



# Lake George Association

*People Protecting the Lake Since 1885*

## NEWS RELEASE

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### For IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### Volunteers Transform West Brook into a Bird Paradise

**Lake George, NY** – Sept 19, 2011– Over 30 volunteers from the Lake George Association and the Southern Adirondack Audubon Society (SAAS) worked on Saturday Sept 17 to transform the banks of West Brook in the village of Lake George, turning it into a feeding paradise for our local bird population.

“We replaced about 36 invasive shrubby honeysuckle bushes with a variety of Adirondack native shrubs that have either berries or seeds. These varieties also thrive in streambank environments,” said Emily DeBolt, LGA’s director of education. A Together Green grant received by SAAS paid for the new shrubs, which included winterberry, red chokeberry, silky dogwood, red twig dogwood, swamp rose, buttonbush, eastern ninebark, and northern bayberry.

“While shrubby honeysuckle has lots of berries, they aren’t actually good for the birds. They are sugar water, so they don’t provide real nutrition. They are like fast food. They look great and taste good, but they aren’t good for the birds. The birds need fat – to build up their energy reserves for either their fall migration or for staying here and making it through the long cold winter. A number of our native shrubs – such as dogwoods and northern bayberry – have berries with a very high fat content – so they are great for the birds,” Ms. DeBolt continued.

Digging out the honeysuckle roots took a lot of determination on the part of the volunteers, as the plants were well established. The larger plants were removed with the help of a truck pulling a chain attached to the plant base. “It was important for us to remove these plants now before they could seed the north and south parcels of the West Brook Conservation Initiative project – the stormwater treatment complex and environmental park being built on the old Gaslight village site,” said Ms. DeBolt. “Because the land on the north and south parcels has been recently graded, it is particularly susceptible to becoming a new home for the honeysuckle and we didn’t want to see that happen,” she said.

#### About the LGA

The LGA is a non-profit membership organization of people interested in working together to protect, conserve, and improve the beauty and quality of the Lake George Basin. It is the nation’s oldest lake association. For more information, contact the LGA at 518-668-3558 or visit the LGA website at [www.lakegeorgeassociation.org](http://www.lakegeorgeassociation.org).

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