

Simonton Says...

Summer Issue 2019

Volume 12, Issue 3

Find us on 

July 6th Simonton Lake Fireworks

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SIMONTON LAKE



Sunset over the channels – Lou Putnam



Easter Sunrise – Delores Troyer



Alligator Cloud – Susie Broderick



Double Rainbow – Kyra Matherly

INFORMATION & EVENTS

SIMONTON
Spring 2019 Edition

REMEMBER OUR WEB ADDRESS:
simontonlakehoa.com

“LIKE” us on Facebook

Association Board Members

Carole Foutz, President
26109 Lake Drive
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clyfoutz@yahoo.com

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blackjack5151@gmail.com

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574-286-3875
messenwein@nd.edu

Simonton Lake Area
Homeowners' Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 1706
Elkhart, In. 46515-1706

NEW: www.simontonlakehoa.com
Email: ramatherly@gmail.com

Standing Committees

Membership: Jodi Ferro-
jodiferro@hotmail.com
Ken & Sue Ward-
sckjward@comcast.net

- New Neighbors
- Lake Calendar
- Garage Sale
- Dues

Newsletter: Amy Matherly
ramatherly@gmail.com

- Submit info. or pictures
- To become an advertiser
contact Jon Hart at
jonhart150@gmail.com
- FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

Environmental: Randy Hoff-
hard2blev@juno.com
Bob Paul-
kabopa730@yahoo.com

- Ecozone
- Weir
- Current Dredging Project

Safety:

- Hazards in the water
- Neighborhood watch
watch/Lake Alerts
- Buoy watch

To activate our Neighbor-
hood Watch contact Chris Toles
cmt6061@comcast.net

Our Mission

The MISSION of the Simonton Lake Area Homeowners' 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.

EVENTS ON THE LAKE

Aug 3.....SLSC Kid's Fishing Contest
Aug.....Issue of "Simonton Says"
Aug 11.....SLSC Fall Turkey Shoot
Date Pending
Sept 2.....Labor Day
Sept.....Dredging resumes after
Labor Day
Oct 5.....SLSC Pumpkin Cup Golf
Outing
Oct 10.....Articles and pictures due
for Fall Issue of Simonton Says
Oct 31.....Deadline for lake Calen-
dar picture submission
NovFall issue of Simonton Says
November Lake Calendars for Sale
Nov 9.....Fall Ball & Food Drive
Dec 1.....Conservancy Candidate
Election Petitions Due
Dec 7.....SLSC Christmas Party

Community Contacts

Simonton Lake Conservancy
574-206-8485
902 CR 6, Elkhart, In. 46514
Hours M-F 8:30-4:30
Mtg. times/dates posted on door.
Contact the Conservancy for:
-Sewer issues
-Drainage issues
-Erosion issues
-Weed Control
-Public Landing
-Buoys
-Hazards in the Water

DNR

District Office 574-457-8092
Pier Regs. 317-234-1097

Sheriff Elkhart County
(574) 533-4151

EMERGENCIES-CALL 911

Osolo Township Fire Dept.
574-264-1066
Osolo EMS 574-262-3052

SIMONTON

Lake Conservancy

Board Position Up For Re-Election

WHAT DOES THE CONSERVANCY DO?

Our local Conservancy is in charge of: the running and maintenance of our sewer system, improving drainage, developing forests, wildlife areas, parks and recreational facilities, preventing erosion, and the operation, maintenance and improvement for water-based recreational purposes (Dredging, Water Quality, Weed Control)

WHO IS ON OUR CONSERVANCY BOARD?

In our Conservancy we have 5 districts. The current Board members are as follows:

- District 1-Paul Wilson
- District 2-Ed Hickman
- District 3-John Lendman
- District 4-Bob Kelsey
- District 5 Jane Mollo

Board members serve for four-year terms. Persons who are interested in serving on the Board would be wise to attend some meetings and talk to board members to get an idea of the responsibilities and time required.

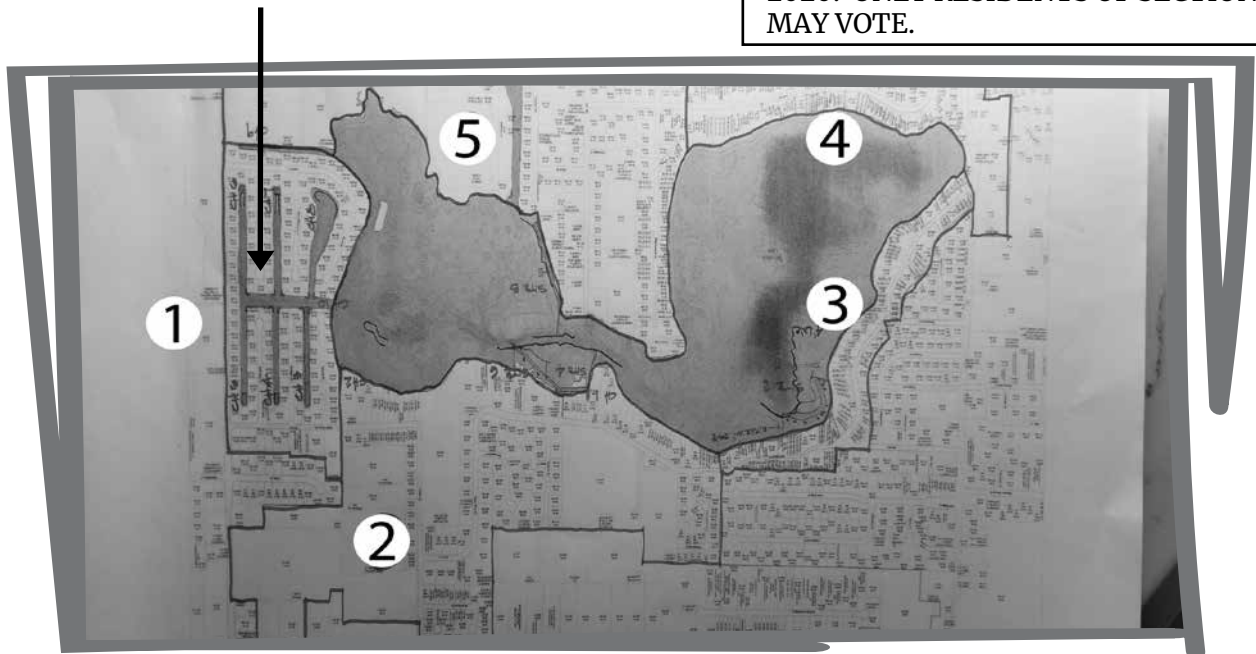
This year an election will be held for section 1. The position is currently held by Paul Wilson.

