



LAKE IVANHOE NATURE PRESERVE PURCHASE HAS EXCEPTIONAL CONSERVATION AND HISTORIC VALUE

The Geneva Lake Conservancy has completed the purchase of two properties totaling 42 acres adjacent to Lake Ivanhoe and its wetlands that will link with WDNR land to form a 120-acre nature preserve.

The parcels purchased by the Conservancy protect many rare plants and species, provide access to Lake Ivanhoe for fishing and boating, and will honor the history of the property as one of the first African-American resort communities in the Midwest.

The new nature preserve will have an entrance on Lyons Road and is bordered on the east by Lake Ivanhoe. It is primarily wetland and contains two calcareous fens and a Tamarack swamp. There are several state-threatened plant species in the fens as well as many rare plants. An upland portion on the property's north end contains a remnant oak savanna.



Paula Anglin, Frank Anglin's granddaughter, in front of preserve.

“Working with our partners to create these landscape-scale parcels of more than 100 acres is an important strategic initiative of the Conservancy,” said Kevin Brunner, Conservancy Chair. “These large protected parcels provide habitat corridors that are important to wildlife, allow for better management of invasive species and help slow climate change by protecting wetlands and oak savannas that are particularly efficient for absorbing carbon.”

The purchase was made possible by grants provided by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Knowles Nelson Stewardship Fund and a North American Wetland Conservation Act grant through Ducks Unlimited. In addition, more than 20 donors from the Geneva Lake Conservancy's membership supported this purchase.

The property is part of the Lake Ivanhoe community, which was formed in the 1920s by three prominent African American men from Chicago who wanted to create an African American resort community for their families and other African Americans.

Some of the Conservancy's purchased property was originally owned by one of these founders, Frank Anglin, a businessman from Chicago. The Conservancy worked with one of his grandchildren, Paula Anglin, to complete the purchase of the properties, which had been owned as a tenant in common property by Anglin family members including Paula's grandfather Frank, father Lester and two other brothers in the 1950s. Some of the family members then sold the properties to attorney Paul Peterson who also worked with the Conservancy to complete the purchase of these parcels.

To honor the role of the Anglin family members in preserving this property, the Conservancy will name the property the Anglin Family Nature Preserve. A special dedication on October 28 is planned at the site.

"This is a special purchase not only because it protects the rare wetland plants that are so important to wildlife, but also because it preserves and recognizes the land's history as an integral part of a vacation resort for African-American families throughout much of the last century," said Conservancy Executive Director Karen Yancey.

The Lake Ivanhoe community once had several black-owned restaurants and a night club. Jazz great Cab Calloway performed in a large pavilion on a hill overlooking the lake during the community's opening night in 1927.

The original farm purchased by the three founders for the resort community was subdivided into lots and the streets were named after famous African-American men and women. While the African-American population of the town fluctuated over the years, the lake continued to be a favored place for African Americans to fish and swim. Last fall, Lake Ivanhoe's history as Wisconsin's first African-American resort community was recognized with a historical marker from the Wisconsin Historical Society.

The national retail store chain REI also recently honored black vacation resorts, including Lake Ivanhoe, with its own line of outdoor athletic gear and equipment featuring the names of these resorts.

Paula Anglin, now a Chicago actress who also leads a not-for-profit gardening organization on Chicago's South Side, said that she and her cousins spent bucolic summers on an adjacent property where their grandparents had a house.

"My grandfather was an avid gardener and I think he would be pleased that the property is becoming a nature preserve," she said.

The new Anglin Family Nature Preserve, approximately 6 miles east of the City of Lake Geneva, will be open to the public sometime next year.

The new preserve will be managed in cooperation with the DNR, who still owns a small interest in one of the parcels from a donation made to it by an Anglin family member years ago. Jim Jackley, DNR real estate and land management specialist, assisted the Conservancy with the purchase.



Karen Yancey, Paula Anglin and Paula's attorney David Rasmussen. Rasmussen worked with GLC attorney Russ Devitt to untangle many title issues associated with the purchase.

