



Geneva Lake Conservancy

Help us Name
our
Newsletter!!



Protecting the environmental character of the Geneva lakes area

Fall

Letter from the Chairman

It's was a wild summer for weather and activity at the Geneva Lake Conservancy. We were busy with events and our land protection and advocacy efforts.

We are still working on the transfer of three easements totaling 788 acres from the American Farmland Trust (AFT) to the Conservancy. We are ready, but the transfers have been delayed due to administrative changes at the AFT. It is anticipated that these will be completed in the next three months. The property owners welcome our desire to restate the easements once they are transferred to make them stronger. Having large parcels of farmland under our holdings will be a terrific learning experience for us.

You will read about some of our advocacy efforts in this newsletter. What you should understand is that our new Advocacy Representation Program is working well. Our presence at all community meetings is making a difference by allowing us to advocate early for parks and zoning improvements and against development efforts and pyramiding.

Lastly, please take a look at our education initiative about shoreline buffers. And don't forget to support our programs through your generous donations.

Best wishes from the Conservancy,
Charles L. Colman, Chairman
Geneva Lake Conservancy

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Upcoming Dates:

Saturday, October 5

Shore Path Walk

December 7th

31st Holly Ball

Goes Hollywood

Big Foot Country Club

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Conservancy Launches Shoreline Buffer Education Initiative

A focus for the Advocacy Committee this past year has been encouraging lakefront property owners to landscape their shoreline with native plants that naturally have deep root systems which will filter pollutants before they reach the water. Roy Diblik, author of "The Know Maintenance Approach", designed three native plant communities that will protect the lakefront from erosion and runoff and provide a beautiful low-maintenance area.

The following is an excerpt from Shoreline Buffer booklet published by the Conservancy.

Shorelands are naturally full of a rich diversity of life: plants, animals, and microorganisms, including humans. As we understand more about the structure and function of shoreland, we also become aware of the importance of our role in keeping these systems healthy. Our efforts can lead to the restoration of a quality outdoor resource and a community full of life and beauty.

Traditional lawns, while not particularly harmful, have few of the benefits of a more natural shoreline. Lawns are shallow rooted, provide little wildlife habitat, need frequent maintenance, and are often over fertilized. The factors can lead to problems on our lakes such as:

- Shoreline erosion and lake sedimentation
- Algal blooms and excessive aquatic plant growth
- Loss of wildlife habitat, but an increase in nuisance animals



Creation of a buffer zone is the essence of responsible landscaping. It is an opportunity for us to balance our needs and priorities with the needs and priorities of those with whom we share life at the end of the water. Landscaping and shoreland restoration can return many desirable features to our shorelines:

- Filter out pollutants and runoff that degrade water quality
- Prevent shoreline erosion by absorbing wave action
- Stabilize lake bottom sediment
- Screen undesirable views while framing good ones
- Provide habitat for a wide variety of wildlife

Restoring the balance of nature enhances the aesthetic quality and recreational opportunities we appreciate. It will also balance our lifestyle with the needs of the natural communities of plants and animals that also call shoreland home.

Visit our website, www.GenevaLakeConservancy.org/Shoreline-Buffer/, for information about creating and maintaining shoreline buffers, planting grids, and suggested plants, shrubs and trees (with emphasis on Wisconsin natives).

Conservancy 2013 Annual Meeting

The 2013 annual meeting of the Geneva Lake Conservancy was held on August 10 at the Geneva Lake Museum in Lake Geneva.

Charles Colman, Chairman of the Conservancy, welcomed guests. He noted that the organization has evolved over time, creating opportunities for involvement in the community that benefit many residents. The advocacy, land protection, and education efforts have been successful, resulting in effective outreach, which has benefited 2013 fund-raising.

Guest speaker Jerry Adelman, CEO and President of Openlands in Chicago, noted similarities between the Conservancy and Openlands. Outreach, education, advocacy, land protection, and preservation are the anchors of both organizations. Adelman said nature is vital to all people, we need to connect with nature regardless of where we live, and a culture of conservation needs to be established. The Conservancy is on the ground in the Geneva Lakes area and has all the elements to provide the knitting that will enable the culture to be changed to embrace conservation. Openlands and the Conservancy will benefit from partnerships in the community that establish trust and a common goal. Colman thanked Adelman.

Colman observed that the Conservancy has had a busy year, with events, advocacy issues, and land protection. Three new events engaged new and existing membership and have helped spread the mission of the Conservancy, while advocacy involvement has been in municipal issues as well as in launching a shoreline buffer educational initiative. Land protection is a growing concern, as the lands held under easement with the Conservancy are increasing and expected to continue.

Thanks go out to our supporters, financial as well as volunteer, and fellow advocates.



Don Parker, GLC Treasurer, left, and Charles Colman, GLC Chair, listen as Jerry Adelman, CEO & President of Openlands discusses the similar conservation efforts of the Conservancy and Openlands.

