

LGA News

Newsletter of The Lake George Association

NOV/DEC 2007
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New Signs Raise Awareness About Lake Protection

Water only down the drain!

As you walk around the Lake George watershed, you will notice the sparkling blue water and the lush, green hillsides.

However, if you look down at your feet, you might notice the LGA's newest medium for delivering an important message: stormdrain markers. These are disks that read "NO DUMPING - DRAINS TO LAKE."

The Lake George Association has attached these stormdrain markers on roadside curbs and grates to raise water quality awareness of residents and visitors who may be passing by.

To date, the Town of Lake George and Bolton Landing have stormdrain markers installed with additional stormdrain markers to be placed in other communities in the spring of 2008.

This campaign is helping to spread the word that all water flowing into these drains and catch basins



eventually flows into Lake George.

"Only stormwater should flow into the storm drains," states Kathy Bozony, LGA Land Use Management Coordinator.

Protecting Lake George's water quality is extremely important. After all, Lake George is drinking water.

Stop Aquatic Invaders!

The Lake George Association recently organized the CLEAN BOATS CLEAN WATERS initiative as part of education and outreach efforts by the Lake George Watershed Conference's Invasive Species Task Force. CLEAN BOATS CLEAN WATERS became the major invasive species awareness promotion during 2007.

Rollout of the program began with the Adirondack Park Invasive Species Awareness Week in July 2007 at the Town of Lake George Visitors Center. Local organizations

collaboratively participated in sharing information about the threat of invasive species and the potential impact on Lake George's future.

CLEAN BOATS CLEAN WATERS has been adopted from Michigan and Wisconsin's SeaGrant programs. The initiative in Lake George will continue next summer and will also be introduced in the rest of the Adirondack Park and Lake Champlain.

Boat stickers, magnets and t-shirts are available to share the message.

All boats entering and exiting Lake George and all other water bodies should be thoroughly inspected and cleaned of all aquatic plants and animals (including Eurasian watermilfoil and Zebra mussels, both of which, unfortunately, are present in Lake George).

Spread the word not the invasive!

Become involved to promote CLEAN BOATS CLEAN WATERS to prevent the growing threat of invasive species.



LGA receives donations from local inn, rowing event

The LGA was the proud recipient of 2 donations recently including \$107.50 collected by the proprietors of Inn on the Hill in Lake George, who left jars in each room encouraging their guests to donate to the LGA.

The other donation came from proceeds raised from the 1st Annual Milford Lester Memorial Cup Race. The donation in the form of a check for \$310 was presented at the LGA's office. A silver trophy cup with the names and times of the winners was also given to the LGA for permanent display.

Held on May 19th of this year, the recreational rowing event featured competitors from as far away as Ohio, Maine and Ontario, Canada.



The LGA's Nancy Cobb-Zoll (left) with Barbara and Jephson Hilary, proprietors of Inn on the Hill in Lake George.



Bob Tarrant and Carla Richards present LGA Executive Director Walt Lender (right) with the Milford Lester Memorial Cup to be displayed at the LGA office.

Race organizers said that the event was started to honor Milford Lester, who passed away in December of 2006 after a valiant struggle with pulmonary fibrosis. The event ties together two of Lester's interests: rowing and the protection of Lake George.

"We wanted to honor Milford's zest for life, his love of Lake George, and his passion for rowing," said Bob Tarrant, Race Chairman.

As a longtime summer resident on Assembly Point, Milford became a strong advocate for protecting the health and vitality of Lake George. This led him to become a dedicated volunteer for the Lake George Association for over 10 years.

"Milford was an inspiration to all of us," said Walt Lender, the LGA's Executive Director. "It's nice to know that his love for the lake will be a legacy that lives on."

Held under the auspices of the International Recreation and Open Water Rowing Association (IROW), competitors rowed from Million Dollar Beach at the southern end of Lake George, around the northern tip of Diamond Island and back. This year's race featured competition in 4 classes including Women's Singles, Men's Singles, Women's Doubles and Men's Doubles.

