

The Floating Classroom

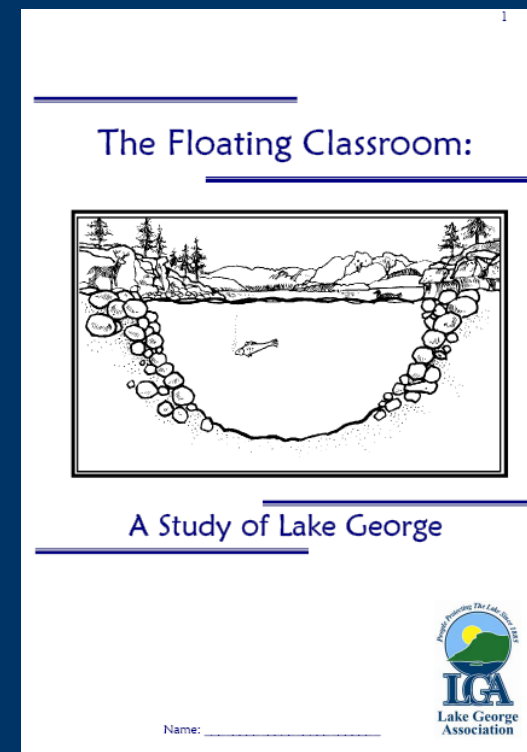


Emily DeBolt, Director of Education
The Lake George Association

The Floating Classroom

Photo by Carl Heilmann II

- Began in the early 1990s
- Developed with area teachers
- Linked to NYS science curriculum standards
- Has helped similar programs elsewhere start up (ex. Cayuga lake)
- Funding provided by Helen V. Froehlich Foundation



The Floating Classroom

Photo by Carl Heilmann II

- We have been able to expand the program and offer it to a much wider audience since the purchase of the *Rosalia Anna Ashby*, our custom-built 40 ft. catamaran.
- The LGA educator, first mate, and boat captain provide a fun, safe, and educational experience that is designed for families and groups of all ages.



Don Smith
Captain



Kristen Rohne
Watershed Educator



Richard Seeger
First Mate

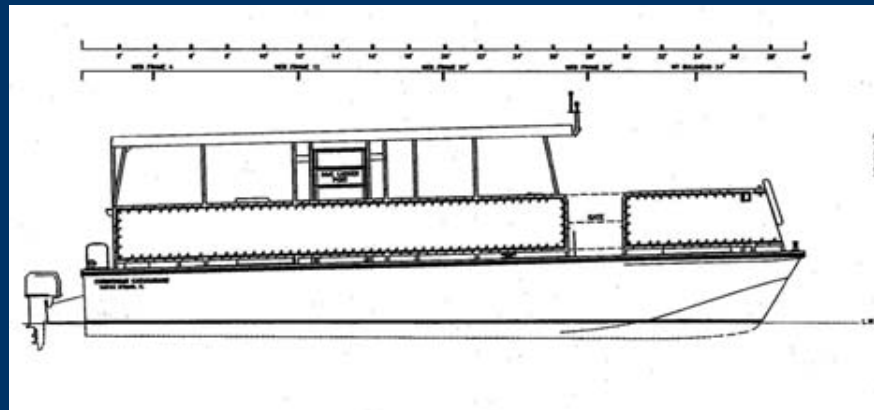


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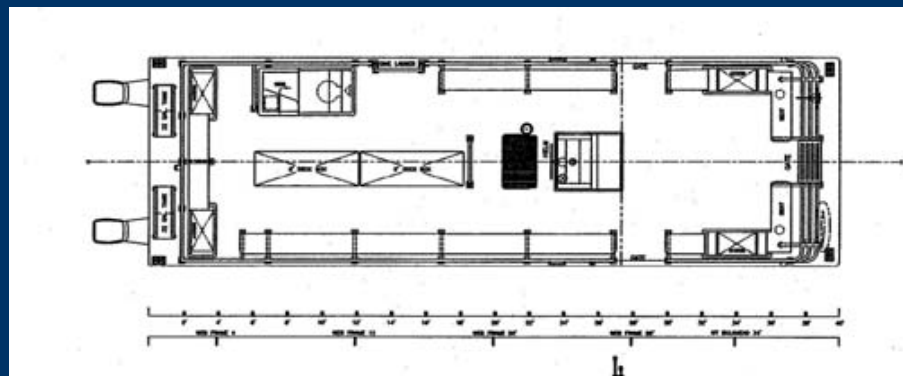
- Safety is #1
- The boat features fiberglass construction, which provides high strength combined with low maintenance. The one piece molded hull is hand laid stitch mat, with a balsa core, providing maximum strength and minimum weight.



