

Simonton Says 2022-23

Published since 2007

"LAKE ALERT" EMAIL GROUP
Sign Up by sending your email to
simontonlakehoa@gmail.com

**WEATHER ALERTS OR STORM
DAMAGE
LOST AND FOUND
ROAD CLOSINGS/BOAT RAMP
REMINDERS OF UPCOMING
EVENTS,**

**BOATING LAWS, COUNTY
FIREWORKS RESTRICTIONS
CRIME ALERTS**

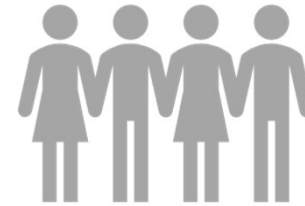
NEW EMAIL

simontonlakehoa@gmail.com

Our Purpose



Accurate Information



Building Community

Construction of our Magazine

ARTICLES

INFORMATION

STANDARD
FEATURES

PICTURES

ADVERTISEMENTS

“Simonton Says”

Calendar of Events

Important phone
numbers

Invasive Weeds
and Weed Spraying

Water Quality

Nuisance Wildlife

Dry Hydrants

Deer Drowning

Events: Leprechaun
Leap, Fireworks,
Poker Run, Garage
Sales, Meetings

Local Government
Issues that effect
us

Zoning Issues

What's for Sale?

Crime Report

Wild Animal
Rescue Services

Information and Standard Features



INFORMATION
AND EVENTS



NEW NEIGHBORS
INFORMATION



NOTES FROM THE
BOARD



DNR CONTACT
INFORMATION



CONSERVANCY
CORNER



SPORTSMEN'S
CLUB PAGE

A close-up photograph of a camera lens aperture. The lens blades are visible, creating a circular pattern. The background is out of focus, showing colorful bokeh lights in shades of blue, purple, and yellow.

