

# Geneva Lake Guardian

Winter 2020



GENEVA LAKE ASSOCIATION  
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Our mission is to enhance the conservation, preservation, environmental integrity and general welfare of Geneva Lake with timely and issue-centered communications and education through a wide membership base of area residents and local businesses.

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE GENEVA LAKE ASSOC., INC. • PROTECTING GENEVA LAKE SINCE 1935

## Geneva Lake offers sport year-round

*Avid sailors don't let winter hold them down*

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Just because boats, piers, and buoys are removed in advance of the oncoming freeze, it doesn't mean that activities on Geneva Lake must come to an end.

Fishermen will still launch on those good days before the water gets hard, and when the ice is thick enough, they will trade their craft for cleated boots, a bucket to sit on, or even a comfy (?) ice shack.

Snowmobilers yearn for snow on the trails, and eventually hit the lake when the ice can safely support their machines.

And sailors, too, need not forgo the winter months for pleasure sailing or for racing of their craft.

The Geneva Lake area is especially suited to winter sailing, and the local Skeeter Ice Boat Club (SIBC) has been organizing local, national, and even international competition since 1933.

Conditions for sailing ice boats (ice boating) are fairly narrow. There has to be enough ice to support the boats (four inches is adequate for most of the smaller classes), the ice can't be too rough, and though it can have some snow cover, 'sticky' snow, too much snow (4 inches or more), or drifted snow puts an end to the fun.

Fortunately, for the members of the SIBC, the lakes area provides many opportunities to find suitable conditions. Shallow Lake Como can sometimes accommodate ice boaters for late November practice. If conditions sour at Como, it's not unusual for Lake Delavan to freeze in late December, providing a new patch of perfect ice, at least for a for a while.

The east end of Geneva Lake, with depths mostly under 70 feet, often freezes in early January, and the west end can freeze two or three weeks later. A February thaw can also clean up a snow-covered lake and provide great sailing into the spring.

Knowing the conditions on each area is most important for safety, and the SIBC has a dedicated team of ice checkers who walk all areas of the ice, checking for thickness by chopping test holes and questioning fishermen.

The ice on a lake is not stable; it can change from day to day, forming heaves, large cracks, and even open water where ice existed a day earlier. At speeds that can reach 80 miles per hour, iceboaters need to rely on solid information about conditions.

Racing takes place wherever the conditions are best, and an ideal race course is a mile long. Unlike summer sailing, iceboaters do not cruise up and down the starting line in preparation of a timed starting signal, but rather position their boats in line, push the boats at the starting gun, and jump in as the boat accelerates. Races are often three or four laps around a course which is a mile upwind and back.

The SIBC runs races for a variety of ice boat classes, including the small DN, an international class; the Boe-Craft Skeeter class (see below); and the Nite ice boat class. Whatever the class, the boats run on three 'runners' (picture long, highly sharpened ice skate blades.)

The SIBC is also home base for many of the classic 'stern-steering' classes which can measure up to 50 feet in length, and whose steering runner is in the aft end of the boat (imagine driving your car in reverse at fifty miles per hour!).



Photo by August Greidanus

Boe-Craft Skeeter ice boats line up for a start

## The President's Desk...



### Greetings to our GLA Supporters!

As we look forward to 2020 on Geneva Lake, the first priority is to express our thanks for your steadfast support of the

Geneva Lake Association. For 85 years, GLA's mission has been clear: promote the welfare of the Lake community with timely communications and education on topics of interest to a wide membership of individuals and local businesses. Your generosity allows us to continue this important work and we are very grateful.

### 2019 in Review

The Annual Meeting in early August was both well-attended and lively. Members received detailed updates on: water quality (including the emerging Starry stonewort invasive plant issue), the Water Safety Patrol report, real estate trends, scholarships for local college students interested in the environment, and recent developments with the state legislature. See the minutes in this issue for more details.

GLA received numerous requests for funding grants in 2019, and we were pleased to support several local organizations who submitted particularly competitive applications. The grant recipients for last year were: Environmental Education Foundation, Geneva Lake Environmental Agency, Geneva Lake Museum, Geneva Lake Water Safety Patrol, GLAS Education, Inc., and Kishwaukee Nature Conservancy.

