and it was amazing! As is often the case, Mr. Muffin's Trains was a hobby that became a business in the last year. In order to have the ability to publicly display and expand his display, Steve Nelson (Mr. Muffin) has moved into a commercial space in near downtown Carmel. The three level layout covers nearly two thousand square feet. It is the largest display of its kind in the country outside New

Mr. Muffin's Trains

York City. The display has the capacity to run thirty trains at one time. While that is pretty amazing, what really struck me is how real the scenery looks. You can spend hours just looking at the classic cars and trucks that are supporting props for the trains. Mr. Muffin's Trains has already become a regional attraction and as he adds the fourth level to the display, so will public interest grow.

Most of Steve's sales have been via the internet, but now he has the capacity to display his unique inventory of trains, train parts, and accessory items for sale to the public. Additionally, he will be able to conduct workshops on layout, scenery design and maintenance of a first class layout for model railroad hobbyists. But the thing to remember is that Mr. Muffin's first priority is for you to see



the trains.

If you find yourself traveling to Indianapolis and you have some extra time, it is less than five minutes from either Keystone or Meridian Streets to Mr. Muffin's Trains. The address is 146 West Carmel Drive, Carmel. Appropriately enough the store is located next to the old Monon Railroad right of way, now the very popular Monon Trail. The phone number is 317-569-1999 or check out the website at www.mrmuffintrains.org. The website is interesting at a couple of levels, it clearly features pictures of the store layout but also has YouTube links to historic rail imagery.

So have you wondered about the Mr. Muffin thing? Steve is so anxious to get people to come and see his display that he provides muffins to visitors on Saturday and Sunday mornings. I hope you too have an opportunity to share the excitement of model railroading with Steve and his wife Liz, you can enjoy a muffin too.

PS: I have recently discovered that the New York Central Museum, in downtown Elkhart, has an excellent model train exhibit. You may want to begin your re-acquaintance with model railroading right here in Elkhart.



The Thrill of Her Life

On Sunday, August 17, 2014, Maplewood Drive resident, Phyllis Kidder traveled Simonton Lake on a wave runner driven by Jeremy Hostetler. Jeremy, attempting to keep the ride pleasant, drove at a speed he believed Mrs. Kidder would enjoy. Mrs. Kidder, who has owned wave runners while in her nineties asked, "Doesn't this thing go any faster?" Then the ride became what Phyllis the Thrillous likes, exciting with speeds of over 50 miles per hour and fast turns, jumping waves and scaring the heck out of grandchildren and great grandchildren watching from the Maplewood Drive shoreline

Do you know of anyone older than 97 taking such an adventurous ride on our lake? Please let us know.

**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

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Simonton Lake Preservation Trust Update

The Simonton Lake Preservation Trust was established as a "banker" of sorts for projects at the lake. In technical terms we are a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. DONATIONS MADE TO THE TRUST FOR ANY PROJECT ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE. At this time our first priority is to continue to work with the Lake Association on raising funds for the dredging project.

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.

Trust Buys Land for Dredging Sediment

One of the central issues in getting the dredging project going was securing a place for the sediment to be sent. Just south of the Forest Road Channel is farmland. The owner was contacted last summer and was willing to sell 12 acres that abutted the residential area near the channel. The land was purchased by the Simonton Lake Preservation Trust which is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Because of their non-profit status no taxes will be due on the land. This land is being connected to the lake by a temporary road through land across from the Forest Road channel. When the purchased farmland is no longer needed as a sediment basin it could be sold back to the original owner, leased to the owner for farming purposes or held by the Trust as a basin for future dredging.

Check out: www.simontonlake.org for all of your lake community events, stories, information and photos.



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Pet Tails

Happy Joe VanZile is our 'Pet Tails' star for January. Dave and Kristine think of him as another child and tell us that they called him Happy because he always is just that—happy.

Way back in 2002, Kristine, who works at Elkhart Memorial High School, was taking her class to the Elkhart YMCA when a small black and white beagle puppy followed her inside. He was very happy to see her and her students. She gave him to the worker at the front desk of the Y and told her she would check on the dog when the class was done.

