

Fall/Winter 2025



viewshed

: the natural environment that is visible from one or more view points

INSIDE:

Saving a Mountain | Expanding Connected Lands | A Family's Legacy
The Next Generation of Philanthropists | Summer Events Wrap-up

Protecting the Land that Protects the Lake since 1988.

The **Lake George Land Conservancy** is an accredited nonprofit land trust dedicated to working with willing landowners and other partners to protect land that protects the world-renowned water quality of Lake George and the natural resources of the Lake George watershed.

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Cover Photo: Overlooking Jabe Pond to Lake George beyond, by Carl Heilman, II/ Wild Visions, Inc.

Photos used in viewshed are by LGLC staff unless otherwise noted.

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@HikeLakeGeorge



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

One of the many things I love about Lake George is the rhythm of life that comes with our distinct seasons. In winter, the lake rests under quiet, dark nights. Spring awakens with a rising chorus of peepers and a fresh bright green adorning our forests. Summer mornings carry the haunting call of a loon before the morning mist lifts to reveal the beautiful mountains and clear waters that define Lake George.

As fall arrives with cooler air and shorter days, I find myself reflecting with gratitude upon the incredible summer season we have just concluded. In particular, I am grateful for the outpouring of community support for our 2025 Land Campaign.

The LGLC had record attendance at our events throughout the summer. I enjoyed countless conversations with people eager to hear about our land protection projects. This included longtime supporters of our work, folks just learning about us for the first time, high school students, and more.

The LGLC often measures its accomplishments in acres of important natural land protected. Indeed, we are proud to report that we completed the acquisition of the 517-acre Pilot Knob Mountain parcel, which you can read more about on the following pages. The real impact of that acquisition is the protection of water quality, interconnected natural habitat, and the incredible beauty of the ridgeline. We are on schedule to permanently protect another 400 acres of land in the months ahead.

Perhaps it is cliché, but it is absolutely true: we can only achieve these outcomes with the generous support of those who love Lake George and want to see it protected for future generations.

Thank you for your support!



Michael Horn
Executive Director

Saving a Mountain

How a community came together to raise more than \$9 million to protect the land that protects the lake.



The LGLC's 2025 Land Campaign culminated on August 1 at our annual Gala, where Executive Director Michael Horn announced that we'd reached our Campaign goal, and had purchased the 517-acre Pilot Knob Mountain just three days prior.

The Gala's 300 guests helped to celebrate what was our largest capital campaign in LGLC history, raising \$9 million to protect more than 1,200 acres of forested land throughout the Lake George watershed.

Pilot Knob Mountain's acquisition was a keystone project in the 2025 Land Campaign. The \$3.8-million purchase includes Pilot Knob's prominent 2,159-foot summit and ridge-line. With 1.6 miles of streams that ultimately flow into Kattskill Bay, this land is incredibly important for protecting the water quality of Lake George.

The land is close to the LGLC's Schumann Preserve at Pilot Knob, and sits just south of Buck Mountain, sharing more than 1.6 miles of its border with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) Wild Forest.

In addition to Pilot Knob Mountain, the Campaign included the protection of more than 700 acres in the Indian Brook and Northwest Bay area of

Bolton. Together, these Bolton properties have 1.2 miles of streams and more than 26 acres of wetlands and ponds that are critical to maintaining Lake George's exceptional water quality.

The LGLC purchased one of the properties, named Sundew Pond, on April 22. This 207-acre parcel has a large wetland and pond that supports a healthy, diverse plant ecosystem, including carnivorous sundew and pitcher plants.

Several of the other Bolton projects are under contract, and we expect to complete those purchases this fall and early next year (see page 6).

Thanks to the successful completion of the Land Campaign, these projects are fully funded and we will be able to move forward on their purchases as soon as all parties involved are ready.

Community of Support

The 2025 Land Campaign would not have been successful without the generosity of individual donors and our community partners.

Situated directly across the lake from Pilot Knob Mountain, the Lake George Club hosted a special dinner and wine pairing with proceeds benefiting the LGLC, and helped to promote the Campaign to its members.

Nearly 150 people joined us for the LGLC Summer Solstice Luau party June 20, in support of the 2025 Campaign. The event, which is run by the LGLC's Next Generation Committee, was held at YMCA Camp Chingachgook, just down the road from Pilot Knob Mountain in Fort Ann. While enjoying food, live music, and the gorgeous waterfront location, guests

continued, page 6

Left: Pilot Knob Mountain's summit and mountainside, seen here from neighboring NYS DEC land, are now permanently protected as part of the LGLC's Land Campaign.