The winners in each category for the inaugural race were:

Carla Richards of Saratoga Springs;

Bob Tarrant, Saratoga Springs;

Debbie Arenberg and Jeanne Thorvaldsen of Eliot, Maine; and

Dave Powers and Ageo Frizzera, Saratoga Springs.

Next year's event will be held in May on the Saturday of the weekend before Memorial Day Weekend. ♦



The Lake George Association, Inc.

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Catherine LaBombard (*Hulets Landing*)

Chauncey Mason (*Bolton Landing*)

Peter Menzies (*Bolton Landing*)

In the LGA's 2006 Annual Report, we mistakenly omitted the name of Bonnie Davis as an outgoing director. Bonnie was a long-time member of the Board serving at times as Secretary and serving on many committees. We apologize for this omission and we thank Bonnie for her many years of service to the LGA.

Join the LGA Today and Help Protect the Beauty & Quality of Lake George for Years to Come!

Name _____

Primary Address _____

Seasonal Address _____

Phone _____

Email Address _____

Yes! I would like to become an LGA Member: (Check Below)

<input type="checkbox"/> \$10,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$1,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$150
<input type="checkbox"/> \$5,000	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Family
<input type="checkbox"/> \$2,500	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Individual

Payment type:

Check. (Make checks payable to Lake George Association Inc.)

Charge my credit card \$ _____

VISA/MC/AMEX # _____

Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Please cut out and mail to: **Lake George Association, Inc.**

P.O. Box 408

Lake George, NY 12845

NWS 1107

Golf Tournament raises money for LGA Lake Saving Programs

The Lake George Association announced that its annual golf tournament raised over \$27,000. This represents a net increase of more than \$9,000 over last year's event.

The proceeds will help support some of the LGA's Lake Saving Programs, including education initiatives and remediation projects aimed at protecting the lake's exceptional water quality.

The LGA's 15th Annual Golf Tournament was held on September 27th at The Sagamore Golf Club in Bolton Landing. Despite a questionable weather forecast, more than 140 players generously supporting the event were rewarded with a crisp fall day that even included a few breaks of sun.

Walt Lender, the LGA's Executive Director, credits the tournament committee and several volunteers for putting in the hard work that made the event so successful.

"Our committee put in a tremendous amount of time organizing the event, garnering sponsorships, and getting the raffle and silent auction items donated," said Lender. "I am amazed at how they have been able to grow this event each year."

Winners in the team category are shown in the photos below. Other winners from the team and individual categories include:

4th Place Team: Nancy Hyman, Karin Hyman, Pat Mahony, Nicole Ryan



1st Place Team: Art Babiak, James Boland, John Machiski, Richard Shaw



2nd Place Team: Don Bibby, Bob Ceglanski, Jack LaBombard, Walter Rehm



3rd Place Team: Tim Ciccone, Ned Eckert, Tom Hedley, Gerry McGarvey

According to Nancy Cobb-Zoll, the LGA's Director of Membership Development and organizer of the tournament, feedback from the players was very positive and the sponsor support has increased year after year.

"We had more players, more sponsor dollars, and more in-kind donations," she added. "We sold more raffle tickets, and had increased silent auction revenues."



Top Female Team: Sue Lundgren, Karin Maurer, Carol Whitney, Charlotte Whitney

5th Place Team: Jim & Pat Gallagher, Mary Arthur & John Beebe

Longest drive men: Frank Cameron, Jr.

Longest drive women: Karin Hyman

Closest to pin men: Nick Caimano; Mark Taylor

Closest to pin women: Mary-Arthur Beebe

Putting contest winner: Ken Rotundo

Thank you to our Sponsors

**Bruce & Mary Ashby
J. Buckley Bryan, Jr.
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Friends from Troll Trail
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Staci Brennan Photography
Stewart's Shops
The Chronicle
The Garrison Restaurant
TLC Boat Service
Warren Tire
Woodhaven Kitchen Design
Worlco Management Services

and Thank You to almost 90 businesses and individuals who donated prizes and items for the raffle and silent auction.