Add the Photographs

Send to:
simontonlakehoa@gmail.com



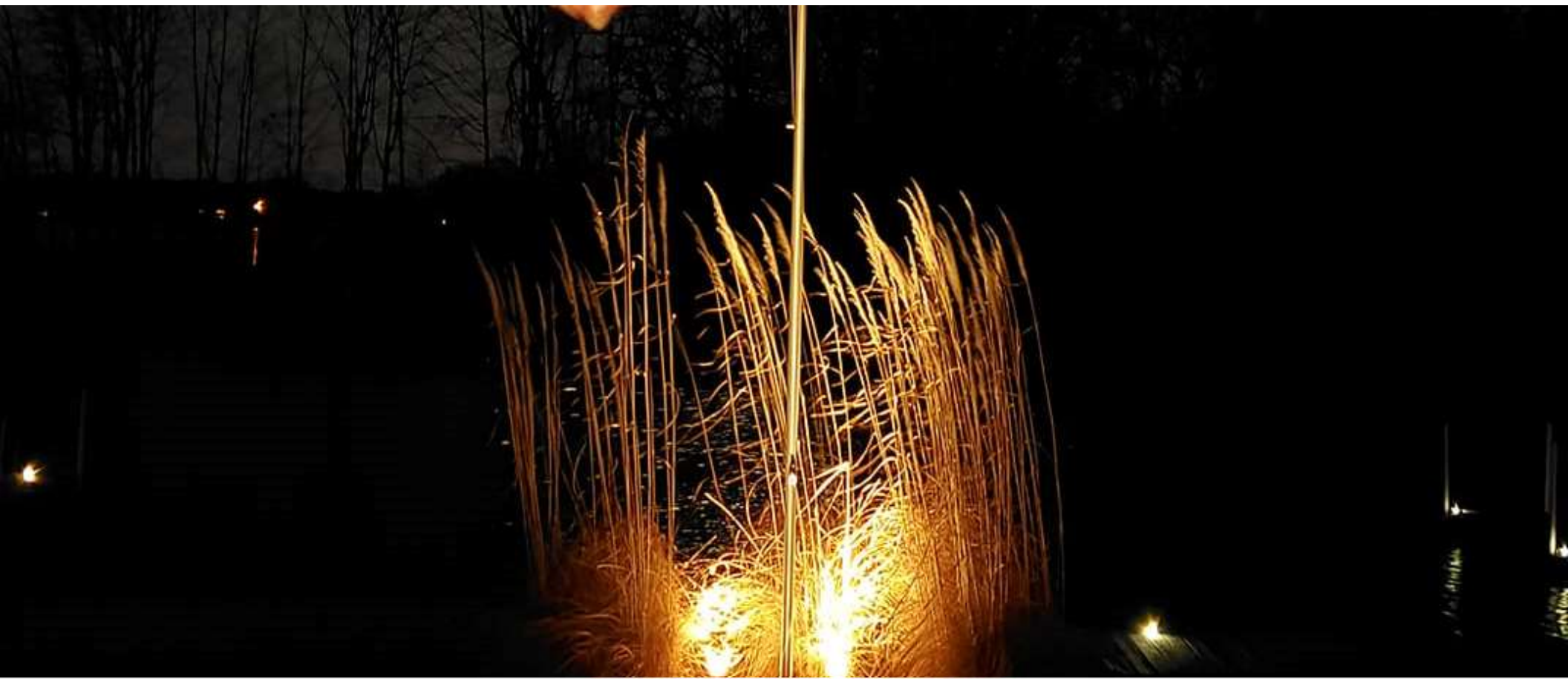
Shelly West







Michelle Coleman



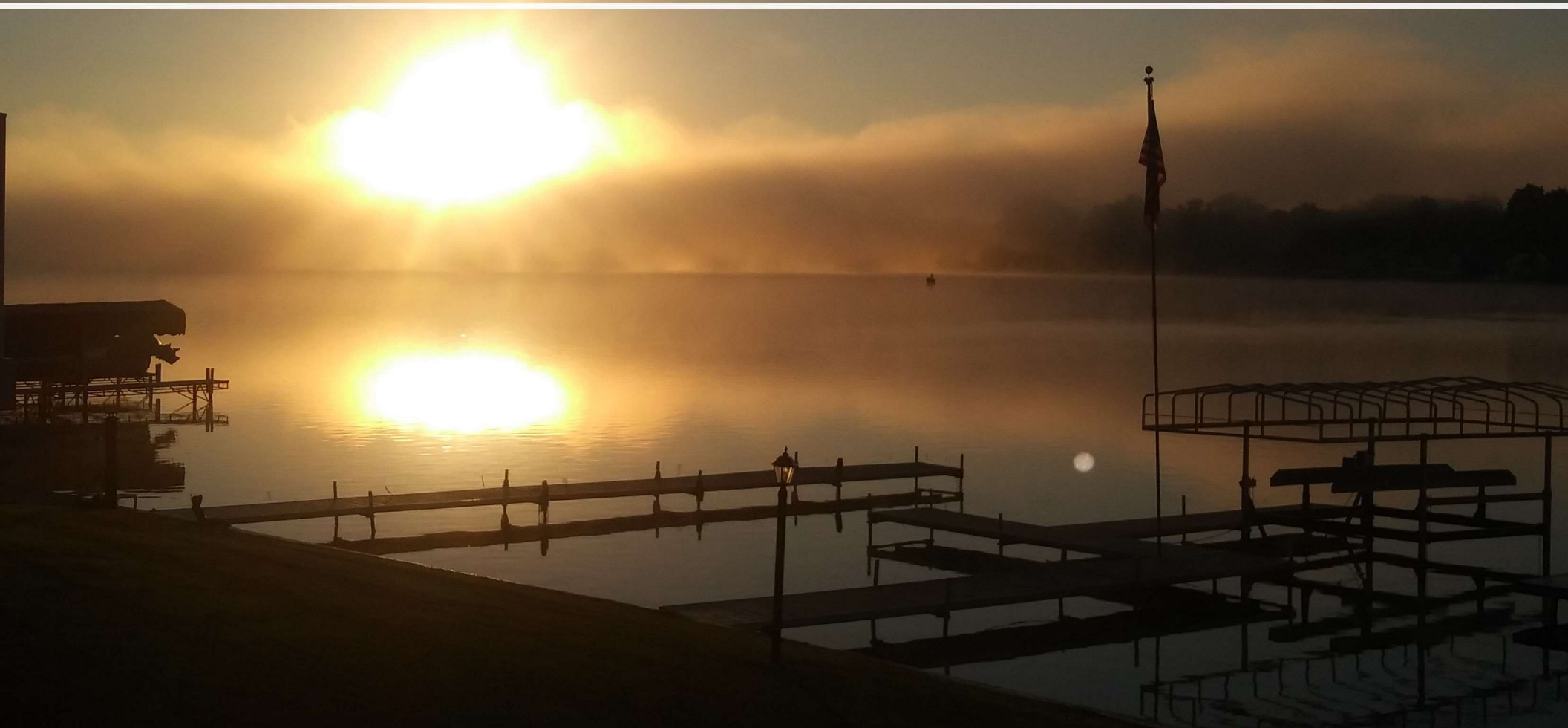
Stephanie Rose



Shelly West



Dave VanZile



Amy
McCullough,
Ray Schuler's
Daughter





Shelly West



Mark Esenwein



Teri Abbott



Leanne Brekke



Tony Espinas

Jim Van Tiem



Gina Hoff





Jon Hart Advertising



Gina Hoff

Mark Esenwein





685

Steve Wogoman-Delivery Coordinator

