



Protect and restore the lands and waterways of Walworth County and beyond.

Winter 2023

THIRD BROMLEY WOODS PURCHASE COMPLETES NEW PUBLIC NATURE PRESERVE

With the purchase of the last 21-acre parcel of the Bromley Woods nature preserve this September, the Geneva Lake Conservancy increased the size of this extraordinary oak woodland to 81 acres, adding an additional ¾ mile hiking trail.

“The Bromley Woods nature preserve is now complete,” said Kevin Brunner, Conservancy Chair. “This nature preserve is in an area that is of global importance to migrating birds and we are so grateful to the Bromley family for being such good caretakers of the land and working with us for over 5 years to permanently protect these parcels.”

The new property is in the Town of LaGrange across Greening Road from the other parcels and contains two kettles and a prairie pothole. It has a land bridge that is shaped like a “saddle” separating the two kettles and provides an exceptional view into the kettles. Another trail follows the perimeter of the property.



Pictured is the third Bromley Woods parcel.



Mark Bromley and Kiera Theys in Bromley Woods.

“This is an easy half-hour hiking trail that provides views into a

kettle,” said Karen Yancey, Executive Director. “The entire public nature preserve is an exceptional kettle moraine landscape with the old oak trees, kettles and rolling terrain sculpted by the glaciers thousands of years ago.”

The majority of the Bromley Woods nature preserve contains oak woodland or savanna that serve as major “carbon sinks” because oak trees absorb more carbon to slow global warming than any other tree in North America. In addition, each of the hundreds of oak trees on the property serves as habitat for more than 500 species, including several threatened warbler and woodpecker species. The purchase of the final 21 acres of the Bromley property also protects two vernal ponds.

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Third Bromley Woods purchase, continued from page 1

“The property is adjacent to the Kettle Moraine State Park and supports the creation of landscape- scale projects that are a priority of the Conservancy because they provide large corridors for wildlife,” said Kiera Theys, Land Protection Manager.

The Conservancy hosts the Kettle Moraine Birding Festival every other May on the property, which is attended by more than 100 birdwatchers, including students. The purchase of the final 21 acres of Bromley Woods was made possible by a grant from the WDNR’s Knowles Nelson Stewardship Program and North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA) funding provided by Ducks Unlimited. The purchase was also supported by private donations from more than 20 Conservancy members.

“We want to thank the amazing team of conservation professionals at Ducks Unlimited and the Knowles Nelson Stewardship fund as well as the Conservancy’s major donors who enabled us to protect this special place,” Yancey said.

The property is open to the public. Trail maps are provided on the Conservancy’s Website.



Three students attending Bird Fest at Bromley Woods in Spring 2023.

LAKE IVANHOE PRESERVE NAMED AFTER ANGLIN FAMILY

On October 28th, GLC hosted a dedication of its newest land conservation project, two wetland and wooded parcels adjacent to Lake Ivanhoe, totaling 42 acres. Lake Ivanhoe was founded by Frank Anglin and two of his business associates from Chicago, who wanted to create a safe retreat for fellow African-Americans.

The GLC honored the Anglin Family by dedicating the new preserve to them. Paula Anglin, Frank Anglin’s granddaughter, and several other family members unveiled the sign at this historic event. Members of the Anglin family delivered speeches on spending their summers in Lake Ivanhoe and how it was a safe space for African-Americans. Peter Baker, president of Lake Ivanhoe Homeowner’s Association, shared his memories of Lake Ivanhoe and how he obtained a historical marker for the area.



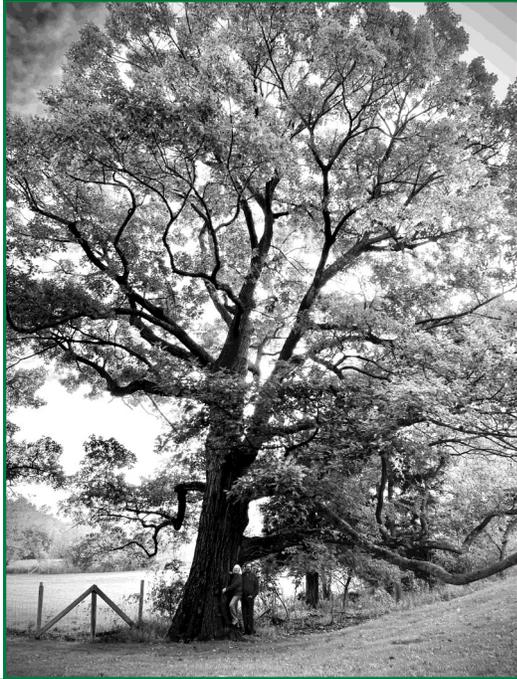
Members of the Anglin Family including Paula Anglin (third from right), stand in front of new GLC preserve sign.