When Kristine checked back at the front desk, an animal shelter worker was coming in the door to take the dog. Kristine asked about the dog's prospects and was told that they would try to find the owner but the chances were the dog would be euthanized. Kristine was allowed to take the dog home as long as she agreed to check the newspaper for lost beagle ads for the next two weeks. No ads appeared and Happy Joe settled in with the VanZile's other beagle, Woody. Sadly, Woody passed away about five years ago.

Just a few months ago, Happy was attacked by another



dog as he and Kristine walked along the street. Kristine screamed for help and finally a neighbor came to her rescue. She was frantic as she rushed Happy to the vet. While Happy was injured he recovered and was back walking again with Kristine in just a few weeks.

Kristine now carries pepper spray as she walks and we remind all dog owners to keep their pets on a leash or inside a fence for their protection as well as others. Even the nicest of dogs might be aggressive if surprised or if the dog feels threatened.

Happy turned 13 on Nov. 1st and still loves to take long walks, boat rides and play in the snow. We're glad Happy is a Simonton Lake dog.

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good one.**

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Simonton Lake Preservation Trust

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For more information see page 29.



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W	U	T	R	I	T	M	T	O	A	S	T	Y
K	O	B	T	S	T	R	B	B	S	U	D	P
H	G	O	Z	I	H	E	E	E	K	L	E	Y
C	N	Q	L	E	B	H	L	M	A	A	P	R
W	I	N	T	E	R	T	I	M	E	T	R	A
N	T	T	P	I	N	O	S	K	L	E	E	T
I	A	V	C	E	I	P	D	O	B	D	S	N
P	K	Y	L	R	J	Y	B	A	R	E	S	E
P	S	E	Z	O	A	H	A	Z	Y	F	I	D
Y	R	S	N	O	W	B	O	U	N	D	N	E
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Celebrations

Birthdays

- 1/5 Maria Hopman
- 1/12 Olivia Freshour
Grandmother Theresa Maier
- 1/20 Gianna Marie Nickell
Grandparents Vaughn & Cindy Nickell
- 1/22 Lou Putnam
- 1/23 Graham Ryan Matherly
Grandparents Ryan & Amy Matherly
- 1/24 Larry Bellamy
- 2/2 Cami Broderick Saleh
- 2/12 Bob Shultz
- 2/17 Sue Johnson
- 2/18 Tedd Johnson
- 2/18 Kathy Shewmaker
- 2/19 Janie Friend
- 2/20 Bob Evans
- 2/23 Terry Shewmaker
- 2/25 Vaughn Nickell
- 3/20 Cody Kalil and Colton Jesse Newkirk
Grandparents Dave & Carole Foutz
- 3/26 Eulah June Shewmaker
Grandparents Ryan & Amy Matherly,
Terry & Kathy Shewmaker
- 3/27 Bill Broderick



2/6 Ken & Sue Ward
2/19 Don & Carol Bradshaw

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.

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Lake Daughters Dance for the Samaritan Center

Two daughters of Simonton Lake residents participated in the Samaritan Center Still Dancing Elkhart fundraiser.

Kelly Nickell Cress, daughter of Vaughn and Cindy Nickell and **Meg Nusbaum Ryan**, daughter of Tim and Phyllis Nusbaum danced that evening to help raise money for a great cause. Meg and Kelly began practicing in August with professional dancers as partners. Practice continued several times a week until the event in November. Kelly won the award for best



Meg Ryan

dancer of the evening. Congratulations to both of these fine young women for their dedication and contribution to the community.



Kelly Cress

.....



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Simonton Lake Preservation Trust

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

The Simonton Lake Preservation Trust was established as a "banker" of sorts for project at the lake. In technical terms we are a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. **DONATIONS MADE TO THE TRUST FOR ANY PROJECT ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.**

At this time our first priority is to continue to work with the Lake Association on raising funds for the dredging project.

Questions should be directed to Ryan Harding, John Rose or Amy Matherly.

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

**Donations to the trust are
tax-deductible**

And can be made by mail to:

**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

*"To Preserve, Protect and Enhance
the Simonton lake Area Watershed"*

WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?

