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mansion Villa Hortensia



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Dear readers,

A few months ago, I was lucky enough to fly to Seattle to surprise my Aunt Lucy on a milestone birthday. To prepare for her surprise party, my cousins asked me if I could look back through some old family photo albums to find pictures of Lucy as a child. Many of the photos I found were idyllic scenes of life on Geneva Lake from the 1950s through the early 1980s — Lucy on a sailboat, Lucy as a child on my great-grandparents' pier, Lucy and a much younger version of me on my grandmother's patio, geraniums in bloom around us. I was struck by how little had changed over the years — these same scenes are still being repeated by young families around the lake today.

As we kick off another glorious summer in the Geneva Lake area, I am thinking of more of these timeless scenes: kids counting to three before jumping off a white pier; fireworks exploding over the water; pillowy, white hydrangeas blooming in front of welcoming front porches. These are the iconic scenes of summer, untouched by the passage of time and as relevant today as they were 40, 70, even 100 years ago.

This year, our summer issue is full of timeless Lake Geneva stories. On page 30, we memorialize the recently demolished estate Villa Hortensia, which stood on the lake's north shore from 1906 until just a few months ago. On page 48, we meet Ray Ames, captain of Lake Geneva Cruise Line's Walworth II, more commonly known as the Mailboat, the sight of which has been an unmistakable sign of summer since 1916. On page 66, we tell the story of the Lake Geneva Club subdivision, a friendly neighborhood of 32 homes, where time has more or less stood still over the decades.

Then there are the many summer activities waiting to be discovered: kayaking (page 141), pickleball (page 150) and picnicking on the boat (page 128), among them. For the foodies, we've rounded up some of our favorite restaurants with lake views (page 125) and locally owned ice cream shops (page 112). Because, really ... is there anything more timeless and soul-satisfying than eating an ice cream cone on a bench overlooking a glittering blue lake? Welcome, summer.

Anne Morrissy

Anne Morrissy
Editor
anne@ntmediagroup.com



SUNSET HAPPY HOUR

I can't wait to get back out on the boat this summer, but first, I'll brush up on my spectator boat etiquette for sailboat races (page 146) and stock up on a few of the wine recommendations from our piece on floating picnics in the Food & Drink section (page 129).



FUTURE'S SO BRIGHT

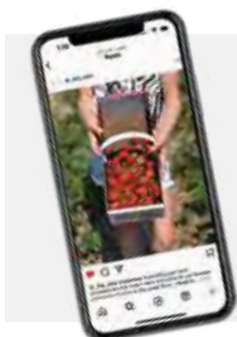
Our guide to the best boating accessories (page 98) includes these vintage-style, Strebblow sunglasses that I will definitely be wearing this summer.

DOG DAYS

Dexter often hangs out in our office with his mom, Senior Graphic Designer



Lauren Harrigan. He also got to tag along on our photo shoot of local ice cream shops! (See page 112.)



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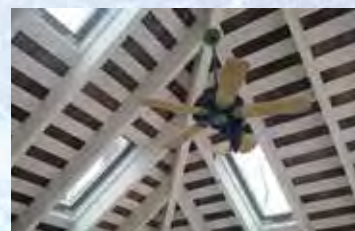
SANITIZE

CLEAN

"Amazing! It's amazing how clean
they can get an old house. We
had moldy dark stonework and
ugly cedar roofing, also full of
mold. Today the house has been
brightened right up."
C. Coleman - Williams Bay, WI

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By Jim McClure

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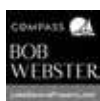
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Mail jumper
Paige
Aspinall
delivers mail
during a
Mailboat tour.

Photo by
Shanna Wolf

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At The Lake® magazine is a publication of Nei-Turner Media Group, Inc. Gary E. Nei, Chairman; William Turner, President; Barbara Krause, Publisher. 400 Broad St., Lake Geneva, WI 53147.

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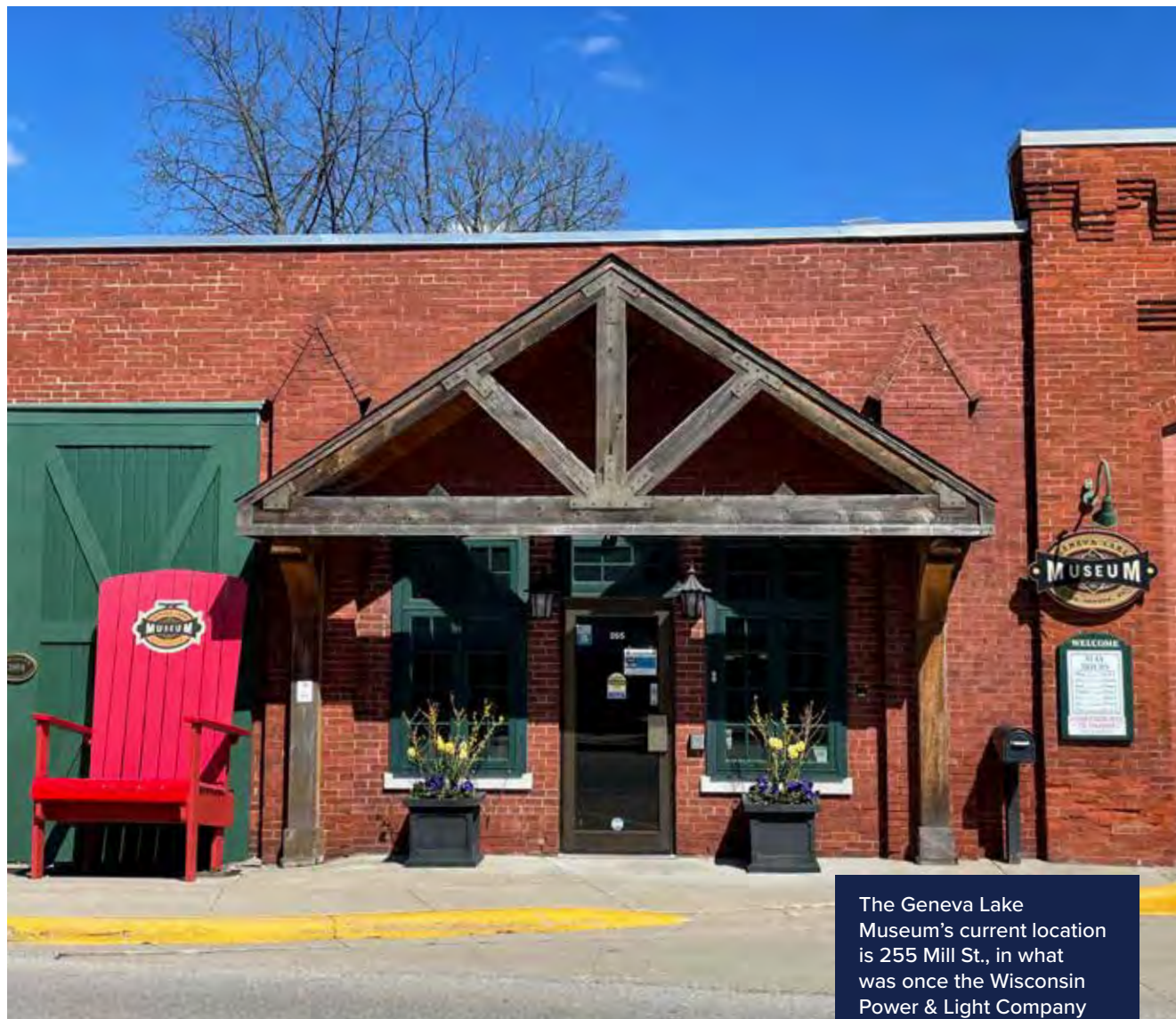
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The Geneva Lake Museum's current location is 255 Mill St., in what was once the Wisconsin Power & Light Company building.

Museum Milestone

Geneva Lake Museum
celebrates 40 years

BY ANNE MORRISSY

On May 25th, the Geneva Lake Museum honored its 40-year anniversary with a public celebration for visitors and community members. The museum, located at 255 Mill St. in the former Wisconsin Power & Light Company building, is organized around the motto, "Preserving the Past for the Future." Its 20,000-square-foot space contains exhibits on everything local, from military history to historic Geneva Lake mansions, as well as an impressive replica Main Street Lake Geneva, inspired by the popular "Streets of Old Milwaukee" exhibit at the Milwaukee Public Museum. It also contains

an extensive research library. According to Executive Director Janet Ewing, more than 15,000 visitors come through the museum each year.

Longtime museum curator Helen Brandt has been with the Geneva Lake Museum since its founding in 1983 in a now-demolished historic home at 818 Geneva St. in Lake Geneva. “When the museum first started, we didn’t have any money,” she explains. “So for eight months, we worked with the city [of Lake Geneva] and the state historical society of Wisconsin to get the museum funded and running.” She says the museum originally consisted primarily of exhibits of furnished rooms in the historic home, depicting what life might have been like in Lake Geneva in an earlier era.

In 2003, the museum moved to its current space after an extensive remodeling and renovation project conceived by architect Ken Etten of McCormack + Etten. The work was completed by hundreds of volunteers from the Lakeland Builders Association of Walworth County. “The museum is a great tribute to those who contributed and donated their time and effort,” Brandt says. From the museum’s earliest days, community members had been donating artifacts and items of interest to the museum, Brandt says. The large new space has allowed the museum to curate an impressive rotating slate of exhibits, and to host larger audiences at its popular series of historic lectures.

“From the start, people really seemed to appreciate what we were doing here,” Brandt says. “They know that it’s always important to get back to your roots. We have such a great staff and wonderful docents, and everybody has such a love for the space. I feel very, very privileged to be a part of that museum for 40 years. It’s been a pleasure and a privilege.”



Tina and Keith Schmidt, with daughter Katie, after taking over ownership of The Elegant Farmer.

Generations of Elegance

A new generation takes over local landmark The Elegant Farmer

Keith Schmidt began working at Mukwonago’s Elegant Farmer Farm Kitchen, Bakery, Deli and Market on April 26, 1998. “I got to know Farmer Dan in 1990,” he explains, referencing an earlier owner of the Elegant Farmer. “He came into my previous employer to sell the famous apple pies baked in a paper bag. A few years later, he gave me a job.” Now 25 years later, Keith has bought out his two partners and brought his wife and daughter on board, taking over ownership of the beloved local market.

Keith says that since coming to the Elegant Farmer in the 1990s, he has done a little bit of everything over the years and loved the experience. Then in 2006, Farmer Dan approached him about taking over. Keith ended up becoming a one-third partner in the Elegant Farmer, along with two of his brothers, and together the three of them have been running the store for

17 years. However, earlier this year, his brothers told him they were ready to retire. Keith wanted to stay on, so he and his wife bought out his brothers’ shares, and their daughter, Katie, joined the family business as well.

In fact, the Elegant Farmer has been a family business since it was founded in 1946 by brothers Dave and Elmer Schneel. They started with 50 head of Guernsey cattle and sold surplus fruits and vegetables at a farm stand on the site of the present-day Elegant Farmer, which they named Davelmer Market. The stand soon evolved into a permanent, year-round market. When Elmer Schneel’s son, Farmer Dan, and his wife took over the market in 1970, they changed the name to the Elegant Farmer.

Thanks to the popularity of its house-made products, including the famous apple pie, as well as options like the signature cider-baked ham (cured with apple cider made on site), the Elegant Farmer is a popular year-round destination for people looking for special deli, bakery and farm-grown options. In 2008, the Elegant Farmer was even featured on the Food Network’s “Throwdown! With Bobby Flay.”

Looking to the future, Katie Schmidt says the goal is to keep the elements that make the Elegant Farmer such a popular shopping experience, drawing visitors from Madison, Milwaukee and Chicago, as well as locally. “We’re really focused on maintaining its integrity,” she says. “Even from the time my dad started in 1998, we’re trying to always keep it a nice, family-friendly, farm-fresh kitchen.” She points to events like the crowd-favorite Autumn Harvest Fest (including pick-your-own apples and pumpkins) as well as the unique arrangement with the East Troy Railroad, which allows visitors to ride a vintage train between the East Troy Depot and the Elegant Farmer during warm-weather months. She also says that they will look at ways to possibly expand the business in the future. “Expansion is always fun,” she says. We can always see where the next few years take us.”

Market Outlook

Renovated historic market on South Shore Drive to reopen with a new name



Since 1922, a building on South Lake Shore Drive at the entrance to the Lake Geneva Club has housed a local market to serve residents of the lake’s south shore. This summer, the Big Foot Market, a new version of the concept, will debut in the space. Owner Adam Codilis, along with his wife, Kate, bought the building in late 2021, with plans to refresh the space and reopen as a market and deli. “We’re really excited about taking it over,” Codilis says.

Since 1922, a building on South Lake Shore Drive at the entrance to the Lake Geneva Club has housed

The Codilises hired Bob Schorsch Builders, a local, third-generation contractor team, to tackle the building’s renovations. Part of the renovation plan includes the addition of a retractable, garage door-style front window, which Codilis hopes will allow customers to enjoy their coffee or other deli treats in an indoor/outdoor setting. The market has been closed since late November as the Schorsch team has undertaken the work. The renovations also extend to an upstairs apartment above the market, which Codilis says they plan to renovate and rent by the month as an “upscale AirBnb.” The 2,500-square-foot apartment occupies two levels and comes with the use of a boat slip.

Earlier iterations of the market were known as Buttville’s Market and the Fontana Country Store. Most recently, the market operated as the Fontana Kringle Company, selling pantry

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staples and sandwiches as well as locally made kringles. Codilis points out that customers will still be able to find the popular kringles for sale when the Big Foot Market reopens early this summer. Other food and beverage options will include meats and steaks from Chicago's Allen Brothers, and a coffee bar serving Intelligentsia coffee. Codilis says they plan to source much of the produce and meat locally. By the end of the summer, Codilis says they will also offer special, Big Foot Market-branded margarita mixes made with "organic, all-natural, high-quality ingredients."

In addition to food and drink options, a general store area in the market will sell necessities, as well as products featuring the new Big Foot Market logo. "We aren't trying to be a full grocery, but a place where you can find grab-and-go food and drink if you're going out on the lake for the day," Codilis explains. General store items will also reflect this focus, and may include things like beach towels, kids' life jackets and cooler essentials.

The market is scheduled to reopen in early summer, with in-person shopping and delivery, as well as indoor and outdoor seating for customers to stay and enjoy their purchases. "I'm all in," Codilis explains. "I want the quality of everything we sell to be the highest, cooked or prepared the best way. And with the setup of the market, I think it can be a lot more to this community and area."

The New Song and Dance

Live entertainment venue
Geneva Stage opens in
historic movie theater space

More than a year after the city of Lake Geneva approved zoning changes to allow the historic movie theater at 244 Broad St. to shift uses



to a live music venue, tap room and beer garden, renovations of the 1928 building are complete. This summer marks the first season of programming for Geneva Stage, a live music venue that makes use of the building's historic stage, originally built to host Vaudeville acts between movie screenings in the 1920s and 1930s. This opening completes the transformation of the building, with the adjacent Geneva Tap House and Beer Garden opening last summer.

Owner and President Shad Branen says that the idea to reconceive the space as a live music venue happened in response to changes in the movie theater business related to people's viewing habits, with the pandemic driving many of those changes. "There were challenges in the movie industry, so we decided to focus on the history and assets of what that venue has, and that's the stage," he explains. "We had fortunately kept that intact." When the movie theater first opened, the building contained a single large theater with both floor seating and balcony seating. The space could accommodate live entertainment and movie screenings accompanied by live organ music, an arrangement that was predominant in silent movie houses of the era.

Subsequent renovations over the

decades had enclosed the balcony to create a second small screening room, and added two additional screens in the space next door, creating less expansive movie-going spaces and effectively eliminating the use of the stage. Branen says the first phase of the recent renovations converted the space that had housed these two newest screens into the Geneva Tap House and Beer Garden.

The next phase of the project recombined the balcony and the main theater into a single room once again. Branen explains that returning the space to its original size and configuration required a great deal of renovation, which was completed by Geneva Bay Design. "We had to level the floors and then undertake an elaborate remodeling project to turn what had been Theater 2 back into the balcony," he says.

With the renovations complete, the newly renamed Geneva Stage will bring talent to the historic stage once again, with veteran booker Roger Jansen in charge of bookings. The inaugural act, a Led Zeppelin tribute band, took the stage in early May. Branen says the plan is to bring a wide variety of entertainment throughout the year. "It really will be a cross-section of different styles, from tribute acts to original music to comedy to plays to classic and silent movies," he explains. "It will compare to a performing arts center, in the sense that they typically offer a wide variety of entertainment."

Branen is especially excited about an upcoming addition to the space that would have looked familiar to a theater-goer in the building's earliest days: a vintage Wurlitzer organ he says they could use to accompany screenings of old silent films. "It's being totally rehabbed now," he says. "We're hoping it will be installed by the end of the year. When that's in place, it will really bring [the theater] full circle from what it was in the 1920s, when it was originally constructed."

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Lots to Lovett

New Delavan boutique aims to create a full shopping experience

Stacey Bresnahan, creator of the innovative Laubahn fragrance line, recently opened Lovett House, a new boutique located in a beautiful Victorian home just off of Delavan's main, brick street. Bresnahan says she hopes the shop, located at 117 S. Third St. in Delavan, will be "an experience, a feel-good place, a place where people want to come and stay a while."


Bresnahan says she was inspired to open the shop to highlight "creative, small brands ... many of them women-owned." In addition to her own fragrance line, offerings will include "easy but chic" fashion items as well as handbags, beauty brands, candles and soaps, among other items. The beauty director for national magazine

Town & Country will even curate a small shopping area inside the store. "I want to spread some whimsical joy via feel-good products," Bresnahan says.

The building most recently housed a shop called the Lubick Gallery. Over the winter, Bresnahan completed renovations to the space. These included a kitchen renovation, as well as sealing the plaster, painting the walls and replacing the flooring. To take full advantage of the newly renovated space, Bresnahan intends to use the kitchen area of the home to offer upscale mocktail and food samples from brands she will carry, including a functional chocolate brand, an artisan cracker brand and CleanCo alcohol-alternative spirits. "When you walk in, it's like a home," Bresnahan explains. "You'll come in



the kitchen, make some mocktails, sample some food options ... it's going to be really fun."

An outdoor garden space behind the shop will extend the full-shopping experience. Bresnahan says she intends to use the garden for everything from live music performances to pop-up art exhibits to goat yoga. "I want women to come in and see things and do things that make them feel good," she says. "A place where we can spend some time for ourselves. Get together and enjoy each other's company." 

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REMEMBERING VILLA HORTENSIA

Beloved by many, the recently demolished estate is gone but not forgotten

BY ANNE MORRISSY



On February 28th, demolition experts gathered their equipment on the lawn of Villa Hortensia, a 1906 Mediterranean Revival estate designed by Chicago architect Howard Van Doren Shaw. The mansion, which by the time of its demolition sat on 21 acres of land, was originally owned by one of Chicago's famous meatpacking families and had recently made headlines when it sold for \$17 million. The Chicago Tribune reported that the new owners decided that the home was too large for their purposes. Instead, after more than a century as a beloved lake landmark, Villa Hortensia met the wrecking ball.

