

Our Powerful Partnership with Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District

"Working together to protect, conserve and improve the beauty and quality of the Lake George Basin." That's the LGA's mission statement, and "working together" means we rely on many different types of partners to accomplish our goals – the LGA partners with schools, highway departments, marinas, municipalities, regional and state organizations, and more. This article highlights our exciting and productive partnership with the Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District and its executive director, Dave Wick.

About ten years ago we realized we shared common issues and common solutions," says Dave Wick, district manager for the Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District (WCSWCD), "and our partnership with the LGA just started to grow from there," he says.

The LGA and the WCSWCD work together on lake saving infrastructure projects, designed to protect the long-term quality of the lake's water. "We clean out reservoirs, stabilize streambanks, improve roadside drainage, and restore shorelines," says Randy Rath, the LGA's project manager. "Supported by LGA members, these projects significantly improve the ecological health of the Lake," he says, "while also ensuring that everyone can continue to enjoy boating, swimming, fishing and other recreational pursuits on the Lake."

Funding for about 60% of the conservation district's operations comes from Warren County, but the remaining dollars, the money the organization needs to actually execute projects, has to come through grants. This is where the LGA has played an important role.

The WCSWCD has access to public project money. Under Dave's strong leadership, the WCSWCD has successfully secured numerous state and federal grants,

as well as grants from the Lake Champlain Basin Program. However, grants and monies from private sources, such as the LGA can provide, were historically not a part of the WCSWCD's funding base. And the kind of grants the WCSWCD could get on their own typically would not fund much-needed lake-saving work,

such as sediment basin clean-outs.

In contrast, ten years ago the LGA had some significant private funding available for infrastructure projects. To expedite these projects, the LGA started issuing contracts with the conservation district to perform some of the technical work. When needed, WCSWCD provided basic design expertise, acquired permits, oversaw daily logistics, and asked area highway departments to provide the necessary labor and equipment. The LGA provided funding, and paid for out-of-pocket costs, such as equipment rentals for long-reach excavators, and trucking services to remove extracted sediment.

Continued, next page



LGA Project Manager Randy Rath (left), and Dave Wick, district manager for the Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District.



Our WCSWCD Partnership - Addressing the Deltas

“Our first projects together focused on cleaning out existing old reservoirs,” says Dave. “We looked at where deltas were actively growing out in the lake and went upstream from there to discover old reservoirs that were filled to capacity with sediment. By cleaning those out we knew we could successfully recapture the sediment before it could travel downstream and enter the lake,” he said. “And the results of our efforts have been positive. The downstream deltas from these first projects have stopped growing.”

Next we decided that instead of just cleaning out old existing reservoirs, we could begin to look for sites along major streams where we could build retention ponds. The ponds were designed to slow down the velocity of the water coming down the stream and by slowing down the water, the sediment would drop. “Reducing the amount of streambank erosion – and slowing the velocity of the stormwater coming down a hillside and entering Lake George – is a serious concern for our watershed. Especially when we look at the historic growth of the deltas in the Lake,” says Dave.

Our oldest aerial photos of the Lake – taken in 1948 – show very little presence of deltas. Deltas really didn't exist on the Lake at that time. Since the Lake was formed, streams have been an integral part of the watershed. And historically, very little sediment has been transported by them.

But by 1966 the aerial photos of the Lake were showing deltas. The impact of human activity on the Lake was clear. The I-87 Northway near Lake George

Other LGA/WCSWCD Projects:

- English Brook Sediment Basin Design
- Artist Falls Sediment Basin
- Lower Hague Brook Sediment Basin
- Lake George Town Highway Department Stormwater System
- Lake George Village dry wells
- Streambank restorations on Prospect Mountain Brook and Edmunds Brook
- Prospect Mountain Brook - Sheriff's Dock Delta Dredging
- Hubble Reservoir

was built from 1962 – 1964. During construction, dump trucks brought in lots of fill, much of which eroded and ultimately washed into the Lake. The 1940s and 50s saw a tremendous building boom around the Lake, at a time



At left, the LGA and WCSWCD worked jointly to remove a delta at the mouth of Prospect Mountain Brook. At right, aerial photos show the growth of the English Brook delta, clockwise from upper left: 1948, 1966 and 1990.

when there was little regulatory protection for the water.