The Floating Classroom

Photo by Carl Heilmann II

- U.S. Coast Guard certifiable at the new 185 pounds per person standard
- rated for 49 passengers
- built to exceed A.B.S. (American Bureau of Shipping) specifications.
- 40 feet long and 12 feet wide
- We limit groups to 30 passengers



The Floating Classroom

Photo by Carl Heilmann II

- Funding for the boat provided by Bruce and Mary Ashby, The Claneil Foundation, the Town of Bolton, the NYS Dept of State with funds provided under Title 11 of the EPF, and many other generous private donations
- International Paper provided a grant to pay for a classroom set of water samplers, and Dock Doctors donated a set of life jackets



The Floating Classroom

Photo by Carl Heilmann II

- A hands-on adventure for those interested in learning about the Lake George watershed and the quality of the lake's water.
- Participants investigate different aspects of the lake's ecosystem and learn how to protect Lake George
- Now available for all ages!



The Floating Classroom

Photo by Carl Heilmann II

- **Lake George Basics:** Learn what makes Lake George different from other lakes.
 - How long is it?
 - How deep is it?
 - How many islands does it have?
- **History:** Get a brief geological history of the formation of the lake.
 - What did the lake look like before the glaciers came through? Why does the lake flow north?



The Floating Classroom

Photo by Carl Heilmann II

- **Water Clarity and Trophic State:**
Use a secchi disk to measure water clarity.
 - How far can you see into the lake?
 - Is the lake oligotrophic, mesotrophic, or eutrophic?
- **Food Webs and Plankton:** Catch and identify zooplankton using plankton nets and field microscopes.
 - Why are they important to the health of the lake?
 - What else lives in the lake?



The Floating Classroom

Photo by Carl Heilmann II

- **Water Chemistry:** Using a Van Dorn bottle, you will obtain water to measure water temperature, pH and dissolved oxygen levels.
- **Water Quality Issues:** Learn about threats to the lake such as invasive species and non-point source pollution. What are simple things that can be done to help protect the lake?



School Programs

- **Spring and Fall field trips for area students**
 - Last 2 weeks May/first 2 weeks June
 - Last 2 weeks Sept/first 2 week Oct
 - Getting more and more schools from further away – Addison in VT, Schalmont, Hunter/Tannersville in NY
 - Even took a school group out in conjunction with Camp Chingacook that was from Chicago.



Summer Programs

- **Youth groups/summer camps**
 - Bolton youth camp, Northern Lake George Yacht Club summer camp, Stony Creek summer camp, Adirondack Camp
- **Homeowners Associations**
 - Black Point Road, Pilot Knob, Overlook, Arcady Bay
- **Families and Tourists**
 - Silver Bay YMCA, The Lodges at Cresthaven, Public Programs
- **Community Groups**
 - Hague Chamber, Bolton Seniors, Huletts Historic Assoc, Ticonderoga Kiwanis
- **Municipalities**
 - Village of Lake George, Town of Hague, Town of Bolton

Participation is growing

- So far we have had 80 trips in 2010
(still another 12 to go!)
- **1823 total participants, 1124 students**



Floating Classroom Number of Participants

Spring 2010	350 students
Fall 2009	528 students
Summer 2009	472 people
Spring 2009	261 students
Total 2009	1261
2008 *	705
2007 *	685
2006 *	651
2005	1006

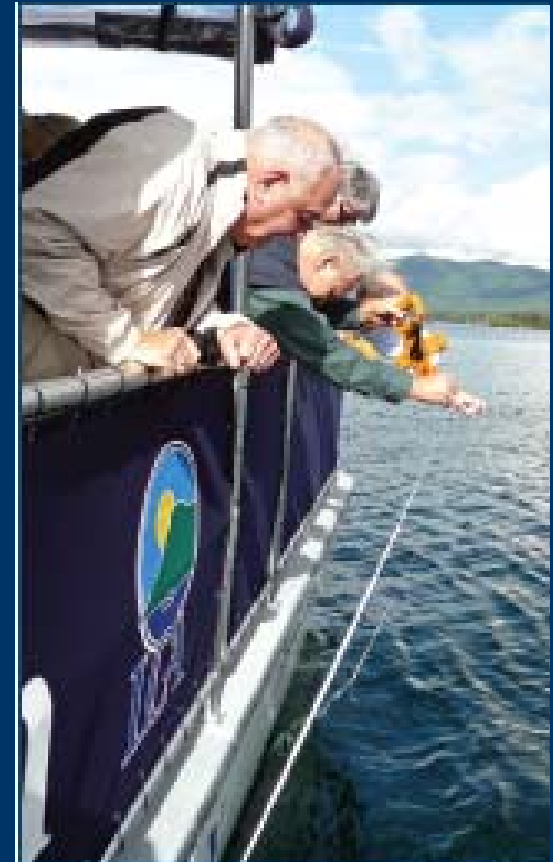
* During 2006-2008, participation decreased because no boat was available, and the program took place on land.

Public Programs

- 2010 was our first summer of offering programs for the public
- We had great response. Every program was booked in advance – many had waiting lists!
- We hope to be able to offer even more programs in 2011.



The Floating Classroom



Our next generation of stewards.

And this generation as well!