A favorite site for many who enjoyed a boat tour of the lake or walked the public Shore Path, Villa Hortensia's loss was deeply mourned in the area. But the estate is just one of many historic or architecturally significant homes on the lake to meet this grim fate. From the 1920s to the 1950s, many of the original lake estates burned or were torn down and then converted to subdivisions, including Linden Lodge, Harrose Hall, Ceylon Court and Allview. This trend of demolishing historic buildings and estates has been renewed in the 21st century. Since 2000, the lake has lost Maple Lawn, built in 1871; Swinghurst, built in 1883; Towering Elms, built in 1890; Northwestern Military & Naval Academy, built in 1915; Pikewood, built in 1926; and the near-replica of Frank Lloyd Wright's famous Fallingwater, built in 1993, among others. These buildings are lost to changing tastes, a desire for modern amenities and high lakefront taxes that disincentivize historic preservation, among other things. This spring, the loss of Villa Hortensia was particularly upsetting for many people, and today it remains gone but not forgotten.

EARLY YEARS: THE SWIFT FAMILY

Villa Hortensia was originally designed for Edward Foster Swift, son of meatpacking scion Gustavus Swift, whose Swift & Co. is credited with developing the first ice-cooled, refrigerated railroad cars, which allowed the company to ship meat safely from the expansive Union Stockyards in Chicago to cities around the country. When Gustavus Swift died in 1903, Edward F. Swift took over as head of the company. Shortly after that, he used a portion of his inheritance to commission the construction of his Geneva Lake estate, which he named Villa Hortensia in honor of his wife, Hortense.

continued on pg. 36



(Top photo) This historic photo shows the covered entry as approached from the driveway. The arches in triplicate are a hallmark of Howard Van Doren Shaw's designs. Inside, interior arches mirrored the entry doors in the main living room. *(Above)* A large stone fireplace originally kept the home warm in the spring and autumn and on chilly summer days.



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BOB WEBSTER*Realtor**Compass Wisconsin*

An expert in the luxury, "second-home" market in southeastern Wisconsin, Bob Webster has been in the Lake Geneva real estate industry for over 40 years and is uniquely prepared to serve his clients looking to enjoy the "Lake Geneva lake life."

Webster was born and raised in the Lake Geneva area, giving him a deep knowledge of the community. "My wife and I have lived in Fontana for over 40 years and raised our children here," he says. "We really appreciate all the natural beauty in this area as well as all the benefits of small-town living."

Describing his style as "purposeful" and "confident," Webster says he's always trying to under-promise and over-deliver at every opportunity during a transaction. "I treat each and every one of my clients the way I would want to be treated," he says. "They find comfort knowing I'm always striving to meet their goals and needs."

Webster has earned several real estate designations, awards and recognition over the years dating back to the early 1990's when he served as president of the Lakes Area Realtors Association and also received the Realtor of the Year award. Most recently, he received the Distinguished Service Award from the Wisconsin Realtors Association in 2021. However, he says past client referrals are the highest compliment of all.

"I'm a seasoned professional who will leave no stone unturned and am willing to go the extra mile to do whatever it takes to get the job done for my clients," he says. "More wrinkles in the face means less wrinkles in the transaction."

Webster acknowledges much of his success to his loyal assistant for over 15 years, Lisa Pitcher, who he says is both a wonderful person and the best, by far, at what she does.

Bob Webster

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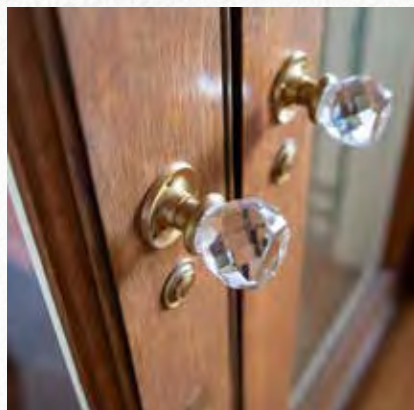
This new construction custom home being built by Hummel Construction on Geneva Lake is located on the South Shore, midway between Lake Geneva and Fontana on a level, gently sloping lot offering easy and convenient access to the water and impressive views of the lake.



continued from pg. 32

To design the estate, Swift chose Howard Van Doren Shaw, a native Chicagoan whose architectural services were highly sought by the city's elite. Shaw designed Villa Hortensia in the Mediterranean Revival style, incorporating a symmetrical lake-facing façade with three arched doors supported by classical, Doric columns, which led to a large front patio. (Arches in triplicate are a hallmark of Shaw's designs.) Shaw repeated the arches on the opposite side of the house as well, where a covered porch provided entry from the estate's long, winding driveway. Even as it was being built, the Lake Geneva Regional News described Villa Hortensia as "one of the most beautiful homes on the lake."

Shaw's architectural philosophy embraced a connection between the house and the property upon which it sat. At Villa Hortensia, Shaw collaborated with famed landscape architect Jens Jensen to ensure that the home's interior spaces would flow easily into the landscape — he even



included a large fountain in the home's reception hall. Other highlights of Shaw's design for Villa Hortensia included a large, vaulted entry gallery, a spacious sunken living room and a circular staircase to the second-floor gallery and bedrooms.

In 1921, Swift sold the home to Interstate Iron and Steel Co. President J.S. Llewellyn and his wife, Mary, who renamed it Pen-y-Bryn. In 1929, it changed hands again, this time to flamboyant professional gambler John J. Lynch. When Lynch was famously

(Clockwise from top left): Designed in a Mediterranean Revival style, Villa Hortensia was finished in stucco with a red-tiled roof. A sweeping staircase with hand-carved banisters led to the second-floor gallery of bedrooms. The home was finished with elegant details like these original crystal doorknobs. The exterior charm was enhanced with copper rain gutters, a Juliet balcony and climbing ivy.

kidnapped for ransom in 1931, the first place he went after securing his release was his Geneva Lake estate.

THE EDGEWOOD YEARS

In 1948, Villa Hortensia was purchased by Globe Corporation President George F. Getz, Jr. and his wife, Olive, who renamed it Edgewood. The Getzes initially lived in a frame house just a few doors down from the property before purchasing Villa Hortensia. Getz's son Bert remembers that local real estate agent (and future state senator) William Trinke encouraged

“I loved everything I did there. It was a big part of my life.”
—Bert Getz



(Clockwise from top left): Ornate molding above the fireplaces was hand-carved by artisans in 1906. On the second floor, a long hallway in the bedroom wing repeated the arch motif. A common theme in Shaw’s designs was the mixing of indoor and outdoor spaces, as demonstrated by the east dining room on the first floor (originally a dining porch), which featured indoor trellising to give the illusion of being in a garden. Light in the room was provided by these original alabaster light fixtures.



(Left) A postcard from the 1950s shows guests where the renamed “Edgewood” was located in relation to Highway 50 and downtown Lake Geneva.

Getz to make an offer on the estate, as the owners were eager to sell. Getz was not immediately convinced that his family of four needed a 13-bedroom lake house, but ultimately, he ended up purchasing the furnished home, along with the estate’s sizable amount of acreage and several outbuildings, for around \$60,000.

Bert Getz still holds fond memories of his childhood and teenage summers at Edgewood. “I loved it,” he says. “I loved everything I did there. It was a big part of my life.” He distinctly remembers a game his parents liked to play with guests and their children, which involved each person sitting on a bowling ball and navigating through the home’s enormous open spaces in a unique race-meets-scavenger-hunt competition. Another of Bert Getz’s favorite memories involves a decommissioned Army Duck amphibious truck owned by their neighbors at the lake. When guests were visiting, the neighbors would invite them out on the Duck, splashing down into the lake from their own front lawn, and emerging on the front lawn of Edgewood for evening cocktails with the Getzes.

George F. Getz, Jr. had been actively involved with the Geneva Lake Water Safety Patrol since the 1920s and served as the president of its board of directors from 1949 to 1966. During the Getzes’ two-decade-long ownership of Edgewood, the estate served as an



(Above) The wood-paneled main dining room featured a large brick fireplace, a crystal chandelier and sconces, as well as French doors leading to the Great Hall.

(Right) The rich tones of the oak paneling created a marked contrast with the airiness of the rest of the home.



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unofficial Water Safety Patrol site, where boats gassed up at the pier's private pump. Getz offered to store patrol equipment like life jackets and safety buoys in his boathouse, and frequently responded to rescue calls in his own boat, the Olive A. Many Patrol employees remember the annual employee appreciation breakfasts hosted by the Getz family at Edgewood.

In the 1950s, Getz also began a passionate hobby of collecting antique fire engines and firefighting equipment dating back to the 18th century. As his collection grew, Getz set up a modest museum of firefighting history in an outbuilding on the Edgewood property, where he would give tours to friends and visitors. Eventually, the collection outgrew the space. Today, Getz's firefighting collection constitutes the bulk of the exhibits at the Hall of Flame Museum in Phoenix, Arizona, which contains more than 130 antique and vintage fire engines.



(Above) In addition to the main home, the property contained many outbuildings, including a carriage house (later converted to a garage) with living space for the chauffeur. (Left) The arched entry door and stucco facade of the caretaker's cottage was designed to blend with the architecture of the main home.

TOP: COURTESY OF THE GENEVA LAKE MUSEUM;
BOTTOM: SHANNA WOLF



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LATER YEARS: A LABOR OF LOVE

By the 1990s, the estate had become one of the most recognizable historic homes still standing on Geneva Lake. It was situated along a section of the lake's north shore that still contains some of the most opulent and historic estates, including still-extant Green Gables, Wadsworth Hall (later Glanworth Gardens) and Flowerside Inn, as well as House in the Woods and Alta Vista, the latter two homes also designed by Howard Van Doren Shaw.

The last family to live in Villa Hortensia bought the property in 1997, and spent the next 20 years updating and renovating the historic home through diligent research and restoration. "When my parents first purchased the property, it was in a difficult condition," the previous homeowner acknowledges. After taking over the property with his own family, he says maintaining and

updating the home as a year-round family residence became a labor of love. "Every update we made was to maintain the historic integrity and ensure the long-term preservation of the home," he explains.

He says that the home became a beloved gathering spot for his extended family during the summers, as well as a year-round residence for his immediate family. "That made us a little different from many of the other lakefront owners," he points out. Favorite activities included big family game nights in the Great Hall ("Bananagrams was a favorite"), and hours spent enjoying the property's grounds, including a bocce ball court, a huge croquet court and a clay tennis court he was told was "one of the best in southeastern Wisconsin."

Over 23 years, the homeowner says his family completed many restoration projects and updates to the home's



George F. Getz, Jr., stands in the Edgewood driveway beside a vintage fire truck that comprised part of his extensive collection of antique and vintage firefighting equipment. The collection was originally displayed in an outbuilding on the Edgewood property, but it soon outgrew the space. Today, Getz's collection makes up the bulk of the exhibits at the Hall of Flame Museum in Phoenix, Arizona.

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plumbing, electrical, drainage, exterior and interiors, among other elements. However, over the years, it became much more difficult to find the skilled tradesmen capable of repairing and maintaining Villa Hortensia. “The tradespeople in the area who were trained in these historic materials started retiring, and no one came along to replace them,” he says. “Then you’re faced with having to bring people in from Chicago or New York, at enormous expense.”

By 2021, the owners were ready to sell the estate originally known as Villa Hortensia, and they put the property up for sale at an initial listing price of \$20 million. However, due to the increasing challenge and expense of maintaining an historic home of its size, as well as the skyrocketing price of the lakefront land upon which it sat, the home struggled to attract a buyer.

THE END OF AN ERA

In 2022, the property finally sold for \$17 million to owners who have opted to build a new home on the coveted site. And so, Villa



(Above) On the lake side of the home, arched doorways led to a long loggia, which ran along the front of the house and provided unparalleled lake views. (Left) Stucco pillars at the estate’s Snake Road entry greeted anyone arriving by car, leading them to the picturesque, winding driveway.

TOP: COURTESY OF THE GENEVA LAKE MUSEUM.
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Hortensia, the house that had been a favorite of so many admirers for more than a century, began to come down. Before that happened, however, volunteers from the Geneva Lake Museum undertook an extensive project to visually catalog the interior and exterior details of the home and grounds for posterity, ensuring that generations to come would be able to appreciate and study Shaw's architecture and what remained of the landscaping plans developed by the Olmsted Brothers and Jens Jensen. "The opportunity to photo-document the estate in its entirety was a crucially important project for the museum, aligning to our mission statement: 'preserving the past for the future,'" explains Sonja Akright, a member of the museum's board of directors. "Villa Hortensia was historically significant, architecturally significant and horticulturally significant. It had been an easily recognized part of Geneva Lake history for over 100 years."

Although Villa Hortensia — with its elegant, Mediterranean Revival style — is now gone, it remains an indelible part of the memories of many people who appreciated its beauty on the shore of Geneva Lake for 114 years. The Geneva Lake Museum is currently designing an exhibit about the estate so that visitors can experience and remember the property. "The loss of Villa Hortensia/Edgewood has evoked many different emotions," Akright says. "A loss like this is always difficult for those in the historic appreciation sphere. Many people have shared nostalgic stories and fond memories they have."

For Getz, who spent the summers of his most formative years in the home, the estate will always have a special place in his heart. "There couldn't have been a greater spot," he says wistfully, summing up the opinion of everyone who mourns its loss.

Special thanks to the Geneva Lake Museum for providing photos and historical information for this article. 🍷

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Knowing the **ROPES**

Captain Ray Ames celebrates
20 years at the helm of the Mailboat

BY AMANDA N. WEGNER
PHOTOS BY SHANNA WOLF





Ray Ames' path to becoming captain of Geneva Lake's most famous boat has been anything but conventional. "It's hard to explain the course from dairy farm, to band room, to Mailboat, but here I am," says Ames. "It seems to have worked well, was a good fit, and I consider myself fortunate to do what I do. It's a dream job, really."

Ames is the captain of Lake Geneva Cruise Line's Walworth II, more commonly known as the Mailboat, which serves as one of the last remaining marine mail delivery vessels in the country. Athletic young adults known as "mail jumpers" deliver mail to lake homes by leaping off and back onto the moving Mailboat, which passes just inches from homeowners' piers, requiring expert skills on the part of the captain. Tryouts to land one of the coveted mail jumper positions take place every year in May, and frequently make the national media. This year, Ames and the Mailboat will also be a part of the 150th anniversary celebration of Lake Geneva Cruise Line's parent company, Gage Marine, which started as the Wisconsin Transportation Company in 1873.

FROM MR. AMES TO CAPTAIN AMES

A landlubber at the start, Ames grew up on a Walworth County dairy farm, which, he says, "didn't come with boat experience." In fact, before he was Captain Ames, he was Mr. Ames, the band director at Lake Geneva's middle school for 35 years. As a child, Ames was "very into music," and after graduating high school, he headed to UW-Eau Claire and earned a degree in music education. Upon graduating from college, Ames cast a wide net looking for a job. "I looked at Illinois, Michigan, Iowa, Minnesota, Texas and Alaska," he explains. "I was set to do one of those things [in Alaska] where they fly you out [to a remote location] and then they pick you up in June, but then I got a job in Lake Geneva and have been here ever since. I thought I'd have to work my way back here, but it was my first job, and I never left."

Ames taught generations of local students to play everything from the flute to the timpani. Though he retired from full-time teaching in 2013, he continues to teach music part-time at Reek Elementary School in Linn Township, and also assists his daughter, who now serves as a middle school band director, once a week.

During all that time, Ames has never retired from the water. Like many other teachers seeking summer work, Ames gravitated to Lake Geneva Cruise Line, a company which operates a majority of its business during the summer months when school is out of session. "This is my 45th year of teaching, and I'm starting my 45th summer with the cruise line," he says proudly.

TAKING THE HELM

In his first year at the cruise line, Ames served as a crewman, then worked his way up to an engineer on the cruise line's steam-powered boat, the *Louise*. Eventually, he started picking the brain of longtime captain Neill Frame, who helmed the Mailboat for over three decades. "Neill, who I replaced, worked seven days a week for 30-some years, every single Mailboat trip," Ames says. "Then, as [Neill] got later in his career, we





decided I should get trained for the Mailboat.”

The Mailboat is a rare amenity for those who own lakefront homes. From mid-June through mid-September, residents who live on the lake can opt-in for marine mail delivery, a vestige of a period in the early 20th century when many lake homes were not easily accessible by road. Today, as it has from the Mailboat’s inception in 1916, Lake Geneva Cruise Line also uses the Mailboat tour to entertain passengers who want a closer view of the lake’s estates and points of interest, while also enjoying the spectacle of the mail jumpers.

About 20 years ago, Ames began his tenure as Mailboat captain by covering Sundays and holidays (even on those days when the United States Postal Service is closed, jumpers still deliver newspapers). This allowed him to learn the ropes while giving Frame some time off. Captaining the Mailboat requires complex boat handling skills in order to get close enough to the piers for the mail jumpers to safely leap to and from the boat. The Mailboat captain is also required to navigate other obstructions like buoys, boats and swimmers.

Ames says he relied on his upbringing on a dairy farm to guide him as he learned. “In hindsight, I was always attracted to water and fascinated

with boats, but I didn’t know [boat handling] because I didn’t have the opportunity,” he explains. “It certainly wasn’t a slam dunk, but when you grow up with dairy and crops, you gotta figure out how to do stuff. They show you one time how to run equipment, and then you get a new piece, and you have to figure out how to use it, how not to break it and be safe with it. That naturally lent itself to figuring out how to control the boat in all conditions. It was something I picked up fairly quickly and intuitively. It’s not the same, but there are many similarities.”

When the time came for Ames to captain the Mailboat full-time, he says he was able to take it over “fairly seamlessly.” Ames works five days a week, and another captain, Jeff Clapp, works the other two days. Ames admits that neither of them are “all that young,” however. “We need to start looking at who will do this next.”

THE CHALLENGE AND THE PRESTIGE

When the Mailboat started delivery in 1916, there were only about 50 homes on the lake, and most of the piers were a quarter- to a half-mile apart, allowing the boat to easily navigate between them. Now, Ames says, there are around 1,300 piers on Geneva Lake — many not even one boat-length apart — and over 5,000 boats moored on the lake in the summers. “We have to work our way through all that stuff,” says Ames. “It’s a challenge. Some love us. Others, not so much.”

During peak season, Ames maneuvers the boat to nearly 60 piers for mail delivery, careful never to touch or bump the piers with the large boat. “With the Mailboat, you have to make the approach, pull out and drive on past, yet get close enough for the jumper to get on and off,” he explains. “If you do touch the pier, it is a brush, not a crunch. That’s a big adjustment from driving a regular boat. It has to be kind of an obsession to get it right, to know the lake, to be that precise. It’s inherently challenging.”

Deliveries are also inconsistent, as the demographics of the lakefront

residents have changed. Ames notes that, of the homeowners who opt for marine mail delivery, there are only three or four year-round residents; everyone else is a seasonal resident, some of whom he describes as “amazingly seasonal.” In addition, as more people get their news digitally and enroll in automatic billing, mail volume has dropped. “Some people are only at these houses for a handful of days over the summer,” he explains. “And it’s a challenge to keep the homeowners signed up for the service and involved in their own mail collection. But, fortunately, it’s still a popular tradition.”

Increased traffic on the lake also makes the captain’s job more challenging, as well as one of the lake’s more contentious sports: wakesurfing. “[Wakesurfing boats] are designed to make big waves and have a tremendous wake,” says Ames. “Driving a boat like the Mailboat, if you hit one of those [waves] wrong, you’ll go crashing into a pier.”

