

Geothermal - You can do it too!

Here at the LGA we heat and cool our 3,000 square ft. office with a geothermal system, officially known as an open loop/vertical standing water column (VSWC) system. It was first installed 21 years ago by Harold Rist of Smart-Energy. (See their website at www.smart-nrg.com.) All that's needed to install this type of system is a well that goes at least 15 feet in the ground, and forced air ducts throughout the building.

The same technology we are using here at the LGA can be used anywhere within the Adirondacks – it relies totally on the constant temperature provided by the water deep in a well... you don't have to be near a natural geothermal feature – like a hot spring – as some people believe. In the Adirondacks, at a 15-foot depth, the earth remains a consistent 50 degrees F, and it is this fact that enables geothermal systems here to work.

You also don't have to dig up your yard to convert to a geothermal system. If you already have a well, and you have air conditioning, you're halfway done already!

The geothermal heat pump unit we have here at the LGA is about 7 feet tall and its footprint is about a yard square. It lives in our basement. It's attached to our water heater, but there is no additional furnace, no additional air conditioner. It's hooked up to electricity, and to a system of overhead air ducts that

Continued, next page

Asian clam receives additional funding

Last month the Lake George Park Commission voted unanimously to provide an additional \$200,000 to fight the Asian clam, bringing their total investment in the eradication project up to \$275,000 for the 2011-12 budget.

Also last month Warren County agreed to provide \$100,000 from occupancy tax money to help in the fight.



LGA Lake Steward Monika LaPlante surveying this past August for Asian clam at Gilcrest Marina, one of many sites surveyed by an LGA team.

The Asian clam has now been identified in four separate locations on Lake George, and the effort to survey the entire lake for the invasive is ongoing. Divers from the Darrin Fresh Water Institute, as well as staff from the LGA have been actively surveying dozens of shoreline sites and examining the lake bottom for evidence of the clam.

Current projected cost to complete eradication of the first site alone – those in the south basin off the west side of the village of Lake George shoreline – is now almost \$700,000. After further examination, divers

in at the Boon Bay site have determined that the size of the infestation there is similar to that in the south basin – almost 5 acres. The other two sites – off Treasure Cove and Norowal Marina are smaller in size.

Additional funding will still be needed if eradication efforts are to be successful. Please consider joining the LGA if you are not already a member, or making a special donation to the LGA, especially if you own property that is directly affected by the threat.



Geothermal, continued

Air-based geothermal systems are more efficient and comfortable than traditional systems because they deliver air that is just 20 – 30 degrees warmer than the room's air, instead of air that is 60 – 100 degrees warmer, like a fossil fuel furnace. Old "hot air" systems have wide temperature fluctuations between on and off cycles, while geothermal systems provide more consistent temperatures.

travel along the ceiling of the basement. No other pipes or horizontal loops are placed underground or throughout the yard; no outside chimneys or units are needed.

If you're currently heating your home or business with oil, propane, natural gas or electricity, converting



The LGA's geothermal heating and cooling system is about 7-ft tall and a yard square. to a geothermal system would not only be good for the environment, it could be great for your pocketbook.

Here at the LGA we've been using our geothermal system for 21 years. During that time Smart-Energy estimates that we have saved 60 – 70% annually on energy costs, compared to what we would have spent

on a conventional system. That's money we have been able to spend on lake protection programs, instead of on heat and air conditioning. It's also the equivalent of not drilling, transporting and burning 320 barrels of oil during that period, according to Smart-Energy.

Geothermal is not only for businesses... homeowners too use them very successfully. LGA Director of Education Emily DeBolt has a geothermal heating and system in her Hartford home and is very satisfied with its performance. "We are very comfortable in both the winter and summer," she says.

How does geothermal work?

Well water maintains a constant temperature all year long. In our area it is about 50 degrees F no matter what the season. The heat pump in a geothermal system uses

Converting an existing system to Geothermal

the temperature of the well water to heat cold winter air and cool hot summer air. The energy supplied by the earth supplies 75% of the needed energy, both in cooling and in heating a building. Electricity only has to supply the remaining 25% to pump the water, operate a compressor and deliver the heated or cooled air with a fan.

Converting a home or building that already has a heating and/or cooling system in place presents challenges, but not necessarily ones that can't be overcome.