Right: The Sundew Pond property, permanently protected in April, contains wetlands and ponds that provide important habitat for a variety of wildlife and aquatic plants like this water shield.



learned more about the Campaign projects and how they could get involved.

The Pilot Knob Mountain project inspired the graduating class of Lake George Jr./Sr. High School to choose the LGLC as the recipient of their year-end donation. We were honored to receive this meaningful gift from this next generation of leaders and conservationists (see page 15).

The Campaign also generated interest from community groups such as the Lake Stewardship Group of Cleverdale. LGLC Executive Director Mike Horn was an invited speaker at their annual social, September 14, to talk about our work and meet their members, many of whom had supported the Campaign.

Our sincere thanks to all who participated in the Campaign by donating, spreading the word, learning more, and being a part of its success.



The Lake George Club helped to promote the 2025 Land Campaign and hosted a benefit dinner for the LGLC.

DID YOU KNOW?

The majority of the water in Lake George comes directly off the land in the watershed through streams. Over 141 streams flow into Lake George, making up 57% of the water that enters the lake.

Stream Corridor: the stream, its floodplains, and a transitional upland (vegetated buffers)

Stream corridors are complex ecosystems that include the land, plants, animals, and network of streams within them.

By protecting land that contains significant stream corridors, we can allow that land to continue doing what it does best—naturally filter and control the quantity and quality of the millions of gallons of water that flow into Lake George.

Wetlands are also critical to protecting water quality. They provide a natural filtration system, slowing stormwater and runoff, and absorbing potentially damaging pollutants before the water reaches the main stream or larger waterbody.

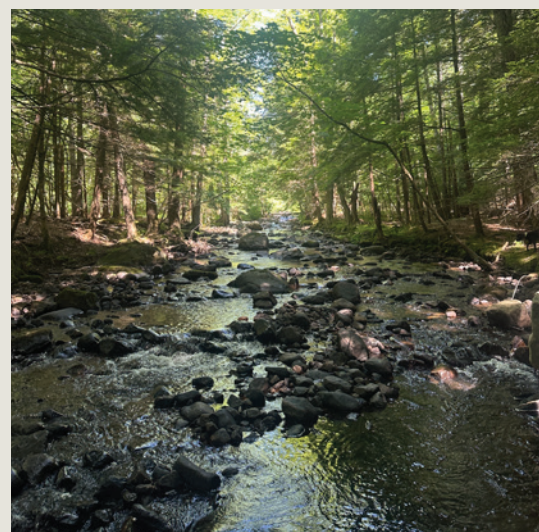
2025 Land Campaign: Bolton

The 2025 Land Campaign included multiple conservation projects within the Town of Bolton. Two of those properties are currently under contract and are expected to be completed this fall and winter.

The **Wing Pond Addition** is a 192-acre property that shares 2,399 feet of boundary with LGLC-owned Wing Pond Preserve and 776 feet along NYS DEC-owned land. The Wing Pond Addition has more than 1,000 feet of stream corridor and about 3 acres of wetlands, which are critical to protecting water quality. Its stream flows into the recently protected Sundew Pond Preserve.

The 53-acre **Federal Hill Forest** property shares a significant length of its boundary with the LGLC's Sundew Pond Preserve, and contains about 3 acres of wetlands and 800 feet of streams that feed into Indian Brook.

In addition to protecting water quality, these purchases will provide an even greater expanse of contiguous habitat necessary for our native terrestrial and aquatic wildlife to thrive. Land connectivity is also important for whole ecosystem health and vitality, allowing forests, streams, and other freshwater resources to interact uninterrupted for maximum water quality benefits.



