



Geneva Lake Conservancy Connections

Protecting the environmental character of the Geneva Lakes area

Fall 2014

Letter from the Chairman

As I reflect on this year, I am delighted by the properties we have protected and the success of our events and advocacy efforts. We are moving the ball forward. However, our challenges persist.

Our area is now a suburban area surrounded by a rural buffer. In the summer, based on traffic on land and water, one might consider the area urban. Development is coming back quickly to our shorelands and will return to our rural areas as the economy improves. Pressures continue on our trees and lakes due to weather and our own activities.

All these trends support the need for agreement on what we want for our lakes area and then work together to achieve what we want. We at the Geneva Lake Conservancy want to do our part in helping with this effort.

From a development standpoint, we have seen more, larger lake houses constructed that seem to be shoehorned into their lots, sometimes to the detriment of the neighbors, particularly if the view is blocked or diminished. There are only two ways to stop this – through zoning changes that require larger side-yard setbacks and through property easements that limit both house zones and the ability to divide properties.

Both zoning restrictions and easements could reduce the value of the properties when sold, but overcrowding ultimately will hurt property values as well. I encourage more people to take the long view to help with the stewardship of our beautiful lakes area to the benefit of all.

The dry periods we have had later in our summer months over the last few years have put pressure on our older trees. As they weaken, there is a greater chance of oak wilt or storm damage. Remember that every time a vehicle enters a property to take out trees it weakens the roots of other trees, making them more susceptible to disease and storm damage.

Property owners continue to want to clear their front yards of trees and bushes right to the water for better views and to manicure the vegetation. A property near Linn Pier Road is the current example. This seems to occur every year in the autumn after summer ends. If this happens on steep shoreland slopes, significant erosion problems result, negatively impacting our lakes and hurting the property values of both the owner and those of the neighbors.

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White River County Park

Saturday, October 18, marked the third volunteer work day at the new park. Volunteers cleared trails, built boardwalks and worked on the kayak/canoe launch. Following the work day, the newly formed friends group of the park met to discuss the day's work, the progress that has been made in the park and future plans. Lynn Ketterhagen, Manager of Land Protection and Operations at the Conservancy, is working with the County on developing a land plan that will be incorporated into the park's master plan. The plan will include a timeline for restoration efforts as well as monitoring and managing invasive plants.

The park is open to the public from 8 am to dusk. The County has installed restroom facilities, a parking lot, and cleared trails on the north side of the property.

Want to become involved in the County Park? Contact Jennie Swanson, (262-949-9260, skypilot1970@gmail.com), to learn more about opportunities with the Friends of White River County Park.

Stonebeigh Farm Walkabout

The Stonebeigh Farm Walkabout was a fabulous event held at Conservancy board member Don Huml's historic farm in Lyons Township. As 175 guests arrived on a perfect July evening, they were greeted by Huml and encouraged to tour the farm, either on foot or by golf cart.

Speaker Peter Layton, CEO of Tallgrass Restoration and chairman of the Chicago Wilderness Trust, was available for questions during the pre-dinner portion of the evening. After dinner, Layton spoke to the guests and gave an overview of his personal restoration efforts.

The Humls completed the latest renovation of the house and outbuildings in 2000. Perimeter gardens were designed and installed by Paul Swartz Nursery. Northwind Perennial Farm provided perennials around the stone house, with the vegetable gardens designed and planted by The Garden Hoe/Lis Friemoth. Tallgrass Restoration



undertook planning and planting of more than 23,000 trees and 33 varieties of wildflowers and grasses on the interior fields as part of the Humls' vision for complete prairie restoration.

The idyllic surroundings are the result of the Humls' labor of love for the property and its history.

Pictured are Peter Layton, event speaker, Don and Joyce Huml, owners of Stonebeigh Farm, and Charles Colman, Chair of the Conservancy.

An Elegant Evening at the Driehaus Estate

John Gurda, Wisconsin writer and historian, gave a thought-provoking and entertaining talk to Conservancy supporters at an event at the Driehaus estate on Tuesday, Sept. 16. Speaking to a crowd of 125, Gurda's presentation, "Chicago and Milwaukee: Siblings and Strangers in A Shrinking World," compared and contrasted the two cities. Only 90 miles apart, the cities enjoyed different paths towards prosperity.

While at the estate, guests were able to walk the property and enjoy an unparalleled view of Geneva Lake from the terrace. This event was made possible through the generous support of the Richard H. Driehaus Charitable Lead Trust.

Conservancy Transition

At the Conservancy, staff and volunteers work together.

Mary Roth, CPA, began volunteering for the Conservancy in June of 2013 and concluded in January 2014. Her work in streamlining and documenting financial procedures made the Conservancy ready to welcome Carolyn Knop in July 2014.

Knop, CPA, retired from US Bank in Milwaukee in January 2014, and her 20 years of accounting background ensures that Roth's efforts will be kept in place. Knop, born and raised in Elkhorn, lived for 35 years in Lake Geneva and currently resides in East Troy. During her free time, Knop enjoys spending time with her two children, two grandchildren, cooking salsa, and traveling.

