



Lake George Association

People Protecting the Lake Since 1885

NEWS RELEASE

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For IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Glens Falls Ecology Students Study Streams with the Lake George Association – Same Program Will Be Offered this Summer for Families and Tourists

LAKE GEORGE, NY – (June 24, 2010) While some students may take end-of-the-year field trips to amusement parks or swimming pools, sixth grade ecology students in Glens Falls combined fun with hands-on learning this spring. Each year, for the past eight years, 150 Glens Falls students have traveled to the Lake George Recreation Center for a stream workshop, conducted by the Lake George Association. Led by LGA Watershed Educator Kristen Rohne, and donning boots and carrying nets, students learn to monitor the health of a stream by collecting and identifying macroinvertebrates. Sensitive stream insects, such as stoneflies and mayflies, can only live in unpolluted streams; they are important indicators of stream health.

A similar program will be offered this summer for local families and tourists. Entitled “Creek Critters,” the program is free and will be offered on Thursdays from 10 - 11am on July 22 and August 12. Participants should meet at the Lake George Recreation Center off of Rt. 9N in Lake George at the first parking lot, on top.

“This is a great supplemental activity for our Ecology unit,” says Glens Falls Science teacher, Mary Lea Raymond. “In our 6th grade science curriculum, the students are learning about living things and their interaction with the non-living environment. When the ecosystem is disturbed with pollution, the ecosystem isn’t balanced, and living things begin to die off. This program is also a good leading-up activity for 7th grade life science,” she said.

“This program helps students understand that it is not just the Lake itself that we need to protect, but the entire Watershed,” says the LGA’s Kristen Rohne. “There are eight major streams and 133 smaller streams entering Lake George. Many people do not realize that stormwater from these streams, and from other sources, is the Lake’s primary source of contamination. Stream health is essential to the Lake’s water quality,” she said.

The LGA stream monitoring workshop, as well as the LGA Floating Classroom and school outreach programs are free of charge to students within the Lake George Watershed throughout 2010, due to grant funding and membership support the non-profit organization receives.

LGA school programs follow the Core Curriculum Guidelines for Science published by New York State's Department of Education. LGA education programs provide both a hands-on and minds-on approach to learning. Students are actively engaged in the discovery process and are asked to work in small groups. Both the stream monitoring and floating classroom programs provide students with opportunities to interact as directly as possible with the natural world, in order to construct explanations about their world, and to have direct experience with living things in their environment.

For more information about the stream monitoring program, or about ways to help protect Lake George, the public may contact the LGA at 668-3558 or info@lakegeorgeassociation.org. The LGA is a non-profit membership organization of people who work together to protect, conserve, and improve the beauty and quality of the Lake George Basin.

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Photo Captions:

Picture One: Cooper Knapp, David Jenkins, Harry Vandermiden, and Cole Campbell, sixth grade ecology students at Glens Falls Middle School, prepare to collect macroinvertebrates from West Brook in the Lake George Recreation Center this spring. Guided by Lake George Association educator Kristen Rohne, the students learned to identify these small insects, which are indicators of stream health, and learned what they can do to protect the water quality of Lake George. A similar program, entitled "Creek Critters," will be repeated on July 22 and August 12 for the general public, and is free. Call 668-3558 for more information.

Picture Two: Scarlett Dewitt and Zoe Niver, sixth grade ecology students at Glens Falls Middle School, worked with LGA Watershed Educator Kristen Rohne (center) to identify the macroinvertebrates they collected this spring from West Brook in Lake George. The students worked in small groups and gained experience in making scientific inquiries and discoveries, while learning about the role healthy streams play in protecting Lake George's water quality. A similar program, entitled "Creek Critters," will be repeated on July 22 and August 12 for the general public, and is free. Call 668-3558 for more information.

Picture Three: Samantha Durkee and Paul Breault, sixth grade ecology students at Glens Falls Middle School, compared the characteristics of macroinvertebrates to those illustrated on their guide, to identify and catalog them. The students were participating in a workshop provided by the Lake George Association at the Lake George Recreation Center this spring. Throughout 2010, the Lake George Association school programs – including the educators, curriculum and equipment - are free of charge for students within the Lake George Watershed, due to funding from grants and membership support. A similar program, entitled "Creek Critters," will be repeated on July 22 and August 12 for the general public, and is free. Call 668-3558 for more information.