

# Schaefer Lake Newsletter

September 2019



Aerial photo of Schaefer Lake (Don Hewitt photo)

## Schaefer Lake's 60-year history

When Schaefer Lake was built 60 years ago, lake developer Albert Schaefer's intention was to give his oldest daughter Sandra a place to water ski.

The lowland property – purchased from three other local farmers – was just a “creek with willow trees and snakes,” said Bob Gilliland, 85, Schaefer's son-in-law, who married Sandra in 1955 and was one of the bulldozer drivers who helped shape the lake basin starting in 1958.

Albert's lake-creation idea sprung from a family visit to Minnesota, where they vacationed with Joe Dudding, a Hope doctor, and his family. It was during that early 1950s family vacation when Nancy Dudding, the doctor's daughter, taught teen-age Sandra how to water ski.

“Dad said he was going to go home and build me a lake to ski on,” said Sandra Gilliland, now 82, who was in high school at the time.

Schaefer property east and west of the planned lake had small lakes on them, but none of them were big enough to provide recreational opportunities.

So Albert bought up property between his small-lake sites, including land that was part of the Whittington and Stafford farms.



Sandra and Bob Gilliland have been living at their Schaefer Lake home for 58 of their 64 years of marriage. (Tom Jekel photos)

“My dad had a thing for lakes,” Sandra said.

“Dad never intended for any homes to be built. It (Schaefer Lake) was just intended for recreation,” she said.

But as word spread about the new lake, a number of boat owners – many of them from Shelbyville -- inquired about using the lake for recreation.

“There were so many of them that he started charging (to use the lake),” Sandra said.

Inquiries followed about purchasing lake frontage for residences.

When the lake building project began, one home was already there. The large, white two-story house at the corner of Hartsville Pike (County Road 500 North) and what’s now Lakeshore Drive South, had been built 50 years earlier. It succumbed to the 2008 flood.

But the first new home to be built on Schaefer Lake was directly across the lake – on property purchased by Ernest and Culla Gilliland of Hartsville, Bob Gilliland’s parents.



The home, located at 7431 N. County Road 825 East and later sold to J.T. and Norma Ruth Compton, was the first of three new lake houses to be constructed in 1960. Its third owners, Coy Morrow and Maria Carr, just took ownership Aug. 30.

The first new home on Schaefer Lake was built in 1960 for Ernest and Culla Gilliland at 7431 N. County Road 825 East. It is now owned by Coy Morrow and Maria Carr.



The second and third new homes on Schaefer Lake were built in 1960 for Georgia and Robert Pitman (left) and Charles and Glenna Whittington. They are now owned, respectively, by Lucas and Tara Manley, and Rick and Vicki Gardner.

The second new home on the lake – on the east shore, near what was to become the public beach -- was built by a second Schaefer daughter, Georgia, and her husband, Robert Pitman. That home, at 15672 E. Lakeshore Drive South, is currently owned by Lucas and Tara Manley.

The last house to be built in the inaugural year of 1960 was at 15281 E. Lakeshore Drive North, by Charles and Glenna Whittington. It has been owned since December 2016 by Rick and Vicki Gardner.

In all, five houses were built during the first two years of residential development.



The fourth new home built on the lake was by John V. Cook at 7631 N. County Road 825 East. That home remains in the Cook family, owned by Jim and Lynne Cook since 1994, after the death of Jim's father.

A member of the Cook family has lived in this house on County Road 825E since 1961.

And the fifth new lake home was planned by Bob and Sandra Gilliland – the oldest Schaefer daughter -- at 15641 E. Lakeshore Drive North.

The younger Gillilands, who have lived there since December 1961, have resided on the lake longer than anyone else – for 58 of their 64 years of marriage.

The Lot 57 setting gives the couple of view of the entire 100-acre lake, from the dam on County Road 500 North to the bridge at County Road 900 East.

When their house was built, Lakeshore Drive North ended at the Gillilands' driveway – although some motorists didn't realize that.

“I don't remember how many people I pulled out,” said Bob Gilliland, referring to vehicles that finally stopped in the brush well after the pavement ended.