685



Theresa Maier

Sue Ward



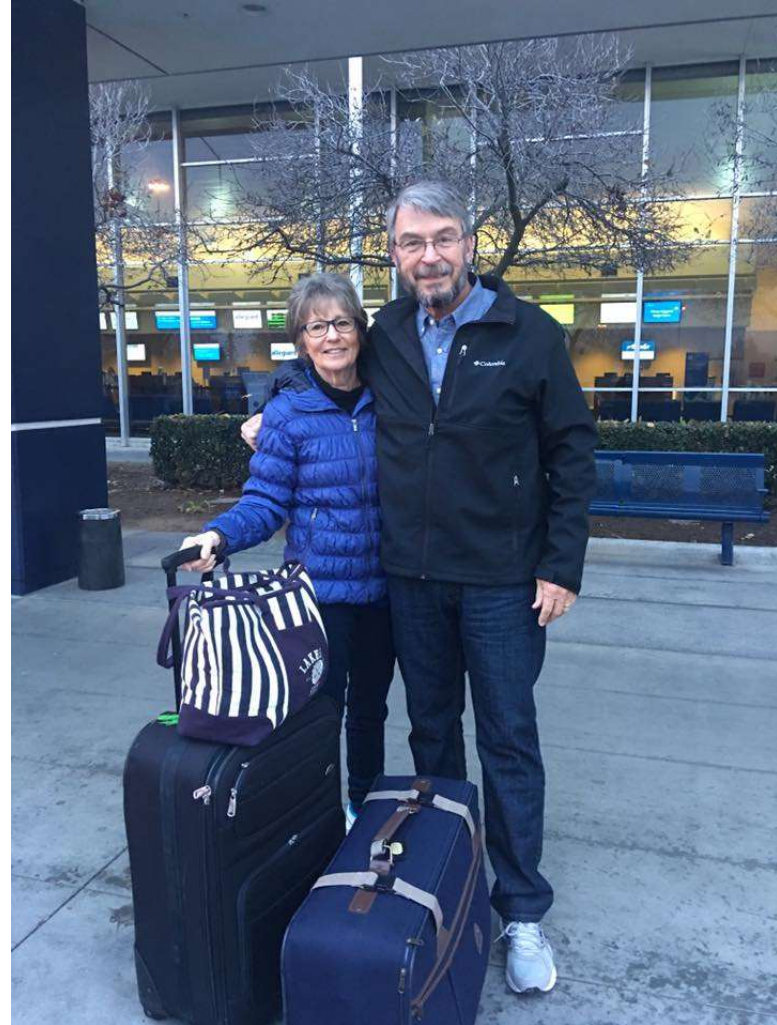
Maria
Hopman





Dave VanZile

Van Kessler



Bob Meyer



Cindy Nickell





Melissa Price

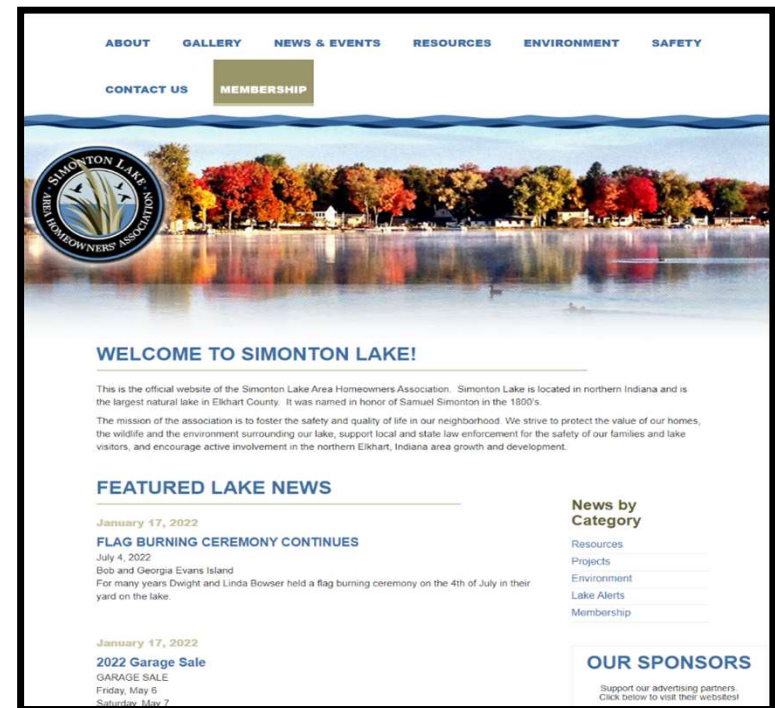


Randy Hoff

FACEBOOK
MANAGER-
Michelle
Coleman



Erin Kirchner Lucas simontonlakehoa.com



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Farewell

Chuck Vetter



Farewell

Martha Nickell

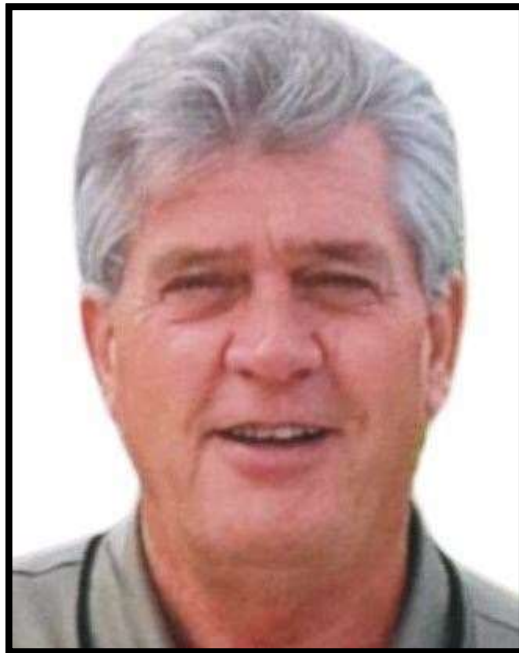


Jackie Wilson



