



Geneva Lake
Conservancy

Connections

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

Fall 2018

GENEVA LAKE CONSERVANCY PROTECTS YGGDRASIL LAND FOUNDATION 79-ACRE WOODLAND

The Geneva Lake Conservancy has completed a conservation easement agreement with the Yggdrasil Land Foundation to preserve a 79-acre woodland the Foundation owns in the Town of Troy.

The conservation easement protects the property from subdivision or development but allows for a future environmental education center with 10 cabins to be built in a “limited development area” on the property.

The parcel is on Friemoth Road and features an oak forest with red and white pines that were planted on the site. A three-acre fen is believed to be a calcareous fen, which is an endangered landscape. The property also makes up almost half of a secondary environmental corridor important to birds and other wildlife.

The Yggdrasil Land Foundation plans to use the property for forestry agriculture and to teach students of all ages about sustainable practices. A network of trails winds through the property and a forestry management plan will be implemented.

“We are pleased to be working with the Yggdrasil Land Foundation to protect the high conservation values of this property,” said Karen Yancey, Executive Director. “The Foundation’s board and staff share our goal of improving the environmental health of Walworth County and of teaching future generations how to better manage our natural resources.”



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GLC ELECTS THREE NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The Geneva Lake Conservancy elected three new members to its Board of Directors at its October meeting.

Dean Bostrom is a Lauderdale Lakes resident and served as Executive Director of Parks and Recreation for the Hoffman Estates Park District from 1997-2018. During his 21 years with the park district, he managed more than 80 parks and helped restore native landscapes on several of its properties. He received his bachelor's degree from Illinois State University and his master's degree in park and recreation administration from the University of Illinois.



Dean Bostrom



Kate Holland

Kate Holland is a patent attorney who specializes in intellectual property consulting. A Lake Forest, Illinois resident, she has spent her summers in Lake Geneva since she was a child. In 2015, the Holland's purchased a lakefront home, and spend most of their summer here. The Hollands are active at the Lake Geneva Yacht Club and the Buddy Melges Sailing School, participating in the youth and adult sailing programs. She attended Washington University where she earned her law degree in 2003 and is a member of the American Bar Association. She serves as Auction Chair of the Lake Forest Country Day School and is a member of the Lake Forest Infant Welfare Society.

Chris Todd moved to the Lake Geneva area ten years ago and is lead regional territory manager for Hardy Diagnostics. He has served on the Linn Unit 6 School District Board of Education since 2013 and as a director of the Meadowview Estates Homeowner's Association since 2012. He has a bachelor's degree in biological sciences from the University of Illinois.



Chris Todd

"We are pleased to have all of these talented individuals become members of our board," said Dennis Jordan, the Geneva Lake Conservancy's chairman. "They bring a diversity of skills and experiences that will support our strategic initiatives in land and water protection in Walworth County."

The Geneva Lake Conservancy's board of directors voted to expand its territory to cover all of Walworth County several years ago, according to Jordan. In the next few years, the Conservancy will continue to build its Land Acquisition Fund to purchase public preserves for recreational use, increase its efforts to reduce phosphorus and other pollutants in the county's waterways, and restore the county's oak forests, monarch and pollinator habitats.

Under a new initiative begun this fall, the GLC is donating 5-10 native oak trees each year to Oak Hill Cemetery to help restore its oak woodland. Planting this year's trees were (from left) Jake Schmidt, GLC Land Protection Specialist, Allan Burton, City of Lake Geneva crew, Clint Melancon, Superintendent of Oak Hill cemetery, Bob Nordhaus, GLC volunteer, and John Foster, City of Lake Geneva arborist.



GLC EARNs LAND TRUST ACCREDITATION

One thing that united us as a nation is land: Americans strongly support saving the open spaces they love. Since 1977, the Geneva Lake Conservancy has been doing that for the people of Walworth County. Now, the Geneva Lake Conservancy has announced that it has achieved national recognition—joining a network of more than 400 accredited land trusts across the nation that have demonstrated their commitment to professional excellence and to maintaining the public's trust in their work.



“Accreditation demonstrates Geneva Lake Conservancy’s commitment to permanent land conservation in the Lake Geneva area and all of Walworth County,” said Charles Colman, Chair of the Conservancy’s Accreditation Committee. “We are a stronger organization for having gone through the rigorous accreditation program. Our strength means that special places – such as Kishwaukétoe Nature Conservancy, Town of Linn Park, Hildebrand Woods and our many private conservation easements throughout Walworth County – will be protected forever, making our area an even greater place for ourselves and our children.”



