

## A Brief History of the

# Pilot Knob Ridge

## P R E S E R V E

After more than a decade of planning and negotiation, the 223-acre Pilot Knob Ridge Preserve was added to the list of protected lands within the Lake George basin.

Originally, this parcel was illegally cleared, and a house and mile-long driveway were constructed. The five-acre house lot became a focal point throughout the south basin and around the lake because it disrupted the unbroken wilderness of the Pilot Knob range. Further proposed development would have greatly changed the quality and character of the entire basin. Clearly visible from nearly any point in the southern half of Lake George, the house and its outlying buildings scarred the once-pristine ridge-line and galvanized support for conservation. The property was subsequently confiscated by authorities and resold to the Zug family who stewarded the land for over 10 years.

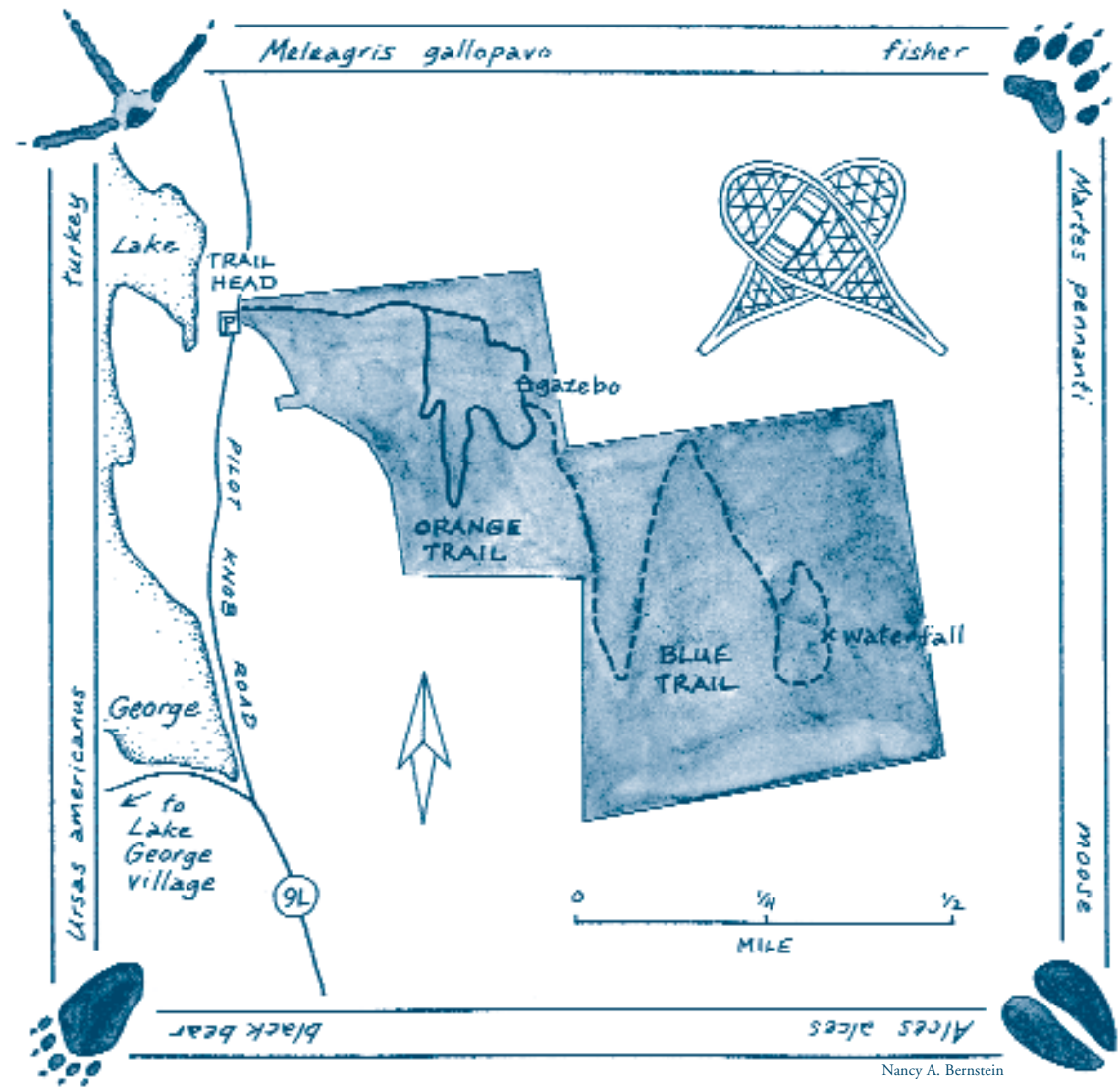
With the help of hundreds of donors, and a selling price well below market value, the Lake George Land Conservancy was able to purchase the property from the new owners.

