



**Geneva Lake
Conservancy**

Connections

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

Summer 2016

**Brunner joins
GLC Board**

**Pollinators
Page 2**

**GLC Spring
Luncheon
Page 3**

**White River
County Park
Page 4**

**Covenant
Harbor
Page 5**

Letter from the Chairman

Greetings –

Spring is over, and summer is here. It has been a busy period for the Conservancy.

At our spring event Adam Lundquist portrayed Teddy Roosevelt to honor Earth Day and the 100-year celebration of our national parks system. The event was well attended and addressed President Roosevelt's contributions to conservation.

The Conservancy was asked to be a part of the dedication of the new bridge(s) at White River County Park. It was through the Conservancy's auspices that the funding was channeled appropriately from the donors to the contractors. Board member Peter Scherrer gave a brief history of the Conservancy's involvement in the project.

Board members John Notz, Charles Colman, and I met with Michael Carlson, the new director of the Wisconsin Land Trust Alliance. We updated the Alliance about the Conservancy's activities and discussed strategies the Alliance may consider in the future.

Preparations are being made for the Conservancy's summer event, Pollinator Gardens, which is a dinner and presentation by Roy Diblik of Northwind Perennial Farm. Save the date for this event, as Roy will discuss garden design and what plants are and what they need.

Finally, the search committee is in the process of interviewing candidates for executive director. Once the initial interviews are completed, a second in-person interview will be conducted with those chosen to be finalists. The schedule is for the process to be completed and a director hired by the middle of July.

Enjoy the summer.

Dennis E. Jordan

Kevin M. Brunner joins GLC Board

Kevin Brunner joined the GLC Board in April and brings with him a vast array of experience.

In January, Brunner retired from his position with the Walworth County government as Director of Central Services/Public Works, ending a 35-year-plus career of leading and managing public and non-profit organizations, ranging in size from 20 to 300 employees and operating budgets ranging from \$3 million to \$85 million.

An involved community leader, he has served as President of the Whitewater Community Foundation board of directors.

During his four years with Walworth County, Brunner was instrumental in the acquisition by the County of the 195-acre White River County Park. Spearheading the attainment of a Knowles-Nelson grant, which accounted for half of the purchase price of the property, Brunner also kept the process on track. For his work in the purchase as well as the initial planning of the park opening and laying a solid foundation for the future development of the area, he received the Honorary Land Steward Award from GLC in 2014.

The GLC Board is looking forward to working with Brunner and his depth of knowledge in the non-profit area as well as in the management of public entities.



Why is everyone talking about pollinators?

Pollinators are essential to the health of our ecosystems and food production, and have suffered a significant falloff in population. Habitat loss is a noteworthy cause for the decline in pollinators, and the decline in pollinators is having an impact on the pollinator-dependent flowering plants. The World Conservation Union predicts that in the next few decades 20,000 flowering plant species will disappear.



What can you do to help? Plant a pollinator garden! Diblik, featured in the early spring 2016 edition of the premier magazine, *Garden by Design*, has created 8 know-maintenance pollinator garden designs, featuring bloom times from May through August.

Diblik's garden designs are frequently compared to impressionistic paintings, and each of his pollinator designs are compared to a specific work. One design features *Rudbeckia fulgida speciosa* and *Liatris spicata alba* and is compared to Vincent van Gogh's *View of Arles with Irises in the Foreground*.

Join us Thursday, July 7, at Northwind Perennial Farms to enjoy the unique gardens and listen to Roy Diblik poetically talk about plants.



GLC Celebrates Earth Day with Teddy Roosevelt

The Geneva Lake Conservancy hosted their 2016 Spring Luncheon on Earth Day, Friday, April 22, 2016, at the Lake Geneva Yacht Club in Fontana, WI as part of their week long Earth Week celebration. GLC's spring luncheon celebrated Theodore Roosevelt and the National Park Service Centennial. Award winning living history speaker and educator, Adam Lindquist, portrayed Teddy Roosevelt. Lindquist's talk focused on Roosevelt's contributions to conservation while entertaining guests.

Lindquist commended GLC on their work, and said "Each parcel your group protects makes a difference! Bless you for your hard work and determination!"

Lindquist's portrayal of Roosevelt was superb, and his authentic period dress transported guests to Roosevelt's time. Roosevelt signed the Antiquities Act of 1906, which laid the groundwork for the establishment of the National Park System.

Lindquist ended his presentation with "Thank you so much for the opportunity to speak to the Geneva Lake Conservancy. The work that you are doing is important, continuing to carry on the legacy that Theodore Roosevelt began, with the actions of preserving the land and resources for future generations. Bully Good job!"