Farewell

Kenny Roscoe



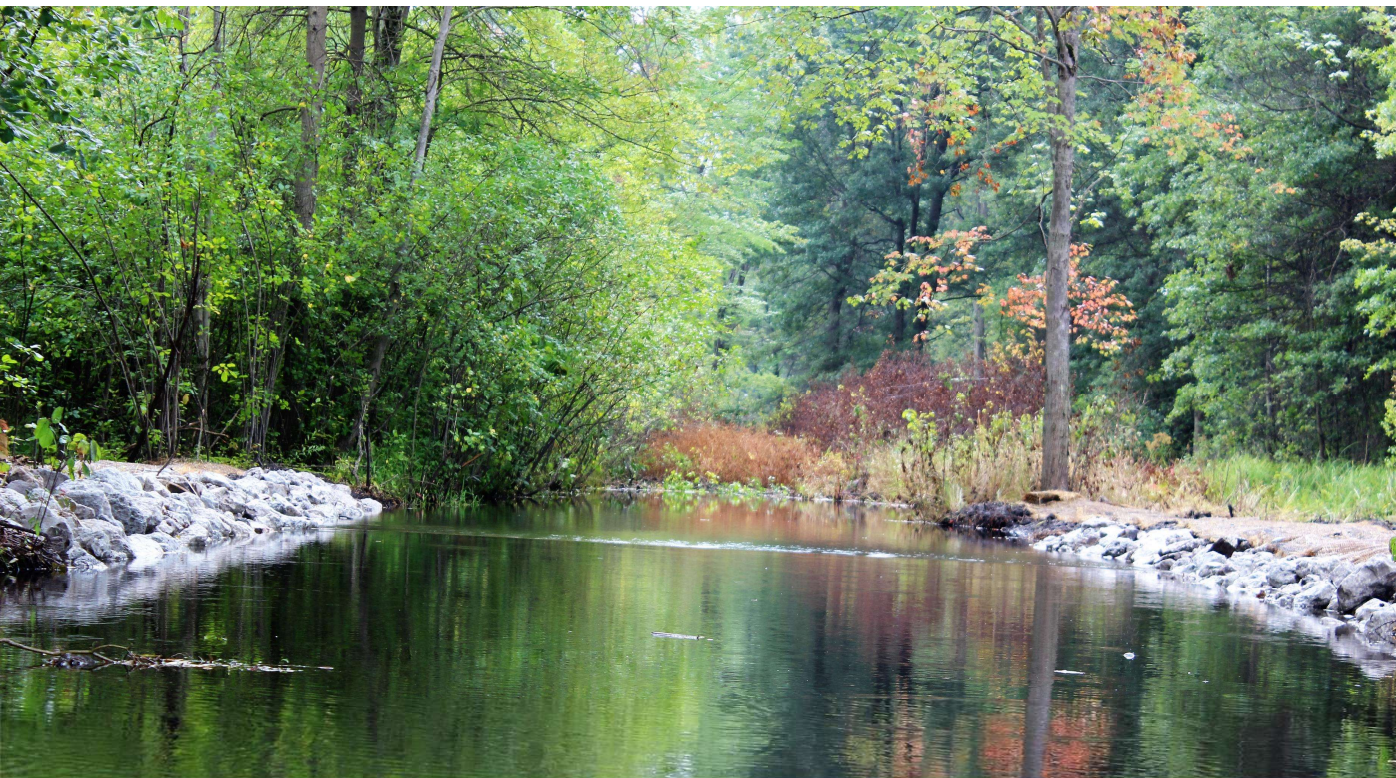
Patricia Linn



Farewell

Jordan Cahill





Weir Over
Lily Creek



Simonton Lake Ecozone

100 m

400 ft





Simonton Lake, Elkhart County, Indiana

This is our
lake! Aren't
we lucky!





Summer Issue

August 2023

From all of us
Have a wonderful summer!

SLAHA 16th Annual Meeting

May 17, 2023



Our MISSION 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, Indiana area growth and development.