### Please Provide your Email Address

GLA respects the fact that you probably get more emails than you would prefer and many that you don't want at all. We try to be as selective as possible before we add to your in-box. However, one of GLA's principal strengths is its ability to communicate truly important information to a large membership who may be interested. If you have not already done so, please consider providing GLA with your email address so we can keep you informed in a timely fashion. The GLA contact info is [GLAoffice@aol.com](mailto:GLAoffice@aol.com).

### Tip of the Hat to Jack Goggin!

Finally, our thanks to Jack Goggin, who served with distinction as GLA's president for the past 5 years. Jack – your steady leadership and long-time dedication to the Lake community are most appreciated.

Sincerely,

Mark S. Lillie

President, Geneva Lake Association

## Environmental Scholarships Abound

Geneva Lake's Environmental Education Foundation (EEF) has made a number of local grants and scholarships to benefit area students this year. "Our goal is to support area students who want to protect the environment through their scholastic studies and future vocations," said EEF President Carl Rathmann.

Among the scholarships awarded, the Thomas E. Reynolds scholarships were received by Makalyn Peterson, a junior at UW-Platteville, who attended Big Foot HS; Casey Burmeister, a senior at George Williams College, who attended Badger HS; Danielle Marez Wrzesinski, a sophomore at Iowa State University, who attended Big Foot HS; and Emily Sheen, a graduate of Badger High School who will be attending UW-Platteville. Each receives \$3,000 per year for four years if they maintain their environmentally focused pursuits.

EEF awarded \$3,000 scholarships to these students graduating high school: Christian Johnston of Badger HS, attending Northwestern University; Lexie Judd of Williams Bay HS, attending Roosevelt University; Julia Keenan of Badger HS, attending Montana State University; and Grace Spiegelhoff of Catholic Central HS, attending the University of Tampa.

Undergrad EEF scholarships of \$2,000 each went to: Brooke Bowser, Barneveld, attending UW-Madison; Levi Myers, Elkhorn, attending UW-River Falls; Douglas Reuss, Badger, attending UW Madison; and Natasha Trush, Williams Bay, attending UW-Stevens Point.

The EEF also awarded Outdoor Education Grants in the amount of \$780 each to these area schools fostering environmental awareness: Fontana, Brookwood, LG Middle, Reek, Sharon, St. Francis, Traver, Walworth, Williams Bay, Faith Christian, and Mt. Zion.

Founded 39 years ago by Thomas E. Reynolds, a Geneva Lake Association (GLA) president, the EEF has made more than a half million dollars in scholarship awards and school grants to benefit local students, with the support of donations from generous local people and community organizations, including the GLA.

Some of the careers EEF scholars are preparing for include physical geology, forest and land management, environmental science, hazardous waste management, natural resources and conservation, environmental law and policy, and fish and wildlife management. Nearly 500 local youth have received EEF scholarships to date.

The EEF also provided a \$4,700 grant to GLAS (Geneva Lake Astrophysics and STEAM) to support the first phase of their study of light pollution in the Geneva Lake area. Additionally, EEF is funding Badger HS students to work with the Geneva Lake Environmental Association in the first phase of a study of the creek at Big Foot State Park (see related article on page 3).

The EEF is affiliated with the GLA as an independent 501.c.3 not-for-profit foundation. You can learn more about the EEF and its work at its website: [www.eefscholars.org](http://www.eefscholars.org).



Many of the EEF 2019 Scholarship winners were introduced at the Geneva Lake Association Annual Meeting in August

## Yerkes Observatory Update

by Dianna Colman  
Yerkes Future Foundation Chair

The University of Chicago and Yerkes Future Foundation continue to work toward a late spring 2020 transfer of ownership of the Observatory and related property in Williams Bay.

With any transaction of this nature, there is much to do. An extensive due diligence process includes compliance with all village and state regulations, insurance, hiring of staff, and more.

YFF's objective to reopen the Observatory during summer 2020 depends on the transfer taking place in a timely manner and all safety related items being



addressed. The transfer of ownership also requires modifications to issues such as the number of parking spaces, use of the facility and some repairs.

YFF is developing various social media platforms but in the near term can be reached through PO Box 346, Williams Bay, WI 53191.

