



## CONSERVANCY REACHES 3,000 ACRES WITH SIGNING OF JENNER CONSERVATION EASEMENT

The Geneva Lake Conservancy is pleased to announce that it has reached its goal of protecting 3,000 acres of open lands with the signing of a 176-acre conservation easement on land owned by Baker and Ginny Jenner. The Jenners own Knolland Farm, an equestrian farm, near Burlington.

The farm has five oak savannas and a rare rolling Kettle Moraine landscape. It has been in the Jenner family since 1986 and includes several horse barns and outbuildings, as well as two homes used by family members. The farm is located east of Lake Geneva and 100 acres are located in Walworth County and 76 acres are in Kenosha County.

Knolland includes 100 acres of prime agricultural land and is adjacent to a 126-acre nature preserve owned by the Seno K/RLT Conservancy, creating a 302-acres of adjacent protected land for wildlife.

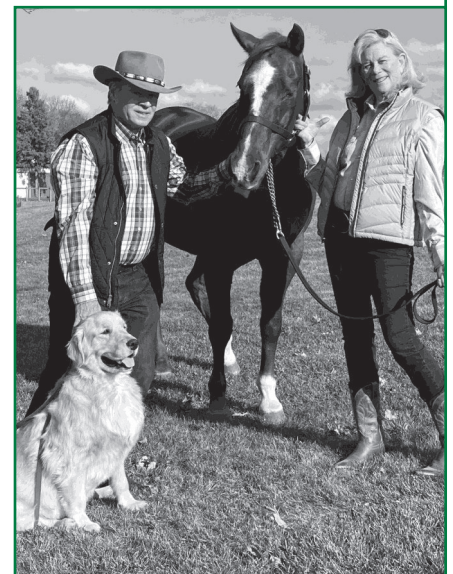
“These landscape scale projects, which link protected open lands to create environment corridors for wildlife, are a major goal of the Conservancy,” said GLC Chair Kevin Brunner.

Baker and Ginny Jenner worked with the Conservancy over several months to complete the conservation easement that protects further subdivision of the property. The conservation easement also preserves the property’s A-1 and A-2 soils that are important to agriculture. These soils are disappearing throughout the Midwest at an alarming rate due to residential and commercial development.

The property also features 36 acres of oak savannas. Oak trees provide the highest carbon storage and sequestration potential in the Midwest. Protection of these oaks will ensure that their carbon storage potential is used to help slow climate change.

Another goal of the conservation easement is to ensure that the Jenner’s three daughters and their families as well as future generations could continue to enjoy the land and its scenic beauty.

“The protection of this rare Kettle Moraine landscape from further subdivision and development is a valuable gift to the community,” said Kiera Theys, Land Protection Manager.



Ginny and Baker Jenner pose with their horse, Jake and dog, Latte.

With the completion of this conservation easement, Geneva Lake Conservancy holds 37 conservation easements and owns 13 properties that protect 3,154 acres of land with high conservation value. Five of its owned properties are public nature preserves with hiking trails and the remaining are protected for wildlife and provide limited public access through guided tours.

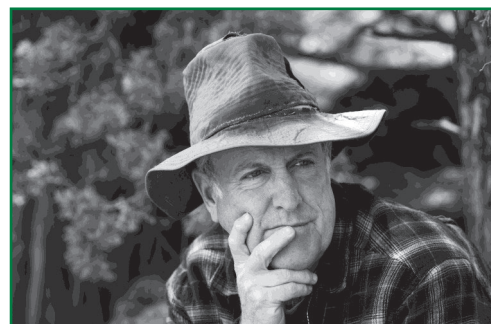
While this number is significant, these open lands protect the ecological health of our region, while preserving wildlife habitat and the scenic beauty of Walworth County. “We need to continue our mission to protect more of the remaining open land in Walworth County,” said Karen Yancey, Executive Director.

## DOUG TALLAMY TO SPEAK AT GLC’S SUMMER EVENT

Douglas Tallamy is a professor of entomology at the University of Delaware. He is a New York Time bestselling author, and has written popular books such as *Bringing Nature Home*, *Nature’s Best Hope*, and *The Nature of Oaks*. He has authored over 80 research articles that revolve around the importance of biodiversity, insect behavior, and the plant-insect relationship.