Look at the Section Map to see if you live in Section 1.

Director for Section 1 is up for re-election

HOW TO RUN FOR A SEAT ON THE CONSERVANCY BOARD

1. In the fall call the Conservancy Office to find out if you live in Section 1. A SECTION MAP IS INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE.
2. Using an official petition format, declare that you wish to run for a position on the Simonton Lake Conservancy Board.
3. Have five freeholders (landowners) who own land within the Simonton Lake Conservancy District sign your petition
4. Have your petition notarized.
5. Your petition should be hand delivered or sent by registered mail to the Simonton Lake Conservancy District Office at 902 CR 6, Elkhart, Indiana 46514, ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1
6. Call the Conservancy Office to make sure your petition was delivered and to confirm the site and time for the Annual Meeting.
7. You and your supporters should attend the Simonton Lake Conservancy Board's Annual Meeting on Saturday, FEB. 15, 2020. ONLY RESIDENTS OF SECTION 1 MAY VOTE.



SIMONTON

DREDGING UPDATE FROM THE ENVIROMENT COMMITTEE

CONFUSION OVER THE PROJECT

It seems the last Dredging Update generated some confusion, so let's go back and clear up some of the misunderstandings. As you read the article, refer to the Simonton Lake Dredging map in this issue.

WHY DREDGE?

For many years, it has been apparent that Simonton Lake is suffering from numerous problems that would ultimately affect the health of the lake. In 2015-16, the Simonton Lake Area Homeowners' Association Enviroment Committee created a plan to identify the problems, the causes, possible solutions and a priority list. The result was an official document, called the "Simonton Lake Improvement Master Plan".

DREDGING DIVIDED INTO PHASES

Our concern was the quality of water in our lake that was severely impacted by the suspension of sediment in the lake. Not only was the lake becoming more shallow but boat motors re-suspended the sediment in the water. One of the results was increased invasive weed growth. The water quality issues were confirmed by a 2011 Diagnostic Study developed by JF New Associates and funded by a DNR grant. The solution, supported by the Indiana DNR was to dredge.

It became apparent that dredging would need to be broken into segments. The money required to complete the entire 55,000 cubic yards of the plan ws not available all at once. The Enviromental Committee was charged with prioritizing the proposed dredging sites into maageable phases according to need and getting the most bang for our bucks. The 20 member committee met many times and after much spirited debate, adopted a plan which divided the dredging into 5 Phases.

Phase 1, 2 and 3 were conducted by the Simonton Lake Homeowners' Association.



Continued from page 5

The FIRST PHASE was completed in 2015 and funded by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, a grant from the Community Foundation of Elkhart County, private donations of residents. It included:

- Opening the waterway between the two basins (sometimes referred to as “the Narrows”) to allow boat traffic to go between the East and West Basin without stirring up sediment.
- Removing the developing sediment dam forming at the entrance to the East Channels allowing entrance to all of the Channels with much less resuspension of sediment
- Improving water access to the Boat Landing which again reduced the amount of sediment that was re-suspended in the water

The SECOND PHASE was completed in 2017 and was funded by an additional grant from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. It included:

- The northwestern shoreline of east basin (Little Simonton)
- The west shoreline of the east basin, (Little Simonton)
- Access to the Forest Road channel

The Third PHASE was funded by a grant from the Elkhart County Storm Water Board M&F Fund. This phase was 65% complete at the end of 2018. Dredging on Phase Three will resume around Sept. 15 and will be completed by the end of 2019. It included:

- Dredging the ends of the Channels at the eastern edge of the east basin (Little Simonton)
- Dredging an area of the northwest corner of the west basin (Big Simonton)

AUGUST MEETINGS FOR HOMEOWNERS

Two meetings will be scheduled for homeowners (including Private Dredging participants) during the month of August - exact dates and times will be published on the SLAHA's web site: www.simontonlakehoa.com, on our Lake Alert System and on our Facebook page.

SIMONTON LAKE CONSERVANCY TO MANAGE FUTURE DREDGING

The Simonton Lake Conservancy has managed our sewer system for the last 20 years. **Two years ago through a legal process the Conservancy was given charge of: improving drainage, developing forests, wildlife areas, parks and recreational facilities, preventing erosion, and the operation, maintenance and improvement of any work of improvements for water-based recreational purposes (Dredging, Water Quality, Weed Control)**

The Master plan was submitted to and approved by the Simonton Lake Conservancy District. The Master Plan was also approved by the Elkhart County Circuit Court. **Because of this legal change any future dredging projects will be managed by the Conservancy using tax dollars.**

ARE THERE ANY DREDGING PROJECTS LEFT TO BE DONE?

There are several areas identified for dredging in the Master Plan which include:

- Areas at the western end of the west basin (Big Simonton) near the restaurants
- Additional areas along the western shoreline and northern shoreline of the west basin (Big Simonton)
- Several areas along the northern shoreline of the east basin (Little Simonton)

If you have questions, contact Dredging Chairman, Bob Paul at kabopa730@yahoo.com, or 512.431.2432Z

SLAHA BOARD UPDATE

The SLAHA Board welcomes 3 new members: **Cindi Cavitt, Mark Esenwein, and Doug Reese**. Our most recent meeting in June was spent looking at new goals our association would like to achieve. The Board has had several goals we've worked on in the past and our new board members were able to bring with them new ideas and enthusiasm as well.

We will share goals as we are able to narrow them down to reality. Our most immediate work is shifting from our Dredging work which has taken a primary focus for three years, and coming back to some of our committee work we want to strengthen. The Safety Committee and the Environment Committee has changed significantly since the Conservancy has assumed many responsibilities by adding the additional purposes for their oversight.