## Big Foot Creek Watershed Study

by Ted Peters  
Director, GLEA

Discharging to Geneva Lake just south of the Big Foot Beach State Park on the east end of the lake, is a small creek that drains over 1,300 acres of land. The creek is called Big Foot Creek after the park and wetland that is located within the creek's drainage area. It has been a source of "red" discharge to Geneva Lake for many years. Early investigations by the Geneva Lake Environmental Agency have found that the red color is from iron in the water. Those investigations have also found additional water quality issues within the creek.

To better understand those water quality issues, the Geneva Lake



Badger High school crew collect water samples from Big Foot Creek as it enters Geneva Lake

Environmental Agency has undertaken a comprehensive study of the creek and its watershed. The goal of the study is to better document the problem, to identify the cause and source, and to develop a remedial action plan and recommend the best management practices to reduce the pollution entering Geneva Lake from this watershed.

During the summer of 2019 the agency received a Small-Scale WI Department of Natural Resources Lake Planning grant to initiate Phase I of the study. With the help of an additional grant from the local Environmental Education Foundation, the Agency hired and trained several Badger High students to collect samples from several location within the watershed. The students also had an opportunity to conduct some basic field chemistry on the samples.

The findings of the Phase I confirmed the degraded water. Phosphorus loading ranged from 3.15 lbs. per day to 34.8 lb. per day. Phosphorus concentrations varied somewhat dependent upon precipitation.

To further study the lake's water quality, the Geneva Lake Environmental Agency has applied for a WI DNR Large Scale Planning grant. Requests for Proposals have been sent out to several firms that specialize in restoration and management to identify best management practices to address the water quality issues. Phase II is anticipated to start the spring of 2020.

## Welcoming back Purple Martins

Walkers along the shore path are often greeted by the beautiful songs of purple martins, a migratory bird using the Geneva Lake area as a summer nesting site. These graceful birds arrive in mid to late April from South America and remain through August.

Over the past three years the City of Lake Geneva Avian Committee has added purple martin houses along the lakefront, as well as an informational sign. The Avian Committee is planning a series of programs to assist homeowners in attracting martins, as well as other birds, to their yards.

A federally protected bird, purple martins are dependent on humans as their natural habitats have been reduced. Open areas near water without overhanging trees are ideal for establishing a colony of purple martins. The bird house structures are easily mounted at the end of a pier or in an open area.

In return for providing a martin birdhouse, a homeowner will hear their melodious songs and watch their playful antics as they feed in mid-air by eating insects! And, a happy purple martin will return to its nesting site year after year. Planning for a martin house takes place now and into early spring. Beverly, owner of Delaney Street, has various booklets and information on ordering. She may be reached at [beverly@delaneystreet.com](mailto:beverly@delaneystreet.com).



Attractive housing can lure purple martins to your property

Best placement is in a large open area

# A Legacy of Imagination: Gary Gygax & the Creation of a Culture

The Geneva Lake Museum is extremely excited to announce their newest exhibit, A Legacy of Imagination: Gary Gygax & the Creation of a Culture, which they hope to have ready in May of 2020.

On August 24th, 1968 local resident and game enthusiast Gary Gygax put Lake Geneva on the gaming world map by organizing and hosting a one-day game convention at Horticultural Hall, which he dubbed Gen Con (short for Geneva Convention). The city's renown as a gaming nexus grew exponentially in the 1970s and 80s – first, as Gen Con continued to bring more attendees to Lake Geneva every August, then with his founding of the publishing company that became TSR, Inc.

TSR's foremost product – first published in 1974 – was *Dungeons & Dragons*\* the first true fantasy role playing game, which Gygax co-created with Dave Arneson. The runaway success of *Dungeons & Dragons* and TSR brought Lake Geneva to the forefront of the gaming hobby and cemented Gygax's reputation as the driving force behind the ever-expanding role-playing community.

