



Geneva Lake
Conservancy

Connections

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

Spring 2019

GLC SPRING LUNCHEON IS 'FOR THE BIRDS'

I hope you love birds too. They are economical. It saves going to heaven. --Emily Dickinson

Bird populations all over the world are declining. The 2018 State of the World's Birds released last April, found that nearly 40 percent of the bird species throughout the world are in decline and one of every eight bird species is threatened with extinction.

A major reason for the alarming disappearance of many of these birds is loss of habitat. The Geneva Lake Conservancy is addressing this issue by highlighting one of Walworth County's most important bird habitats –one that has global importance to many species of migrating birds.

This spring we are inviting our members to take a short drive up Highway 12 to the town of LaGrange, just 15 minutes from the Lake Geneva area, to learn more about the birds important to Walworth County at Bromley Woods. The 40-acre property, which has been owned by the same family since 1844, is of global importance to forest interior birds like the threatened Cerulean Warbler. The beautiful oak forest and kettle pond on the property also serve as important habitat for a wide range of wildlife.



Bromley Woods aerial photo by Robert Rydin

GLC's Annual Spring Luncheon will be held Saturday, May 11 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the historic LaGrange Methodist Church,

less than a mile down the road from Bromley Woods. This year's speaker will be renowned birding expert Craig Thompson from the DNR's Bureau of Natural Heritage. Prior to the luncheon, bird walks at Bromley Woods will be offered at 8, 9, and 10 a.m., led by members of the Lakeland Audubon Society

"This is a special spring lunch that seeks to get our members out into the county to highlight its beauty and ecological significance," said Janet Happ, GLC Development Director. "We hope the bird walks and lunch also will inspire people to create and support healthy bird habitat on their property."

The event co-sponsor is the Lakeland Audubon Society. Sponsors are Alliant Energy and the Whitewater Community Foundation. The cost is \$20 for lunch and \$5 for the bird hikes. Invitations were mailed in April or you can register online at www.genevalakeconservancy.org.

Geneva Lake Conservancy • 398 Mill Street • Fontana, WI 53125 • 262 275 5700 • 262 275 0579 fax

www.GenevaLakeConservancy.org

'KEEPING IT BLUE' INVITES ALL TO REDUCE PHOSPHORUS

Algae blooms are a direct result of too much phosphorus in lake water and sediment.

What makes phosphorus pollution so difficult to address is the many non-point sources of phosphorus: residential and agricultural fertilizers, lawn leaves and waste, faulty septic systems, agricultural manure spreading, soil and construction erosion and even washing cars, boats or pets near waterways.

“Keeping It Blue: Reducing Phosphorus In Our Lakes” is a seminar on Friday, May 31 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. that invites all stakeholders to learn proven techniques to reduce phosphorus.

The seminar is sponsored by the Geneva Lake Conservancy, Geneva Lake Environmental Agency and Walworth County Conservation Office and will be held at the Walworth County Offices, Room 214, in downtown Elkhorn.

“The blue-green and red algae blooms that have been reported in Walworth County lakes are detrimental to recreation, human and animal health, and ultimately threaten property values and the tourism economy,” said Karen Yancey, GLC executive director.

The seminar is directed at lake associations and homeowner’s association board members, farmers, landscape companies, lakefront property owners and others interested in the health of Walworth County lakes and waterways. Topics covered will include:

- * “The Problem of Phosphorus in Walworth County Lakes: Recent Data” presented by Dale Robinson, United States Geological Survey.
- * “Reducing Phosphorus With Buffer Strips & Healthy Lakes Grants” presented by Theresa Stegemann, Consultant for Whitewater-Rice Lake Management District.
- * “Nutrient Management for Homeowners and Construction/Lawn Care Companies” presented by Shannon Haydin and Fay Amerson, Walworth County Conservation Office.
- * “Agricultural Issues & Solutions in Walworth County” presented by Brian Smetana, Walworth County Agricultural Conservation, and Adam Lasch, Lasch Livestock and Land Solutions.
- * “A Case Study: Phosphorus Pollution in Geneva Lake” presented by Ted Peters, Geneva Lake Environmental Agency.

Participants can also get their questions answered during a panel discussion. Lunch will be served. The cost is \$20. To register or for more information, go to genevalakeconservancy.org or send your check with an email address and phone number to the GLC office.



Join GLC volunteers for the following spring workdays:

EARTH DAY WORK DAY Saturday, April 27, 9 a.m. to noon – Come help heal the earth by cutting and stacking invasive buckthorn and other invasive species at our new Hansen Preserve, just north of Elkhorn.

WHITE RIVER COUNTY PARK WORK DAY, Friday, May 3, 9 a.m. to noon – Bring your work gloves for this garlic mustard pull at the park. Join other volunteers in helping to remove invasive species.

Contact Jake Schmidt, GLC Land Protection Specialist at jschmidt@genevalakeconservancy.org for directions and to register.

GLC 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

2018 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Earned Accreditation from the Land Trust Alliance Accreditation Commission.
- Developed and opened Helen Rohner Children’s Fishing Park in Williams Bay.
- Opened Hansen Preserve to public for hiking, hunting, fishing and canoeing.
- Received donation of 4.3 acre Delavan Lake woodland known as Stevens Family Land Trust.
- Completed 77-acre conservation easement on Yggdrasil oak forest.
- Expanded conservation activities to Burlington and Whitewater area.

2019 GOALS

- Expand membership countywide and grow by 20 percent
- Complete purchase of second Knowles Nelson property by raising \$160,000 match.
- Complete conservation easements in Lake Geneva, East Troy and Whitewater areas.
- Identify and move forward on project in the Hackmatack area.
- Grow county-wide programs for phosphorus reduction, oak recovery and wildlife habitat protection.

