

**Simonton Says...**

Spring Issue 2023  
Volume 16, Issue 2

Find us on 

GOOD-BYE WINTER

# Hello Spring

Simonton Lake Area Homeowners' Association, Inc. Newsletter

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*"Easter Sunday Morning" by Shelly West*



Elkhart, Indiana  
[www.simontonlakehoa.com](http://www.simontonlakehoa.com)

# Summer Boating Reminders



Don't forget to update your boat registration.



This buoy means you should be going so slow that you do not leave a wake behind you. NO WAKE buoys mark the main channel as well as our smaller channels. You can be ticketed for speeding.

This is an INFORMATION BUOY.  
The information buoys on our lake mark the ECOZONE



Pass an oncoming boat on the left.  
Non-motorized watercraft (such as kayaks, canoes, sailboats) have the right-of-way.

# INFORMATION & EVENTS

**Simonton Says...**  
Spring 2023 Edition

## ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBERS

Doug Reese, President  
51234 Aqua Drive  
574-327-4484

Jack Tucker, Vice President  
51110 Sail Bay Court  
574-370-3326

Theresa Maier, Secretary  
51211 Maplewood

Van Kessler, Treasurer  
51172 Blue Ribbon Lane  
574-370-2266

Susan Broderick,  
Membership/Outreach  
25424 North Shore Drive  
574-903-6789

Randy Hoff, Environment  
25369 Vernon Crossing

Tim Leis  
51004 Sail Bay Court

## VISIT OUR WEBSITE

[www.simontonlakehoa.com](http://www.simontonlakehoa.com)

Email us at:  
[simon@simontonlake.org](mailto:simon@simontonlake.org)

Find us on   
**SIMONTONLAKE HOA**

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

**JOIN "LAKE ALERTS" EMAIL GROUP**  
[simontonlakehoa@gmail.com](mailto:simontonlakehoa@gmail.com)

## STANDING COMMITTEES

### Membership:

- New Neighbors  
Frank and Kathy Stec
- Lake Calendar - Gina Hoff
- Garage Sale
- Memorial Day Boat Parade
- Dues - Van Kessler

**Communication:** Amy Matherly  
[simontonlakehoa@gmail.com](mailto:simontonlakehoa@gmail.com)

- To become an advertiser  
contact Jon Hart  
[simontonlakehoa@gmail.com](mailto:simontonlakehoa@gmail.com)
- To sign up for Lake Alerts:  
[simontonlakehoa@gmail.com](mailto:simontonlakehoa@gmail.com)
- Facebook: Michele Coleman

**Environment:** Lesa Hershberger

- Ecozone
- Weir
- Water Quality Concern
- Wildlife Concerns

### Safety:

- DNR related issues
- "Lake Alerts" - Chris Toles,  
[cmt6061@comcast.com](mailto:cmt6061@comcast.com)
- Buoy Watch, report damaged  
or loose buoys
- Crime Reports

## COMMUNITY CONTACTS

### Simonton Lake Conservancy

574-206-8485  
902 CR 6, Elkhart, IN 46514

### 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 Rules 317-234-1097  
Or 317-234-1063

**Sheriff Elkhart County**  
(574) 533-4151  
**EMERGENCIES-CALL 911**  
**Osolo Township Fire Dept.**  
574-264-1066  
**Osolo EMS** 574-262-3052

## EVENTS ON THE LAKE

**May 5 and 6** Spring Garage Sale

**May 10** Conservancy Meeting

**May 13** Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive

**May 13** Sportsmen's Club Golf Outing

**May 17** Lake Assoc. Annual Meeting

**May 29** Memorial Day Flotilla

**June 14** Conservancy Meeting

**June 17** Kids Fishing Contest

**June 28, 29, 30 and July 1** Poker Run Hand  
Sales & T-Shirt Sales

**July 1** Poker Run

**July 2** Flag Retirement Ceremony

**July 3** Fireworks

**July 12** Conservancy Meeting

**July 10** Deadline for Summer issue

**August** Summer Issue of "Simonton Says"

**August 5** Kid's Fishing Contest

**August 9** Conservancy Meeting

**September 9 & 10** Sportsmen's Club Fall  
Turkey Shoot (Tentative)

**September 13** Conservancy Meeting

**Sept. 16** Sportsmen's Club Golf Outing

**Sept 30, Oct. 1** Fall Garage Sale

**Sept. 30** Sportsmen's Club Fall Casino Night  
(Tentative)

**Oct. 11** Conservancy Meeting

**Nov. 8** Conservancy Meeting

**Nov. 11** Sportsmen's Club Fall Ball

## 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.*



## SIMONTON LAKE AREA HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

---

Wednesday, May 17

Sportsmen's Club

Meal 6:00 p.m.

Meeting 7:00 p.m.

*Good Food, Good Information, Door Prizes*



## NEW EMAIL FOR THE LAKE ASSOCIATION

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Because of hacking suffered by several of our officers and committee members, we have removed most of their email addresses from the website and magazine. We have experienced some technical difficulties with emails we had hoped to use. So, we now hope to use:

**[simontonlakehoa@gmail.com](mailto:simontonlakehoa@gmail.com)**

By the time you get this issue of Simonton Says, you should already have received a Lake Alert from this address if you are part of our "Lake Alerts" email group. If you are a part of this group and did not get this email, please check your SPAM folder, and redirect emails from us to your INBOX.

Thanks for being patient with us. It's been very frustrating to get this going correctly.

Communication is key to a healthy and vibrant lake community.



# SIMONTON NOTES FROM THE BOARD

Spring 2023 Edition

Yearly HOA membership begins in January, but we continue to take memberships throughout the year.

You'll find a membership form at the bottom of this page.