\* *Dungeons & Dragons* is a registered trademark of Wizards of the Coast

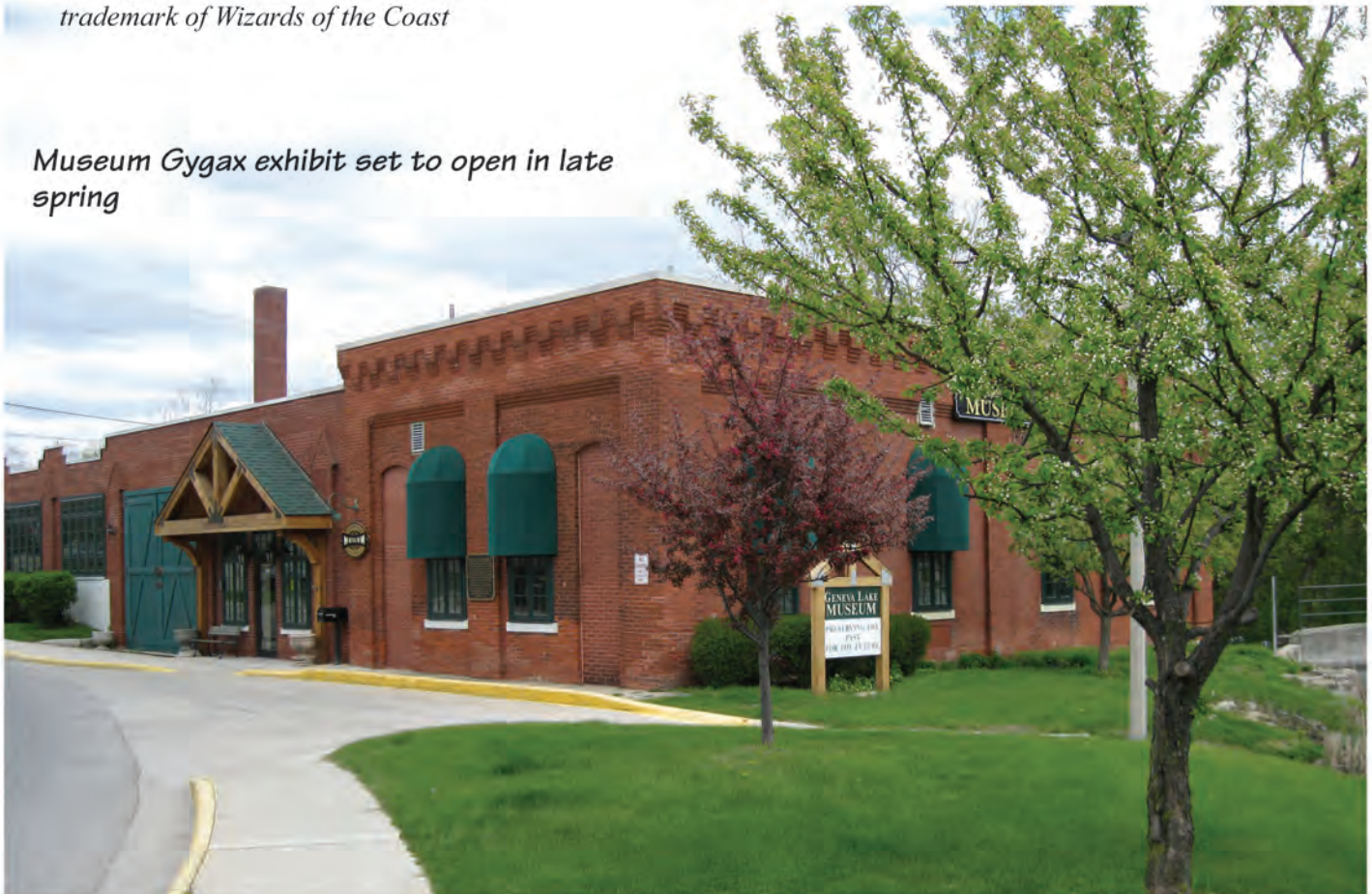
*Museum Gygax exhibit set to open in late spring*

Today, *Dungeons & Dragons* is more popular than ever, with millions of players around the globe. Its influence over three generations has given rise to an expansive culture of creativity and inclusivity amongst players from all walks of life. *Dungeons & Dragons* has inspired countless games, books, films, and other artistic works – and all of that began in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin.

“Our city is inextricably linked with the role-playing game that changed the face of gaming as we know it,” says Janet Ewing, the Geneva Lake Museum's director of administration. “This exhibit is a huge departure for the museum, but the time has come to spotlight Gygax's place in Lake Geneva's history and his prolific contributions to the gaming hobby. His legacy lives on and there is no better place to honor him than here, where it all happened.”

Funds for the exhibit will initially be raised through a campaign on Kickstarter, which will run from late February through March. Details regarding Kickstarter campaign and potential sponsorships will soon follow.

For more information, contact Co-Chair Elizabeth Loomer [alegacyofimagination@genevalakemuseum.org](mailto:alegacyofimagination@genevalakemuseum.org).