In September, JaNelle Powers began volunteering at the Conservancy and is taking on day-to-day donation processing.

Powers is known to Conservancy supporters for bringing the "Love Letters to the Lake" program to life when she and husband, the late John Powers, read letters at various local public forums in the summer of 2012.



Mary Roth, Janet Happ, Lynn Ketterhagen and Carolyn Knop



Sharon Ketterhagen and JaNelle Powers

Sharon Ketterhagen, mother of staff member Lynn Ketterhagen, is always available to help at a moments notice. She brings with her a cheerful disposition and hugs, and an ability to hold a lively conversation while working at lightning speed.

The six women, all from different backgrounds, enjoy working together and the Mill House is very lively when they are all there at the same time!

Lake Shore Path Walk

Saturday, October 4, was a cold, overcast, rainy and windy day! Those conditions did not deter more than 30 people from gathering in Fontana to walk the Geneva Lake shore path. John Palmer, local personal trainer, organized the walk. All registration fees benefited the Conservancy.

This was the seventh year Palmer held the walk, and his experience was evident in the support he provided. Each walker was given a pace guide, and Palmer met the group at predetermined locations with snacks, encouragement, and always a smile! Walkers had the option of walking the entire shore path, 21.4 miles, or stopping along the way.

Thank you to all the walkers and to John Palmer!



Conservancy Charm

Fontana Jewelers, working with Conservancy supporter Kelly Otzen, has designed a stunning Geneva Lake Conservancy charm. The sterling silver charm is on an 18 inch chain with a lobster clasp. Based on the Conservancy's logo, the lake is portrayed by a mother of pearl inlay. The necklace is available for \$186, and Fontana Jewelers is donating \$30 from each sale to the Conservancy!

Charms are available through Fontana Jewelers, 553 Valley View Dr., Fontana, WI (262) 275-6363.



Holly Ball Raffle Tickets on Sale Now at the Mill House

Private Guided Tour for 8 of the White River County Park

Tour the south portion of the park by Gator with Kevin Brunner
Director of DPW/Central Services, Walworth County

Tour the river front by watercraft with Dave Schuster, Clear Water Outdoor

Tour the trails with Lynn Ketterhagen, Geneva Lake Conservancy Land Specialist

Box lunches provided by The Cheese Box

Date & Time of Tour to be arranged between the Conservancy and the winner

Tickets \$50 each

Raffle Drawing: December 6, 2014, 9 pm, Big Foot Country Club
Winner need not be present to win.

2014 Holly Ball Sponsors

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Letter from the Chairman

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Boat traffic is an issue. This doesn't appear to be due to more boats at the piers. It is from boats launched at our public launch areas and from the increase in in-and-out services and boat clubs offered by our marinas. My hope is these trends at least will slow.

Lastly, development is beginning again in our rural areas. We need to support Hackmatack in protecting as much of the beautiful open lands to our south and be wary of new developments targeting lake access and potentially increasing our lake pressure even faster.

After the blur of summer, it is a good time to reflect in preparation for planning that takes place in the off-season. I believe the Geneva Lake Conservancy has done well for our communities but will need to stay ahead of the current trends to achieve our goals.

Thank you for your support.
Charles L. Colman, Board Chairman

**Conservancy gratefully acknowledges a \$10,000 grant received from the
Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation
to assist with organizational growth.**

Thank you for our Volunteers...

- Fred Noer • Al Hermansen • Charles Obligato • Jim Frost • Mary Roth • Vanessa Suntra • JaNelle Powers •
• Joanie Williams • Joey Danna • Mitchell Barnett • Gia Danna • Jim Hanny • Nick Kleysmith • Stephen Wieder •
• Nancy Williams • Alexis Wisdom • Erin Wruk • Kayla Wruk •
- A heartfelt thank you to the 2014 Stonebeigh Walkabout Committee •

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

Donor(s) _____

Yes, I would like to be a volunteer:

Address _____

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Summer or Winter Address _____

☐ Mill House Gardens ☐ Data Entry

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☐ Educational programs

Credit (Visa, M/C, AMEX or Discover) _____ Ex _____

☐ Event volunteer

☐ Mailings

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

262 275 5700 | 262 275 0579 fax

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



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GENEVA LAKE CONSERVANCY

FROZEN

Holly Ball

COCKTAILS, DINNER AND DANCING
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2014
SIX O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING
BIG FOOT COUNTRY CLUB

CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP AWARD HONORING
Walworth County Board of Supervisors
Accepted by **Nancy Russell**, Board Chair
and
THE HONORARY LAND STEWARD AWARD HONORING
Kevin Brunner, Director of DPW/Central Services, Walworth County

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 Geneva Lake
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PLEASE CALL (262) 275-5700
TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION BY NOVEMBER 26, 2014

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