HOA Email: simontonlakehoa@gmail.com

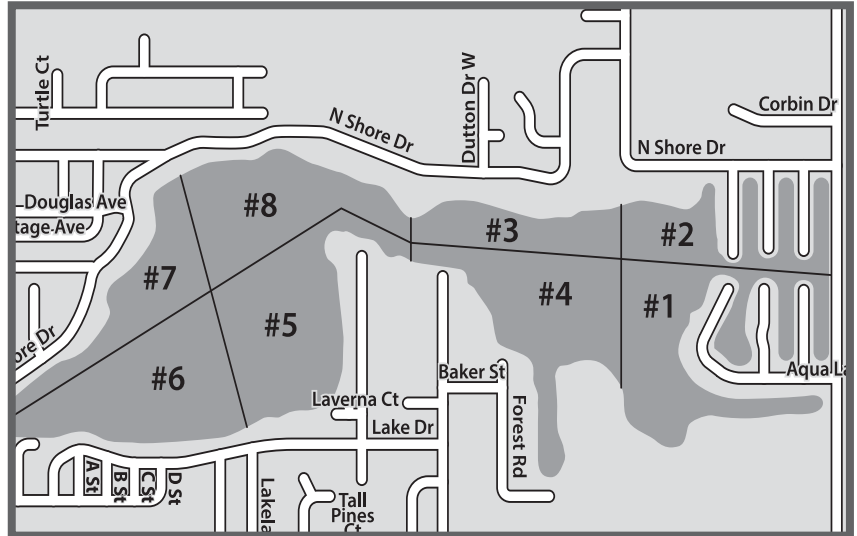
Website: simontonlakehoa

Facebook: Simonton Lake HOA

## AREA REPRESENTATIVES

<b>Area #1</b>	Van Kessler	574-370-2266
<b>Area #2</b>	Ann & Jerry Broderick Sue Ward	574-264-1331 574-596-2020
<b>Area #3</b>	Maria Hopman	574-262-1665
<b>Area #4</b>	Jon Hart	574-262-1404
<b>Area #5</b>	Bob Meyers Cindy Nickell	574-675-0970 574-262-3105
<b>Area #6</b>	Melissa Kessler	574-849-9995
<b>Area #7</b>	Dave VanZile Theresa Maier	574-264-5201 574-361-0517
<b>Area #8</b>	Amy Matherly	574-524-6632

The Lake Association has divided the lake into 8 areas.  
Check out your area in this map.



## SLAHA MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

**DUES: PER HOUSEHOLD PER YEAR**  
JANUARY 1, 2023 - DECEMBER 31, 2023

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE/CELL(S) \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE/HOME \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL(S) \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES AUTOMATED LAKE ALERTS VIA EMAIL

### PARTICIPATION INTEREST IN A CURRENT COMMITTEE

Committee Chairpersons  
are listed in Newsletter

- [ ] Lake Environment  
[ ] Lake Safety  
[ ] Membership/Outreach  
[ ] Newsletter  
[ ] Website

[ ] Regular Member \$30

[ ] Senior (70-79) \$20

[ ] Honorary (80 & Over) **FREE**  
Life Member

SL HOA ADDITIONAL DONATION \$

FIREWORKS FUND DONATION \$

SL PRESERVATION TRUST DONATION \$

Goose/Swan Remediation Project \$

**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 interested in being a SLAHA Board Member, please contact a current board member listed in the newsletter.



# WINTER WATER RESCUE

by Bob Meyers as told to him by Vaughn Nickell

On a Sunday morning in January, Vaughn Nickell had a granddaughter playing volleyball. Vaughn wasn't at the game. However, his granddaughter, who knew her grandfather never missed a game unless he had a good reason, knew that he must have had a good reason. She just didn't know how good a reason it was.

I am going to tell you about that very good reason. This is the story of the rescue of a young man on the main channel between Big and Little Simonton Lakes. This is the information word for word from the rescuer, Vaughn Nickell.

## Vaughn's Story:

"First this story sure travels fast, so let me say I'm not a hero as some people have suggested. I only did what most other people would do; I only share this story if it brings awareness that ice is not always safe. So, this is not about me; it is about preventing others from making a similar mistake, and I would appreciate keeping this story in perspective.

Vaughn continues, "On Sunday, January 29 mid-morning, I noticed a young man walking from the west across the Big Lake toward my house (at the sandbar). The lake ice was not very thick and had open-water spots. He came up on my shoreline to walk around some of those spots. I asked him where he was going. He said to his home a few doors down. I cautioned him that the ice was not safe, especially in the channel, but he went on his way.

I was getting ready to leave for my granddaughter's volleyball game but couldn't get it out of my mind that the young man was headed for trouble. I kept checking on him until he disappeared behind my neighbor's house. When I pulled out of my garage, I thought I'd look for him to be sure he was okay.

When I got near the gate (to my property) I could see someone in the water. He had broken through. The road was icy, but I sped to the public landing. I realized I didn't have a rope, but I didn't think I had time to go back home for one. So, I continued to get there as quickly as possible. I wasn't sure how long a person could last in icy water, but I knew it wasn't long.

When I got to the landing, I didn't see him, but I could hear him yelling, 'Help!' Then I saw him to the west. I jumped back in my truck and drove to the Robinson cabin (near the landing) thinking about how I was going to get him out. As soon as I got out of the truck, I dialed 911 and ran to where I thought he was. He was about 20-25 yards out. I gave 911 the emergency and location next to the public landing. The 911 operator wanted more information, but I told her I didn't have time to waste. I needed to get this kid out of the water. I hung up.

Fortunately, Casey Ulery, my neighbor, had heard the young man yelling for help and she ran from the house on Maplewood, through the woods to the cabin. She called 911 and stayed on the line. In the meantime, I was scrambling around thinking of how to get this kid out. I didn't want to go in the water and sink into the mucky bottom for fear we'd both be in trouble.

So, I found several 2 x 4's, 8' long, and slid them out to him to grab in each hand and asked him to start crawling to the shore. The 2 x 4's would disperse his weight, and hopefully, keep him on top of the ice. I knew he was tired and not keeping focus, so I kept encouraging him to keep coming in my direction. Finally, I was able to grab him and lift him out of the lake. As I was walking him to my truck to warm up, the ambulance and fire

truck pulled up and took him to the hospital.

I've not talked to the young man since, but I did see his father the next day, and I could tell he was very appreciative. This could have been a very bad day, but fortunately, the Lord was watching over us.

Lessons learned; bad ice is very dangerous, especially if you go through with no one around."

That was Vaughn's story, so here's mine. Vaughn Nickel is a hero. So is Casey Ulery. Vaughn could have ignored the situation and headed for his granddaughter's volleyball game. He didn't. Casey Ulery could have ignored the call for help and remained in her warm house. She didn't. They both became involved. Both are heroes.

This isn't the first act of heroism by Vaughn. He is a United States Marine who served our country in Viet Nam, where he was a hero many times over.

To Vaughn's granddaughter: thank you for having a grandfather who is a hero. Thank you for playing volleyball that Sunday morning in January so your grandfather would have to leave his garage to go to your game and was able to spot that young man in the water and perform a very brave act.

## If someone falls through the ice

### Call 911

#### Toss them a flotation device.

This can be a life jacket, empty water jug or any buoyant object.

**REACH** the victim with a long pole, board, rope, blanket or jumper cables.

**Build a human chain** in which rescuers lie on the ice with each person grasping the feet of the person in front. Once on the ice, roll away from the weak or broken ice; do not attempt to stand up.