Known for inspiring landowners to go native, Tallamy advocates for the increase of native plants in yards to help with the decline of biodiversity. In addition to this, he recommends reducing the number of manicured lawns saying “In terms of biological activity, a lawn is the least productive of our plantings, yet it is the default landscaping practice in most spaces.”

Tallamy spends his time managing “Homegrown National Park” he cofounded, with the intent to repurpose half of American’s lawns for ecology purposes. **The Conservancy is excited to bring Tallamy back by popular demand as a guest speaker at its summer event on July 25th at Yerkes Observatory.**



Douglas Tallamy has said: “Restoring habitat where we live and work, and to a lesser extent where we farm and graze, will go a long way toward building biological corridors that connect preserved habitat fragments with one another.”

## CONSERVATION@HOME KICKOFF EVENT



An ecologically healthy yard receives a certified sign for the owner to proudly present in their yard.

Mark your calendars! Friday, June 7th the Conservancy hosts its annual C@H kickoff event to showcase one of GLC’s C@H certified properties. Our hostess for the event is Katie Oglesby, Kitchen Garden Designer. *The event includes a tour of Katie Oglesby’s garden as well as refreshments for \$25.*

GLC welcomes Carol Elkins as Conservation Program Manager, to conduct C@H site visits. C@H is an education and recognition program for homeowners to make ecologically-friendly choices in their yard. The program centers around six principles including native plants, stormwater management, yard management, wildlife, phosphorus/chloride reduction, and dark skies/light pollution.

To schedule a Conservation@Home site visit for your property or HOA, visit [genevalakeconservancy.org](http://genevalakeconservancy.org) or email [outreach@genevalakeconservancy.org](mailto:outreach@genevalakeconservancy.org).

## SIGN UP FOR THE KEEP IT BLUE PROGRAM

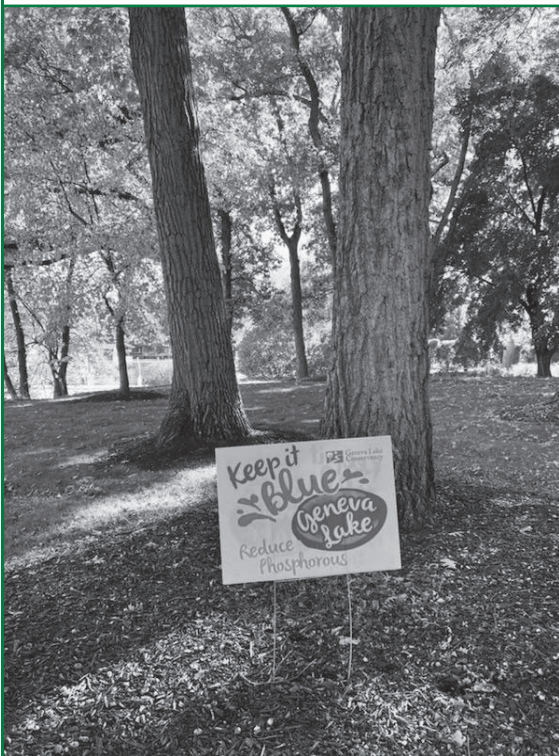
Keep it Blue— a campaign that has been growing in popularity— had its Wisconsin start at Geneva Lake Conservancy in 2023. Since then, fifty landowners have signed the Keep it Blue pledge.

The GLC Keep it Blue program originated as a way to create awareness of the health of local bodies of water and encourage landowners to do their part to care for the Lake. The Conservancy’s Keep it Blue program centers around Geneva Lake. In late 2023, Delavan homeowners expressed interest in the program for Delavan Lake, extending the Conservancy’s Keep it Blue movement.

Over the past few years, the Conservancy has seen a rise in phosphorous and other nutrient levels in the lake, which ultimately leads to algae blooms. Algae blooms can create a harmful environment for humans, aquatic life, and pets. The health of Geneva Lake and its surrounding watershed affects our local environment, our usage of the lake, and enjoyment of the lake. Because of this, it is pertinent we continue to promote this program and encourage other lakes to participate as well.



