

## Salmon in the Classroom



LGA Watershed Educator Kristen Rohne helps students at Ticonderoga Middle School set up a salmon tank, along with testing materials, eggs and food. The students will be raising salmon through a new environmental education program called *Salmon in the Classroom*.

Students at Ticonderoga Middle School and Whitehall High School are raising salmon, through a new environmental education program presented by the Lake George Association.

Kristen Rohne, the LGA's watershed educator, visited the schools to help set up a 25 gallon tank and chiller, along with testing materials and fish food. Salmon eggs were provided at no cost by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation.

This winter the students will raise the salmon from eggs to fingerlings. They'll learn to monitor tank water quality, study stream habitats, and perform stream monitoring studies to find the most suitable place to release the salmon in the spring. "Our goal is to foster a conservation ethic in the students, while increasing their knowledge of fish lifecycles, water

quality, aquatic ecosystems and biodiversity," said Ms. Rohne. "By working hands-on with the salmon, we believe the students will gain a greater appreciation for water resources and will be inspired to sustain and protect our natural environment," she said.

This year's program was funded by a grant the LGA received from the International Paper Foundation. The Lake Champlain Lake George Regional Planning Board and the Adirondack Resource Conservation and Development Council (RC&D) are partners in the project. The program was designed by Trout Unlimited, a national non-profit volunteer organization with more than 400 chapters.

## LGA Receives Three LCBP Grants

The LGA has received three grant awards from the Lake Champlain Basin Program:

1. A \$25,000 grant will help protect English Brook's 48-acre subwatershed by partially funding the installation of a \$48,400 Aqua-Swirl hydrodynamic separator in the town of Lake George on the Lochlea Estate. The system will collect previously untreated stormwater runoff from both sides of Rt. 9N, and from the bridge between the two ramps at I-87 exit 22. A majority of the watershed's runoff will be captured and treated. Land development in the watershed has increased the volume and velocity of the runoff, leading to increased pollution entering the brook. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) lists the brook as sediment impaired, and its delta is one of the largest on the Lake. According to National Urban Runoff Program reports conducted during the 1980s, English Brook has high levels of total phosphorus, chlorides, total suspended sediments, lead and nitrate-nitrogen.

2. A \$25,000 grant was awarded for the 2011 Lake Steward program, which provides invasive species education and spread prevention at boat launches in the summer.

3. Finally, the LGA's Floating Classroom received a \$7,239 grant to partially fund new programs targeting adult audiences, including homeowners associations, municipal leaders and other community groups.



## Permeable Pavement - A Powerful Solution for Lake George Stormwater

The past century has seen tremendous growth in population and infrastructure. Certainly we have seen this growth around Lake George, along with its environmental impact: streambank erosion, flooding, and increased contaminants in our streams and the Lake.

As we move into 2011, we are seeing an increased use of new technologies, like permeable pavement, aimed at controlling these problems. As an alternative to standard asphalt or concrete, interlocking concrete pavers and porous asphalt are appearing in more and more projects



The picture above (at left) illustrates the dramatic difference between the stormwater absorption ability of porous asphalt (in the foreground) vs. traditional asphalt (in the background). The concrete pavers at right, installed at the end of a residential driveway in Lake George, capture as much as 3/4 of the stormwater coming from the streets and properties uphill, estimates John Kearney, the home owner. See the back cover for more on his pavers.

around the Lake. Permeable pavement can control stormwater problems on site, protect the Lake, and reduce the need for expensive off-site stormwater controls, such as catch basins and retention ponds.

Permeable pavement can immediately capture stormwater runoff from the heaviest of rainstorms. The aggregate on the surface and in the base of the pavement receives, stores and infiltrates runoff into the soil underneath. In some cases, runoff is completely eliminated.

At the LGA we can't wait to see these lake-friendly methods used more frequently around the Lake. The amount of salt entering the Lake has doubled in just 20 years, and stormwater is the number one source of pollutants entering the Lake. By increasing the use of permeable pavement, we can significantly reduce the stormwater runoff and pollutants entering the Lake, and reduce their negative impact.

### POROUS ASPHALT and the North Country

Engineers, developers and regulators can be wary of porous asphalt, especially in the north country, because they think porous asphalt is untried, expensive, difficult to maintain, and not able to perform in our cold climate.