When a home already has an air delivery system in place that was sized for the requirements of a central air conditioning system, the cost to convert the home to a geothermal is less than would otherwise be the case. For a 1,500 – 4,000 square foot home in this category, the conversion costs between \$16,000 - \$28,000, not including a well, pump or excavating, if that is also needed. Many times however, an existing well can be used for the dual purpose – both drinking water, and the "permanent fuel tank."

When you factor in the potential annual savings over conventional heating and cooling, which are often 60 – 70%, in addition to a 30% home efficiency improvement federal tax credit, your investment can sometimes be returned in fewer than 5 years.

Winter Heating Mode

A liquid refrigerant flows through the heat pump, absorbing heat energy from the ground water. This liquid refrigerant evaporates to a gas at low temperatures and pressures. After the refrigerant evaporates, it is passed through a compressor which

Continued, next page

efficiently raises its temperature as its pressure increases, thus enabling the heat pump to give off heat to your home or commercial building. Water that is 40 degrees instead of 50 degrees is returned to the ground. The opposite of this process occurs in the summer.

Summer Cooling Mode

As the refrigerant evaporates, it absorbs heat from the inside of the house or commercial building and transfers this heat to the ground water via the heat pump. Water that is 60 degrees instead of 50 degrees is returned to the ground.

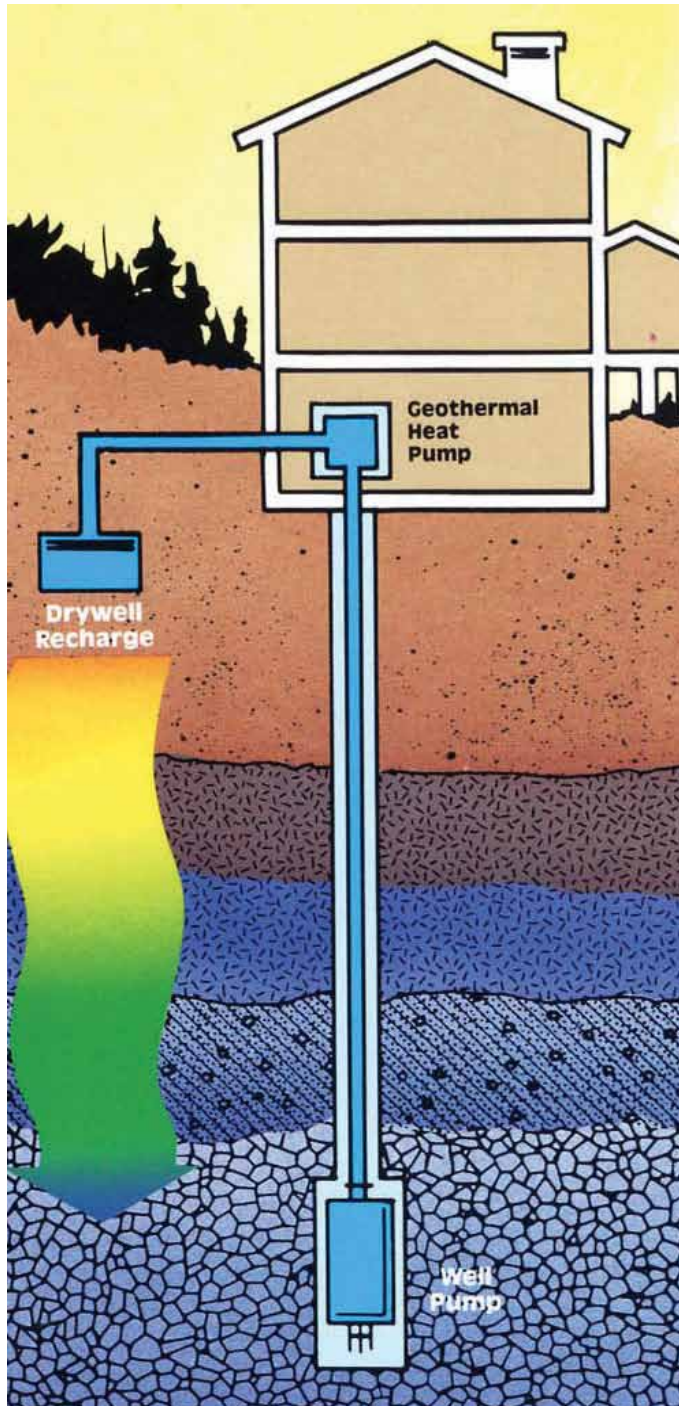


Diagram of an installed system

Environmental Impact of Fossil Fuel Use (OR: Why you'll be a lake hero if you convert to Geothermal)

Global Warming

Over the last 150 years, burning fossil fuels has resulted in more than a 25 percent increase in the amount of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere. Carbon dioxide traps heat in the earth's atmosphere.