# LEPRECHAUN LEAP RETURNS

## *to Simonton Lake*

The Leprechaun Leap, a fundraiser benefiting Cancer Resources of Elkhart County returned to Re-Pete's on Simonton Lake this March. The last Leap was held here in 2019. That year the fundraiser was in its 14th year and about 300 people attended.

While the winter was mild this year with very little ice, in past years volunteers from the Simonton Lake Sportsmen's Club had to chop a hole in the ice for the jumpers to do their jobs.

### **Cancer Resources of Elkhart**

Cancer Resources provides financial and emotional support to cancer patients in Elkhart County as they undergo treatments. Founded in 1958, the organization relies on individual donations, private grants, and fundraisers like the Leprechaun Leap to continue offering its programs and services. Cancer Resources is a relatively new name after it was updated from United Cancer Services in 2018. The change was intended to better identify the group as a locally based grassroots service unaffiliated with regional or national organizations.

### **Sportsman's Club Volunteers**

Members of the Simonton Lake Sportsman's Club directed traffic for the event.

Thanks to Re-Pete's for Hosting, to the volunteers who helped run the event and to the participants who are still trying to get warm!





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# "STAMP OUT HUNGER" FOOD DRIVE



**Saturday, May 13, 2023**

The 31st Annual Letter Carriers'  
Stamp Out Hunger® Food Drive

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LETTER CARRIERS'

**FOOD DRIVE**



**2nd Saturday in May**

Supported by the United States Postal Service

For the 31st time our United States Post Office Letter Carriers are sponsoring their STAMP OUT HUNGER FOOD DRIVE.

This food drive's timing is crucial as Food Banks and Pantries often receive the majority of their donations during the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holiday Season. By springtime, many pantries are depleted, entering the summer low on supplies at the time when many school breakfast and lunch programs are not available to children in need. More than 13 million are children who feel hunger's impact on their overall health and ability to perform in school. More than 5 million seniors over the age of 60 are food insecure. **YOUR DONATIONS STAY LOCAL!**

*Don't forget to get your bags of non-perishable food items at your mailbox for pick up on May 13th. This is the easiest way ever thought of to help fight hunger.*

***Thanks to our letter carriers! And, thanks to all of you in advance.***

## Support the Lake Association with your 2023 DUES

Our annual membership drive begins each January. But you can still send in your dues. It is our goal to bring our membership to 100%. We can do good things together.

Get your 2023 dues in today!

Your dues support the newsletter, the website, Lake Alerts and other safety programs, the New Neighbor program, the Annual All-Lake Garage Sale, water quality, and so much more.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR  
LAKE ASSOCIATION**

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# SPOTLIGHT

## ON ADVERTISERS



### FURNITURE & MATTRESS

You've driven by **One Stop Furniture** on Cassopolis Street dozens of times in the past three years, but have you made that "one stop" to go in and see just how much inventory they have? What you see in the windows is just a fraction of their 10,000 sq ft showroom with a full line of mid-priced home furniture for your living room, dining

room, and bedroom. Including mattresses, rugs, occasional tables, lamps, and wall decor. Plus, One Stop now carries Ashley Furniture, saving you that trip to Mishawaka.

One Stop Furniture and Mattress is a husband and wife local retailer owned by Rick and Kathy Beasley. Two very nice people, who after 27+ years in manufacturing in the Elkhart area decided to make the leap to retail. That was the end of 2019, and little did they know Covid was coming! Well, they have survived the Covid world, and now going into year four, continue to expand and grow their business. Make some time for that "one stop". They would love to help you brighten your home!

### *Eye-Q Aesthetics*

Lake resident, Nancy Walker, is the founder of **Eye-Q Aesthetics**.

She is a trained injector and doctorate trained nurse anesthesiologist (CRNA) who has been providing anesthesia services all over Michiana for years. With Eye-Q Aesthetics, Nancy provides Botox, Dermal Fillers, Facials, and Chemical Peels. She will also do at-home parties and would be happy to schedule anyone on the lake. As a small business owner, she loves supporting other local businesses and would look forward to collaborating with your business!

Nancy and her husband Mark have lived on one of the lake's eastside channels since 2011. Mark is an optometrist at Boling Vision Center, and they have one son, Mark III, who is 4 years old. Her favorite things about the lake are the sense of community, the way everyone looks out for one another, and the great friendships they've gained over the years. You can follow Nancy on Instagram @eye\_aesthetics. Or, on Facebook at Eye-Q Aesthetics. She can be reached at 574-891-0303.



**Pro Dock Inc.** was started in 2019 by Drew Vaickus as a dock and lift company with a focus on sales and installation of new and used boat lifts and dock systems, as well as seasonal installation and removals on local lakes in Southwest Michigan and Northern Indiana. As an 18 year old college student, Drew already had three years experience working

at a local marina with side jobs putting in lifts and docks. Seeing an entrepreneurial opportunity, he decided to become one and bought his first barge. Pro Dock now has two fork barges helping to keep them on the water as much as possible, and to help protect your product during lifting, installing, and transporting. In addition, Pro Dock has expert captains and crew who put in long hours, and are experienced in handling overturned lifts, boats, and docks after hazardous weather conditions.

Over the past four years, Drew has built Pro Dock into one of the top boat lift and dock companies in the industry, and a preferred dealer for Bulmann Boat Lifts and Docks. Pro Dock prides itself on attention to detail, and they enjoy the feeling of accomplishment that comes from being able to say "We Did That"!

# CONSERVANCY CORNER

Simonton Lake Conservancy

## WHAT NOT TO PUT INTO THE SEWER

There are some things you can do to make your grinder pump continue to work.

**Remember these letters: F.O.G.S.**

**F stands for Fats**

**O stands for Oils**

**G stands for Grease**

**S stands for Sanitary "disposable" wipes**

Grease and fats clog up pipes which eventually need to be cleaned out. And, those disposable sanitary wipes, well, for our system, they are NOT disposable.

**BOTTOM LINE: DO NOT PUT F.O.G.S INTO THE SYSTEM!**

## Conservancy Purposes

The Conservancy deals with the following: Drainage, Erosion, Sewer, Sediment Removal, Weed Control, issues that improve recreational use of the lake (Example: ADA Compliant Pier)

## ADA Compliant Pier

The Conservancy Board received word that the ADA Compliant Pier will be installed soon at the Simonton Lake Public Landing. The DNR will install the ramp and will remove it in the fall.

## Summer Weed Spraying

Check the SLSC website for dates of summer weed spraying.

If you get a card from Aquatic Weed Control, then the chemicals they are using are harmful to your lawn. The card says not to use your sprinkler system.