At this past October's North Country Regional Stormwater Conference (NCRSC), two speakers, Dr. Tom Ballestero and Daniel Hershberg, showed the audience that it is time to reconsider this product, as its strength and durability have increased, *(continued, next page)*

### Advantages of concrete interlocking pavers

**They are manufactured in a factory**, so are not subject to time and temperature limitations during installation.

**Freeze-thaw durability** – they hold up well in winter. Can be snow plowed like asphalt pavement. Less deicing material is needed because the snow melts and immediately drains into the surface openings, eliminating the formation of black ice.

**A wide range of colors** is available (unlike conventional or porous asphalt).

**Light colors increase surface reflection**, reducing the temperatures and heat typical to impervious pavement. Light colors can also reduce the need for nighttime lighting, conserving electricity.

**Repair flexibility:** paver units and the aggregate underneath can be removed and re-installed if a surface is damaged or utility lines need to be installed.

Permeable pavement systems can **last more than 20 years**.

Source: Interlocking Concrete Pavement Institute

while its cost has decreased. And it has many advantages for commercial applications, including parking lots, driveways and roadways.

Ballestero, an engineer and professor at the University of New Hampshire's Stormwater Center, showed the NCRSC audience how effective and cost efficient porous asphalt installations can be. He gave examples of several projects, including a large commercial parking lot and a residential roadway, both designed with porous asphalt. These projects cost less than they would have using conventional asphalt because traditional stormwater infrastructure, such as catch basins and storm drains, were not needed to control the runoff.

Dr. Ballestero explained how porous asphalt, without salt, had more frictional resistance than conventional asphalt with salt applied. And there is no significant difference in the installation of porous vs. conventional asphalt. However, some maintenance is needed: vacuum sweepers keep porous asphalt from clogging due to sediment deposits.

Daniel Hershberg, a consulting engineer with Hershberg & Hershberg, spoke about porous asphalt parking lots in the Albany area. A parking lot for BBL Construction has been paved for over 20 years with porous asphalt and is still holding strong. The parking lot at Great Oaks Office Park was originally constructed with porous asphalt in 1992 and was recently milled and resurfaced in 2010. Mr. Hershberg pointed out that the porous asphalt used at these and other locations has held up tremendously without degradation, over many snowstorms and rainstorms. He also mentioned that with a typical underlying Hydrologic Class A sandy soil structure, they have been seeing infiltration rates of 2" per hour or more.

### Native plants... a great choice for home landscaping. Why? Native plants:

- Protect New York's biodiversity by providing food and habitat for birds, butterflies, and other wildlife.
- Save you time and money. Natives have evolved in our environment over many years and are already adapted to survive here; they are low maintenance and don't need lots of fertilizer, pesticides, and watering.
- Help reduce stormwater runoff. The deep roots of natives absorb and filter runoff more effectively than the short roots of many turf grasses and other ornamental plants.



## Think Spring!

*Now is a great time to plan landscaping projects for the warmer spring months ahead. The Yulman and Kearney projects highlighted in this newsletter will hopefully inspire a lake-friendly landscaping project at your house. Call the LGA for ideas, technical assistance and problem solving. We can help!*

### The Yulmans Extend a Buffer with 1,000 New Plants

On the west side of Lake George, the home of LGA members Richard and Janet Yulman has great lake-friendly features, such as permeable grass pavers for parking, and stone pathways for sidewalks. The Yulmans have used phosphorous-free fertilizer for years, so they were ahead of the curve when the new fertilizer regulation went into effect last fall.

This summer the Yulmans increased their shoreline buffer, extending an existing area of natural vegetation. (See the pictures below.) This huge undertaking involved close to one thousand plants. Peter L. Gluck and Partners, an architectural firm from New York City, created the design and Mead's Nursery and Garden Center in Queensbury installed the project. Many native plants were used, including:

- **Shrubs:** serviceberry, sweetfern, summersweet, red twig dogwood, witch hazel, winterberry, mountain laurel, spice-bush, highbush blueberry, and highbush cranberry.
- **Groundcovers:** bunchberry and wintergreen.
- **Perennials:** New York Aster, joe pye weed, cardinal flower and woodland phlox.
- **Ferns:** ostrich fern and New York fern.



New buffer planting with ground covers, perennials, and shrubs.



An existing natural buffer on part of the property.

## The Economic Impact of Water Quality - Results from Two Studies

### *What would happen to the Lake George economy if our water quality were to decline?*

It's safe to assume that property values and tourism would certainly decline, but by how much? Two studies completed recently in Vermont and New Hampshire explain what happened in those states, and shed light on what might happen here in Lake George. Both studies are now available in full on the Lake George Association website.