And, of course, weather plays a role. “I think the hardest part is ensuring the boat is safe and enjoyable in any weather,” says Ames. “I don’t think we’ve ever canceled delivery, but some days we went late or got wet. But we always go out eventually.” The boat’s lower deck is enclosed. The upper deck has a canopy and vinyl curtains, but they can’t be closed during mail delivery — they need to remain open to allow the wind to blow through so the boat doesn’t crash into piers. And if the wind strength is more than three or four miles per hour, says Ames, it’s a fight to keep away from the piers.

“It’s an extremely challenging job, but there’s a certain amount of prestige,” says Ames. “I don’t want to blow my own horn, but I’m very proud of having worked my way up through every job at the company, to get to the point where I have the most visible job captaining the Mailboat. I tell people that, in a sense, it’s like being an offensive lineman in the NFL. You’re doing an extremely difficult job, but in most cases, it’s best when people don’t notice.”

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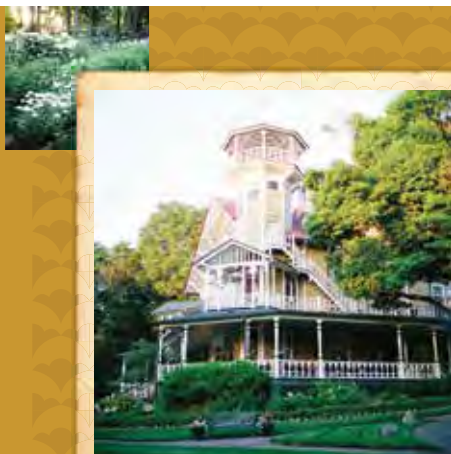
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EXPANDING A CAPTAIN'S SKILL SET

During the tour season, Ames does, in fact, blow his own horn. The former band director often plays songs on his trumpet to welcome passengers aboard. "It has evolved to the point that I have a spare trumpet I keep on the boat, and most mornings, if things are going right, I'll grab the trumpet just before boarding," he says. He likes that there's a certain amount of shock value because passengers aren't expecting it. "They don't expect to have it as part of the captain's skill set," he says.

Ames has many fond memories from his years with the cruise line, but especially loves captaining a sold-out Mailboat on a beautiful day. "There is nothing better. A day with beautiful weather — that's a bonus. That happens a few times a summer." And he says he loved "getting to work alongside my three children, two of whom were mail jumpers."

He is also fond of the many former students he's worked with on the boat. In particular, he recalls a young, seventh-grade percussionist he met at Reek Elementary School who, after learning "Mr. Ames" was a boat captain, proclaimed she wanted to be a mail jumper someday. "She ended up being one of my best-ever mail jumpers and eventually became a boat captain — from seventh-grade band to Mailboat jumper to captain is quite a thing," he says. "Her sister is a mail jumper now."

But Ames says that one of the most rewarding aspects of the job is being a beloved part of the lake's culture. "This is all about tradition," he says. "The Mailboat signals summer and how much people love the lake," says Ames. "To have people, especially kids, out on the piers every day to greet the Mailboat and make a handoff is something so special."

Ames plans to keep at it as long as he can. "Most people are retired at my age," he acknowledges. "I'll do the Mailboat as long as they'll have me, as long as I'm loving it and doing a good job. I hope I have a few more seasons in me. Same thing with teaching. It means a lot to me to bring that joy." 

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Standing the Test of Time

Six can't-miss homes in Lake Geneva's
historic Maple Park neighborhood

BY TASHA DOWNING | PHOTOS BY SHANNA WOLF



Situated just northwest of downtown Lake Geneva lies the charming Maple Park neighborhood. Attracting both architecture and history buffs, the district contains approximately 15 square blocks of rare, vintage homes, the earliest dating back to the late 1840s and early 1850s. “Exploring the Maple Park Historic District is a history buff’s opportunity to see representative examples of structures and styles dating from pre-Civil War days through the Victorian period, side-by-side with vernacular houses all within easy walking distance of each other,” says Christine Brookes, outreach coordinator for Black Point Estate and Gardens.

The majority of homes in the Maple Park neighborhood were built between 1870 and 1920, often by prominent architects. (Look for bronze plaques on the front of many of the homes, which identify the year they were built.) This late 19th-century building boom led to an elegant architectural cohesiveness that helped elevate Maple Park’s status as one of Wisconsin’s most prestigious residential neighborhoods. The earliest homes were constructed in Greek Revival and Italianate styles, among others, and many remain remarkably well preserved today.

The neighborhood is named for the large green space around which it is situated: Maple Park. The park is bound by majestic trees and serves as the playground for the adjacent Central-Denison Elementary School, the original portion of which dates to 1904. One might imagine the park looks quite similar today as it did to a resident strolling through the neighborhood in the early 20th century. Nearby, Lake Geneva’s Pioneer Cemetery, established in the late 1830s, is part of the Maple Park neighborhood as well. Many of the city’s early homeowners and pioneers are buried beneath the attractive, historic headstones dotting the cemetery’s simple landscape.

Visitors looking to get a sense of historic Lake Geneva might start with a self-guided walking tour of the neighborhood, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The following six properties are cited as contributing structures to the Maple Park Historic District, and have been maintained to exude the grandeur that originally earned Maple Park its distinguished reputation. For more information about guided tours of the neighborhood, visit blackpointestate.wisconsinhistory.org.



The John Holt House c. 1859

This home, known as the John Holt house, dates to the 1850s, making it one of only a handful of homes from that early decade still standing in Lake Geneva. It was constructed in a classic, Greek Revival style. This neoclassical form of architecture is known for a tall main section with smaller wings flanking the center of the home. “The gable front gives the appearance of a Greek temple,” Brookes explains, noting that the home is so old that “there is still a cast-iron pump in the backyard.” The Holt house is finished in stucco and was designed with symmetrical, six-over-six windows with custom shutters. The home also features bold but simple moldings, another example of Greek Revival detail. The main entrance is located through the open front porch. While the home mostly maintains its historic appearance, the bay window is a later addition.





Farrington – Redfearn c. 1863

The Farrington-Redfearn House was once owned by famous Lake Geneva railroad conductor Albert Redfearn, who purchased it in 1893. Redfearn worked on the Chicago & Northwestern's Chicago-to-Williams Bay route, which was heavily used by many of the wealthy Chicagoans who owned houses around the lake. As a result, the train was nicknamed the "Millionaire's Special." The two-story, Italianate-style frame house that Redfearn called home is defined by a low-pitched roof and wide bracketed eaves. "There are numerous Italianate homes in Maple Park identified by bracketed eaves, a low-pitched roof, and central gables," says Brookes. Other architectural highlights of this home include the triangular pediment formed by the eaves, tall first-floor windows and two-over-two, double-hung sash windows.



The Davis House c. 1872



Another two-story, Italianate-style gem, the Davis House is named for its original owner, Lake Geneva shopkeeper William Davis, part namesake of the dry-goods emporium Davis & Slade's. "This home is considered a 'painted lady' because it features three or more colors on the exterior," says Brookes, referencing a Victorian-era trend in which homeowners favored contrasting and brightly painted exteriors. "It has a hip roof, arched hood moldings to throw off rainwater, and cornice returns." Wooden double doors serve to create a dramatic main entrance, and the clapboard exterior sits atop a fieldstone foundation, balancing the tall windows. Wide, bracketed eaves set into a gabled roof lend character to the home's overall effect. The home's original, single-story garage is still a part of the property.





The Stewart House c. 1877

The large, two-story home known as the Stewart house demonstrates the late Italianate style of architecture. First owner Frank Stewart worked as the engineer of the original *Lady of the Lake* and other steam yachts on the lake. When he died in 1899, he was described as a man who “always had a kind word for those with whom he came in contact, and never lost an opportunity to do a good turn when it was in his power.” Brookes notes that later, her own grandmother lived in this home, which, like the Davis house, is also considered a “painted lady.” “This variation of the Italianate style uses Craftsman elements,” she says. “It has paired brackets under the roofline, plus an open porch and a matching smaller porch.” Later renovations to the home in the early 20th century included new, flared posts to help support the roof, as well as the addition of French doors at the main entrance on the south side.

The French House


c. 1887

The French House is one of many fashionable, Queen Anne-style homes built in Maple Park. It is named for original owner, Charles French, one of Lake Geneva's most prominent citizens at the time. French was an attorney who served as Lake Geneva's mayor and postmaster, and founded the city's electric light service. Queen Anne-style homes are known for their two-story, irregular form with a complex roof style. The Charles French house follows in this tradition, featuring a steep roof with intersecting gables that incorporate chimneys, towers, turrets and balconies. "The Queen Anne style dominates in Maple Park," says Brookes. "It encouraged freedom of expression and creativity, it's hard to find two homes that are exactly alike." This property also includes a stick-style carriage house, which matches the residence.





c. 1890 *The Buckbee House*

The Buckbee House is a two-and-a-half-story home designed in the Late Second Empire style by architect Charles O. LaSalle. The sizable home would have been considered a mansion in its era. Its first owner, Judge Francis A. Buckbee, served two terms in the Wisconsin State Legislature in 1867 and 1874, after which time he was elected Justice of the Peace in Lake Geneva, a position he would hold for more than 30 years. "This home was identified as one of the three most architecturally significant houses in Lake Geneva in the Geneva Lake Area Intensive Survey of August 1985," Brookes says. "A signature of the home's Late Second Empire architecture is the mansard roof and central tower with dormers." In addition to these details, the home features recessed porches on the second story and a wood-shingle roof with protruding round-arched dormers. On the first floor, tall windows in the style of French doors flank the main entrance. The front porch spans the length of the main entrance and features a projecting central gable with a distinctive sunburst decoration. 

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DOWN *Memory Lane*

For more than a century, the Lake Geneva Club
has remained a tight-knit, lakeside community

BY JIM MCCLURE





There's a certain timelessness to summers spent on Geneva Lake, especially for those who live in the many clubs, neighborhoods and subdivisions with shared lake access. Some of these are so petite that they contain only a single road, which allows access to all of the homes in the club. These single-lane neighborhoods may be small in size, but they tend to engender a tight-knit sense of community among neighbors. Often, families remain for generations.

So it is with the Lake Geneva Club, founded in 1922 and located on the lake's south shore, not far from the Lake Geneva Yacht Club. From South Shore Drive, you'll recognize the entrance by its classic sign and the presence of a small market, which has provided necessities since the neighborhood's

earliest days. (New owners will reopen the market this summer under the name Big Foot Market.) In many ways, life in the Lake Geneva Club has changed little over the past 100 years, making it an exceptional example of classic Lake Geneva life circa the early-to mid-20th century.



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The land that makes up the Lake Geneva Club, like much of the land on either side of it, was originally part of a large and expansive estate owned by Edward Norton, co-owner of the Norton Brothers' Can Company in Chicago and a contemporary of prominent Geneva Lake summer residents Charles L. Hutchinson and R.T. Crane, among others. Norton commissioned the estate in 1895 from prolific architect Henry Lord Gay and named it Our Home. In this time before paved roadways, Norton and his family arrived by train in Williams Bay on the opposite side of the lake from the estate. Williams Bay's lakefront and municipal pier served as the launching point of steam yachts, which would take train passengers like Norton to their respective mansions and cottages.

Arriving at "Our Home," the Nortons' 60-foot yacht, *Little Tycoon*, landed at the property's elaborate stone boathouse pavilion on the lakeshore, built at the same time as the house and also designed by Gay. Disembarking, the family followed a stone fence up the gentle slope of the property to the main home, which was built as a variation of a Colonial style with a large, wraparound porch supported by a stone foundation that matched the boathouse. Unfortunately, the estate only lasted about 10 years; the main home burned in 1905 after the Norton family had moved to New York.

THE LAKE GENEVA CLUB

By 1922, the land that had made up Our Home was subdivided, and a portion was sold to a developer who named it the "Lake Geneva Club." The vast majority of the homes in the small subdivision were built between 1922 and 1930, after which time the Great Depression brought businesses, fortunes and new construction to a halt. With rare exceptions, these charming cottages were not built for winter residence; only the hardiest owners would venture to Geneva Lake from Chicago in the colder months. Owners of the cottages that were built in the Lake Geneva Club tended to give their summer homes creative names (a modern holdover is "While-Away"), with colorful signage greeting visitors and passersby.

LEFT: COURTESY OF THE LAKE GENEVA PUBLIC LIBRARY.
RIGHT: COURTESY OF JOLAN DEELEY



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Generations of families have enjoyed lake life at the Lake Geneva Club over the years. These photos, which date from the 1920s to the 1940s, were collected as part of the neighborhood's centennial celebration in 2022.

Many of the 32 homes that today make up the Lake Geneva Club still bear their original 1920s architecture, a design many Chicagoans would recognize as a familiar cousin of the ubiquitous bungalow, but with an airier, lake cottage feeling. Many feature a front door located through a broad and deep front porch, second-floor dormer windows and a low-slung roofline.

Present day owner Annie Roberts is a longtime resident of the Lake Geneva Club, and owns one year-round home and one summer-only home. She is still one of the few year-round residents of the Lake Geneva Club. “We love winter and everything about the change of season,” says Roberts, who recalls an era when colder winters meant that iceboating was a season-long experience. Summer-only residents in the Lake Geneva Club prefer soft-water sailing at the nearby Lake Geneva Yacht Club, as well as water skiing, wakesurfing and other modern diversions.

The variety of activity at the Lake Geneva Club still appeals to Jolan Deeley, a longtime resident of the neighborhood and organizer of last summer’s neighborhood centennial celebration.

Jolan’s husband, Bill, grew up in the Lake Geneva Club. His father served in the United States Army during WWII and fought in the infantry, carrying his rifle on a march through Europe that started in Italy after Mussolini’s surrender. “He landed at Anzio and fought his way toward Germany,” says Bill. “I can’t say much more about it because he would never talk about it.” Returning stateside,



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOLAN DEELEY





Lake Geneva Club residents create summer memories with time spent on the community pier, at neighborhood picnics and the club's annual Fourth of July celebrations, which include a parade to the lakefront.



the elder Deeley turned to Geneva Lake to provide a healing balm to his soul and a summer community for his family, purchasing a home in the Lake Geneva Club in the 1960s. "My parents met in the area," Bill notes. "They decided that they wanted their children to have that experience [of summers on the lake]."

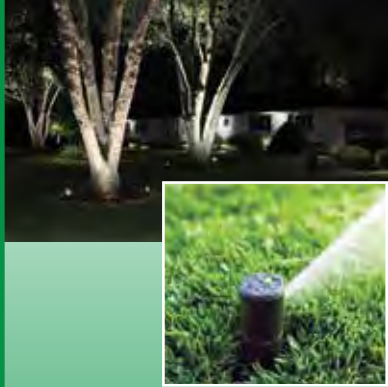
Bill and Jolan Deeley purchased his childhood house from his mother in 1980, and both agree it was like finding a time machine. "It was untouched by the passage of time," Bill laughs. It was also unheated. "Most lake cottages didn't have heat," he explains. The couple set about updating the home, and they were so thorough that almost nothing of the original house remains today. The new version is more modern but still modest, in keeping with the character of the neighborhood. They also enshrined the original version of the home by commissioning a mailbox in its likeness. "The mailbox in front of our cottage is an exact replica of Bill's childhood cottage," Jolan explains.

CELEBRATING A CENTENNIAL

Because of her family's deep connection and long history in the neighborhood, Jolan Deeley volunteered to organize the club's centennial celebration last summer, choosing the theme "Then and Now." She began by gathering dozens of vintage family photos from current and former residents, with the intention of displaying them at the neighborhood's annual summer party. The photos she collected span the history of the Lake Geneva Club, many scanned from old-fashioned family photo albums or dug out of drawers where they had been gathering dust. The handwritten labels date back at least as far as 1945, but some of the photos



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appear even older, with summer revelers dressed in classic fashions of the 1920s and '30s.

Perhaps the most captivating snapshots, no doubt shot with a handy portable Kodak camera colloquially known as a "Brownie," show scenes from the neighborhood in the period just after World War II. Children attempting backflips into the lake, classic wooden motorboats, bathing beauties at leisure on the pier. What emerges is an unmistakable sense of community, something that has been a throughline of the Lake Geneva Club up to the modern era.

Current and former residents of the neighborhood gathered at the club's lakefront in August of 2022 to reminisce and honor the 100th anniversary milestone. Jolan estimates they had nearly 120 people in attendance. The party allowed present and former residents of the Lake Geneva Club to share memories, catch up and celebrate the history of



The iconic Lake Geneva Club boathouse dates back to the 1890s, when it was part of an estate called Our Home. A vintage bench nearby appears to be from the same era.

the neighborhood in the shade of the club's iconic boathouse, the oldest structure on the property.

HONORING HISTORY WHILE MAKING NEW MEMORIES

Close to the lake, there's another artifact that appears around the same age as the 1890s-era boathouse. There, observant hikers on the Shore Path can spot a weathered bench which

could be called a love seat, not only because it seats two people, but also because the design features two open hearts carved into the bench's side panels. The most striking features on the bench are busts of what appear to be identical girls on each armrest, seemingly dressed in Native American garb with bare feet. Could they be a reference to the Potawatomi Tribe that lived around the lake in

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the 18th and 19th centuries? A more likely answer is that the design is a variation on the late-19th century sphinx garden benches popular with royalty and the English upper classes of that era.

Today, the bench is a part of the character of the neighborhood. Additional character is provided by the many four-legged friends who call the Lake Geneva Club home. Like most close-knit neighborhoods, the pets of the Lake Geneva Club can become household names and celebrities, none moreso than Eva Grady's Black Lab, Sutton.

So far, defying the odds, the lane of vintage cottages has mostly avoided the modern trend of demolition and replacement with flashy, modern homes. "Fingers crossed," says Grady, casting a sad look up the hill at the historic homes in her neighborhood. This is due partly to the shared lakefront and the general topography of the club. It's 733 steps from the lake up to Bill and Jolan Deeley's home. "When Bill was a kid, they named the house 'Out-Of-Breath,'" Jolan laughs wryly. "By the time you walked up the lane, you were."

Every year, in another sign of neighborly unity, residents participate in a parade up the lane to the club's entrance on South Shore Drive. The sweet tradition includes residents as well as their pets, kids and grandkids, either on foot or riding decorated golf carts and bicycles. It's a tradition that could have taken place in the 1930s, the 1950s, the 1970s or today, with only slight changes in the vehicles over the decades. Jolan explains that this is the appeal of the life in the Lake Geneva Club. "For me, the lake represents that special place we return to where shared generational stories and lifelong friendships are continually nourished," she says. "Vacationing elsewhere is enjoyable, but returning to the lake at any time of the year, whether a long or short stay, is always an experience of 'coming home.'" 🐾

Contact Jim McClure at IrishRoverJim.com.