Consider supporting Kishwauketoe Nature Conservancy. This 230 acre preserve is protected by an easement held by the Village of Williams Bay and the Geneva Lake Conservancy, and is maintained 100% through volunteer labor, donations and grants. You can support KNC by attending a volunteer workday or by sending a contribution to:

Kishwauketoe Nature Conservancy
PO Box 580
Williams Bay, WI 53191

Visit www.Kishwauketoe.org to learn more about our local treasure!

High-Profile Guest Speakers Laud Work of the Conservancy and Discuss Universal Issues

Hank Paulson, former U.S. Secretary of the Treasury and chairman and CEO of Goldman Sachs, and wife Wendy Paulson, nature educator, were the featured guests at a private dinner and fund-raiser in Lake Geneva on July 11 to benefit the Geneva Lake Conservancy. The Paulsons, ardent nature lovers, have served on various conservation boards and have donated more than \$100 million toward conservation efforts. The Paulsons agreed to discuss their views and insights on conservation issues.

Wendy Paulson said the world suffers from "ecological illiteracy." She felt strongly that people need to be educated about the importance of conservation and that it should start at an early age.

Hank Paulson agreed. "If you don't know much, it's easy to be indifferent," he said. "NGOs [non-governmental organizations], government, and big business need to work together to solve conservation issues. It's hard for governments to do things. They're a reflection of the people. Big business sees what's happening."

He felt water would be the pressing issue of the century. "Water will be a bigger issue than climate change. We're close to the tipping point," he said. "Who owns the water? We have the false belief that if you own the land you own the aquifer. The consequences must be thought through. The economic models we have are based on the false assumption that natural ecosystems are free – that they are inexhaustible."

The Paulsons discussed the knock-on effect of coastal degradation on migratory birds, The Paulson Institute's efforts in China, developing countries' dilemma of growth versus conservation, education as a key to engagement, and the importance of grassroots organizations such as The Geneva Lake Conservancy.

Wendy Paulson was positive about the future. "I do think the greatest hope lies in every individual's capacity to care – and that's absolutely universal," she said. "Nature *does* speak to people the world over no matter their ethnicity or nationality. And I think that's incredibly powerful.

"And [hope lies in] the willingness of people to band together and work together, as you do at the Conservancy, to focus on what you know best – to really get to know a place, value that place and be a good steward of it," she said.

Hank Paulson said, "I do believe we will pull through this, and technology will be one of the answers. There are a lot of places where we're not winning the ecological battle."

"Bottom line, we all need to do what we can," Wendy Paulson said.

Several people were instrumental in the success of this fund-raiser, particularly Bill Pollard, who arranged for the Paulsons to talk, and John and Linda Anderson, who hosted the event. Ron Levin, Bob Klockars, Sue Kiner, Janet Happ, and Lynn Ketterhagen were also helpful in making the evening special. Thank you! It was memorable!

To view the taped sessions, go to www.GenevaLakeConservancy.org.



Pictured at the Paulson fund-raiser from left to right are Bill and Judy Pollard, Wendy and Hank Paulson and Linda and John Anderson.

Geneva Lake Conservancy Honors Pat and Shirley Ryan With Olmsted Award for Landscape Conservation

In 1972, Pat and Shirley Ryan completed their search for a residence on Geneva Lake when they purchased the House in the Woods on the north shore. Over the past 41 years the Ryans have nurtured their property, resulting in a landscape that has evolved from its Olmsted roots into a property the couple calls home.

The property is beautiful in its innocence, with many sacred places and a rolling landscape with a hardscape that is a subtle part of the design. The design is a perfect illustration of the evolutionary nature of homes and properties – that they are living organisms.

Soon to be entered into the Garden Club of America Collection at the Archives of American Gardens in the Smithsonian Institution, House in the Woods is a remarkable blend of architecture, gardens, and woods – with woods being the salient feature. They provide a unique perspective of nature.

The Conservancy commends Pat and Shirley Ryan for their commitment to restoring, enhancing, and caring for House in the Woods. Maintaining aspects of the original design, as well as placing the Ryans' unique imprint, they share with us their love of the property and their gratitude for it.

The Olmsted Award is named after the Olmsted family, visionary landscape conservationists. John Olmsted was the founder and first president of the American Society of Landscape Architects and a partner of Olmsted Brothers of Brookline, Mass. His uncle and adoptive father, Frederick Law Olmsted, designed the landscapes of Central Park in New York City and the 1893 World's Fair in Chicago. Cousin and half-brother Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. joined forces with John in managing the firm.

Robert Klockars said, "The Olmsted Brothers' company had an extraordinary long-term impact on landscape conservation, including the Geneva Lake area. Several properties on the north shore of Geneva Lake and the grounds of Yerkes Observatory reflect their landscape designs."

The Olmsted award was first awarded in 2012, coinciding with 35th anniversary of the Conservancy, to Roy Diblik, co-owner of Northwind Perennial Farms.

When accepting the award, The Ryans commented that the House in the Woods property is a place where their family gathers and is full of landscape influences, among them the Olmsteds.



