

Newsletter

A Letter from the President

Hello again from York, PA

Well actually, greetings from Bloomington, IL. I am here visiting my son, daughter and three grandchildren. I always look forward to this trip. The next trip I am looking forward to is the trip to Caroga Lake. When I pull in the driveway at our camp the first thing I do is walk out on the dock, stand on the deck at the end and look at the lake. At that moment any stress that I had been feeling just goes away, and I am reminded of what a special place we all share. This is why we have WCLA and why I am involved in the association. As members of WCLA we must never forget our objectives and purpose: To be a community concerned with the preservation and improvement of the recreational and residential environment of the West Caroga Lake Area, as well as promoting and sponsoring activities for our members.

What we are currently doing...

THE WELFARE OF THE LAKE

We are entering our 2nd year of water testing through the New York State Federation of Lake Associations. We take 8 samples throughout the summer and send them in to be tested. When we get this year's results we will have last year's data to compare to. We have a license to stock fish and do so as the funds become available. The fish help promote the health of the lake, as well as offering recreational opportunities. We also have a license to addle geese eggs to help control the population. We started the "See it, Scoop it, Trash it" program, handing out long handle nets to use from your boat, dock, or on shore to remove floating debris, especially milfoil, from the lake.

COMMUNICATION

Communication within an association is imperative. We have two meetings for members, a general meeting the last Saturday in June, and our Annual Meeting/ Chicken BBQ held in July or August. We publish 2 newsletters per year. We maintain a website, facebook page, and an email address. We email updates on WCLA happenings to our membership throughout the summer months. We also have membership boxes around town with information about WCLA and how to contact us if new people want to join. New this year will be Welcome Bags, to be distributed to anyone who has recently moved to the area providing them with information about WCLA.

ACTIVITIES

We sponsor a boat parade on or around the 4th of July, this year with cash prizes. We purchase flares for each household to light after the parade. We participate in the town wide yard sale the last Saturday in July. New this year is a cornhole tournament for all ages. More information about all of these events are included in the newsletter.

...Continued on page 2

Spring Edition
May 2020



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SUPPORTING THE TOWN OF CAROGA

We keep track of town happenings with many members attending the town board meetings on a regular basis. We support our community with donations to the Chapel, Museum, Fire Company, Polar Plunge and the Fulton County Sheriff Department to support their Boat Patrol program.

You can be proud to belong to the WCLA, and for only \$15/yr. As an association we should work to expand our reach in the community and with our members. What can you do to help make your Association, WCLA, the best it can be?

Start a walking, biking, or kayaking club; sponsor a card, board game, or a book club group; help organize a golf tournament, volunteer to be our photographer, town liaison, East Caroga Lake liaison, etc. Use your imagination. The Board will help, but we need your help as well to expand. Well that's enough from me. I hope you enjoy the features and information included in this edition. All events and dates are subject to change due to the pandemic. SEE YOU AROUND THE LAKE.

- Don Hopper
WCLA President

Fire Department Update

The Caroga Fire Company has broken ground on their new home.

As of a facebook post on April 17, 2020, the Fire Company has broken ground and is starting on a 9-month construction project to bring a much needed new fire station to Caroga Lake. It has also been approved for Dollar General to build a store on a subdivided section of the Fire Company's property. Construction dates are not known at this time.

Also, WCLA received a check from the Fire Company for fish caught in their 2019 fishing contest. The money was put into our fish stocking fund.

More Fishy Fun

Caroga Lake Fish Stocking Initiative Update

As you will hopefully recall, WCLA has been engaging in fish-stocking initiatives for a number of years, and last summer WCLA did a joint-stocking venture with the East Caroga Lake Protective Association. WCLA hopes to stock some more fish this coming summer or fall, and it is again in discussion with the East Caroga Lake folks to see if we can coordinate fish-stocking plans...that is, if ECLPA chooses to do any stocking this season. Of course, as everyone knows, this year has been quite unusual and stressful, and the Covid19 pandemic has created some uncertainty as to the availability and feasibility of doing fish stocking.

As a result, more time needs to pass and events need to unfold before the plans can be nailed down. We will keep you advised of our progress. Also, please remember that you can donate to the fish fund when you pay your dues, or at any other time. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Weed Nets Still Available

Be a part of our ongoing "See It, Scoop It, Trash It" campaign to help keep the lake clean.

In 2018, as part of our goal to protect the welfare of the lake, we started the "See it, Scoop it, Trash it" campaign. We still have lots of the long handled nets available to keep in your boat or scoop from your dock or shore. These will be available at our functions or send an email to wclaupdates@gmail.com to request one. If you already received one please take it out on a scooping run every now and then. We have also given nets to the weed harvesting crew to scoop out floating pieces around the harvester. The following email from NYSFOLA and letter from WCLA Vice-President Chris Cram will tell you that the program has been recognized, and it works.