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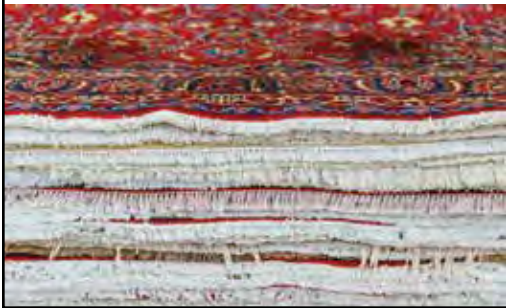
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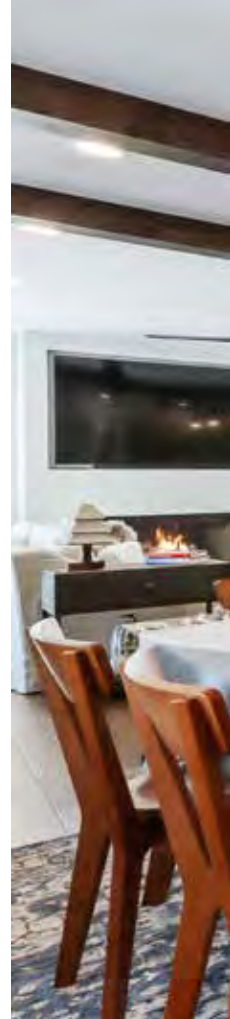


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REIMAGINING A CLASSIC COTTAGE

Stebnitz Builders brings new life back into a 1950s lakeside cottage

Long-time city dwellers Kathy and Bryan decided it was time to escape the hustle and bustle, and search for a slower pace of life. They found a charming, 1950s-era, two-story cottage on the south shore of Geneva Lake that was nearly perfect. However, it hadn't been updated in several decades, so they decided to renovate.

The biggest challenge Kathy and Bryan faced was deciding how to update their home with modern amenities without losing its unique character and charm. To help with this, they turned to Elkhorn-based Stebnitz Builders



after hearing great reviews from their neighbors' experience with the building and renovation company. "Tearing down [a home] isn't always the answer," explains Jeff Auberger, Stebnitz Builders remodeling and design consultant. "Good structure, great views and a good foundation are valuable."

While Kathy and Bryan looked forward to enjoying the solitude of a slower-paced life, they also hoped to share it with their family and friends. So Auberger and his team got to work designing the home to be guest-friendly, integrating entertaining spaces throughout the home.



“Our job is to help our clients express themselves and hear what is important to them,” explains Auberger.

On the home’s second floor, the Stebnitz team transformed an unused bedroom into an inviting, laidback loft with extra seating and a wet bar. Then Auberger and his team extended the space to include an outdoor deck that takes full advantage of the home’s stunning lake views. On the first floor, the renovations included flipping the kitchen space with the dining room to maximize lake views. In the new kitchen, the Stebnitz team included the latest “smart storage” strategies, in addition to a dishwasher drawer, a warming drawer and appliances tastefully hidden behind panels. Off the kitchen and dining area, the renovations included the addition of a three-season room with cozy seating and gorgeous lake views.

The addition the Stebnitz team added to the home also afforded Kathy and Bryan an expanded primary bedroom suite, including a larger primary bath with ample storage, a new shower, a soaking tub and double sinks. Completing the transformation, the interior of the home is decorated with subtle reminders of lakeside living: comfortable furniture, warm colors and rustic accents. Both Kathy and Bryan were thrilled with the final result.

Stebnitz Builders has been remodeling homes throughout Walworth County since 1972. Their unwavering ability





to maintain high referral rates is due to their strong commitment to “perfecting the art of listening.” To ensure a successful outcome for each client, all team members are trained to listen actively. Stebnitz Builders has further customized their client experience by implementing Chief Architect, an advanced design technology computer program. “We are extremely proud to use this software,” says Auberger. “Our clients can visually see every detail of the finished project before we even start renovating.”

In addition to this strong commitment to their clients, Chris Stebnitz, president and CEO of Stebnitz Builders, continues to maintain a large presence and impact on the greater Walworth County community. As a third-generation partner of the United Way of Walworth County, the company matches 100% of every financial contribution made by their employees. Additionally, this family-owned business goes above and beyond to give back to the community as a proud supporter of a



number of organizations, including their involvement with the Walworth County Fair's Meat Animal Sale, the Elkhorn Area Chamber of Commerce and Tourism and the Open Arms Free Clinic. "We believe in supporting the communities where we live and work," says Sam Stebnitz, brand manager for Stebnitz Builders.

After much collaboration with Stebnitz Builders, Kathy and Bryan's home has been transformed into the cozy, lakeside cottage they had hoped for. The homeowners say that not only did Stebnitz Builders reclaim the original charm of the home, but they managed to make it even better than it once was. "The goal of this project was to reimagine this home," says Auburger. "It was a big success and will stand the test of time." 🐾

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A patio on the lake side of the home includes a fire pit and seating area.

Great Outdoors

How one owner of a lake home created an outdoor living retreat

BY RACHEL WISINSKI AND ANNE MORRISSY

Having lived on Geneva Lake's south shore since 2007, the homeowner loved the lake house retreat she had curated, but eventually realized that one thing was missing: outdoor living spaces. "We wanted to enjoy the outside as much as we enjoyed the inside," she explains. So she turned to Robert Milani, a senior landscape architect at Bertog Landscape Company, based in Wheeling, Illinois, to help make her home's outdoor spaces match its incredible interiors, and to enhance

The goal of the landscaping was to make everything look as if it had grown up organically.



the home's views of the lake while trying to maintain privacy. It was no small project.

To achieve this, Milani drew from his knowledge and expertise across many areas of the business. A 30-year veteran landscape architect, he says he's handled everything from larger design challenges to the details of mowing the grass, and was able to draw on these experiences to help guide this expansive residential landscape project.

The project, appropriately dubbed "Lake House Retreat," started with an assessment of the property, an open field and a wooded area located near the lakefront. Milani says the homeowner envisioned a relaxed retreat, so the goal was to design the landscape to soften the architecture, creating a loose and informal feel. In order to achieve this goal, Milani and his team decided to clear vegetation around the home and plant a sweeping mix of woodland sedges and native perennials, in addition to American hazelnut, gray dogwood and witch hazel. In response to one of the homeowner's concerns, Milani incorporated deer-resistant plants and materials, so they're less likely to get eaten by the visiting wildlife.

"Everything had to be seamless, so when you drive up, it feels like it's always been there."

— Robert Milani,
Senior Landscape Architect

"We wanted something relaxed and unstructured — something to attract wildlife like birds, bees and butterflies, where everything can come and go seasonally," he says. "Seasonality was very important, to be able to see that transition from spring to summer to fall and even winter. We didn't want it to be 'cookie cutter,' where you see the landscape. Everything had to be seamless, so when you drive up, it feels like it's always been there."

To enhance the outdoor living area, Milani and his team designed a semicircular outdoor kitchen constructed of the same limestone as the house itself, complete with an Italian pizza oven, a luxury gas grill and a Green Egg grill. In the backyard, a curvilinear bluestone patio features a limestone seat wall and a circular fire feature that complements the home's architectural details and provides multiple spaces for the

homeowner to gather with family and friends. A bluestone pathway from the kitchen area leads to an open field and outdoor patio shaped like an amoeba with an outdoor gas fireplace, a space Milani describes as "free-flowing."

Surrounding these thoughtful outdoor living spaces, Milani created privacy through the use of natural garden spaces teeming with hundreds of plants and flowers. "This project was one of those not-so-typical landscape projects on the shore," Milani says. "It was something outside the box. Instead of putting lots of shrubs everywhere, this called for soft, traditional, native plants."

One of the challenges Milani says they faced in tackling the project involved design and logistics. He and his crew had to create spaces within entry points, taking care not



Low-growing native plants provide a soft look to the front yard without obstructing the lake view.

to obstruct views of the lake, which led to the decision to locate the outdoor kitchen on the side of the home, adjacent to the patio. Due to space constraints and an issue with large oak trees near the home's kitchen, Milani explains that instead of pouring new footings, they were able to use the foundation of the house and a retaining wall as the foundation for the outdoor spaces. "This saved us from damaging the root system of the oak trees," he says. Proper drainage was also a significant challenge, solved through a creative drain tile design.

To match the stone façade of the home, Milani chose to make use of natural materials where possible. In the outdoor kitchen, he opted for more informal materials that helped better transition from the soft materials of the home to the woodland border. "Every property is designed to the client's goals, which

The homeowner added an outdoor kitchen, including a pizza oven, grill and Green Egg grill.



means [each project] can be very diverse and unique," Milani explains. "We're [always] looking for the best option, searching for new design ideas and things that could be really special to a client and that specific project."

The Lake House Retreat project took about a year and a half to complete, due to a process that Milani calls phasing. When the new trees and

plants filled in, he says he was thrilled with the effect. "It really shows you can do something this out of the ordinary and still have it work in a residential setting."

The homeowner is equally pleased with the space. "The barbecue patio with pizza oven is a fun place to gather," she says. "And the lakeside patio fire pit is a huge draw for all ages." 🌿





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Q&A

Terrestrial Endeavors



Yerkes Future Foundation
brings back life to historic
Observatory landscape

BY RACHEL WISINSKI

Since the Yerkes Future Foundation acquired ownership of historic Yerkes Observatory in 2020, Vice Chair Tom Nickols, board members and many volunteers have spent hundreds of hours working to restore the property's original, Olmsted Brothers-designed landscape plan, and even improve it where possible. Today, Nickols says the property is ready for the public to experience the work that's been done, via three miles of nature trails with newly placed signage. We asked him a few questions about the landscape restoration project.

ATL: Describe the property and what you had to work with. How did you approach the landscape restoration project?

Nickols: We spent the first year trying to understand what we had,

while getting rid of dead trees and stumps. In 2021, we started replanting based on the 1906 plan, though we had a couple of challenges. One is climate change, so trees and other plants that once thrived in this area really couldn't exist here anymore. In other cases, the plan called for plantings that would be threatened by disease or invasive species.

ATL: What work has been done to the Yerkes Observatory landscape thus far?

Nickols: We have developed a landscape master plan, one that continues to evolve. Clearing invasives like buckthorn has been a major effort. We added a Welcome Garden of native perennials, surrounded by fescue and thousands of daffodils, as well as a bur oak savanna next to our mature oak/hickory forest. A 1 ½-acre pollinator

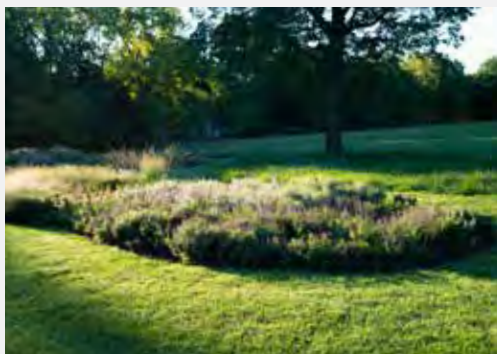
meadow was added, with over 70 kinds of plants. All of these projects can be replicated by gardeners at home. Finally we continue to think about how the Olmsteds would have evolved their planning.

ATL: What are some other projects that have come out of this?

Nickols: It's not just about the trees. We had local Boy Scouts build 12 bluebird houses, 10 of which were occupied last year. As part of the 3-plus-mile trail system, we installed an ADA-compliant portion through the forests and meadow in May. There's also a five-hive apiary north of the pollinator meadow. Rain gardens were added to control phosphorous runoff into the lake. This spring, we put up wren houses around the campus.

ATL: Is there still work to be done?

Nickols: Absolutely! We were just accredited as a Level One arboretum by Arbnet, the global consortium of Arboreta. The process took months to complete and we are really excited. This year we will plant over 100 trees, continuing our effort to reflect the original Olmsted plan. Starting in June, we will add tours of the gardens and grounds to our already very popular indoor tours. 🌿





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Nature Knowledge

Plant identification apps make garden planning and care easier than ever

BY RACHEL WISINSKI

Whether you're out on a nature walk or working in your own backyard, digital technology has made it easier than ever to identify and keep track of the plants, flowers and other vegetation you encounter from day to day, using just a quick photo. Here are four smartphone apps and websites to try.

iNaturalist

Cost: Free

Supported platforms: Android, iOS, web

Key features: This app makes it easy to share and confirm your findings with other users, including amateur and professional naturalists.

PlantSnap

Cost: Free for 10 identifications per day

Supported platforms: Android, iOS

Key features: This app has a well-organized taxonomy, including more than 600,000 plants in its searchable databases. It allows you to zoom in on photo details, offers gardening tips and advice for caring for plants, and makes it easy to connect with a community of plant lovers. The "Explore" function also allows you to use SnapMap to locate identified plants anywhere in the world.



FlowerChecker

Cost: Free to install, \$1 per correct identification

Supported platforms: Android, iOS

Key features: This app uses a team of experts who receive a photo, analyze it and post its identification. It can also ID types of moss, lichen and fungi. Great for hard-to-identify plants.

NatureID

Cost: Free to use with unlimited plant identifications; full access requires a subscription.

Supported platforms: iOS

Key features: In addition to identifying a plant, this app provides recommendations on how to optimize soil, water and fertilization; set the appropriate temperature conditions; and more. Content is created with input from expert botanists. It can recognize over 15,000 natural objects with up to 95% accuracy, including trees, mushrooms, rocks, minerals and insects. 🐛

LAUREN HARRIGAN

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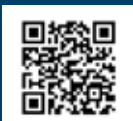


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Captain Emily Fideler competes in the Escape Triathlon series with “Angels” Britt Ecklund and Faith Rach.

Runner's High

Those with diverse abilities can now experience the thrill of a race with the help of MyTeam Triumph

BY SHELBY DEERING

There are few feelings as pure, joyful and exhilarating as finally crossing the finish line of a race. Whether running three miles or a full marathon of 26.2 miles, crossing the finish line leaves a runner feeling that they have really accomplished something great and are strong enough to keep running even when it feels impossible.

National nonprofit organization MyTeam Triumph feels that everyone should be able to experience this feeling, regardless of ability level. And

there's a chapter of this organization here in the Geneva Lake area that aims to make running accessible to people of all abilities.

Across the state of Wisconsin MyTeam Triumph includes several chapters: Green Bay, Appleton, Sheboygan, Madison, Eau Claire, Milwaukee, Wausau, Kenosha and, close to home, Lake Geneva. The Lake Geneva chapter started in 2014, with a participant — or “Captain,” in the vernacular of the organization — named Mackenzie Wann, who participated in the Big Foot Triathlon in Lake Geneva. After Wann and her team of volunteers, or “Angels,” completed the event, “we knew that this was an experience that we wanted others to have as well,” says Britt Ecklund, a Crew Member for the Lake Geneva chapter of MyTeam Triumph.

Calling themselves “a team for anybody and everybody,” MyTeam Triumph enriches the wellbeing of individuals with diverse abilities and fosters lifelong friendships through community athletics, as Ecklund puts it.

“One of the biggest challenges that people with disabilities face is social isolation,” she observes. “MyTeam Triumph provides specialized, adaptive equipment and a teamwork approach for people with diverse abilities to be involved in weekly training nights, as well as athletic events ranging from 5K runs, to triathlons, to marathons, to full Ironman-distance triathlons. The result is a more inclusive community.”

Runners of any ability level, from invisible to visible disabilities, are welcome to participate as captains. They can then invite friends and family to be their angels, or they will be paired with volunteers. According to the MyTeam Triumph website, “Angels participate as a team of three, taking turns guiding and encouraging the captain.”

Ecklund says that able-bodied athletes, ages 16 and over, are invited to participate in races as angels.

“We’ve had people as young as 13 participate with parent consent,” she says. Last year, the Lake Geneva chapter participated in seven events and weekly training runs, serving roughly 140 captains throughout the season.

Ecklund has a personal connection to the organization: her twin brother, Christian Jensen, and his wife, Tiffany, who live in Green Bay founded the first Wisconsin chapter of the non-profit organization, inspired by an encounter with a client. “Christian was a personal trainer at the hospital system [there] at the time, and a woman named Mary Cox was interested in having Christian as her personal trainer,” she says. “What Christian didn’t know [prior to the appointment], was that Mary has Muscular Dystrophy. As part of Mary’s therapy, they ran a local 10K race using a friend’s running stroller. The race gave Mary a sense of freedom her body couldn’t. From this moment on, Christian realized the power running had on Mary’s emotional health and also how Mary felt part of the community, as others in the race interacted with Mary in ways she doesn’t normally experience.”

One of the ways that MyTeam Triumph helps their “Captains” achieve these goals is through the aid of specialized racing equipment

and peer support. “The captains also benefit from the social connections of the angels, volunteers and others running,” Ecklund says. “The running community is a family, and this is what ties into the ultimate mission of MyTeam Triumph.” She adds that people who participate in these races say they have more self-confidence, a greater sense of self and experience a more inclusive community.

Ecklund says that she initially became involved with the organization as a result of her brother and sister-in-law’s development of the Wisconsin chapter. “At first, I was a fan and supporter who was in awe of the impact the captains and angels were making on the running community and the community as a whole,” she reflects. She points out that participating in the program has inspired her to increase her own running goals as well. “I have been able to complete races that I never imagined possible, such as a marathon, several half-marathons and triathlons, and even a half-Ironman triathlon, all with the inspiring captains and angels that have become my family and friends,” she adds

She feels that the biggest misconception of MyTeam Triumph is that the able-bodied athletes are helping the athletes with disabilities. “In fact, it is the opposite,” she says.



A raft with harnesses for the swimmers is used to complete the swimming portion of any triathlon.



**Geneva Lake
Conservancy**

50/50 Raffle launches May 19
at the Kettle Moraine Bird Festival.
Winning ticket will be drawn Dec 2
at Holly Ball. Tickets available at all
events and at the Mill House.

Event 2023 Calendar

GenevaLakeConservancy.org

For Information & Event
Registration Visit Online
or Call 262-275-5700

APR 28 (FRI) - Join volunteers at White River County Park to remove invasives and plant native plants; 9 am - noon

MAY 12 (FRI) - Native Plant Sale pickup at the Mill House

MAY 19 (FRI) - Kettle Moraine Bird Festival - Guided bird walks at GLC's Bromley Woods w/ Lakeland Audubon Society; Luncheon and lecture

JUNE 2 (FRI) - Conservation@Home Kickoff with tour of a certified property

JUNE 24 (SAT) - Nancy Russell Trail Network dedication hosted w/ Walworth County and Friends Of White River County Park

JUN/AUG - Helen Rohner Children's Fishing Park Classes begin June 6: Fishing classes (Tuesdays); Story Time (Thursdays); Nature Classes (Fridays)

JUL 3 (MON) - Family Day at Helen Rohner Children's Fishing Park; Small Nature Photo Contest opens; entry deadline August 12

JUL 3 (MON) - Bioblitz at Kishwaukee and Helen Rohner Children's Fishing Park

JUL 15 (SAT) - Scenic Farm Summer Fundraiser; celebrate our new conservation easement property protecting a beautiful farm in the Town of Lyons. Walking tours, garden auction and dinner; 4 - 8 pm

AUG/SEP - Heritage Oak Contest & Oak Tree Sales begin Aug 1

AUG 4 (FRI) - Education day at White River County Park; Raptor presentation 10 - 11:30 am

AUG 12 (SAT) - Family Day at Helen Rohner Children's Fishing Park

AUG 24 (THU) - Small Nature Photo Contest reception at Green Grocer

AUG 25 (FRI) - Mill House Native Plant Preserve Dedication with cocktails, appetizers and tours; 4 - 6 pm

SEP 8 (FRI) - Guided Nature Walk at Wallace E. Zabler Nature Preserve, 9 am

SEP 22 (FRI) - Work day at White River County Park; invasive species removal and planting seed bombs



SEP 30 (SAT) - Join GLC and Kettle Moraine Land Trust volunteers to pick seeds at Wisconsin's Hackmatack Turner Tract preserve near Genoa City

OCT 7 (SAT) - GLC 4th Annual Road Rally featuring new protected properties

DEC 2 (SAT) - Holly Ball; GLC's special holiday gala with dinner, dancing and silent auction

DEC 9 (SAT) - GLC Annual Meeting; Public invited for year-end celebration, awards, presentations, etc.