This was the fourth luncheon that GLC has hosted to celebrate Earth Week. Visit GLC's website to enjoy highlight's from Teddy's talk !



Adam Lindquist, as known as Teddy Roosevelt, posed for this portrait outside of the Lake Geneva Yacht Club.

2016 GLC Upcoming Events

Summer Event—Thursday, July 7, *Pollinator Gardens* at Northwind Perennial Farm

Enjoy touring Northwind Perennial Farm, a noted landmark and resource for local and national gardeners at all levels for the past 25 years. Roy Diblik, co-owner of Northwind Perennial Farms, will share his thoughts on garden designs that are easy to install and maintain and will attract pollinators. Guests will be treated to a catered dinner.

Lakepath Walk—Saturday, October 1

Join us for our third annual walk led by personal trainer, John Palmer. Bring a group or come by yourself, you will be sure to enjoy the walk.

Holly Ball—Saturday, December 3

Significant annual fundraiser held before Christmas includes a live band, dinner, "buy it now mini-mall" and announcement of the Conservation Stewardship Award recipient. A long favored Geneva Lakes area tradition, 2016 marks the 35th Holly Ball.

White River County Park Update

Dedication of Bridges

Prairie Restoration

The two bridges that were donated by the Wagner Foundation, the Wagner-Essman Foundation, and the O'Neill Foundation were dedicated on Saturday, May 14. Nancy Russell, Chair, Walworth County Board of Supervisors, and GLC Board member Peter Scherrer spoke at the ceremony. The completion of the bridges enables visitors to the White River County Park to enjoy the southern part of the park, which is approximately 28 of the 195 acres of open space. The park has almost two miles of frontage along the White River. The construction of the bridges is part of a five-phase master plan that was developed by Walworth County with the assistance of GLC.

Phase 1 of the park master plan calling for prairie restoration has been completed. Native prairie seed was planted into an existing winter wheat crop. After the wheat is harvested the new prairie will remain.

As visitors approach the park, located at the intersection of Short and Sheridan Springs Roads, they will notice that the parking lot is newly paved. In the near future, a picnic pavilion will be constructed near the barn.

Interested in visiting the park? You can get to the park by kayak, canoe, car, bicycle or on foot!



A round of applause celebrates the dedication of the bridges at White River County Park.

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

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Easement Spotlight: Covenant Harbor

by Lynn Ketterhagen

Situated on the north shore of Geneva Lake you will find 56 acres, including 1,151 feet of lake frontage, of permanently protected land where tens of thousands have come to learn, reflect, and personally grow. Covenant Harbor was placed under permanent protection with the Geneva Lake Conservancy in 1998.

At its inception, this property, formerly known as Snug Harbor, was owned by George and Mary Sturgis. The property had several other private owners over the years, including the Bordens of the Borden Dairy Company. In 1947 the property was purchased through the generous effort of a private individual by the Central Conference of the Evangelical Mission Covenant Church of America. Shortly after, Covenant Harbor was incorporated as a not-for-profit organization.

Since 1948, the property has been used for camps, retreats, outdoor education, and events for kids, families, adults, and various groups. This educational facility is the perfect setting to learn, reflect, and grow more deeply in their faith. The rolling hills of maple trees on the shore of the sparkling waters of beautiful Geneva Lake provide the perfect setting for this camp.



The Geneva Lake Shore Path passes through Covenant Harbor, which has 1,151 feet of lake frontage.



Campers pay close attention during an outdoor lesson.

Today, the camp serves over 25,000 campers and over 500 groups on an annual basis. In short, the agreement the Conservancy has with Covenant Harbor allows it to grow as needed to support the educational and camp activities on the property but ensures the 56 acres on the north shore of the lake will remain a camp and educational facility forever and prevents the property from being subdivided.

To check out the camp for yourself, be sure to join in one of its events such as the annual Maple Fest; sign up for one of the youth, family, or outdoor education activities; or even schedule your next meeting there. Groups of 10-500 people can be accommodated.

Thank you to our Volunteers!

**Kirsten Larsen • Jim Frost • Nancy Williams • Al Hermansen • Charlie Obligato
Michelle Simms • Fred Noer • Sharon Ketterhagen • Greg Happ • Ann Callison**



Geneva Lake Conservancy

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GENEVA LAKE CONSERVANCY PRESENTS



Dinner & Presentation Featuring Roy Diblik

5:00 PM Tour & Cocktails • 6:30 PM Dinner/Presentation

Thursday July 7, 2016



NORTHWIND PERENNIAL FARM | 7047 HOSPITAL RD | BURLINGTON, WI 53105

\$150/Person • RSVP by 06/30/2016

Call 262-275-5700 to make your reservation or email Events@GenevaLakeConservancy.org

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