Since reliable records began in the late 1800s, the global average surface temperature has risen 0.5-1.1 degrees Fahrenheit (0.3-0.6 degrees Celsius). Climate scientists predict that if carbon dioxide levels continue to increase, the planet will become warmer in the next century, altering weather patterns and creating more extreme weather events.

Air Pollution

Fossil fuel combustion produces nitrogen oxides and sulfur oxides, important constituents of acid rain. These gases combine with water vapor in clouds to form sulfuric and nitric acids, which become part of rain and snow. As the acids accumulate, lakes and rivers become too acidic for plant and animal life. Acid rain also affects crops and buildings. Particulates produced by fossil fuel combustion, such as dust, soot, smoke, and other suspended matter, may contribute to acid rain formation.

Water and Land Pollution

Production, transportation, and use of oil can cause water pollution. Oil spills, for example, leave waterways and their surrounding shores uninhabitable for some time. Such spills often result in the loss of plant and animal life.

Thermal Pollution

During the electricity-generation process, burning fossil fuels produce heat energy, some of which is used to generate electricity. Because the process is inefficient, much of the heat is released to the atmosphere or to water that is used as a coolant. Heated air is not a problem, but heated water, once returned to rivers or lakes, can upset the aquatic ecosystem.

Source: Union of Concerned Scientists - ucsusa.org



The LGA Fuel Tank - our well!

Summer Splash

Over 300 guests joined us on Friday, July 19, 2011 for our Summer Splash Gala at the Inn at Erlowest. The event raised almost \$66,000 to benefit the protection of Lake George.





Once again, Cheryl Lamb, (pictured above), chaired the event, going above and beyond to secure fantastic items for the silent auction.



Summer Splash Sponsors

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West Brook Concept "G" approved by Warren County Supervisors

In August the Warren County Supervisors reviewed the design concepts for the West Brook Environmental Park created by Elan Associates as a result of July's public planning sessions.

Several different features for the park were included in the proposed concepts, including a children's water feature near Route 9 in the shape of Lake George, a children's environmental play area, a comfort station, a circular central festival space for large gatherings and parking, a fire tower and an elevated walkway over the brook itself, and diagonal metered parking on a widened West Brook road.

The planning group is also considering the possibility of bringing back the two-story carousel which was once a part of Gaslight Village. The carousel has been in storage in Vermont since 2000, when it was purchased at auction for \$125,000.



Pictured, clockwise from left: Proposed children's play fountain near Rt. 9N on the north parcel; proposed comfort station on the north parcel; the plan for the north parcel, including a central circular festival space; and a proposed bridge over West Brook, linking the north and south parcels.

Roughly \$500,000 still needs to be raised to cover the initial investment in the property, and some proposed park elements will require new funds.



LGA Lake Saving Projects: Stream work more important than ever after Irene

Tropical Storm Irene wreaked considerable damage on the Lake George Watershed, including many of the major streams and tributaries leading into the Lake.

The LGA is assessing the damage done to the streams in the watershed. We are moving forward with new projects and stabilizing some of the damage that Irene has caused. LGA members, along with special donations, will help fund this essential lake saving work...you can donate and join online at www.lakegeorgeassociation.org. (Just click on the yellow JOIN/DONATE button on top left.)

The health of the streams feeding into Lake George is an essential component of lake health. LGA project manager Randy Rath works on a variety of lake saving projects to protect the streams in the watershed, and to help improve the quality of the water that flows from streams into the Lake. These projects include creating wetlands, installing and cleaning out sediment basins, and stabilizing streambanks.

Important questions to consider when looking at any stream are:

- Is stormwater runoff from nearby roads and impervious surfaces entering the stream and introducing sediment, contaminants and nutrients?
- Are storm drains and catch basins leading to a stream clogged with sediment or debris?
- During a storm event, is water flowing at an overly rapid rate, causing erosion and excessive amounts of sediment to be carried downstream?
- Are ponds, wetlands and reservoirs along a stream being filled in with sediment and debris, causing them to no longer function as natural filters for the water?

