



Geneva Lake Conservancy Connections

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

Fall 2017

GLC RECEIVES ROHNER DONATION TO PURCHASE LAND FOR CHILDREN'S FISHING PARK

The Geneva Lake Conservancy purchased 5.1 acres in Williams Bay on Sept. 19 with a generous donation from the Jack Rohner family.

The vacant land will be used to create a children's fishing park in honor of Mr. Rohner's late wife, Helen.

The land is located along Highway 67 south of the Kishwauketoe Nature Preserve. It is bordered on the west by Southwick Creek, a trout stream that runs into Geneva Lake. The park plans call for fishing spots to be created for children along the creek, as well as a boardwalk across a wetland on the property that will connect with Kishwauketoe.



Leaders recognized at GLC's 40th Year celebration (from left to right): John Notz, Sarah Schuster, Mary King, Sharon O'Brien, Nancy Russell, Robert Youngquist, Harold Friestad, Bill Turner, Chuck Ebeling, Grace Eckland, Grace Hanny and Al Hermansen. More pictures on p. 4-5.

"We are so grateful to the Rohner family for their donation to preserve this land and to create a park that will encourage children to learn about the wonders of nature," said Dennis Jordan, GLC Chairman.

Helen Rohner, who died in 2016 had been a Lake Geneva summer resident for many years.

"She could still remember the World War II troops coming through Lake Geneva on the train," said her daughter, Barbara Franke. Franke said her mother loved children. Helen Rohner's daughter and 2 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren still spend part of their summers at Lake Geneva homes, she said.

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Children's Fishing Park (continued from page 1)

The park will also feature “story boards” on the lifecycles of trout and include a native plant nature trail with educational signs and other nature activities. A small barn on the property will be painted with a large brown trout that are the predominant fish in Southwick Creek. In the future, the barn may also be restored for a variety of children's activities.

“This park will not only provide new activities for children, it will also help draw families and other visitors to Williams Bay to learn about the health of our fisheries and the importance of protecting aquatic habitat,” said Karen Yancey, GLC Executive Director.

In conjunction with the purchase, the GLC will work with the Village of Williams Bay and Kishwauketoe Nature Preserve on their plans to reroute Southwick Creek to make it easier for trout to reach their spawning grounds further north on the creek.

The Conservancy plans to ask for volunteer assistance from a variety of civic and community groups as it develops the park.

“The Conservancy holds a conservation easement on Kishwauketoe Nature Conservancy and hopes to work with their volunteers to interweave children's activities and create an extension of the hiking trails and native habitats at Kishwauketoe,” said Yancey.

The current timetable calls for a dedication of the park to be held on Memorial Day weekend, 2018.



Helen Rohner, with great granddaughter Caroline. Helen's love for children, inspired the Rohner family donation to create the fishing park in Williams Bay.

GLC Sustaining Sponsors

*Carol Bernick
Jeff & Molly Keller*



Thank you to our new Business Members

**Clear Waters Salon and Day Spa
Country Station
Geneva Lakefront Realty
McCormack + Etten Architects LLP
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simple café
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Chris Danou and Tom Nickols Join GLC board

Earlier this year, GLC welcomed Chris Danou and Tom Nickols to the board of directors. Both men bring experience and passions to the board that will serve the organization well.

Chris Danou currently works as Director of Government Relations for Gathering Waters, Wisconsin's state land trust organization. Prior to joining Gathering Waters in 2017, Chris served from 2009-2017 as Representative to the Assembly from Western Wisconsin, representing all of or parts of Buffalo, Jackson, Pepin, Pierce and Jackson counties. In the Assembly, he served as Vice-Chair of the Natural Resources Committee and as ranking member of the Agriculture and Insurance Committees. Chris also served as a member of the Wisconsin Environmental Education Board, the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus and on the UW-Steven's Point College of Natural Resources Advisory Committee. Chris has also worked as a DNR Park Ranger and for The Nature Conservancy in Door County. He has a bachelor's degree in history/international relations from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a master's degree in Natural Resources Management from the University of Wisconsin-Steven's Point. He and his family live in Williams Bay.



