



PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Diane Potter, Donor Relations Manager
518-644-9673, dpotter@tnc.org

For Immediate Release
September 5, 2006



Henry M. Rowan, left, presents the LGLC's Conservation Award, named in his honor, to Buzz and Cheryl Lamb at the 7th Annual Land & Water Conservation Celebration.

Conservancy Celebrates Land and Water Conservation

Annual event provides a full day of festivities to highlight and celebrate land protection around Lake George

Bolton Landing, NY – The Lake George Land Conservancy (LGLC) held its seventh annual Land and Water Conservation Celebration on July 31, 2006. At the event, which was held at the Lake George Club, the LGLC presented its 2006 Henry M. Rowan Conservation Award for “outstanding contributions to the protection of Lake George” to Buzz and Cheryl Lamb, longtime operators of Norowal Marina in Bolton Landing, who sold the marina at a below-market price so it would continue affording the public access to the lake.

The day's festivities began that morning with five simultaneous field trips and nature presentations taking place around Lake George: a presentation by the Adirondack Cooperative Loon Program; a boat ride and hike on Dome Island; a botany hike at Pilot Knob Ridge Preserve in Fort Ann; a timber rattlesnake talk and hike to Deer Leap; and an herbal exploration of Gull Bay Preserve in Putnam.

That afternoon at the Lake George Club, the LGLC held its annual meeting, which was free to the public, followed by its evening gala and program, the Land and Water Conservation Celebration.

Every year, America loses another two million acres to development, according to Rand Wentworth, the president of the Washington, DC-based Land Trust Alliance, and keynote

-more-

speaker at the Celebration. “We have 20 years to protect the best of the American landscape,” Wentworth said. The loss of that landscape, he said, would lead to “an extinction of experience” –the type of experience he had as a young boy on Lake George in the 1960’s.

Wentworth’s remarks set the stage for one of the gathering’s most important functions, that of recognizing leading conservationists on Lake George, whose work has made the lake a model for other communities.

Among those honored was Lynn Schumann, until recently the LGLC’s executive director and now the Northeast Regional Director of the Land Trust Alliance, the organization headed by Wentworth. According to John Macionis, the chairman of the LGLC’s Board of Directors, Schumann was instrumental in protecting almost 11,000 feet of shoreline and nearly 5000 acres of upland forests.

John Macionis, his wife Amy and their daughter Whitney were also honored. “The Macionis family has made a very substantial gift to our new conservation center,” said Nancy Williams, the LGLC’s new executive director. In their honor, the building (once the Tavern on the Pond) will be named the Macionis Family Center for Conservation.

The new Center will provide LGLC staff, committees and volunteers a place to work together to purchase important lands for conservation, to encourage good stewardship of their “commons,” and to work with partners to protect Lake George’s water quality. An addition to the building will provide space for community meetings, educational exhibits and public programs. The grounds will also be a model for landscaping with native plants and responsible management of stormwater.

Henry Rowan and Henry Caldwell presented the LGLC’s most distinguished award, the Henry M. Rowan Conservation Award. Named in honor of Rowan himself, who was instrumental in protecting 300 feet of shoreline and 6,645 acres on the shore opposite Silver Bay (and called the Margaret Boyd Rowan Preserve in recognition of his mother’s love for Lake George), the award has been presented since 2003 – to Rowan, to The Fund for Lake George, and to the Darrin family.

This year’s recipients were Buzz and Cheryl Lamb of Bolton Landing, the former owners of Norowal Marina. Now owned and operated by the Bolton Local Development Corporation, the public boat launching site will include a conservation easement held by New York State that will preserve the site as a point of public access to the lake and protect it from residential or commercial development.

“We are humbled by this honor and appreciate your kindness in considering us for this prestigious award, said Lamb. “Cheryl and I are advocates of the mission of the Lake George Land Conservancy; to protect natural lands and environments through conservation easements, which is what we did at Norowal, and fee acquisitions. In our small way, we wanted to protect an asset that we felt was important to the people of our community. It has been said that one never owns the land; one just maintains it for future generations. With that said, we have passed the responsibility, willingly, to future generations with the guarantee, in perpetuity, that there will always be a place for them to come to enjoy Lake George.”

-more-

This year's Land and Water Conservation Celebration was the first for the LGLC's executive director, Nancy Williams. "I've spent twenty-five years protecting lands and waters," said Williams. "Behind every piece of land protected is a story, a story about people who love the land." Williams' immediate priorities, she said, were completing a transaction between the LGLC and New York State to add a piece of LGLC-protected land to the Forest Preserve; completing the renovation of the new Center for Conservation; and establishing new partnerships with other lake-protection organizations.

The LGLC is a non-profit organization 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.

Parts of the above article were excerpted from:

Hall, Anthony. "Conservancy's Land and Water Celebration Honors Lake's Preservationists." Lake George Mirror. August 4, 2006, p. 5.

###