Turtles and Loons and Fish, Oh My!

Summer Education and Outreach Highlights

As usual, this was a busy summer for the Education and Outreach program at the LGA, but we were lucky to have many great volunteers and we were able to provide many educational programs. Here are just a few of the highlights from the summer:

Expanding our Citizen Science efforts:

◆ Our **Drop a Brick on Zebra Mussels Program** continued this summer with many of the lake's marinas joining the fight against this invasive species by hanging bricks off of their docks.

◆ This summer marked the first year of the **Lake George Turtle Monitoring Project**. The hope is that this program will be able to establish base knowledge of the turtle populations in and around the lake. For more info on the program, some volunteer photos and results check out the LGA website: www.lakegeorgeassociation.org/igtmp.htm. We also have some turtle



photos from volunteer Joe Harrigan on display at the office so please stop by and check them out.

◆ The LGA had 10 sites monitored this summer for water quality as part of the NYS DEC and NYSFOLA **CSLAP program**. The report with all the data and analysis will be available next spring. This is our fourth year of collecting this very important data.

◆ The annual Adirondack Cooperative Loon Program's **Annual Summer Loon Census** took place on Saturday, July 21st. According to Emily DeBolt, LGA Educator, "We coordinated volunteers to help get more data for Lake George in this important annual census." For the results and some volunteer photos check out our website at www.lakegeorgeassociation.org/loon_monitoring.htm.

Summer Outreach opportunities for all ages:

◆ The LGA provided two **community service groups** with activities this summer. The first was from Upward Bound and the students worked on removing some invasive Oriental Bittersweet and conducted a clean-up of the lake shore in the village along Beach Rd. The other group of students came to the LGA from the Chimney Beckett YMCA Summer Camp. They helped with landscaping for the buffer demonstration in front of the office and

also went stream monitoring.

◆ Children from the Bolton Youth Summer Camp and students from Johnsbury Central School participated in **Creek Critters** programs while day campers at the Northern Lake George Yacht Club were visited by Emily twice and learned about the lake and invasive species.

◆ The LGA presented a series of **8 Nature Talks** in partnership with the LGLC. Topics ranged from wildflowers to rattlesnakes to invasive species and were thoroughly enjoyed by those who attended.

◆ During **Adirondack Park Invasive Species Awareness Week**, the LGA worked with other groups around the lake to organize a series of events. Activities were scheduled all week long, including a paddle in Dunham's Bay to look for invasive aquatic plants, Waterfest in Ticonderoga, and a tent with invasive species



display set up at the LG Visitor Center. The display had samples of aquatic invasive plants found in Lake George as well as plants donated by Schroon Falls Farm Nursery to show native species that can be used for gardening instead of invasives. ◆

"Look into the water rather than just at the surface."



copyright - Brad Hague 2007

On June 29th, Brad Hague spotted this longnose gar in Lake George hiding in the shadow of his 24" mooring ball in Harris Bay. These fish are native to Lake George, but rarely seen. Thanks to Brad for sharing his photo, so we can all enjoy this cool looking fish that calls Lake George home.

Nuisance News: Double-crested cormorants, Canada geese

Looks like the Cormorants are here to stay

Many of our members have voiced concern about the growing cormorant population on the islands near Hague. The LGA contacted DEC to find out the facts about double-crested cormorants and what is being done about them.

DEC is aware of the cormorant population on Lake George and keeping a close eye on things. 12 cormorants were killed in August out of the estimated 40-60 found on the lake this year, which is up from about 20-25 birds observed in 2006. A nest was started on Three Sirens Island, but not completed, so there has been no evidence of breeding at Lake George.