Agenda

Board Introduction

Swan Remediation

Financials

Membership

Environmental

Newsletter/Media

Business

Open for Questions

Adjourn





SLAHA Board

- **Doug Reese – President**
- **Jack Tucker – Vice President**
- **Van Kessler – Treasurer**
- **Theresa Maier – Secretary**
- **Susie Broderick – Membership & Outreach**
- **Erin Kirchner-Lucas – Website & Marketing**
- **Randy Hoff – Environmental**
- **Tim Lies – Board Member**



Standing Committees:

Membership – In need of a Chair

- **New Neighbor Gift Bags** – Frank & Kathy Stec
- **Lake Calendar** - Gina Hoff
- **Fall and Spring Garage Sale**
- **Annual Meeting Set Up and Prep** - need volunteers
- **Lake Gear** - need volunteers

Safety – In need of a Chair

- **Buoy Watch** - Ryan Matherly and Bob Evans
- **Lake Alerts** - Chris Toles
- **Communication with County Sheriff** - Chris Toles

Communication - Amy Matherly, Chair

- **Website** - Erin Lucas
- **Facebook** - Michelle Coleman
- **Lake Alert Email Group** - Amy Matherly
- **Simonton Says Magazine Editor** - Amy Matherly
- **Simonton Says Magazine Proofreaders** - Mark Esenwein and Gina Hoff
- **Simonton Says Advertisement** - Jon Hart
- **Simonton Says Birthdays and Anniversaries** - Kathy Shewmaker; new Becky Lies
- **Delivery Coordinator** - Steve Wogoman
- **Newsletter Delivery** - Van Kessler, Sue Ward, Maria Hopman, Jon Hart, Bob Meyers, Cindy Nickell, Melissa Kessler, Dave VanZile, Theresa Maier

Environment - Lesa Hershberger, Chair

- **Water Testing** - Lesa Hershberger; We need one additional person to test on Little Simonton every other week
- **Leaf Collection** - need volunteers to coordinate with the County leaf pick up program

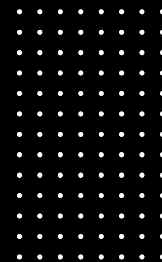


Mute Swan Remediation



Carl Voglewede – MRP-APHIS

Wildlife Biologist / Biological Science Technician
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
with the US Department of Agriculture



[illegible]



Financials

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| General Fund Checking | \$153,404.11 |
| Special Fund Checking | \$ 20,000.00 |
| Total | \$173,404.11 |

YTD Membership Deposits

| | |
|--------------|-----------|
| Dues | \$ 5,640 |
| SLAHA | \$ 1,405 |
| Trust | \$ 1,530* |
| Goose / Swan | \$ 4,250 |
| Fireworks | \$11,890* |
| Total | \$24,715 |

| | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Advertising Inc. | \$ 8,915.00 |
| Calendars | \$ 710.90 |
| Grand Total | \$34,340.90 |

Expenses:

- Newsletter creation & printing
- New member outreach
- Welcome to the lake gift bags
- Advertising
- Bookkeeping
- Accountants
- Insurance
- Supplies







**BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY**

HomeServices

Northern Indiana
Real Estate

Get the lifestyle you deserve.



Contact me, Michele Mathewson,
for more information.



michelemathewson@bhhsni.com



michelemathewson.bhhsni.com



974-596-4521



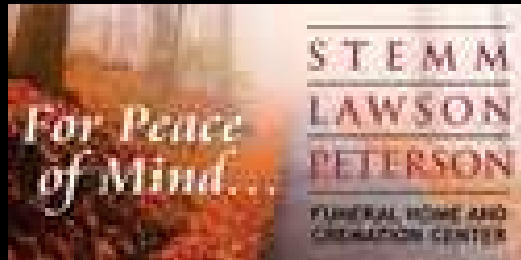
Make your insurance dollars work harder!

Rick Reid, Agent
Your neighbor on Sail Bay Court

 **State Farm**



Advertisers





M e m b e r s h i p & O u t r e a c h R e p o r t

Susie Broderick




258 Total Members

45 Honorary

69 Seniors

167 Regular



Looking for a chairperson.
Could that be YOU??



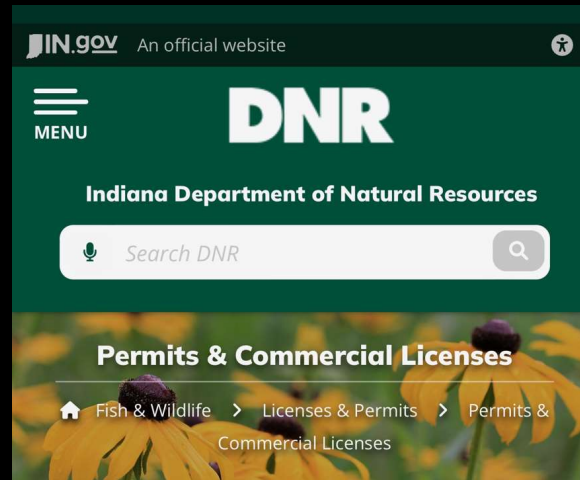
ENVIRONMENTAL & CONSERVANCY REPORT

RANDY HOFF
CONSERVANCY LIAISON

Environmental & Conservancy Report

Geese Remediation

- Raised most of funds to start the first phase in late summer, early fall – thank you!
- Estimate 30% return if not eradicated. Can take a few seasons to significantly reduce.
- For immediate deterrent, suggest a green laser pointer.
- NO Feeding!



