

Newsletter

Seasons Greetings!

A word from the President:

Greetings from Bloomington, IL. I am here visiting my kids and 3 grandkids for the holidays. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

As we grow as an organization, two words come to mind: **coordination** and **collaboration**. The board has been working hard to coordinate more activities and some positive changes for WCLA. We will keep you informed. We are also working on a collaboration with the East Caroga Lake Environmental Association, something that we are excited about and has been a long time coming.

When you are part of an organization the word "I" should not be in your vocabulary. "We" do things as a group. However, there are 3 words that start with "I" in this message.

- We have many *individuals* in WCLA, over 200 households, and this is the base of our strength.
- We hope everyone *identifies* with WCLA. We hope you are proud of your WCLA and you will let everyone know that, talking WCLA up to others who are non-members. If you need applications you can contact me when we are at the Lake.

^a The last word is *involvement*. Talking up WCLA is one way to be involved, but for the WCLA to keep growing we need more. We need everyone to pick something else they could be involved in. Come to the meetings, suggest a new activity that you would be willing to organize, and participate in our currently scheduled functions.

Any suggestions are always appreciated. We recently sent out an email with a survey where you can tell us what you like to do and you can pick an area you would like to be involved in. If you have not already, please take the survey at your earliest convenience. You do not have to wait until the summer. If you want to talk about something you can call me anytime at 717-586-9753.

On a different note, if you ever went to Sherman's in its heyday you would have seen the strongman High Striker on the midway. The Town just donated this to the Historical Museum. They need to add a cupola in their Arcade exhibit so it will fit, a project that will cost around \$3,500-\$4,000. They are looking for donations to help "Ring the Bell". Checks should be made to Caroga Historical Museum, PO Box 434, Caroga Lake, NY 12032.

Looking forward to SEEING YOU AROUND THE LAKE in 2019.

Don Hopper
President WCLA

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New Collaboration

The West Caroga Lake Association and the East Caroga Lake Environmental Association have begun to collaborate on a few initiatives important to their collective membership, the Town of Caroga, and, of course, to the lakes. The first initiative includes pooling resources for a joint fish stocking plan/program for both East and West Caroga Lakes.

The two groups are especially excited about this partnership because of the potential ability for our combined associations to serve a sizeable group of Carogans, as we estimate a collective membership of nearly 500, including a nice mix of seasonal and permanent residents. There are two environmentally related issues that the boards of our two groups have raised in a

letter sent to the town of Caroga. Our goal in sending this communication was to inform the town of our collaboration and state our concerns about a few areas of importance to our members. The following was sent to the town in a letter dated October 3rd, 2018:

"First, we have a concern with the town owned beach adjacent to the old Sherman's Amusement Park. We realize that you are very busy evaluating the potential options for the future of the entire Sherman's property, and we will not be sending you any feedback on that project, as it is beyond the scope of what our two associations would likely get involved with. However, there is one environmental concern that we have concerning the the beach area. A number of

"[WCLA and ECLEA] are especially excited about this partnership because of the potential ability for our combined associations to serve a sizable group of Carogans, as we estimate a collective membership of nearly 500..."

folks have noticed a relatively large number of boats launching and parking along that town owned beach, circumventing the boat cleaning stations and/or public launch sites available. This unsupervised launching unfortunately poses a threat to the health of the lake and presents a high risk of introducing more invasive species into our two lakes. In addition, there are many other trespassers invading the beach, not just boat launchers! We understand it is a difficult challenge for the town to prevent unauthorized activity from occurring on the beach. However, there are some steps that could be taken, such as passing a "no trespassing" ordinance, to help prevent these unwanted trespassers and uncleaned boats from freely launching along this beach.

On behalf of the Boards Of Directors of our two groups, we urge the Town Supervisor and Town Board members to consider taking a few steps to help resolve this matter as soon as possible.

In addition, our groups also have a concern

about the discovery of higher than normal sodium and chloride values in both lakes...with West Caroga Lake's chemistry "moderately" influenced by road salt, and East Caroga Lake's chemistry "highly" influenced by road salt. These findings are summarized in an Adirondack Lake Assessment Program 2017 report, available on the Town of Caroga Website. While the specific impact of road salt on aquatic life is not conclusive, there is evidence of the danger it can pose to aquatic life, especially when in high concentrations. Our two groups request that the Town Board, Supervisor, and Highway Superintendent please work to understand where the salt concentrations are entering the lakes and to develop ways to reduce salt flow into the lake. Perhaps alternatives to salt can be explored, as well, as some other communities are doing. The health of the lake and its aquatic life is very important to all who live in or visit Caroga.