Today we have laws in place to protect the upland areas of the watershed; their consistent enforcement is critical. Individual property owners must also do their part to keep stormwater runoff to a minimum, and the LGA's educators are always available to assist people in this effort. Upstream sediment basins maintained on Hague Brook, Jenkins Brook, Huddle Brook, Gage Brook, Middle Brook, Finkle Brook and West Brook are also helping to keep deltas from growing larger in the Lake. Yet despite these efforts, the sediment deltas that currently exist at West Brook, English Brook, Hague Brook, Finkle Brook and Indian Brook are at a size that we know is not healthy for the Lake.

“In the last 50 years, the amount of sediment reaching the Lake has increased significantly,” says Dave. “The accelerated growth of the deltas is a result of man's activities in the watershed, and they did not occur by nature alone,” says Randy. *Continued, next page*

More About Dave Wick

Dave has worked for 17 years in the field of water conservation, working for the Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District.

He received his undergraduate degree from SUNY Albany, majoring in physical geography. He holds a master's degree in hydrology and water resource management from University of Wyoming.

Dave grew up in East Greenbush and vacationed on Lake George during the summer. His favorite Lake George activities include swimming after work at Diamond Point, going out on a neighbor's boat, and camping on the islands.

Our WCSWCD Partnership, cont'd

"The deltas should be removed, and we know it can be done with a minimal impact to the Lake. By removing the deltas, the fisheries become healthier, as their habitat returns to a more natural state. We saw this dramatically

FOSTER BROOK DELTA REMOVAL: A BOOST for HULETTS LANDING

"It was the story of the year for Hulett's," says George Kapusinski, a third generation resident of Hulett's Landing. In 2009, the Lake George Association removed about 1500 cubic yards of sediment from the delta at Foster Brook, near George's property. The residents of Hulett's Landing couldn't be happier about the results. "It has been nothing but positive," says George Kapusinski.

"This really was a lake saving project," he says. "Everything was washing down the stream and backing up at the mouth. Large expanses of rocky gravel, boulders, and silty water were in front of homes that once had beautiful lake views. Boating and swimming were hampered, docks were landlocked, and property values suffered. About five years ago, winter ice melt made the brook overflow its banks and flood many yards. Today our beautiful shoreline is restored and back to what it once was," says George. "The smelt have come back and we actually have tourists coming to see them. The project was a tremendous boost for our entire community, a good thing in every way."



when we removed the delta at Foster Brook in 2009. After years of not running, the smelt started running the very next year," he says.

This summer, the LGA is moving forward on a project to address the deltas on three major Lake George brooks, all located on the west side: Finkle, Hague and Indian.

In 2002, the LGA prepared an environmental impact statement (EIS) covering the seven major deltas on the Lake; it was later approved by the Lake George Park Commission. Now we are in the process of preparing a supplemental impact statement to this original statement. The supplement will address alternative methods for dredging, methods not detailed in the original statement. The methods that we proposed in the original EIS are very expensive. "We are looking for an economically feasible approach," says Dave. "Hydraulic dredging is too expensive," he says, "because it requires a huge de-watering area, or dredging from a barge. Driving equipment directly into the water without pads can be most expeditious. Eighty percent of the deltas are in just three feet of water, and the sediment can be easily removed this way, but some object to the idea of equipment in water," he said.

After the LGA completes the draft of the supplemental statement, we will submit it to the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). Once accepted by the DEC, the public will have an opportunity to comment – usually a minimum of 30 days. We expect this process will be completed this year so that we can schedule the dredging work for later this fall or next spring. In addition to the DEC process, we will also need approval from the Adirondack Park Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Stewards Expand to Dunham's Bay

The 2011 Lake Steward Program, designed to deter the spread of aquatic invasive species, has significantly expanded over last year's level, thanks to new funding provided by the Lake George Park Commission (LGPC). Stewards are posted at five locations: Hague, Norowal, Mossy Point, Rogers Rock, and new this year: Dunham's Bay. We plan to have stewards at the Million Dollar Beach launch in the fall, once it opens. We aim to provide seven-day-a-week coverage during the busiest times of the season. We are providing twelve-hour-a-day coverage at Mossy Point and Norowal, while other sites are receiving eight-hour-a-day coverage.

