

viewshed

: the natural environment that is visible from one or more viewing points

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Fall/Winter 2015



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LAND CONSERVANCY

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From the ED


If these waters could talk... Each summer goes by so quickly, but the number of stories created during this time must be enormous. These stories carry us through the changing seasons, and to the day that we can once again call Lake George home, if only for a little while.

Your stories may center around a campfire, or lazy mornings watching the sun slowly rise over the mountains. I hope that some of your stories include adventures on a trail—maybe your first venture up the Pinnacle to survey the beauty of Lake George and the east side, or a hike up the Schumann Preserve at Pilot Knob to view the southern basin, or a trip to the Terzian property to enjoy Uncas Falls and a view of Spruce Mountain.

LGLC has lots of stories to tell about this summer, thanks to people like you. With the help of the Fund for Lake George, the Town of Bolton, and 300 of our closest friends, we closed on the Pinnacle property in July. Since that time, the Pinnacle Preserve has become incredibly popular. In fact, people were looking to hike the property before we could even sign the papers to finalize the sale. We will look to build on this momentum by connecting the Pinnacle Preserve to Cat and Thomas and into the Town of Bolton Landing through a community trail system. (*More on page 5*)

Our hard-working stewards, Alex and Colin, along with numerous volunteers, completed an amazing amount of field work in three short months. Yet more is planned for our preserves, including new and expanded parking lots. (*More on page 6*) Not only will these improvements allow for greater access to our trails, but they will also reduce runoff and protect the water quality of the lake.

Together we have accomplished a great deal, but there is still much more to be done. The good news is that we have seen the amazing results that come from passionate people working together to protect something that they love. This fall and winter, as you remember and share your stories of Lake George please remember that you are also a part of its future. Thanks for all that you do.


Jamie Brown, Executive Director

We protect the land so the land protects the lake.



For every **10%** increase in forest cover in a watershed,
water treatment costs decrease by approximately **20%**

Healthy, functioning watersheds naturally filter pollutants and moderate water quantity by slowing surface runoff and increasing the infiltration of water into the soil. The result is less flooding and soil erosion, cleaner water downstream and greater groundwater reserves.

source: 2002 survey by the Trust for Public Land and the American Water Works Association

“These children are the next generation, and I think raising their awareness about preserving nature will let us continue to enjoy a clean Lake George for many years to come.”

- Jahnavi Bhavsar



Jahnavi Bhavsar (above, in the pink hat) leads her group on the scavenger hunt that she created; (top) hikers enjoy a photo op at the top of the Pinnacle; (left) a few of the hike's participants on the trail

A Future for the Pinnacle

At the very first meeting with LGLC staff, 14-year-old Jahnavi Bhavsar was brimming with ideas and eager to get started. She wanted to get involved in a way that would help and really make a difference. When the idea for an interactive hike just for kids came up, she was hooked.

The morning of August 6, 18 kids met at the LGLC office, where they were divided into three teams and received instructions for the scavenger hunt. While their parents and grandparents ventured downtown to do some shopping, the kids were shuttled to the Pinnacle trailhead to start their adventure.

“My favorite part of the hike was watching the kids discover the scavenger clues,” said Jahnavi. “I hid five glass

bell jars along the hike, with clues inside leading the children to the next jar. The theme was Disney Fairytales/Nursery Rhymes. There were clues about Humpty Dumpty, Snow White, Little Red Riding Hood, Bambi, and Hansel and Gretel.”

Along the way the kids also learned about cairns, how to read a map, and identify trail markers on the path.

The group took a break for lunch once they reached the top, and enjoyed the spectacular view. Bonus points were given to teams for identifying some Lake George islands.

After lunch, each team received a list of natural items, such as mushrooms, pinecones, and birch trees, for the Nature Scavenger Hunt on the return hike.

Once back at the LGLC office, prizes were awarded to the teams for their hard work. The group had great energy and an enthusiastic attitude the whole time, which pleased Jahnavi.

“I loved working with the kids on the scavenger hike,” said Jahnavi. “I look forward to continuing this event in the future. Hopefully next year we will have some people who will return and some newcomers as well.”

“I think it is really important to spread the word about preserving Lake George,” she continued, “especially to the next generation—children like me.”

We suspect we'll be seeing a lot more of Jahnavi, and we hope that you will join her on her next project!