The Vermont study, conducted by Congwen Zhang and Kevin J. Boyle of Virginia Tech's Department of Agricultural and Applied Economics, investigated the impact of Eurasian watermilfoil (*milfoil, hereafter*) on property values on four lakes and a pond in Rutland County, Vermont. Zhang and Boyle created a model to predict how property values respond to milfoil infestation. The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation provided data on the extent of milfoil coverage in front of each sold property included in the study.

The study showed that Eurasian watermilfoil significantly and substantially affects lake-front property values. As milfoil infests a lake, property values can diminish by 1% to 16%. A scale rating the coverage from 1 (less than 1% coverage) to 6 (80–100% coverage) was created to describe the extent of milfoil coverage in front of each property. The study model indicated that if a lake has heavy aquatic plant coverage, removing the milfoil so that the coverage drops from Level 6 to Level 5 would increase property values by \$21,356 (19.65%).

The average milfoil coverage rating across all five lakes was about 4. The study concluded that if milfoil infestation increased from the average value of 4 (41%–60% coverage) to 5 (61%–80% coverage), there would be a 6.4% reduction in property values. If the average value of lake-front properties was \$100,000 and there were 1000 lake-front properties, then a 6.4% reduction in property values from further milfoil invasion would result in an aggregate property-value loss of about \$6.4 million. If the property tax rate were 1.5%, then the \$6.4 million lost in property value would result in an annual loss in property tax revenue of nearly \$100,000.



Eurasian watermilfoil infestations, like the one pictured here, were shown to significantly affect lake-front property values in a VT study. Photo courtesy of Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of CT, Bugwood.org

The study recommended that lake associations and communities pay trained professionals to monitor boat launches to educate boaters and remove Eurasian watermilfoil. (Such as the LGA Lake Steward program.)

Finally, the study explains that the economic losses in the findings are not comprehensive because they count only losses to lake-front property owners, not losses to people who depend upon the lakes for recreation but who do not own lake-front property.

**The New Hampshire study**, prepared for the New Hampshire Lakes, Rivers, Streams and Ponds Partnership by Dr. Anne Nordstrom, sought to answer the question: **“How would the New Hampshire economy be affected if residents and non-residents who fish, boat and swim perceive any negative changes to the water quality in the areas where they recreate?”**

Anglers, boaters and swimmers were asked about their annual usage of NH waters and how that usage might be affected if they perceived changes for the worse in water quality.

The findings conclude that freshwater fishing, boating and swimming brings significant revenue to the NH economy, generating about \$379 million in total sales, or about 26% of all summer spending in New Hampshire. This revenue exceeds that of many other events, including Laconia's Bike Week, two annual NASCAR events, off-highway vehicle spending and spending at agricultural fairs. Fishing, boating and swimming have about the same economic impact as downhill skiing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling and ice-fishing combined.

**Almost half to two-thirds of swimmers, boaters and**

*(continued, next page)*



© Carl Heilman II

anglers said they would decrease or cease their visits to a particular freshwater site if they perceived any degradation to the site. More than two-thirds (69%) responded they would decrease the number of intended visits they make to a particular site if they perceived a change in water clarity and purity; 56% would decrease visits if natural beauty and scenery declined; 46% would decrease visits if crowding became an issue; and 43% would decrease visits if water levels or flows became less than adequate.

**According to the study, the loss represented by the 69% who would decrease their visits translates to a decrease of more than \$50 million in total sales, \$18 million in household income, and just over 800 jobs.**



More than two-thirds of swimmers, boaters and anglers (69%) responding to a New Hampshire study said they would decrease or cease their visits to a particular freshwater site if they perceived a change to water clarity or purity.

## A Creative Way to Give!



Walter Peterson III and Elsbeth Crusius of Ramsey, NJ called the LGA to inform us that they were getting married and wanted to honor their guests by making a

donation to the LGA.

Working with the couple, postcards were created for the reception tables by the LGA announcing their honorary gift.

A perfect day celebrated with a new beginning, family, friends, and the continued support of the Lake that Walter and Elsbeth love so much!

*"As a lifelong, year-round visitor, and more recently a homeowner, I have always cherished "Our Lake." It is by far one of the most beautiful places on this Earth; as a United States Marine I have traveled all around the world and no place can compare. I have finally found someone who shares my love for the lake. We were proud to be able to donate to a truly great cause and organization.*

Sincerely,  
Walter & Beth

## Bill Dutcher: An Obligation to Protect

The Winter Carnival of '64 was Bill Dutcher's first Lake George experience. It was car racing on ice, pretty girls, and some drinks, then back to college in Boston.