DEC 21 (TUE) - Winter Solstice Celebration at White River County Park



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“The community of Lake Geneva has such kind, caring people who love making connections.”

**Britt Ecklund,
“Angel”**

“Helping other people, especially those who are normally isolated and don’t get to experience the feel of a race, has made such an impact on not just my physical health, but more importantly, my mental health.”

One of the friends she has made through MyTeam Triumph is Emily Fider, a longtime captain in the Lake Geneva region. Ecklund has personally completed several races working as an angel with Fider, including an Olympic-distance triathlon.

After getting involved with the organization seven years ago, Fider has completed six triathlons and 5K races, and even got to travel to a 10K race at Walt Disney World in 2019 with one of her angels. She says her favorite part of the triathlon experience is the bike portion because she “likes the speed.”

“MyTeam Triumph makes me feel so happy,” she adds. “I have made so

many different friendships, and I have been able to be outdoors during the summer months. It just makes me smile.”

For the 2023 summer season, Lake Geneva’s MyTeam Triumph chapter is participating in the Kringle Krush 5K/10K in Burlington, the Semper Running Half Marathon in Lake Geneva, DAS “Run with Rotary” 5K in Elkhorn, the Demon Triathlon in Burlington and the Burlington Turkey Trot 5K.

Ecklund adds that weekly training runs are held every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. at Big Foot Beach State Park, and anyone interested in MyTeam Triumph is invited to join. “The community of Lake Geneva has such kind, caring people who love making connections,” she says.

For more information, please visit myteamttriumph-wi.org.

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that they can eat well and it can still be delicious and convenient.”

The menu features juices and smoothies packed with health-boosting superfoods like blue spirulina, dragonfruit, goji berries and acai. Schmaling and Koralesky say the juicery serves as “the heartbeat to the [wellness] center,” which provides several wellness offerings, from Pilates to acupuncture to massage.

“We believe that for complete healing, we need to address the body, soul and spirit,” Schmaling says. “The café enhances the nutritional aspect that we all require.” After clients take part in movement practices with Pilates, the co-owners say they often see them “fueling up in the café afterwards” with a juice, smoothie or protein bite. For those looking for a complete spa package, the wellness center also offers pairings from the café with services like massage and acupuncture.



Schmaling and Koralesky have been friends for over 30 years, and each brings a unique strength to the partnership. Schmaling is a National Pilates Certification Program instructor, hairstylist, esthetician and mother of three. Koralesky is a licensed acupuncturist, herbalist and mother. She specializes in treating mental health issues and pain.

Rural Salem may seem like an unusual place to find a center specializing in

A wellness center in nearby Salem serves up juices and smoothies packed with nourishing ingredients

BY SHELBY DEERING | PHOTOS BY HOLLY LEITNER

As the morning Pilates class comes to an end, participants emerge from the studio and drift into an adjacent café that is full of sunlight, ready to enjoy a post-workout treat made with organic ingredients and packed with the health benefits of fruits and vegetables. These are the fresh-made juices and smoothies at Healing Ground Café & Juicery.

Carli Schmaling and Samantha Koralesky are the co-owners of Healing Grounds Wellness Center, and the attached Healing Grounds Café & Juicery. Located in Salem, just 15 miles east of Lake Geneva, the center is a haven for all things wellness, including its juicery, which specializes in natural, whole ingredients.

After opening the wellness center in 2013, Schmaling and Koralesky felt the space would benefit from the addition of a juicery, to “empower people’s

personal relationship with food.” They opened the café and juicery in December 2021. “Food is medicine, and being owners with dietary restrictions, this is a need that a lot of people are seeking in our community,” Koralesky says. “Healthy, good food doesn’t need to be complicated, and we’re hopeful that we can show people



the latest wellness trends, but the co-founders say that juxtaposition is part of the charm. The center is located on the grounds of Breezy Hill Nursery, a full-service garden center and nursery. Often, new clients will stumble across the wellness center while exploring the garden center.

"I recently discovered Healing Grounds and I simply love this place," reads one glowing Google review. "A place focused on overall health and wellness is so wonderful (but hard) to find nestled in between many small towns in Wisconsin. From their food to their juice and coffee, I'm hooked." 🐾



The menu at Healing Grounds Café & Juicery changes with the availability of organic ingredients and includes recipes tailored to many different dietary restrictions. We asked Carli Schmalings and Samantha Koralesky to share the recipes for three of their most popular featured juices.

I AM LIVELY. With apple, beet, carrot and lemon, this juice is "great for cleansing the blood, making it the perfect juice for pre- and post-workout," Koralesky says.

I AM GLOWING. This juice takes advantage of pineapple, pear and ginger to help reduce inflammation, and adds enzymes to the body to increase skin's radiance.

I AM ENERGIZED. Featuring apple, kale and lemon, this juice is a mild, sweet green juice that will give you energy from the nutrient-dense kale, the vitamin C in the apple and the detoxification from the lemon.



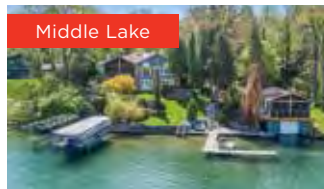
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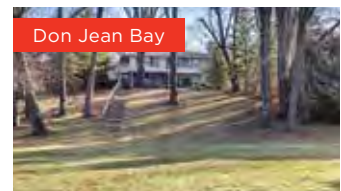
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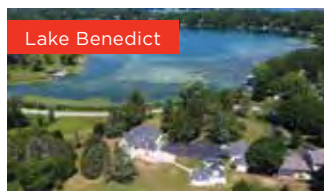
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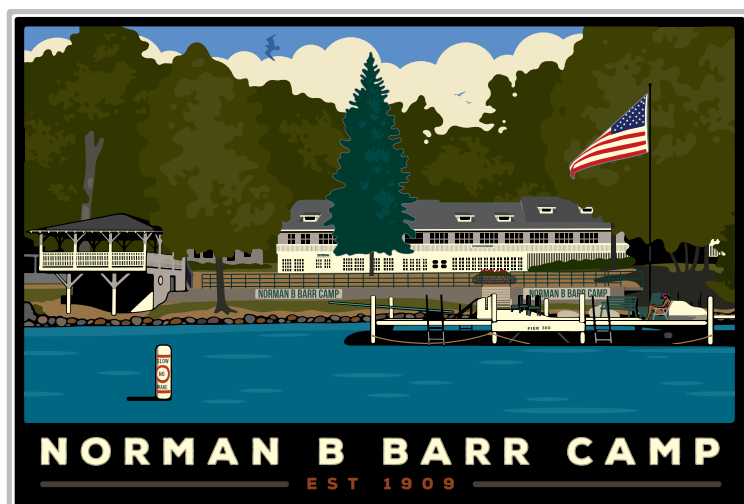
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SIX FEET DEEP DISH BY MINDY QUIGLEY



Main character Delilah O'Leary is on the verge of opening a pizzeria in the fictitious "Geneva Bay, Wisconsin" when she discovers a dead body and her aunt nearby, holding the murder weapon. Set in a funhouse version of Lake Geneva, this cozy mystery features deep-dish pizza recipes and a love interest who's descended from gangster Al Capone. Cheery beach reading.

MAIL JUMPER! THE STORY OF THE FIRST MAIL GIRL BY ELAINE KANELOS



This brief memoir chronicles the experiences of Elaine Kanelos, the first woman to serve as a mail jumper on Lake Geneva's iconic Mailboat. A fun, inside look at a unique Lake Geneva tradition.

THE FORAGER'S HARVEST BY SAMUEL THAYER



Wisconsin foraging expert Thayer provides a great introduction to the perfect summer hobby. Focusing only on those wild edible plants that are both delicious and easy to identify, Thayer uses 32 chapters to detail the how-tos of foraging, so you can safely and confidently find, identify, collect and prepare wild foods found in the Midwest.

For more info on the Summer Reading Challenge for school-age kids and the library's monthly book club for adults, visit lglibrary.org.

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Claptonation – Sat. Aug. 5
Foreigner 4 Ever – Sat. Aug. 19
Brass From The Past – Sat. Aug. 26
The Prince Experience – Sat. Sept. 2



Cruisin' Car Show/Sock Hop
Sun. June 25 - Noon to 4pm
Do-Wa-Wa - 1pm

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WITH *sprinkles* ON TOP

Our guide to some of the area's charming,
locally owned ice cream shops

BY MAURA KELLER AND ANNE MORRISSY
PHOTOS BY HILLARY SCHAVE

When you think of warm summer evenings, strolling down a quaint street with crickets chirping and warm breezes flowing, what comes to mind? Why, ice cream of course! According to the International Dairy Foods Association (IDFA), the average American consumes approximately 20 pounds of ice cream each year, which is equivalent to about four gallons of the frozen confection.

Whether you prefer hand-dipped ice cream, soft serve or frozen custard, the Geneva Lake area has plenty of options to satisfy a sweet tooth. And while chocolate and cookies n' cream top the list of favorite ice cream flavors, other flavors that fall within America's "top 10" include butter pecan, salted caramel and chocolate-chip cookie dough. While non-dairy options and plant-based ingredients are certainly growing in popularity, most consumers continue to prefer the classics. Whatever your preference, get out there and support these locally owned businesses while sampling all the best flavors the region has to offer — you'll be coming back for more in no time.

BLUE HEAVEN

105 W. Main St., Fontana

Located just off of Highway 67 in Fontana, Blue Heaven Ice Cream offers 24 flavors of hand-dipped, super-premium ice cream from local Wisconsin producers, including the



Chocolate Shoppe, a Madison-based, family-owned company that has been in business for over 60 years; and Purple Door, a Milwaukee artisanal creamery with a cult following.

Suzy Brady, Blue Heaven owner, says this is part of what makes Blue Door a favorite among area residents and visitors to the region. "Our guests, who hail from all over the world, appreciate the fact that they're getting a delicious Wisconsin-made treat," she says. "The shop's knowledgeable staff will help you pair flavors like "Whiskey Old-Fashioned" with a Philadelphia pretzel cone, or crowd-favorite "This \$#!@ Just Got Serious" with a chocolate cookie cone. Most of our flavors are kosher, and we offer a great selection of gluten-free, dairy-free and vegan options," Brady explains. "We have gluten-free cones as well."

When Brady and her husband, Todd, met in 2013, they began to toss around ideas for a business they could



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start together. There had been no ice cream shop in Fontana for decades, so the couple quickly zeroed in on the idea of opening a premium ice cream shop. The Bradys purchased an iconic downtown building, the SS Fontana, and opened the shop in the spring of 2019. “It’s hard to believe that we’ll be celebrating our fifth anniversary this summer,” Brady says.

In addition to the shop, they also offer a portable slice of Blue Heaven for weddings, parties and events. “We’ll bring our ice cream cart to you and set up a sundae bar, or load it up with homemade ice cream sandwiches,” Brady says.

The name Blue Heaven originated about when the couple started coming up to Fontana. “It’s kind of based on an emotion ... the one you get when you cross the state line and roll down the windows for that first blast of fresh air, or when you’re coming downhill from Walworth and get that first glimpse of the navy-blue lake. You just go ‘ahhhh,’” Brady says. “Fontana is like Blue Heaven to us, and we thought it was a perfect name for our shop. The vibe just fit.”

MEGGY MOO’S DAIRY RIPPLE

600 Kenosha St., Walworth

Tucked in the heart of Walworth, Meggy Moo’s Dairy Ripple has been a favorite of ice cream aficionados for almost 75 years. This classic, drive-up ice cream joint, known to an earlier generation as the Dari-Ripple, maintains its kitschy, 1950s vibes.

“So many people visit and tell us stories about how they have been coming here since they were little children — myself included,” says Meggy Moo’s owner, Danielle Rabe, who worked in the ice cream shop for about five years before becoming the owner herself in 2018. Together, Rabe and her husband, Adam, operate Meggy Moo’s, which is open from mid-March through the end of November.

In addition to ice cream, Meggy Moo’s serves classic “snack shack” fare like Vienna beef hot dogs and made-to-order hamburgers. But the sweet treats are the biggest draw here. Customers come from near and far for Meggy Moo’s “widgets,” homemade donut holes served warm and rolled in sugar or cinnamon sugar. “Our most



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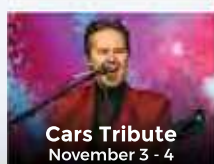
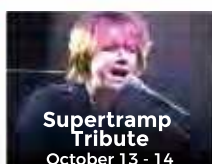
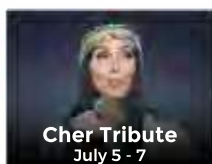
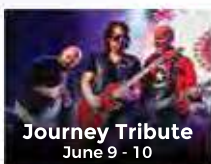
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unique offering is by far the widget,” Rabe says. “They’re a ‘must’ when visiting the area,” Rabe says. “Make sure to order some soft serve ice cream to go with it.”

Other customer favorites include the malts, milkshakes and orange dream floats, in addition to the burgers. Rabe says she loves being part of the history of the area through the iconic ice cream stand: “It’s really fun to be part of such a nostalgic shop in our area.”

THE DARIEN ICE CREAM SHOPPE

30 W. Beloit St., Darien

The Darien Ice Cream Shoppe has been a fixture in the Darien community since 1989. For the past 10 years, it has been owned by Alice and Brian Davis, who describe it as a “little gem.” Located in what was once Darien’s post office building, the Darien Ice Cream Shoppe is easy to identify thanks to the friendly penguin mural painted on the exterior wall.

Alice says that for many of their customers, the setting is part of the appeal. “We have indoor seating, but customers also can enjoy their ice cream on picnic tables outside or even take their treats across the street to the park,” she says.

The Darien Ice Cream Shoppe boasts 30 flavors of Cedar Crest ice cream, which can be made into cones, shakes, malts, sundaes, banana splits, smoothies or any other concoction a customer would like. In addition to the hand-dipped options, Alice says the shop also offers vanilla, chocolate and twist soft serve. With so many delicious flavors, the ice cream shop draws customers from throughout the area, as well as many neighboring states.

“Many customers traveling north [on I-43] stop on Fridays and return on Sundays on the way back home,” Alice says. And while the variety of flavors is a huge draw for the human customers, the shop offers a special treat for their four-legged friends as well: doggie sundaes, complete with vanilla soft serve ice cream, topped off with a dog bone.

“We also have monthly and weekly specials, gluten-free cones and gift certificates,” Davis says. “Many customers say that they came here when they were kids, and now are bringing back their children.”



THE FROSTY MOOSE

35 W. Geneva St., Williams Bay

Located in a former gas station in downtown Williams Bay, the Frosty Moose has earned accolades and developed a devoted following thanks to its expansive ice cream flavor menu. There are 62 flavors of super premium, hand-dipped ice cream. These are created for the shop by a dairy co-op in Madison, made from kosher, hormone-free, all-natural ingredients. In addition to the hand-dipped ice cream, the Frosty Moose boasts 5,000 flavors (yep, 5,000!) of premium soft serve as well.



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"We want everyone who comes in to be able to have some kind of treat."

— Tom Kaczmarek of The Frosty Moose on his shop's many allergy-friendly options

Owner Tom Kaczmarek says that the variety of options is what draws people into the shop. "They like to come in and look at everything and sample some flavors before deciding," he explains. For those who want something extra special, The Frosty Moose also invents its own creative soft-serve sundaes. The themed treats — mermaid, unicorn and narwhal are past examples — are dreamed up by Kaczmarek's wife, Christy, and daughter, Kaylen.

Some of The Frosty Moose's most popular flavors include Banana Cream Pie (banana ice cream churned with marshmallow ripple), Blue Moon (reminiscent of the milk at the bottom of a Fruit Loops cereal bowl); and Door County Cherry (all-natural vanilla ice cream loaded with tart Door County cherries from Sister Bay, Wisconsin). Then there are the shop's shakes, malts, avalanches, sundaes and slushies. Kaczmarek says he puts an

extra emphasis on making sure there are allergy-friendly options, including gluten-free, sugar-free and nut-free menu items. "We want everyone who comes in to be able to have some kind of treat," he says.

If you're looking for a more substantial meal, the shop also makes its own deli sandwiches, wraps and hot dogs to order. "We get a lot of people who are doing a walk around the lake, and they stop in for a sandwich and ice cream," Kaczmarek says. The best part? All of this can be enjoyed on site at the Frosty Moose's charming outdoor seating area.

DIP IN THE BAY

105 N. Walworth Ave., Williams Bay

In 2019, we asked *At The Lake's* Facebook followers to vote for their favorite local ice cream shop, and the winner was Williams Bay's Dip in the Bay. Owner Mike Condrón says the win is something his team is very



proud of. Since opening the shop 11 years ago, Condrón has worked hard to create what he calls a "family-run and family-friendly approach," with an emphasis on giving back to the local community. This summer, Condrón's daughter, Joyce, will take an active role in running the shop.



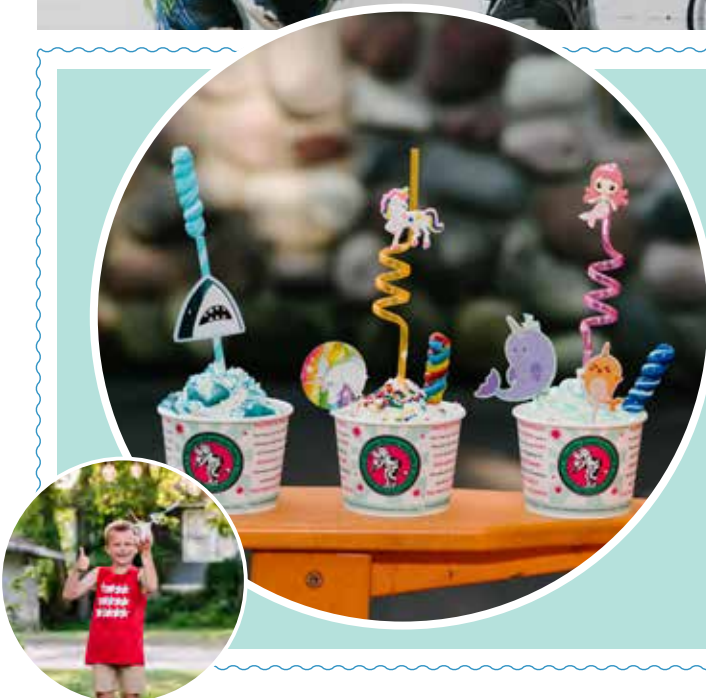
This sense of family and community extends to the many offerings of premium, hand-dipped ice cream available at the shop, as well. Several of the flavors and flavor combinations at Dip in the Bay were named for family members, local landmarks or regular customers, including Joe's Chocolate Peanut Butter, named for Condron's son, Joe; Black Point Walnut, named for the famous Victorian home across the lake; and Shea's Strawberry, named for a pint-sized fan of the flavor who comes in regularly with her parents.

Condron says the devoted following for Dip in the Bay's ice cream is due to their "state secret" sourcing of ice cream flavors, including many flavors that come from locally owned, small family farms via a farmer co-op dairy. Most of the ice cream served at Dip in the Bay is made with skim milk, making it lower in fat than traditional ice cream, as well. And the shop serves all fresh fruit and nut toppings, another key to their success, according to Condron. For those who prefer non-dairy alternatives, Dip in the Bay also offers Italian ice and sherbets.

