



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VOLUNTEERS PRESERVE LAKE GEORGE'S NATURAL BEAUTY

(Bolton Landing, NY) – On May 27, 2004, Joan Robertson stopped short and, raising one hand, silently mimicked the call of a scarlet tanager with the rhythmic flexing of her index finger. The movement indicated to the 13 hikers around her, the presence of the bird's song without having to speak over it. After a few seconds, Joan spoke in a low voice, "Scarlet tanager." The group stood as statues, moving only to lift their binoculars and search for the brilliant red plumage of the songbird.

Joan Robertson is just one of the Lake George Land Conservancy's (LGLC) volunteers. An avid birder since the age of eight, and charter and board member of the Southern Adirondack Audubon Society, Joan donated two Saturday mornings this spring to lead bird-watching hikes at the LGLC's Gull Bay Preserve in the Town of Putnam. Volunteer involvement such as Joan's is fundamental in the daily accomplishments of the LGLC. The expertise of educators, retired forest rangers, birders and backyard botanists, the energy of youth, and the passion of outdoor enthusiasts, all help to carry out the LGLC's mission of preserving the natural beauty of the Lake George basin.

While the LGLC is fortunate to benefit from a handful of regular volunteers, more volunteers are always welcome and needed. Whether you are a nature lover or high schooler in search of a community service activity, the LGLC has an opportunity for you. Staff work side-by-side with volunteers of all backgrounds and ages to facilitate such tasks as installing water bars on hiking trails, assisting with office needs, leading public educational outings, and removing non-native, invasive plants.

If you are interested in being an LGLC volunteer, or would like more information about the program or organization, please contact the LGLC's Program Assistant Sarah Small, at 518-644-9673, or email ssmall@tnc.org.

Founded in 1988 by the Trustees for The FUND for Lake George, the LGLC strives 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 through conservation easement and fee acquisition.

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