# Starry Stonewort—Geneva Lake Update

by E. Lynn Grayson  
Vice President  
Geneva Lake Association

## What Is Starry Stonewort:

Starry stonewort (*Nitellopsis obtusa*), a submerged annual macroalga often referred to as “green alga,” is known to cause nuisance conditions in Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York and now Wisconsin water bodies. It is native to Europe and was likely introduced in ship ballast waters to the Great Lakes.

The plant has many irregular branches, forms a dense, vertically thick green mat that covers lake bottom areas and can grow in water depths up to 30 feet.

Starry stonewort out-competes other vegetation and forms monotypic stands that can reduce fish spawning habitat and foul watercraft motors. Fragments of starry stonewort can attach to the fur and feathers of mammals and birds or attach to boats and fishing equipment, allowing it to spread from one water body to another.

## Starry Stonewort Identification:

Starry stonewort is soft with a light green hue. It often branches in whorls of 4-6, angled toward the tip of the growth. The branches are separated by long tube-like cells. Small white stars, a couple of millimeters across, adorn clumps of the algae.

Other key identifying characteristics include leaves with blunt tips, star-shaped bulbils that are produced at the nodes, generally 3-6 millimeters wide, and plant height up to 33 inches. See illustrations accompanying this update.

In addition, the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership has developed a very helpful video to assist in the identification of



*Starry stonewort grows into a thick mat*

starry stonewort. To watch this educational video, see Invasive Starry Stonewort Identification at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=te9iF5OTdtg>.

## Starry Stonewort in Geneva Lake:

According to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and as recently discussed at the Geneva Lake Association (GLA) Annual Meeting, the identification of starry stonewort in Geneva Lake has been verified in the private marina at Trinke Estates. The Geneva Lake Environmental Agency (GLEA) recently reported that starry stonewort also has been identified in several additional locations in the southeast corner of the lake outside of the lagoon area.

A lake-wide aquatic plant survey has been scheduled for the summer of 2020 to further assess starry stonewort and other possible invasive species in Geneva Lake. Updates on the status of starry stonewort management in Geneva Lake are available via the GLEA website at <https://www.genevalakemanagement.com/>.

## Other Invasive Species in Geneva Lake:

While recent concern is focused on starry stonewort, it is simply one of the more recent invasive species to be identified in Geneva Lake. Over the years, WDNR has confirmed the presence of a number of invasive species, including Eurasian water milfoil (1976), curly leaf pondweed (1976), zebra mussel (1995), rusty crayfish (date uncertain), starry stonewort (2018), yellow iris (2019), and banded mystery snail (2019). WDNR maintains information about the status of invasive species in water bodies throughout Wisconsin and further information about invasive species in Geneva Lake is available at <https://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/lakepages/LakeDetail.aspx?wbic=758300&page=invasive>.

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GLA is committed to raising awareness and focusing attention on critical issues impacting the health, water quality and environment of Geneva Lake. GLA will continue to support efforts to inform and update its members regarding the importance of starry stonewort management, education of boaters, and collaboration among



*Starry stonewort with reproductive white star-shaped bulbil*

government and private organizations to identify, address and mitigate the impacts of invasive species in Wisconsin water bodies to help better protect Geneva Lake. While the water quality of Geneva Lake has historically been considered to be exceptionally good, we need to be vigilant about preserving and hopefully even improving this precious resource.

## Welcome, new members

The GLA welcomes the following new or returning members. We appreciate your support.

### Residential

Liane Corcoran Bink  
Dave and Tiffany Bruskin  
Ted and Karen Fichuk  
FJ and Kimi Frazier  
Connie Gluth  
Daniel and Susan Hodgeman  
John and Kate Holland  
Jay Ieronimo  
Ric Krause  
Walt and Bonnie Liptak  
Cindy Maher  
Tom and Jenny McGreevy  
Hans Melges  
Jack Nebel  
Karen and Ken Rechteris  
Todd Reschke  
Margie and Tom Riordan  
Jeff and Karen Rode  
John and Dana Rolander  
Amanda and John Rutledge  
Chris and Tara Shannon  
Thomas and Deborah Shaughnessy  
Sam and Honey Skinner  
Steve and Cheryl Smith  
Thomas and Molly Swock  
Daniel and Sheri Tennett  
David and Bridget Van Eekeren

## Am I a current member?

GLA members are encouraged to renew their memberships on an annual basis to receive the *Directory* and to be listed in the *Directory* as members. See the information on your mailing label to determine if your membership is current.

