

Did You Know: July is Recreation and Parks Month! Started in 1985, the National Recreation and Park Association continues to use this opportunity to initiate summer programming and encourage communities around the nation to participate in outdoor activities. Take a look at the National Recreation and Park Association's website at www.nrpa.org for more information, including the "31 Days of July" activity calendar.

Is there "Smart Growth"?

By: James V. Celano III

With the recent legislative effort placing the State of Wisconsin's Smart Growth Initiative in limbo, many are rightly asking: what's next?

There seems to be some strange relationships unfolding in the aftermath of the disabling vote. Realtors and Developers we are told, have for the moment, agreed with conservationists and others that a lack of comprehensive planning by communities across this state is not good for its citizens in many respects. The uncertainty of what development a community may or may not want within its borders or, for that matter, its extra-territorial zone of influence, often leads to rancorous debate and costly delays for all concerned.

However, to reinstate the well-intentioned legislation as is may be missing an historic opportunity.

"Smart Growth," when first studied years ago among many communities along the East Coast, looks and acts very different from Wisconsin's version. Without delving into lengthy specifics, the essence of the movement was to plan for future growth by encouraging and guiding members of the development community, in concert with local and State officials, as to where future growth was to occur.

The present practice of simply designating large swaths of land as one particular zoning class versus another, with little or no insight as to the long-term consequences, is shortsighted at best. Extending and improving highways and utilities without proper input from local planners, and without regard to the broader impact of such actions, has led to many of the problems now plaguing our disappearing Towns and Villages.

Now would be an excellent opportunity to re-craft or amend this legislation to guide the communities of Wisconsin towards a better, more reasonable future. We are facing very real threats to a well-loved and now swiftly evaporating way of life.

As with all things worth doing, the cost of such effort is, and should always remain, all of ours to bear. The cost of not acting is even greater. The State of Wisconsin, through its legislators, felt it important enough to address this matter once before. Now, let us improve on those first steps, approach this again from the perspective of truly Smart Growth significantly benefiting all, worthy of another look, and provide the dollars and assistance necessary to undertake it correctly.

Ways to Show Your Financial Support

*By: Thomas Ramsey
Secretary/Treasurer*

If you share our commitment to ensuring a bright future for the Conservancy, let us show you how you can meet your personal financial goals while providing enriching support for the Conservancy through estate and planned giving.

The Conservancy honors individuals who have made or are planning to make a gift through one of the following arrangements:

- a bequest through a will or living trust
- a charitable gift annuity
- a charitable remainder trust
- a gift of life insurance, IRA, or other deferred giving plan.

Benefits of estate and planned gifts like those above may include:

- income tax deductions
- an income stream for life for you or your beneficiary
- limited capital gains taxes
- reductions in estate and probate costs

If you have already named us as the beneficiary of a planned gift, we encourage you to notify us today so that we may welcome you as significant supporter and honor you appropriately, if you so wish.

For more information, please contact us.

Geneva Lake Conservancy
P.O. Box 588
Fontana, WI 53125
Phone: (262) 275-5700

And thank you for your financial support of our 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization!

Donate and Become a GLC Member for 2005!

The GLC Wish List:

1. A Compost Bin – So that the Staff's lunch scraps can benefit our lovely garden and not some landfill.
2. A Metal Detector – So our Land Protection Specialist can find property boundaries for baseline documentation and monitoring of our conservation easements.
3. Patio Chairs & Table w/Umbrella – So the Staff and visitors can enjoy our wonderful garden.

Geneva Lake Conservancy
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Board of Directors:
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Michael Ferro	Steven Pope
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Staff:
 James V. Celano III – Executive Director
 Lynn Ketterhagen – Land Protection Specialist
 Katie Sullivan - Administrative Assistant

Enclosed is my tax-deductible membership check.
 \$25 Naturalist
 \$50 Steward
 \$100 Sponsor
 \$250 Guardian
 \$500 Benefactor
 \$1,000 Friend of the Conservancy
 \$5,000 Conservancy Founders Society

Yes I would like to be a volunteer:
 Outdoors Indoors
 Technical Support
 Please send more info on _____

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Donor(s) _____
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 I give permission to send occasional emails regarding land use issues.
 I would prefer to receive my newsletter via email when it becomes available.

www.genevalakeconservancy.org
 Please mail to:
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VOLUME 42 ISSUE 2
“Common Ground. Community Character. Natural Resources.”
 SPRING/SUMMER 2005 NEWSLETTER

Don't miss the #1 Summer Bash...
 The Conservancy's Only Summer Fundraiser...

The 'Lake Luau'...
The Mai Tai No Tai Party
 On Its **NEW DATE**
 July 16th at 6:30 pm

Where else can you enjoy a live band, Fire-Dancing Hawaiians, a wonderful island inspired dinner and drinks, all in a tropical setting on the shores of Geneva Lake?

The basic idea for the party came from Steve Pope, who wanted to compliment the Conservancy's wintertime fundraiser, the Holly Ball, with a more relaxed, summer event. "The Geneva Lake area has some wonderful summer events and great fundraisers, thus I felt we really needed to make this party unique enough that people would set the time aside in their busy summer calendars and invite their friends to join them. For this reason, my co-chair of the party, Sharon O'Brien and I wanted to throw a first-class party that everyone would be talking about," adds Pope.