## Popular beach

The lake's public beach, located between Georgia Pitman's original home and the turn-of-the-century farmhouse eventually purchased by Susan Thayer Fye, opened in 1960 with the first new homes.

That stretch of lakefront included a boat ramp, high-dive stand, a raft in the cove between what is now property owned by the Richardson and Keller families, as well as the beach itself and bath houses and parking areas.



Truck load after truck load of sand were deposited to create the beach on the property now owned by Tom and Diane Jekel on Lakeshore Drive South.

Lake resident Jim Cook, then a 17-year-old high school student who was stationed at one of three lifeguard stands along the beach, remembers the beach crowds during the summer of 1968.

During the Fourth of July, Cook recalls the beach, raft and diving board being filled with people.

A young Lynne Cook (then Miller), left, spent the day at Schaefer Lake beach with her late father, Jim (standing at left) and mother, Mary Grace (back to camera) in about 1961.

After all, people could hang out at the beach for 25 cents a day, said Cook, now 68, a 1969 Hauser High School graduate.

Having lived eight years on the lake with his parents, then seven years a few houses down with his wife Vickie until her death of cancer at age 33, and the past 25 with wife Lynne in the home built by his parents, Jim Cook has spent 40 years on the lake.

Cook became attracted to water as a young boy when his family would take vacations at Lake Shafer in Monticello, where Indiana Beach amusement park was located.

## Lake's appeal

Water recreation was available much closer to home when Schaefer Lake (with a slightly different spelling than the lake near the Lafayette area resort) opened a few miles from the Cooks' home in the town of Hope.

Cook swam, fished and enjoyed water skiing on Schaefer Lake until he cracked two vertebrae in a fall, which ended his skiing. Before that accident, Cook taught both of his wives and their four daughters how to slalom ski on Schaefer Lake. Four grandsons now also enjoy the water on weekend, holiday and summer visits.

In its earlier days, skiing was king and ski boats could be seen



The Schaefer Lake beach was a popular attraction for two decades starting in 1960.

everywhere on the lake, said Cook, who retired in 2017 after 40 years with Cosco/Dorel Juvenile.

Today, pontoons far outnumber the ski boats, and Jim and wife Lynne – who also retired in 2017 after 20 years with a Columbus medical practice and four years at the County Courthouse -- enjoy their frequent leisurely cruises in their own red Bennington pontoon boat.

“As long as we can stay here, we will,” said Cook, who enjoys the lake’s waterfowl and wildlife such as eagles, Great Blue Herons, egrets, ducks and geese – every part of nature aside from the snakes that swim along the shore on sun on lake piers.

### **Undeterred**

While the lake’s recreational opportunities and its wildlife have long been appreciated by its residents, some of the neighbors opposed Albert Schaefer’s idea of creating Schaefer Lake back in the 1950s.

One farmer tried to sabotage the lake by digging a trench, hoping to hit a spring and drain the new waterway, Cook said. Another farmer threatened to kill Schaefer and yet another threatened a lawsuit, daughter Sandra said.

And a few people from Hartsville feared that Hartsville Pike would wash out, with their cars winding up in Duck Creek, at the dam, Bob Gilliland said.

But Albert Schaefer could not be deterred.

“Dad – if he wanted to do something . . .,” Sandra started to say.

“He’d find a way to do it,” said husband Bob, finishing her sentence.



Georgia Schaefer McCarty is pictured at the Schaefer farm homestead, built in the 1840s.

### **Albert’s influence**

Besides farming as much as 1,000 acres from the time he was 16 years old, a responsibility he took on after his father George died, Albert Schaefer also worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture as an inspector, was a director of the Federal Land Bank and was president of the Indiana State County Commissioners, daughter Georgia McCarty said.

The 1931 Hope High School graduate wore many other hats – in leadership roles with the Hope Moravian Church, Hope Lions Club, Indiana Farmers Union and Farm Bureau.

The Democrat served a two-year term as Bartholomew County commissioner, from 1950 to 1952.

“My mother (Helen) hated to dust,” Georgia said, explaining her father’s entry into local politics.

Since the county commissioners were primarily responsible for building and maintaining county roads, that was Albert Schaefer’s motivation to run for office – getting their road paved, she said.