MILL HOUSE NATIVE PLANT PRESERVE AND DEDICATION

The Mill House Native Plant Preserve, located at 398 Mill Street, Fontana, is filled with native plants that create beautiful, low maintenance landscapes, provide wildlife habitat, filter pollutants before they reach our waterways, and help slow climate change. The Preserve trails connect with the Village of Fontana's Hildebrand Woods, a conservation easement property of the Conservancy's. Van Slyke Creek burbles through the woodland, which has an abundance of Jewelweed, a native plant with bright orange flowers blooming in mid-summer.

Educational signs mark each of the Preserve's eight featured gardens:

1. **The Pollinator Garden** is filled with a variety of native plants including New England Asters, Pale Purple Coneflowers, Coreopsis and milkweed. Common and Butterfly Milkweed are particularly important because they supports the endangered monarch butterfly.
2. **The Sloped Garden** has two plant demonstration areas: non-native and native, which show how deep-rooted native plants provide stability on a steep slope and prevent erosion. Many of the steep shoreline slopes on Geneva Lake are planted with non-native plants and are experiencing severe erosion.
3. **The Rain Garden** consists of a shallow ground depression which captures rainwater runoff. The dense native vegetation absorbs the water and their long root system filters pollutants before the water enters the groundwater.
4. **The Prairie Garden** will contain short grasses and sedges as well as flowers native to a prairie landscape.
5. **The Oak Grove** consists of several variety of oak trees, which provide an educational opportunity to learn how to identify different species of oaks in our area.
6. **The Fern Garden** features an abundance of Ostrich Ferns and Golden Alexander along a line of white cedar trees. Ferns are an amazing woodland resource, providing shelter for many species, including the hummingbird.
7. **The Children's Garden**, shaded by a large Silver Maple, features plants used by Native Americans, a teepee and a sandbox for children to play in and learn about Walworth County's Kettle Moraine landscape.
8. **The Bird Sanctuary**, featuring Serviceberries, Juneberries and Ninebark bushes, creates an excellent bird habitat, the berries from the bushes providing food. The bushes are planted in a demonstration plot of fescue grass, which needs much less mowing that Kentucky Blue grass and has deeper roots.



The Preserve is open to the public. Hikers see a variety of wildlife, hear songbirds whispering through the trees, and learn about the importance of native plants to our ecosystem. Visitors are encouraged to look through our conservation focused Little Free Library at the entrance to the preserve.

The Conservancy will dedicate the Mill House Native Plant Preserve on Friday, August 25th from 4—6 PM. Tickets are \$50 and include appetizers, cocktails and tours of the preserve as well as highlighting the dedication plaques in the garden. If you are interested in sponsoring a garden, tree, or educational sign in the Preserve, contact the Conservancy at (262) 275-5700.

GLC CELEBRATES OAKTOBER

The majestic oak savannas and woodlands of Walworth County are disappearing. Only 17 percent of oak trees that were here prior to European settlement remain.

You can help preserve and replace these oak trees by participating in the Conservancy's Oak Tree Sale, and/or Heritage Oak Contest.

Last year Kathy Reynold's oak tree, pictured right, was awarded the Oldest Oak Tree award. This majestic tree lives in Genoa City.



HERITAGE OAK CONTEST ENTRY FORM

Enter one of three categories: Oldest Oak Tree, Most Beautiful Oak Tree, and Tree associated with Best Story. Winners will be announced at the Conservancy's December Annual Meeting and will receive a plaque and one hour free consultation from a tree expert on their oak tree.

Entries due by September 30

_____ Oldest Oak Tree—provide age and circumference of the tree 3 feet from the ground

_____ Most Beautiful Oak Tree—provide a digital photo of your tree

_____ Tree Associated with the best story—share your tree's story in 500 hundred words or less

Name: _____ Email: _____

Phone: _____ Address of Tree's Location: _____

Person submitting entry must be owner of property on which tree is located or be entering a tree located on municipal or other public land.

GLC Oak Tree Order Form - Deadline for ordering is September 30

Pickup is October 12 and 13 or by appointment

Trees are \$50.00 each and proceeds benefit the Conservancy's restoration efforts.

Trees will come with planting instructions, a wire cage to protect them and oak tree care tips, and will be approximately 2 1/2-3 1/2 feet tall in 3 gallon pots.

