



Lake George Land Conservancy
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Visit us online at www.lglc.org

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NEWSBRIEFS

A Quarterly Update of the Lake George Land Conservancy / Fall 2008



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C20 Years of CONSERVATION

by Nancy Williams, Executive Director

Our mission is as clear as the water of Lake George: preserve the exemplary lands of Lake George. We have not let our founders down. We have protected, by fee purchase or easement, 12,108 acres and 8.6 miles of shoreline. Our success is due to the focused attention by the Directors, staff, and the support of many individuals, foundations and organizations. It is neither possible to narrate a full accounting of our history in a few paragraphs here nor is it possible to list all of those who have so generously given their time and their financial support. But we hope to capture the essence of our history and salute all of you who love the lake. You are the stewards of the future of Lake George.

The first acre protected by the new Lake George (Basin) Land Conservancy was a gift of a conservation easement in 1989 by a great friend, Lionel Barthold, in Dark Bay. In 1990 Evans and Frances Herman gifted a conservation easement on their 95 acres on Federal Hill. That same year the first acquisition that heralded the many future purchases that would protect the forested mountains on the eastern shoreline across from Hague and Silver Bay was made possible by Henry M. Rowan. With a major challenge grant from the Rowans, the young organization raised the matching dollars to protect 168 acres and 3,470 feet of shoreline. Henry and his daughter, Ginny Rowan Smith, cut the ceremonial ribbon at Silver Bay to celebrate the acquisition of the Margaret Boyd Rowan Preserve. Over 600 people donated, including young children who contributed the contents of their penny banks! Over the next eight years, four adjoining properties, including the Lamb Shanty Bay properties (White and Morgan), Northeastern (Harrison Bird) and Racket Point (Eitt), were added, bringing the total protected acreage to 1,015, including more than 13,790 feet of shoreline for all to enjoy. Nearby Spruce Mountain's 366 acres (Ely and Ann Goldsmith) were protected in 1996. To cap off that year, Donald Delano and his sister, Marjorie Delano, gifted 155 acres in Ticonderoga which has one of the most celebrated views of the lake,

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Discover Lake George through our free Walks&Talks programs. More events will be scheduled for 2009 – please check our website, www.lglc.org or call 518-644-9673 for updates and for more information.

DECEMBER Christmas Bird Count, Bolton Area Sunday, December 14th:

A nation-wide activity organized by the Audubon Society that uses "Volunteer Citizen Scientists" to gather information on bird numbers. You can be part of this effort by joining LGLC staff to observe birds in the Bolton/southern Lake George area. Observations are reviewed by a panel of regional experts and included with the cumulative data made available to the public and researchers for review and scientific study. Please contact Chris Krahling at 644-9673, ckrahling@lglc.org.

Did You Know?

LGLC is working with the Adirondack Mountain Club and other volunteers to design and blaze new trails leading to the Berry Pond Tract from the Lake George Village Recreation Center.

If you would like to help, please contact Chris Krahling at 644-9673, ckrahling@lglc.org.



Help us save money on printing and postage by receiving future member updates from LGLC through email. Please send us your email address by completing and submitting the contact form on our webpage: www.lglc.org/Contact-Us.asp. Thank you!

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The mission of the Lake George Land Conservancy (LGLC) is 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.

Founded in 1988, LGLC uses progressive conservation strategies to work with landowners, government officials, and supporters aimed at securing the protection of special natural places for future generations to enjoy. The organization is governed by a 23-member volunteer Board of Directors.

To date, more than 1,400 concerned individuals, who live, work and vacation here, have helped LGLC and its partners protect more than 45,500 feet of shoreline and 12,100 acres of land around Lake George. LGLC, a not-for-profit, tax-exempt organization, relies on the support of generous individuals, corporations and foundations. Donations of cash or securities are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law and deeply appreciated.

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Cover top photo © Carl Heilman II /Wild Visions, Inc.

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SPOTLIGHTS

West Brook Conservation Initiative

The Lake George Land Conservancy is working in partnership with the Lake George Association and the Fund for Lake George to transform the dilapidated Gaslight Village area into an environmental park and protect vulnerable upland headwater areas. This \$15 million effort is the biggest environmental project ever attempted on Lake George.



On January 22, 2008 LGLC purchased the 1,436-acre Berry Pond tract in southern Lake George, marking the largest dollar purchase in LGLC history and the largest acreage purchased at one time from a single landowner. The purchase, made possible in part through a loan from the Open Space Conservancy and funding provided by the Helen V. Froehlich Foundation, was an integral step in the West Brook Conservation Initiative as the property includes the headwaters of West Brook.

For more information:

- Visit fundforlakegeorge.org for project details, view a video on YouTube and learn about the transformation of the Gaslight Village and protection of vital upland forests;
- Contact us to see how you can be part of this Initiative.

Summer Stewardship

Thanks to the Dome Island Committee, we hired a seasonal Stewardship Assistant, Alice Halloran, to help carry out the daily-to-day operations of our nature preserves. Alice monitored the condition of Dome Island, cleared trails in all of our preserves, surveyed the use of Jumping Rock on heavy-use days, and assisted in the installation of erosion control water bars along trails. She assisted with leading volunteer work groups, including the clearing of invasive honeysuckle bushes from near the gazebo at our Pilot Knob Ridge Preserve. She has also proven to be indispensable in locating potential new trail routes, which requires seemingly endless bushwhacks and backtracks. She assisted in the building and placement of a small kiosk on our 2-acre Hague Foundation Preserve located in the village. Our many thanks go out to Alice for the critical stewardship contributions she has made during her time with the Lake George Land Conservancy.

We hope our members have seen the new roadside preserve signs at Pilot Knob, Cat & Thomas, Cook Mountain and Gull Bay Preserves. These signs have been made possible by the generous donations of time and materials by John and Brett D'Arco, our volunteer stewards for the Cat and Thomas Mountains Preserve.