Greetings Everyone,

Every once in a while, great ideas need to be shared. This came to us too late for our newsletter "Waterworks." To prevent aquatic plant fragments from rerooting (especially Eurasian Water Milfoil), the West Caroga Lake Association gave nets to its members so that they could "See It, Scoop It, and Trash It". It's working great according to one members testimonial.

"So, I have to be honest, I thought the little nets on a bamboo pole that we are handing out were a bit silly. However, I was wrong. A few days ago Sally and I took a little cruise around both lakes. When we finished up and docked using a burst of reverse, the water around the boat was suddenly awash with Eurasian milfoil fragments. I had placed one of those net thingies in our boat and it only took a few minutes to fill it with the debris. I was impressed. They work and it's easy. If only a fraction of the fragments were able to take root we'd be dealing with 'em for years to come."

Please, carry the nets on your boats and please use them especially after operating your prop in reverse. Thanks.

- Chris Cram, VP, WCLA.

Membership Dues

Membership Dues are due by **June 30th**. Please stick to this deadline. There are many more areas we could give full attention to if we didn't have to chase after dues. You can pay dues by using the addressed envelope in the spring newsletter, sending payment to P.O. Box 158, Caroga Lake, NY 12032, or go to our website to submit your dues and make other donations if you care to.

Included with this newsletter is a membership information sheet. This is the current information WCLA has on file for your membership. It is important that members make sure that their information is up to date. This information will be used by WCLA for sending out emails and newsletters. The membership form also provides the opportunity to donate to the fish fund or the general fund. Return the information sheet, noting any updates with your dues/donations. Thank you.



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Announcements: THINGS TO KNOW

NEW BOATER SAFETY LAW:

Reminder, a new boating safety law took effect on January 1. The new law, known as Brianna's Law, states that all individuals born on or after January 1, 1993 will be required to have a boating certificate. After January 1, 2022, everyone born on or after January 1, 1988 will be required to have a certificate. By January 1, 2025 all boaters will be required to have a boating safety certificate.

Please note: Anyone operating a Personal Watercraft (JetSki™, Wave Runner™, etc.) must have a boating safety certificate, and be at least 14 years of age or older. To obtain a certificate one must successfully complete a New York State Safe Boating Classroom Course or complete one of several online courses approved for New York State Residents.

For more information, see the New York State Parks and Recreation webpage: at <https://parks.ny.gov/recreation/boating/education.aspx>. We suggest looking at the website BoatUS.com for a free online boating safety course: <http://www.boatus.org/newyork>.

GENERAL MEETING INFO:

Our "kickoff the summer" General Meeting will be on **Saturday June 27, 2020, starting at 10:00 AM.**

Our normal meeting location at the Caroga Chapel is closed for the summer due to Covid-19. Location and means for our general meeting is TBD and will be communicated via email and Facebook at a later date.

Speakers include Scott Horton, newly elected Town Supervisor, and Scott Henze from the Fulton County Planning Department.

4th of JULY FLARE PICK-UP:

The annual flare lighting is a traditional part of the WCLA. Flares should be picked-up at designated spots if you would like to participate in the flare lighting. However, if you are not able to get to a pick-up spot please contact Ellen Wright at 518-835-8543 and we can make other arrangements.

The flare lighting will be at 9:30 pm on July 4th, after the boat parade.

PICK UP SPOTS:

- Ellen Wright
160 South Shore Road West
- Don Hopper
156 South Shore Road West
- Al Zeina
183 East Shore Road
- Walt "Jim" Hogan
196 East Shore Road

2020 BOAT PARADE:

Saturday July 4, 2020 at 4 PM. Assemble near Sherman's Beach and have your picture taken. The theme is: **1776 Meets 2020.**

New this year are cash and certificate prizes in 3 categories. Check it out and let's make this year the biggest parade ever.

Prizes and categories: Best in Parade, Most Creative, and Best of Theme

- First place in each category: \$100
- Second place in each category: \$50
- Third place in each category: \$25
- Small prizes for all participants



FIRST ANNUAL CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT:

On August 15, 2020 starting at noon, we will be holding our first cornhole tournament at Sherman's. This will be co-hosted with the Caroga Arts Collective.

Bring the whole family for a chance to win prizes and bid on raffles. This is a family friendly tournament and we will have divisions for both children and adults. Entry fees, prizes, and rules TBD. Check out our Facebook page for updates on this event. Do you like good music? Saunders Fest will be held after the tournament!

2020 TOWN-WIDE GARAGE SALE:

WCLA will once again be participating in the town-wide yard sale on **Saturday, July 25th**. We **need** you, our members, to donate items for the sale. Please be sure any donations are clean and in working order. Donations may be dropped off at the Hopper Camp, 156 S. Shore Rd., West Caroga Lake after July 1st. We will also need tables for the sale, so if you have one you are willing to let us borrow for the sale weekend, that would be greatly appreciated. All the money we raise goes to support the West Caroga Lake Association.