Warm Regards and thank you for your consideration." ■

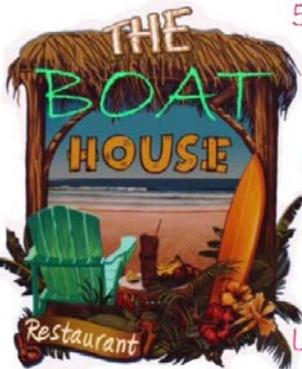
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Sherman's Update

This is a summary of the latest proposal from the Caroga Arts Collective based on a "Proposed Sherman's Renewal Sale To Caroga Arts".

Caroga Arts:

- Is dedicated to revitalizing the Town by creating a first-rate entertainment venue and community center.
- Plans to raise funds, at no expense to the Town, to improve the Sherman's property so it can be used by all members of the community for concerts; car shows; farmers markets; festivals; picnics; town meetings; pre-school, school-age and adult education; and many other town and community events.
- Is committed to enhancing Sherman's as an asset to the community through attracting and retaining residents, tourists, and businesses, increasing Town sales tax revenue.

- Has received an anonymous \$125,000 matching grant for an entertainment venue and anticipates many more grants and donations once we start a capital construction drive for improvement of Sherman's.

Building Plans:

- **Bumper Car Pavilion:** Lake-side performance and/or film venue, town meeting space.
- **Carousel:** Carousel rides, banquets, gallery, event space.
- **Main Building:** Community center, offices, classrooms, multi-use conference space.
- **Other Features:** Community green space, community garden/farmers market, Town visitors info booth, cafe & picnic/play area.

New Traffic Patterns on the Shore Road

This has been confirmed by the Highway Superintendent and the Town Clerk.

The road will be one-way from Bath road out to Rt. 29A and one-way from Chapel road out to Rt.10. The main entry to our beautiful shore road will be Bath, Grove, and Chapel roads.



DATES TO REMEMBER

General Meeting

Saturday, June 29th, 2019
10am • Caroga Chapel
Guest: Nancy Mueller from NYFOLA

Annual Boat Parade

Thursday, July 4th, 2019
4pm • On the water by Sherman's
Theme: Star Wars

Chicken BBQ

Saturday, July 13th, 2019
Nick Stoner Inn
5-8pm Social, Dinner & Annual Meeting

Ice Cream Social

Thursday, August 8th, 2019
The Boat House
Ice Cream served 7-8pm, Details TBA

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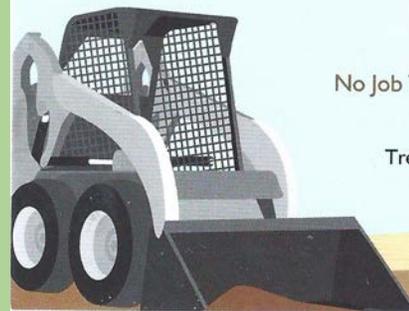
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Fish Tales

An update from WCLA VP Chris Cram, and board members Jed Potocar & Al Zeina:

Fall and winter greetings to all West Caroga Lake Association members far and wide. Before we report to you on the progress of the joint fish stocking endeavor, allow us to wish everybody a very happy and prosperous holiday season.

As many of you may recall, approximately a year ago, Vice President Chris Cram and Board Member Jed Potocar initiated an outreach to the Caroga Fish & Game Club and East Caroga Lake Environmental Association (ECLEA). Our goal was to see if our common interests in fish stock levels in the lakes could be furthered by combining these efforts. We also felt there was a great deal of potential to work hand-in-hand with the other organizations in other areas that advance our common causes. After all, we would represent collectively over 700 households in the East and West Caroga Lake area. That's a pretty loud voice.

That initial meeting last fall went well. All three organizations sent representatives and we found mutual agreement for the concept. We then charted a course for

August to hammer out the final details. Unfortunately, the East Caroga Lake Environmental Association experienced a tragic death in their membership and was unable to schedule their end-of-season meeting. In the meantime a new president (Rick Mendetta) has been elected. He has assured the task force members that their organization is still fully on board and will be contributing a portion to restocking funds in the spring. So, we are very excited.

Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, the Caroga Fish & Game Club has made the decision to withdraw from the joint task force. They have returned our \$2,000 contribution to the fish stocking fund and we will be working with the East Caroga Lake Environmental Association to determine the best ways to use these funds in our continued effort to stock the lakes.

Though this recent development is disappointing, we have realized that our efforts still represent huge steps forward. Our alliance with Rick Mendetta and the East Caroga Lake Environmental Association seems very strong—and this is the first time an alliance of this type has occurred on these lakes.

"...our efforts represent huge steps forward. Our alliance with [the ECLEA] seems very strong—and this is the first time an alliance of this type has occurred on these lakes."



what we would now call the East and West Caroga Lake's Joint Task Force. We agreed to assign members from each of the three organizations to the task force and meet again this Spring. An agreement was reached to combine funds from each of the three groups for a major fish restocking undertaking either this fall or next spring. It was agreed that the Caroga Fish & Game Club would act as the repository of these funds and their expertise would be heavily relied upon for the stocking effort. A third meeting was scheduled for this

In the spring we will be pooling our fish stocking fund with a contribution from the ECLEA and will still accomplish our goal of improving the fish stock levels in the two Lakes. Additionally, we will work to strengthen our alliance so that we can effectively address areas of mutual concern.

The WCLA Board always appreciates feedback and suggestions from our membership. Let us know what you think of this endeavor, pro or con. ■



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Tidbits of History

The Unger House and Gangsters in Caroga: In 1931, the Ungers built a 3-story hotel and restaurant at the northwest corner of the Five Points, the same location where their boarding house had been destroyed the year before. *Note: Five Points is the area where the roads branch off in front of where the Jammer used to be.* The Unger House was on the left on London Bridge at the Five Points intersections.

The new hotel lasted until 1955 when it, too, burned. Emma Krause, past Town Supervisor, was a partner in the hotel and was asleep inside when the fire broke out. She gave credit to her dog for waking her up in time to get out. The Unger house was relocated to the corner of Rt. 29A & 10. There was an existing restaurant there called the Well that was run by the Pedricks, but the Unger house completely renovated the building.

Emma Krause remembers a time at the

original Unger house, when she was a young girl, she served dinner to the notorious Al Capone. Capone and his companions were on their way to the Champion prizefighter Gene Tunney's training camp in Speculator. Emma also reported that the Albany gangster, Legs Diamond, spent a summer at a State Senator's camp in Kirchen's Grove in the 1920's.

Lakeaire: Bruce Yates built "Lakeaire" on land given to him by his father Burton Yates. This is currently the location of the "Outdoorsman Bar & Grill". During the 50's and 60's it became one of the most popular bars in the tri-county area. There were bands every Friday and Saturday nights and crowds overflowed in the parking lots on warm summer evenings. They served many a cool beverage to the multitude of "baby boomers" that had come of age. (18 was the legal drinking age at that time). ■

2018 Town-Wide Garage Sale Results

In July the WCLA participated in the town-wide garage sale as a fundraising endeavor. We collected donation items from our membership and set our sale tables up at Hogan's camp on the East Shore Rd. We had an amazing turnout and made a profit of \$685. In addition to the sale, we donated many of the puzzles we received to the Pathfinder Village in Otsego, a community for people with Down's Syndrome and developmental disabilities.

A huge thank you to all who donated items and helped to organize and set up the sale.

A special thanks to Jim (Walt) & Pat Hogan for letting us set up on their property (the place to be on garage sale day!). We are looking to make this an annual event, so start saving your "trash treasures".

HOT TIP

For a great gift check out www.Lake-Art.com.

The Caroga Lakes are one of the options. They have a variety of items including beautiful 3D framed art, serving trays, clocks, notepads, journals—even a cribbage board!

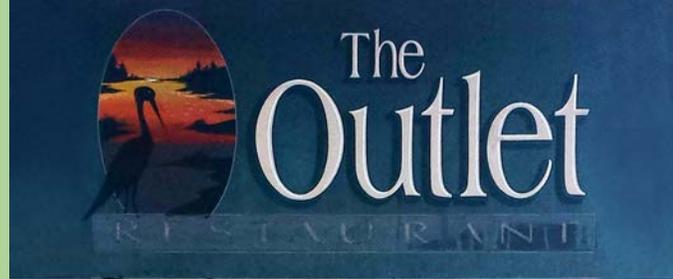


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