Five years later he returned. This time in the summer. Visiting a lakeside camp in Echo Bay, Bill sailed a Sunfish across the lake, and that was it. He was seduced. Jumping in the water, he found it to be so remarkably clear, very unlike the brackish James River in Tidewater, Virginia, where Bill was living at the time. He knew then that he would really like to live on Lake George, if he could ever find a

way.

In 1977, while working for AMF, Bill found a way. He'd saved some money, and a realtor told him about the NYS Usury Law which resulted in an incredibly low (at the time) 5.8% fixed mortgage rate. Bill jumped at the chance and bought a lake-front home on the East side.



Bill has bequeathed a gift to Lake George.

Living in CT, Bill and his wife Gini and their two sons spent every weekend they could at the Lake. "For four years I felt elated on Fridays and deflated on Sundays," Bill says. Then in 1981 AMF wanted to move him and his family to Milwaukee. A choice needed to be made: Milwaukee and a secure well-paying job with a pension, or Lake George with no job during a major recession? Reason won out and the Dutchers picked Lake George, of course!

Since then, there has been no elation on Fridays and deflation on Sundays. Just lots of joyful windsurfing and sailboat racing, living with the Lake on one side, and beautiful Buck Mountain on the other. Bill's many solitary experiences with the Lake have bonded him to it. "Over the years, I've told people across the nation about this large drinking-pure lake in New York. Nobody can believe such a place still exists. Yet it does," Bill said. "I feel blessed to be able to enjoy this untrammled resource and indebted to those who helped Lake George remain the beautiful lake which it is. **I feel a responsibility to bequeath an unspoiled Lake to those who will follow me.**" Bill has joined the LGA Helen V. Froehlich Legacy Society, with a planned gift in his will to Lake George. To learn how you can do the same, please contact Nancy Cobb-Zoll at the LGA.



## Ice Safety Reminders

*Most of the winter emergencies on the Lake are due to complacency. Before heading out, we urge everyone to follow these safety guidelines.*



Photo courtesy of Bill Durcher

Ice on Lake George does not form uniformly, as seen in this aerial picture. Sub-surface currents, underwater hazards, and ice eaters near docks all contribute to unpredictable ice thickness on Lake George. The public is urged to exercise caution.

- Always check the ice before you go out. Use an ice auger, ice pick, spud bar or a cordless drill to make holes.
- New, clear, bluish-black ice is stronger than ice that is white or bubble-filled.
- Ice does not form uniformly. Stay off any cracked ice along the shore, or ice that is honeycombed or piled up. The Lake's sub-surface currents can make ice thickness variable.
- Ice is thinner near running water. Avoid shoreline areas near stream channels or ice eaters on docks.
- Stay away from shoals and other underwater hazards as the ice above them is thinner.
- Once on the ice, do not congregate in large groups, build a fire, or drive a large vehicle out on the ice.
- When snowmobiling at night, don't "out-drive" your headlight. Give yourself time to spot and avoid open water, pressure ridges and patches of weak ice.
- Do not drink. Alcohol increases your chances for hypothermia, impairs your judgment and slows your reaction time.

### What to bring:

- Another person. Never go out on the ice alone. Keep a good distance apart as you move about.
- Dress in layers, with a hat and gloves. Wool and fleece are great insulators. Wear a wind- and water-proof outer layer. Top it all off with a Personal Flotation Device.
- A length of rope, a pair of ice picks, or a pair of screwdrivers tied together with a few feet of strong cord. You can

use these to pull yourself up and onto the ice. Wooden handles are best because they will float if you drop them.

- Your cell phone in case of emergency.
- A sled (instead of a backpack) if you are bringing along heavy gear. (A sled will help to distribute the weight more evenly across the ice.)

### If you fall through:

- Try not to panic. Call out for help only if you see someone. The cold shock that makes you hyperventilate will subside within 1-3 minutes. Get your breathing under control and stay above water. You are more likely to die from drowning than hypothermia.
- Remove any extraneous objects that will weigh you down. (skis, snowmobile helmet, skates, etc.)
- Try to get out from the direction that you came in. Place your hands and arms on the unbroken surface of the ice.
- Begin kicking your feet to get your body horizontal. Pull yourself along the ice until you are out of the hole. Be slow and deliberate to conserve your strength and body heat.
- If the ice breaks, move forward and try again.
- Once you are lying on the ice, DO NOT stand up. Roll away from the hole, then crawl following your footsteps back toward shore. Don't stand until the hole is well behind you. You want to distribute your weight evenly over a wide area to prevent going through again.