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

Here is an interesting scenario: If you own land on or near the lake and **DON'T WANT THE LAND DEVELOPED BUT KEPT IN ITS NATURAL STATE**, the Trust can make that happen. Land can be held by the trust, cared for by the trust and kept in its natural state and used for the purposes which you specify. Your family can continue to enjoy the land, not pay taxes on it and not have to worry about maintaining the land. Your land and your wishes become a legacy for Simonton Lake. Think about it and call us for details.

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

.....

Shaklee Fund Raiser Benefits the Trust

Support our ONGOING Fundraiser with Shaklee Corporation for the Simonton Lake Buying Club. This is something you can participate in even though you have or have not donated money to the project.

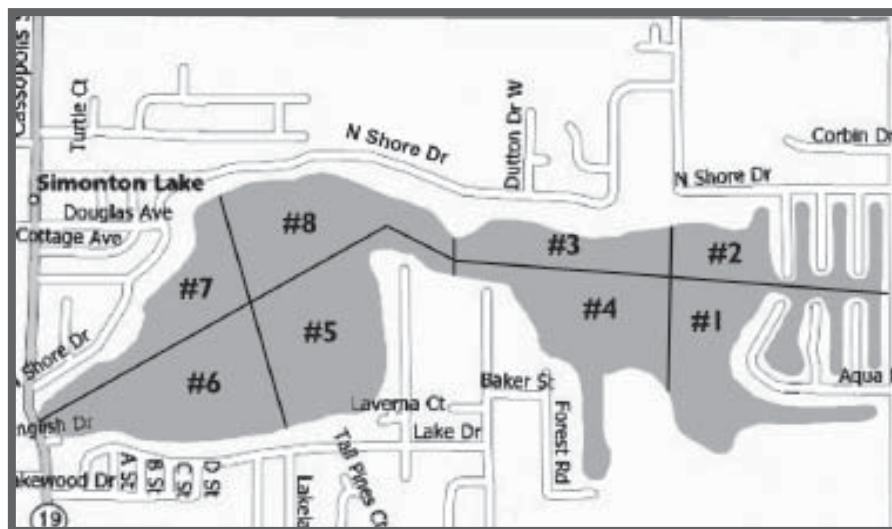
- this is a buying club where you change brands that you are currently using to another brand. This company has a history of quality for over 50 years.
- The products are safe, green & economical. They will not pollute the lake.
- They are 100% guaranteed! If you try them & don't like them you get your money back.
- You will save money and Simonton Lake will earn money from each sale.
- Shaklee Corporation will donate all of the profit from the sale of these products when ordered on our Simonton Lake Buying Club website www.SimontonLake.myshaklee.com or when you contact our Simonton Lake Buying Club contact person Sue Flemming at jsflemming1@gmail.com or 574-266-9996 or 574-370-6797.

As an added bonus Shaklee will give anyone a FREE buying club when they order one of the special regimens or kits pictured on the website at www.SimontonLake.myshaklee.com. Look for it under the tab "ABOUT US". One kit that we would really recommend is the GET CLEAN STARTER KIT. This kit has a lot of the products you are already using now & the Get Clean offers all eco-friendly products. This is another way to clean up our lake. You can also order individual products by clicking on the SHOP button www.SimontonLake.myshaklee.com

If you have any questions contact Sue at jsflemming1@gmail.com or 574-266-9996 or 574-370-6797.

Area Representatives

-your delegates for neighborhood concerns



- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. Van Kessler 262-1685 | 5. Bob Meyers..... 675-0970 |
| 2. Ann and Jerry Broderick ... 264-1331 | Cindy Nickell 262-3105 |
| Ken and Sue Ward 206-0450 | 6. Dick Martin 264-7656 |
| 3. Maria Hopman 262-1655 | Ron Taylor 262-1332 |
| Anne Harbaugh 264-7792 | 7. Dave VanZile 264-5201 |
| 4. Jon Hart 262-1404 | Theresa Maier 361-0517 |
| Randy Hoff 262-3432 | 8. Maria Hopman 262-1655 |
| | Anne Harbaugh..... 264-7792 |

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**Do you know someone
who is having a birthday,
anniversary, etc?**

**Email:
simon@simontonlake.org**



You can now find SLSC on Facebook and you can find us at <http://simontonlakesportsmansclub.wix.com/sportsmansclub>



Positive things are happening at the Simonton Lake Sportsman's Club. Our goal is to increase our membership and pack our events so we can help support our community. Please help us pack our first event, The Spring Turkey Shoot-February 28th and March 1st.