WELCOME BAGS:

New this year will be our Welcome Bags for people new to the West Caroga Lake area. They will contain information about WCLA and how to join, as well as, information about local restaurants, stores and things to do in the area.

If you know of anyone who is new to the area please send their name and address to Debbie Drain at bdrain01@gmail.com, and we will deliver them a Welcome Bag. Also, if you are an owner of a local business and want to include a menu, flyer, business card or coupon in our Welcome Bag, please contact Debbie Drain at the email address above. This is a nice way to welcome people to our community.

JUST FOR FUN — DID YOU KNOW?:

- Barbie's full name is Barbara Millicent Roberts. Ken is Ken Carson.
- Buzz Aldrin, the 2nd person to walk on the moon, mother's maiden name was Marion Moon.
- In a statue, if a person is riding a horse that has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle; one front leg in the air means the person died as a result of wounds received in battle; and all four legs on the ground indicates the person died of natural causes.

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Tidbits of History

Enjoy some of these fun facts and tidbits of history about Caroga Lake and the surrounding areas.

The S.S. (Steam Ship) Nick Stoner

Nicholas Stoner (1762–1853) moved to the Mohawk Valley from New York City as a child with his family in the early 1770s. In 1777 at age 15, Nick enlisted as a fifer in the Tryon County militia in Colonel James Livingston's battalion. His father Henry and younger brother John also enlisted. The Stoners and their battalion first saw action in August 1777. They accompanied General Benedict Arnold in the relief of Fort Stanwix / Fort Schuyler, after the Battle of Oriskany, otherwise known as the Battle of the Bloody Creek. Nick Stoner was at Yorktown with George Washington for the British surrender in 1781. He also served in the War of 1812 as part of the 29th Regiment, and was henceforth known as "Major Stoner."

On April 7, 1942, the J. A. Jones Company of Charlotte, North Carolina signed a contract to build a shipyard, later named Wainwright shipyard, at Panama City, Florida to produce Liberty Ships for the military. These slow but sturdy cargo ships, dubbed the 'ugly ducklings' by President Franklin Roosevelt, were built for durability not beauty. It was customary during WWII that when a town or organization raised enough money through the sale of war bonds to build a ship or airplane, the town or organization was permitted to select its name. The Nick Stoner, launched on June 17, 1943, was paid for with funds raised by a small community in New York located on the shores of Lake Nick Stoner (Stoner lake). Stoner was a pioneer in that part of the country who served in the Revolutionary War, fought Indians, trapped, and did much to establish the area.

Sondra Richardson of Pensacola learned of a Wainwright exhibit through social media. She knew from family history that her grandmother, Eula Brown, had christened the Nick Stoner and her mother had been the flower girl. The wooden box built by shipyard carpenters to preserve the remains of the champagne bottle (called the dead soldier) used in the christening had been handed down to Mrs. Richardson. She loaned it to the exhibit. After the visit to Panama City, she told her mother, Carol

Jeanette Brown Godfrey who lives in Mississippi, how exciting it had been. As they talked they remembered the tradition that each sponsor of a ship was given a gold bracelet to commemorate the occasion. Mrs. Godfrey still had the bracelet that had been given to her mother. In February, Eula Brown's daughter, granddaughter, and great-granddaughter traveled to Panama City to place the gold bracelet on display.



The Leaning Tree

Along the shore road stood Old Guard, the leaning pine which welcomed those who passed by to West Caroga Lake. Sometime in the 1960s it finally fell into the water.



Sherman's Yellow Popcorn

Sherman's had long been famous for its yellow popcorn. People knew it was summer when they could smell the popcorn.

In the 1930s, a monkey named Trixie sat on a pole next to the popcorn hut, welcoming and entertaining the guests. Trixie spent the winters in Florida, and is believed to have had a passion for peanuts soaked in beer.



(Tidbits of History info and photos from the book "Images of America Around Caroga Lake, Canada Lake and Pine Lake" by Carol Parenzan Smalley)

DATES TO REMEMBER

General Meeting

Saturday, June 27th, 2020
10am • Location TBD
Guest: Town Supervisor, Scott Horton and Scott Henze from the Fulton County Planning Department

Annual Boat Parade

Saturday, July 4th, 2020
4pm • On the water by Sherman's
Theme: 1776 Meets 2020

Town Garage Sale

Saturday, July 25th, 2020
WCLA will be set up at the Hogan's Camp on East Shore Road.

Chicken BBQ

Saturday, August 1st, 2020
Nick Stoner Inn
5-8pm Social, Dinner & Annual Meeting

Cornhole Tournament

Saturday, August 15th, 2020
Starting at 12pm • Sherman's
Co-Hosted with Caroga Arts Collective

Note: Due to the ever-changing situation regarding COVID-19 and social distancing guidelines, please keep an eye out for updates in your email and on our Facebook page.

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To this day, our purpose remains "to be concerned with the preservation and improvement of the recreational and residential environment of the West Caroga Lake Area."

SEE YOU AROUND
THE LAKE,
SUMMER 2020!