If you see Aquatic Weed Control spraying but you have not received a card, **DON'T PANIC!** The chemicals they are using are not harmful to your lawn.

After **every** spraying near your property a yellow flag will be placed in your lawn.

## SLCD Website

The Conservancy has a website that has information on paying your sewer bill, board meeting minutes, upcoming projects, and board members. Did you know you can now pay your sewer bill online? Just go to the SLCD website and click on "Pay Online" on the menu bar!

## Dry Hydrants

The Conservancy Board is working on dry hydrants at the lake. See the article in this issue.

## Simonton Lake Sewer Board of Directors

District 1 - Paul Wilson

District 2 - Ed Hickman

District 3 - Ryan Matherly

District 3 - Mark Lucas

District 5 - Randy Hoff

## Board Meetings Are Held At The Elkhart Aquatic Center

May 10, June 14, July 12, August 9

## PLEASE NOTE:

Aquatic Weed Control will treat the channels the WEEK of June 13<sup>th</sup>. After our application, yellow flags will be posted in the yard listing the water use restrictions of three (3) days using water out of the channel to water yards and ornamental plants. Residents can fish and swim right away after our application.

**Aquatic  
Weed  
Control**

574-538-2597

**This is the current list of DNR permitted Wildlife Rehabilitators. With spring upon us you'll need to keep this list handy.**

## Indiana DNR Permitted Wildlife Rehabilitators as of May 2023

Name	Animals Accepted	Telephone
Rachelle Marshman	-----Rabbits, opossums, skunks, foxes, raccoons, groundhogs, squirrels, deer, and weasels -----	574-286-6998
Dennis Badke	-----Mammal, raptors, songbirds, snakes, turtles, lizards, No raccoons, or skunks. Call first.-----	574-849-0187
Mike Wilson	-----Foxes, coyotes, skunks, raccoons, opossums, rabbits, squirrels, deer, and groundhogs-----	574-527-2099
Stephanie Gratton	-----Squirrels, rabbits, opossums, raccoons, skunks, turtles, -----	574-214-5563
Heather Downey	-----Turtles Only-----	574-233-4601
Aldona Martin	-----Mammals -----	574-274-6373



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# DRY HYDRANTS

## WHAT IS A DRY HYDRANT?

A dry hydrant is an unpressurized, permanently installed pipe that has one end below the water level of a lake or pond. This end usually has a strainer to prevent debris from entering the pipe. The other end is above ground and has a hard sleeve connector.

## WHY DO WE NEED THEM?

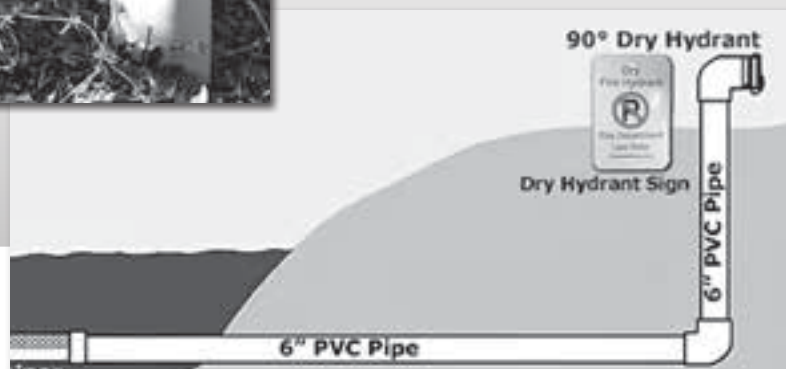
The Simonton Lake Conservancy has been looking into the idea of placing dry hydrants at a couple of spots on the lake. In case of a fire in our area, trucks can simply hook on to the dry hydrant connector and fill their tanks. The alternative is for the truck to be sent to the public landing, losing valuable time while a structure burns.



## HOW DOES IT WORK?

One end of the water pipe would need to be in at least six feet of water. The line itself would be buried underground with the connector at the other end placed at the street.

At this time, the Conservancy is still in the planning phases looking for suitable sites where the required six-foot water depth can be found. Look for more information on this project in the months to come.



*Dry hydrants provide a reliable water source for fire suppression close to the incident.*

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**Whether it's a new bass boat you're after or a relaxing day on the lake in your new pontoon, Starboard Choice Marine is there to help make your day on the water enjoyable! Our factory trained, certified technicians want to assist in creating a worry-free boating experience!**



## SIMONTON LAKE BEGINS YEAR TWO OF WATER TESTING

As reported last August, Simonton Lake had been chosen to participate in a state-wide program sponsored by the Indiana DNR, IDEM and IU Bloomington called the Clean Water Initiative. At that time only 100 of Indiana's lakes had been approved.

### What is the Clean Water Initiative?

The question asked by many lake residents is: How clean is our water? Unless we hire a company to test, we have no scientific data to give us that answer. But, by doing bi-weekly testing we will have that answer. We also can compare our data to other lakes our size and find out what other lakes are doing to keep their water clean.

### How did we do Last Year?

In our first year of testing, we were only allowed to test for water clarity and transparency. We have gotten the data from the State for 2022. In August when we began testing the water was clear at the testing site to a depth of a little over 7 feet. A few weeks later in September the clarity went to 8.08 feet.

### What's Next?

This year we need to complete an entire season of testing for clarity and transparency. In 2024 we will be testing for: temperature, dissolved oxygen, phosphorus, nitrogen, and chlorophyll, invasive species, and Algal blooms.

**We are in need of a person or two who would boat or paddle out into the middle of Little Simonton, one time every other week and drop the disc over the side and see how far down they can see the disk.**

**That's all! Real easy!**

If you would like to volunteer for this program, contact Amy Matherly or Lesa Hershberger at [simontonlakehoa@gmail.com](mailto:simontonlakehoa@gmail.com)



*Testing for water clarity by dropping a secchi disk over the side of the boat.*

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Indianapolis 317-652-6175  
South Bend 574-239-2273

@senior1care

## Poker Run Hand Sales and T-shirt Sales

Wed-Friday, June 28, 29, 30 • 5pm-9pm • at Re-Pete's and Flippin' Cow

Friday, June 30 • 5pm-9pm • at My Dad's Place

Saturday, July 1 • 8am-Noon • at Re-Pete's

### Poker Run

Sat. July 1

Turn in Your Hands at the Island  
on Little Simonton

### Flag Retirement Ceremony

Sunday, July 2

Evans Island in Little Simonton at 2:30

### Fireworks

Monday, July 3 at dusk

## FLAG RETIREMENT CEREMONY SCHEDULED FOR SUNDAY JULY 2, 2023

For many years a flag retirement ceremony has been held as part of the lake's observance of the 4th of July. For many years Dwight and Linda Bowser held a flag retirement ceremony on the 4th of July in their yard on the lake. Last year Bob and Georgia Evans decided to revive the lake tradition and host it on their island in Little Simonton Lake. The event was called the Dwight Bowser Memorial Flag Retirement Ceremony. The ceremony included an Honor Guard Salute, Taps and a missing man formation fly over by two WW II era planes.