Most warm summer nights you will find Dip in the Bay's customers lounging in the multi-colored Adirondack chairs gracing the property. Condron describes his shop's relationship with The Frosty Moose up the street as "more friendly than rivalry," and says he loves that Williams Bay has become

Fantastic and flavorful treats

Looking for a unique option?
The Frosty Moose offers a menu of fun kids' sundaes with themes like unicorn, mermaid and narwhal.



"Chicago Style" in Wisconsin

At Dip In the Bay, try this Rainbow Cone-inspired flavor combination of Carol's Chocolate, Shea's Strawberry, Terry's Cherry, Pistachio Almond and Grandpa Mike's orange sherbet.

a local ice cream destination, drawing people from all over the area who come to town for a post-meal walk along the lake, topped off with a little ice cream for dessert.

SCOOPS

101 Broad St., Lake Geneva

Walk along the lakefront by the Riviera in Lake Geneva and you are bound to smell one of summertime's best scents wafting from the Geneva Towers building across the street — homemade waffle cones. Longtime local ice cream shop Scoops in Lake Geneva has earned many awards,

including two prestigious awards from the National Ice Cream Retailer Association and the Wisconsin State Fair, thanks in part to its high-quality ice cream, homemade waffle cones and waffle bowls, as well as fresh-squeezed lemonade. These treats help visitors to the area cool down on hot summer days, and the shop's outdoor seating area provides incredible lake views as well as top-notch people watching.

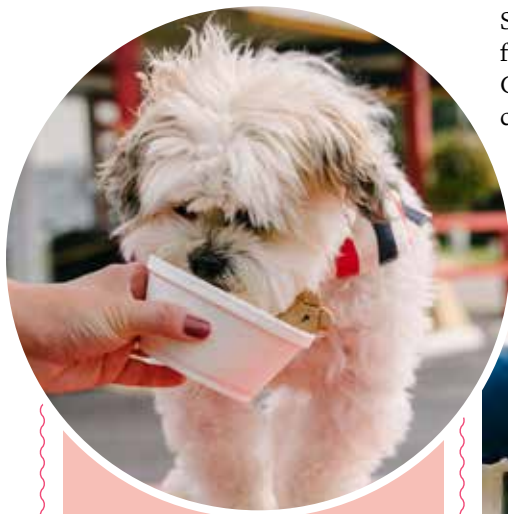
Scoops features 30 flavors of ice cream sourced from the Chocolate Shoppe in Madison, along with coffee from Milwaukee's popular Colectivo Coffee. For those looking for an ice cream alternative, Scoops also offers Hawaiian shaved ice, fruit smoothies and homemade hot chocolate. Of course, the most popular menu

items are ice cream-based, including shakes, floats and sundaes.

SOMETHING SWEET

105 E. Townline Rd., Lake Geneva

If you are looking for a retro candy and ice cream experience, head out of downtown Lake Geneva on Motel Row (Wells Street) until you reach the charming shop Something Sweet. Since 2018, this vintage-style sweet shop has been offering a full suite (no pun intended) of frozen treats, including hand-dipped ice cream, plus shakes, malts and root beer floats —



Pup Cups

Don't forget Fido! With the purchase of any ice cream treat, several local ice cream shops offer a "pup cup" of vanilla soft serve with a doggie bone on top.





as well as offerings that are harder to find in Lake Geneva, including Flavor Burst soft serve, frozen lemonade, smoothies and even Dole Whip, the vacation treat more traditionally associated with Hawaii or Disneyland. In addition to these frozen treats, Something Sweet also boasts a full roster of classic candy, nuts, homemade cotton candy, homemade cookies, homemade fudge, popcorn and edible cookie dough to satisfy every possible craving.

On the website, owner Kristin Dooley says that after a successful pop-up experience in downtown Lake Geneva, she was inspired to open the full-service shop “outside of the congested downtown area” to take advantage of free parking and be able to offer plenty of outdoor seating and year-round hours. “This has made us very welcomed by the locals, and we are proud to be part of such an amazing community!” she adds.

Taking advantage of the location, Something Sweet offers many fun, interactive events for children and families. From free cone giveaways to outdoor family movie nights, these events are designed to make an outing to Something Sweet an experience to remember. And Dooley hasn’t forgotten Fido! Like several of the shops on this list, Something Sweet offers free “pup cups” with any additional ice cream purchase. 🐾

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On The Waterfront

A few of our favorite lakeside dining spots, ready for summer

BY BRIAN THALHAMMER

Even better than a meal shared with good friends, impeccable food and great weather is one enjoyed in a sun-soaked atmosphere featuring a gorgeous lake view — and maybe even a few fruit-garnished cocktails. As the summer weather brings everyone outside, the Geneva Lake area transforms into a small, sacred paradise filled with sunny patios, photogenic white piers and the unique beauty of its lake views. So we decided to highlight a few of our favorite local options for lakeside dining.

food & drink *restaurants*

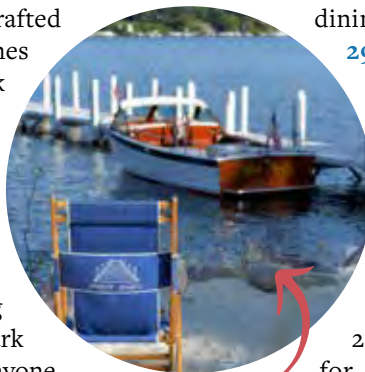
For a casual dining experience, foodies can head to **Chuck's Lakeshore Inn** in Fontana, a “homey, lakeside eatery” serving cold drinks, juicy burgers, pizza and other local favorites, including an exquisite, homemade lobster roll. The building that originally housed Chuck's dated back to 1891, when it was built by a local doctor as a family residence. There has been a bar and restaurant on the site since at least the 1940s, with the current iteration dating to 1969 when it was purchased by the late Gordy Whowell. A fire in 1988 destroyed the original building, but Whowell's son Jamie and his wife rebuilt it almost identical to the previous structure. One thing that's never changed is their unrelenting focus on “great food, generous drinks and friendly service that has always made Chuck's a tradition,” according to the restaurant's website. With a spectacular east-facing view of Geneva Lake, public boat parking nearby, outdoor seating and live entertainment on summer weekends, Chuck's is a fantastic casual dining experience for anyone seeking a sunny “staycation.”

For a relaxing harborside meal, head to **The Waterfront** at the Abbey Resort in Fontana, which offers an easygoing atmosphere where diners can enjoy lunch, dinner and drinks paired with a perfectly-framed view of the Abbey Marina, and Geneva Lake beyond. In the dining room or on the patio, enjoy specialties like the smoked brisket BBQ mac 'n cheese or mouthwatering BBQ ahi tuna tostadas, while ogling the boats moored in the marina. Try the restaurant's signature “Fire on the Water” cocktails while enjoying live music. And on Fridays, the menu features a popular fish fry. For boaters interested in stopping at The Waterfront, there are a handful of boat parking spots on the Fontana



Municipal Pier, across the street from the Abbey, and from there, you can easily seek out this little piece of paradise.

A “purveyor of handcrafted cocktails, scratch dishes and a sprawling deck with sunny lake views,” is how **The Boat House Bar & Grill** in Lake Geneva describes itself. This casual eatery next to Big Foot Beach State Park is a destination for anyone



who enjoys great food, well-made drinks and a perfect sunset view over the lake. With a menu consisting of made-to-order appetizers, tantalizing salads, pizza (including a gluten-free option!), tacos, burgers and more, The Boat House aims to impress. A large parking lot and boat parking at the Boat House pier allows visitors to join in on the fun regardless of their transportation method. The restaurant's spacious deck and wraparound bar gives diners plenty

of room to kick back and take in the unparalleled west-facing lakefront views while enjoying live music.

For a slightly more elegant dining experience, **Pier 290** in Williams Bay is a lakeside restaurant serving up all things “lake life” year-round. With its reputation as a place for elevated food with daily specials and live music, Pier 290 is a great spot for happy hour deals, boozy brunches and meals in a quintessential, on-the-water atmosphere. Pier 290 gives diners several seating options — from the dining room, to the front deck, to the outdoor bar under a covered canopy, to the lakefront beach area with firepits — all of which afford incredible views of the lake. The weekend brunch menu features dishes like house-made corned beef hash and quiche Lorraine. For dinner, try the pan-fried walleye or Chilean sea bass. For those who prefer more traditional offerings, opt for the homemade meatloaf, burgers and steaks — all of which have their own passionate following.

For over 136 years, the historic **Baker House** in Lake Geneva has been a recognizable landmark on the lakefront. Built in 1885 as a summer home for Robert H. Baker, throughout the years, it has also served as a sanitarium and even a speakeasy during Prohibition. Today, the Baker House stands as a historic, boutique hotel — with an incredible restaurant that defines a truly luxurious dining experience. Popular menu items include the signature crab cakes, steak frites and classic fish-n-chips — all paired with a timeless view of the Lake Geneva’s spectacular lakefront. A Sunday brunch menu features made-to-order, farm-fresh omelets, classic breakfast options and a bottomless mimosa package. Whether you’re spending the night at the hotel or

simply looking for a dining option that will transport you back in time, the Baker House is an unrivaled spot.

A “flair on flavor” defines **Abbey Springs Yacht Club** in Fontana, a members-only lakefront restaurant focused on pleasing the tastebuds of diners hungry for the finer things in life. (An amenity of the Abbey Springs subdivision, a gated community, the Abbey Springs Yacht Club sells dining memberships regardless of residency.) The restaurant offers beautiful views of the lake and the community’s marina, and offers members a restaurant dedicated to impressing the palate, with menu options like mussels paired with coconut milk and curry, elaborate salads, pastas (short rib gnocchi is a highlight), and entrees such as the



braised lamb shank and macadamia-crusted grouper. The location and focus on excellent food make a club membership worth having year after year. 🍷



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Floating Picnic

Appetizers on the boat make for a very happy hour, indeed

BY BRIAN THALHAMMER



Sometimes, the journey is the best part — especially when it's a boat ride to dinner. Packing for an evening cruise to any of Geneva Lake's lakeside dining options offers opportunities for happy-hour creativity. Local grocery stores stock premade charcuterie packages of meats, cheeses and crackers that are easy to pack, snack and wrap up when finished, or create your own selection from artisan prosciutto, soppressata, Genoa salami and cured sausages. Pair them with specialty olives or pickles for a perfect appetizer "board."

For help pairing the boat snacks with

a perfect drink, The Bottle Shop in Lake Geneva has a great assortment of summertime beverages to pair with any menu. Try the Ranga Ranga Sauvignon Blanc or the Gerard Bertrand Gris Blanc, a beautiful rosé from France: both are so popular during the boating season that there's a separate wine fridge in the store dedicated to these fan favorites. Or, if you're looking for something on the spirits end of the spectrum, the shop's experts created their own cocktail named "Summer Juice," which incorporates Blackbird blackberry whiskey and ginger ale, topped with a few delectable blackberries.




Alfresco Aperitifs

Of course, no boat excursion is complete without beverages. For proper summer vibes and charcuterie pairings, pick up some prosecco, organic sparkling lemonade or a tropical juice blend made with pineapple, mango juice and turmeric — vibrant drinks that can help balance the saltiness of the meats.

For boaters wanting a little extra kick, try a Rosemary Mezcal Fizz:

- 4½ oz. mezcal
- 2¾ oz. fresh lemon juice
- 1½ oz. light agave nectar
- 6 oz. chilled club soda
- Rosemary sprig
- A pinch of kosher salt
- A dash of lemon zest to garnish

Combine first four ingredients in a shatterproof glass and stir to combine. Garnish with rosemary, salt and lemon zest. 



TOP RIGHT: COURTESY OF VISIT LAKE GENEVA, ALL OTHERS: HOLLY LEITNER



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In the Kitchen

Renowned chef joins Pier 290

BY ANNE MORRISSY

Earlier this year, a locally renowned name joined the team of Williams Bay's Pier 290 as executive chef: Ken Hnilo. A graduate of Big Foot High School and the Kendall Culinary School, Hnilo has worked in several well-known Chicago kitchens, including Le Vichyssoise, Carlos' and Charlie Trotter's. For the past 10 years, Hnilo has been working as the general manager of the Bon Appétit Management Company, a restaurant management company based in Palo Alto, California.

Prior to that, Hnilo was the owner and executive chef of Gilbert's, a AAA four-diamond restaurant that was located

in Lake Geneva in what is today the Baker House. But Hnilo's passion for cooking began in a much humbler environment. "My interest in cooking began with Sunday dinners at my grandma's house where the people, environment and the food worked together to create a memorable experience," he explains.

At Pier 290, Hnilo will be responsible for developing menus and preparing dishes for the restaurant and its affiliate business, Lake Life Catering.

He will oversee a culinary staff of 22. "We're planning to focus on classics with a spin," he explains. "We want to work with the seasons and use local ingredients as much as possible." To start, Hnilo says Pier 290 menus will change about twice a year, to reflect the ingredients available and the kinds of foods people are looking to order at different times of the year. "Of course, we'll always have some of our most popular options on the menu," he adds, citing the tuna tartare and the island shrimp as fan favorites.

Pier 290 opened in 2012 on a portion of Gage Marine's winter harbor in Williams Bay. Since that time, it has become a landmark bar and restaurant experience for locals and visitors alike, combining upscale dining and unmatched lake views with a relaxed vibe and family-friendly atmosphere. Bill Gage, president and owner of Pier 290, Gage Marine and Lake Geneva Cruise Line, is excited about the possibilities Hnilo brings to the popular restaurant. "Chef Hnilo's creativity, skill and leadership experience will advance Pier 290 to a new level of culinary capability," he says.





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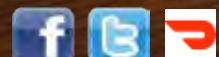
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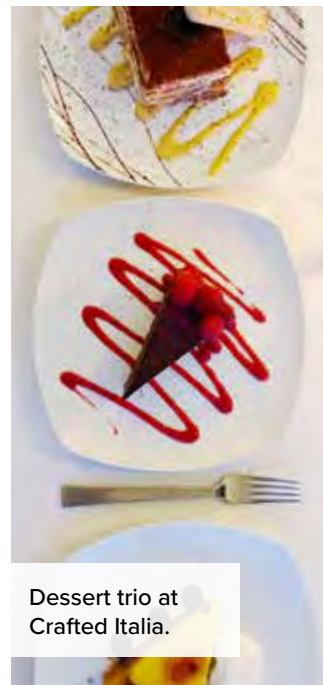
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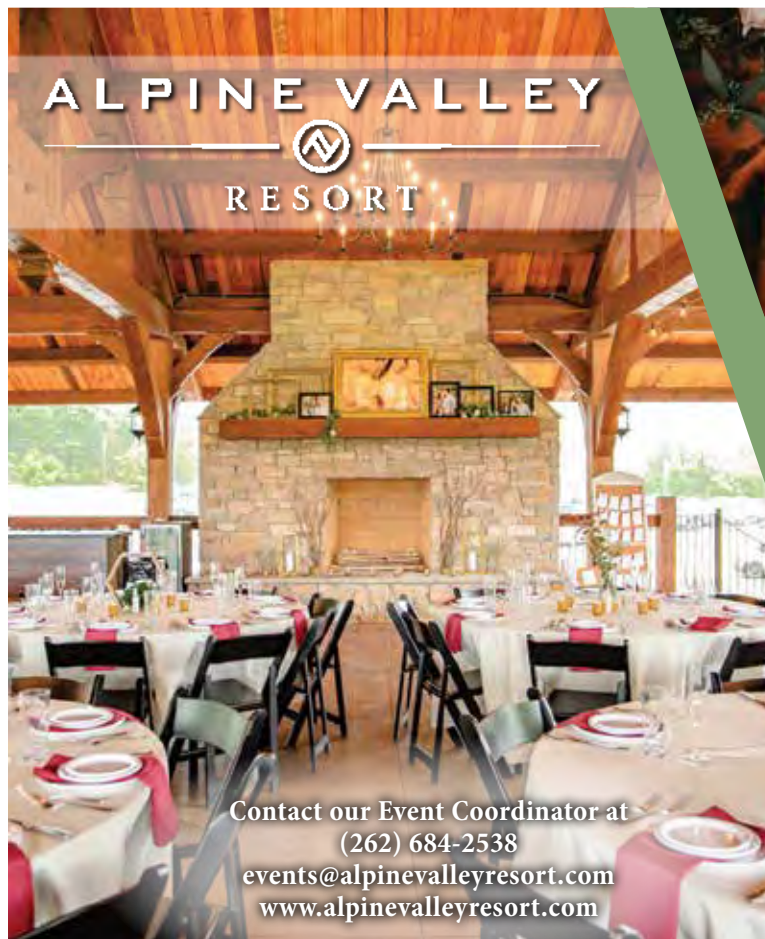
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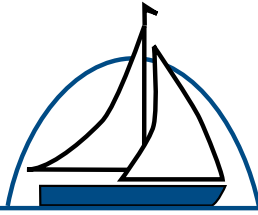
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Paddle Power

A guide to kayaking
local lakes, rivers
and streams

BY NAT WEXLER

During the warmer months, the bodies of water around Walworth County turn into a playground, and one of the most up-close-and-personal ways to explore the area's lakes, rivers and shorelines is by kayaking. The activity has gained popularity in recent years: it's an environmentally friendly activity that provides opportunities for both full-body exercise, and a direct appreciation of the nature and wildlife that makes the area such a popular summer destination. As interest has



For the more adventurous,

a kayak outing can involve portaging, or carrying the kayak and supplies over short land distances to bridge waterways. If you're planning to kayak in a river system where you might encounter fallen logs, dangerous rapids or other unpassable sections, it's best to plan ahead and be prepared to portage. Here are a few tips:

- Pack all gear into a single backpack to make sure everything will fit, while leaving your hands free to carry the kayak and paddle.
- Bring a kayak trolley. These small, portable trolleys allow you to place your kayak sideways and wheel it over land on certain terrains. In the right situation, they can save a lot of lifting!
- When portaging, paddle to the water's edge and exit the kayak, bailing any excess water from the cockpit.
- Carry the kayak over one shoulder using one arm, or on your head using two arms.
- When carrying the kayak, maintain a slow pace and make sure you can see the ground to help maintain solid footing.
- Relaunch the kayak by setting it down on the shore at the waterline. Never drag your kayak, as this can damage the hull and cause it to leak.

increased, so too have local kayaking options. Today, Walworth County is a treasure trove of kayaking opportunities, with plenty of places to rent or buy a kayak and go for a paddle. Here's our *At The Lake* guide to local kayaking:

WHERE TO BUY AND RENT KAYAKS

There are multiple places in Walworth County to rent and buy kayaks. Prices on rentals generally vary depending on the rental duration and type of kayak. In some cases, whether an individual is a resident of the town where they are renting will have an impact on price as well. Since kayaking is weather-dependent, rental hours vary based on the weather, so it is important to call first.

Clear Water Outdoor offers two rental piers. The Geneva Lake rental pier is located across the street from the Baker House (327 Wrigley Drive), and the Lake Como rental pier is located at The Ridge Hotel Marina (W4240 State Hwy. 50). Call Clear Water Outdoor at (262) 348-2422 or visit their website at clearwateroutdoor.com/pages/kayak-rentals-paddleboard-rentals to reserve a kayak.

Delavan Paddle Sports offers kayaks for rent on Lake Comus in Delavan. The rental facility is located in the Mill Pond Building (109 Waterworks Drive). In addition to single paddle passes, they also sell a 10-visit pass. To make a reservation, call (262) 728-6397.