[Reset Form](#)

APPLICATION FOR NUISANCE WILD ANIMAL CONTROL PERMIT
State Form 5600 (R6 / 6-22)
 Approved by State Board of Accounts, 2022

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Attn: Commercial Licenses
 Division of Fish and Wildlife
 402 W. Washington St., Rm. W273
 Indianapolis, IN 46204-2781
 Telephone: (317) 232-6527
 Fax Number: (317) 232-8150
 www.wildlife.IN.gov

Instructions:

1. Please type or print information.
2. Be sure to read regulations.
3. Submit completed application form to the above address.
4. If charging a fee, include payment of \$25.00 made payable to Indiana DNR with application.

Check One: ☐ New Applicant ☐ Renewal Date (month, day, year) _____

Name of Applicant (first name, last name): _____ Date of Birth: _____

Telephone Number: _____ E-Mail Address: _____

Name of Business (if applicable): _____

Address (Number and Street): _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP Code: _____ County: _____

Business Website (if applicable): _____

1) Will you be charging a fee or providing nuisance wild animal control services to the public? ☐ Yes (\$25.00 fee) ☐ No
 a) If yes, include check / money order for \$25.00 made payable to Indiana DNR (pursuant to IC 14-10-2-1).
 b) If yes and you are a new applicant, you must first successfully complete the permit examination.

2) Names of assistants (if applicable): _____

3) List the species of wild animals that will be removed: _____

4) List the proposed method(s) of capturing wild animals (live-trap, hand catch, snare, etc.): _____

For landowners, tenants, maintenance staff, and others that do not charge a fee or provide nuisance wild animal control services to the public:

1) Is this on your own property? ☐ Yes ☐ No

2) List the property address (street, city, county) where the animals will be removed (if different from above): _____

3) Check one: ☐ animal is causing or threatening to cause damage ☐ animal is posing a health or safety threat

For individuals who charge a fee or provide nuisance wild animal control services to the public:

1) List the counties where you plan on removing nuisance wild animals (county names): _____

Under the penalties of perjury (IC 35-44-2-1), I affirm the information supplied by me is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Applicant _____ Date Signed (month, day, year) _____

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Test/Cont Ed.: ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A Date Issued (month, day, year): _____ Check/MO Number _____

Approved by: _____ Date (month, day, year): _____

Comments: _____



Canada Geese Management

[Introduction](#) | [Human & Habitat Modification](#)
| [Harassment, Hunting & Permits](#) | [Questions & Answers](#)

Harassment

Harassment techniques are used to frighten and discourage geese from using a property. They are non-lethal and it is legal to harass Canada geese without a federal or state permit as long as they are not injured, touched, or handled by a person, dog, or other equipment. Different harassment methods can entail aural, visual, and physical techniques so long as local ordinances are being followed.

Harassment techniques will only be as effective as the amount of effort employed. Harassment techniques must be used repetitively each time geese appear on your property to be successful. Geese should be harassed as soon as they appear on a property as they are much more difficult to frighten after they feel comfortable in an area.

The following techniques may be used to harass geese, where safe and legal to do so. Check local ordinances and laws before using techniques.



Visual Devices

- Motion sensor lights
- Flagging
- Eye spot balloons
- Dead goose or predator decoys
- Mylar tape
- Scarecrows
- Dogs (chasing only)
- Remote controlled devices
- Hand held lasers

Physical Devices

- Garden hose
- Sprinkler
- Motion-activated sprayer
- Legal chemical repellents (must be applied following label instructions)



Environmental & Conservancy Report



Weed Control

- Aquatic Weed Control will treat the channels the weeks of:

June

August

- State funded Starry Stonewort Treatments

Starry Stonewort



Eurasian
Watermilfoil

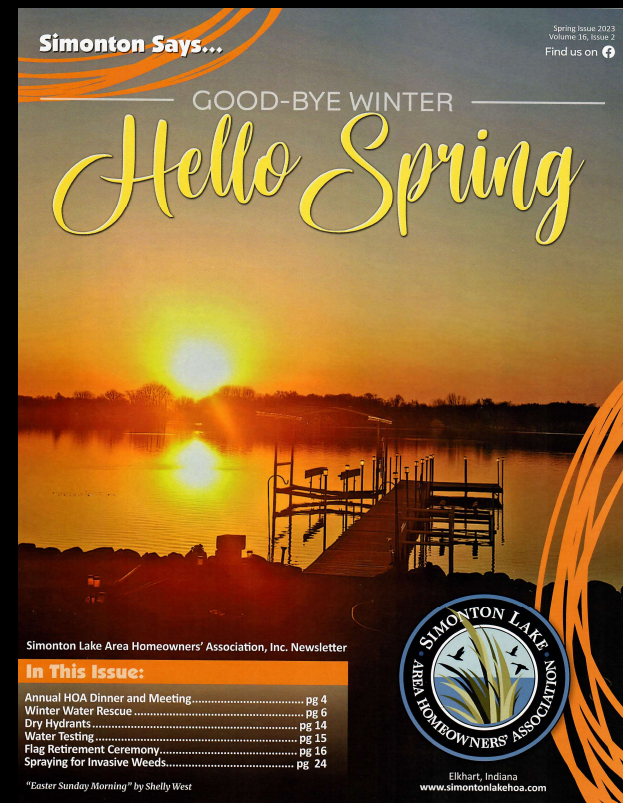
Dry Hydrants

- Unpressurized permanently installed pipe from the road to the lake.
- In case of fire, trucks can hook up to dry hydrant to fill their tanks. Alternative is to drive all the way to the public landing.
- Still in planning phase and looking for suitable sites.



