



UPDATE

Protecting the environmental character of the Geneva lakes area since 1978

Letter from the Chairman

Fund-raising and the lakes area – both are important!

The Conservancy has a fund-raising effort under way to ensure we maintain our service levels to the community in this difficult year. This summer we initiated a stewardship and leadership fund-raising campaign targeting long-standing benefactors of the Conservancy, and we are now in the midst of our annual fall appeal to all our standing members. The purpose of these appeals is to generate additional funds this year because of the impact of the economy on our reserves and our lower than expected year-to-date gift revenue. When you receive a request, I ask you to please be responsive to the appeal and support the Conservancy.

The more important topic, however, is the health of our local lakes. Did you know that Geneva Lake, Delavan Lake, and Lake Como all have areas where contaminants and sediment enter lake waters in the form of polluted runoff?

For Geneva Lake, there are several areas of concern. Most recently, residents of Lake Geneva Beach Association raised concerns about the potential of a high incidence of cancer being linked to polluted agriculture runoff in the stream along Hillside Road. Lakefront residents in Linn Township located downstream from dairy operations have

expressed similar concerns with agricultural runoff that creates dark plumes in the lake after rains. Homeowners neighboring Big Foot Beach State Park also have noted dark plumes in the water at the outlet of Button's Bay creek (Big Foot Creek).

Each of these issues results from the fact that the natural filters for the lake, such as the wetlands located on the Hummel property behind the state park, have been severely degraded or simply no longer exist. Wetland restoration and the creation of natural vegetative buffers around the lake would greatly help in addressing these concerns, and we continue to work on getting this work accomplished.

Delavan Lake issues relate to phosphate buildup in sediment at the bottom of the Jackson Creek inlet. Local efforts have improved sediment ponds to the north but dredging of the inlet is needed to eliminate years of fertilizer runoff build up in the stream bed. A project is in the planning stage to do dredging. We will support this effort.

Lake Como issues are related to the former Como Auto Salvage and are beginning to be addressed by the Town of Geneva government with the help of a \$45,000 DNR grant awarded earlier this year. To address the concerns with antifreeze and other petroleum contaminants found in the watershed known as the Como Flats near the property, more work needs to be done.

To support water quality efforts, the Conservancy recently wrote a letter of support for the Lake Como Lake Association to assist it in its pursuit of grant funding to perform an aquatic

plant survey and the to take the next step in forming a lake district. We certainly hope the association is successful.

We live in a wonderful area, surrounded by three amazing natural resources, but as you can see there is a great deal of work that still needs to be done. Your support is needed to help with these efforts.

Charles L. Colman
GLC Board Chair

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We need your e-mail addresses!

It is a new world out there: Markets are tight, jobs are scarce, and so are dollars. In order to make your generous donations go further, the Conservancy has decided to meet the 21st century head on and shift the newsletter from a quarterly print publication to a monthly electronic update.

A monthly update will mean we are able to stretch our conservation dollars. It also means we can communicate with our supporters better. We can provide you with more local updates on our conservation efforts, volunteer opportunities, and fundraising events, and it means more contact with the people who make this organization what it is – you! This switch

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Many Thanks to...

Summer's bounty isn't just for crops – a number of generous people stepped forward this summer to help the Conservancy in a variety of ways.

Chuck Ebeling for donating a new flag for the GLC's offices.

Joe Falcone & Kodak for answering our call and donating a Kodak digital camera for our land-protection efforts!

Fontana Family Chiropractic for the use of your chairs during our Annual Meeting on August 15.

Sean Payne for donating a GPS unit that helps us plot trails on our properties. The first one on the list was Hermansen Woods.

Brad Vonk & Friends for taking the time during your vacation to weed and clear our fenced-in garden.

Holly Ball Volunteers Needed

The Conservancy Needs YOU

This year's Holly Ball is **December 5**, and we are going to need volunteers for decorating, set-up and the night of the event. If you or someone you know would like to be involved, contact the Conservancy at glc@genevaonline.com or (262) 275-5700.

Executive Director's Report

"Protect the environmental character of the Geneva Lake area."

Geneva Lake Conservancy Board of Directors – June 19, 2009

The Geneva Lake Conservancy Board of Directors met for a half-day workshop in June to review the direction of the organization. Out of the meeting, among other things, came a revised mission statement that truly and concisely reflects the ultimate purpose of the organization. In less than ten words the statement confirms the continued commitment of the group to the protection of the very thing that makes this area so special – a distinctive, wonderful, and irreplaceable "environmental character."

Like anything truly priceless, the fragile and irreplaceable nature of

"environmental character" makes it so valuable. Many communities, once blessed with small-town charm, miles of open space, and abundant natural resources, inadvertently sacrificed environmental character in the name of progress. You may still be able to find the original town at the center of the sprawl, but without nature, without open spaces, and without the rural agriculture lands that were paved over in the process, the environmental character is now gone.