“After spending time on the mountain, it became clear that there was really no other choice but to do what was necessary to preserve this amazing place,” say Steve Szymanski and Carli Zug, referring to their decision to sell this wonderful area to the Lake George Land Conservancy.

We couldn't agree more, and we hope that you will share our sentiments. Enjoy your visit, and please come again.



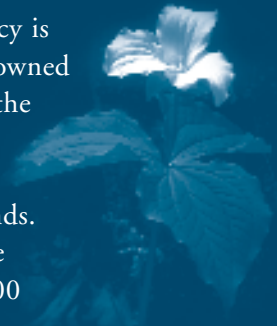
Janet Haas



Nancy A. Bernstein

- The map above shows the route of the trail loops at the Pilot Knob Ridge Preserve.
- Twin disks indicate a turn in the trail and four disks indicate an intersection.

The Lake George Land Conservancy is working to preserve the world-renowned water quality of Lake George and the rare plants and animals within the lake's 150,000-acre watershed by permanently protecting natural lands. To date, LGLC has protected more than 6,000 acres of land and 30,000 feet of shoreline.



Harold Malde

*A Short List of*

# Species

ENCOUNTERED AT THE PRESERVE

## *Birds*

Black-capped chickadee	Blue jay
Downy woodpecker	Ruffed grouse
Great horned owl	Wild turkey
Broad-winged hawk	Barred owl
Sharp-shinned hawk	American robin
White-throated sparrow	Wood thrush

## *Insects*

Monarch butterfly	Mourning cloak
Common skipper	Tiger swallowtail

## *Mammals*

Eastern chipmunk	Coyote
White-tailed deer	Gray fox
Porcupine	Gray squirrel
Fisher	Black bear
Red squirrel	Moose
Raccoon	Bobcat

## *Reptiles/Amphibians*

Eastern garter snake	Wood frog
Red spotted newt	Fowler's toad

## *Plants*

American beech	Red maple
Shagbark hickory	Striped maple
Eastern hop hornbeam	Hawthorn
Common milkweed	White birch
Jack-in-the-pulpit	Black birch
Interrupted fern	Red mulberry
Christmas fern	Red oak
Pink lady-slipper	Jewelweed
Fringed polygala	Foamflower

# Preserve Use Guidelines

- Please stay on the marked trails shown on the enclosed map.
- Please be courteous of other guests to the preserve.
- Please do not harass or harm any of the plants or animals found here at the preserve.
- No removal of plants or animals without permission.
- No camping, fires, or motorized or non-motorized recreational vehicles allowed on the preserve.
- No pets, leashed or unleashed.
- Please park only in the provided gravel lot. If all spaces are full, please reschedule your visit.
- Do not park along the roadway or any neighboring property.
- Please do not litter. Help keep the preserve clean for all to enjoy.

*For information on membership, volunteer opportunities, land protection, and preserving Lake George's unique natural heritage, please contact:*



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P R E S E R V E

*nature  
is our future*