Since 2008, the LGA has managed the training, hiring, supervision and reporting for Lake George's



Our 2011 stewards include (left to right, first row) Assistant Coordinator Monika LaPlante, Britt Gellethien, Aly Birch, Alison Canavan, and (left to right back row) Don Lindstrom, Brandon Bezio, Michael Abrahamson and Brendan Carberry. Not pictured: Kara Shannon.

Lake Steward Program. Training takes place at Paul Smith's College in conjunction with stewards from Schroon Lake, Brant Lake, and the Adirondack Watershed Institute.

Estimated program costs for 2011 are \$67,000. \$25,000 will be funded through the Lake Champlain Basin program, \$35,000 will be provided by the Lake George Park Commission, and the LGA will provide the remaining funds from its Helen V. Froehlich Foundation grant awards. In 2010, 2,538 boats were inspected.

Stimulating conversations, lots of great ideas at our OPEN HOUSE



Lake-friendly Living OPEN HOUSE



Terrific weather, innovative ideas and an inquisitive crowd made for a great OPEN HOUSE on June 4. Many thanks to our participating organizations: Cornell Cooperative Extension, the Warren County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board, Puraflor, Orenco, Eljen, Fiddlehead Creek Native Plant Nursery, DeFranco Landscaping, Gould's Landscaping, Chip's Landscaping, Green Planet Products, and Sweeney Company.

Come See Our Beautiful New Pavers!

The Sweeney Company donated labor and material, and Unilock donated interlocking pavers, for a new demonstration project on the LGA's driveway.

The LGA extends a big THANK YOU to Jason Sweeney, his staff, and Unilock. The pavers are not only beautiful, they are:

1. permeable (essential to us, of course!);
2. functional (placed on a turn which is easily eroded by our cars); and,
3. educational.

These pavers are a great addition to our demonstration grounds and office, which already features lake-friendly toilets (low-flush and compost), a geothermal heating system, native plants on our grounds, and a Flexi-pave surface in our parking area.

The new interlocking paver area in our driveway is 360 square feet in size, representing a \$5,800 value. The pavers cost \$5 per square foot; labor and subsurface gravel adds an additional \$9 per square foot.



Because our driveway does not get heavy usage it is similar to a typical residential driveway, so our project needed just two base layers. Sweeney excavated 12 - 18" and applied open graded base and bedding courses, then placed the pavers on top.

According to Jason Sweeney, the standard life cycle of a paver driveway is 50 years, and no sealant is ever required. Every 5 - 6 years an inch of sediment can build up in between the pavers which needs to be removed to retain the pavers' permeability. (Jason says the LGA Catch Vac is a great tool for this job, and he plans to offer this service to his customers.)

After originating in Europe, pavers were heavily tested for applications in the northern climates of the U.S. by the ICPI - the Interlocking Concrete Pavement Institute. The ICPI has found that snow melts faster on permeable pavement. According to ICPI a typical snow plow can be used, and costs for salt and other de-icing are reduced. Of course, the biggest practical and ecological benefit of installing pavers on your property is that they can significantly reduce stormwater runoff, flooding and puddling.

Park Commission on Floating Classroom

The LGA's Floating Classroom program, now in its 21st season, is back out on the water again, and has been fully booked with school groups. Early this June



Commissioner Tom Conerty speaks with Floating Classroom Captain Don Smith

we hosted a group we've never taken out before — the Lake George Park Commission (LGPC).

LGPC commissioners and staff benefited from this opportunity to leave their desks behind and get out on the Lake together, while also increasing their knowledge of the Floating Classroom program.

"The Floating Classroom is a great motivator," said Commissioner Jim Kneeshaw. "It was great for

us to get out on the Lake together, and to remember why it is that we are all working so hard to protect this Lake. Emily DeBolt is a first class instructor, and I was really pleased to hear that virtually every student in the watershed, when they are in 6th, 7th or 8th grade, is getting out on this boat and learning about lake protection," he added.