## MINIMUM ICE THICKNESS for New, Clear Ice

(in inches)

For White Ice - **DOUBLE** these requirements

	NYS DEC	US Army Corps of Engineers	PA Fish & Boat Com- mission	NH Fish & Game Dept.	Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources
1 person on foot	3 - 4	2	4	4	4
Group (single file)	N/A	3	7	6	N/A
Snow- mobile or ATV	N/A	3	5	N/A	5
1 car (2 tons)	7.5	7	8	7.5	8 - 12
Light truck (2.5 tons)	N/A	8	11	8 - 12	8 - 12
Truck (3.5 tons)	10	9	N/A	12 - 15	12 - 15

- If you can't pull yourself out within 10 minutes, cease all attempts. You'll conserve more body heat. The body loses heat much faster in water than it does in air, so get as much of your body out of the water as possible. Keep your forearms flat and still on the ice. Hopefully, your clothing will freeze to the ice, possibly preventing you from going under, even if you become unconscious. It is possible to survive for up to two hours before succumbing to hypothermia. In other words, if you stay composed and keep above water, you have almost a two-hour window of opportunity to be rescued.

### If someone else falls through:

- If you are on the ice, DO NOT run up to the hole.
- If you are on shore, DO NOT run onto the ice.
- Try to keep the victim calm.
- Call 911.
- Look for people nearby who can help.
- Use an item on shore to throw or extend to the victim that will allow you to pull them out of the water. (Rope, ladder, branch, extension cord, skis, jumper cable, etc.) You can also form a human chain with people lying flat on the ice to distribute the weight as evenly as possible.
- Once the victim is safely on shore, they may seem to be in relatively good condition. However, a potentially fatal condition called "after drop" can occur soon afterward. Cold blood that has been pooled in the body's extremities starts to circulate again as the body warms up. At this point, the body begins to shiver violently in an attempt to raise the temperature again.

## 47 New LGA Members!!

Thank you for protecting our BEAUTIFUL Lake.

Wallace Allerdice  
Edith Brown Astruc  
Deborah and Lionel Barthold  
Robin Benak  
Boats By George!  
Constance Gillette Bosse  
Shirley and Russell Buchanan  
Cindy Bulger  
Helen Carcio  
Susan and Al Culliford  
David DeFranco  
Lisa C. Derner  
Jonathan and Stormy DeSantis  
Sue Ann duBois  
Matthew W. Emmens  
Maureen Ferris  
Lisa and Bruce Finkle  
Ms. Ann B. Gardiner  
Goff Family  
Lorie and John Gollhofer  
Paul and Lynn Gollhofer  
Marie T. Graham  
Shari and Connie Guidwin  
Halls Boat Corporation

Nancy Howland and Carl Bennette  
Scott and Carole Hunt  
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**Kearneys Install Permeable Pavers to Control Stormwater -- (See more lake-friendly ideas inside!)**



beautiful new permeable pavers, which now lead up to their home from its street side entrance, and are also used for the lakeside patio and walkway.

The pavers are not only pretty, they are effective. John Kearney estimates that the ground beneath the pavers absorbs about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the stormwater coming down his own driveway, as well as considerable amounts of water that flows on to his property from the street and properties above him. A French drain was installed to capture any overflow during heavy storm events. The result is very effective at keeping the lower level of the Kearney home dry, as well as capturing stormwater runoff before it enters the Lake. A small amount of maintenance is required to control weeds that grow between the pavers.

In 1996, LGA members John and Carol Kearney purchased a 1,000 square foot camp on the east side of the lake, a few docks north of Usher's Park. The camp was just 14 feet from the lake and was surrounded by lots of impermeable asphalt.

In 2004, they rebuilt their home further uphill; it now sits about 65 feet away from the Lake. The Kearneys spent \$15,000 to redo the paving and drainage on their steep site. They worked with Jason Sweeney from Cohoes to remove the old impermeable asphalt, and to install

**How Much Do Permeable Pavers Cost?\***

Basic installation: \$17.00 - \$18.00 per square foot, assuming:

- Minimum 500 sq. ft. area / 4" x 8" paver with 2" x 2" openings
- 12% open space / straight application, minimal cutting
- 18" open graded base NYSDOT #1 and #2 mix with 1a screed bed and joint fill
- Complete installation of paver system / No excavation costs are included

Pricing can go up to \$22.00 per square foot due to:

- lower square footage / a more expensive paver choice
- additional base as designed / difficult access to job location

\* Estimated costs researched by the LGA.



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