### BIGGER AND BETTER THIS YEAR

This year Bob and Georgia have announced they will once again host the event. It is scheduled for **Sunday July 2, 2023, at 2:30 pm. on Evans Island on Little Simonton. Lake.** Bob hopes that the event will be bigger and better. He hopes to have a bigger flyover, include the local Scout troop, and get more involvement from local vets or those in active service. Also, this year and in the future a memorial recognition of deceased veterans will be made. If you have a family member or friend who lived on Simonton Lake and is a deceased veteran, please get Bob the information below.

### VETERANS AND ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBERS, WE NEED YOUR INFORMATION!

Contact Bob at [newsletter@simontonlakehoa.com](mailto:newsletter@simontonlakehoa.com) with the following information or mail this form  
Bob at P.O. Box 1706, Elkhart, Indiana 46515-1706

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_ Dates of Service \_\_\_\_\_

Where the Veteran served \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Other Information \_\_\_\_\_





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# LAKE SHORTS

This is a picture of our own Leanne Brekke with the one and only Zach Edey, superstar basketball player at Purdue. What a great picture! Leanne is quick but I think Zach's got her beat on height!

## Happy Anniversary to Dave and Kristine VanZile



They look just the same as they did back in the day!



▲ Just to show you how mild the winter was at the lake; this picture was taken on January 18.

◀ January 23 visitors after the melt.





## Church on the Water

The HOA received this PR message from the group of residents hoping to make church on the water a reality:

"A church service on the water? That's right! A team of lake residents headed up by Kim and Larry Brothers are organizing a weekly church service on Simonton Lake. The team is hoping to have a weekly Sunday morning service from Memorial Day to Labor Day at 9:00 a.m. The service will be held on the water and will include some singing and a message. Pastor Tony Tice, Lead Pastor of the recently launched Church on the Rock (formerly Winding Waters) and Bible teacher for Uncaged Bible Ministries, will lead the services along with a gifted team of worship leaders.

If you would like more information, please find them on their Facebook at Simonton Lake Church on the Water.

This duck was noticed by the Cavitt's off of North Shore Drive. While there are ducks with crests, this crest is probably caused by a genetic mutation that duck breeders have selected for. This mutation causes a duck to be born with a gap in its skull, which is filled with a growth of fatty tissue. It's from this growth that the pouf of feathers sprouts.



### New Neighbors

Michele Brown and Billy Ray Bell are new neighbors on North Shore Drive.

### Tuesday Night Concerts

Don't forget about the Municipal Band Concerts at McNaughton Park this summer. 8:00 on Tuesday nights starting in June. Bring your own chair or sit in the bandshell seats.

### Pet Tails Information Needed

Do you have the cutest pet in the world? Do you have a pet story to tell? Please share that with us for future issues of Simonton Says. Contact us at [simontonlakehoa@gmail.com](mailto:simontonlakehoa@gmail.com)

## Wetlands Bill Surfaces Again

Just a few years ago a bill came to the statehouse floor regarding wetlands. The issue has surfaced again, and it is sponsored by our own state representative, Doug Miller. According to several newspaper reports the new restrictions in this amendment would be harmful to wetlands in Indiana. As we lakers know, wetlands are a key part of our lake ecosystem. We called Doug to get his side of the story. He says that the wetlands amendment he is proposing is simply an attempt to simplify and to clarify the definitions of our wetlands. We'll pay attention to this issue as it proceeds through the Indiana General Assembly.



# Farewells

## Patricia A. Linn

Patricia A. Linn, 92, beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, died Monday, March 6, 2023, surrounded by her family at home in Elkhart, Indiana.

Pat was born May 18, 1930, to Walter H. and Catherine V. (Kraus) Nadolny. She grew up in Elkhart and remained an active member of the community throughout her life, volunteering for many years with St. Vincent DePaul Catholic Church, the Delta Theta Tau sorority, and the Elkhart General Hospital Auxiliary.

Beyond her local contributions, Pat's life was most defined by a deep love of her family and friends. She graduated from Elkhart High School in 1947 and married her high school sweetheart, James W. Linn, on Nov. 23, 1950. Together, they owned and grew Harter Floor Care's business, where she served as bookkeeper for over 30 years. Most importantly, across a loving marriage of 65 years, Pat and Jim raised six children, rejoiced in the arrival of 19 grandchildren and delighted in the birth of dozens of great-grandchildren.

Pat had a gift of making each family member feel cherished. She opened her home every week for "Sunday dinner," with favorite recipes ranging from homemade meatballs and spaghetti sauce to creamed chicken. Her grandchildren fondly remember sleepovers that included special lunches and shopping trips, and many a great-grandchild snuck a chocolate chip cookie out of her freezer. She attended countless sporting events, musicals, graduations, First Communions, Confirmations, and weddings. She was a matriarch who loved unconditionally and completely.

Pat is survived and will be missed tremendously by her five daughters: Rebecca (Leonard) Vervaeke of Osceola, Roberta (Michael) Harding of Granger, **Christine Slabaugh** of Simonton Lake, Michelle (Dennis) Bueter, and Cynthia (Jeffrey) Leslie, all of Elkhart, and her son, John (Elaine) Linn of Granger. Also surviving are 19 grandchildren and 34 great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Jim, her brother, John Nadolny, and her three sisters, Maricatherine Kessler, Josephine Nadolny and Ruth Falcone.

Memorial contributions in honor of Pat may be made to St. Vincent DePaul Catholic Church in Elkhart or the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.



Patricia A. Linn

## Jordan Michael Cahall

Jordan Michael Cahall, 33 years old, passed away unexpectedly on April 20, 2023, as the result of a tragic automobile accident. Jordan lived on Simonton Lake for many years. His mother and stepdad, **Jody and Robert Divjak**, live on Lake Drive. Jordan loved sports, especially basketball and Kobe Bryant. He also enjoyed watching all Notre Dame sporting events. Jordan was a caring and giving person, never meeting a stranger.

Jordan was recently baptized and read the Bible to others who were struggling at many places.

His mother Jody shared this quote with us, "The most beautiful people in the world are the ones we have been blessed to love".