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have volunteered their time and energy in making 2008 a very successful "stewardship season".

LGLC WISH LIST

The Lake George Land Conservancy is seeking donations of the following items to support our conservation work. Donations of the actual item or cash towards the purchase is tax-deductible. Please call Cornelia Wells at 518-644-9673 if you can help.

- 4-wheel drive truck, extended cab
- Fire proof file cabinet or safe
- Wooden picnic table
- Flammable liquids cabinet

CABIN FOR SALE!

LGLC is accepting bids for the purchase of the cabin on top of Thomas Mountain. Buyers must be willing and able to remove the cabin from its current location. Made of shaped log construction, the cabin dimensions are 17'3" X 15'9" with a 5'9" porch. Please call Chris at 518-644-9673 for more information.



20 Years of Conservation... continued from pg. 1

a magnificent northern view of Flat Rock and Record Hill. LGLC built a trail, installed a kiosk and opened the Cook Mountain Preserve. In 1995 LGLC received a challenge grant from the Helen V. Froehlich Foundation to purchase a critical linkage parcel for Jabe Pond in Hague. Over four hundred donors rallied to match the Froehlich's \$30,000 grant. The land is now protected as a New York State "Forever Wild Forests"; the haunting calls of the loons may be heard forever on this crystalline clear lake.

Only a year later the Froehlich Foundation granted \$75,000 towards the purchase of our first office building in the geographical center of the lake in Bolton Landing. From this little office, the 223 acres of Pilot Knob Ridge with residential buildings were purchased in 2000. LGLC purchased the land at a bargain sale, tore down the house, and opened up a new and very popular preserve. Two-thirds of the money needed for this acquisition was raised from over fifty donors.

Anthony's Nose in Putnam, Roger's Slide in Ticonderoga and Shelving Rock in Ft. Ann are extraordinarily imposing and likely the most photographed monoliths in Lake George. Peregrine Falcons nest along the steep cliffs of Anthony's Nose; Roger's Slide is a historic landmark; and Shelving Rock, the "Knapp Estate", has been the subject of many Adirondack artists' paintings. Roger's Rock was a gift made in 1999 by the families of Thomas Adams and Judith Lavin; in 2004 they donated "Little Slide". Anthony's Nose was purchased in 2000 with the significant help by an anonymous donor who provided nearly 50% of the transaction costs.

In 2004, 1879-acres which included both peaks of Cat and Thomas Mountains in Bolton Landing were purchased with nearly 30 donors, providing almost 18% of the acquisition cost. Along with spectacular views above Bolton Landing and Lake George, the purchase also protected the drinking water reservoir of the town. Northwest Bay Preserve in Bolton Landing was purchased in 2000 from Millsbrooke Equities, Inc. and sold to DEC to be added to the Forest Preserve in 2004. In 2004 the Darrin family donated a lovely 2-acre shoreline park in the center of Hague on Lake George.

In 2007 we opened our new offices at the Macionis Family Center for Conservation in Bolton Landing. The Froehlich Foundation and the LG Watershed Conference provided funds towards the stormwater components of the building. A new conference room was added to the renovated "Tavern-by-the-Pond" and enjoys a view of Dula Pond. In 2008 we purchased the 1436-acre Berry Pond tract in the town of Lake George as part of the West Brook Conservation Initiative. We joined with The Fund for Lake George and The Lake George Association to purchase the conservation easement on "Gaslight Village". Much of "Gaslight Village" will be used for an environmental park which will treat stormwater and provide trails through constructed wetlands.

How do we determine what lands should be protected? LGLC, with the assistance of The Nature Conservancy, inventoried the Lake George watershed and identified areas with outstanding natural resources. Land protection maps are always being developed with priorities for acquisition, determined both by the level of importance and the availability from willing landowners. In our first 18 years, financing was most often provided by the Nature Conservancy and individuals; more recently, from the Open Space Institute and individuals. The gap between financing and purchase costs has always been paid from the generous gifts of donors. Even when properties are sold to New York State for inclusion into the "Forest Preserve", donations are needed to complete the contract, pay financing, and often, make up the difference between the purchase and sales price. Although every contribution is important and appreciated, we must recognize, for the sake of the history being recorded by this Newsbrief, our enormous gratitude to our benefactors, some of whom have been helping us from our very first years and all of whom have provided significant support to the capital projects of LGLC: Margaret Darrin, David Darrin, Hank and Lee Rowan, Ginny and Manning Smith, the Helen V. Froehlich Foundation, the Open Space Institute, The Nature Conservancy, Art and Tonie Franz, John and Ellen Hubbard, the Fund for Lake George, Peter and Gretchen Menzies, John and Amy Macionis, and two anonymous families.

Thank you all as we march forward together into the next 20 years.

TRANSITIONS



LGLC Office 1996-2007

The Lake George Basin Land Conservancy was created in 1988 after a survey of landowners in the Lake George basin that year revealed a strong interest in protecting the land.

The survey, which was conducted for the Adirondack Nature Conservancy and Land Trust in Keene Valley and the Lake George Association Fund (currently the Fund for Lake George), was carried out by Peg Olsen, the LGBLC's then part-time director.

Mike Carr became the LGBLC's first full-time director in 1990. In 1999 Lynn LaMontagne Schumann succeeded Mike as the LGBLC's program director when Mike was promoted to deputy director of the Adirondack Nature Conservancy and Land Trust. Lynn stayed with the organization until 2006 when she moved on to become the Land Trust Alliance's Northeast Region Director. Today, the Lake George Land Conservancy is led by its third director, Nancy Williams, and four other full-time staff.



LGLC Office 2007-Current

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