Tammara Van Ryn of the Land Trust Accreditation Commission present the Accreditation Award to GLC Executive Director Karen Yancey.

Geneva Lake Conservancy provided extensive documentation and was subject to a comprehensive third-party evaluation prior to achieving this distinction. The Land Trust Accreditation Commission awarded accreditation, signifying that Geneva Lake Conservancy’s lands will be protected forever.

Accredited land trusts steward almost 20 million acres of land nationwide – the size of Denali, Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, Glacier, Everglades and Yosemite National Parks combined.

“It is exciting to recognize Geneva Lake Conservancy with this national mark of distinction,” said Tammara Van Ryn, Executive Director of the Commission. “Donors and partners can trust the more than 400 accredited land trusts across the country that are united behind strong standards and have demonstrated sound finances, ethical conduct, responsible governance and lasting stewardship.”

The Conservancy gratefully acknowledges grants totaling \$40,000 from the



GAYLORD AND
DOROTHY DONNELLEY
FOUNDATION

The Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation supports land conservation, artistic vitality, and regional collections for the people of the Chicago region and the Lowcountry of South Carolina. The Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation provides general operating and project specific grants that lead to landscape-scale land preservation and stewardship in the Chicago region or the Lowcountry of South Carolina.

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

GLC EVENT AT YERKES ON JULY 15 DRAWS 200 SUPPORTERS



Guests enjoy chatting in the historical hallway of the observatory.



Carolee Hanny Barnett and Kristin Larkin



Abra and Jim Wilkin enjoy a guided tour of the Yerkes grounds. The tour provided details on the historical nature of the landscape and conservation value of the 77 acres.



Karen Yancey, GLC Executive Director, Merilee Holst, retiring GLC director and Dennis Jordan, GLC Chair.



Kirsten Larsen and Kiera Theys enjoy selling raffle tickets for the one-of-a-kind pendent donated by Chinawest Jewelers of Lake Geneva.



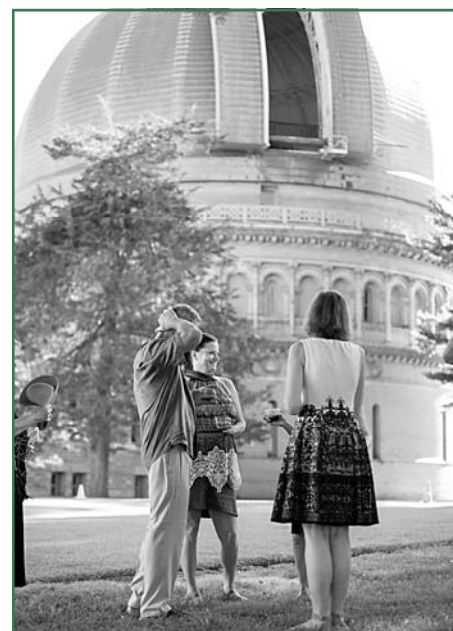
Reid Ribble, former U.S. Representative for Wisconsin's 8th Congressional District, speaks on the importance of working together to save our lakes.



Shari Steivang, Kate Berley and Karen Hirn



The beautiful centerpieces were donated and arranged by Nancy Powers.

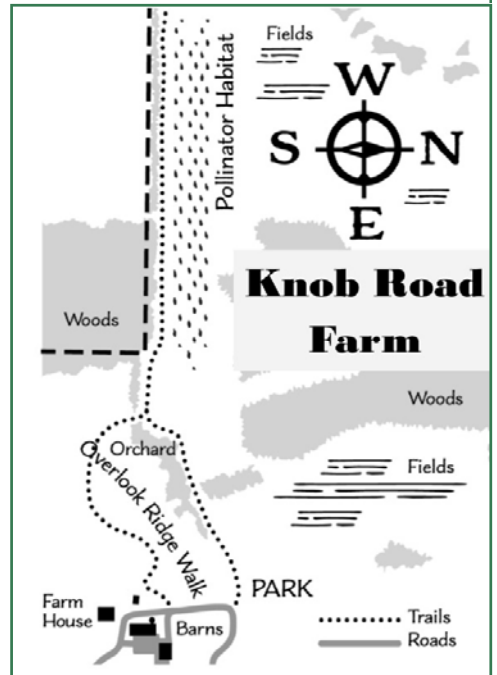


Yerkes photography courtesy of Victoria Photography

GLC THANKS DON AND JOYCE HUML FOR HOSTING FALL EVENT AT THEIR TREASURED KNOB ROAD FARM.