During his term as commissioner, the road in front of the Schaefer homestead -- County Road 800 East -- became paved, Georgia said. And Helen Schaefer’s dusting responsibility decreased significantly.

A mover-and-shaker of his time?

“He was,” said Georgia, 77, who previously owned an insurance agency in Hope and now assists with health benefit enrollment for clients.

While her first home was on the lake, Georgia’s second and third residences – properties within the Schaefer Lake Lot Owners Association – have been across the road from the lake.

She is currently remodeling a two-story family cabin on a small lake. It’s on about five acres west of Lakeshore Drive North, which will become her new residence.

“I’m a farm girl,” she said, preferring a quieter location than being right on the main lake.

Two brothers also lived away from the lake.

Brian lived on the original family homestead – which earned a Hoosier Homestead Farm award for more than 100 years of operation by the same family -- until his death two years ago. That property – the Albert Schaefer home, sitting on about 5 acres – will be put up for sale soon.

The fourth Schaefer sibling, Alvin, operates a 120-acre farm just east of Schaefer Lake.

With fears that upkeep of the lake would become a financial burden for his children, Albert donated the remaining five unsold lake lots – and operational control – of Schaefer Lake to the Lot Owners Association, which serves as steward to Albert Schaefer’s gift to the community.

The association will mark Schaefer Lake’s 60-year history during its annual fall picnic, 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 21 at Lot 90, also known as Schaefer Lake Park.



### **Albert and Helen Schaefer**

Albert Schaefer was born Feb. 9, 1914 in Hope. Helen Lambert Schaefer was born Feb. 20, 1909, also in Hope. They were married Dec. 31, 1935. When Helen was a homemaker, Albert farmed as many as 1,000 acres and worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He belonged to several agriculture organizations and was a director of the Federal Land Bank.

Albert died Nov. 24, 1987 at age 73. Helen died July 28, 1997 at age 88.

Albert and Helen Schaefer in undated photo.

### **Schaefer Lake marking 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary at fall picnic**

Schaeffer Lake residents will mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the lake during the annual fall picnic at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 21 at Lot 90, also known as Schaefer Lake Park. Join your friends and neighbors for a BBQ dinner provided by the Lot Owners Association. Residents are encouraged to bring side dishes to share, their own drinks and lawn chairs. If you have old photos from the lake history, bring them along to show others. Door prizes will be provided for adults and children. The lake was planned in the mid 1950s and constructed in 1959 by the late Albert Schaefer, a Hope farmer, whose children and grandchildren still live on or around the lake. The first new homes were built on the lake in 1960.

## Options for winter boat storage

Boat owners have several options available for winter storage in or near Hope.

The closest is at Duck Creek Gardens, 5073 State Road 9, Hope. Betsy and Howard Downey started storing a few boats in their unheated greenhouse last winter, and have 5 pontoons committed for this winter. They only have room for a few more this winter. Cost is \$25 a month for indoor storage, \$15 a month for outdoor. Dates are flexible. Call 812-546-2076 for more information or to make reservations.

A larger space for boat storage is the Bartholomew County 4-H Fairgrounds, 750 W. County Road 200 South. Boats are stored inside Building 1 and Building 3. Cost is \$3 per linear foot, including the boat and trailer length. For a boat and trailer 25 feet long, that's \$75 a month for 5 months, or about \$425. All drop-offs must be done between noon and 3 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 10. Pickup will be on a Sunday afternoon in early April, with an exact date still to be determined next month by the fair board.

Boats are stored indoors, although the buildings are not heated or air-conditioned. Reservations are not needed, but people looking for more information can contact the fair office at 812-372-6133, 8:30 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday.

Boats can also be stored at the Shelby County 4-H Fairgrounds, where Brownie's Marine Sales of Fairland rents space and handles the storage.

Boat drop-off and pickup have flexible times – in the first part of October and the following April – at Brownie's, 2544 W. County Road 400 North, Fairland. Cost is \$600 for a 20-foot pontoon, \$650 for a 22-foot boat and \$700 for a 24-foot pontoon.