We look forward to building up our membership and committee work with new faces. We are happy with our membership but we are always looking to add more. With your support and participation in our community, Simonton Lake can only become a better place to live and enjoy!



Carole Foutz

SLAHA President

BUOY REPORT

One of the new jobs for the Simonton Lake Conservancy is to buy, maintain, place and remove buoys.

John Lendman, new representative for Section 3 (North Shore Drive area), will be leading this effort.

John will have the task of figuring out how many buoys are in the water, whether any buoys are damaged, resetting any buoys that had been moved during the winter, and applying for DNR permits for new areas. The channel at the northwest corner of Little Simonton was dredged and extended so it now meets up with the main channel. The new waterway needs to be marked. The waterway through the lily pads linking the main channel with the southwestern shore of Little Simonton was straightened out by dredging. This too needs to be marked.

The Conservancy will purchase any new buoys that are needed.

It is the Conservancy Board's intention to hire someone to place or move buoys in the future. But for the summer of 2019, John will be doing the job with the help of volunteers. If John calls on you, please help him out.



Kelly McGuire Concert
Texas Music Awards
2008 Album of the Year for "Boat in Belize"

House concert hosted by Delores Troyer and Steve Wogoman

26029 Lake Dr, Elkhart, IN
Sunday, August 11, 2019
Show 4:30 - 7 pm

An intimate concert with Award Winning Singer/Songwriter

Kelly McGuire
Come listen to the story behind the songs!

Lawn Tickets \$20/person or \$30/couple
All proceeds go to the artist

Please RSVP to Delores at deloresnnp@gmail.com
Bring your own food, drinks and lawn chair, or watch from your boat



This is **Kelly McGuire's** second visit to Simonton Lake. **Delores and Steve**, friends of the singer, invited friends and neighbors to the last concert at their home. It went well. This time they would like to expand the invitation to all lake residents.

Could a concert series be a possibility in future summers?

Would you be willing to host a band at your home?

CONCERT ON THE LAKE



Do you have an entertainer or band in mind? Let us know.

SIMONTON NOTES FROM THE BOARD

Summer 2019 Edition

Association Dues: Lake Association Dues are due January 1, 2020. Letters were sent out in December.

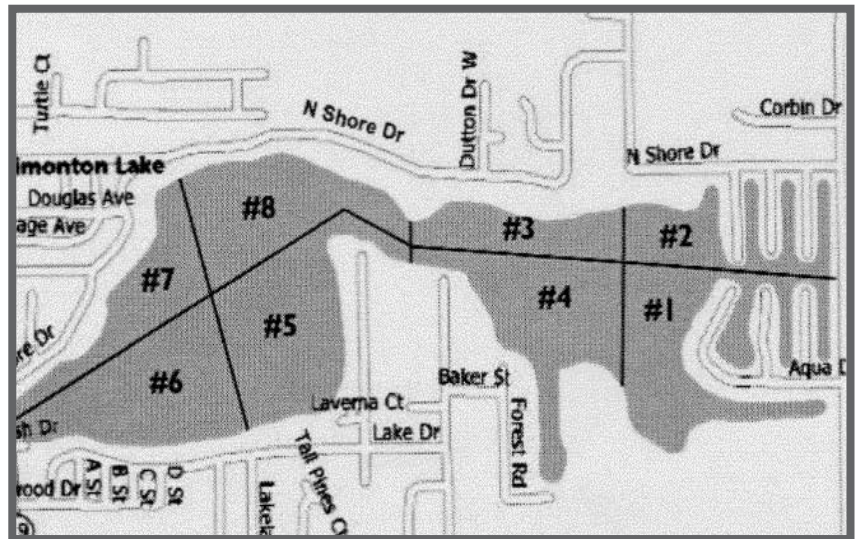
Remember that even if you are an Honorary Member, your membership counts. To represent you to the county, the DNR or the State of Indiana, we need to say that a majority of residents belong to the Association.

Check out the map below.
What area of the lake do you live in?

AREA REPRESENTATIVES

Your Delegates for Neighborhood Concerns

Area #1 Van Kessler	262-1685
Area #2 Ann & Jerry Broderick Ken & Sue Ward	264-1331 596-2020
Area #3 Maria Hopman	262-1665
Area #4 Jon Hart Randy Hoff	262-1404 596-8885
Area #5 Bob Meyers Cindy Nickell	675-0970 262-3105
Area #6 Ron Taylor	262-1332
Area #7 Dave VanZile Theresa Maier	264-5201 361-0517
Area #8 Amy Matherly	262-4773



Contact your Area Rep. if you have questions about membership, volunteering or to let us know about a new neighbor.

SLAHA MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 Phone: CELL _____ CELL _____ HOME _____
 Email: _____
 Email: _____

DUES: PER HOUSEHOLD PER YEAR
 JANUARY 1, 2019 - DECEMBER 31, 2019

_____ **Regular Member:**\$30
 _____ **Senior: (70-79):**\$20
 _____ **Honorary (80 & Over):**FREE
 FREE lifetime member

CONTACT PREFERENCE: ☐ EMAIL ☐ CELL ☐ HOME PHONE ☐ MAIL

SL PRESERVATION TRUST DONATION \$ _____

PARTICIPATION INTEREST: ☐ Lake Environment

FIREWORKS FUND DONATION \$ _____

IN A CURRENT COMMITTEE: ☐ Lake Safety
☐ Membership/Outreach
☐ Newsletter
☐ Website

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$

Please mail your completed form & check made out to SLAHA to: Simonton Lake Area Homeowners' Association, Inc
 PO Box 1706 Elkhart, IN 46515-1706

If you are NOT willing to share this information in a directory sent to members, please check here: ☐
 We will not share this information outside the association without your permission.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

NEW NEIGHBORS —

If you have a new neighbor on your street, please e-mail Sue Ward at skward@comcast.net. She'll make sure a "New Neighbor Gift Bag" is delivered. We don't want to miss anyone. We'd appreciate your help.