New Officers for 2015 are:

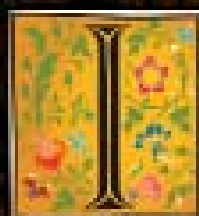
President: John Lendman Sr.
Vice-President: Bill Leighton
Treasurer: Van Kessler
Secretary: Rick Rider
Sargent of Arms: Greg McGough

Board Members

Jack Tucker Rick McCollough
Dick Martin Joe Arrendondo
Joe Kilburn

SLSC 2015 Calendar of Events:

- 2/28 - 3/1 Spring Turkey Shoot
- 3/21 Sportsmans' Club Clean-up Day
- 4/25 Spring Casino Night
- 5/16 Mostaccioli Open Golf Tournament
- 6/20 Kids Fishing Contest
- 7/4 Poker Run
- 8/8 Kids Fishing Contest
- 9/12 Fall Casino Night
- 10/3-4 Fall Turkey Shoot
- 10/10 Sportsmans' Club Clean-up Day
- 11/7 Fall Ball Food Drive
- 12/5 SLSC Christmas Party



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Engagements



Farewell

Betty Guthrie, 89 passed away Sunday, Nov. 30. She was born in New York and married Jack Guthrie in 1971. Jack passed away in 2007. Betty graduated from Lowville Free Academy in New York and the Central City Business Institute in Syracuse, New York. Betty worked at Bayer, Inc. for 16 years as a national accounts representative. She also worked for Wurlitzer Co. and the Indiana State Employment Service.

Betty was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary and the Eagles Auxiliary in Elkhart.

Betty was preceded in death by two daughters Jo Ann Burke and Paula Burke. Survivors include two daughters, Sandra (Robert) Hartman and Brenda (Jonathan) Horvath and a son, Morris Burke.

Services were held at the Osceola United Methodist Church on Dec. 1. Memorial contributions may be given in Betty's name to the United Cancer Services of Elkhart County.

New Neighbors

New neighbors on the lake include **Lesley Garrett** and **Michael Simpson** on CR 109, and **Jeff** and **Patti Gacek** on North Shore.

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



Chelsea & Ryan

Both of **Delores Troyer Wogoman's** children became engaged over the holidays. Delores' daughter, **Chelsea Liechty** is engaged to Ryan Von Gunten. Chelsea is a Relationship Manager with LinkedIn in Chicago. Ryan is the Assistant Coach for the women's swim team at Notre Dame. Son, **Graham Liechty** is marrying Lizzi Milliner. Graham is a Relationship Manager for Chase Bank in Chicago. Lizzi is a retail manager for Victoria's Secret, also in Chicago.

Lake Neighbor Pam Goddard is engaged to Jim Dunfee of South Bend. A wedding date has not been announced.



Graham & Lizzy

Weddings

Elizabeth (Glick) and **Adam Clifford** were married on September 27th. Elizabeth is the daughter of Ron and Karen Glick of County Road 11. Adam

is the son of Kevin and Lori Clifford of Elkhart. Susie Broderick is Ron Glick's sister and aunt of the beautiful bride. The wedding took place at Dunlap United Methodist Church with the reception following at the Athenian Ballroom in Elkhart. The wedding party consisted of fifteen attendants. The happy couple honeymooned in the Dominican Republic.



Births

Eric and **Jody Landis** had their second daughter **Adelynn Dee Landis** Nov. 6, 2014 Little Adelynn weighed 8 pounds 5 ounces. She joins her older sister **Brynlee Grace** 3 years old. Congratulations!

Ryan and **Erin Harding** added a third son to their family. **Everett Reese Harding** arrived on September 23. His older brothers are **Emmett** and **Elliott**. The great grandparents are **Jim** and **Pat Linn**.

Corey and **Andrea Stutsman** have added to their family. **Quinn Avery** was born on December 8 weighing in at 6 pounds, 10 ounces. Aunt and Uncle are **Jane** and **Dave Steed**



Adelynn