The answers to these questions help us determine when to take action, and how to prioritize next steps. Many times a landowner will be the first to bring an issue to our attention. Once we know of a problem, we follow several steps prior to actually implementing a solution:

1. We consult with engineers or experts on possible solutions.
2. We apply for any necessary permits with the local municipality, park commission, APA and or DEC. This process can take several weeks, months or years to complete.
3. We estimate the costs to implement a solution, line up partners to provide the services, and apply for a grant or ask a local municipality to help with funding.



This summer, LGA staff created enhanced wetlands on Indian Brook, using native plants.

Why is sediment so bad for the Lake? It's not just dirt!

Sediment entering stormwater degrades the quality of water for drinking, wildlife and the land surrounding streams in the following ways:

- Sediment fills up storm drains and catch basins, increasing the potential for flooding.
- Water polluted with sediment becomes cloudy, preventing animals from seeing food.
- Murky water prevents natural aquatic vegetation from growing.
- Sediment in stream beds disrupts the natural food chain by destroying the habitat where the smallest stream organisms live, leading to declining fish populations.
- Sediment increases the cost of treating drinking water and can result in odor and taste problems.
- Sediment can clog fish gills, reducing resistance to disease, lowering growth rates, and affecting fish egg and larvae development.
- Nutrients transported by sediment can encourage the growth of blue-green algae.
- Sediment deposits can alter the flow of water and reduce water depth, which makes navigation and recreational use more difficult.



Sediment enters the Lake at the Sheriff's Dock, during Tropical Storm Irene.

Source: Environmental Protection Agency

Indian Brook

This summer we created a second sediment basin at Indian Brook, in Bolton Landing, at the intersection Federal Hill and Sawhill roads. Dave Myers of Greystone Engineering was the design engineer of the project.

This offline basin is designed to receive a majority of its flow during storm events, and will trap sediment before it can flow downstream and into the Lake. The design also includes an enhanced wetlands area.

Staff from the LGA, including our intern Jill Trunko, several of our lake stewards, and an intern from the Lake George Watershed Coalition, worked to plant native vegetation in the wetlands area. Additional work was completed by Kingsley Construction.

Once established, these wetlands will serve as a secondary filter, naturally absorbing harmful nutrients that would otherwise end up in the Lake. Thankfully, this project held up beautifully during Tropical Storm Irene.

English, West & Foster Brooks

Unfortunately Tropical Storm Irene did wreak havoc on several brooks, including English, West and Foster. These have all suffered major damage. Severe erosion has occurred along many of the lower sections of the

streams. Each of the streams jumped its banks during the storm; each was unable to contain all of the stormwater flow. The flow scoured hundreds of cubic yards from the streambeds and streambanks, depositing material into the Lake. Along the way, the flow wiped out trees, pushed boulders down the streams, flooded small buildings and homes, and even carved a new outlet channel for English Brook. Many landowners have lost several feet of property and erosion on those banks still continues.

The LGA is asking for your help. The towns and county are doing what they can, but they are also busy

Continued on page 15

Biotechnical practices used to manage streams

Biotechnical practices use vegetative or other natural materials to help restore natural stream features, like in-stream habitat and streambank vegetation. The materials used are generally less expensive than those used in more traditional approaches, but installation is more labor intensive and the solution may require more frequent maintenance.

Log revetment - Hardwood logs anchored against the streambank buffer stream energy. Brush is tied in behind the log to prevent scour and capture sediment.