GARAGE SALE —

The Annual Lake Association Garage Sale was held in May and, once again, was a great success. Over 50 garage sales were held around the lake.

ANNUAL MEETING —

The Annual Lake Association meal and meeting were held on May 15 at the Sportsman's Club. About 100 residents attended. A big thank you to the volunteers who helped set up, serve and clean up.

SIMONTON LAKE PHONE/E-MAIL BOOK —

The Membership Committee is looking into producing a booklet with contact information for lake area residents. The booklet would be free to Association members. Information which could be included would be name, address, phone numbers and e-mails. On some lakes, piers are assigned numbers and residents are identified by their pier number as well as their address. Is this something we should consider? Let us know if you would like to help with this project, or if you have a booklet like this from another lake that we can look over.



Beginning in January of 2020 you will need to be a member of the Simonton Lake Area Homeowners' Association to continue to get Lake Alerts.

SPEEDING IN THE CHANNELS

With the water at a high level, speeding in the channel is even more frustrating to residents along the banks. Waves produced by boaters who are not following the "No Wake" regulations are pushing water onto private properties and causing erosion. Speeding in the channel also stirs up the bottom even though the areas have been dredged. Stirred up sediment leads to a great crop of weeds.

**PLEASE, PLEASE, SLOW DOWN.
NO WAKE MEANS NO WAKE!**

Conservation Officer, Dustin Whitehead has confirmed that he will from time to time be stationing his boat in the channel to ticket boaters.

WAKE BOATS SWAMPING RESIDENTS ON LAKE DRIVE

Again, the high water level has caused a real problem for residents of Lake Drive who live along what skiers refer to as the straight-away. This long run of straight shoreline provides the best run for skiers and wakeboarders. It also produces great swells that swamp residents, even moving piers. Boaters are reminded that 200 feet from shore is the legal distance required for boats pulling skiers. Let's hope the water goes down soon.

CRIMES IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Residents are reminded to lock all doors and shut garage doors even during the daylight hours. Make sure all water equipment including kayaks, skis and rafts are secured at night.

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE REPORT

We hope you are enjoying your summer issue of Simonton Says.

Here are some reminders from our committee:

- Keep those articles and pictures coming! We are awed by the talent of our lake photographers.
- Remember if you have the information for an article, just send it to us and we'll do the polishing.
- If you are interested in advertising in the newsletter, contact Jon Hart at jonhart150@gmail.com
- If you didn't get a newsletter, contact your "Neighborhood Representative". You can find your representatives name on the "Notes from the Board" page.
- Remember to look for us on Facebook

SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT

LAKE ALERT SYSTEM

We now have about 300 e-mail addresses in our Lake Alert system. Lake Alerts are generated by residents, the County Police or committee members. This information is checked for accuracy and then sent out by e-mail. We have enlarged the scope of the Alert system to include important information like the opening of the boat launch, dates and times of lake events and other reminders. Contact ramatherly@gmail.com to be added to the Lake Alert system.

55
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Summer 2019

INVASIVE WEED CONTROL

Weed Control is now the responsibility of the Simonton Lake Conservancy. Tax money pays for weed control treatments

In March it was announced that there would be two weed control applications this summer, one in mid-June and one in mid-August. Last year there was just one application.

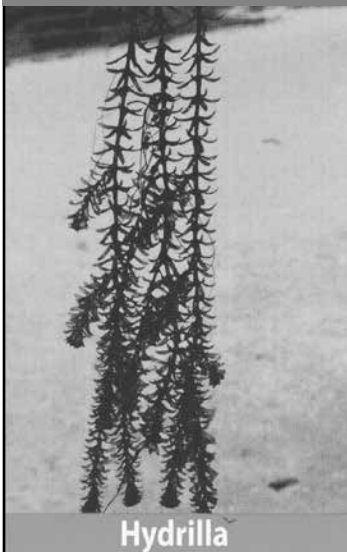
Aquatic Weed Control has been hired.

AWC reported to the Conservancy that the first application must occur in June after the Starry Stonewort actively grows. They will not use copper, since it has been reported that it pits pontoons, examples from Forest Road.

The June application occurred during the week of June 17th.

Please take a look at the pictures below showing the most problematic weeds in Indiana lakes.

INVASIVE SPECIES



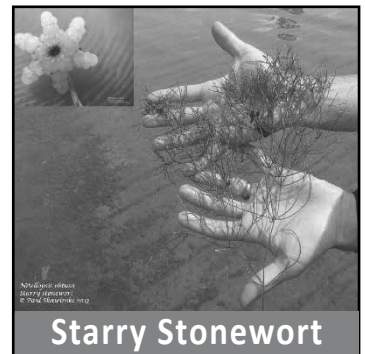
Hydrilla



Eurasian watermilfoil



Curly-leaf Pondweed



Starry Stonewort



THE FIREWORKS ARE NOT WORTH MISSING

BY ANGELA BLACK

The night of Simonton's July 6th Fireworks was like any other night. We made our dish to pass at my aunt's house (Wendy Willis) and packed the kids, cooler and my blanket in the car and headed to the lake for the festivities.

When we arrived the kids immediately jumped in the water. My husband Mike and I grabbed our drinks and a plate of food and mingled with the family.

It only took 20 minutes before our 9 year old daughter came up and said her ear was hurting really bad. She had been swimming all week at her church summer program, at home and at a friends house. So we knew it could possibly be swimmer's ear. My husband said, I will take her home and you stay with your family. So I stayed with our 13 year old and my daughter's best-friend till the fireworks were over. But I wasn't going to let my husband miss the fireworks. I face timed him on Facebook Messenger with only 7% battery life so he could see the always amazing fireworks. They truly aren't worth missing.



SWIMMERS ITCH

Earlier in the summer several people around the lake experienced what is commonly known as "Swimmer's Itch."

WHAT IS IT?

According to the Mayo Clinic, "Swimmer's Itch" is an itchy rash that looks like reddish pimples or blisters and can occur after you go swimming or wading outdoors. Also known as cercarial dermatitis, "Swimmer's Itch" is most common in freshwater lakes and ponds, but it occasionally occurs in salt water. The rash usually affects only exposed skin, not skin covered by swim-suits or waders.

