



Connections

Preserve and advocate for Walworth County waterways, natural areas, and working lands Summer 2017

GENEVA LAKE CONSERVANCY CELEBRATES 40 YEARS WITH TWO BIG EVENTS

The Geneva Lake Conservancy (GLC) has many accomplishments to highlight as it celebrates its 40th anniversary this year, including:

- Protecting close to 2,000 acres of open land with conservation easements and land donations.
- Ensuring that almost a mile of shoreline on our lakes is protected from inappropriate development.
- Educating residents and visitors about the importance of our watersheds and how to care for them.
- Advocating for low density development of our open lands and shorelines and protecting the Geneva Lake shore path and other historic properties.

With all of these achievements, the GLC has organized two BIG events on Saturday July 15 to celebrate its 40th anniversary this year. These special events are designed to showcase our work, thank our leaders and members and outline our plans for the next decade.

The celebration begins at 8 a.m. on Saturday with a "Tour of the Land". For \$10 per person, the public will have an opportunity to tour five of the GLC's most extraordinary conservation easement properties, including an organic dairy farm, an oak forest, a former fish hatchery, a restored woodland and the grounds of an historic Geneva Lake estate.



The organic dairy farm of Jeff Johnson and his family will be one of the featured conservation easement properties in GLC's "Tour of the Land" on July 15.

GLC 40th Year Celebration (continued from p. 1)

“The tour is designed to demonstrate the variety of lands that we have protected with conservation easements, to allow guests to get outside and walk on the land and to educate them about the rich diversity of natural conservation features that are found in Walworth County,” said Karen Yancey, GLC Executive Director.

Participants will pick up their tickets at the Conservancy’s Mill House headquarters in Fontana along with a guide and map to each of the properties. The guide will also outline conservation features, including native plants, trees and wetlands to help the participants learn more about the land they are touring. There will be opportunities for short hikes on each of the properties so wear walking shoes and dress for the weather. The owners, landscapers, gardeners and farmers will be on hand at all of the properties to answer your questions.



Colman Woods on a November day.

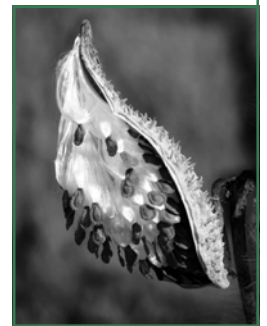
“For children and adults, this is an opportunity to see some beautiful landscapes and enjoy some hiking around the county, while learning about native plants and important conservation features,” said Yancey.

The tour will be followed by a special dinner and evening celebration at a Geneva Lake shorefront estate from 4 to 7 p.m. Tickets are \$100 a person or \$1,000 per table. The evening will include cocktails and a stroll along the lake to the tunes of a local jazz band, a full dinner and program honoring the Conservancy’s past leaders. We will also be outlining the Conservancy’s exciting future plans.

“Whether you recently joined the Conservancy or have been a supporter for many years, these events are an opportunity to see some of the open land you have helped protect in Walworth County,” said Yancey. “We want to celebrate how people working together and lending their talents to the community can protect these special places for many generations to come.” Please join us! Karen Yancey

Monarch Mission Thanks You

Thank you to our many members and friends who supported our Monarch Mission by purchasing milkweed plants. We sold more than 500 plants of three different varieties to help provide habitat for monarch butterflies. Monarchs winter in large numbers in central Mexico and wing their way north to breed and dine in the summer months. Unfortunately, the number of Monarchs summering in the central US has been in serious decline over the past several years. There are a number of reasons experts cite for this problem, but the main culprit seems to be the decline in milkweed, a common but critical plant in the Monarch lifecycle. Monarchs lay their eggs on the underside of milkweed plants and the emerging Monarch caterpillars eat only milkweed to survive.



With our mission to preserve and advocate for Walworth County waterways, natural areas and working lands, the Geneva Lake Conservancy initiated the Monarch butterfly conservation project by encouraging local gardeners to create Monarch way stations in their own yards. In addition to enhancing the local Monarch habitat, the proceeds of the sale will benefit prairie restoration at the White River County Park, through the Friends of the White River Country Park.

GLC Observes Earth Day

Earth Day was celebrated at GLC's 5th spring luncheon. David Thoreson, author, photographer and sailor, spoke to the luncheon guests gathered at Mabel Cratty Hall at George Williams College of Aurora University. The hall, facing the lake, was a perfect venue to learn about Thoreson's sailing adventures around the world over the past 20 years, and hear his personal experiences with global warming. Thoreson has witnessed firsthand a changing Artic environment and his photographs document the changes in the reduced amount of surface water covered by glaciers.



David Thoreson relaxes for a moment during an art exhibit

A charismatic speaker, Geneva Lake is dear to Thoreson's heart. Learning to sail in dinghies on Lake Okoboji, Iowa, Thoreson has competed in regatta's here on Geneva Lake. His love of sailing led to on-water adventures that he has documented through stunning photography and prose.