Space sells out quickly, however, and Brownie's recommends that people make reservations no later than Oct. 1. To reserve a spot or for a specific quote, call 317-835-2291.

Other boat-storage options may also exist. Ask your neighbors if they can make recommendations.

## OFF THE DEEP END

*.....The lighter side of Lake living*



By Mike Champlin

# Healthy Living Recipe

By Shannon Dailey

## Taco Zucchini Boats

Do you still have zucchini to use from your garden or from the Farmer's Market? I love zucchini recipes, especially this time of year! How about Taco Zucchini Boats? We tried these and the kids actually ate their zucchini without complaining. No leftovers, which means it's a win.

### Ingredients

Nonstick cooking spray  
3 medium zucchini, cut in half lengthwise  
1/4 cup chopped onion  
3/4 cup chopped red or green bell pepper  
1 clove garlic, chopped  
12 oz raw 93% lean ground turkey breast  
1 tsp low sodium taco seasoning  
1/4 cup all-natural tomato sauce  
1/4 cup shredded cheese (Mexican Blend)  
1/4 cup + 2 tbsp fresh salsa  
2 tbsp chopped green onion  
2 tbsp chopped fresh cilantro



### Directions

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees.
2. Lightly coat baking dish with spray. Set aside.
3. Remove inner flesh from zucchini halves using a spoon or melon baller. Chop zucchini flesh and set aside.
4. Place zucchini halves in baking dish, cut side up. Set aside.
5. Heat medium nonstick skillet, lightly coated with spray, over medium high heat.
6. Add onion and bell pepper; cook, stirring frequently, for 3 to minutes or until onion is translucent.
7. Add garlic, stirring frequently for 1 minute.
8. Add turkey; cook, stirring frequently to break up turkey, for 4 to 5 minutes, or until no longer pink. Reduce heat to low.
9. Add taco seasoning, tomato sauce, and zucchini flesh; cook, stirring frequently for 4 to 5 minutes, or until heated through and well blended.
10. Evenly divide turkey mixture into six zucchini halves. Top evenly with cheese. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes, or until zucchini is tender-crisp and cheese is melted.
11. Top evenly with salsa, green onions, and cilantro.





## Upcoming area events

**Sept. 27-29:** 52nd annual Hope Heritage Days.

### FRIDAY:

- Booths open, 5 to 10 p.m.
- Bobby Clark, Bandstand, 6 to 7:30 p.m.
- Soul Express, Bandstand, 8:30 to 10 p.m.
- Gospel Sing, Hauser High School gymnasium, The Diplomats and Summit Trace, 7 to 9 p.m.

### SATURDAY:

- Booths open, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- Baking contest drop-off, Willow Leaves, 8 to 8:30 a.m., with awards at 11 a.m.

Music on Bandstand, Hope Town Square.

- Heritage Classic Cross Country Meet, 9 to 10:30 a.m., Jackson Street, with awards at 11:30 a.m.
- Yellow Trail Pioneer Village, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Jackson Street lot
- Horseshoe tournament, 10 a.m., behind old fire department, \$5 entry fee.
- Studebaker and Classic Car Show, Hope Baptist Church parking lot, 10 a.m.
- Utopia Wildlife Rehabilitators, Bandstand, noon and 1:30 p.m.
- Dr. Hope Medicine Show, Jackson St., 12:30 p.m.
- Kiddie Tractor Pull, Jackson Street, 12:30 p.m. signup, 2 p.m. competition.
- Five Lights, Jackson Street Main Stage, 5:30 to 7 p.m.
- Danny Anderson, Bandstand, 7 to 8 p.m.
- E5C4P3 Journey Tribute band, Jackson Street Main Stage, 8 to 9:30 p.m.
- Fireworks, 9:30 p.m. weather permitting.

### SUNDAY:

- Booths open, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Worship service, Hope Ministerial Association, Bandstand, 9 a.m.
- Yellow Trail Pioneer Village, Jackson Street lot, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- John Wise, Bandstand, noon to 1:30 p.m.
- Special Presentation, Reviewing Stand, 1:30 to 2:15 p.m.
- Flyover, 2:15 p.m.
- Parade, 2:30 p.m. Rusty Bladen, Bandstand, 3:30 to 5 p.m.
- Parade trophy presentations, Bandstand, 5 p.m.
- Closing prayer, Bandstand, 5 p.m.