# Geneva Lake Association Annual Meeting Minutes

Saturday, August 10, 2019  
Lake Geneva Country Club  
Lake Geneva, Wisconsin

**WELCOME** — President Goggin called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m. and thanked the attendees for their support. He welcomed invited speakers, members, and guests, and specially welcomed Mark Lillie who will take over as President. Goggin reminded the membership of the Mission of the GLA, and was pleased to have been involved with a donor membership which would rise to the occasion to fund a fireboat at \$440,000 within a few short months and accomplish additional services to the lake community. Goggin thanked Dianna Colman for taking the reins of the fireboat project and now the Yerkes Future Foundation.

**MINUTES FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING, AUG. 4, 2018** — A motion to approve the minutes as published was passed (Taylor/Otzen).

**TREASURER'S REPORT** was deferred to the Board of Directors' Meeting.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORTS** — Nominating Committee nominated the following, which were approved unanimously:

EEF Directors for three-year terms ending in 2022: Karin Bennett (1st term), Mike Hinske (2nd term), Mary King (2nd term), and Chuck Palma (1st term).

GLA Directors with three-year terms to expire in 2022: Brigid Cashman; Brian Griffith; James W. McAvoy; Robert T. Morava, Jr.; Thomas Nickols, Dana Hagenah, Robin Randolph, Karl Otzen, and William B. Duncan.

Retiring EEF board members Barbara Kelly, Harold Friestad, and Past President Chuck Ebeling were thanked for their dedicated service.

EEF Officers are Carl Rathmann, President; William Duncan, Vice President; Mike Hinske, Vice President; and James Smith, Secretary/Treasurer as elected by the EEF Board.

At the following meeting of the GLA Board of Directors, the following officers will be nominated: Mark Lillie, President;

Lynn Grayson, Vice President; Robin Randolph, Treasurer; Robert T. Morava, Jr., Secretary; and James Smith, Executive Secretary. Jack Goggin was thanked for his many years of service on the board including his five years as President.

**EEF SCHOLARSHIP/GRANT PRESENTATIONS** — EEF President Carl Rathmann announced that thanks to the generosity of the community along with a grant from the GLA, the EEF was able to award nearly \$41,000 in scholarships and grants to a wide range of scholars to study environmental disciplines including graduating high school seniors, undergrads, and post graduates. EEF also awarded Outdoor Education grants to eleven elementary/middle schools in our area.

Rathmann announced new efforts to provide scholarships to Gateway students in pursuit of one of the several environmentally-based associate degrees offered. Additionally, the EEF is supporting the GLAS LENS program in a study of the Geneva Lake area dark sky, and is supporting student involvement in a study of the creek entering Geneva Lake at Big Foot Beach.

Of the twelve scholars receiving scholarships in 2019, the following were introduced at the meeting:

*Thomas E. Reynolds Endowment Scholars*, each of whom receives a \$12,000 scholarship over four years. The endowment from the Reynolds family in 1980 fully funds the awards:

Emily Sheen (freshman at UW-Platteville from Badger)

Danielle Wrzesinski (sophomore at Iowa State from Big Foot)

Casey Burmeister (senior at George Williams College from Badger)

*High School Graduate Scholars:*

Christian Johnston (Northwestern Univ. from Badger)

Lexie Judd (Roosevelt Univ. from Williams Bay)

Julia Keenan (Montana State Univ. from Badger)

*Undergraduate Scholars:*

Brooke Bowser (UW-Madison from Barneveld)

Levi Myers (UW River Falls from Elkhorn)

Natasha Trush (UW-Stevens Point from Williams Bay)

Makalyn Peterson (Big Foot TER scholar), Grace Spiegelhoff (Catholic Central High

School Scholar), and Douglas Reuss (Badger Undergraduate Scholar) were unable to attend.

## STARRY STONEWORT PANEL:

Goggin introduced GLEA Director Ted Peters and Trinke Estates President Tim Cavanagh to join him in answering questions about the invasive plant and current plans to deal with it. Peters gave a lengthy overview of the situation, including the considerations of the GLEA emergency meeting which had been held just days previous. The plant was initially found in a small area of Trinke lagoon, and has subsequently been found in two other locations on the south shore, one east of Trinke Lagoon and one at the mouth of Trinke Lagoon. More surveying will be taking place in the next week, and options on how to control its spread will be considered. Peters emphasized that there has been great cooperation from Trinke Estates members, neighbors, and the community at large, as well as the DNR.