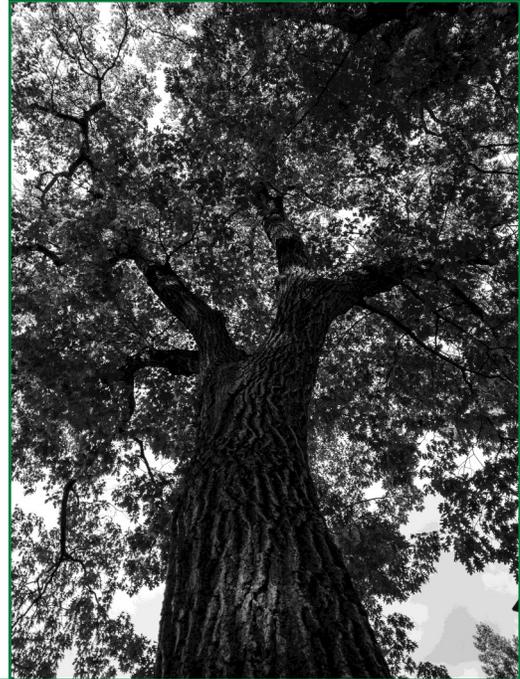
The Anglin Family Nature Preserve adjoins DNR conserved lands on Lake Ivanhoe, creating a 120-acre preserve that protects rare plants, two calcareous fens, and wildlife. The preserve will be open to the public in 2024. The purchase was made possible by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Knowles Nelson Grant, North American Wetland Conservation Act grant through Ducks Unlimited and more than 20 donors from GLC’s membership. GLC thanks the Anglin Family and Lake Ivanhoe Community for their support.

2023 OAK TREE CONTEST WINNERS

GLC holds an annual Oak Tree Contest each fall in Walworth County for the following categories: Oak Tree Associated with the Best Story, Most Beautiful Oak Tree, and Oldest Oak Tree. Oak trees are a keystone species, offering superior benefits to wildlife and help sequester carbon in the atmosphere. These trees are one of the most ecologically important in the Midwest, and with only 17% of our old-growth oak trees remaining in Walworth County, it is vital that we conserve them. The winners of the 2023 contest are below.



Pictured above is the oak tree that won **Most Beautiful Oak** in the GLC contest. Julie Morse and Jeff Sunderman have this gorgeous red oak on their Spring Prairie property. This oak is approximately 421 years old and is still in great health. Julie and Jeff enjoy sitting on their porch to look out at their farm and enjoy the beautiful view of their oak tree.



The Oak Tree associated with the **Best Story** goes to Mary Constable and Glenn Aldinger, who have found an arrowhead on their property beneath their oak tree in Fontana. Neighboring homes have also found several Native American artifacts on their property. Glenn and Mary are thrilled to have found a piece of history under their oak that once provided shelter to Native Americans.

The winner of our **Oldest Oak** goes to Nick Melchi. Nick's bur oak at his Lake Geneva home has a 215" circumference, making it 445 years old. Nick stands here proudly with his son and father-in-law, as the oak has become a part of their family. This tree is unusual in its growth because of its codominant stems. There are two trunks on this tree, and one of those trunks breaks off into another just a few feet off of the ground, making this a fascinating oak tree.



AL HERMANSEN REFLECTS ON HIS MANY YEARS AS A GLC DONOR

In 2000, Al Hermansen graciously donated Hermansen Woods, a 15-acre woodland, to the GLC. Since then, Al and his wife, Dorothy, have been supporters of GLC for more than 20 years and have enjoyed watching the woods being restored to a mixed hardwood forest.

Geneva Lake Conservancy's Land Protection Specialist, Michael Zawicki, and Community Outreach and Fundraising Manager, Tai Thompson, interviewed Al Hermansen, wishing to speak with this Conservation Hero firsthand. On October 9th, Michael and Tai met Al at his favorite restaurant, Mars Resort, one that Al had been going to for over 50 years and is just north of Hermansen Woods on Como Road.