HOW DO YOU GET IT?

Swimmer's itch is caused by an allergic reaction to parasites that burrow into your skin while you're swimming or wading in warm water. The parasites that cause swimmer's itch normally live in water-

fowl and some animals such as geese, ducks, gulls, beavers, swans and muskrats. The parasite's eggs enter the water via their hosts' feces. Before infecting birds, animals or people, the hatched parasites must live for a time within a type of snail. These snails live near the shoreline, which explains why infections occur most often in shallow water.

HOW LONG DOES IT LAST?

Humans aren't suitable hosts, so the parasites soon die while still in your skin. "Swimmer's Itch" is uncomfortable, but it usually clears up on its own in a few days. In the meantime, you can control itching with over-the-counter or prescription medications. It is not contagious. Talk to your doctor if you have a rash after swimming that lasts more than three days.

HOW CAN I PROTECT MY FAMILY?

If swimmers near your beach have gotten Swimmer's Itch, rinsing exposed skin with clean water immediately after leaving the water and then vigorously dry your skin with a towel is recommended. Also, launder your swimsuits often.



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TURTLE RUN OVER BY CAR

TURTLE CROSSING

On June 25, 2019, Kristine VanZile noticed this female turtle that had been run over near the intersection of Bell Avenue and North Shore Drive. She was still alive, but badly hurt. And, three eggs were lying beside her.

Neighbors gently lifted the turtle off the road and into a plastic tub. Then the DNR was called. The Conservation Officer asked if just the shell had been cracked or if the body had been damaged too. He said, if it was just the shell, rehab was possible. But, a damaged shell and severe injury to the body was fatal.



The turtle and her eggs were taken to North Shore Neighborhood Park. A deep hole was dug in the bedding area near the fence and she was gently laid in. Her body will help the plants and bushes grow. Someday when the landscape is growing well at the park, we can credit her.

Many people encounter turtle crossing the roads in spring and summer. If you see a turtle attempting to cross the road you CAN assist by carrying them across in the direction they're headed.

Large snapping turtles have long necks and can bite hard, so instead of picking them up, gently push them from behind to safety with a blunt object. Don't use anything sharp that could cause injury. Many turtles crossing roads are egg-laden females looking for appropriate nesting sites. Do NOT relocate a turtle to a "better place". Do NOT return them to the lake. Simply help them get to the other side of the road.



Accidents happen when animals dart into the road. But we doubt that this turtle or any turtle ever "darted" anywhere. Let's keep our speed down on the lake roads.



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DRAINAGE-WE LOVE WATER BUT NOT IN OUR YARDS OR HOMES!

Drainage within the boundaries of the Simonton Lake Conservancy is now the responsibility of the Conservancy. Here is a report on drainage issues:

LAKE LEVEL -The lake is several inches higher than the legal level.

- The County Drainage Board informed the Conservancy that they would be cleaning out Lily Creek from the weir to the toll road. As of the June 12, 2019, Conservancy meeting, it was reported that the survey had been done for this clean out.

- The DNR had reported in April that there were three beaver dams on the creek below the weir. The weir could not work if the creek was dammed up. In June, it was reported that the DNR had removed the beavers and taken apart the dams. However, the County reports that the St. Joe River is so high that Lily Creek isn't flowing very well, dams or no dams.

NORTH SHORE DRIVE DRAINAGE ISSUE - Several residents who live on North Shore Drive south of Seller's Woods asked for help in solving their drainage issues. North of the street the land gently slopes to a culvert under North Shore Drive. That culvert was not working. The drainage-way on the south side of the road leading from the culvert to the lake was clogged.

- Residents reported that the county had come out months ago and partially cleaned the culvert. Residents asked for help in getting the county to finish this job.

- At the June 12th Conservancy meeting it was reported that John Richardson, from Cardno, the engineering firm hired by the Conservancy, said the 12 inch culvert is now open but that the exit of the pipe on the south side may be lower than the current top of the water.

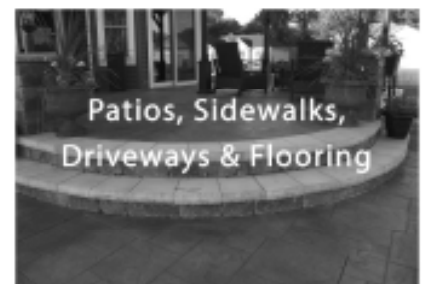
- At the June 26th meeting the Conservancy Board agreed to call County officials and ask that they come out to the site to view the situation and talk with representatives and homeowners.



BRYNWOOD DRAINAGE ISSUE - Two homeowners from Brynwood, a subdivision near the intersection of Dolph and State Line Road, reported that they are also experiencing a drainage problem. A flooded retention pond in their back yard has them worried that they might eventually get water in their crawl space. The homeowners were advised by the Conservancy Board to contact their homeowner's association and the developer. It appears the County is aware of the drainage issues in this neighborhood and have a tentative drainage plan in place. But, it is unclear how high this project is on the County's list of priorities. Residents of Brynwood have contacted State officials who have said this is a local issue.

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S I M O N T O N L A K E SPORTSMEN'S CLUB



Please call or text **Dave Miller**,
SLSC president at 574-596-4835 or
you can e-mail him at
davemilr@cs.com

Poker Run—Pier Spots Needed

The Poker Run was held on Saturday, July 6th. There were new pier spots and a new site for the Poker Run tent, music and food. The weather cooperated for most of the day and the tent was close to the sand bar. It takes lots of volunteers to staff this event. Our thanks to those running the pier spots and those who manned the tents.

JOIN THE CLUB

The Sportsmen's Club is always looking for new members. What a great way to meet people and have a good time and also to give back to the lake community through their various community projects.

Membership is \$25.00 per year.

Call Dave Miller at 574-596-4835 or e-mail Dave at davemilr@cs.com.

Kid's Fishing Contests

The next Fishing Contest is scheduled for August 3rd. As many of you know, the SLSC has had a long-held tradition of organizing two kids fishing tournaments each year. It's a popular event and brings in 30-40 kids, along with their families.