LAND

it's what we do

SOUTH MOUNTAIN

Contrary to its name, the South Mountain range is in the northeastern corner of Lake George, a 4.5-mile stretch between Mount Defiance in Ticonderoga and Anthony's Nose in Putnam. LGLC has contracted to purchase a 140-acre parcel in the middle of South Mountain for \$210,000. We expect to close by the end of September, 2015.

Funding for this acquisition has already been secured through grants from the Helen V. Froehlich Foundation (\$135,000) and the Wildlife Forever Fund (\$10,000), and through individual donors, most of whom gave during LGLC's Celebration on July 31, 2015.

This acquisition serves three important functions:

- **RIDGE LINE PROTECTION**
This project is the first essential step towards the long-range vision of protecting the entire South Mountain ridge line, which is highly visible from Roger's Rock and LGLC's Cook Mountain Preserve.
- **WILDLIFE HABITAT PROTECTION**
In addition to providing wildlife habitat for forest creatures, the property contains a large vernal pool, possibly one of the largest vernal pools in the Lake George watershed.

- **RECREATIONAL CONNECTIVITY**

We have been talking with neighboring landowners with the goal of creating a trail corridor from Mount Defiance to LGLC's Anthony's Nose Preserve. The acquisition of this 140-acre piece is a necessary step towards this goal.

Visit www.lglc.org/land-conservation/current-projects for more information about the South Mountain project.

BOLTON COMMUNITY TRAILS

So far, LGLC has led six hikes for more than 200 people at the Pinnacle, and though we don't have an exact count of how many others have enjoyed the trails on their own, numerous people have stopped by our office seeking information and trail maps.

To accommodate the popularity of this trail, an improved parking area and trailhead kiosk with log-in book is planned.

The immediate success and appeal of this 75-acre preserve is amazing, and we're using its momentum to complete a Bolton uplands trail loop that will connect the Pinnacle with the Bolton Conservation Park and Cat and Thomas Mountains Forest Preserve.

We are also in discussions with landowners interested in helping to complete the Bolton Community Trail Corridor, which would connect the uplands loop with the downtown business district of Bolton Landing. With minimal financial investment, the proposed trail system will mark a new era in recreational tourism for the region.

Citizen Scientists Needed!

LGLC is seeking volunteers to help monitor our preserves for the invasive pest hemlock woolly adelgid as part of a citizen scientist initiative throughout the Adirondack Park. We will provide training! Please email Warren at wrosenthal@lglc.org or call 518-644-9673 for more information.

Native to Asia, the hemlock woolly adelgid (*Adelges tsugae*) (HWA) is an aphid that was first introduced to America more than 60 years ago and has been spreading approximately 15 miles/year. Because of the unique qualities of the hemlock forest to riparian corridors, wildlife habitat, and forest aesthetics, and the fact that it occurs in very high densities in many areas, loss of this species may be as devastating to the ecological systems of the Lake George watershed as the loss of American chestnut and elm species.

HWA infestations have been confirmed as close as southern Saratoga County. The key to preventing a wide infestation is to detect an initial outbreak as soon as possible. Help us keep an eye on Lake George!



Group of happy hikers on the summit of Record Hill, at the Anthony's Nose Preserve, Putnam

Stewardship

When it comes to stewardship, the to-do list never ends. Luckily for us, we had many people helping our stellar 2015 Stewardship Assistants, Colin Dowd and Alexander Novick.

YMCA Camp Chingachgook, based in Fort Ann, sent participants in their leader-in-training program to build bridges at Amy's Park and the Terzian Woodlot (pictured, right). The Terzian Woodlot also received a new kiosk, courtesy of Eagle Scout Austin Getner from Lake George who built and installed the kiosk in August. Volunteers from the Warren County Youth Court cleaned up Peggy's Point this spring, and our ever-watchful volunteer Mary Lou Doulin continues to keep the park and its gardens beautiful. Other field volunteers include Bob Kafin, Bob Powell, and Tim Noble.

SCHUMANN PRESERVE AT PILOT KNOB

Our most visited preserve will be getting an upgrade! An expansion of the parking area is expected to happen this fall, so please watch for notices and use caution during construction.

