



# Lake George Association

*People Protecting the Lake Since 1885*

## **NEWS RELEASE**

Contact: Lynne Rosenthal

Communications Coordinator

518-668-3558

[rosenthal@lakegeorgeassociation.org](mailto:rosenthal@lakegeorgeassociation.org)

### **For IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **New Funding Source Will Expand LGA's Floating Classroom for Adults**

**Lake George, NY – January 10, 2011** – With the help of new funding from the Lake Champlain Basin Program, the LGA will continue to expand its Floating Classroom program in 2011. The Association has received a \$7,239 grant from the Lake Champlain Basin Program that will partially fund new programs targeting adult audiences.

Since 1990, the Floating Classroom has been a core component of the LGA's environmental education program, emphasizing the need to instill lake stewardship in future generations. On board, participants conduct hands-on experiments to measure water quality, while learning about the Lake George ecosystem and what must be done to protect it. Historically the Floating Classroom program has served area school children, but in 2009 the LGA began to invite selected adult groups, and in 2010 a public program was added.

In 2011, the public program will expand, and will be offered twice daily on Wednesdays throughout July and August, leaving the dock north of Shepard Park at 10 am and 1 pm. In addition, with help from the grant, the LGA will reach new adult audiences with programs for homeowners associations, municipal leaders and other community groups. Designed to educate residents about the impact of their decisions, and the actions that affect water quality, these programs will "raise awareness about the Lake George ecosystem and encourage immediate changes in behavior," said Emily DeBolt, the LGA director of education. "The beauty of Lake George cannot be protected without the help of the people who live and play here," she said, "and educating them is key."

On board the Floating Classroom, the LGA seeks to increase public appreciation and reverence for the unique qualities of Lake George. "To sustain Lake George for the future, folks need to understand how to make better land management decisions, why we advocate for best practices, and how to prevent the spread of invasive species," said Walt Lender, LGA executive director. Classified as a AA-Special body of water by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Lake George is an important source of drinking water. Yet Lake George has also been listed on the New York State 303(d) List of Impaired Waters. Development and erosion have increased the silt and sediment entering the Lake and its tributaries. The deltas that result create navigational hazards for boaters, and encourage nuisance waterfowl to visit public recreation areas. Sediment also brings phosphorous and other contaminants with it, causing a gradual decline in water clarity and quality. The Lake is also increasingly threatened by invasive species like Eurasian watermilfoil, zebra mussels, curly-leaf pondweed, and Asian clam.

For more information about the Floating Classroom, and how a group can reserve a program for the summer of 2011, the public can contact the Lake George Association at 518-668-3558 or [info@lakegeorgeassociation.org](mailto:info@lakegeorgeassociation.org).

The Lake George Association is a 125-year-old membership organization, with a mission to protect, conserve and improve the beauty and quality of the Lake George basin.

###

**Photo caption:** Staff of the town of Bolton learn how to protect Lake George water quality on board the LGA Floating Classroom during the fall of 2009. Partial funding from a Lake Champlain Basin Program grant will enable the LGA to expand adult education programs like these in 2011.