Expanding Connected Lands

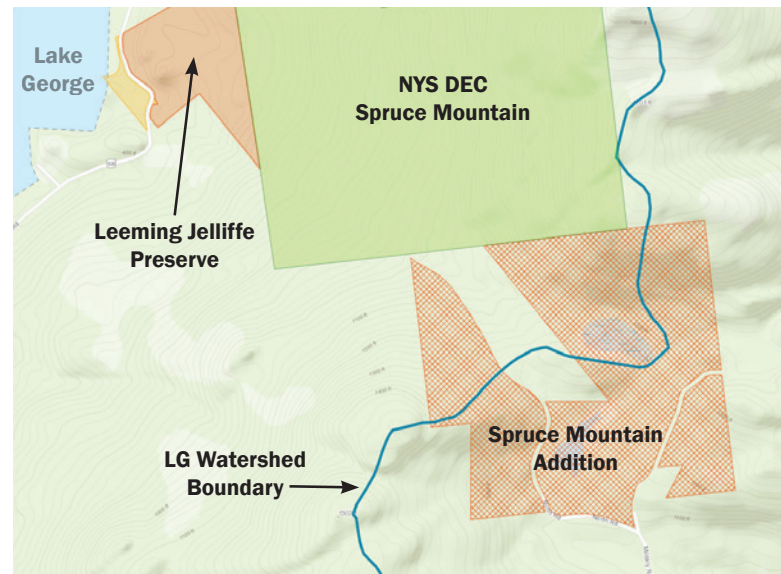
The LGLC is under contract to purchase 144 acres in the Town of Dresden, Washington County, adjacent to Spruce Mountain, a 366-acre parcel owned by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC). The **Spruce Mountain Addition** contains more than 1,100 feet of stream corridor, including the headwaters of an unnamed tributary that flows into Lake George by the LGLC's Leeming Jelliffe Preserve in Huletts Landing.

We are also under contract to purchase a 26-acre parcel in the Town of Bolton that shares two sides with the 213-acre Twin Pines Uplands, protected by the LGLC in 2019. Twin Pines, itself, abuts the 1,900-acre NYS DEC Cat and Thomas Mountains Preserve. The **Twin Pines Addition** contains about 1 acre of wetland and more than 500 feet of streams that flow into a large wetland at the mouth of Trout Lake.

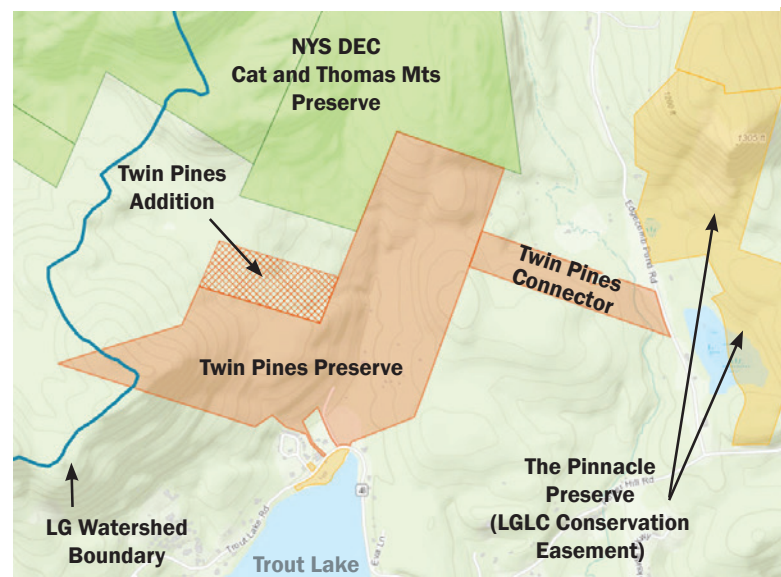
Both of these conservation projects directly protect water quality by permanently protecting significant lengths of streams that flow into Lake George. By adding to existing protected lands, they also benefit wildlife that rely on unbroken habitats.

Contiguous blocks of land are essential for “wildlife corridors,” or pathways for animals, particularly larger mammals such as bears, moose, bobcats and fishers. These corridors allow animals to travel the long distances required to survive without being exposed to dangers and obstructions such as roads and development.

SPRUCE MOUNTAIN ADDITION, DRESDEN



TWIN PINES ADDITION, BOLTON LANDING



Streamfront Protected in Hague

This summer, the LGLC permanently protected 0.75 acres in the Town of Hague. The property includes nearly 300 feet of an unnamed tributary and associated floodplain, and connects to other lands the LGLC has already protected with a conservation easement to the south.

The seller, Sandy Radke, contacted the LGLC and expressed a desire to see the property protected for its water quality and habitat benefits.

“Although I now live in Australia,” said Sandy, “my connection with Lake George is, like the lake, long and deep. I am thrilled that my small parcel of land is now within the LGLC landscape.”

Under LGLC ownership, the land will remain undeveloped and will be actively stewarded to maintain and enhance its habitat and water quality values.

Trail Cameras Show Diversity on Protected Lands

One of the great benefits of land conservation is the protection of animal habitat, which supports a diverse population of wildlife. Watching that wildlife is also one of the most fun resulting activities!