Jody says she especially admires the people who have known defeat, suffering, struggle and loss, and yet found their way each day praying for peace. She continues, "that day of peace for you, my son, was April 20, 2023. In life you showed compassion, gentleness, and a deep concern, putting others before yourself. You were a person with a kind, loving and beautiful soul. I prayed for you every day and knew God had a plan, but His plan came much too soon for me. I am so grateful I was chosen to be your mom- that was my greatest honor, and you will always be in my heart. Jordan always called me his Earth Angel~ and now he is mine."

Jordan was cremated and a beautiful service was held on April 24, 2023.



Jordan and his nephew Leo





# DEER DROWNING FOLLOW UP

by the Osolo Fire Department and Bob Myers

While we reported this incident in our February issue, we received this report from the Osolo Fire Department and wanted to share it with you.

On Tuesday, January 10, several residents of Simonton Lake called 911 and reported a deer on the ice covering the lake.

The Osolo Fire Department was dispatched at 5:10. When firefighters arrived at the scene, they saw a buck about 800 yards from shore. The crew put on wet suits, inflated their "banana boat" and began chopping at the ice. Firefighters realize a deer, especially the male is a strong animal that would put up a fight rather than be captured. This was taken into consideration in the rescue effort.

Firefighters found the ice too thin to walk on and too thick for a boat to navigate to the animal. They attempted to follow the path of the deer, however, the tracks kept

freezing over. A lake resident loaned firefighters a flatbed Jon boat. Rescue attempts using this boat also failed. However, firefighters continued to reach the deer.

At 6:30 p.m. it became too dark to see and the rescue attempt was terminated.

NOTE: Later in the winter the body of the deer floated up to a seawall on Lake Drive and was removed from the water by the DNR.

## REMINDERS

- Don't try an ice rescue by going out onto the ice!
- Stay on shore and call 911
- Beyond giving your location to the dispatcher, line up the person or animal in trouble with a point across the lake.
- Keep your eye on the victim.

## Indiana Boating Handbook

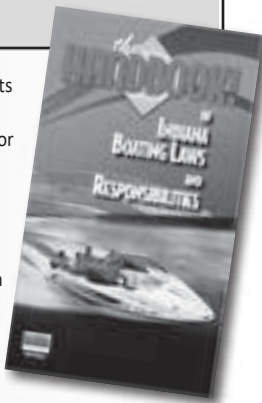
You may have been operating a speedboat for years, but do you know the most current regulations? Before the Conservation Officer gives you a ticket, you might want to take a look at the most recent "Handbook of Indiana Boating Laws and Responsibilities."

**This book is available online at <https://www.boat-ed.com/indiana/handbook/>**

You can also get a paper copy of the book at various suppliers.

Also, check out the online boaters' courses offered. It's a good idea for people new to operating any motorized watercraft!

- Do you know how many life jackets you must carry in your boat?
- Did you know that all motorboat or PWC operators must have a valid driver's license to operate on all Indiana public waters?
- Did you know that 15-year-olds can operate watercraft only if they complete a boater education course approved by the Department of Natural Resources and have on board an ID card issued by the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles?



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**Simonton Lake Location**





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## Invasive Weeds

**Know what they look like. Report them if you see them.**

### CURLY-LEAF PONDWEED



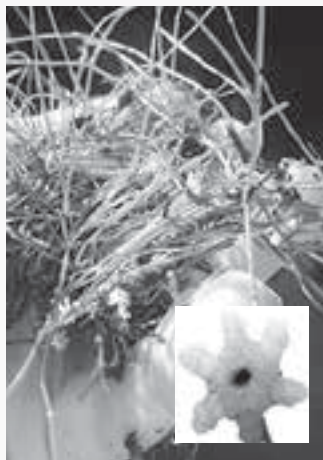
Three-inch leaves that are reddish green.  
Grows to form mat on water surface.  
Spread by cuttings that sink and root.

### HYDRILLA



Small, serrated leaves.  
Spread by cuttings that sink and root.  
Looks like plants used in aquariums.

### STARRY STONEWORT



Starry stonewort forms dense mats on the surface of the lake.  
Identify by star-shaped flower.

### EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL



**Already found in Simonton Lake!**  
Extremely fast growing.  
Feathery leaves with tiny flowers above water surface.  
Grows to form mat on water surface.  
Spread by cuttings that sink & root.

**Report sitings to the Simonton Lake Conservancy 206-8485**

## SPRAYING FOR INVASIVE WEEDS

Each year the Simonton Lake Conservancy pays for the spraying of invasive weeds. (PLEASE TAKE A LOOK AT THE PICTURES OF INVASIVE WEEDS ON THIS PAGE.) Only the areas of the lake that have these invasive weeds are sprayed. The company the Conservancy has contracted with is Aquatic Weed Control, a company owned by Jim Donahoe.

Spraying for Invasive weeds on Simonton Lake is done twice each year.

If the weed spraying is going to be harmful to your lawn the company tries to get prior notice to homeowners by U.S. Mail, and a yellow flag like the one below will be placed in your yard. You can see from the notice below that the homeowner is warned not to use the sprinkling system for three days after the spraying. If you get a notice like this and have neighbors who have gone out of town and might not have gotten the mailed notice, texting or emailing them would be the neighborly thing to do.

According to Jim Donahoe at Aquatic Weed Control, they use both algicides and herbicides in the channels to control the weeds and the algae. The herbicides used to control the weeds in the channels are the ones that require a 3-day irrigation restriction.

When Aquatic Weed Control sprays specifically for Starry Stonewort, which is NOT harmful to your lawn, you will NOT get prior notice. But a yellow flag will be placed in your yard just so you know they have sprayed.

Mr. Donahoe also states that none of the herbicides or algicides used have swimming restrictions and that the restrictions on using the water are only for the treated area and not the entire lake. If there is no sign in their yard, they are fine to use the water.