Kristen Freytag, GLC board member, gives a speech on *Keep it Blue* at Holly Ball in December, 2023.



Keep it Blue signs are displayed in landowners yards to increase the awareness of this program.

To join in the program, landowners sign the Keep it Blue pledge, agreeing to kick the fertilizer and lawn chemical habit, prevent lawn waste from entering the lake and prevent soil erosion on their property by planting native plants. They also agree to not use any soap products on their property that may enter the water, and monitor construction sites near their property. Once a landowner signs the pledge, they receive a free Keep it Blue sign to display on their property. The program is free, and we encourage as many landowners as possible to participate.

The goal of this program to keep our lakes healthy so our local communities and visitors can enjoy the lake . “We urge all of our readers to do their part for the lake and join us in keeping it beautiful and blue,” says Tai Thompson, Community Outreach and Fundraising Manager.

“We all share a great responsibility in protecting the beautiful waters of Geneva Lake. Her watershed is a direct reflection of the choices we make. It is our obligation to ‘Keep it Blue’ and lessen the stresses we put on our precious lake,” said Kristen Freytag, Board Member who brought the program to

the Conservancy.

If you would like to participate in this program, stop by the GLC office at 398 Mill Street, Fontana to sign your pledge and receive your sign, or visit us at [genevalakeconservancy.org](http://genevalakeconservancy.org).

## ANNUAL NATIVE PLANT SALE— Making the environment better one yard at a time.

Pick up Friday, May 10—10 a.m.—4 p.m., in time for Mother's Day on May 12.

How does your garden grow? If you want a garden that will fill your senses with colors and smells year after year, consider planting native perennials. Not only will they come up each year, you will be providing the birds, butterflies and a host of other pollinators with foods they need to survive.

Each year the Geneva Lake Conservancy offers a collection of popular native plants at a great price. As part of the CONSERVATION@HOME program, we want to help promote bird and pollinator-friendly yards by offering NATIVE PLANT KITS that include a selection of five native plants, and come in a decorative basket and serves as a great Mother's Day gift.



Plant kits from GLC's 2021 Native Plant Sale all lined up in their decorative baskets and ready for pick up before Mother's Day.

We are also offering Prairie and Rain gardens that have 64 plants and cover 75-125 square feet.

You don't need a dedicated native garden or large area to be successful in attracting and feeding a variety of songbirds, butterflies, bees and other beneficial pollinators. You can create spaces for eco-friendly plants around your house or among your favorite annuals. These plants are seasonal and many are tall, so they can fill in early spring bare spots or add height and color to the back of your annual garden. **All of these native plants need full or partial sun. Each plant will be a healthy 2 - 3 inches tall and ready to plant. Instructions will be included.**

### NATIVE PLANT SALE ORDER FORM

**NOTE: Due to availability substitutions may occur**

\_\_\_\_\_ **KIT 1**—\$20 includes one of each: Wild Columbine, New England Aster, Pale Purple Coneflower, Wild Bergamot, Black-Eyed Susan.

\_\_\_\_\_ **KIT 2**—\$20 includes one of each: Prairie Coreopsis, Wild Geranium, Smooth Penstemon, Golden Alexander, Purple Prairie Clover.

\_\_\_\_\_ **KIT 3**—\$20 **for butterflies** includes one Common Milkweed, two Butterfly Weed, and two Swamp (Rose) Milkweed.

\_\_\_\_\_ **KIT 4**—\$20 **deer resistant (sunny)** includes one of each: Nodding Onion, Butterfly Weed, Spotted Joe Pye Weed, Wild Bergamot, Smooth Penstemon.

\_\_\_\_\_ **KIT 5**—\$20 **deer resistant (shade)** includes one of each: Wild Columbine, Wild Geranium, Cardinal Flower, Tussock Sedge, Prairie Dropseed.

#### Complete Gardens:

\_\_\_\_\_ **KIT 6**—\$275 **SUNNY RAIN GARDEN** kit that covers 75-125 square feet and includes 64 plants.