_____ Swamp White Oak (*Quercus bicolor*) - Prefers acidic, moist, well-drained soil.

Height at maturity: 50-60 ft

_____ Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*) - Prefers dry, alkaline soil that is well drained.

Height at maturity: 70-80 ft.

Both species provide superior benefits to wildlife, require at least 6 hours of direct sunlight per day, and are tolerant of both drought and poor drainage.

Pick up is at the Geneva Lake Conservancy garage, 398 Mill Street, Fontana, WI

Order from our website or send your check made out to the Geneva Lake Conservancy and this form to PO BOX 588, Fontana, WI 53125.

Name: _____ Email: _____

Phone: _____

SUMMER AT HELEN ROHNER CHILDREN'S FISHING PARK

Helen Rohner Children's Fishing Park has been BUZZING this summer! The Conservancy's programs, Children's Fishing Lessons, Story Times, and Nature Classes, are keeping staff busy and happy.

Children's Fishing Lessons are a fun way for kids to learn how to fish and cheer on their fellow anglers. Teaming up with Lake Geneva Fishing Club, the Conservancy helps kids explore the fun of fishing while being safe. Each participant receives a Frosty Moose coupon and the largest catch of the lesson gets a fishing pole to take home. Lessons take place every Tuesday at 9 AM and 10 AM at Williams Bay Pier. Signup is online at Genevalakeconservancy.org

Thursday's program at Helen Rohner Children's Fishing Park is Story Time located at the Thinking Spot. Children enjoy several nature-related book readings, songs, and exploration. Story Time is jointly offered by the Conservancy and Williams Bay's Barrett Memorial Library.



Conservancy intern Jaiden and Lillian smile on a beautiful day of fishing lessons. Lillian is an avid participant in Children's Fishing Lessons and hopes to catch the biggest fish of the lesson soon!



The FrogLady, otherwise known as Deb, shows the crowd a very long Red-tailed Boa snake named Sammie.

Nature Classes are held on Fridays at the Rohner Barn. Through these classes, children have created bug terrariums, planted native plants in our garden, and participated in other hands-on activities while discovering the park and exploring the wildlife and plants that inhabit it.

On July 3rd, many families came to celebrate our annual Family Day with the FrogLady. Through an entertaining presentation, the FrogLady shared her knowledge and love of reptiles, handling over a dozen of her pets. At the end of the presentation, attendees could pet the turtles, snakes and lizard and have their picture taken with them. The event concluded with participation in our Kish Fish Bioblitz where anyone could become citizen scientist by taking pictures of species within Helen Rohner and Kishwaukee and uploading them to our Kish Fish Project. Kish Fish Bioblitz resulted in 183 recorded observations. The project contributes directly to science and allows the Conservancy to understand what is in our park and protect it as well.



In mid-June Conservancy board member Mary Constable oversaw the installation of beehives in the Rohner Barn. Stop by to see the bees at work and try to find their Queen (hint she sports a red dot).

Geneva Lake Conservancy is so grateful to Jack Rohner, who donated Helen Rohner Park to us in 2018, and his family for their continued support of our programs.

CONSERVANCY LEADS GENEVA LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Under the Conservancy's leadership a new management plan for Geneva Lake will be completed in 2024. The development of the management plan will utilize data collected by the Conservancy.

Working with the Southeast Regional Plan Commission, Geneva Lake Environmental Agency, and the Wisconsin Department of Resources, a survey was written and sent to approximately 2,000 property owners in the Geneva Lake watershed. The survey showed that property owners largest concerns were boat traffic, deteriorating water quality and invasive species. The survey gathered views on fishing, recreational boating, environmental concerns and factors that affect the quality of living near a lake.

To gather more information on boating use and patterns on the lake, a drone operator has identified and counted boats on the lake during a high use weekend, during the week, and during a period of lesser boat use.

The Geneva Lake Management Plan Update has been partially funded by generous grants from the Wisconsin Department of Resources, the Otzen Family Foundation, Charles and Dianna Colman and an anonymous donor. Additional donations to cover the costs are still being sought.