The Williams Bay Recreation Department offers kayak rentals at their lakefront office next to the Williams Bay boat launch. Individuals looking to rent kayaks should call the office at (262) 686-8001 or email rentals@williamsbay.org to ensure availability.

Fontana Paddle Company (454 Lake St.,) sells many types of kayaks and kayaking accessories, as well as paddleboards. For more information, call (262) 275-5708 or visit their website at fontanapaddleco.com.

SAFETY TIPS

Taking the necessary safety precautions before embarking on your kayaking adventure is vital to ensure the experience stays fun and safe.

Wear a Coast Guard-approved life jacket. Wisconsin law states that



VICTORIA MCHUGH PHOTOGRAPHY

all vessels, including canoes, kayaks and paddleboards, must have at least one USCG-approved wearable life jacket for every person on board. If you capsize or get into trouble while kayaking, wearing a life jacket can save your life.

Go with a group. As with many water sports, it's safest to enjoy the experience with others. Even when going out with a group, tell somebody on land where you are going and how long you plan to be out.

Pack accordingly. In addition to a life jacket, other smart items to bring include: a fully charged phone, sunscreen, sunglasses, bottled water, snacks, a bilge pump and a whistle. Store all of your belongings in a "dry bag," a waterproof bag designed for water activities. They can be purchased at sporting goods stores.

Ask questions. Individuals who work



at kayak rental spots or stores that sell kayaks are often very knowledgeable about kayaking and can answer any questions, from the most basic to the more specialized. Don't be afraid to ask!

WHERE TO GO

There are many locations in the area that will expose kayakers to the area's beautiful natural environment. Those with their own kayaks can access these spots from public boat launches. Launch fees may apply.

Geneva Lake is a large, 5,401-acre lake with six boat launches around its perimeter. Kayaks can be launched from two launches in Linn, two in Lake Geneva, and one each in Fontana and Williams Bay. Due to high boat traffic and wake on Geneva Lake, it's best to stick close to shore and kayak early in the day.

Lake Como is a small, 955-acre lake, and it can be accessed at boat landings off Lakeshore Drive or the

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end of Schofield Road. This lake tends to be calmer and makes for great kayaking.

Delavan Lake is a 1,906-acre lake that can be accessed from four boat launches. High boat traffic levels, particularly on the weekends, make this a more challenging lake for kayaking.

Lake Comus is a tiny, 131-acre lake located in Delavan. One boat launch is located slightly south of Franklin Street and North Terrace Street. This is a good option for beginners.

Lulu Lake is a tiny, 95-acre lake located in northern Walworth County. It can be accessed from the public boat launch on Eagle Springs Lake, located on Wambold Road. A channel from Eagle Springs Lake brings kayakers to Lulu Lake, which is surrounded primarily by a nature preserve, making for great plant and wildlife viewing. The Mukwonago River, which also features fascinating plants and wildlife, can be accessed from Lulu Lake.

Lauderdale Lakes is a chain of three lakes located north of Elkhorn. Together, Green, Middle and Mill Lakes offer 807 total acres. Boats can be launched from four launch points in the chain. These are popular boating and waterskiing lakes, so kayakers should take caution.

GUIDED PADDLES

Kayaking is safest and most fun when enjoyed with a group. The Big Foot Kayak Club, which operates through the Big Foot Recreation District, offers two-hour-long group paddles from April through October. The group visits lakes, streams and rivers around Walworth County. Afterward, everyone goes out for a bite to eat. It costs \$20 to partake in the paddle, and advance registration is required. Kayaks are available to rent for an additional \$20. Visit bigfootrecreation.org/Pages/SocialPaddleClub for more information and to sign up for a paddle. 🐾



Choosing the right kayak for your interest and ability level is an important part of the process. For personalized kayak guidance, it's best to consult a store or rental counter salesperson. Some of the options include:

- **Inflatable kayaks:** Usually made from PVC and require the kayaker to inflate the kayak to use it. There's a risk of puncture if kayaking in shallow water or in river rapids.
- **Hard shell kayaks:** Sturdy and usually made of materials such as plastic or fiberglass.
- **Sit-on-top kayaks:** The kayaker sits on top of the kayak. These are stable and easy to return to if you capsize. Also good for those who are looking to swim off of the kayak.
- **Sit-inside kayaks:** The kayaker sits inside the kayak with their legs entirely covered. These can keep you warmer and drier than a sit-on-top kayak. However, if you were to capsize, a sit-inside kayak can be challenging to get back into.
- **Single kayaks:** Designed for one person.
- **Double kayaks, or tandem kayaks:** Designed for two people, one in front of the other.





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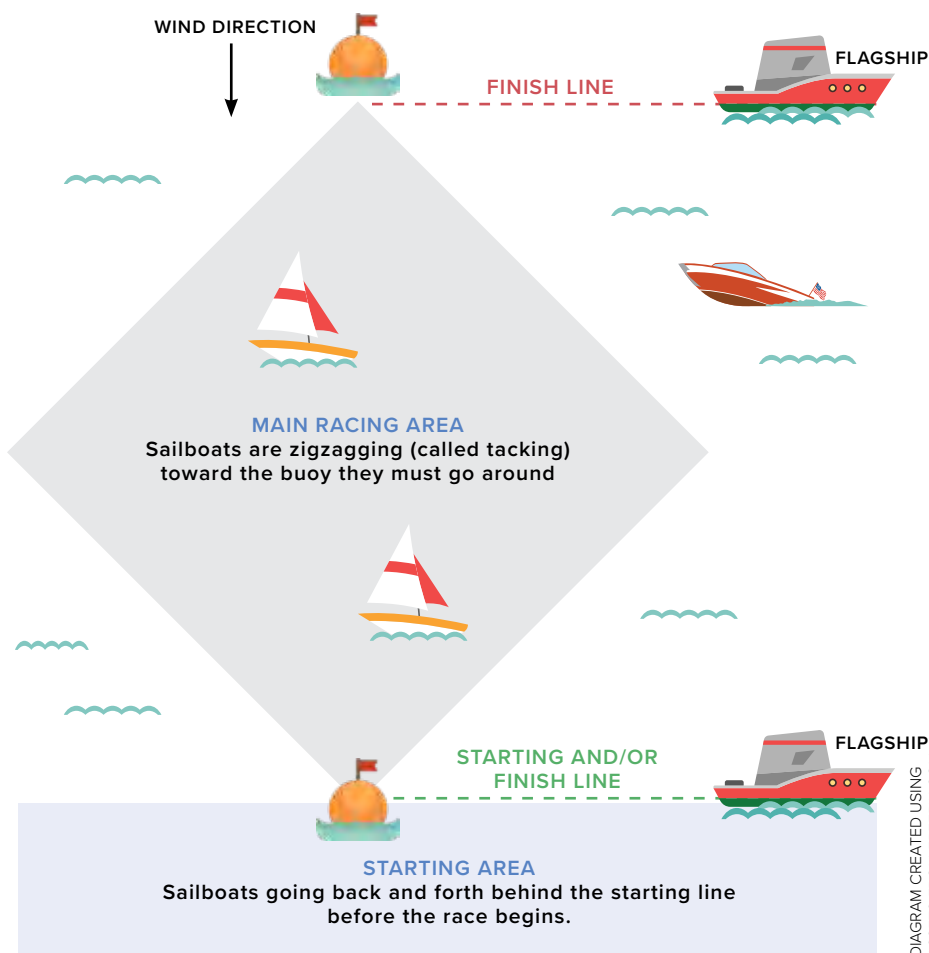
How to get the most out of spectating a sailboat race while respecting the sailors' space

BY ANNE MORRISSY
PHOTOS BY HOLLY LEITNER

If you've spent any time on a boat on Geneva Lake, you've probably seen the majestic white sails of the racing boats from the Lake Geneva Yacht Club (LGYC). One of the most competitive sailboat racing clubs in the country, the LGYC runs races most evenings of the week, as well as Saturday and Sunday mornings, from Memorial Day through mid-September. No two race courses are ever the same — they are determined by the race officials each day, and depend on the direction and strength of the wind. However, for those interested in spectating the races from a powerboat, here are some general guidelines:

- Typical race courses involve the sailboats crossing an imaginary starting line and heading toward

TYPICAL COURSE Sailboats racing between two buoys





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an orange or yellow buoy, known as a mark. When they reach the mark, they make a half-circle around it, being careful not to make contact with the buoy (this incurs a penalty). They then head back toward a second mark in the general area of the starting line. A full race can consist of between 1 to 3½ laps around the course, before the boats finish by crossing an imaginary finish line.

- Because they rely on wind power, sailboats cannot sail in a direct line between the starting line, the marks and the finish line. Instead, they have to plot a zigzag path between all of them, in order to maximize the wind in their sails. This creates a roughly diamond-shaped racecourse. To be respectful of the sailboats, powerboats should try to remain outside of this diamond shape.

- Remember that sailboats don't have brakes and they don't have gas pedals. They cannot easily stop or speed up: instead, they must travel at a steady pace that is determined by the wind. As a result, sailboats always have right-of-way over powerboats. If you see a sailboat headed toward your powerboat, you should maneuver out of their way.
- The kind of sailboats that are raced on Geneva Lake are called scows, unique for their flat-bottomed hulls. Because of this, they are greatly affected by large waves and wake. To show respect for the sailboats, it's best to maintain a slow-no-wake speed within at least 100 yards of the race course. (For reference, 100 yards is roughly half the distance between the shore and a slow-no-wake buoy.)



- To know when the race is coming to an end and the boats are crossing the finish line, look for a blue flag flying from the LGYC's committee boat (called the "Flagship"). You can also listen for air horn blasts from the Flagship, which indicate the first three boats to cross the finish line in each class. When the race is over, the boats may return to the starting line to set up for a second race, or they may head en masse to the LGYC pier. During this time, powerboats should steer wide around them if possible. 🚤



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Bounce It!

Pickleball's sudden popularity has taken the Geneva Lake area by storm

BY NAT WEXLER | PHOTOS BY HOLLY LEITNER

It's not quite tennis, it's not quite ping pong, it's not quite badminton — pickleball is best described as a clever blend of the three. And in the past several years, this sport, friendly to hobbyists and committed athletes alike, has swept the nation. Tennis courts that had fallen into disuse have suddenly received new life with the addition of painted pickleball court lines. Nationally, experts estimate that more than 5 million people now play the sport, a number that has doubled in about five years. And pickleball's popularity shows no sign of slowing down.

Although it may seem like pickleball fascinated the country nearly overnight, the sport has been around since 1965. It was invented by two dads on Bainbridge Island in Washington state, to entertain their families. There are a few different theories about how the game got its name. The first theory claims that one of the families that invented pickleball named the sport after their dog, Pickles. Another says the game got its name from "pickle boat," a rowing term used to describe a hodgepodge team of oarsmen left over from other boats. Regardless of the origin of the funny name, today, pickleball has become one of the fastest-growing sports in the United States.

One reason pickleball gained popularity during the pandemic is because of the size of the court. Pickleball courts are roughly one-fourth the size of a standard tennis court. During COVID restrictions, this allowed players to stay physically distanced while still socializing; due to the court size, it is much easier to carry on a conversation on a pickleball court than on a tennis court. Pickleball can even be played in a driveway, due to the court's compact size. Additionally, the sport is accessible to people of all ages, including many who enjoyed tennis when they were younger but find it too taxing now. Then there's the low bar for entry: for beginners, the game can easily be learned in about an hour.

Following these national trends, pickleball has seen a surge of interest in the Geneva Lake area. Here's everything you need to know to get out on a local pickleball court:

NECESSARY EQUIPMENT

Pickleball equipment can usually be purchased at any store that sells sporting goods. Some facilities will also have balls and paddles available for rent. To play pickleball, an individual will need the following:

- **Paddle.** A pickleball paddle is a smooth rectangle with a handle at



HOW TO PLAY

There are a lot of similarities between tennis and pickleball when it comes to the rules of the game. Like tennis, pickleball can be played either singles or doubles. To start the game, a player serves the ball underhand from their own baseline to the box on their opponent's side, diagonal from them. If the ball bounces twice on a player's side, the other side gets the point. The area of the court closest to either side of the net is known as "the kitchen," and players cannot volley from this area. Games are typically played to 11 points, however, a game needs to be won by 2 points. Unlike tennis, pickleball is not a sport of strength — many beginners make the mistake of hitting the ball as hard as possible.



the end. It is reminiscent of both a tennis racket and a table tennis paddle.

- **Net.** A pickleball net is roughly three feet tall and is placed in the center of the court to divide the two sides, similar to a tennis net.
- **Athletic clothing and shoes.** To maximize mobility, it is recommended that players wear clothing and shoes that allow freedom of movement.



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WHERE TO PLAY

Locally, there are several places to play pickleball. Many of the public tennis courts in Lake Geneva and Fontana are striped with pickleball lines: approximately four pickleball courts can fit onto one tennis court. Some of the best places to play pickleball in the area include:

Lake Geneva Tennis (630 Veterans Parkway, Lake Geneva) offers the most robust pickleball program in the area, with various opportunities for people of all ages to engage with the sport. LGT offers private lessons for individuals or groups, open play, courts for rent, skill-building drills and special pickleball events. The center also offers pickleball memberships, which allow a player the most access to the program. Guest passes can be purchased as well. For more information about a pickleball membership and to see the schedule, call (262) 812-0033 or visit lakegenevatennis.com.

The **Big Foot Recreation District** offers a drop-in pickleball league for players of all ability levels aged 16 and older. Depending on the weather, games either take place in the gym at Big Foot High School or on the school's outdoor courts (401 Devils Lane, Walworth). Players can bring their own paddles or can borrow one. Residents must have a Big Foot Fitness Center ID to participate; non-residents will need a "Pickleball Only" ID. Check the website bigfootrecreation.org/pages/ActivitiesCalendar for specific days and times.

Grand Geneva Resort & Spa in Lake Geneva (7036 Grand Geneva Way, Lake Geneva) offers two outdoor pickleball courts. Paddles and balls are available. The courts are lighted so players can also play during the evening hours. Grand Geneva offers open-play pickleball for players of all skill levels. Reservations must be made in advance. Call the Grand Geneva Fitness Center at (262) 249-4750 to make a reservation or visit their website at grandgeneva.com/fitness/activities. 

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events at the lake



CHICAGO DAY JULY 15

Celebrate Chicago's railway history with a revival of the Chicago, South Shore & South Bend railroad of 90 years ago. National Park rangers will be on hand to explain the history of the South Shore Line. Trains run on the hour from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. East Troy Railroad Depot, 2002 Church St., East Troy; 262-642-3263 or easttroyrr.org.

THE CARS TIME FORGOT CAR SHOW

JULY 9

View over 1,000 classic cars, trucks and custom vehicles at the Lake Lawn airstrip. 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lake Lawn Resort, 2400 E. Geneva St., Delavan; call (262) 728-5095 or email info@delavanwi.org for more info.



LAKE GENEVA JAYCEES VENETIAN FESTIVAL

AUG. 16-20

This five-day festival in downtown Lake Geneva features carnival rides, live music nightly, food vendors, and a lighted boat parade and fireworks display on Sunday night. Flat Iron Park, Lake Geneva; venetianfest.com.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: COURTESY EAST TROY RAILROAD MUSEUM; HOLLY LEITNER, COURTESY OF DELAVAN LAKE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

FARMERS' MARKETS**DELANVAN:**

Market at Tower Park, Thursdays, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. through Aug. 31. Historic Downtown Delavan's newly renovated Tower Park; (262) 728-5095 or visitdelavan.com.

ELKHORN:

Saturdays on the Square, featuring local handmade products, fresh locally grown produce and food vendors. Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. through Sept. 7. Veteran's Park, Elkhorn; elkhornchamber.com.

GENEVA OUTDOOR MARKET:

Farm-fresh produce and handcrafted gifts and crafts. Saturdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. through Oct. 29. 3252 County Road H, Lake Geneva; (262) 215-6139 or genevaoutdoormarket.com.

LAKE GENEVA FARMERS' MARKET:

Local farmers and vendors offer local produce, flowers and goods. Thursdays, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. through Oct. 26. Horticultural Hall; (262) 745-9341 or horticulturalhall.com.

WILLIAMS BAY FARMERS' MARKET:

Fridays, 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. through Sept. 1. Edgewater Park; (262) 475-6333.

MAY 26-27**WILLIAMS BAY COMMUNITY WIDE GARAGE SALE**

8 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days. Pick up a map at the Rec Department's waterfront office near Edgewater Park. Call (262) 686-8001 or visit williamsbay.org/recreation-department.

MAY 26, JULY 28, AUG. 25**PLATES AND PINTS WITH LOCAL BREWERIES**

Enjoy a five-course meal and tasty beer from local breweries in Old World Wisconsin's new Brewhouse. Tickets are \$99 or 10% off for members. 4:30-7 p.m. Old World Wisconsin, Eagle; call 608-264-4848 or email boxoffice@wisconsinhistory.org for tickets.

MAY 27, JUNE 24, AUG. 26**VALLEY OF THE KINGS TOUR**

VOTK in Sharon provides refuge for abused, abandoned or retired lions, tigers, wolves and other animals and is

not normally open to the public. Tours are rain or shine, advanced registration required; call (262) 275-2117 or visit bigfootrecreation.org.

MAY 31**SUMMER KICKOFF BASH**

Kick off your summer at this free event featuring games, an obstacle course, activities, food and live music. 4-6 p.m., Williams Bay Elementary School, 250 Theatre Rd., Williams Bay. Call (262) 686-8001 or visit williamsbay.org/recreation-department.

JUNE 4**34TH ANNUAL MODEL A DAY**

Enjoy antique Model A's, reenactors, a variety of vendors, live music and food available. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Downtown Clinton. Call (262) 745-2863 for more info.

JUNE 6**10TH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING SUPPORTING OPEN ARMS FREE CLINIC**

Participants will choose from two courses of 18-hole golf with a cart, plus receive lunch, a 19th hole reception and VIP access to on-course games. Check-in opens at 8 a.m. or 10 a.m. depending on the course chosen, 5 p.m. cash bar for cocktails and 6 p.m. dinner and awards. Hawk's View Golf Course, 7377 Krueger Rd., Lake Geneva; 262-379-1401 or email events@openarmsfreeclinic.org to register.

JUNE 16, 30, JULY 14, 28, AUG. 11, 25**BIG FOOT RECREATION DEPARTMENT CLASSIC SUMMER MOVIE SCREENINGS**

Admissions is \$1 per person and concessions will be sold. 8:30-10:30 p.m., Fontana Beach, Fontana; call (262) 275-2117 or visit bigfootrecreation.org.

JUNE 17, JULY 15, AUG. 12**BEER BARONS OF LAKE GENEVA**

Enjoy an afternoon cruising Geneva Lake while learning about the history of the beer barons that vacationed and lived along its shores. Beer tastings, snacks and a souvenir brewery memento included. 12:30-4 p.m. Price is \$70 per person. Cruises leave from the Riviera docks, Lake Geneva. Call 262-248-6206 for tickets.

JUNE 17**FATHER'S DAY DINNER TRAIN**

Indulge in a four-course meal on a 2.5-hour train ride. Adults only; paid reservations required. Check-in begins at 5 p.m. and train leaves at 5:30 p.m. East Troy Railroad Depot, 2002 Church St., East Troy; 262-642-3263 or easttroyrr.org.

JUNE 17**LINDA EDER PERFORMS AT MUSIC BY THE LAKE**

7:30 p.m. George Williams College of Aurora University. 350 Constance Blvd., Williams Bay. For tickets, call 262-245-8501 or visit musicbythelake.com.