\_\_\_\_\_ **KIT 7**—\$275 **PARTIAL SHADE RAIN GARDEN** kit—64 plants that that cover 75-125 square ft

\_\_\_\_\_ **KIT 8**—\$275 **SUNNY PRAIRIE GARDEN**, dry soil kit—64 plants that cover 75-125 square ft

\_\_\_\_\_ **KIT 9**—\$275 **PARTIAL SHADE PRAIRIE GARDEN**, medium to moist soil kit—64 plants that that cover 75-125 square ft

\_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL COST** Pick up will be on Friday, May 10—10 am—4pm, or by appointment. Return this form to GLC, 398 Mill Street, PO Box 588, Fontana WI 53125. You can also order online and find more information via the Conservancy website, [www.genevalakeconservancy.org](http://www.genevalakeconservancy.org).

SCAN TO ORDER  
PLANTS!



# GLC Membership by Categories

For January 1 to December 31, 2023 (new members in green)

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Anonymous  
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Dr. and Mr. William D. Buss II  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Colman  
Peggy and Steve Diamond  
Duck's Unlimited  
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Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation  
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Wagner-Essman Care Foundation  
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**2023  
BY THE  
NUMBERS**

**3,153**

Acres of land protected

**50**

Land protection projects  
completed to date

**2,000**

Native plants sold in our  
2023 plant sale

**300**

Children participated in  
Helen Rohner Children's  
Fishing Park classes

**42**

Healthy Lakes gardens  
planted on Geneva lake  
to reduce phosphorus

**200**

Conservation@Home  
visits completed to date

**Mr. Sean Montgomery**

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We regret any errors.





# EVENT 2024 CALENDAR

[GENEVALAKECONSERVANCY.ORG](http://GENEVALAKECONSERVANCY.ORG)

**APR 12 (FRI)** - Bromley Workday  
Volunteer removal of invasive species at Bromley Preserve, 9 am - noon

**MAY 2 (THU)** - WRCP Teen Environmental Career Day

**MAY 3 (FRI)** - Stevenson Family Land Trust Drop-in Workday to pull garlic mustard

**MAY 10 (FRI)** - Native Plant Sale pickup at the Mill House

**JUN 4 - AUG 23** - Helen Rohner Children's Fishing Park Classes: Fishing Classes (Tuesdays @ 9 & 10 am), Story Time (Thursdays @ 10 am), Nature Classes (Fridays @ 10 am)

**JUNE 7 (FRI)** - Conservation@Home Kickoff with tour of Katie Oglesby Gardens, 4 - 6 pm

**JUNE 14 & 28 (FRI)** - Yoga at the Mill House with Suzette Rowe, 8:30 am

**JUL 5 (FRI)** - Family Day at Helen Rohner Children's Fishing Park, 10 am - noon; Small Nature Photo Contest opens, entry deadline August 12

**JULY 14 (SUN)** - Fontana Centennial & Garden Walk, featuring the Mill House Gardens, 10 am - 4 pm

**JULY 19** - Photography Day at Helen Rohner Children's Fishing Park; Photography for kids during the Nature Class, adult class in the evening, 5 - 6 pm

For Information & Event Registration Visit Online or Call 262-275-5700



**JUL 25 (THU)** - Summer Celebration at Yerkes Observatory with speaker Doug Tallamy

**AUG 1 (THU)** - Heritage Oak Contest & Oak Tree Sales begin Aug 1

**AUG 2 (FRI)** - Family Education day at White River County Park, Raptor presentation, 10 - 11:30 am

**AUG 22 (THU)** - Small Nature Photo Contest reception at Green Grocer, 5 pm

**AUG 23 (FRI)** - National Resources Foundation Fieldtrip at Anglin Family Nature Preserve, Lake Ivanhoe; Join a hike around the lake with NRF and GLC

**SEP 06 (FRI)** - Autumn Gathering at Colman Woods with speaker Dan Egan

**SEP 28 (SAT)** - Hackmatack Seed Picking, Join GLC and Kettle Moraine Land Trust volunteers to pick seeds at Wisconsin's Hackmatack Turner Tract preserve near Genoa City, 10 am - noon