**Oct. 3-6, Oct. 10-13:** “Church Basement Ladies,” a new musical comedy presented by Actors’ Studio of Hope and Willow Leaves of Hope, 326 Jackson St. 7 p.m. shows follow 6 p.m. dinner Thursdays through Saturdays, 1 p.m. Sundays. Doors open 30 minutes before dinner. \$26 per person includes show, dinner, salad and dessert. Call 812-546-0640 to make reservations.

**Oct. 4:** Last cruise-in of the summer, held first Friday of each month, 5 to 8 p.m., east side of square sponsored by Main Street of Hope. Food, vendors. Musical entertainment on the bandstand, 6 to 8 p.m. Info: 812-546-0423.

**Oct. 6:** Sunday Social at the Yellow Trail Museum, 2 to 4 p.m. Monthly get-together, discussion held the first Sunday of each month. Hosted by Main Street of Hope. Snacks provided. Info: 812-546-4673.

## **Minutes of recent board discussion, actions**

### **SLLOA Board Meeting**

June 12, 2019 7 p.m.

Brad Anderson's House

May meeting minutes were approved

### **Treasurer Report (Diane Jekel):**

Greg Spurling selected by the board to be hired as a bookkeeper.

Collections for 2019 are at 90%. Second notice will be sent to delinquent payment.

All LOA accounts have been transferred over to German American Bank.

### **Request for ultra-light airplane to be housed on the lake**

After discussion, conclusion was that safety of the LOA members is key and too many variables from visibility of swimmer, small water craft, boats, proximity to docks, buoys and ski course were deemed as too high of a risk, thus deny recommendation.

### **Dredging**

Committee working to set up a meeting with Mark Zilenzki of Heartland Dredging to discuss next step. Continue to look for properties to place dredged material.

### **Water Sampling Discussion**

Request to sample lake.

Lake has had very positive water samples collected for many years. Board feels the overall health of the lake is positive.

*(After the meeting, when this decision was communicated, some members requested to reconsider, which the board did and decided to test with multiple samples during warm months. June samples were well below DNR limits.)*

### **Maintenance Dam/Valve:**

-- Grub control. Milky Spore Organic Mole\Grub Control ordered for application to the dam, per DNR recommendations

-- A work day needs to be planned to address maintenance need such as weed control in the ditch, and siphon drain repairs.

-- Fish order has been placed with Jones Fish hatchery: 25% bass/75% bluegill ratio per Jones Fish Hatchery.

**Welcoming Committee:** Needs more coasters. Will place an order

### **Action Items:**

-- Rob Dailey is ordering a new board credit card

-- Dean Parrish arranging meeting and questions to discuss Lake Santee.

-- Covenants committee: Looking for 5 individuals to participate, including leader. Ken Vorthman and Rob Daly would be willing to sit on the committee.

--Yard Sale June 15. SLLOA signs have been dropped off.

-- 60th Anniversary of construction of the lake theme for the fall picnic.

-- 4th of July Pontoon Parade Saturday July 6 at 4 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** Rob Dailey to host July 16

## **SLLOA Board Meeting**

July 16, 2019 7 p.m.

Rob Dailey's House

Review of June minutes

### **Treasurer's Report & Financial Update (Diane Jekel)**

Follow up on late collections: 10 lots have past-due amounts. For all late dues, after the defined time, the board will send a letter to all outstanding lots that a lien will be pursued. When time to do so, mention it on Facebook that these actions will be taken and get the lien. The board will not pursue liens on lots that are actively fulfilling payment plans.

### **Follow up on Spurling doing the books**

Karen Brody at Spurling is now assisting with bookkeeping.

### **Update on emergency spillway progress (Scott Towsley)**

Waiting on DNR for how to proceed with permits

### **Update on Dredging (Brent Engel)**

- Next steps – permitting, which are good for 2 yrs once obtained
- Once locked down where the material will go, Heartland would be ready to move on dredging
- By end of year: Understand where to put material, cost plan on 2020 vs. 2021 and have cost estimates ready. Also have flow-assessment study. Have proposal for 1 or 2 years for special assessment.
- Plan a special board/dredging meeting to discuss with Heartland
- Special assessment: Need to assure LOA will be able to meet its commitments, so have defined collection plan in place.