"We know that educating our young people about the lake, the natural resources and the concepts of environmental protection is the best way to ensure a healthy future for the lake and our world," said LGPC Executive Director Mike White. "The Floating Classroom is the best of the best programs anywhere," he said.

Have you been out? PUBLIC TRIPS begin July 6 and will be offered every Wednesday throughout JULY & AUGUST. Please join us! Call today for a reservation.

LGA Watershed Educator Kristen Rohne received this great feedback from Glens Falls Middle School, regarding the school's recent spring trip on the Floating Classroom:

"Kristen, Thank you for an outstanding day. I am rarely impressed with an interpretive program, but am thoroughly impressed with the LGA's Floating Classroom. It is clear your program has been finely tuned over years of implementation. Your boat and equipment were well thought out and their use well implemented. Your curriculum adeptly teaches the key concepts about lake ecology and stewardship, and contains just enough to be engaging without being overwhelming to your students. Thank you to you, Jill, Rich, and Don. I am looking forward to next year."

Jason Brechko, National Board Certified Science Teacher, Glens Falls Middle School

New Onsite Septic Clean-out Program

Half-price septic system pump-outs are now available for Lake George area residents living within 500 feet of Lake George in the areas of Bolton, Huddle Brook, Diamond Point, Sabbath Day Point and Silver Bay. Pump-outs will be scheduled from June through September; the program is completely voluntary. **Funding**

REMEMBER!

Make sure to clean out your septic tank every 3 - 5 years

is limited, so if you are interested in participating, please contact Beth Gilles at 518-668-5773.

This new Lake George Onsite Septic Improvement Program aims to raise awareness of septic system issues on Lake George. The program is a partnership between the Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning

Board, the Warren County Soil & Water Conservation District (WCSWCD), and the LGA, all non-regulatory organizations. Funding was provided through a grant from the Lake Champlain Basin Program.

Participants in the program will also receive:

- personal one-on-one assistance from a WCSWCD or LGA staff person, present at the pump-out to answer questions;
- a water conservation kit with a low-flow toilet bag;
- a low-flow showerhead;
- a low-flow faucet aerator; and
- educational materials and onsite septic system contact information.

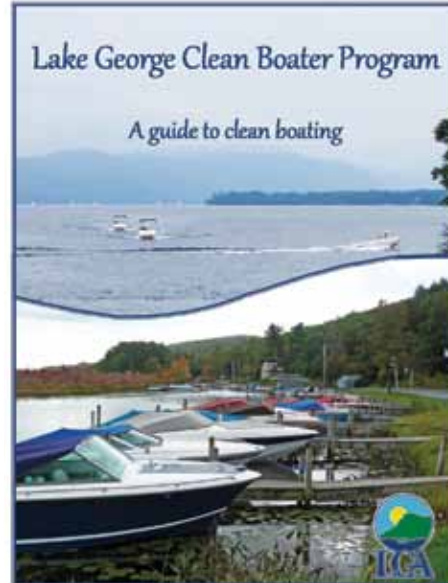
Clean Boating Program Receives Grant

Thank you to everyone who voted online for our Clean Boating Program at the BoatUS Foundation Grassroots Grants website. With your help, we have received a grant to fund the program. More information on how you can participate will be

coming in the next newsletter and in our e-news.

The LGA's Clean Boater Program will encourage boaters to implement clean boating techniques.

Boaters will sign a pledge stating that they will be a clean boater. Those who sign will receive a



guide to clean boating addressing fuel, oil in the bilge, sewage, cleaning, hazardous wastes, trash and aquatic invasive species. Safe boating and special navigation rules for Lake George will also be addressed in the guide. Participants will also receive spill prevention materials, and will be recognized on the LGA website.