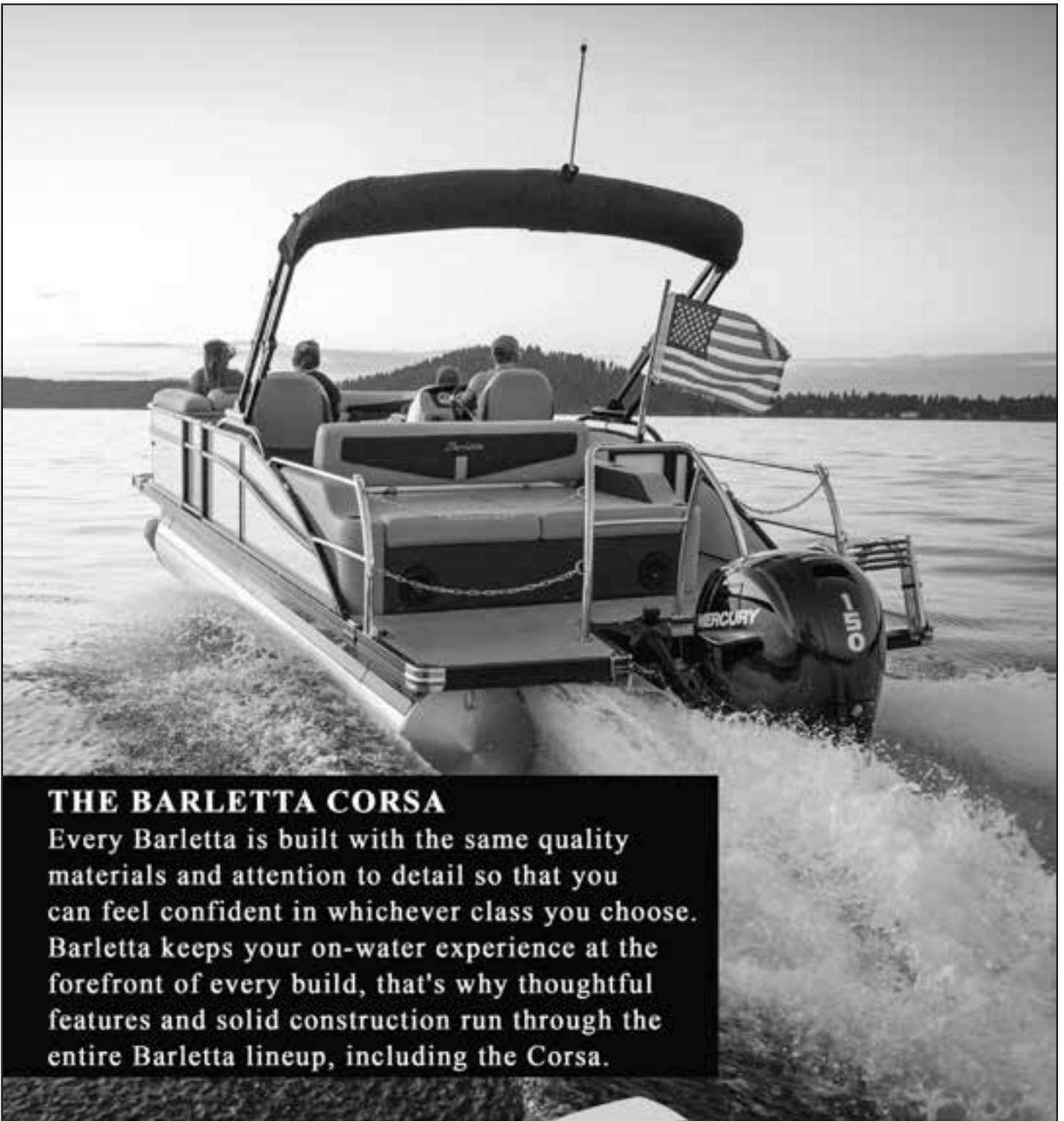


## FIREWORKS DONATIONS

**Donate on your Lake Association Dues form  
or**

**Send your donation to: SLSC, 25845 Lake Drive, Elkhart, IN 46514**





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# SIMONTON LAKE SPORTSMEN'S CLUB



## 2022 Officers

David Miller, President  
Jason Ringle, Vice President  
Linda Fearnow, Secretary  
Jaimie Hershberger, Treasurer  
Jack Tucker, Sergeant of Arms  
Board Members: Randy Cooper,  
Bill Leighton, Tom Krueger,  
David VanZile and Randy Miller.

# 2023

## Spring & Summer Events

**Firecracker Open Golf Outing**  
Sat. May 13

## Kid's Fishing Contest

Sat. June 17

## Poker Run Hands and T-shirt Sales

Wed, Thurs, June 28, 29

## Poker Run

Saturday, July 1

**Fireworks**  
Mon, July 3

**Kid's Fishing Contest**  
Sat. August 5



## 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 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](mailto:davemilr@cs.com).**



## Simonton Lake Gear

Check out the Sportsmen's Club facebook page for:

- hats,
- flags,
- tank tops,
- sweatshirts

and more, all with the brand new Simonton Lake logo.

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★ FIREWORKS ★  
MONDAY, JULY 3



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## ISSUES AT THE SIMONTON LAKE PUBLIC ACCESS CONTINUE

Each spring as the weather gets warmer, use of and abuse of public landing increases.

Those of us with boats need Public Access to launch our boats. But the abuses are annoying.

### Can we close the landing?

No, Simonton Lake is a public lake. The State of Indiana owns the Simonton Lake Public Access.

### Can't the HOA enforce the Rules?

The Simonton Lake HOA can work with and communicate with the DNR Conservation Officer when there are problems. But the HOA does not make or enforce the rules.

### What about the Conservancy?

#### Can they help?

The Simonton Lake Conservancy works with the DNR on maintenance and improvements, but the DNR has the final word. The Conservancy does not make or enforce the rules.

### Is Swimming Allowed at the Landing?

As posted on a sign at the landing, swimming is allowed but not within 100 feet of the boat launch. The swimmers we have seen at the access are not following this rule. If they did, they would be swimming in the lily pads. This is a scary situation with boat motors running nearby.



In mid-April this year graffiti was found on the information signs at the Simonton Lake public landing.

The riprap (stone) that lined the banks of the landing have all been stolen. A report has been made to the Indiana DNR.

launch, or other DNR rule violations should be communicated to the DNR.

Contact:  
DNR Law Enforcement  
Central Dispatch  
812-837-9536

### Is Fishing Allowed?

Fishing is allowed at the access, but you must have a fishing license.

### What can I do when there is an issue in the parking lot or on C.R. 109?

The landing parking lot is marked for a certain number of vehicles. One spot is clearly marked for the DNR Conservation Officer. Some areas are marked "No Parking". C.R. 109 is clearly marked "No Parking". The boat ramp has been blocked by visitors who park their vehicles and trailers in "No Parking" zones.

### When you see any of these issues make a phone call:

**DNR ISSUES** - Parking spot issues, blocking the launch, swimming too near the

ELKHART COUNTY SHERIFF ISSUES- Altercations or suspicious or dangerous activity in the parking lot, parking in "no parking" areas on C.R. 109, or other problems NOT involving DNR rules should be reported to the Elkhart County Sheriff.

*A sign at the access sponsored by the HOA tells visitors who can drive a boat, information about life preservers, which direction to drive around the lake, driving speeds after sunset, parking at the access parking lot and idle speeds. Whether visitors to our lake read the sign, we can't say.*

## CRIME REPORT

Beginning in early **December** the HOA received several reports of Porch Pirates.