We enjoy putting on this event and would love to keep up the tradition. However, the vacant lots where this has taken place are no longer available to us and we are looking for a new location. The biggest concern here is room for the kids to spread out to fish, with still an area for the family to watch. If we find a location that's not quite large enough to accommodate the 30-40 kids, we could limit the number of kids to fit the lot. But that is obviously not the most ideal situation.

Please let us know if you have an idea on location for this event or are willing to volunteer your location.

FIREWORKS—A Message from the Club President

The fireworks over the lake went off at dusk on Saturday, July 6th. Thanks to all who helped with this event, members who worked all year at fund-raisers and individual donors who funded the event.

NOTE: Once the fireworks are over, the work begins again to raise money for next year. Thanks for your support. Donate to the 2020 Fireworks!

Here are our challenges:

Kid's Fishing Contest	Aug. 3
Fall Turkey Shoot	TBD
Pumpkin Cup Golf Outing	Oct. 5.
Fall Ball and Food Drive,	6-11, Evening of Nov. 9th
SLSC Christmas Party	Dec. 7
First Row	
Cindy VanZile	Girls 4-7 1st place & Largest Fish
Ryan Beard	Boys 4-7 1st place
Cameron Beard	Boys 8-11 2nd place
Nadia Bisig	Girls 4-7 2nd place
Harrison Hire	Boys 4-7 3rd place
Josh Davis	Boys 8-11 3rd place
Back Row	
Madelyn Grey	Girls 12-14 2nd place
Lily Colon	Girls 12-14 1st place
Allison Groth	Girls 8-11 1st place
Noah Haas	Boys 12-14 1st place
Trent Watson	Boys 8-11 1st place
Maisy Yost	Girls 8-11 2nd place

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Lake Calendar 2020

For the past 10 years the Lake Association has produced a calendar featuring beautiful pictures taken by our own lake residents. This calendar includes the dates of big events around the lake and the inside back cover has e-mail addresses and phone numbers for all our local organizations.

Mike Smith, lake resident and owner of The Graphic Group prints the calendar and helps with the design and layout. Proceeds go to Lake Association projects and programs.

The best part is that the amazing talents of our lake neighbors is highlighted for all to see. There are so many wonderful pictures submitted that it is hard to make the final decisions on what to include.

Have you taken a picture of a beautiful sunrise or perhaps a group of cygnets? Whatever it may be, but photographed on or around beautiful Simonton Lake, please submit your pictures via a jpg. attachment to gmhlifeisgood@aol.com no later than October 31, 2019 for consideration in the 2020 calendar.

Simonton
Lake



Photos by Lesa Hershberger and Diane Marlow



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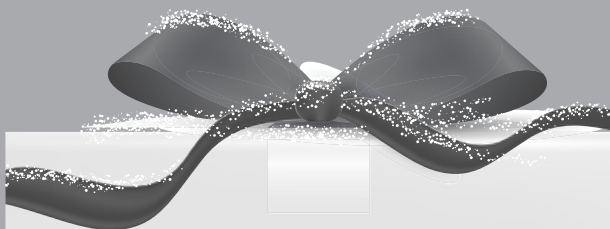
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Lake Shorts

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 us at rmatherly@gmail.com



Postal Carrier Extraordinaire

We'd like to salute our postal carriers. Karla Meyer is the postal carrier for the channel area. She and her husband, Walter live on Aqua. If you'd like to salute your carrier, take a picture and send it in.

Rosa Flores is the mail carrier for part of the lake area. She loves her job and goes the extra mile.

CONGRATULATIONS

No wonder **Jacqueline Wilson** is extra proud of her granddaughter, **Jennifer Jackson Lynch**. She graduated from IU and was on full scholarship to Duke University. She is now a marine biologist and is heading the cleanup of the plastic in the Pacific Ocean. Jennifer has an office on Oahu and is married to Hank Lynch. They have a four year old child. DID YOU KNOW: 40 tons of trash goes into the oceans every day?

GINNY BELLAMY

Our beloved Ginny Bellamy, long time lake resident, and former secretary of the Lake Association had a severe health incident earlier this summer. She's alright. And, we are so glad. Turns out her husband, Larry, is a great nurse!

Moving from the Lake

Eric Reynolds, former resident of Wogoman's Cove has moved.

Leona Skinner has moved to a care facility. She is one of the oldest living residents of the lake.

New Neighbors

- 🏠 John & Peggy Killken are new neighbors on CR11
- 🏠 Brian Russell & Shaye MacDonald are new neighbors on Blue Ribbon Drive
- 🏠 Steve and Christine Holtje are new neighbors on North Shore Drive
- 🏠 Kathy and Ted Gruver of North Shore Drive has sold their home to their daughter and son-in-law Tony and Beth Smith. Ted and Kathy have been lake residents for a long time. Don't worry, they're building further down on North Shore across from Sail Bay.

Welcome to the Lake

.....
Jim Ballard and John and Stephanie Rose were part of Bike Night in downtown Elkhart on Saturday, July 13th. Jim ran the event. John was there as a representative for Indian Motorcycles. And, Stephanie also volunteered.

As he does every year, Stan Skinner played taps on the 4th at dusk. Thanks Stan!



Farewells

Donald Everett Butler, 87, of Bradenton, formerly of Elkhart, father of Debbie Lendman, passed away on May 10, 2019. He was born Oct. 9, 1931, in Albion, Indiana, to Theodore and Clara (Eley) Butler. After graduating from Elkhart High School he married Betty Teeter on June 8, 1952. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and served honorably from Aug. 15, 1951 to July 31, 1959. He retired from AEC (formerly Durakool) as an electrical engineer for 41 years.



Surviving are his children, Jim (Cindy) Butler, Mike (Lynn) Butler and Debbie (John) Lendman, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

He loved playing his saxophone with the Mummers, playing cards with his family and friends, spending time with his dog, Buffy, reading and building airplanes. He was a member of Calvary United Methodist Church in Elkhart, Westminster Presbyterian Church in Bradenton, and a member of the Michiana Miata Car Club.

Most of all he was a loving father and grandfather who will be missed dearly.