Top: The guano from the cormorants has already begun to kill vegetation on the island where they have been roosting. Right: Geese enjoying the turf grass at Veterans Park in Bolton Landing this summer.

Next year, DEC plans to begin control measures in May, hoping to keep the population at about 20-25 birds, which will avoid the concentrated roosting that precedes nesting.

There are concerns about negative impacts of cormorants to other nesting waterbirds, especially herons and terns, and their impacts on fisheries. However, the birds are native to the area, which is why DEC will be monitoring and managing their population instead of removing them all from Lake George.

Most likely, the birds arrived here from Lake Champlain, which has been dealing with cormorant issues for years. They have an estimated summer population of 15,000, with most of the birds nesting on just two islands. Lake Champlain has already seen a change in biodiversity on some of its islands and displacement of other bird species by the cormorants.

If they are a nuisance, why not get rid of them?

The birds are protected by the Federal Migratory Bird Act after almost being wiped out by DDT years ago. According to DEC, cormorants are a native species, with a distribution greatly reduced by indiscriminate killing and environmental contamination. Their growing populations are a sign of ecological restoration. It will be some time before a natural balance is restored, and it is DEC's responsibility to manage the nuisance conditions that result from this population growth, while working with researchers to better understand the natural balance and role of cormorants in a healthy ecological system.

Stop unwelcome geese with a shoreline buffer

Many of our members ask for help each summer in dealing with resident Canada geese problems. These unwelcome lawn guests are different from the migratory Canada geese that pass through each spring and fall. They are much larger and are not built to fly such long distances, which means they hang around and make a mess all over the place, from golf courses and public parks to private lawns and parking lots.

Unfortunately, there is no silver bullet for getting rid of them. However, if you have a goose problem on your lawn and you live on the lake, planting a native buffer along your shoreline is your best bet. The geese like the short, tender turf grass that makes up lawns. The less lawn you have, the less of a feast you are providing for the geese. They also like open spaces which make them feel safe. They won't come up on your lawn to eat your tasty turf grass if they don't feel safe, and a buffer cuts off their view from your lawn to the safety of the lake.

Not only can a buffer keep geese off your lawn, but all the other benefits of shoreline buffers for water quality make it so there is no reason not to have one. If you are



interested in planting a buffer, call the office for information about how to design your buffer and what plants to use.

However, if more drastic measures are needed, there are some changes in the permits needed to take action of which we want to keep our members informed. Canada geese are protected under the Federal Migratory Bird Act, so you shouldn't take matters into your own hands without first getting the proper permits. New general depredation permits were recently created at both the state and federal level to make it easier for people to take action to alleviate nuisance goose problems.

For more information from DEC on Canada geese, options for trying to keep them off your lawn, and general depredation permits, go to <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/animals/7003.html>. We have copies of the DEC publication "When Geese Become a Problem," also available to download at the DEC website listed above. If you would like a copy mailed to you, please call the LGA office at (518) 668-3558. ♡

Check us out online at lakegeorgeassociation.org.

LGA

It's Here!! The 2008 LGA Calendar!

Oil & Water ~ Timeless Lake George



A 2008 calendar to benefit the Lake George Association featuring paintings from the Hudson River School of Art

“Oil & Water -- Timeless Lake George” features 12 wonderful paintings of Lake George from Hudson River School artists including Leganger, Moore, Wyant, Decker, Codgale, Hart, Hubbard and Bristol.



January



February



March



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May



June



July



August



September



October



November



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For the low price of \$12.95 (not including shipping), you can own a beautiful calendar featuring Lake George paintings and support the Lake George Association's Lake Saving Programs and Projects.

We pledge that 100% of proceeds from sales of this calendar will go to support the LGA's efforts to protect Lake George.

Our Mission Statement

“Working together to protect, conserve and improve the beauty and quality of the Lake George Basin.”

The Lake George Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 408
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