Chris Danou



Tom Nickols

Tom Nickols is a principal at Bernstein Private Wealth Management in Chicago, where he has worked for more than 20 years. Prior to his work at Bernstein, he was a consultant with Ernst and Young and also worked in management for IBM. He serves on a number of not-for-profit boards, including the Indianapolis Zoo. Tom has a bachelor's degree in business with a minor in biology from Drake University. He has a special interest in ornithology and has assisted the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service with banding birds. He and his wife, Janet, reside in Lake Geneva and he is involved with several volunteer efforts throughout Walworth County.

Peg Pollitt joins GLC Staff

In August Peg joined the GLC staff, taking on the accounting responsibilities. Peg brings a depth of financial experience to GLC, having received her BA degree in Accounting and Business Administration from Thiel College in Greenville, PA. Peg most recently worked in governmental finance and is excited to be a part of the GLC mission. Originally from the east coast, she has been a "Midwesterner" for over 30 years.

Join us ...GLC Annual Meeting December 9, 8:30 am

Geneva Lake Museum

255 Mill St., Lake Geneva

Holiday Treats and Coffee Served

Please call (262) 275-5700 to make a reservation

CONNECTIONS Fall photo by Jim Frost. Special thanks to Jim for his assistance with photographs.

Tour of the Land

GLC celebrated 40 years with a day long celebration on July 15. Five properties protected by GLC conservation easements were open to the public during the day with guided tours. The properties represented a variety of types, from a restored woodland to an organic farm to a lakeside estate. The 40th Anniversary evening event recognized the talents of many GLC past leaders.



Dennis Jordan, GLC Chair, thanks GLC leaders for their efforts that have allowed the organization to grow.



GLC board member Merilee Holst welcomes Tour of the Land guests. The day long tour was the brainchild of Holst.



Julee Scherrer touring a conservancy property.

GLC staff member Tim Goggin, speaks with Kelley Happ.



Tour of the Land's Principal Sponsor was Savant Wealth Management. Left, John Yancey, Savant CEO Brent Brodeski and wife Sharon, Karen Yancey, GLC Executive Director. Right, Sonette Tippens, Nancy Russell, Chair of the Walworth County Board of Supervisors, and Nancy Lehman.



Bernice and Ernest Styberg are the holders of the first conservation easement granted to GLC. In 1985 Styberg's forever protected their 12 acre Geneva Lake estate from subdivision and development. GLC's 40th Anniversary celebration on July 15 was held at the Styberg estate. Guests were able to tour the property and enjoy a catered meal under a tent at the lakefront. The evening event followed the Tour of the Land event that was held that day. Five properties that are permanently protected by GLC were open to the public.



Amy Brown, Jim and Grace Hanny



Blythe and Bob Youngquist



The Diamond Family



Shari and Toby Steivang



Dee and Jim Tuschall



Grace Eckland, Ken and Diane Etten



Celine Lillie, Dave and Nancy Williams



Bill LaCroix & Wendy Fisher



Dorothy Sullivan and Vicki LaCroix

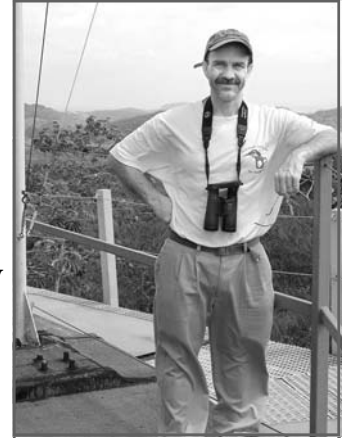
Photos by Robert Rydin

The Individual's Role in Bird Conservation

Craig Thompson, a 30-year veteran of the DNR and a lifelong conservationist, encourages individuals and land trusts to participate in the bird conservation efforts. Thompson, active in the national and international bird conservation arenas, emphasizes the importance of land trusts and private landowners in protecting rare birds and will speak at the GLC's fall event on October 12.

Working with private land owners, land trusts like the Geneva Lake Conservancy, can advance bird conservation efforts. "Private landowners must be a part of the solution. Their conservation capacity is considerable, their participation essential for success," says Thompson. GLC's land protection and restoration efforts, coupled with advocacy outreach, are a significant force in protecting rare bird species in southeast Wisconsin.