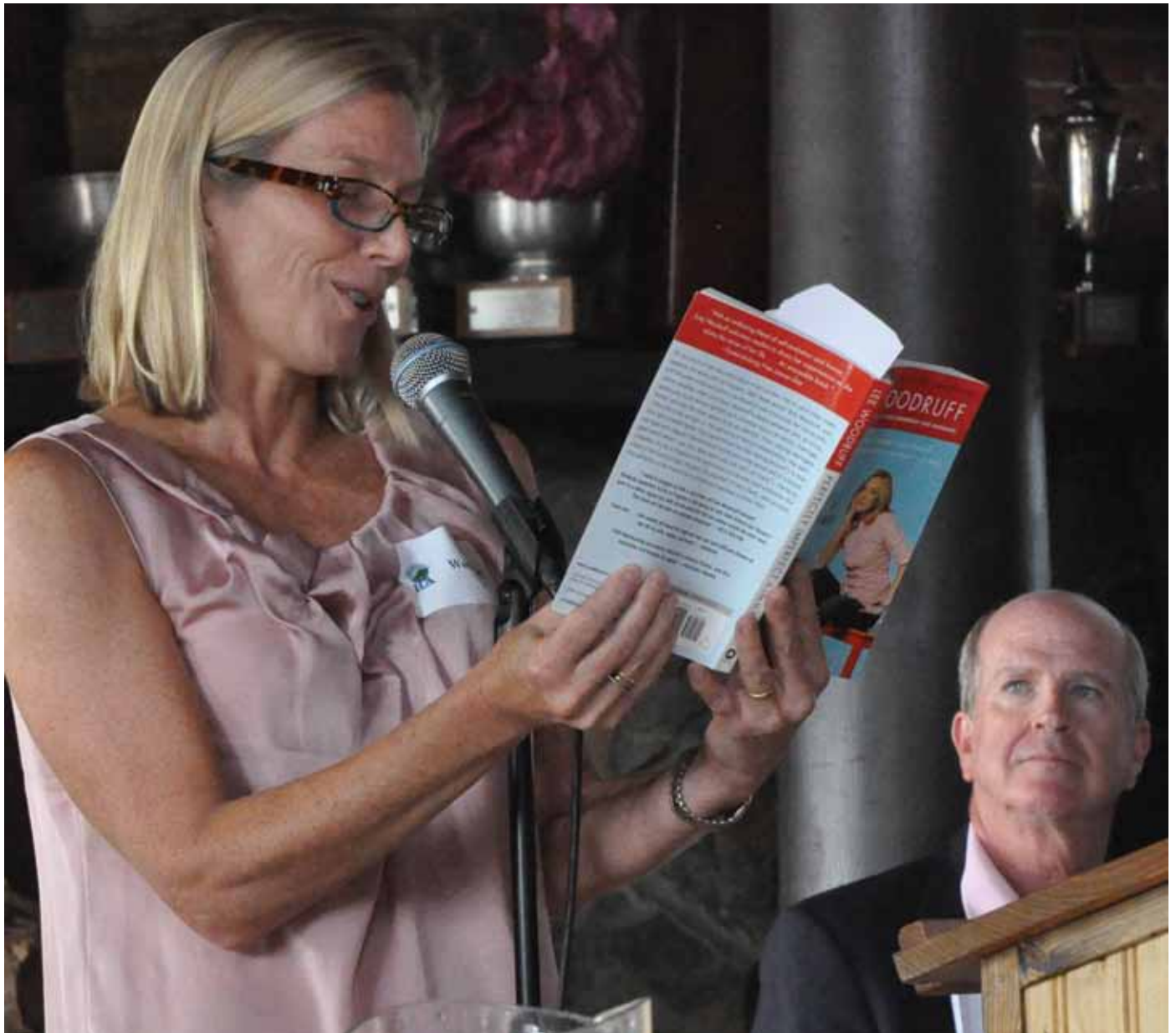
Placed rocks - Stones or boulders are strategically placed in a stream channel which lacks natural structural features. They can create eddies and scour holes, which are important elements of fish habitat.

Source: Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Lake George a healing force, says Lee Woodruff at LGA's 126th Annual Meeting

We were pleased to welcome 127 members and friends for our annual meeting at the Lake George Club on Friday, August 19.

Lee Woodruff, (*pictured below*), a New York Times bestselling author and fifth generation summer resident of Lake George, gave an inspiring talk and shared memories of her experiences on the Lake, and how it was a powerful healing force after her husband Bob was injured while reporting for ABC news in Iraq. She read from her latest book, *Perfectly Imperfect*, and signed copies for attendees. Lee generously donated the books to support LGA efforts.





LGA Appoints New Directors

The Lake George Association has appointed James Casaccio and Daniel Davies to its board of directors.

Daniel Davies (*at left*) is the co-owner of Davies & Davies and Associates Real Estate LLC and has sold real estate in the Lake George area since 1993. He has homes in Dunham's Bay and Queensbury. Dan is a past treasurer and president for the Warren County Real Estate Multiple Listing Service and a past chief of the North Queensbury Fire Company. He also served on the board of directors for the Warren County Association of Realtors. He received a B.S. degree in finance from Siena College.



James (*at right*) lives in Bolton Landing with his wife Tence and has 18 years of experience in the human

resources and software field. He is currently a salesperson with McDonald Real Estate Professionals. In addition to serving on the membership committee for the LGA, he is a volunteer for the Hyde Collection in Glens Falls. Jim graduated

from Johnson & Wales University in Providence, RI with a degree in management. Jim is working on the LGA's membership and communications committees.