Al has a personal history with Lake Geneva, as he went to school there and his grandfather helped build The Lake Como Hotel, which is now the French Country Inn. However, it was his uncle who helped him make a local name for himself. In 1963, when Al was 30 years old, his uncle bid on a 15-acre property on Al's behalf. At the time, the property was a pig farm and looked drastically different than today. His uncle's bid won at "five thousand and some change."

For the next several years, real estate agents called, trying to have Al sell. But Al knew he had a special piece of Lake Geneva. At the time, he worked in California and came home as often as he could to maintain the property, putting in trails and restoring the woods to its natural state. The gorgeous woodland, just south of the shore of Lake Como, greets visitors with purple coneflowers and milkweed at the start of the trail. Hikers will notice northern hardwoods such as sugar maple, red oak, and black walnut. There are two intermittent streams that feed into Lake Como on the property, as well as two small bog/wetlands, making this a diversified woodland, attracting a variety of wildlife.

When asked what his favorite thing to do in the woods was, Al answered "walking the trails." Now, he is 91 and prefers to walk the woods with his wife while throwing out wildflower seeds. He was pleased that the Eagle Scouts put up storyboards in Hermansen Woods in 2022 with the help of a Lake Geneva Garden Club grant. These educational storyboards were installed so visitors could hike and learn about the woods.



Al Hermansen and his wife, Dorothy.



Al Hermansen at the entrance to Hermansen Woods.

When Al donated his land to the Conservancy, he said he did so because he had read GLC's mission and "loved its intentions." He and his wife were "impressed with GLC's accomplishments." Al stated he is happy that he donated his property to GLC and is "thrilled to be associated with the Conservancy." "GLC is fortunate to have someone as caring and giving as Al Hermansen," said Kevin Brunner, Chair. "Al is truly a Conservation Hero to us, and we will continue to protect and maintain the beautiful Hermansen Woods."

Hermansen Woods is located just north of Pesche's Greenhouse on Como Road just off of Highway 50 and is open to visitors year-round.

GLC ANNUAL MEETING IS SATURDAY DECEMBER 9TH

Join us on December 9th for our annual public meeting where we have year-end celebrations, awards, and presentations. The meeting will be held at Horticultural Hall in Lake Geneva from 10 to 11:30 AM on Saturday, December 9th. Please RSVP to Outreach@genevalakeconservancy.org.

GENEVA LAKE CONSERVANCY WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS



Kate Gardiner is the founder of Grey Horse, a full service communications agency often behind the scenes of global crises. An industry veteran, Kate started out her career in journalism and audience engagement, triaging social media for global-facing campaigns including award-winning coverage of the BP Oil Spill (PBS NewsHour), the Arab Spring (Al Jazeera English), Showtime's Years of Living Dangerously, Hurricane Sandy (New York Public Radio), the launch of Newsweek's print magazine and Newsweek International. She supported more than a dozen women at the heart of the #MeToo movement. Kate is a member of the 2015 class of Forbes 30 under 30 and a fellow with the National Committee on US-China Relations. She splits time between New York City and Lake Geneva, Wisconsin.

Cathleen Johnson had a 30-year career at Edelman, the world's largest public relations firm. While at Edelman she founded the Travel and Hospitality practice and grew it to a global practice. Cathleen left Edelman to open her own consultancy focusing solely in the travel and tourism industry. Cathleen has brought insight to GLC's Community Outreach Committee. Cathleen holds a BA in Journalism from Northern Illinois University and a MA from the University of Chicago. Cathleen has speaking and teaching experience, and a reputation as a strategic and creative communications professional and facilitator for conferences and strategy sessions.



Karen Rappaport is a realtor for Geneva

Lakefront Realty and a Podcaster. Prior to moving to Fontana fulltime, Karen practiced real estate in Illinois with her family firm, Koenig & Strey. *Loving Lake Geneva* on Apple Podcasts is Karen's podcast, with 54 episodes on topics ranging from The Griffin and Gargoyle to Special Dogs helping Special people. Karen's family has long been involved in Lake Geneva, with family memories of dancing at the Riveria ballroom. Animal rescue has been a passion of Karen's. She enjoys the outdoors, hiking, boating and skiing. Utilizing her

degree in education, Karen taught sixth grade for 10 years. Karen holds a BS in Education from the University of Illinois. She also has a MS in Education from National Louis University

Nina Owen has a home in the Black Point area and has been involved with the Conservancy since 2018. Nina received a BA from Bryn Mawr for Art History: Criticism and Conservation, as well as a Master's degree in Real Estate Finance from Cornell University. She has worked in commercial real estate for the past 25 years at firms including Cushman & Wakefield and CBRE. Currently she heads the hospitality group at Capright, a multi-national valuation firm.