Bird conservation efforts are broader than the local area, since the migratory paths of some of birds in southeast Wisconsin extend into South America. "The ongoing decline of many of our beloved birds is symptomatic of the global erosion of biodiversity," Thompson commented. This is evidenced in the significant number of North America's birds experiencing long-term population declines.



Craig Thompson

GLC Applies for Accreditation

The Geneva Lake Conservancy is pleased to announce that we have applied for accreditation by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission. We invite you, our stakeholders, to provide comment on how the Geneva Lake Conservancy adheres to national land trust standards set by the Land Trust Accreditation Commission.

PUBLIC NOTICE: COMMENT ON OUR COMPLIANCE WITH NATIONAL STANDARDS

The land trust accreditation program recognizes land conservation organizations that meet national quality standards for protecting important natural places and working lands forever. The Geneva Lake Conservancy is pleased to announce it is applying for accreditation. A public comment period is now open.

The Land Trust Accreditation Commission, an independent program of the Land Trust Alliance, conducts an extensive review of each applicant's policies and programs.

The Commission invites public input and accepts signed, written comments on pending applications. Comments must relate to how the Geneva Lake Conservancy complies with national quality standards. These standards address the ethical and technical operation of a land trust. For the full list of standards see <http://www.landtrustaccreditation.org/help-and-resources/indicator-practices>.

To learn more about the accreditation program and to submit a comment, visit www.landtrustaccreditation.org or email your comment to info@landtrustaccreditation.org. Comments may also be faxed or mailed to the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, Attn: Public Comments: (fax) 518-587-3183; (mail) 36 Phila Street, Suite 2, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866.

Comments on the Geneva Lake Conservancy's application will be most useful by
November 3, 2017.

GLC SEEKS TO HELP REDUCE PHOSPHORUS/CHLORIDE IN COUNTY LAKES AND STREAMS

- On September 20, Geneva Lake officials reported the worst blue-green algae bloom in 40 years and warning signs were placed at area beaches.
- In July, Delavan Lake had to close several beaches due to an algae outbreak..
- Walworth County now has 10 major waterways on the EPA's Impaired Waters List, primarily due to total phosphorus levels in these lakes and streams, which is a major factor in algae growth and deteriorating water quality..

These are some of the concerns GLC Executive Director Karen Yancey reported during her presentation on "The Impaired Waters of Walworth County" at the Lake Geneva Library on September 28. She said that newly listed impaired waters included Delavan Lake, Jackson Creek and Whitewater Lake. Portions of Honey, Sugar and Turtle Creek also are on the Impaired Water list.

The GLC invited Walworth County conservationist Shannon Haydin and urban runoff specialist Fay Amerson to discuss ways to reduce the amount of phosphorus runoff into lakes and streams, primarily from residential, commercial and agricultural uses in these watersheds.

Property owners at or near a lake or stream can help by not allowing leaves and grass cuttings into the lake, said Yancey. As spring approaches, they can also reduce or eliminate fertilizers and establish buffer zones with native plants along shore lines.

Yancey also urged GLC members and property owners to write their state and federal legislators to voice their concerns about urban and agricultural runoff and the growing phosphorus and chloride levels in county lakes and streams. She said that the GLC and its members should ask for more assistance from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to address this problem, which is growing statewide.

The GLC will be working with government and private organizations to help reduce phosphorus and chloride levels in county waterways and welcomes member participation.

For more information, email kyancey@genevalakeconservancy.org.




Delavan Lake Beach



Sugar Creek



Whitewater Lake



Geneva Lake Conservancy

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

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Land Protection Specialist

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Accountant



Save the Date

**2017 ANNUAL HOLLY BALL
DINNER, DANCE AND AUCTION**

Geneva Lake Conservancy
2017 Celebrating 40 YEARS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2017

BIG FOOT COUNTRY CLUB

Geneva Lake Conservancy • 398 Mill Street • Fontana, WI 53125 • 262 275 5700 • 262 275 0579 fax

www.GenevaLakeConservancy.org