Yellow Iris - a "botanical bully" on Lake George

Yellow iris, an invasive plant, has returned to Mossy Point, where we first discovered it a couple years ago. This "botanical bully" is blooming NOW. Though pretty, it is poisonous and it spreads aggressively. Its roots can connect hundreds of flowering plants, choking native wetland plants, restricting water flow, and degrading habitat for fish, plants and other animals. Its seeds spread long distances along the edges of ponds, rivers, streams and lakes.

Rapid response and removal are key to the successful eradication of any new lake invader. Please be on the lookout for this plant. Before attempting to pull this invader, please verify the plant's identification with the LGA. If desired,



Please call the LGA at 518-668-3558 if you see this plant on Lake George or its tributaries.

the LGA will come out and remove this plant from a watershed property. If you decide to remove the plant on your own, these steps should be followed:

- Wear gloves as the plant's resins can irritate the skin. Clip flower heads prior to seed development.
- Pull and dig out plants, being careful to completely remove all of the roots. Any roots remaining in the ground can grow new infestations.
- Cut plants standing in water below the waterline.
- Place all plant pieces in plastic bags and take the bags to a sanitary landfill

site. Do not compost.

Kenzie Tennent Wins Bookmark Contest

On behalf of the Lake George Watershed Coalition, the LGA is pleased to announce the winner of the fourth annual Lake George Bookmark Design Contest. The winning design by Kenzie Tennent, a 7th grade student at Bolton Central School, features an angler on the lake with the slogan: "You can't just wish for healthy fish!"



Kenzie Tennent receives her award at the Bolton Central School Awards Ceremony from Lake George Watershed Coalition Public Participation Committee Chair Mayor Robert Blais. Kenzie's award winning design, pictured below, features the slogan "YOU CAN'T JUST WISH FOR HEALTHY FISH!"

"This is the third year my students have participated in the bookmark contest. We all really enjoy it," said Nicole Williams, Kenzie's teacher. "The contest is an opportunity for us to learn about the lake and how important it is to our community. It gets students thinking about things they can do to protect it," she said.

Each spring students are asked to focus on lake and watershed

issues, such as water quality, invasive species, aquatic and terrestrial plants and animals, streams and wetlands, pollution, lake ecology and lake health. Through this activity, students try to encourage people to protect Lake George as an important natural resource.



Sponsored and judged by the Lake George Watershed Coalition (LGWC) through its Public Participation and Education Committee, the contest is coordinated by the LGA. **Thousands of bookmarks with Kenzie's design will be distributed throughout the watershed in libraries, schools and other public locations. To receive bookmarks for your location, or to learn how your school can participate next year, please contact the LGA.**

The LGA Welcomes New Members

David Chambers
Mark P. Eliseo
Salvatore Ervolina
Leroy S. Waltz, Jr.
Scott and Coleen Stevens
Ann and Bill Westervelt
Thomas F. Burleigh
Beth and Bill Nast
Eugene and Gwendolyn Walter
Dr. Hazel Goodwin Kim
Roderick O. Dressel
Ken and Susan Neilson

Mike and Patrice Schelkun
John and Joanne Bartlett
Paul Applebee
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth L. Ellis
Maura F. Koeneke
Buzz Povall and Karen Lemmon
Bruce W. Houseworth
Ruth and Sandy Lamb
Wanda Mitko
James and Dorothy Stewart
Fred Pflaum and Linda Demers

Looking forward to seeing you at our Summer Splash Gala



A benefit for the protection of Lake George at the Inn at Erlowest July 15, 2011
Go to the LGA website (click on the "EVENTS" tab) to see our great silent auction items – get ready to bid!