SAT • DEC 02 • 5-11 PM



CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS
Cocktails • Dinner • Dancing

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ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

The GLC Advocacy Committee has been busy through the late spring and early summer. In April, the Committee toured the Shodeen Family Property Co. LLC proposed Big Foot Ranch development. The proposal sought to rezone about 700 acres as a residential subdivision including more than 420 homes and a 90-room hotel.

The committee raised its concerns about the proposal before the Town of Walworth's Board and before its Planning and Zoning Commission. Those concerns included the project's reliance on private well and septic systems, its housing density, and its failure to provide adequate future protection for the property's oak savannas and wildlife corridors. In addition, the Committee pointed out that the Shodeen proposal violated the Walworth County Water Conservation Plan by adding so many private septic systems to the county's aquifer recharge area. The Committee made the point that in dry years, 70% of Geneva Lake's water comes from that recharge area.

Both the Planning and Zoning Commission and the Walworth Town Board recommended that Walworth County reject the Shodeen proposal. The company then withdrew their application before the County acted upon it.

In other action, the Committee raised concerns about a proposed 64-unit development in Fontana, and its impact on the environment there. It also questioned a proposed rezoning of part of Black Point Farm in the Town of Linn. The proponents of these developments then revised their proposals and addressed many of the Committee's issues. At this time, The Black Point Farms has not made a final proposal to the Town of Linn. The Village of Fontana did approve the development.

CONSERVANCY'S SUMMER EVENT AT SUNSHINE ACRES

The Conservancy's summer event was held at Sunshine Acres, a beautiful 29 acre scenic farm which is now protected forever thanks to Elena Spiegelhoff, its owner, and her partnership with the Geneva Lake Conservancy.

Elena's family farm, which her parents bought in the early 1990's, is the kind of property that the Conservancy likes to see protected. With its beautiful kettle moraine features this farm could easily be subdivided by its next owners and developed, compromising its natural beauty and conservation values.



Elena Spiegelhoff, owner of Sunshine Acres, and Kristen Freytag, Conservancy Board member.



Guests at the Conservancy's summer event were treated to a hike in the high meadow at Sunshine Acres, where species of concern were pointed out.

The conservation easement that Elena signed with the Conservancy earlier this year assures that the high meadow will continue to be a habitat for native plants and wildlife, the tributary to the White River will continue to have a buffer strip of native plants for aquatic species and pollinators and, the prime agricultural land will still be farmed in the decades to come.

The GLC is grateful for our wonderful host, sponsors, speaker and attendees for coming out to support not only our organization, but for understanding the value in implementing conservation easements in our local communities.

Have you bought your 50/50 Raffle Ticket?

Winning ticket will be drawn Dec. 2 at Holly Ball. Tickets available at events and the Mill House.



Event 2023 Calendar

GenevaLakeConservancy.org

AUG/SEP – Heritage Oak Contest & Oak Tree Sales begin Aug 1

AUG 4 (FRI) – Education day at White River County Park; Raptor presentation 10 - 11:30 am

AUG 12 (SAT) – Family Day at Helen Rohner Children's Fishing Park

AUG 24 (THU) – Small Nature Photo Contest reception at Green Grocer

AUG 25 (FRI) – Mill House Native Plant Preserve Dedication with cocktails, appetizers and tours; 4 - 6 pm

SEP 8 (FRI) – Guided Nature Walk at Wallace E. Zabler Nature Preserve, 9 am

SEP 22 (FRI) – Work day at White River County Park; invasive species removal and planting seed bombs

SEP 30 (SAT) – Join GLC and Kettle Moraine Land Trust volunteers to pick seeds at Wisconsin's Hackmatack Turner Tract preserve near Genoa City

OCT 7 (SAT) – GLC 4th Annual Road Rally featuring new protected properties

DEC 2 (SAT) – Holly Ball; GLC's special holiday gala with dinner, dancing and silent auction

DEC 9 (SAT) – GLC Annual Meeting; Public invited for year-end celebration, awards, presentations, etc.

DEC 21 (TUE) – Winter Solstice Celebration at White River County Park



Event registration and details at GenevaLakeConservancy.org



Geneva Lake Conservancy

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Our mission is to protect and restore the lands and waterways of Walworth County and beyond.



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OR CALL 262-275-5700.

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