Lake Stewards Report August Results

As of August 13, LGA lake stewards have interacted with almost 7,000 boats and have removed 78 specimens of invasive species, including 61 of Eurasian watermilfoil, 10 of curly-leaf pondweed, 5 of water chestnut, and 2 of zebra mussel.

Steward coverage will be extended into the fall this year at Million Dollar Beach and Mossy Point.



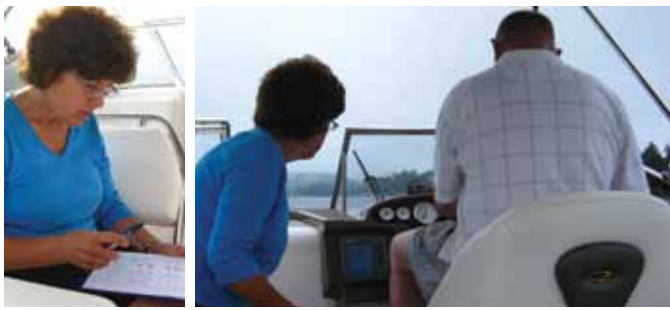
LGA Welcomes Fall Intern Alex Pezzuoli



Alex Pezzuoli, a junior at Rensslear Polytechnic Institute, majoring in biology, will be interning this fall at the LGA through a program with the Darrin Fresh Water Institute. Alex plans to enter the ecology field after graduation.

CSLAP Volunteers Julie and Irwin Work Early on a Sunday Morning

Julie and Irwin Nathanson volunteer for CSLAP - the Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program - and monitor the water quality of Lake George eight times a summer. *Clockwise from right:* Julie prepares to sink a Van Dorn bottle to capture water samples; measuring water temperature; measuring water clarity with a Secchi Disk; recording findings; and carefully checking the depth of the water, along with GPS coordinates, to locate the exact spot they monitor.



LGA Stream Work, continued from page 11

rebuilding roads that were damaged during the storm. We don't currently have the funding to carry out all of the necessary work and therefore we can't do it alone, your help is necessary.

In the meantime, the LGA is doing what we can. We are removing some log revetments from Foster Brook that were moved during the storm along with other trees that have fallen into the brook. On English and West brooks, we are coordinating with the Warren County Soil and Water District and the town of Lake George to clean up the stream and armor some newly exposed banks, to cut down on further erosion. We are hoping for a somewhat dry fall so that work can continue unimpeded by the weather.

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The LGA is proud to produce this publication using Forest Stewardship Council certified printing & paper.



The Lake George Association, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

What's YOUR LGA membership status?

A devoted team of volunteers

has been working hard all summer to add new members to the LGA's rosters. If you're not yet a member, please join our newest members (listed below) in PROTECTING this LAKE that we all love.

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It's HUGE, It's IN, and it WORKS Beautifully! (even during Irene!)



It's the LGA's new Aqua-Swirl hydrodynamic separator! Now installed on the Lochlea Estate in the town of Lake George, the system collects previously untreated stormwater runoff in the English Brook watershed. Stormwater from both the east and west sides of Rt. 9N is treated, as well as from the bridge between the two exits at Exit 22 on Interstate 87.

The cost of the entire project is estimated at \$117,000. The village of Lake George will maintain the structure and clean out the system using the LGA's Catch Vac.

The LGA secured funding for this project from the Lake Champlain Basin Program, the Lake George Watershed Coalition and the Helen V. Froehlich Foundation.

One of the eight major streams entering Lake George, English Brook has been of high concern to the LGA for over a decade. Land development in the English Brook watershed has increased the volume and velocity of stormwater runoff, leading to increased pollution entering the brook, including high levels of phosphorus, chlorides, total suspended sediments, lead and nitrate nitrogen. The New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation lists the brook as sediment impaired, and its delta is one of the largest on the Lake.

CHECK OUT WHAT'S NEW ONLINE:

LGA YouTube Video:
Lake George and Tropical Storm Irene

Blog LGA's Lake-friendly Living BLOG
(Recent posts on Rain Gardens and Firewood):
<http://www.lakegeorge.com/lakefriendlyliving/>

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The LGA's 2010-11

Annual Report to the Community

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LGA's MISSION: *Working together to protect, conserve and improve the beauty and quality of the Lake George Basin.*

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