Trail cam videos of wildlife, like this coyote, provide important glimpses into their behaviors and ways they use the land.

The LGLC has several trail cameras (trail cams) to help us know what animals are using our preserves and how. These trail cams have captured still images and videos of bobcat, coyote, fox, fisher, and deer, as well as smaller critters like squirrels and songbirds.

The best of these videos are posted on the LGLC's YouTube channel so you can enjoy them, too! Find us at [youtube.com/@LGLandConservancy](https://www.youtube.com/@LGLandConservancy) and look for our Trail Cam Videos playlist.

We also share our videos with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for their Snapshot NY program, a community-powered trail camera project studying wildlife in NY. Visit [snapshotny.org](https://www.snapshotny.org) to see other images that have been shared, learn more about the program, and how you can get involved!

Beech Leaf Disease

A new invasive forest pest is making its way around the Lake George watershed, posing a significant threat to American beech (*Fagus grandifolia*) and all species of beech. Beech leaf disease (BLD) is caused by a microscopic nematode called *Litylenchus crenatae* ssp. *Mccannii* (LCM), that infests the buds and leaves of beech trees and can cause mortality in 2 to 10 years. In 2012, the first finding of BLD occurred in Lake County, Ohio. Since then, it has spread from Michigan to Canada, Maine and south to Virginia.

Symptoms of BLD can be identified by dark interveinal banding on the leaves, which are visible as soon as the leaves emerge in the spring. Severely infested trees have shrunk, leathery leaves and dieback throughout the tree. There are still many unknowns about BLD and how it spreads, but researchers are working to provide a better understanding of the forest pest.

The loss of American beech could have significant impacts on forests around Lake George that are commonly dominated by beech in many areas. This impact goes beyond Lake George and could change the species composition of northern hardwood forests and cause a loss of beech nuts, a valuable food source for wildlife.

The LGLC is currently monitoring all of our lands for BLD and collecting data to understand how the disease is spreading, as well as how quickly the infestations are growing and causing dieback in our forests.

At this time, there are no known treatment strategies available at the forest scale. However, we are working alongside partners like the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) to share data and learn from experts as they continue their research and develop forest-wide management strategies to hopefully mitigate the severe impacts of BLD.



The tell-tale banding of leaves seen here are caused by beech leaf disease.

LEARN MORE: Visit adkinvasives.com for more information from APIPP about BLD and how to get involved, including trainings, reporting tools, and best management practices.





A Family's Legacy

On July 29, members of the Lawrence family and other invited guests joined together at the Schumann Preserve at Pilot Knob for a ribbon cutting and dedication of the new gazebo as the Teresa M. and George E. Lawrence Memorial Gazebo.

The gazebo's construction, as well as related trail improvements, was completed mid-July, after years of planning and fundraising. The gazebo's name gives tribute to George and Teresa Lawrence, whose love of Lake George left a powerful, lasting impact on their children and grandchildren.

During the dedication, their daughter, Loretta Lawrence Keane, and granddaughter Katy, spoke about their family's history with the lake and preserve.

"The Lawrence family vacation in 1964 was the first my sister, brother, and I can remember," said Loretta. "Our parents—Teresa and George—who had been to Lake George in the 1940s, took us and our grandmother for a week-long trip. Who knew that vacation would become a tradition lasting more than 60 years (and counting)? Who knew we would come to count dozens of people as our lake family?"

"Today," she continued, "the Teresa M. and George E. Lawrence Memorial Gazebo is being dedicated in recognition of the lifetime of memories our mother and father—grandmother and grandfather—created for their family and



Top: The gazebo's ribbon cutting was overseen by the Adirondack and Lake George Regional Chambers of Commerce on July 29. Above: Members of the Lawrence family. Loretta Lawrence Keane is third from right, behind her is her brother George Lawrence, and sister Linda Pallis second from right. Photos by Janice Prichett.

friends. This is now a place of their own, on their favorite mountains, overlooking their favorite lake, Lake George."

The gazebo's reconstruction was made possible by a community of supporters, particularly the Lawrence family, The Makowski Trust, Boats by George, Steve and Dee Haraden, Anne and George Morris, CDPHP, Adirondack Pub and Brewery, and many others. Thank you! We also thank the Lake George Regional Chamber of Commerce and the Adirondack Regional Chamber of Commerce for celebrating with us.

Learn more about the project and the preserve's history at LGLC.org/gazebo.