Thoreson is the author and photographer of *Over the Horizon* and photographer of *One Island, One Ocean*. Both books document Thoreson's adventures aboard Ocean Watch as she sailed around the Americas.



Joy Schnupp, Director of the Barrett Memorial Library in Williams Bay accepts a copy of Thoreson's book from Janet Happ, GLC Director of Development.

To observe Earth Day with the Walworth County community, GLC donated a copy of *Over the Horizon* to 10 libraries located within Walworth County. The book's rich photography honors our environment by stimulating our emotions. This is the 3rd year GLC has contributed a book to local libraries that coincides with our Earth Day gathering.

Volunteer Workdays ... Mark your Calendar!

- **Saturday, Sept. 9, GLC/Village of Fontana Work Day, 9 a.m.-noon,** Hildebrand Woods, Fontana, please bring loppers and work gloves.
- **Friday, October 6, White River County Park 8 a.m. – noon,** White River County Park, bring work gloves for projects to be announced.

2013 Conservation Stewardship award recipient Gail Hibbard and grand daughter, Elizabeth Hibbard, at the April 1 Hildebrand Woods workday.



Volunteers Needed!!!

We still need a few volunteers to help with the "Tour of the Land" event on Saturday, July 15 from 8—2 pm. Needed are people to check-in guests at our conservation easement properties, register guests and guide property tours. Contact GLC at (262) 275-5700 or at glc@genevalakeconservancy.org to sign up! Thank you to the many people that have signed up already!

GLC Welcomes Land Protection Summer Intern Tim Goggin

The Conservancy is pleased to introduce Tim Goggin, our 2017 summer intern. Tim joined the staff of GLC in May and brings to the office a powerful knowledge of the environment and forest biology. In 2016 Tim graduated magna cum laude from SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry School of Environmental and Forest Biology,

During his time at SUNY, Tim wrote conservation management plans, and participated in writing complex restoration plans. After graduating, Tim shared his knowledge and love of the outdoors and nature with residents of Cook County while on staff at the Forest Preserve.

A native of River Forest, IL, Tim spent his summers at Lake Geneva, a long standing family tradition, being the fifth generation of the Goggin family to enjoy the area. An avid naturalist, Tim is known as the reptile expert among friends and family and spent many hours during his youth frogging and exploring that native habitats in the area.



Summer is the busiest time of the year for GLC. Along with the Conservancy's success in protecting open space comes the obligation to visit all of our properties to conduct annual monitoring, ensuring that our easement partners are caring for their property as was agreed when they signed the conservation easement. Tim has stepped right into the Land Protection role at GLC, filling his days meeting our easement holders, touring their properties, and thoroughly documenting each visit.

The summer of 2017 is especially important for GLC as we celebrate our 40th Anniversary with the Tour of the Land day. Tim is responsible for compiling the property information cards for our guides that day. Our guests will be treated to information on the conservation importance of the each property and native plants and wildlife will be pointed out.

It's GLC's fortune that Tim's passion for the environment is a "natural" in the land conservation field and we are looking forward to a productive summer.

Farm & Sea Conservation Dinner



The iconic Beautiful Big Brown Barn.

What do farmers and fisherman have in common? Michael Fields Agricultural Institute (MFAI) in East Troy! On Friday, August 25, MFAI will host dinner in their beautiful Brown Barn featuring fresh gulf seafood, fresh farm produce, local beer and wine and music. The evening event will focus on unlikely partners conserving the environment of the Gulf of Mexico and the Mississippi River. For more information visit www.MichaelFields.org.

CONNECTIONS Summer photo by Jim Frost.

Red winged blackbird flying over a wet land at Kishwaukétoe Nature Conservancy.

Celebrate GLC's 40th Anniversary!

Saturday, July 15 — Tour of the Land & Celebration

Geneva Lake Conservancy's 40th Anniversary celebration! The day will include the opportunity to tour and hike on some of our extraordinary easement properties and an evening gala at GLC's first conservation easement, which is on the shore of Geneva Lake.

Saturday, October 7 — Shore Path Walk

Walkers are given a route map and pace guide to keep them on track. All proceeds benefit Geneva Lake Conservancy.

Saturday, December 2th — Holly Ball!

The Geneva Lake Conservancy presents the Conservation Stewardship award at *Holly Ball* at Big Foot Country Club.

Did you know that . . .

The Conservation Stewardship Award is awarded each year at Holly Ball, and honors leaders in the conservation movement in our area. The award highlights those individuals or organizations who demonstrate a personal commitment to the conservation and preservation of our environment.



2017 Tour of the Land & 40th Anniversary Sponsors

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Tour of the Land





Geneva Lake Conservancy

Our mission is to preserve and advocate for Walworth County waterways, natural areas and working lands.

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TOUR of THE LAND & 40TH Anniversary CELEBRATION 2017



SATURDAY JULY 15

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