Many questions from the audience were fielded by the panel members. Relevant responses include:

- Chemical treatment of the Trinke plant seems successful so far to kill the vegetative part of the plant; more treatment may follow. The quarantine curtain was vandalized rendering it partially ineffective.
- It is possible to mark additional sites, but difficult to quarantine sites.
- Unhealthy lakes are most vulnerable to infestation of Starry Stonewort. Geneva is very healthy and has successfully fought off other invasions like zebra mussels and milfoil. A healthy littoral zone is key. Deep water is important.
- Education of boaters entering the lake is key as is cleaning of boats before entering the lake. Implementation of state program 'Clean Boats/Clean Waters' would be helpful.
- The plant is not known to be toxic.
- All 40 Trinke Estate homeowners have been cooperative and have committed to continued cooperation.
- DNR has committed to two \$20,000 grants for education and dredging; total effort may involve several hundred thousand dollars. Lake communities are willing to stand behind a loan for needed funding via GLEA. GLEA is a governmental agency comprised of and funded by the municipalities around the lake.

see *Meeting Minutes*, page 7

**Don't forget** to visit our website. We have recently added a menu item for *NOTICES* received by GLA for consumption of the membership.

[www.genevalakeassoc.org](http://www.genevalakeassoc.org)

## Meeting Minutes

(Continued from page 6)

- Local marinas and public launch officials are aware of the issue.

Peters was applauded for his passion dealing with the threat of the plant on Geneva Lake. The GLEA website will continue to publicize efforts related to the plant. GLA members can receive important updates from GLA if their email addresses are on file.

### LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATIVES:

*Representative Tyler August* announce that the state budget was completed in a timely fashion and that he appreciated having time to spend in his districts with constituents. He and Representative Loudenberg accompanied Water Safety Patrol Director Ted Pankau and Geneva Lake Law Enforcement Agency Commander Hausner on a tour of the lake for the purpose of determining how the state can help with issues facing these two entities. August is involved with the Speaker's task force on water quality—lake, ground, and drinking water—which will make a report in the fall. August is proposing legislation to streamline adoption processes in Wisconsin.

*Representative Amy Loudenberg* was unable to attend due to a prior commitment.

*Senator Stephen Nass* congratulated the scholars and seconded the idea of providing support to students pursuing associate degrees. He is active in legislation designed to assist in the training of fire and EMT volunteers. The budget is complete, but little is left for additional projects. Nass emphasized the importance of knowledgeable citizens to testify regarding local and state issues. The best governmental decisions evolve from critical information from constituents.

The state has held hearing regarding run-off from farms. Farmers have some means to control this and need to help. Representative Loudenberg has been active in working with Yerkes Future Foundation.

### YERKES FUTURE FOUNDATION:

Dianna Colman spoke on behalf of the Yerkes Future Foundation (YFF) Committee. The committee has been inundated with work including travel and meeting with national and international experts of all kinds, including astrophysicists, scientists, astronomers, etc. The Foundation has retained the *pro bono* services of a very respected law firm. The mission of YFF remains to preserve and maintain the architectural treasure, keep it open to the public and foster its educational and

outreach programs, especially among the youth. The YFF has completed its 501.c.3. tax standing, and has hired two world-renowned consultants and studied issues such as zoning, titling, and sunset laws. Representative Loudenberg has been very helpful.

The University of Chicago owns the land, and the heirs of Yerkes own the building if no scientific work continues there. Currently the U of C has continued studies there to comply with the original letter of bequest from Yerkes. The Yerkes family members are in full support of the YFF and are eager to help, expressing the same values as the YFF.

YFF and U of C are still covered by a non-disclosure clause which prevents publication of ongoing negotiations. Community volunteers will be in great need as things progress in the future.