JUNE 17**MUDDY MANIACS ADVENTURE MUD RUN**

An exciting adventure mud run for kids, a little over one mile long with over 10 obstacles. \$25 until June 1; \$30 after that time. 8:30-11 a.m. Check in at Mill Pond in Delavan; call (262) 728-5585 ext. 8 for tickets.

JUNE 19-JULY 7**LAKELAND PLAYERS LTD. YOUTH THEATER SUMMER WORKSHOP**

Kids ages 8-14 welcome. Cost is \$90 for the first student, \$50 for a sibling. 9 a.m. to noon with performances to follow on July 7-8 at 7 p.m. and July 9 at 3 p.m. Sprague Theater, 15 W. Walworth St., Elkhorn. To register, visit lakeland-players.org.

JUNE 22, JULY 20, AUG. 17**SPECTRUMS OF BEER TASTING**

Enjoy a small-group beer tasting on the veranda of this 19th century Victorian home. Price is \$50 per person. 6-8 p.m.; Black Point Estate, W4270 Southland Rd., Lake Geneva; Call (262) 248-6206 for tickets.

JUNE 23, JULY 21, AUG. 18**PARANORMAL PARLOR GAMES FEATURING JOE DIAMOND**

Explore the mysterious side of Black Point Estate and Gardens after dark. Enjoy a complimentary glass of wine and explore the first floor of the estate with Joe Diamond, television host and "America's Greatest Mind Reader." 7-9 p.m., Black Point Estate, W4270 Southland Rd., Lake Geneva; Call (262) 248-6206 for tickets.

Music BY THE LAKE

GEORGE WILLIAMS COLLEGE OF AURORA UNIVERSITY

2023 SEASON EVENTS



Saturday, June 17
7:30 p.m.
Linda Eder

Showcasing one of the greatest voices of our time, **Linda Eder's** diverse repertoire spans Broadway, standards, pop, country, and jazz. When she performs live in concert, it is amazing to experience the ease with which she moves back and forth from one genre to another.



Sunday, June 25
4 p.m.
Justin Roberts & the Not Ready for Naptime Players

Five-time Grammy nominee **Justin Roberts** is one of the founders of the modern family music scene. For 25 years, Roberts has been creating the soundtrack to families' lives, helping kids navigate the joys and sorrows of growing up, while inspiring parents to remember their own childhoods.



Saturday, July 8
7:30 p.m.
Martina McBride

Multiple Grammy nominee **Martina McBride** has sold over 23 million albums to date, which includes 20 Top 10 singles and six #1 hits. She has earned more than 15 major music awards, including four wins for Female Vocalist of the Year from the Country Music Association.



Sunday, July 16
4 p.m.
Lake Geneva Symphony Orchestra

Travel with the **Lake Geneva Symphony Orchestra** this summer and visit places across the country through music! Experience Chicago from the musical and Sinatra's New York, New York. Come along for this amazing adventure!



Saturday, July 22
7:30 p.m.
The Guess Who

Legendary Canadian band **The Guess Who** enjoyed chart-topping hits in the late 1960s and early 1970s with an impressive catalogue of songs, including "American Woman," "These Eyes," and "No Time." The band has released 11 studio albums, and charted 14 Top 40 hit singles.



Saturday, July 29
7:30 p.m.
BritBeat

Take a trip back in time with a fantastic voyage through the days of Beatlemania with **BritBeat's** multimedia concert journey through Beatles music history. See why this nationally acclaimed Beatles show is captivating audiences and generating rave reviews from critics.

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Music by the Lake is presented by George Williams College of Aurora University on its Geneva Lake campus, just seven miles from downtown Lake Geneva in Williams Bay, Wisconsin.



Vendors offer locally grown produce at the Williams Bay Farmers' Market.

JUNE 24

AN EVENING WITH AGATHA CHRISTIE

Local historian Chris Brookes brings the best-selling author of all time, Agatha Christie, back to life for an intimate evening of mystery and conversation. Includes a complimentary glass of wine. 6-7:30 p.m. Black Point Estate & Gardens,

W4270 Southland Rd., Lake Geneva; call 262-248-1888 for tickets.

JUNE 24

HUNTER'S FOURTH ANNUAL GOLF OUTING TO BENEFIT LAKELAND SCHOOL

Cost to participate is \$100 per golfer and includes 18 holes of golf and cart, a free golf towel, two drink tickets, plus breakfast and dinner. Delbrook Golf Course, 700 S. 2nd St., Delavan; visit df4cg.org/events to register.

JUNE 24

OUTLAW MUSIC FESTIVAL FEATURING WILLIE NELSON, ROBERT PLANT & ALISON KRAUSS, TRAMPLED BY TURTLES AND MORE

Alpine Valley Music Theatre, East Troy; 262-642-4400 or alpinevalleymusictheatre.org for tickets.

JUNE 24

RAILFAN DAY

Enjoy a fun and informative day at the

East Troy Railroad Museum. All operating equipment will be out and on display, and a different train runs every hour. First ride departs at 10 a.m.; last train departs at 3 p.m. Also enjoy face painting, model railroad displays, free popcorn, ham radio demonstrations and more. East Troy Railroad Depot, 2002 Church St., East Troy; 262-642-3263 or easttroyrr.org.

JUNE 25

ELKHORN ANTIQUE FLEA MARKET

Over 500 dealers both inside and outside plus food vendors. Free parking, \$5 admission. Opens at 7 a.m., Walworth County Fairgrounds, 411 E. Court St., Elkhorn; elkhornantiquefleamarket.com.

JUNE 25

JUSTIN ROBERTS AND THE NOT READY FOR NAPTIME PLAYERS PERFORM AT MUSIC BY THE LAKE

4 p.m. George Williams College of Aurora University, 350 Constance Blvd., Williams Bay. For tickets, call 262-245-8501 or visit musicbythelake.com.

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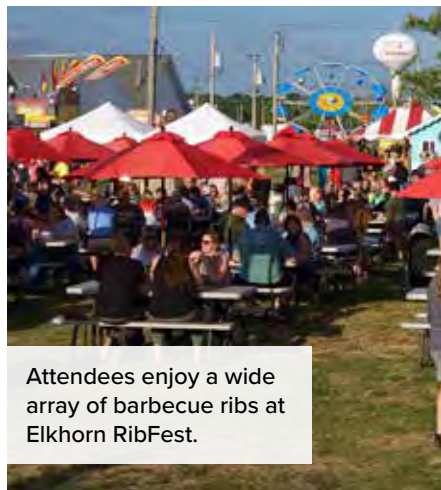
Children can get a hands-on experience of the historic estate, including photography, craft and painting workshops as well as a tour and artist reception. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Black Point Estate & Gardens, W4270 Southland Rd., Lake Geneva; call 262-248-1888 for registration.

JUNE 30
FOURTH OF JULY FIREWORKS
 9:30 p.m. Sunset Park, Elkhorn.

JUNE 30, JULY 14, AUG. 4
ALDEN HILLS KIDS FARM CLASSES
 Kids ages 3-8 can get outside and experience the many sides of farming and discover where our food comes from at Alden Hills Organic Farms in Walworth. Morning and afternoon sessions available. Visit aldenhillsorganicfarms.com to register.

JULY 1
INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION
 Fireworks at dusk. Community Park, 1220 South Shore Dr., Delavan. 262-728-3471 or townofdelavan.com.

JULY 1
KISHWAUKETOE 5K RUN/WALK
 Check-in begins at 7:30 a.m. Event takes place from 8:30-10:30 a.m. Cost is \$15 per adult to register prior to June 11th or \$30 after that. Kids' registration is \$15. Registration is online only at runsignup.com/Race/WI/WilliamsBay/Kishwauketoe5KCrossCountryRun; Kishwauketoe Nature Conservancy, Williams Bay.



Attendees enjoy a wide array of barbecue ribs at Elkhorn RibFest.

JULY 2
INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION
AND BEACH PARTY
 Enjoy a buffet-style feast, lawn games and live entertainment on the shore of Delavan Lake. 4-7 p.m. Lake Lawn Resort, 2400 E. Geneva St., Delavan; 262-728-7950 or lakelawnresort.com/events.

JULY 4
FOURTH OF JULY FIREWORKS
 Dusk. Fontana Beach, Fontana.

JULY 7-9
"WILLY WONKA, JR."
 Performed by the students in the Lakeland Players Ltd. Youth Theater Workshop. 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 3 p.m. Sunday. Sprague Theater, 15 W. Walworth St., Elkhorn. For tickets, visit lakeland-players.org.

JULY 8
MARTINA MCBRIDE PERFORMS AT
MUSIC BY THE LAKE
 7:30 p.m. George Williams College of Aurora University, 350 Constance Blvd., Williams Bay. For tickets, call 262-245-8501 or visit musicbythelake.com.

JULY 12-16
ELKHORN RIBFEST
 The National Rib Competition returns to the Walworth County Fairgrounds. Sample a wide array of barbecue offerings and enjoy great entertainment, carnival rides and an artisan village. Walworth County Fairgrounds, 411 E. Court St., Elkhorn; 262-723-3228 or wisconsinribfest.com.

JULY 13-23
"BIG FISH"
 The Haylofters present the stage adaptation of the beloved movie. Thursdays through Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. Malt House Theater, Burlington. (262) 763-9873 or thehaylofters.com.

JULY 15
STARS & STRIPES DINNER TRAIN
 Indulge in a four-course meal on a 2.5-hour train ride. Adults only; paid reservations required. Check-in begins at 5 p.m. and train leaves at 5:30 p.m. East Troy Railroad Depot, 2002 Church St., East Troy; 262-642-3263 or easttroyrr.org.

JULY 17
LAKE GENEVA SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA PERFORMS AT
MUSIC BY THE LAKE
 4 p.m. George Williams College of Aurora University, 350 Constance Blvd., Williams Bay. For tickets, call 262-245-8501 or visit musicbythelake.com.

JULY 20-23
COUNTRY THUNDER FESTIVAL
 This four-day country music festival brings some of the top country music talent in the country to Twin Lakes, including Jason Aldean, Keith Urban, Cody Johnson and Jon Pardi. Camping and multi-day passes available. 2305 Lance Dr., Twin Lakes; visit countrythunder.com.

JULY 22
THE GUESS WHO PERFORMS AT
MUSIC BY THE LAKE
 7:30 p.m. George Williams College of Aurora University, 350 Constance Blvd., Williams Bay. For tickets, call 262-245-8501 or visit musicbythelake.com.

JULY 22-24
FOR LIBERTY & UNION:
A CIVIL WAR LIVING HISTORY
EXPERIENCE
 Civil War re-enactment: enter the re-created civil war camp of a company of Wisconsin Polish immigrants. Old World Wisconsin, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Old World Wisconsin, Eagle; call 608-264-4848 or visit oldworldwisconsin.wisconsinhistory.org.

JULY 29
BIG FOOT LIONS CLUB LOBSTER
BOIL & STEAK FRY
 Enjoy fresh lobster and steak at this beloved annual festival featuring live music. Advance orders required to guarantee a lobster dinner. Reid Park, Fontana; visit bigfootlionsclub.org.

JULY 29
BRITBEAT PERFORMS AT MUSIC BY
THE LAKE
 Beatles tribute band; 7:30 p.m. George Williams College of Aurora University, 350 Constance Blvd., Williams Bay. For tickets, call 262-245-8501 or visit musicbythelake.com.

JULY 29

ELKHORN TRUCK & SHUCK

Celebrate Elkhorn's Corn & Brat days as it transforms into a Saturday-only food truck event, including a fleet of food trucks, live music and craft vendors. 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Veterans Park, Elkhorn; 262-723-5788 or elkhornchamber.com.

JULY 29-30

WILLIAMS BAY FINE ART & CRAFT FEST

Juried show featuring artists from Wisconsin and Illinois. Edgewater Park, Williams Bay; visit wbcaa.net.

AUG. 4-6

DAS FEST USA

Enjoy three days of German beer, food, shops and 17 bands across 3 stages of entertainment. Stein hoisting competitions, dachshund and corgi races, Bingo, the Original Live Glockenspiel, 5K run, carnival and more. Free admission; Walworth County Fairgrounds, 411 E. Court St., Elkhorn; 262-675-3335 or dasfestusa.com.

AUG. 5

GENEVA LAKE WEST ROTARY CLUB CORN AND BRATWURST FESTIVAL

Featuring live entertainment, corn and brat meals and a drive-thru option. Devil's Lane Park, Walworth.

AUG. 11-13

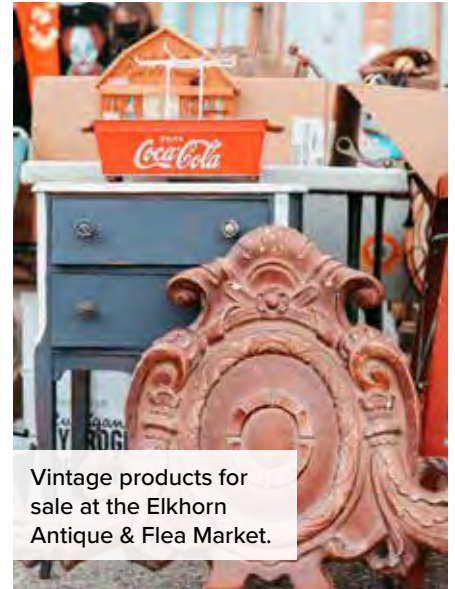
WILLIAMS BAY LIONS CLUB CORN & BRAT FESTIVAL

Enjoy delicious brats, fresh-roasted corn and a bake sale, as well as live music on Friday and Saturday night, and fireworks on Saturday. Edgewater Park, Williams Bay.

AUG. 12-13

ART IN THE PARK

Juried fine art show featuring more than 80 artists, sponsored by the Geneva Lake Arts Foundation. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. Flat Iron Park, Lake Geneva. Visit genevalakeartsfoundation.org/art-in-the-park.



AUGUST 13

ELKHORN ANTIQUE FLEA MARKET

Over 500 dealers both inside and outside. Free parking, \$5 admission. Opens at 7 a.m., Walworth County Fairgrounds, 411 E. Court St., Elkhorn; elkhornantiquefleamarket.com.

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AUG. 15

ANNUAL PIG ROAST TO BENEFIT WALWORTH COUNTY SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Enjoy a pig roast dinner while participating in an upscale raffle and drawing, with all proceeds supporting the nonprofit organization. 4:30-8:30 p.m., Champs Sports Bar & Grill, 747 W. Main St., Lake Geneva. For tickets or more information, call Betty Aguirre at (262) 248-3034.

AUG. 25-27

MAXWELL STREET DAYS

Enjoy sidewalk sales and special in-store shopping experiences during Lake Geneva's annual Maxwell Street Days celebration. Throughout downtown Lake Geneva.

AUG. 26

WEDDED BLISS: HISTORIC WEDDINGS ON GENEVA LAKE

Enjoy a program that focuses on historic weddings that took place on Geneva Lake during the 19th and 20th century, with a focus on Black Point weddings. Includes panel exhibit, self-guided tour of the first floor and a presentation on the veranda. 6-8 p.m. Black Point Estate & Gardens, W4270 Southland Rd., Lake Geneva; call 262-248-1888 for tickets.

While we do our best to ensure a comprehensive, accurate listing of events, we recommend that you contact each event host ahead of time. If you'd like to include an event in our upcoming calendar, please email anne@ntmediagroup.com or submit it via our website: atthelakemagazine.com/submit-an-event. Submission deadline for the autumn issue is July 1. 🦋

**Scan this QR code with your
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more summer events in the
Geneva Lake area.**



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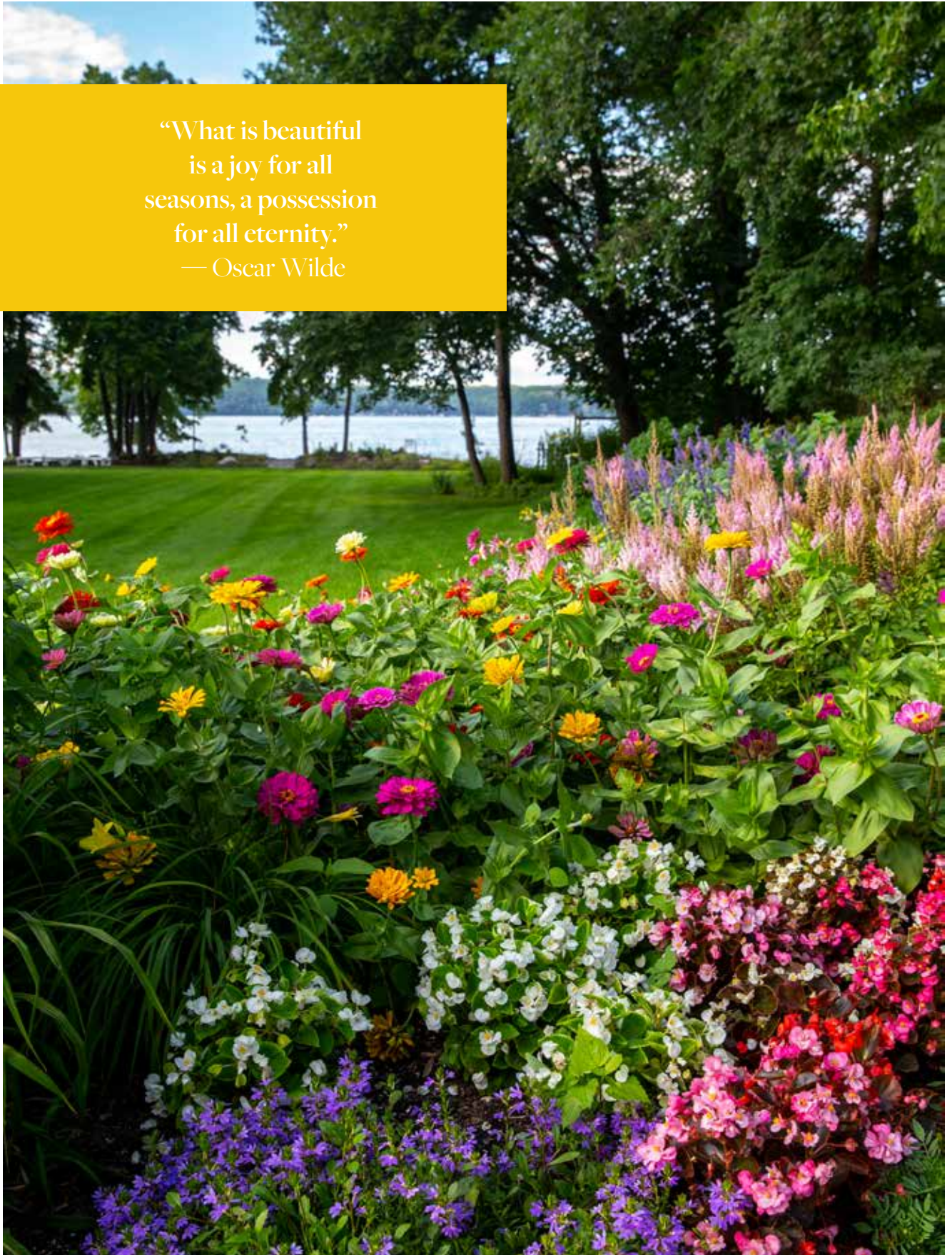
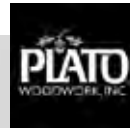


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