John and Janis Notz



Dee and Jim Tuschall



Brian Griffith speaks passionately on his family's love of their property and their conservation efforts. The Conservancy presented the Griffith family with the Olmsted Landscape Conservation award in recognition of their labor of love.



Dianna and Charles Colman



Christine and Ted Brownstein



Sue Kiner and Jack Modzelewski



Peggy and Steve Diamond

Welcome Jake Schmidt, Land Protection and Outreach Specialist

Jake Schmidt, Land Protection and Outreach Specialist, is the newest member of the Geneva Lake Conservancy team. Jake grew up in Glenview, Illinois, and spent many of his childhood summers at his grandmother's cottage in Knollwood subdivision on the North Shore of Geneva Lake.

After graduating from Glenbrook South High School, Jake attended Oakton Community College where he was the president of the Ecology Club and Student Assistant Naturalist. He participated in ecological restoration efforts that Oakton Community College initiated throughout Cook County. Jake transferred to George Williams College of Aurora University where he received a Bachelor's of Science degree in Sustainability and Environmental Management. As part of the GWC program, he completed an internship with Kishwaukétoe Nature Conservancy. Before joining GLC, Jake worked for a local ecological restoration company, where he participated in prescribed burns, brush removal and prairie restoration.

A nature lover, Jake spends much of his free time hiking, fishing, camping, kayaking, and exploring new places.



Yggdrasil Woodland Conservation Easement (continued from page 1)

The Conservancy also holds three additional conservation easements on property owned by the Yggdrasil Foundation that protect more than 785 acres of organic and biodynamic agricultural land in the Walworth County.

The Yggdrasil Land Foundation's purpose is to protect sustainable and biodynamic farmland, create land access for farmers and cultivate agricultural based regional economies. It was founded in 2000 and incorporated as a not-for-profit in California. As part of a growing land trust movement, it owns and manages land in three parts of the United States: southeastern Wisconsin, southern New Hampshire and northern California. For more information, see its Website at www.yggdrasillandfoundation.org

GLC Annual Meeting

Saturday, December 8, 2018

10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Geneva Lake Museum

255 Mill St, Lake Geneva

Coffee and holiday treats.

**Come learn more about our new public
preserves, our Advocacy efforts, phosphorus reduction program and more!**

RSVP: 262-275-5700 or glc@genevalakeconservancy.org

www.GenevaLakeConservancy.org

STYBERG CONSERVATION EASEMENT AMENDMENT COMPLETED

An amendment to the conservation easement placed on the estate of Bernice and the late Ernie Styberg was completed in October providing further protection to the conservation values of this beautiful 12-acre estate.

The amendment limits any further residences on the property, ensuring that the property's creek, woodlands and lakefront will not be negatively impacted by inappropriate development.

Ernie Styberg, a long-time supporter of the Conservancy, died on August 7. The Conservancy's board and staff are particularly grateful to Bernice for ensuring that the amendment was completed.

The Stybergs hosted the Conservancy's 40th Anniversary on their property in 2017. The original conservation easement to protect the Styberg property was completed in 1985 and was the GLC's first conservation easement, setting an example for other Geneva Lake property owners. Today, the Conservancy holds approximately a dozen conservation easements on Geneva Lake, helping to prevent increased density along the lakefront.

The Conservancy expresses its deepest sympathy to the Styberg family on Ernie's passing and is grateful to the Styberg's for their many years of support.



Bernice and Ernest Styberg at the GLC 40th Anniversary celebration held at their estate. On July 15, 2017. The Styberg's were awarded a GLC leadership award for placing a conservation easement on their property in 1985.

Thank You to our many volunteers who enable us to preserve and protect open space!

Join the Staff at GLC

Office/ Technology Assistant: The Conservancy is seeking a part-time office assistant to work 10-20 hours a week at its Fontana office beginning in January 2019. The qualified candidate will take minutes at board meetings and manage office supplies, file storage and building maintenance, assist with social media postings and assist the Development Director in special events management. Excellent writing, interpersonal and technology skills required.

Summer Intern: The Conservancy is accepting applications for a full-time summer intern. The intern will be responsible for implementing education programs and overseeing conservation activities at the Helen Rohner Children's Fishing Park, as well as helping at the GLC's summer events. This position is for a college student seeking a degree in an environmental field and requires strong interpersonal skills, a talent for community outreach and working with children and the ability to do outside field work.

Interested candidates should send a resume and cover letter to Karen Yancey at kyancey@genevalakeconservancy.org.



Geneva Lake Conservancy

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



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