"Last year we stuck our toe in the water, with our first party," says Pope, "but this year, we are diving in head first. Everyone loved being on the lake, so this year we return to the Yacht Club, but this time with a huge tent beside the waterfront, where everyone can dine together, enjoy watching the Dancing Hawaiians perform and join in the unique-live auction. Then we'll go back towards the club for some serious dancing and partying."

Sharon adds, "This year we are going to give away prizes for the best dressed, and I use that term loosely, so guests are encouraged to wear their most outrageous and/or casual island attire." Pope adds, "At the risk of sounding strange, I am hoping some guests will have the guts to adorn themselves with coconut bras and grass skirts; the more relaxed and fun, the better."

This year's party will also feature the rock band JP & The Cats, who will perform laid-back, Jimmy Buffet style music during the cocktail hour and then continue with some great dance music late into the evening. This years menu includes, Tomato Bruschetta with toasted

The **Geneva Inn's Lake Walk for Conservation** took place on May 17, 2005, and with over 50 walkers, it was a smashing success. We at the Geneva Lake Conservancy would like to thank all those responsible for organizing and carrying out the event, as well as those who participated. A special thank you to Mr. Rick Treptow of the Geneva Inn, not only for organizing the event and directing the proceeds to the Conservancy, but also for the wonderful lunches prepared for the walkers. Also, many thanks to Mr. Bill LaCroix of Harpoon Willies and Mr. Thomas W. Howell of Gordy's Boathouse for their sponsorship, the welcome rest, snacks and drinks they and their staff provided the weary walkers. Finally, we would like to thank Penny Beatty, Beth Muehlenkamp, Tracy Smith and all those at Lindstrom Beatty who aided the Geneva Inn in organization and promotion of the Lake Walk. Thanks to all of these people, a greater awareness of the Conservancy's work in preserving the natural benefits and cultural quality of the lake has been significantly enhanced.



Aveda Cleans Hermansen Woods

On April 9, 2005, volunteers from Salon Systems, Inc. working in concert with Aveda, known for their natural salon hair and beauty products, took a field trip to the Hermansen Woods. There, they joined Jim Celano and Lynn Ketterhagen in cleaning the debris accumulated over the years from the 15 acres of Conservancy-owned woods near Como Lake. During the lovely spring morning, the volunteers filled to capacity a 12-yard dumpster with such things as barbed wire, large metal drums, bottles, cans and, of all things, old vending machines, which had been strewn about the woods. The Conservancy heartily thanks those rugged individuals who bravely tackled this much-needed effort.

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curried crostinis; Field greens with coconut and mangoes with a lemon pepper vinaigrette; Pineapple spiced, Rum glazed chicken; Char-coal roasted, maple brown sugar - chili pepper rubbed fresh pork; Green beans, Maui onions with toasted sesame seeds; Rosemary roasted red bliss potatoes; and Mini caramelized pineapple upside down cakes with Kona coffee syrup.

This year's luau will feature amazing tropical decorations, orchestrated by O'Brien, thereby transforming the yacht club into an island paradise. The bars will also serve unique, hand-shaken, tropical drinks along with other favorites.

In short, for only \$85 per guest, you'll enjoy live music, a wonderful dinner, a live show, an unique auction and dancing, all in a tropical setting on the shores of Geneva Lake!

Come by water or land, but don't miss the party of the summer, and support the Conservancy's great cause. Last year's party sold out, so call today to reserve a spot for you and your friends. Call the Conservancy at 262-275-5700.



President's Letter

By: Chuck Ebeling

“SAVE THE STARGAZER!”

That was the title of an essay I'd written that was published in the Chicago Tribune in late April, on the reasons to save historic Yerkes Observatory from the wrecking ball, and the likely conversion of its pristine 77-acre site into a spa resort and dense housing development. Much has happened since, and the drama continues to unfold.

The week before the essay appeared, Jim Celano and I invited members of a local consortium of individuals and the leadership of Aurora University to meet on how to reinvigorate the local initiative to save Yerkes from the insensitive development plans put forth by its owners, The University of Chicago.

A few weeks later, the University dispatched its officer in charge of disposing of Yerkes to Williams Bay, to meet with a small group of interested local citizens, including the Conservancy, and, separately, with representatives of the Williams Bay City Council. Apparently, the City Council representatives advised the University of Chicago that they would only consider a plan that first provided for the preservation of the observatory facility, and that they would likely not condone commercial development of the Yerkes site. At the session we attended, we advised the university that they had been “accidental conservationists” for 100 years of a natural habitat that includes 554 feet of the last undeveloped, pristine Geneva Lake waterfront, left much as the Native Americans left it some 170 years ago, along with some deep stands of ancient oak forest. The Conservancy thus put conservation of the site's natural resources on the agenda. However, several of us went away largely unconvinced that the University was serious about changing its plans.

