THOMPSON'S LAKE

IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

February 2019 Founded 1956 #19-1

Jim Dobiel, Pres., Cathy Newell, V. Pres., Paul Axel-Lute, Treas., George Christian, Sec.
Geri Callahan, Ray Hand, Directors
Website: http://thomplakeassoc.wixsite.com/thompsons-lake

Blowing snow late in the afternoon of January 6 obscures an indentified ice boat captain.

In this issue: More Camp History (Bill & Gail Callahan), SkyWatch (Defending Earth from Invaders beyond Mars), Winter Fun, 100 Years Ago (Spend Valentine's Day at Tractor School), Park fishing contest, more Lake photos.

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Winter Fun

Nature Center
Feb. 23, 10 a.m. **Learn about Bald Eagles.** Brief indoor presentation, followed by a short trail walk to view the nest. Appropriate for adults and children ages 5 and up. Call 518-872-0800 to register.
Feb. 23, 2 p.m. **Early Watercraft in the Northeast.** Presented by Archaeologist Dr. Daria Merwin.
Feb. 24, 10 a.m. **Snowshoe Walk.** If no snow, a winter hike. Snowshoes are available to rent. Call 518 872-0800 to register and to reserve snowshoes.
Podcast - John Kilroy, President of the Friends of Thacher Park talks to Melissa Hale-Spencer, Editor of the Altamont Enterprise about the Park and the Friends group. Go to: http://www.friendsofthacherpark.org/altamont-enterprise-podcast-john-kilroy /

Huyck Preserve

March 2, 2:30 -4:30, A**rchitecture of Trees Hike**
March 9, 5:30 - 7:30, **Owl Prowl**
See rescued owls, then outdoor search.
March 16, 11:00 - 1:00 (indoor/outdoor)
Hemlocks and the Invasive Woolly Adelgid

Suggested donation: $5 for non-members, members and under -12 free. Register at *https://www.huyckpreserve.org/coming-programs1.html*

One Hundred Years Ago

Taxes are due on March 15. The threshold is $1000 of net income if single, $2000 if married, and there is a $200 exemption for dependents under age 18. The Internal Revenue Bureau warns of "fake experts" on income tax "who offer magic wands of Income Tax Wisdom, but "very few" are "anywhere near the expert class." The Bureau will offer free advice.

The Armistice to end fighting in Europe was signed last November 11, but not all of our troops are home. Corporal Wilsey is serving in the army of occupation and is in Germany via Belgium and Luxemburg. The people are very friendly, and having a bath and clean clothes after the journey was a "great treat."

Valentine's Month offers social gatherings. The South Berne report lists a dance at C.L. Onderdonk's Hall. In Berne, the Lady's Aid Society of the Lutheran Church will host a supper and masquerade for 30 cents. Homemade candy and popcorn will be on sale, a patriotic program is planned and those without a mask will be fined 5 cents. The West Berne church will present a drama and the Loyal Daughters of the Knox Church presents "A Slight Misunderstanding" with ice cream and cake afterward. C. J. Hurst and Sons in Guilderland Center offers a unique Valentine's Day event - learn about tractors from an expert at a free Tractor School.

Some will not be at social gatherings. At Lake Myosotis, Miss Pearl Becker has been very ill with "scarlatina fever" [scarlet fever, Ed.] but is now feeling better. In Berne, many residents have been suffering with the grippe [influenza, Ed.] Reidsville has a resident recovering from Spanish Influenza. The Lake reporter says the Alfred Brunck family left for Old Forge in hopes that a change in climate would improve Mrs.

Brunk's unspecified illness and on a positive note, three students at the District 13 school had perfect attendance in January.

February is an ice harvesting month, and the Lake reporter says customers in Altamont are filling their houses. Harvesting reports also come from East Berne and Lake Myosotis. [See the article on local ice harvesting in the Enterprise, 1-24-09, pp .6-7, Ed.]

And back at the Lake, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Zimmer attended the Albany Auto Show where the "Briscoe" is available for only $885.

Skywatch

Orbiting earth-made litter, large and tiny, and moving at thousands of miles an hour poses a collision threat to satellites and the International Space Station. Millions of asteroids left over from formation of the Solar System about 4.5 billion years ago are grouped beyond Mars in an Asteroid Belt and orbiting the Sun. And there are large numbers of comets - icy balls of rock fragments and dust far beyond, in the Oort Cloud. Both can leave 'home' due to gravitational interactions with each other and planets and random collisions to end up in a new orbit that puts them closer to Earth as Near Earth Objects (NEO.) NEOs are being regularly discovered by telescopes and number about 20,000 so far. If the calculated orbit puts a part of an NEO's orbit within about 4.5 million miles of Earth's orbit and it's about 450 feet in diameter - so it can strike Earth with very severe effects, instead of burning up in the atmosphere - it's categorized as a PHO - Potentially Hazardous Object. There have been about 5,000 found so far. The highest risk of impact for a known asteroid is a 1 in 714 chance of impact by an asteroid designated 2009 FD - in 2185.

NEOs and PHOs are catalogued in NASA's Planetary Defense Office which coordinates with the United Nations and other groups around the world. Although the risk of collision by known large objects is very low, such a collision millions of years ago caused a mass extinction on Earth that included the dinosaurs.

The defenses to catastrophic collision would be either kinetic (striking the object with a projectile years before it would arrive at Earth and in time for a small deflection of its speed and path so it passes by harmlessly), or by gravity traction - launching a mass from Earth and placing it near the NEO where the gravitational interaction will minutely alter its velocity (speed and direction) over a period of many years. A change of less than one inch per second can do the trick if action is taken far enough in advance. Shooting it down near Earth isn't thought possible, given an NEO's average speed of 12 miles per second. Asteroid-NEOs are the source of most random meteors you might see on any night. Annual meteors showers are compliments of comet debris left within Earth's orbit during the comet's elliptical orbit around the sun.

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More Camp History

Bill and Gail Callahan, southwest side.

The Callahan property was previously occupied by Harry Vogel (ca. 1880 - 1975). Callahan Lane was then called Whish's Lane, which was used to access the Blabey property. Harry commemorated the 1918 Armistice, which ended the fighting in World War One, by planting a pine tree on November 11. It survives today, still growing alongside Thompson's Lake Road where the Callahan home is now. Harry's two-story home was replaced by them in 1975 after they purchased the property from his estate. Bill got to know Harry through his grandfather, who began renting what is now the John & Georgia Callahan property in 1917 or 1918 and then bought it in 1923. Other members of the Callahan family liked the area and purchased properties in the 30's and 40's to make five camps informally known as "Callahan Corner." Many a meal up to the mid-1920's was made from food purchased in Altamont by after Lake residents arrived by train from Albany and then took a stage or buckboard up the hill and past the Brunck Farm, opposite Barber Lane, sold eggs, ice, vegetables, chicken, and more. From boarding the train to stocking the pantry was an all-day affair. Fish of course, came from the Lake. Some things don't change.

Interested in being on the Board of Directors? Visit our website, listed on the mast head, and read about what we do. Contact Jim Dobiel if you have questions. <jdobieltlia@gmail.com>

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Second place youth perch. 12 1/2".

1m Like Reply Message

Park Fishing Contest February 11, 6 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Adult 1st place	Youth 1st place
Trout -17 5/8"	Trout -13 1/4"
Pickerel - 23"	Pickerel - 18"
Perch - 12 7/8"	Perch – 12 ½" *

* Conflict with caption on Facebook page is unresolved.

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January 6, 2019