

# FEBRUARY - MARCH 2020

NEWSLETTER FOR THE RESIDENTS OF SHLPOA, KENT LAKES, NY



# SEVEN HILLS LAKE

## From the Executive Board

We regret to announce that Robert Schunk, long-time Board Member for SHLPOA, passed on 2/3/20. See a full obituary on p.5. Bob will be missed.

Invoices for dues were sent out 1/10/20. If you need a payment plan, please follow the instructions on the invoice. Questions? Call Joyce, 917-541-6264.

Stickers will be sent out on May 1, 2020. Reminder: stickers are required on all your boats and cars. This program helps keep our lakefront secure and minimizes invasive species migrating into our lake. If you need information on sanitizing a boat, please contact Tom Fiorilla at 845-225-6947.

## Handyman tip of the month:

*Bob Fillhart suggests: "If you don't understand it, don't touch it! But in all seriousness, the most important home improvement task you can do in the winter months is to check the batteries in your carbon monoxide detector, especially if you are using a wood stove."*

## Gardening tip for the month:

*Maureen Perotti says: "Order catalogs now! Diehard gardeners look forward to receiving luscious mail order catalogs that begin arriving in February almost as much as they do the Christmas holiday. Poring over glossy pages filled with colorful plant photos is not only a great way to beat the winter blues, but it will inspire you for the upcoming growing season. Order a few plants or seeds in February so you have something new to try in your garden come spring."*



*Sunset Photo Contest  
Submit your best  
sunset on the lake  
photographs!*

Email to:  
jtothtrpt@earthlink.net

## German Apple Strudel



2 boxes Puff Pastry Sheets (defrosted)  
1 bag apples  
Butter, melted  
2 Tbsp Brown sugar  
Raisins  
Powdered sugar  
Grease a sheet pan and preheat the oven to 350°. Peel and slice the apples in thin slices. Using wax paper and a little flour, roll out the puff pastry to the

desired thickness, matching the size of your sheet pan. Put butter on top of the pastry, and then the apple slices and raisins. Sprinkle with 2 tbsp brown sugar. Roll pastry into strudel shape, and brush butter on top. Bake at 350° for at least 45 minutes, until it is browned on top. Add powdered sugar right before serving. Serve hot.

— Inge Endris



# State of the Lake

by Tom Fiorilla

Our lake is in excellent condition. Swimming, boating and fishing continue to be enjoyed by all. Maureen & Joe Perotti and Tom Fiorilla, underwent training with DEC's PRISM (Partners for Regional Invasive Species Management) in Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) management and conducted a thorough survey of the lake using the PRISM survey protocol. As invested stakeholders in the future health of our lake they will continue with yearly surveying to monitor what species live

in our lake, learn more about invasive species impacts and pathways, as well as what can be done to stop their spread. Lindsay Yoder, AIS Program Coordinator for the Lower Hudson PRISM claimed it was the cleanest lake they surveyed this summer. James Gorman, our lake manager, and Bruce Barber the Town of Kent environmentalist concurred. The Lake Committee also completed the first full summer working with DEC's Citizen Scientist Lake Association Program (CSLAP). Additionally, Maureen

Perotti and Tom Fiorilla will continue working with the Town of Kent Lake Association Committee. This group of resident volunteers concerned with the quality of all lakes in the Town of Kent organized to combine their knowledge and individual expertise to identify and resolve common lake issues to the benefit of the entire town, share information, and coordinate efforts to apply for grants, set up educational seminars, and establish other programs.



## UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS

The Ice Follies originally scheduled for 2/8 have been **POSTPONED**

**MAR 21**  
St Paddy's Day Potluck 6pm  
Beach

**APR 11**  
Easter Egg Hunt 10am  
Beach

**MAY 17**  
10am Beach Cleanup  
5pm General Meeting





# Gone Fishing...

## IT'S ICE-FISHING SEASON AT SEVEN HILLS LAKE

Fishing through the ice requires skill and knowledge as does open water angling. But anyone can ice fish successfully if he/she does the homework. Learning about the water to be fished, the equipment and its capabilities, proper clothing and safety precautions are all part of a successful, enjoyable winter fishing experience. Perhaps the best way to get started is to accompany a friend or neighbor on a half-day ice fishing outing. Above all, do not attempt ice-fishing unless the ice is at least **4 inches** thick.

New York requires a fishing license for anglers over 18. If you'd like to try fishing this winter, there are "free fishing days" (no license required) on Feb. 15-16.

Looking further ahead, the 4-H Club will be holding a free fishing clinic at Putnam County Veterans Memorial Park on June 6, 2020 for children and teens, age 7-14. All participants will receive a FREE Rod, Reel, Tackle Kit, Fishing Directory & Hat. Space is limited to 150 youth.



### *New Residents*

Brad & Ariana Arbolino  
 Alex Cournoyer/Rachel Pian  
 Marin & Jennifer Dantchev  
 Paul Denbaum/Krysten Perry  
 John Garlits  
 Randal Hill  
 Joseph Sweeney

(please let us know  
 if we've missed anyone!!)

### *7 Hills Lake Trivia*

Did you know the original name  
 of Seven Hills Lake Dr. was  
 Lakeshore Dr.?



### *Town/State News*

Town Board Meetings: Tues. 2/18,  
 3/3, 3/31 (all at 7pm)

Public Hearing on Moratorium  
 Prohibiting Mining: Tues. 2/18 7pm

DEC Free Fishing Days: 2/15-16

Get a free smoke detector from the  
 Red Cross; call 877-733-2767.