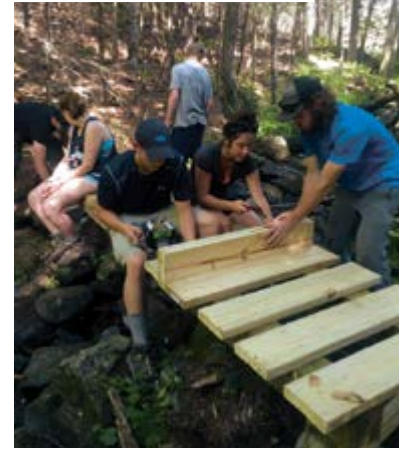
The trails are also going to see some dramatic changes. With more than 4,000 guests each year, the trails—and the thin, rocky soil—have

taken a beating, and are in dire need of help. Our current maintenance efforts provide temporary fixes that are insufficient for the long-term.

Funds raised from generous donors during our Celebration event on July 31 will be used to contract with professional trailbuilders to create a trail system that can survive heavy use and will remain safe and enjoyable for years to come. Stay tuned for updates on this process!

ANTHONY'S NOSE

A new parking area at Anthony's Nose Preserve is currently under construction. There is a drop-off from the edge of the parking area to the path leading to the kiosk; until the fence and stairs are in place, please use caution when parking and going down the embankment.

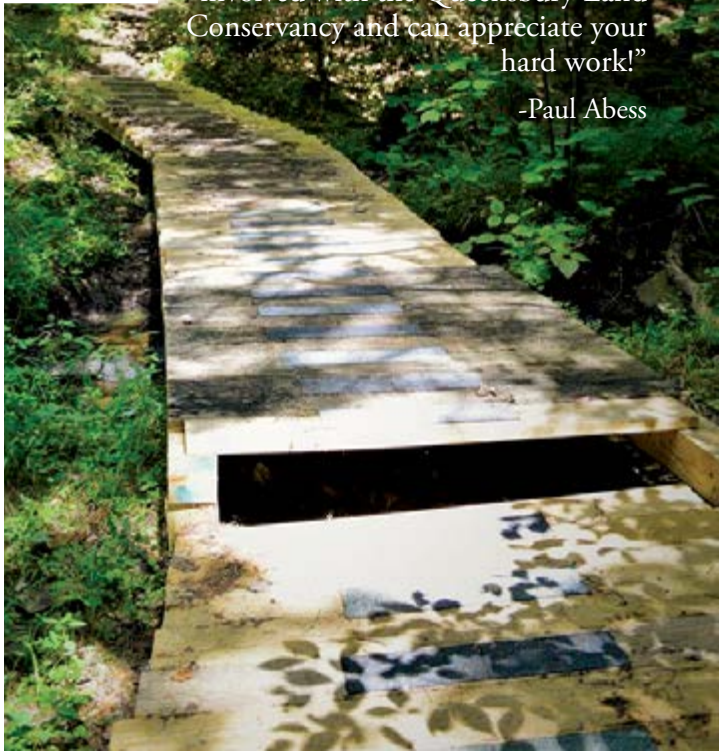


Photos shared on Facebook by YMCA Camp Chingachgook (above) and Kathryn Alexander (below)



“Just wanted to thank you for creating the beautiful and relatively secluded Amy's Park. I have really enjoyed biking and trail running throughout the park over the last few days. I am involved with the Queensbury Land Conservancy and can appreciate your hard work!”

-Paul Abess



FIELD REPORT

32 miles of trails maintained on 11 properties (lands owned by LGLC, NYS, and Town of Bolton)

5,200 visitors logged in to LGLC Parks and Preserves (does not include NYS lands)

3 bridges constructed, 2 kiosks built and installed, and 6 miles of new trails cut and marked

700 volunteer hours devoted to trail maintenance, invasive plant removal, and other field tasks

12 properties (842 acres) monitored under Conservation Easement agreements

Celebrations

There are many volunteers who dedicate an incredible amount of time each year to help LGLC with field and office tasks, and in an advisory capacity on our Board of Directors.

At LGLC's annual meeting, held July 18 at Blue Water Manor in Bolton Landing, we recognized a few of these volunteers for their extraordinary service:

ADMINISTRATIVE VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR - JERI KELLERMAN

STEWARDSHIP VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR - BOB KAFIN

and board member DOUG LANGDON FOR HIS EXCEPTIONAL DEDICATION to making personal thank-you calls to our donors.