2023 ROAD RALLY IN THE BOOKS!

On a beautiful October day, GLC celebrated its fourth annual Road Rally. This event featured stops at five of the Conservancy's protected properties, including White River County Park, Sunshine Acres, Seno Cranberry Road, Lake Ivanhoe/Anglin Family Nature Preserve, and Karow Sunset Oak Acres. At each stop, attendees received a gift from the land to fill their basket. The last stop, Karow Sunset Oak Acres, included cocktails, dinner, and a speech by Thomas Slawski of SEWRPC (Southeast Regional Planning Commission) on the health of Geneva Lake.



Thomas Slawski, Chief Biologist, SEWRPC, speaking at Road Rally on the importance of lake management plans.



Left photo: GLC Board member Mark Bromley and wife, Pat, at Sunshine Acres visiting with resident donkeys. Middle photo: Board member Cathleen Johnson and John Yancey hike White River County Park. Right photo: Board members Mark Aschliman and Susan Steele, with Dave Sorenson, at the Road Rally dinner at Karow Sunset Oak Acres, Twin Lakes. Photography credits go to Fred Noer.

GENEVA LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN SURVEY DOCUMENTS CITIZEN OPINIONS AND CONCERNS

As part of the Geneva Lake Management Plan Update 2024, the Geneva Lake Conservancy worked with the Southeast Wisconsin Regional Plan Commission (SEWRPC), the Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and the Geneva Lake Environmental Agency to send a survey about Geneva Lake to 2,000 households in the lake's watershed.

Of the 280 respondents, enjoying the view was the favored activity associated with the lake, while 92 percent said that they walked the shore path. Swimming, pleasure-cruising and paddling were the most favored lake activities.

Seventy percent, however, said that they were concerned about excessive boat waves and other boaters not following ordinances or laws, while 67 percent said that they were worried about poor boating etiquette or behavior. Sixty-five percent said that they were concerned about noise from boaters.

Eighty-eight percent said that they thought that excessive property development was negatively impacting the lake, while 86 percent said pollutants were negatively affecting the lake. Algae blooms, excessive aquatic plant growth and invasive species were listed by more than 80 percent of the respondents as having some or a large negative affect on Geneva Lake.

The next step in the process is to schedule focus group meetings with Geneva Lake stakeholders to obtain their input on solutions to the issues documented by the survey. If you are interested in being part of a focus group, please contact Savannah Thomas at wps@genevalakeconservancy.org.

HELEN ROHNER CHILDREN'S FISHING PARK HAS GREAT SUMMER

Helen Rohner Children's Fishing park lessons were "a blast" with over 500 fish caught (and released)! GLC and Lake Geneva Fishing Club members had a wonderful time teaching young children ages 4-12 how to fish. Children received a Frosty Moose coupon at every lesson and the child who caught the biggest fish at each lesson won a fishing pole. The first Bob Kantor Biggest Fish award went to 9-year-old Matthew Johnson who received a trophy and fishing lesson. The award honors Bob Kantor's many years of assisting with the fishing lessons at the park.



A huge thank you to Tom Kaczmarek, Frosty Moose owner (pictured left) in Williams Bay, for his continued support of Children's Fishing Lessons. Pictured above is Matthew Johnson age 9, sitting with Bob Kantor, holding the Bob Kantor Biggest Fish Award. Children's fishing lessons are free and will begin again in June of 2024. See our website in late spring 2024 for sign up.



Pictured above are four children out of twenty-four who caught the largest fish of the lesson, winning their own fishing pole.



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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GENEVA LAKE CONSERVANCY

HOLLY BALL

SAT • DEC 02 • 5:30 - 11:00 PM
BIG FOOT COUNTRY CLUB • FONTANA, WI

2023
Candlelight
G A L A

5:30 PM COCKTAILS • 7:00 PM DINNER

Cocktails • Dinner • Dancing

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