2025 Rowan and Apperson Honorees

The LGLC celebrated three honorees during its 12th annual President's Reception, held Thursday, August 21. The event was hosted by the family of Harold and Elizabeth Bixby, and attended by the LGLC's top donors and supporters of 2025.

The LGLC's Rowan Award is given annually to recognize individuals for their conservation efforts around Lake George, following the spirit of its namesake, Henry M. Rowan. Rowan's daughter, Ginny Rowan Smith, who is also a member of the LGLC Advisory Board and director emeritus, presented the 2025 Rowan Award to Jeff Brozyna (pictured at left, with LGLC Board President Paul Bell).



Jeff served on the LGLC Board of Directors for 12 years, including as Vice President of Development (2012-2022), and President (2022-2023). In 2021, Jeff volunteered as interim executive director, bringing a steady hand to the organization at a time of great change. He continues to serve as an Advisory Board member.

Apperson Society medals were awarded to George Singer (posthumously, received by members of his family—see next page), and to Peg Olsen (pictured at left, with Paul Bell) each of whom exemplified John Apperson's passionate land conservation efforts through the donation of leadership gifts valuing \$100,000 or greater to support land conservation in the Lake George watershed.

Visit [LGLC.org/news](https://www.lglc.org/news) to read more about this and our new board members!

Meet the New Board Members

Paul Krump, Peg Olsen, and Lisa Stromberg have joined the LGLC Board of Directors. Each have unique experience and expertise that will be immensely valuable to the LGLC, and we are deeply grateful for their volunteer service on the Board.

A resident of Lake George, Paul Krump retired in 2023 following a distinguished 40+ year career with Chubb Corp., where he served in numerous roles including Chief Operating Officer, and most recently as Vice Chairman of Chubb, Ltd. His board experience includes serving as a trustee of Saint John's University, and as a current board member of Malta Human Services Foundation and Brown & Brown.

A life-long lover of Lake George, Lisa Stromberg and her husband Bill built a summer home in Northwest Bay. Lisa's background is in education, and has supported and fostered the transformational power of education through her volunteer board work in a variety of roles, most recently as the Chair of the Board of Trustees at Goucher College, her alma mater, where she continues to serve as a trustee.

Peg Olsen is returning to the board, having served from 1989–2004 and again from 2018–2023. Peg has multigenerational ties to Lake George and still lives in her family home at the foot of Anthony's Nose in Glenburnie. Peg is the Adirondack Director of The Nature Conservancy, and she co-leads New York's Indigenous Partnerships Program.



Top: Paul Krump; Above: Lisa Stromberg

Rob Singer received the Apperson Society medal on behalf of his father, George C. Singer, along with his sister, Meg, and several grandchildren (pictured). In his acceptance speech, Rob read the following from his father's diary, written when George was 18 years old:

“For some reason I got to thinking about the day Gloria [who later became his wife] and I took a hike up Rogers Rock when we were up there before graduation day. ... The trail is really an old abandoned wagon road. ... As we followed its lazy, winding course up the mountain, it plunged deep into the thick woods, at times obscured by overhanging trees. However, there was a spot about a third of the way up that was like a postcard picture. The trees fell away, and we could see down the gently sloping hill to the lake. Behind us, a large shelf of rock rose up as a shelter place. As we paused there for a minute, seating ourselves on a handy rock on the side, the sun, almost high, crept through the broken crisscross fence that some farmers had erected in times past to keep big horses from plunging over the edge. Everything seemed so alive and vibrant, the wild grass and flowers starting to hide the bottom of the fence from view. ...

It was the most beautiful few minutes I had ever spent. I realized then how Thoreau and the rest of his ilk found the answer to enjoy cravings of their hearts in the solitude of nature. If we could best put aside all this stuff that we think so necessary for life in our present civilization and see this world as it really is through being at peace with ourselves, the troubles of the world for the individual would be solved.”

George C. Singer, June 24, 1945



PEOPLE OF THE LAND | The Songs of Tedd Browne

By Jeff Brozyna, LGLC Advisory Board

Land preservation at Lake George begins with a person's sense of place and love for the lake. In 1963 a traveling African American folk singer and song writer named Tedd Browne arrived in Lake George Village. He captivated young audiences with songs about the region's history, legends and traditions. His music instilled a sense of place and love for the lake in the hearts of many who heard it.