**OCT 11 (FRI)** - Cimeley Preserve Hike, Guided nature walk at Cimeley Preserve



**OCT 18 & 19 (FRI, SAT)** - Anglin Family Nature Preserve Workday; Join GLC to restore areas of the Preserve

**OCT 25 (FRI)** - WRCP Workday; Volunteer removal of invasive species at White River County Park, 9 am - noon

**NOV 8 (FRI)** - Anglin Family Nature Preserve Workday; Join GLC to restore areas of the Preserve

**NOV 15 (FRI)** - Bromley Woods Workday with hike to follow

**DEC 7 (SAT)** - Holly Ball; GLC's special holiday gala with dinner, dancing and silent auction

**DEC 14 (SAT)** - GLC Annual Meeting; Public invited for year-end celebration, awards, presentations, etc., 10 am

**DEC 21 (SAT)** - Winter Solstice Celebration at White River County Park



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## PRESERVE HIKING TOURS IN 2024

We invite our members and guests to visit one of our preserves. Each of the preserves offer unique hiking experiences, great wildlife viewing, and exceptional beauty. Several of these preserves were donated to the Conservancy as a way to conserve and protect the land, ensuring it will never be subdivided. The preserves that can be scheduled for a hike include Cimeley Woods Preserve, Bromley Woods, Wallace E. Zabler Preserve, Hansen Preserve, and Hermansen Woods.

Special hikes can be scheduled for outings, events, meetings, and more. Or join in on one of our 2024 hikes below by signing up on our website.



A picture of Sugar Creek that runs through Hansen Preserve. Hansen Preserve is a 77-acre property owned by the Conservancy in Elkhorn.

### Scheduled preserve hikes for 2024:

**Friday, August 23rd—Natural Resource Foundation Lake Ivanhoe field trip**

**Friday, October 11th—Guided Nature Walk at Cimeley Preserve**

**Friday, November 15th—Bromley Woods Workday and Hike**

## VILLAGE OF FONTANA SUPPORTS RAIN BARREL PROGRAM

The Conservancy is pleased to announce the new Rain Barrel program supported by the Village of Fontana. Rain barrels are a great way to capture roof runoff, conserve water, and lower water bills.

Order your rain barrel today! Scan the QR code to the right to order. Rain barrel pickup is May 10th from 10 AM– 2 PM at the Mill House during our Native Plant sale. The Conservancy's Native Plant Sale information and order form are on page 4.



## FONTANA GARDEN CLUB EVENT SET FOR JULY 14



On July 14th, the Fontana Garden Club is hosting a Historic Conservation Garden Walk. The Walk will consist of several stops throughout Fontana to view a variety of beautiful gardens. One of these stops is at GLC's Mill House Native Plant Preserve to tour the nine different native gardens around the property.

The start of the Garden Walk will be at Reid Park pavilion in Fontana, where Roy Diblik will make a short presentation. The Walk will run from 10 AM— 4 PM. For tickets, visit the Coffee Mill after mid-May or the Fontana Garden Club Garden Fair on Saturday, May 25th at Pearce's Farm Stand. The Conservancy staff looks forward to greeting guests at the Walk!

## HELEN ROHNER CHILDREN'S FISHING PARK SUMMER ACTIVITIES



Helen Rohner Children's Fishing Park classes start up on Tuesday, June 4th. The Park offers fishing classes, story times, and nature classes. Check out the schedule below for summer classes.

- Tuesdays: **Fishing Classes** @ Williams Bay Municipal Pier— 9 AM & 10 AM (Recommended ages: 4-12)
- Thursdays: **Story Time** @ Helen Rohner Park under the Walnut Tree— 10 AM (Recommended ages 2-10)
- Fridays: **Nature Classes** @ Helen Rohner Park White Barn— 10 AM—11 AM (Recommended ages 4-12)

Sign up for fishing and nature classes at [genevalakeconservancy.org](http://genevalakeconservancy.org) or call 262-275-5700. Story time does not require sign up. All classes are free. Helen Rohner Children's Fishing Park is located at 159 Elkhorn Road, Williams Bay.



Kids enjoy fishing on the pier while learning how to safely catch and release.