**Feb. 4** - A 1997 Jeep Wrangler was stolen from S&H Auto Sales, S.R. 19.

**January 13-14** - A catalytic converter was stolen from a vehicle parked in the 51000 block of North Shore Drive.

**March 9** - A suspect walked into a garage on Lakewood through a door which was not locked. He stayed for a few minutes then left going past the Ring camera. Twelve minutes later he again entered the garage turning on a flood light and the garage opener light. He then entered the home through the inner garage door. The suspect was in the home for just a few seconds when the alarm beeped, and the siren went off.

The camera caught him running just before the alarm. In the few seconds he was in the home he was able to take two purses and a diaper bag. The lost items in one of the purses included an ID requiring the owner to have documents overnighted to her so that she could fly home.

**March 19** - A resident of Lake Drive who was walking his dog noticed shoe prints in the snow which led from car to car along the street. The incident was reported to the Elkhart County Sheriff.

**April 10** - The riprap (stone) that was placed along the shoreline at the Public Landing has all been removed. Residents reported seeing a vehicle loading the stone and pulling away.



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## BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

To add your family birthdays and anniversaries to this list,  
e-mail [tkshewmaker@yahoo.com](mailto:tkshewmaker@yahoo.com)

### BIRTHDAYS

5/4 ----- Sue Taylor  
5/4 ----- Katy Byrns  
            *Daughter of Laura Byrns*  
5/8 ----- Kelly Matherly Shewmaker  
5/15 ----- Jeremy Walters  
5/21 ----- Madelyn Grace Skipper  
            *Grandparents Buford & Becky Skipper*  
5/22 ----- Nixon Barhydt  
            *Grandson of Jim Ulery*  
5/25 ----- Linda Bowser  
            Frankie Saleh  
            *Grandson of Bill & Susie Broderick*  
5/28 ----- Liam Trevor Skipper  
            *Grandparents Buford & Becky Skipper*  
5/31 ----- Tonda Lucchese  
6/1 ----- Bob Dudek  
6/3 ----- Sloan Espinas  
            *Daughter of Tony Espinas*  
6/7 ----- Dave Miller  
6/11 ----- Audrey DeGeyter  
            *Daughter of Morrie & Peggy DeGeyter*  
6/12 ----- Lisa Wuchner  
6/13 ----- Kay Marcus  
6/13 ----- Jacob Moore  
            *Grandson of Theresa Maier*  
6/14 ----- Alex Freshour  
            *Grandson of Theresa Maier*  
6/14 ----- Pam Shultz  
6/14 ----- Randy Cooper  
6/16 ----- Albert Rodriguez Kessler (AJ)  
            *Grandson of Van & Cathy Kessler*  
            Chase Coleman  
            *Son of Nick & Michelle Coleman*  
6/18 ----- Carter Matthew Jones  
            *Son of Matthew & Cassie Jones*  
            *Grandson of Ed & Nancy Jones*

6/25 ----- Wendy Cooper  
6/25 ----- Linda Jimison  
6/25 ----- Emmaly Kate Kwasny  
            *Daughter of Kyle & Julianne Kwasny*  
6/28 ----- Martha Nickell  
            Michelle Coleman  
7/1 ----- Micah David Obendorf  
            *Grandparents Dave & Tammy Obendorf*  
7/1 ----- Susie Broderick  
7/1 ----- Phyllis Nusbaum  
7/2 ----- Elliot Reed Harding  
            *Son of Ryan & Erin Harding*  
7/2 ----- Katy Barhydt  
            *Daughter of Jim Ulery*  
7/5 ----- Joe Arredondo  
7/5 ----- Danny Byrns  
7/6 ----- Gia Matherly  
            *Granddaughter of Ryan & Amy Matherly*  
7/9 ----- Cale Ulery  
7/12 ----- Curt Willis  
7/14 ----- Brett Polizotto  
7/16 ----- Peggy DeGeyter  
7/17 ----- Randy Hoff  
7/18 ----- Molly Grace Kessler  
            *Granddaughter of Van & Cathy Kessler*  
7/19 ----- Cam Snyder  
7/24 ----- Emmett Riley Harding  
            *Son of Ryan & Erin Harding*  
7/25 ----- Jenn Walters  
7/29 ----- Leighla Kay Winchester  
            *Granddaughter of Vaughn & Cindy Nickell*  
7/31 ----- Casey Willis  
            Lisa Weinley

### ANNIVERSARIES – May through July

5/16 ----- Katrina & Jason Barhydt  
            *Daughter of Jim Ulery*

5/18 ----- Dan & Leanne Brekke  
5/22 ----- Adam & Rachel Meyers  
            *Son of Bob & Bobbi Meyers*  
6/9 ----- Mike & Angie Peterson  
6/11 ----- Judy & Ed Hickman  
6/11 ----- Natalie & Josh Hochstetler  
            *Daughter of Dave & Colleen Replogle*  
6/11 ----- Jenn & Jeremy Walters  
6/13 ----- Cindy & Vaughn Nickell  
6/13 ----- Erica and Danny Byrns  
            *Son of Laura Byrns*  
6/16 ----- Cortney & Michael McIntire  
6/19 ----- Christi & Erik Smith  
            *Daughter of Dave & Tammy Obendorf*  
6/23 ----- Heather & Wil Frentzen  
            *Daughter of Greg & Barb McGough*  
6/23 ----- Katy and Neil Lane  
            *Daughter of Laura Byrns*  
6/28 ----- Gary & Marlene Taska  
7/11 ----- Ann & Jerry Broderick  
7/11 ----- Ellen & Andrew Meyers  
            *Son of Bob & Bobbi Meyers*  
7/12 ----- Jenny & Nathan Montiel  
            *Daughter of Don & Carol Bradshaw*  
7/12 ----- Kelly & Greg Shewmaker  
            *Ryan & Amy Matherly's Daughter,*  
            *Terry and Kathy Shewmaker's Son*  
7/16 ----- Esther & Joe Arredondo  
7/17 ----- Sheila & Jim Dill  
7/19 ----- Ryan & Erin Harding  
7/20 ----- Derek & Isabelle Sapakowski

### What's for Sale at the Lake?

According to Zillow, only one  
property is for sale on the lake.

• 25086 N. Shore

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*"Summer Storm" by Shelly West*



*Dave VanZile*



*Jim VanTiem*



*It was a winter with very little ice. The lake froze twice but melted twice.  
In January we caught this picture of a flock of cranes that had come to visit.*