WELCOME

Diamond Point resident Tom Hall has joined the LGLC board. As a retired Special Assistant/Assistant Regional Director for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) Region 5, Tom brings extensive environmental and management experience, as well as a deep local connection to the lake.

"I am excited by the good work the Lake George Land Conservancy does," said Tom, "and am looking forward to the opportunity to put my skills and experience to work to advance the mission and objectives of the organization."

Tom is also president of the Board of Trustees of the Hillview Free Library in Diamond Point, treasurer of the Town of Bolton Local Development Corporation, on the Board of Directors of Norowal Marina, Inc. and on the Board of Directors of the Lake George Music Festival.

*Top: Doug Langdon
and Jeri Kellerman
Above, left: Bob Kafin
Above, right: Tom Hall*

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION CELEBRATION

Thanks to the generosity of more than 220 guests, Honorary Committee members, and business donors, we were able to raise \$160,000 during LGLC's 16th annual Celebration to support several specific projects as well as our general mission of protecting Lake George!

This annual event serves as an important fundraiser, but more than anything it is a celebration for all who share our desire to protect this beautiful lake.

A complete photo gallery of the event can be viewed at lglc.org/events-and-programs/conservation-celebration.

*Left: Rowan Award winner and past LGLC Executive Director Nancy Williams
with LGLC President John Macionis*



ART COMES TO LGLC

"Nexus," a sculpture made of white marble and steel, has been installed at LGLC's headquarters. Created by the international award-winning artist Caroline Ramersdorfer, the piece was donated by LGLC President John J. Macionis.

"This sculpture expresses the essential connectedness of all creatures, great and small, living in the natural world," expressed John. We invite you to come and see it for yourself!





2015 LAKE GEORGE HIKE-A-THON!

510 registered hikers (144 more than last year)

43 volunteer hike leaders and ground crew

27 miles of trails traveled in four hours

12 properties, six towns, three counties



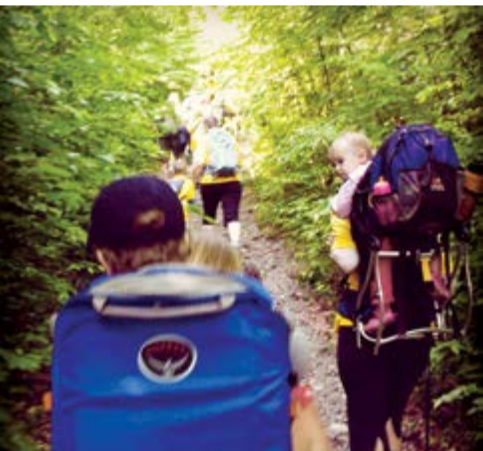
Photo by Carl Heilman

lakegeorgehikeathon.org

Be sure to visit us online for photos (including Carl Heilman's aerial photos) and updates for 2016!

SAVE THE DATE!

The Hike-A-Thon will be held on **Tuesday, July 5** next year, so plan now for your Fourth of July vacation time!



"Once again, Hike-A-Thon provided us with an excellent experience at a wonderful place and a chance to meet more fun people. A memorable experience."

- Kurt and Diane Wisell





Lake George Land Conservancy
 4905 Lake Shore Drive
 P.O. Box 1250
 Bolton Landing, NY 12814

The **Lake George Land Conservancy** is an accredited not-for-profit land trust dedicated to working with willing landowners and other partners to protect the world-renowned water quality of Lake George and to permanently preserve the natural, scenic, historic and recreational resources of the Lake George region.



Contact us:
 518-644-9673 | www.lglc.org

Get out!

Visit www.lglc.org for more information about these and other LGLC happenings. Call 518-644-9673 or email events@lglc.org to register.

Stay connected! #HikeLakeGeorge



October 10
FALL FOLIAGE HIKE
 Anthony's Nose Preserve
 Putnam
 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

October 24
LEAF CRUNCH HIKE
 Cat & Thomas Mts.
 Bolton Landing
 9 AM - 3 PM
 (Raindate: October 25)

November 14
WETLAND WALK
 Amy's Park
 Bolton Landing
 9:30 - 11 AM

December 10
LGLC HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE
 Bolton Landing
 3 - 5 PM

December 19
CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT at various locations in the south basin. Nation-wide citizens science effort headed by Audubon, locally by LGLC.