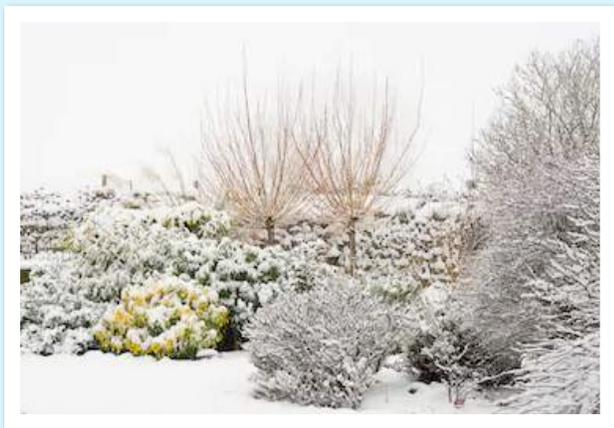
## *From the Ground Up*

by SHLPOA'S DUO CCE Master Gardener Volunteers  
Leah Waybright Kennell & Maureen Galway-Perotti

### THE WINTER GARDEN

One of the espoused benefits of a good snow cover in the garden is that snow functions as an excellent insulator of the soil. Without snow, very cold temperatures can freeze soil deeper and deeper. This could lead to damage of root systems of trees and shrubs.

Much more than a visual description, a blanket of snow, makes an excellent insulator for gardens and landscapes. In terms of warmth, the blanket effect protects these natural areas, along with their animal inhabitants, against frigid temperatures and damaging winds. Freshly fallen, un-compacted snow is typically 90-95% trapped air. Because this air can barely move, heat transfer is greatly reduced, thus slowing the flow of heat from the warm ground to the cold air above.



This insulation also protects perennials, bulbs and ground covers from alternating freezing and thawing cycles. Without snow, the sun and milder temperatures could warm soil surfaces leading to damage from soil heaving, which can break roots and dry out plant parts.

The degree of insulation depends on snow depth. By and large, temperatures underneath a layer of snow increase about 2 degrees Fahrenheit for each inch of accumulation. Since soil also gives off some heat, the soil surface temperature can be much warmer than the air temperature.



Additionally, snow helps conserve soil moisture over the winter and contains plant-beneficial nutrients, mostly nitrogen, which is bound up more than the equivalent amount of rain. Old Yankees called snow the *Poor Man's Fertilizer* and there is considerable truth in the expression. As they form and fall, snowflakes absorb nitrates from the atmosphere and then release these nutrients into the soil as the snow melts. Snow is a slow-release moisture source soaking more deeply and thoroughly than rain that will run-off after saturation. Lastly, certain organisms become more active under snow breaking down plant litter producing more nutrients available for spring plant growth - the miracle sleeping beneath.

So remember, if in the weeks ahead *Old Man Winter* bestows us with snow - those white flakes are protecting your plants!

# Kids Korner

Send news about your children and grandchildren to Joyce Toth, [jtothtrpt@earthlink.net](mailto:jtothtrpt@earthlink.net).

Olivia O'Connor has been nominated for the Putnam County Youth Award as a result of her volunteer service and for her hard work as a youth organizer and the event's Communication Director of the Hudson Valley's first "Better High Day". The fall 2019 event focused on celebrating young people who choose to live a drug free life.



Tommy O'Connor Jr. just received a recognition award from his employer for providing recreation and musical therapy to individuals with dementia and Alzheimer's disease. He was praised for his dedication to providing smiles and entertainment.



On Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, Svetlana Kaplan was featured as 'Fiddler' in the George Fischer Middle School production of *Fiddler on the Roof*.



## IN MEMORIAM

Robert W. Schunk

March 11, 1943 - February 3, 2020

It is with immense sadness that we announce the passing of Robert W. Schunk, age 76, on February 3, 2020.

Robert was born on March 11, 1943 at Ossining Hospital to Charles and Dorothy (Conroy) Schunk. He married the love of his life, Evelyn, on May 25, 1986 in Kent, NY.

Robert graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) as an engineer and was self-employed. Robert enlisted in the United States Army and became a Lieutenant Officer in the Army Core of Combat Engineers. He was extremely proud to be a veteran having served his country.

Family, above all else, was most important to Robert. He will be remembered most for his devotion to his family and friends.

Robert enjoyed cars and would occupy himself for hours tinkering with car engines. He also enjoyed playing ice hockey during his younger years. He had also won a New York State Championship for track. In addition, Robert and Evelyn were avid travelers. They would often spend a lot of time at their second home in Melbourne Beach, Florida.

Robert is survived by his beloved wife Evelyn and two stepchildren; Donna O'Connor of North Salem, N.Y., and Lauren & Robert Murray of Holmes, N.Y. He leaves behind four grandchildren whom he absolutely adored. His three siblings, Michael Schunk, Suzanne Howe and Timothy Schunk also survive Robert.

A memorial was held on Feb. 8, 2020 at Cargain Funeral Homes. Bob will be missed.

We hope you've enjoyed this first edition of our neighborhood newsletter. We are looking for photo submissions to spice up our content, and your comments, suggestions or corrections are welcome!! Future editions will feature our neighborhood artists, special recipes, stories about the history of the lake, and whatever you'd like to contribute. Email Joyce at [jtothtrpt@earthlink.net](mailto:jtothtrpt@earthlink.net) or leave a message at 845-228-2553. Many photos are from our Facebook page, "Living on Seven Hills Lake", managed by the Brinkerhoffs.

# PHOTO GALLERY



*WE'D LOVE TO FEATURE YOUR PHOTOS IN THE NEXT EDITION...*