LGA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Victor Hershafft (Bolton Landing) **Executive Vice President** Robert de Buys (Hague)
Vice Presidents Michael Dier (Diamond Point) William Dutcher (Pilot Knob) Matt Finley (Diamond Point)
Treasurer Daniel Behan, Jr. (Saratoga Springs) **Secretary** Kenneth Engler, Jr. (Hague)
Directors Salim Amersi (Lake George) Bruce Ashby (Bolton Landing) Graham Bailey (Hague)
J. Buckley Bryan, Jr. (Bolton Landing) James N. Casaccio (Diamond Point) Daniel Davies (Dunham's Bay)
Michael Grasso (Lake George) H. Thomas Jarrett, PE (Glens Falls) Cheryl Lamb (Bolton Landing)
Frank Lasch (Kattskill Bay) Peter Menzies (Bolton Landing) John Schaninger (Huletts Landing)
Emeritus Board Dr. Barbara Chick (Queensbury) Alison Craig (Hague) Buzz Lamb (Bolton Landing)
John Lynch (Lake George) George Singer (Ticonderoga)
Advisory Board George Beaudoin (Hague) Keith Ferguson (Bolton Landing) Robert Flacke (Lake George)
Ray Freud (Putnam) William P. Gates (Bolton Landing) Andrea Maranville (Bolton Landing)
Douglas Smith (Hague)

STAFF

Executive Director
C. Walter Lender

Director of Membership Development
Nancy Cobb-Zoll

Director of Education
Emily M. DeBolt

Development Assistant
Lorie S. Gollhofer

Project/GIS Manager
Randy G. Rath

Watershed Educator
Kristen Rohne

Communications Coordinator
Lynne Rosenthal

Office Manager
Mona Seeger

Legal Counsel
Matthew F. Fuller, Esq.

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.
Lake George Association, Inc. PO Box 408 Lake George, NY 12845

Upcoming Events (Mark your Calendars!)

Wed., July 6, 10 am & 1 pm, **PUBLIC FLOATING CLASSROOM.** Lake George Village Dock, Amherst Street. Reservations required, donation suggested. (Continues every Wed in July and August)

Monday - Thur., July 11-14 **PUBLIC INPUT for WEST BROOK ENVIRONMENTAL PARK.**
Ft. William Henry Resort.
Visit <http://wbci.wordpress.com> for info.

July 11 – July 15. 11 am – 4 pm. **INVASIVE SPECIES AWARENESS WEEK.** Lake George Visitor Center, booths & displays

Tues., July 12, 9:30 am. **LAKE GEORGE PLANT PADDLE.** Dunham's Bay Marina. Learn to identify aquatic plants and invasives.

Fri., July 15, 6:30 pm. **SUMMER SPLASH GALA.** Inn at Erlowest. Reservations required.

Thur, July 28, 2 - 4 pm. **AQUATIC INVASIVE ANIMAL ID TRAINING.** LGA Office.

Fri. Aug 19, 10 am. **126th ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING.** Lake George Club. Reservations required for lunch, but not for the meeting.

CHECK US OUT ONLINE:

Video LGA Lake Stewards Training:
www.youtube.com/user/LakeGeorge125?feature=mhee

Blog LGA's Lake-friendly Living BLOG:
<http://www.lakegeorge.com/lakefriendlyliving/>

Facebook
www.facebook.com/LakeGeorgeAssociation

LGA E-NEWS Sign up for the LGA E-newsletter and E-alerts at www.lakegeorgeassociation.org
(Click on the green button at the upper right.)



Lake George Association
P.O. Box 408
Lake George, NY 12845

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage PAID
Permit No. 17
Lake George, NY

The Asian clam eradication project continues. 800 mats are down, smothering the Asian clams.

Over 800 7' x 50' PVC mats have been installed, treating 95% of the approximately 5-acre infested area. The mats are weighted down with 25,000 pieces of rebar. The areas that remain untreated are rocky areas, extremely shallow



areas, and areas with wharfs and bulkheads that make treatment with mats difficult.

LGA Lake Stewards helped fill sand bags to place along beach shoreline areas where the mats kept coming up from the wash back from

the waves. Signs have been placed on the shore and at the docks, and brochures explaining the project to resort guests have been distributed to hotels.

Work is far from done. Monitoring and maintenance continue. Scientists are sampling from underneath the mats to test for dissolved oxygen levels. Jeremy Farrell from the Darrin Fresh Water Institute took core samples to ensure that clams were not missed between the mats and the shoreline.

Boaters are asked to exercise caution not only for the mats in general but also for divers in the area. Please drive slow, trim your engine and lookout for 'Diver Under Water' flags. We also need swimmers to avoid the matted areas.

Please visit www.stoptheasianclam.info for regular updates.



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