Newsletter & Media Report

Amy Matherly



<https://simontonlakehoa.com/>

SimontonLakeHOA@GMail.com

Eagles Nest



- Have a homeowner willing to have the structure erected on their property.
- Has to be built to DNR standard and in an area without a lot of boats, cars, noise.
- Have gotten DNR guidelines for attaching webcam.

- 16 Foot Pole Required and set in ground 4'



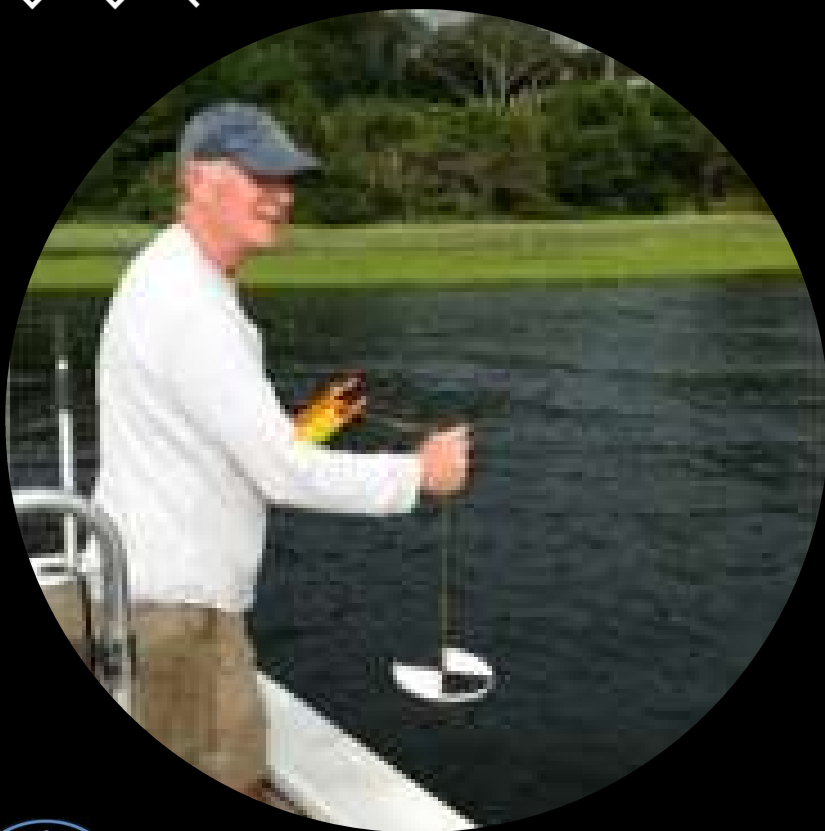
- 3' square box at the top





Water Quality Testing

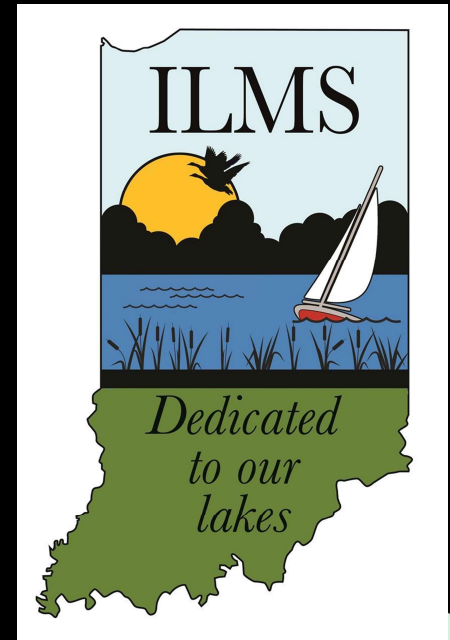
- 2nd year of testing but first FULL summer.
- Required to test JUST for water clarity in 2023. Lesa Hershberger has volunteered for this every other week.
- 2024 will test for:
 - Temperature
 - Dissolved Oxygen
 - Phosphorus
 - Nitrogen
 - Chlorophyll
 - Invasive Species
 - Algal Blooms



Indiana Lakes Management Society

Simonton Lake is now a member

“We promote and provide a forum for the sharing of information and experience on scientific, legal, administrative and financial aspects of lake and watershed management.”





Buoys



CONSERVANCY HAS PURCHASED LIGHTS FOR THE TOP OF ALL BUOYS IN THE CHANNELS.

WILL BE INSTALLED BY HOA VOLUNTEERS. PLEASE SEE RYAN MATHERLY OR BOB EVANS IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN HELPING.