After that, and consulting with the Conservancy Board, we joined with local author Larry Larkin and Bill Turner, a Fontana resident interested in saving Yerkes, in crafting an alternative plan to conserve much of the environmentally valuable acreage at Yerkes and to preserve the observatory itself for later use in education, quality tourism and for community uses, as well as an ultimate tribute to the history of American astronomy and astrophysics.

On June 11th, we met with 70 invited local citizens, including regional press, State Senator Neal Kedzie, and State Representative, 32nd District, Tom Lothian, to present the outline of this alternative plan to save Yerkes, which we call “Yerkes 21.” Our intent is to finalize this proposal to make Yerkes meaningful to the 21st century, just as it was to the 19th and 20th, and send it soon to the University of Chicago, with signatures from many local leaders, citizens and organizations. We will be prepared to turn the proposal into an offer to the university – one that would create a not-for-profit foundation to conserve and preserve Yerkes for the inspiration of future generations.

There is a long road ahead to “save” Yerkes, but “Yerkes 21” is an important step forward in forming a core group and developing a workable plan. Your Conservancy is at the center of this process, because we consider Yerkes to be one of the most vital conservation and preservation opportunities in Southeastern Wisconsin, and perhaps in this state. We will stay with this issue, representing the views and concerns of the Geneva Lake community, our members and our Board, and keep you apprised of progress, challenges and opportunities to assist. Stay tuned!

UPDATE

The June 11th community meeting received extensive favorable press, from Chicago to Minnesota, Iowa, Northern Illinois and in the Milwaukee and Geneva Lake areas. On June 23rd, the "Yerkes 21" plan was submitted to University of Chicago officials and their Board of Trustees. We are awaiting their reactions. Copies are available from the Conservancy to all who are interested.

Please, visit our website www.genevalakeconservancy.org for further updates.

"Grandma's House"

By Katie Sullivan



On a recent tour of Badger High School, Geneva Lake Conservancy Board member Grace Hanny discovered “Grandma’s House,” an 8’ x 12’ New England Style fully-wired playhouse once featured in Better Homes and Gardens. Grace was charmed, as are all who look at the lovely cottage. Immediately, she began to inquire about the construction and discovered that the school’s shop class, under teacher Mr. Arnie Oswald’s able leadership, had produced “Grandma’s House” for a local woman, Mrs. Luanne Getzen who had bought the materials and house plans and gave them to the class.

Mrs. Getzen, who as a young girl, always dreamed of having a playhouse, believed her dream could benefit the students in Mr. Oswald’s class. Now, two years later, the playhouse is nearly complete and ready to be delivered. Grace Hanny at once contacted Mrs. Getzen and asked if the Geneva Lake Conservancy could purchase the house from her and use it as a fundraiser; Mrs. Getzen agreed.

Many ideas were bandied about, including a “Mill House on Wheels” for the Conservancy staff. Although tempting, fate in the guise of Michael and Jacky Ferro intervened. For Michael, Conservancy Board member and father of three, “Grandma’s House” was perfect for him and his family. Once Grandma’s House is installed, his children will have a lovely place to dream and play, and the Badger High School students who participated in the project receive satisfaction, not only for a job so well done, but also in knowing that their efforts went to benefit a local organization.

Watch this space for updates on Mr. Oswald’s enterprising shop class, for though they have left for the summer, come fall, the Badger High School students will be busy with other projects supplied by local residents. Even Mrs. Getzen, having relinquished her childhood dream to the Conservancy, has placed her name on the waiting list for another project: “Grandma’s House, Part 2.”

It Takes an Orchestra

By Sharon O'Brien

With indisputable wisdom, H. E. Luccock once observed, “No one can whistle a symphony. It takes an orchestra to play it.” The dedicated volunteer corps at the GLC is indeed making beautiful music. Our front cottage garden continues to bloom and flourish thanks to our clean-up crews and Therese & Brent Horvath of Intrinsic Perennials. Therese designed the garden for easy maintenance and continuous bloom throughout the growing season. The Lake Geneva Garden Club initiated the funding process for restoration of our vintage herb garden and we will continue to expand the plantings. Agrecol Corporation from Madison is donating their expertise and materials to assist us with weed and invasive species removal from our garden inside the picket fence. Keep your eye on us, as the finished product will be a glorious place for meetings and tours. We invite you to stop by the Conservancy on a regular basis to and share with us our beautiful surroundings.

Our 18-year-old volunteer Porter Harrett continues to make “beautiful music” from a computer and scanner. He spends many hours each week scanning our valuable documents. When complete, these documents will be taken off-site for safekeeping; should anything happen to Mill House or the Conservancy’s computer system, this indispensable information will be saved. Thanks Porter!

Now, on to the party scene! A group of energetic and creative members has already begun the brainstorm for December’s Holly Ball. The Mai Tai No Tai mid-summer celebration beckons and we welcome and need the assistance of all who love to decorate tropical style and all who love to un-decorate tropical style, that is for the morning after tear-down. Please give the Conservancy a call to volunteer for Mai Tai party work.

Thank you to all who give the gift of time, energy and enthusiasm. We welcome you and need your music.