2018

2017

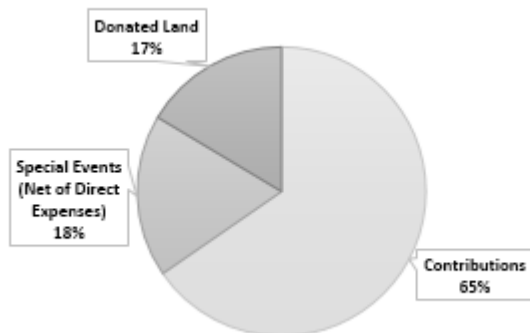
REVENUES

Contributions	\$497,964	\$503,925
Special events (Net of Direct Expenses)	138,601	145,378
Donated Land	125,000	0
Other	<u>233</u>	<u>93</u>
Total Revenue	\$761,798	\$649,396

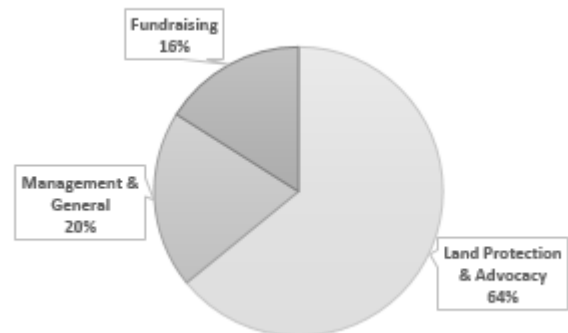
EXPENSES

Land Protection & Advocacy	\$298,244	\$210,689
Management & General	92,288	113,174
Fundraising	<u>74,595</u>	<u>51,034</u>
Total expenses	\$465,127	\$374,897

2018 GLC Revenue Sources



2018 GLC Expenses



GLC Membership by Categories

For January 1 to December 31, 2018

Conservation Society - \$10,000 & above


Sarah and John Cobb
E.C. Styberg Foundation
Wendy Perks Fisher
Gaylord & Dorothy Donnelley Foundation
Mr. Allen C. Hermansen
Mr. Ken Jacobsen
Mr. Robert Kern
The LIZ Peace Fund
Mr. Jack Rohner
Ventas Charitable Foundation

Preservation Society - \$5,000 to \$9,999

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The Simms Family Foundation
Williams Bay Lions Club
Wisconsin Power & Light Co.

Stewardship Society - \$1,000 to \$4,999

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HELP GLC MAKE WAY STATIONS FOR MONARCHS by Kelley Happ

It doesn't take much to help our endangered monarch population - just a few stems of milkweed and some native plants planted in a corner of your yard. Monarch butterflies, whose population has declined nearly 90 percent over the last two decades, is suffering from loss of habitat - notably the milkweed plants that sustain them in the caterpillar stage. Thanks to an interest from our members, the GLC started the Monarch Project two years ago and has sold hundreds of milkweed plants that have been added to garden spots and fields throughout the area.

And while milkweed is essential to the larval and caterpillar stage, adult butterflies and other pollinators also need nectar from native plants to survive.

In addition to offering young milkweed plants this year, the Conservancy will offer several popular native plant species. These easy to grow perennials are a bright spot in gardens and vital to our pollinator populations. Please consider adding a few of these varieties to your garden, or donating a few to your local school or church.



GLC Milkweed and Native Pollinator Order Form

Yes, I would like to order plants to help Monarch butterflies and other pollinators. Please indicate the number of each plant below. (Plants will come in 2-½" pots with planting instructions.)

Each plant is \$5.00. Deadline for ordering is May 1.

Milkweed—Monarchs can only lay their eggs on milkweed!

- Common milkweed, with purplish white flowers are the easiest and fastest to grow.
 Swamp or marsh milkweed have rose or pink flowers and prefer moist soils
 Butterfly weed has clusters of orange flowers and likes dry and sunny locations

Native Pollinator species—the bright colors of these flowers attract pollinators!

- Purple coneflower has a large center cone, surrounded by purple petals and requires full sun
 Black-eyed Susan has showy yellow flowers and prefers moist soils and full sun
 New England aster has purple petals and a yellow center and prefers full or partial sun, and moist to average conditions
 Liatris, also known as blazing star, has grassy foliage and fuzzy purple bottle-brush flowers and prefers full sun and moist soils.

Proceeds will benefit the restoration of GLC's Hansen Preserve.

All plants can be picked up at the GLC garage, 398 Mill St, Fontana, WI between May 15 and May 31.

You may order from our Web site or send your check made out to the Geneva Lake Conservancy and this form to PO BOX 588, Fontana, WI 53125. For questions, call Kelley Happ at 847-404-3957.

Name: _____ Email: _____

Cell phone: _____ Check amount: _____

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



Geneva Lake Conservancy

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Jake Schmidt

Land Protection Specialist

Peg Pollitt

Accountant

Mary Leaf

Administrative Assistant

GENEVA LAKE CONSERVANCY & LAKELAND AUDUBON SOCIETY present the

SAT • MAY 11 • 8AM - 1PM

Guided Bird Walks at Bromley Woods • \$5
Hourly 8, 9 & 10 am • Check In at La Grange United Methodist Church 20 minutes before scheduled walk.

Church Lunch & Presentation 11 am - 1 pm • \$20
Speaker Craig Thompson, DNR Bureau of Natural Heritage
N8548 County Road H • La Grange, WI

WALK RSVP BY 05/10 • LUNCH RSVP BY 05/06
Register online at www.GenevaLakeConservancy.org

Artwork created using photos from the following: Worm-Eating Warbler/Michael Woodruff/Macaulay Library at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology (ML13565593); Corulean Warbler/Dennis Malung/Wisconsin State Journal/madison.com

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