AS A REMINDER, DON'T MOVE, PLAY ON, OR DOCK TO A BUOY. THIS IS A FEDERAL OFFENSE.

Fish Kill??

"Thanks for the boat ride the other day on Simonton. As suspected, we did see a number of fish dead in the channels and along the northwest shore. I counted roughly 40 to 50 dead fish consisting of Bluegill, Yellow Perch, Bass, Gizzard Shad, Redear and Bullhead. Most of the fish were Bluegill and Redear. This kill does not concern me as it is not currently active, and fish have been dead for at least a week. Contributing factors of the kill was likely rapid fluctuations in water temperature in the channels. This is not uncommon this time of year and we experience kills like this all the time. One concern I did see was the presence of Gizzard Shad. We did collect one dead shad in the channels. Historically Simonton Lake has never had a population of shad, and this is likely a new invasion. How the shad population density will respond in the lake is hard to determine, but typically in lakes with good water quality and clarity the population doesn't take off and get out of control. This usually means large shad at low numbers. Let's hope for the best as there really isn't much we can do. If you have any other questions doesn't hesitate to reach out."

- DNR

REDEAR SUNFISH



GIZZARD SHAD



Marketing Ideas...



SLAHA BUSINESS





Issues at Simonton Lake Public Access Continue



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 to help prevent erosion have all been stolen. This has been reported to the Indiana DNR.





Issues at Simonton Lake Public Access Continue

- * **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.

- * **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.





Issues at Simonton Lake Public Access Continue

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

- **DNR Law Enforcement – Central Dispatch - (812) 837-9536**
 - Parking spot issues
 - Blocking the launch
 - Swimming too close to the launch
 - Other DNR rule violations
- **Elkhart County Sheriff Issues – (574) 533-4151**
 - Altercations or suspicious/dangerous activity in the parking lot
 - Parking in “no parking” areas on CR 109
 - Other problems NOT involving DNR rules





Issues at Simonton Lake Public Access Continue

*** There is a woman living in a car on an empty lot at the landing. What can we do?**

- The Elkhart County Sheriff is aware of the situation.
- Have contacted the County about the situation, but she has permission from the landowner.
- SHE IS REPORTEDLY ARMED – Do NOT work to provoke the situation.
- Please report ANY and ALL negative interactions, harassment, suspicious activity to the Elkhart County Sheriff - EACH and EVERY time



Elkhart County Sheriff Issues – (574) 533-4151 (non-Emergency)





Four Lake Boards

Conservancy

Paul Wilson, Chairman

sewer issues, drainage issues, erosion issues and weed control,
public landing, buoys, water hazards

Sportsman's Club

Dave Miller, President

501(c)(3), Poker Run, Fireworks, Kid's Fishing Contests

Trust

Ryan Harding, President

501(c)(3), holds 12-acre sediment land watershed deed

SLAHA

Doug Reese, President

501(c)(4), foster the safety and quality of life in our neighborhood



Ideas and Future Goals



Boards Working together...

- Tax deductible fireworks donations through 501(c)(3) – may have this one figured out.

Quality...

- County involvement with Lilly Creek dredging to improve cleanliness of the lake.
- “Welcome to Simonton Lake” – need design ideas and permissions to place them at entrances.
- Lake concert series

Safety

- Stop sign at Aqua and CR 11? – Could take a couple years to get a review.
- Golf cart usage – can we get them certified for use – path on CR11
- Streetlights – talks with AEP, would need a large grant (expensive)





PROMO CODE: Simlake2023

48-gallon Cart Measured Service - \$14/month

This cart holds about 3 tall kitchen bags. The cart is serviced weekly.

64-gallon Cart Measured Service - \$14/month

This cart holds 2 thirty-gallon trash/lawn bags or three to four tall kitchen bags. The cart is serviced weekly.

96-gallon Cart Measured Service - \$16/month

This cart holds 3 thirty-gallon trash/lawn bags or six to seven tall kitchen bags. The cart is serviced weekly.

96-gallon Cart PLUS SERVICE - \$24/month

This cart holds 3 thirty-gallon trash/lawn bags or six to seven tall kitchen bags. PLUS, you may put out up to TEN additional bags each week. The cart and bags are removed weekly.

Additional 96-gallon Trash Carts - \$8/month

(Must have Plus Service)

96-gallon Single Stream Recycling - \$6/month

(Serviced every other week)

- **Extra Containers** available for larger households
- **Vacation hold** available so you are not charged when you are away
- We have Monthly **Auto-Pay**, **Quarterly** and **Annual** billing available
- We do have one additional variable surcharge that adds about 28% to your monthly charge
- **Large or Bulky items** can be serviced curbside but are not included in the monthly rate
- We are able to take **Yard Waste** but do ask that it is bagged
- **Referral Program Bonuses, Free Month with Service Agreement** and other Discounts Available





Q U E S T I O N S
S U G G E S T I O N S
C O M M E N T S

THANK YOU

Doug Reese
Doug_Reese@yahoo.com
C: 574-327-4484





1 SITE PLAN
1" = 100'-0"