### AFFILIATED ASSOCIATION REPORTS

*Geneva Lake Water Safety Patrol* — Ted Pankau and Brigid Cashman spoke on issues affecting the WSP. After a slow June because of the all the rain, activity has exploded in July and August. The patrol has responded to hundreds of calls and assisted many pull-outs. Education remains paramount for water safety, and the Patrol's swimming and boating classes address that need. Propeller dangers are a key element in this year's safety tips. Boaters need to turn engines off and keep distance from their swimmers and skiers, who should swim to the boat when it is not running.

Cashman noted a loophole in the law which allows a child of 10 years to operate a boat but only when accompanied by an adult 18 year or older. The law neglects to require the adult to have a license or comply with the age requirement for operation. Representatives August and Loudenberg are working to get that loophole closed. Cashman noted that rental facilities are required to check the operating eligibility of boat renters. WSP remains as an educational entity, informing boaters of the law, but not as enforcement.

*Geneva Lake Law Enforcement Agency* — Commander Hausner was called to a lake patrol issue on the water and was unable to attend the meeting as intended.

*Kishwaukee Nature Conservancy* — President Harold Friestad noted the conservancy operates completely on donated funds, and no government funds

are given to the project. Friestad thanked all donors and volunteers and for the financial support from the GLA. The conservancy will celebrate its anniversary next year, 30 years from when \$1,575,000 purchased 231 acres of pristine nature. The goal continues to provide nature experiences for youth and adults, as well as continuing education classed for youth. This summer 20-30 children attended two classes per week. The Conservancy also will host renowned author Emily Stone to lead a hike and discuss 'finding stories in nature.'

*Geneva Lake Conservancy* — Treasurer Don Parker noted its goals are education and advocacy in preservation. It is currently involved in a phosphorous reduction project in conjunction with GLEA and GLA, including seminars, letters to property owners, and testing of streams. The conservancy will ultimately propose municipal ordinances to limit the amount of phosphorus that enters the lake and streams and groundwater. Many projects are working to protect oak trees and oak forests, by encouraging the purchases of oaks grown from acorns, and purchasing forests areas to become conservation easements.

*Geneva Lake Environmental Agency* — Director Ted Peters noted the project study of the creek entering Geneva Lake at Big Foot Beach is funded by grants from the Environmental Education Foundation and DNR and is being done by area teachers and Badger students.

*Real Estate Market Trends* — Bob Rauland, from Rauland Realty, highlighted real estate market trends especially those related to lakefront and lake access houses. Bob provided a hand out with current statistics and maps of Walworth County lakes. The handout was available in the room, and copies are available from the Rauland office.

One example of information in the handout shows vacant lakefront of 300 frontage feet for sale at \$3,375,000 or \$11,250 per front foot. Another example of 22 properties shows an average of improved lakefront properties for sale at \$4,403,227 or \$35,194 per front foot.

Rauland was thanked for his estimated twenty years of reporting at the GLA Annual Meetings.

President Goggin adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
James A. Smith  
Executive Secretary

# GLA Membership Application/Renewal Form

All persons interested in enhancing the conservation, preservation, environmental integrity and general welfare of Geneva Lake and its surrounding area are welcome as members. The tax deductible contributions requested of members are as follows:

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY:

- \$ \_\_\_\_\_  **Regular Membership**  
Annual Contribution \$40
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_  **Sustaining Membership**  
Annual Contribution \$75
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_  **Contributing Membership**  
Annual Contribution \$100
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_  **Donor Membership**  
Annual Contribution \$150
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_  **Benefactor Membership**  
Annual Contribution \$250 or more
- \$ \_\_\_\_\_  **Commercial Membership**  
Annual Contribution \$100 or more

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

(as you want to be listed in the Directory)

Check here to use the data that is on file and or...

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

(for all mailings) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Geneva Area Address \_\_\_\_\_

(if not the same) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Pier Number \_\_\_\_\_ (if none, use LG, F, WB, WAL, etc)

Subdivision or Association (If any) \_\_\_\_\_

Estate Name (ex. "Heavenly Acres") \_\_\_\_\_

Send Membership Form and check to:

Geneva Lake Association, Inc. (GLA)

PO Box 412

Lake Geneva, WI 53147

**All Contributions are Tax Deductible**

**How do I know if my membership is current?**

Just check your address on this publication (below). The status of your membership in the GLA is noted in the line above your name.

**Online membership application/payment is also found on the GLA website: [www.genevalakeassoc.org](http://www.genevalakeassoc.org)**

*Check your label to see the status of your membership!*

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# Geneva Lake Guardian