### **Follow up on water sampling (Brent Engel and Rob Dailey)**

- 3 water samples taken July 1 – One at dam was 10.8, start of ski course was 4.1, out from the orange brick house in the middle of the lake was 24.3 ml. Recommended limit by DNR is 230 to 400, depending on the source cited). All samples were well under all limits.
- Board will not sample when the water is high from major rainfall. Too many sources clearly explain that it is a natural occurrence for e coli to be high during high runoff events, and that sampling then does not reflect the general conditions.

### **Water sampling communication plan (Candy)**

- Sampling will be added as part of a larger “Annual task list” for board (see below)
- Adding risk statement into LOA governing documents (Brent)
- Address as part of the covenants, bylaws project (see below)

### **Follow up on valve, dam maintenance (Anthony)**

- Valve concerns are resolved
- Anthony to get grub deterrent for dam

### **Follow up on welcome committee coasters (Candy)**

They have been ordered. When they arrive, Candy to deliver drink cozies to Hawes and Sanders families as Fourth of July pontoon parade winners.

### **Action item updates:**

- New LOA credit card (Rob Dailey, Diane Jekel). No action yet
- Transition plan: Candy created a work plan spreadsheet. Propose we use this as transition plan for future board members. Board approved LOA work plan Excel file. Each board officer, committee represented on main page, details on additional tabs. Propose it become a secretary's document to maintain for board (passed). Each officer, committee leader to provide their lines as input to the file.
- Followup on Lake Santee info, visit (Dean Parrish): No action yet
- Soil samples: Dean to continue to follow up.
- Bylaw and convents committee (Rob Daly): No progress – still need 2-3 more volunteers. In the revision work to be done, need to add a statement about using the lake is at your own risk (It will probably need legal review).
- Hard copies of 2017, 2018 and 2019 records for lawyer: Minutes and proxy results, packets and invoices (Candy) No action
- Directory reprint (Candy) No action
- Social Committee (Candy) No action

### **Walk-ins**

- Insurance renewal, need to fill out questionnaire about the lake. Filled out as a group
- Opening the valve during high-water events: Need to put in the convents that the valve was never designed to be a relief valve
- Need to create a clear, consistent response when lot owners complain. Remind people that they are responsible for insuring their own property.
- Suggested change that anyone with a seawall be required to put rip rap in front of it.

### **Our leadership team**

Officers and other board members on the Schaefer Lake Lot Owners Association board:  
President – Rob Dailey; Vice President – Brent Engel; Treasurer – Diane Jekel; Secretary – Candy Towsley; and members at large – Rob Daly, Anthony Paul, Dean Parrish and Brad Anderson.

The next board meeting is 7 p.m. Sept. 24 at Brad Anderson's house. The board is also looking for someone to join the Welcome Committee to replace longtime volunteer Jerrilou Cole, who has resigned due to other commitments. Thanks, Jerrilou, for your service. Contact a board member if you're interested in serving.

### **Helpful information links**

**SLLOA website:** [sloa.com/](http://sloa.com/)

**The Republic daily newspaper in Columbus:** [therepublic.com](http://therepublic.com)

**Town of Hope, 404 Jackson St., Hope:** [Townofhope.org](http://Townofhope.org)

**HSJ (Hope Star Journal) Online:** [hsjonline.org/](http://hsjonline.org/)

**Community Center of Hope, 543 Washington St., Hope:** [communitycenterofhope.org/](http://communitycenterofhope.org/)

**Yellow Trail Museum, 644 Main St., Hope:** [yellowtrailmuseum.wixsite.com/yellowtrailmuseum](http://yellowtrailmuseum.wixsite.com/yellowtrailmuseum)

**Columbus Area Visitors Center:** [columbus.in.us/](http://columbus.in.us/)

**Bartholomew County Public Library (635 Harrison St., Hope):** [mybcpl.org/home](http://mybcpl.org/home)