Richard Glenn Martin, 74, long time lake area resident, passed away Sunday evening, June 30, 2019 at the Emergency Room at Elkhart General Hospital, with his wife Lynetta at his side. An Elkhart native, he was born July 2, 1944 to the late Milford and Ivdell (Glick) Martin.

Richard married Lynetta F. Mishler on June 16, 1990 in Elkhart. Lynetta survives, as well as a daughter Jean-na (Frank) Thomas, son Brice (Lisa) Martin; step-son Mikel (Tiffany) Bollinger; 3 grandchildren, 1 great grandchild and 8 step-grandchildren and his sister Pam Blankenbaker.



Richard retired after 30 years from Norfolk Southern Railway, where he worked as a Carman and Air-brake instructor. Richard loved fishing and was a member of the Simonton Lake Sportsman Club and enjoyed helping out with the Simonton Lake Children's fishing contest. He was also a volunteer/mentor with Elkhart Community School for many years.

He will be greatly missed.

Look at the gang at Kay Wuchner's house over the 4th!



DISTRUCTIVE BEAVERS



Look at the gang at Kay Wuchner's house over the 4th! Mike and Debbie Smith submitted this picture of what the Lily Creek beavers did to their tree.

Wonder if the tree will survive?



June was so rainy we wondered if it would be summer at all. But, then there it was, the first "Bob sighting" of the summer.

Next time you are going along the Maplewood shore on a boat look for Bob Meyers at the end of hihs pier and honk. If he is there, it is summer!



Here's a great picture of the residents on Twilight Drive. We are calling them the Twilight Terrors. Looks like alot of fun. Great neighbors are a true blessing.



Simonton Lake Boat Landing Repaired

Earlier this spring the Indiana Department of Natural Resources announced that they would repave the parking lot of the boat landing on Simonton Lake. Parking spots will be repainted. The Simonton Lake Conservancy paid for the removal of some trees and the installation of lighting using local tax dollars. A fence that was planned for the south and west sides of the parking lot will be postponed. Elkhart County will pay for moving a drainage tile. It is also planned that the Joy John will be moved.

The Joy John is provided for and maintained by the DNR.

The job was to start in early June, but was delayed by rainy, rainy, rainy June weather. It was reopened on July 1st. The number of parking places was determined by the DNR.

Residents across the channel reported several vehicles towing boats that disregarded the "Road Closed" signs. At least one vehicle became stuck in the muddy ground and had to be towed out!



NOTE: Over the weekend of July 6 and 7, cars parking along CR 109 in the "No Parking" zone were towed away.

It Happened on the Lake



Also celebrating their golden anniversary this year are Mike and Nancy Franger.



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PET TAILS

Here are the “North Shore Dogs” and their people on the 4th of July. It was nice of the dogs to get their people together for a party.

From left to right: Sammie with Maria Hopman, Hank and Berkly with Lisa Garatoni visiting from Detroit, Bella and Jake with Emily Garatoni visiting from Seattle, Emma with Ryan Garatoni, (One-Eyed) Petie with Dan Brekke, Charlie with Leanne Brekke, Luna with Shivani Patel and Stewie with Luna’s fiancée, Gage Davis who were visiting from Minnesota.

Maria Hopman, the Garatoni’s and the Brekke’s live side-by-side on North Shore Drive.

Would you like to have your pet featured in a future newsletter? Please submit a picture and share some information about your pet to, Gina Hoff at gmlifeisgood@aol.com



What's for Sale on the Lake?

Information Courtesy of Zillow and Elkhart County GIS- July 2019

-The Spirito family has sold their home on Lake Drive. Neighbors tell us a family from Granger has purchased the property.

-25120 North Shore Drive is for sale.

-The home formerly owned by the Husband's at 25614 North Shore Drive is for sale.

-The Hershberger's who built the home at 51202 North Shore just sold the property

-51027 Twilight is for sale

-The home at 51078 Sail Bay owned by the Ferro's is for sale.

-The lot at the north end of Forest Road is for sale.

-The unfinished home at 51172 Maplewood is for sale.

-The home owned by Rick and Roni Hoff at 25290 North Shore Drive is for sale.

-The Sapien's home at 51230 CR 109 is for sale.

-Dan and Leanne Brekke are selling their home on North Shore Drive.



SIMONTON Message Board

www.simontonlake.org

A Blue tube with white seats flew into shore at Stan and Linda Skinner's home on 'Little Simonton' after this last storm went through. Stan and Linda have left it on the pier.

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BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

To add your family birthdays and anniversaries to this list,
e-mail tkshewmaker@yahoo.com

BIRTHDAYS

7/17 ---Randy Hoff
8/4 -----Ginny Bellamy
8/5 -----Jaxon Patrick Kern
8/9 -----Buck Ulery
8/19 ---Cindy Nickell
8/19 ---Amy Matherly
8/22 Gina Hoff
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
10/5 ---Kyan Joseph Wilson
Grandparents Paul & Linda Wilson
10/21--Bruce Marlow
10/25--Ken Ward
10/31--Bob Putnam

ANNIVERSARIES

8/1 -----Courtney & Patrick Qualls
Doug and Myra Cors Daughter
8/18 ---Sue and Ron Taylor
8/19 ---Barb & Don Rospopo
8/25 ---Larry & Ginny Bellamy
8/29 ---Kristin & Mike Newkirk
Daughter of Carole & Dave Foutz
9/10 ---Pat & John Brown
9/12 ---Cam & Ab Saleh
Daughter of Susie & Bill Broderick
10/7 ---Deb & Tom Swanson
10/9 ---Ashli & Ben Swathwood
10/11--Erin & Chad Winchester
Daughter of Cindy & Vaughn Nickell

