



**Geneva Lake
Conservancy**

Connections

Preserve and advocate for Walworth County waterways, natural areas, and worklands

Spring 2016

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Pearls, 2015
Holly Ball*

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Letter from the Chairman

Greetings –

As the GLC moves into the new year, we can look back and see several key accomplishments in 2015 and look forward to some exciting challenges in 2016. In 2015, the GLC acquired an easement on Colman Woods, a beautiful woodland of 28 acres in the Town of Linn. The GLC acted as a conduit to install two bridges over the White River in the new Walworth County Park in the Town of Lyons.

For 2016, the GLC is looking to broaden its scope to all of Walworth County as there are challenges affecting not only our precious lakes and waterways, but also agricultural lands and inconsistent development in some of our communities. In order to make this happen, the GLC will begin the process of searching for and hiring an executive director. Hiring an executive director will enable the GLC to seek out more land to be protected, give continuity and stability to the organization, lead the GLC toward accreditation with the Land Trust Alliance and be the voice of the GLC in relationships with local and state government personnel. One of the biggest challenges the GLC is addressing is the erosion of regulations by the State of Wisconsin legislature and the laws they are passing making development easier on our lakes and rivers. Similarly, the State of Wisconsin continues to cut grants used for environmental purposes.

The Holly Ball was a great success and the GLC was honored to present Christopher Mann the Conservation Stewardship Award of the year. Christopher founded the Michael Fields Institute, a public, non-profit organization focused on education, policy and research in sustainable agriculture. The GLC plans to provide events in 2016 to increase awareness of the environmental challenges we all will face in the coming year.

Finally, the GLC needs to be relevant to the communities it serves. One of the main issues of concern to all people globally is climate change. It will take a world wide effort to address the climate changes that are challenging our way of life. Locally, the GLC has been focused on protecting our beautiful lakes, rivers, farmlands and woodlands from poor development practices and passage of legislation by state lawmakers eroding regulations that protect our shorelines. Besides the issues mentioned, the GLC is interested in what you think are important issues we should be addressing. The GLC looks forward to working with you in 2016 to ensure we maintain our quality of life in Walworth County.

Dennis E. Jordan

GLC Celebrates it's *String of Pearls*

On December 5, 2015 the Geneva Lake Conservancy (GLC) held its annual winter gala fundraiser at Big Foot Country Club in Fontana. This was the second year that the gala was chaired by Karen Hirn, who has brought a creative energy to the event and a new group of supporters. As part of this annual fundraiser, the Conservancy recognizes an individual or group for conservation contributions to the area. This year the award was presented to Christopher Mann in recognition and appreciation for having the vision of, and working towards, a better world. The Conservation Stewardship award is given to recognize a personal passion and commitment to the conservation and preservation of our environment.

Dennis Jordan, GLC Chairman, said "This Holly Ball we celebrate the Conservancy's *String of Pearls*, our 28 conservation easements. The theme was inspired by this year's Conservation Stewardship award recipient Christopher Mann." GLC holds three conservation easements that Mann granted, with a total property protected of 768 acres. These properties are in the East Troy area, just north of Hwy 43. Jordan then introduced Peter Scherrer, GLC Board member and personal friend of Christopher Mann.

Scherrer said "We are giving our highest award to Christopher Mann because he has a vision for a better world that he has worked toward for many years and because we appreciate him as a friend and colleague."



Christopher Mann, recipient of the 2015 Conservation Stewardship Award, with long time friend and GLC board member Peter Scherrer, and GLC board chair Dennis Jordan.

Jordan was proud to present the award on behalf of the Conservancy, saying that Christopher Mann is an inspiration to all.

Mann has dedicated his life to biodynamic agriculture, practicing on his owned properties. In 1984 Mann was a co-founder of the Michael Fields Agricultural Institute (MFAI) in East Troy. MFAI utilizes events and student education to renew the culture of agriculture.

Yolanda Cruz Chamberlain, Vice President, Senior Premier Banker at BMO said "At BMO, we believe that environmental sustainability is everyone's responsibility and every action counts both in our communities and in the workplace. We're strong supporters of Geneva Lake Conservancy as it has demonstrated its longstanding commitment to the preservation of land in Walworth County."

The Conservancy is appreciative of the continued support of BMO Private Bank, which was the Principal sponsor of the 2015 year end event.



Karen Hirn, chair of the 2014 and 2015 Holly Ball.

Thank you to the 2015 Holly Ball Committee!

**Karen Hirn • Cari Alberts • Kelly Hirn • Kim Hirn • Kate Berley • Katherine Clow
Mojdeh Drobnitch • Grace Eckland • Ursula Grud • Grace Hanny • Kristin Larkin
Kirsten Larsen • Marilyn Nanna • Sharon O'Brien • Margaret O'Regan
Leslie Scherrer Pella • JaNelle Powers • Jamie Sanders • Julie Stout • Kathy Yih**

Spend 2016 Earth Day with GLC and Teddy Roosevelt!

Friday April 22, Earth Day, GLC's spring luncheon celebrates Theodore Roosevelt and the National Park Service Centennial. Award winning living history speaker and educator, Adam Lindquist, will portray Teddy Roosevelt. Lindquist's talk will focus on Roosevelt's contributions to conservation while entertaining our guests at the Lake Geneva Yacht Club.

Theodore Roosevelt is known as the "conservation president," and well-known for signing the Antiquities Act of 1906, which laid the groundwork for the establishment of the National Park System. The Act for the Preservation of Antiquities (also called the Lacey Act) was an intentionally broad piece of legislation to set aside "historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest" in order to stop their destruction. As it was worded, either the President or Congress could establish national monuments under the Antiquities Act. President Theodore Roosevelt quickly took advantage of the authority given him and on September 24, 1906, proclaimed Devil's Tower in Wyoming the first national monument under the Antiquities Act, following that quickly with the Petrified Forest and Montezuma Castle in Arizona and El Morro in New Mexico.