To protect our unique environmental character in the Geneva Lake area, the Conservancy urges each of us to realize that what we take for granted today will not be available for our children to enjoy unless we take proactive steps to ensure its protection. Furthermore, each of us must come to see that the greatest threat to

the natural environment we enjoy lies in the series of seemingly inconsequential land-use decisions we are faced with every day. Each one leads to another and another, and before long the great bounty that we have been charged to protect could be eaten away, leaving us with only a memory of what once we once had. If we allow it to disappear, it is gone forever.

The Conservancy believes in its mission and will work tirelessly to protect our natural heritage.

Joseph A. McHugh
GLC Executive Director



Southeastern Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association Area Tour

Joseph McHugh and Lynn Ketterhagen have been invited to present at the 2009 Southeastern Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Association Area Tour on September 17. The event is being hosted this year by Walworth County.

The tour will cover many of the conservation activities around Geneva Lake. The GLC will have the opportunity to educate the area officials

about voluntary land protection agreements and specifically show the officials which properties on the shores of Geneva Lake are protected forever.

In addition to association members, other elected officials will be invited, including the governor and staff members from such units of government as the State of Wisconsin Department of Agriculture,

Trade, and Consumer Protection; State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

This is a great opportunity to show what the GLC has done in the past and what it is doing to protect the lake and land in the area.



We Need Your E-Mail Addresses (cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

gives you, our supporters, greater opportunities to touch base with the Conservancy and give us your much-needed and appreciated feedback.

In order to achieve success with this, we need YOUR help. We need to make sure our records are up to date, and we need your e-mail addresses. If you would like to continue to receive the Conservancy's Update, return the form below. Alternatively, you may go to

www.genevalakeconservancy.org to sign up for our mailing list or e-mail us at glc@genevaonline.com. We need all the e-mails we can get to make this transition a successful and cost-efficient method of reaching out to all of you.

Thank you for helping us reach out to you better, for helping us conserve our dollars as well as the beauty and environmental character of the Geneva lakes area. Thank you too for all your support and your generosity throughout the year.

If you have questions about this transition to a digital newsletter, contact Katie Sullivan, administrator and membership and outreach coordinator, at (262) 275-5700 or katie@genevaonline.com.



Lake Walk

Join us **October 2** for a walk around Geneva Lake benefiting the Conservancy.

Starting at the Fontana Public Beach House and ending at Chuck's, walkers will marvel at the fall beauty of the lake, see stunning estates, and be treated to a box lunch at the Geneva Inn. Donations are \$50 per person made payable to the Conservancy.

For more information, call (262) 275-5700.

Many thanks to the Geneva Inn for offering to sponsor the lunch for this year's Lake Walk.



Cut Here

We need your E-Mail Addresses!

Please help us out: Fill in this form and send it to: Geneva Lake Conservancy | P.O. Box 588 | Fontana, WI 53125

Or email your information to glc@genevaonline.com

Contact Information:

Name: _____ Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Please check here if you do not have an email address and would like the Conservancy to mail you the monthly updates to your home. Address: _____

Geneva Lake Conservancy Privacy Policy: *All information requested is solely for the purpose of enabling us to better communicate with you. At this time, it is not the policy of the Conservancy to share any information you provide with any other organization or individual.*

Share the Vision and Donate Now. Become a Member for 2009!

Enclosed is my tax-deductible Membership check:

\$30 Naturalist \$60 Steward \$100 Advocate \$150 Protector \$250 Guardian \$500 Benefactor \$1,000 Stewardship Society

\$5,000 Preservation Society \$_____ Other

Donor(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

Credit Card Payment (Visa or MasterCard): _____

Expiration Date _____

Yes, I would like to be a volunteer:

- Call me when you need help
- Mill House restoration and maintenance
- Mill House Gardens Data Entry
- Educational programs Event volunteer

Please mail to: Geneva Lake Conservancy | P.O. Box 588 | Fontana, WI 53125 | Phone: (262) 275-5700 | Fax: (262) 275-0579

Email: GLC@genevaonline.com | visit our website at: www.genevalakeconservancy.org



Geneva Lake Conservancy

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Geneva Lake Conservancy
UPDATE

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Photo Contest Winner: Melissa Reed

The votes are in, and Melissa Reed is the winner of the Geneva Lake Conservancy Summer Photo Contest. Thank you to all who participated in our contest.

The photo contest is an ongoing event, with a winner chosen quarterly. If you are interested, submit a photo in either of these categories, Nautical Notions, Animals (Furred and Feathered), or People and Places. The next winner will be announced in December.

Send your photograph to glc@genevaonline.com with "GLC Photo Contest" in the subject line. Also indicate the category in which you wish to submit. Multiple submissions are allowed. You will be notified by e-mail if your photo is the winner, and we will publish your photograph on our Web site and in our monthly e-mail updates.



Melissa's winning photo, titled Daydream, can be seen in color on our website:
www.genevalakeconservancy.org

In Memoriam – Evelyn Geraldson

The Conservancy extends its sympathy to the family of Evelyn Geraldson, who passed away July 2. Evelyn and her husband Raymond, who died in March 2008, were long-time Conservancy supporters and donated a voluntary land protection agreement on their lakefront property. Evelyn is survived by her three children, eight grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren.

Be sure to check out our website for more news & information!

Coming up:
Board Profile:
Rudy Rasin

AND

A warm welcome to our new Board Members!