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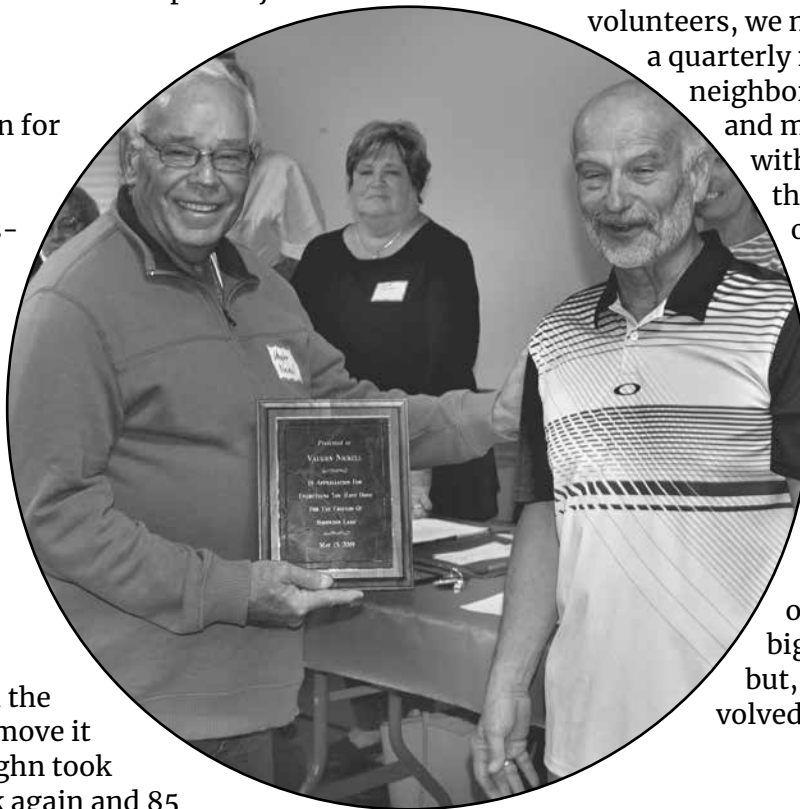
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Vaughn Nickell Receives "Vibrant People of Elkhart County" Award

The Community Foundation of Elkhart County is recognizing the most energetic and generous residents of Elkhart County throughout 2019. Vibrant People of Elkhart County is a year-long daily celebration of the doers and how they make our hometown a vibrant community. These are 365 Vibrant People who go the extra mile and help with just about anything.

One of the people chosen for this award was our own Vaughn Nickell, former president of the Lake Association.

Along with his brother, Vaughn started American Millwork in 1970. He has sold the company and bought it back a couple of times. Most recently, Vaughn didn't like how things were going, especially when the private equity group that had acquired the business threatened to move it away from Elkhart. Vaughn took over American Millwork again and 85 people are still working in Elkhart County because of what he did.



helped make it happen. To date 45,000 cubic yards of sediment have been removed from the lake.

Vaughn spearheaded the re-establishment of the Lake Association several years ago. He moved others to volunteer. Because he marshalled those volunteers, we now have an ecozone, a quarterly newsletter, a new neighbor program, a website, and more. His efforts along with others, helped move the county to help fund our dredging project and pay attention to the needs of the lake watershed.

Someone who just met Vaughn recently said: "He is almost like an Elkhart County secret weapon." He doesn't make a big splash. He is humble, but, when Vaughn is involved, things happen.

Vaughn is not going to beat his chest about keeping jobs here. He is not that kind of man. He saw something that needed to be done. He knew that no one else was likely to do anything about it. Buying the company again seemed like the right thing to do, so he did it.

The same thing was true with the dredging project here at the lake. Vaughn knew that the lake was naturally shallow, and erosion and sediment were getting bad. He banded with some other concerned people and they undertook what has proven to be a major project. He saw what should be done and

*Thanks Vaughn
for being our secret weapon*



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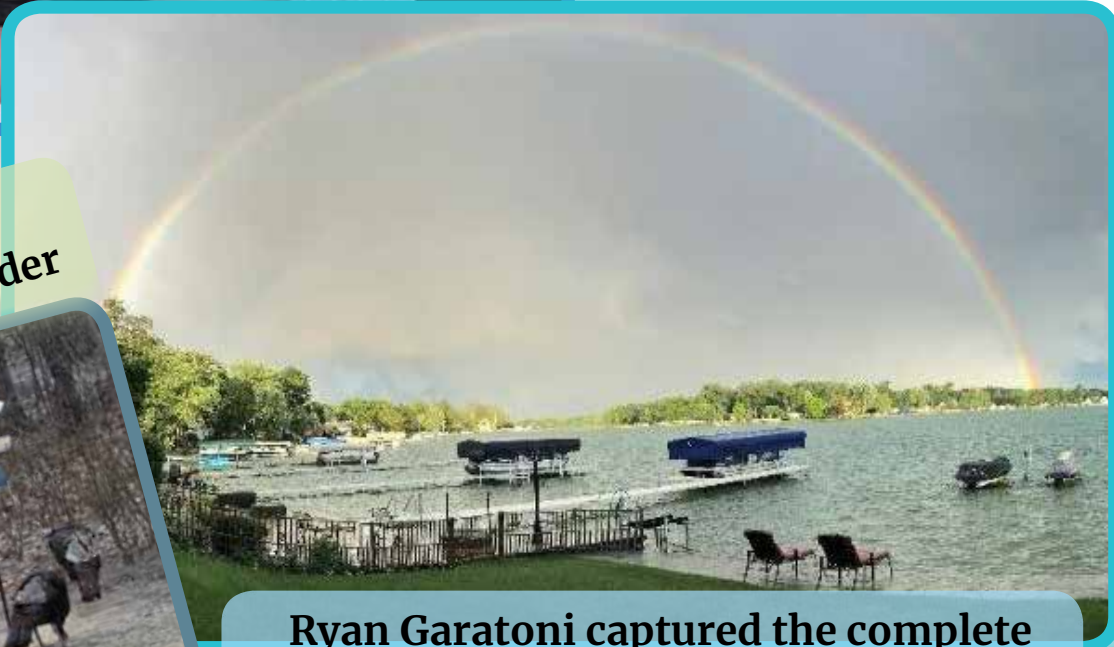


Lara Gammon's flower pot has become a nesting place for a momma duck



Heron at Maria Hopman's House

Wild Turkey's at the Hoff's bird feeder



Ryan Garatoni captured the complete rainbow in June