Robert Klockars, former Chair of the Geneva Lake Conservancy, and Charles Colman, current Chair, with Patrick and Shirley Ryan, recipients of the Olmsted Award for Landscape Conservation. Pictured from left to right are Robert Klockars, Pat Ryan, Shirley Ryan and Charles Colman.

Pirates of the Conservancy, an Adventure Aboard the Belle!

With a large jump in numbers the few days before the event, 120 people ArrrrrghSVP'd and joined the Conservancy to spend an evening enjoying the lake, music, food, and fun.

The first Pirates of the Conservancy boat cruise got off to a rough start due to an engine problem on the Grand Belle of Geneva. Therefore, the Gage staff sent The Lady of the Lake to Lake Geneva Yacht Club to pick up the guests. By the time they arrived at The Riviera, the Belle had been repaired and was waiting at the dock to receive everyone. The rest of the night went off without a hitch.

Upon arrival at the Riviera, event co-chairs Meg and Kate Six greeted the guests. Then they boarded the Belle, with the Jolly Roger flying and music playing. A very convincing Jack Sparrow prowled the decks and took photographs with the partygoers, a few of whom even showed up in pirate garb themselves!

The night flew by, as guests enjoyed the Ideal Impressions photo booth, views of the lake, and Mick Neshek's fantastic dance moves. The band Tombeau Road kept the crowd moving until we returned to the yacht club dock as the sun was setting on an entertaining and successful evening.

The Pirates of the Conservancy Committee is extremely thankful for the Gage team's effort and the contributions of local businesses as well as the support of GLC members and the great attitudes of all who attended. Thanks go to the Lake Geneva Yacht Club for the use of their pier.

We were also very happy to surpass our goal of 100 attendees. Both old friends and new faces were seen supporting the great cause that is the Geneva Lake Conservancy.

The Pirates of the Conservancy event drew existing as well as new supporters and accomplished its goal of spending time with conservationists while enjoying beautiful, pristine Geneva Lake, and encouraging support of the GLC mission of protecting the environmental character of the Geneva Lakes area.



Rick Aspen, pictured left, was in character as Jack Sparrow for the entire cruise, entertaining our cruise guests. Right, co-chairs Meg and Kate Six relax.



Photographs courtesy of Ideal Impressions Photography



Upcoming Events

Saturday, October 5 – Shore Path Walk

Join the Conservancy as we walk the Lakeshore Path from Lake Geneva to Williams Bay to Fontana to Lake Geneva. You are sure to be tired at the end of this event!

Saturday, December 7 – The 31st annual Holly Ball at Big Foot Country Club

The Conservancy's annual holiday celebration and fundraiser includes a live band, dinner, mini-mall, and presentation of the Conservation Stewardship Award.

Name the Newsletter and Win A Prize

Everyone loves a contest, especially with a prize! Help the Conservancy name our newsletter. The winner of the contest will receive a Conservancy tote bag filled with goodies! Put your creative thoughts to good use – help the Conservancy pursue our mission of “Protecting the Environmental Character of the Geneva lakes area.”

Contest rules:

Submission deadline: September 30

- Entries should be sent to the Conservancy electronically:
GLC@GenevaLakeConservancy.org, **Subject:** Newsletter Name
- Entries will be reviewed and final selection as to name will be made by the Conservancy Board of Directors and announced in the first newsletter of 2014.
- In the case of duplicate entries, the entry received first will be deemed the winner.
- By entering this contest, entrant acknowledges that his or her proposed newsletter name is the entrant’s original idea.

The winning entry becomes the property of the Geneva Lake Conservancy.



Thank You to Our Recent Volunteers

Pirates of the Conservancy – Joanie Williams, Mac Six

Fred Noer – copyediting the articles in each of our newsletters.

Jim Happ, Don Holst, Sharon Ketterhagen and Big Foot HS Students—help at the Mill House

Mary Roth—assistance with office work and bookkeeping

Share the Vision and Donate Now.

Enclosed is my tax-deductible Membership donation:

- ☐ \$50 Naturalist ☐ \$100 Steward ☐ \$150 Advocate ☐ \$200 Protector ☐ \$250 Guardian ☐ \$500 Benefactor
- ☐ \$1,000 Stewardship Society ☐ \$5,000 Preservation Society ☐ \$_____ Other

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Yes, I would like to be a volunteer:

- ☐ Call me when you need help
- ☐ Mill House restoration and maintenance
- ☐ Mill House Gardens ☐ Data Entry
- ☐ Educational programs ☐ Event volunteer

We need your email addresses so we can keep you up to date with the latest GLC news!

Email: _____

Please mail to: Geneva Lake Conservancy | P.O. Box 588 | Fontana, WI 53125 | Phone: (262) 275-5700 | Fax: (262) 275-0579

Email: GLC@genevaonline.com | visit our website at: www.genevalakeconservancy.org

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Mark the Premiere on you Calendar for

★ **Holly Ball Goes Hollywood** ★

Saturday, December 7th

6 pm

Big Foot Country Club

**Check www.GenevaLakeConservancy.org for early
purchase incentives, available after 10/1/13 .**

Limited tickets available.

★ **Come be a star!** ★

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