



Lake George Association

People Protecting the Lake Since 1885

NEWS RELEASE

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For IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LGA's 3-D Model Helps Elementary Students Understand Lake George's Watershed

Lake George, NY – February 10, 2012 – Kristen Rohne, the Lake George Association's watershed educator, visited Lake George Elementary School this week with a 3-dimensional model, to show students how watersheds work. The students belong to the Lake George Rangers, a club of 5th and 6th graders who meet after school weekly to examine the issues affecting the Lake George watershed.

The rangers had the opportunity to work hands-on with the LGA's watershed model. "It's so important that everyone living in the Lake George watershed understand how crucial the entire watershed area is to protecting the water quality of Lake George," said Rohne. "The highest elevations of the mountains and hills surrounding Lake George form the boundaries of its watershed. You can imagine a watershed as an enormous funnel. As precipitation falls on the hillsides of this funnel, the funnel's sides direct the water to the bottom – the Lake."

Relative to other waterbodies, Lake George has a small watershed; this is one of the key reasons why the Lake's water has remained so clean and clear over the centuries. The majority of the water in Lake George comes directly off the land in the watershed through streams. Over 141 streams flow into Lake George, making up 55% of the water that enters the Lake. Eight major streams are responsible for two-thirds of all stream flow entering the Lake: Northwest Bay Brook, Indian Brook, Hague Brook, West Brook, English Brook, Shelving Brook, Finkle Brook, and East Brook.

Last fall the Rangers toured the site of the West Brook Conservation Initiative with LGA Project Manager Randy Rath, and learned how the stormwater runoff entering the Lake presents its greatest threat. Then Emily DeBolt, LGA director of education, and Jill Trunko, LGA educational intern, worked with the students at a stream on the school's property to help capture and identify the macroinvertebrates living in the stream.

"The LGA is a valuable resource to us," said Robin Weber, Lake George Elementary's gifted and talented program teacher, responsible for the Lake Rangers club. "I appreciate the tremendous learning opportunity we have right in our backyard," she continued.

The educators at the Lake George Association are available to give presentations and programs at other schools in the region.

About the Lake George Association

The LGA is a member-supported nonprofit organization. Families, businesses, summer residents and donors support the LGA. Founded in 1885, the Lake George Association is the nation's oldest lake protection organization. Members and friends of the association can:

- Learn more about lake-friendly living;

- Take a trip aboard the LGA's Floating Classroom;
- Subscribe to a free e-newsletter;
- Attend educational outreach presentations;
- Become a citizen scientist or volunteer for stream clean-ups;
- Call the LGA for technical expertise and solutions for low-impact development and landscaping; and
- Learn about LGA stormwater protection projects in their neighborhoods.

The LGA is located on Rt. 9N across from I-87 South Exit 21 in Lake George. For more information the public can call 518-668-3558 or visit www.lakegeorgeassociation.org



Photo caption: LGA Educator Kristen Rohne shows 5-6th grade students from Lake George Elementary how a watershed works, using a model owned by the LGA. The students participate in "Lake Rangers," an after-school club that examines issues affecting the Lake George watershed, led by teacher Robin Weber.

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