## JOIN GLC'S KID'S CLUB

In June GLC will launch the Kid's Club for Helen Rohner Children's Fishing Park. The Kids Club gives participating children the opportunity to receive a fun newsletter June through September with activities, Kid's Club shirt, and a free native plant to put in their yard. Please sign up by June 15.



The recommended ages for Kid's Club is 4-10. To sign up visit [genevalakeconservancy.org](http://genevalakeconservancy.org) or email [outreach@genevalakeconservancy.org](mailto:outreach@genevalakeconservancy.org) with questions.

## PHOTO CONTEST DEADLINE IS AUGUST 8

The kickoff for the **Small Nature Photo contest** is July 5th, however participants can start taking photos for the contest now! This contest is judged in three age ranges: 4-12, 13-21, and 22+. There are three winners for every age range with cash prizes. Photos must be unedited and taken at Helen Rohner Children's Fishing Park or Kishwauketoe Nature Conservancy. The focus for this contest is on small nature— think insects, textures, and leaves!



Join GLC for a Small Nature Photo contest reception August 22nd with refreshments and judge's comments at Green Grocer.



The photographs to the left are the first place winners of the 2023 Small Nature Photography contest. From left to right: Eleanore O'Donell, age 8, Tabitha Schaffer, age 11, and David Deis, Adult category.

Photo credit: Page 1 of Connections features a photo from Eleanore O'Donell, multi-winner of the contest.

## FOCUS GROUPS SCHEDULED TO COMPLETE GENEVA LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2024

This year the Geneva Lake Conservancy will be wrapping up the activities needed to complete the Geneva Lake Management Plan Update 2024 by hosting focus groups and completing a second year of counting boat traffic on Geneva Lake.

Two focus groups led by a UW Extension facilitator Eric Olson are planned for May 20 and May 21. The focus groups will concentrate on two issues of most concern to those who responded to a lake-wide survey in 2023. Those issues were water quality and boat traffic, including wakeboarding.

“The goal of the focus groups will be to bring people together on both sides of these issues to agree on solutions,” said Tom Nickols, GLC Vice Chair and Co-Chair of the Water Alliance for Preserving Geneva Lake.

The Conservancy will also count boat traffic by using drone technology. The counts will be taken during periods of traditionally high and low boat traffic and compared to boat counts of previous years. Most of the other studies and activities required for the Management Plan Update have been completed.

The Conservancy’s partners in gathering the data needed to update the plan include the Geneva Lake Environmental Association, Geneva Lake Association, Walworth County Conservation Office, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, UW-Whitewater, U. S. Geological Survey and the five municipalities that surround Geneva Lake.

The Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (SEWRPC) is also gathering data and will draft the final report, which will feature recommendations on how to protect the lake’s ecological health and recreational uses in the years ahead.

After the report is completed in late 2024, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will provide a 30-day period for the public to comment on the report. The WDNR comment period will be posted on the Conservancy’s Website and all stakeholders in the watershed will be notified via postcard.

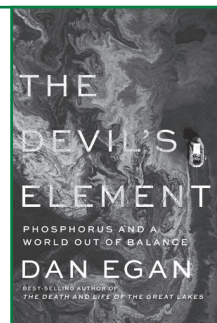
If you are interested in being a part of a Focus Group, please email [cps@genevalakeconservancy.org](mailto:cps@genevalakeconservancy.org).



A picture of Geneva Lake from Williams Bay pier on an Autumn day.

## DAN EGAN TO SPEAK AT GLC EVENT

Mark your calendars for September when the Conservancy has invited Dan Egan, author of “The Devil’s Element” and “The Death and Life of the Great Lakes” to talk about the impact of phosphorus on lakes and waterways and the future solutions to the problems it creates. The event will be held at Colman Woods, the spectacular boathouse of Charles and Dianna Colman and feature a wonderful catering by Celebrations.





# Geneva Lake Conservancy

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## SAVE THE DATES

# 2024 EVENTS

### SUMMER CELEBRATION 07/25

At Yerkes Observatory with speaker Doug Tallamy

### AUTUMN EVENT 09/06

At Colman Woods with speaker Dan Egan

### HOLLY BALL 12/07

Holiday gala with dinner, dancing and silent auction

### ANNUAL MEETING 12/14

Public invited for the year-end celebration & presentations



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