The Antiquities Act served as a cornerstone for the National Park Service. The Act creating the NPS was signed by President Woodrow Wilson on August 25, 1916. The purpose of the Act was to protect the 35 national parks and monuments then managed by the Department of the Interior and those yet to be established. The Act states that "the Service thus established shall promote and regulate the use of the Federal areas known as national parks, monuments and reservations . . . by such means and measures as conform to the fundamental purpose of the said parks, monuments and reservations, which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

The National Park System now comprises more than 400 areas covering more than 84 million acres in 50 states, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, Saipan, and the United States Virgin Islands.

Join us on Earth Day to celebrate the Centennial of the National Park Service, Teddy Roosevelt and Conservation!



Devil's Tower in Wyoming, the first US National Monument.

Photo by Nathaniel H. Darton—U.S. Geological Survey Photographic Library.

Thank you to 2015 Holly Ball Principal Sponsor

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Harold Friestad receives awards

2015 was a year of events for Harold Friestad.

In July Kishwaukétoe Nature Conservancy celebrated its 25th anniversary. The establishment of KNC in 1990 and the ongoing commitment of citizens is a result of Harold Friestad's leadership. Friestad was instrumental in working with the Village of Williams Bay and GLC to place a conservation easement on KNC which will forever protect the 231 acres of fragile Geneva shore land-wetland.

In September Friestad received the prestigious *Harold "Bud" Jordahl Lifetime Achievement Award* from Gathering Waters. Surrounded by many of his friends and family, Friestad accepted the award at the Land Conservation Leadership Awards Celebration. The awards ceremony is an opportunity to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of individuals, policy makers and land trusts who are working to protect the places that make Wisconsin special. The awards honor the power of committed citizens and offer inspiring examples of conservation success.

Gathering Waters said "**Harold Friestad**, from the Village of Williams Bay, was essential to winning a decades-long battle to purchase and protect a very special 231-acre parcel on Geneva Lake and turn it into the Kishwaukétoe Nature Conservancy. Twenty-five years later, Harold continues to actively manage the preserve as its Chairman. Through his leadership, Kishwaukétoe remains the largest intact wetland on Geneva Lake, moderating flood flow, improving water quality, recharging ground water, and housing a variety of plants and animals—all while providing recreational, educational, and scientific opportunities."

Charles Colman introduced Friestad at the event, and his words mirrored the feelings of many of the KNC supporters. Colman said "And, it is his humble demeanor that wins the support from the Community. He is Kishwauketoe to me."



CONNECTIONS photo, by Jim Frost, is a red winged blackbird flying over a wet land at Kishwaukétoe.

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Town of Linn Community Nature Park

One of GLC's "Pearls" by Lynn Ketterhagen

The Geneva Lake Conservancy is extremely grateful for all of the, currently 28, voluntary land protection agreements it holds. Each property offers up its own individual characteristics, each of which help to maintain the beauty and character in the lakes area that we all enjoy so much. In February of 2000, the Geneva Lake Conservancy acquired a land protection agreement on the Town of Linn Community Nature Park. While most of our land protection agreements are held on private property, the Town of Linn Park is a public park. Located at the intersection of South Lakeshore Drive and Maple Ridge Road, the 160 acre park is permanently set aside to offer a resource for locals and visitors in the area to enjoy nature, as well as some history. There are hiking trails, equestrian trails, and many species of birds to watch, among many other things, all in quiet rural setting.



Above, photo of one of the wetland areas at the Town of Linn Park

The park is home to natural communities, including prairie, wetlands and oak savannahs. These communities have become home to many different species of wildlife. The Town of Linn has been very busy in the last few years with restoration work on the 160 acre park. The removal of invasive and non-native species is a long and difficult process which the Town of Linn has been actively engaging in. In 2008, the Town of Linn was selected by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Chicago Wilderness to receive the Conservation and Native Landscaping Award. The Town was recognized for their exemplary use of native plants within the landscape of the park. The Town of Linn was 1 of 35 groups nominated for this award which recognizes park

districts, municipalities and corporations that use native landscaping in such a way that it helps support native species of wildlife.

The park is also home to a historic silo which was built around 1875. This unique figure-eight shaped silo is one structure and is part of agricultural history. The handmade silo is believed to be one of a kind in Walworth County. With many efforts of Doris Roan, a Town of Linn citizen, there was enough fundraising to restore this silo in 2004.

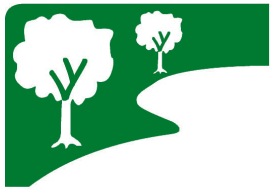
The Town of Linn Community Nature Park has set an example for other communities in the permanent protection of public lands. This park will be here for future generations to enjoy the open space and all of the natural features that accompany it.



The Historic Silo at the Town of Linn Park can be seen from South Shore Drive.

Thank you to our Volunteers!

**Kirsten Larsen • Jim Frost • Nancy Williams • Al Hermansen • Charlie Obligato
2015 Holly Ball Committee • Fred Noer • Sharon Ketterhagen**



Geneva Lake Conservancy

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2016

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Spring Luncheon

CELEBRATING

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

AND THE

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WITH
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AS TEDDY ROOSEVELT

EARTH DAY • FRIDAY, APRIL 22 • \$75/PERSON

11:30 AM GATHERING / 12:00 PM LUNCHEON / PRESENTATION • RSVP BY 04/15/2016

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