Tedd Browne was born in South Carolina in 1923 and grew up in Savannah, Georgia. After attending school, and a stint in the US Navy, he worked several service industry jobs until his musical abilities were discovered. Money was tight as Tedd worked to support his wife Inez and their three sons. While working as a dishwasher, he was pressed into service as a singer and his deep, rich, melodious voice quickly gained a following.

Through hard work he developed proficiency in a wide range of musical genres, including calypso, spirituals, and folk music. By the late 1950s he was touring throughout the east coast, appearing at coffee houses and college campuses where he sang and played his guitar. In 1963 he was performing in New York's Greenwich Village. It was there he met Shirley Caple who was the owner of the Cosmic Coffee House in Lake George Village.

Shirley was attracted to both Tedd's voice and the historic content of many of his songs. Tedd was intrigued with Shirley's Lake George stories and agreed to perform here during the summer. He quickly gained a local following among young people who

eagerly listened to the songs he wrote about their lake's legends and history. He and Shirley saw the opportunity for a new record album, so Tedd agreed to return to the lake in 1964. Tedd's following grew, but how would they scrape the money together to record a new music album?

Shirley helped line up some investors, a recording facility and respected musicians to play background. However, the support of local retailers was needed. They met with Robert (Bob) Flacke, Sr. who was then President of the Fort William Henry Corporation and President of the Lake George Chamber of Commerce. He provided Tedd historic research materials and encouraged local retailers to sell the album when completed.

Bob's daughter Nancy Reuss remembers her father saying, Tedd was "a conscientious young man who deserved to be helped." And so, "The Lake George Musical Portrait" was born.

Fortunately, the timing of the album's release in 1964 was good. Tedd's songs with historic content were in keeping with several popular historic ballets of the early 1960s like the theme song to the movie "The Alamo" and the "Battle of New Orleans." During 1964 and 1965, Tedd sang his Lake George music to eager audiences at colleges, high schools and even junior high schools across the region.

Tedd's song "Islands" highlighted the natural beauty of the Narrows. He imagined the islands as a flotilla of boats passing over the lake and sang about the islands' folktales. The



Tedd Browne in his younger days. Portrait drawing by Marcie L. Brozyna, 2025.

story of how the lake was named was told in "Father Jogues." The boldness and cleverness of rugged leaders like Robert Rogers and Ethan Allen were commemorated in songs like "Rogers Slide" and "Ethan Allen." The wisdom and bravery of Mohawk leader King Hendrick was chronicled in "Fort William Henry." The power of the French and their leader Samuel de Champlain was told in the song "Fort Ticonderoga."

The stories of hard-working miners, lumberjacks and sailors were remembered in "The Lumberjack", "Barton Mines" and "Lake George Steamboats." The excitement felt by young people encountering the Lake George night life in the early 1960s was captured in the catchy lyrics of "Holiday."

Tedd was in demand as a performer, and a fan club was even established. However, by the end of 1965, the world was changing and so was Lake George.

The late 1960s became a time of social

change, turmoil and activism. These changes were reflected in Tedd's music. Tedd left Lake George for the mid-west.

The Civil Rights movement had seldom been reflected in Tedd's prior music except for his tribute to the abolitionist John Brown. However, during the mid-1960s Tedd began playing at Civil Rights and political events and frequently appeared on TV across the country.

His music was gaining national recognition when tragedy struck. Following a Cleveland Heights, Ohio church service in July 1968, Tedd's life was snuffed out by a racist act of violence. It seemed his music would fade from memory.

However, those touched by Tedd's music in Lake George would not let his music die. In 2008 Schenectady

folk singer Mark Mazzacua and others worked to digitally remaster and release "Lake George Musical Portrait" as a CD. I purchased it because it revived fond personal memories of Tedd's recordings being played around Lake George in the early 1970s. So did Lake George Town and Village historian Margy Mannix, who recalls her father took her to hear Tedd sing in 1965 so she could learn more about the lake, its land and people.

Today, Tedd's music is remembered fondly by many supporters and donors of the Lake George Land Conservancy who were here in those days. It has become part of their Lake George tradition.



Jeff Brozyna is long-time student of area history and past President of the LGLC Board of Directors.

SOURCES:

Tisha Dolton, "Tedd Browne & His Lake George Legacy", posted May 28, 2021, <https://www.folklifecenter.com/post/tedd-browne-his-lake-george-legacy>, accessed Aug. 27, 2024.

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The islands in the Narrows inspired Tedd Browne's song, "Islands." Photo by Luke Dow Photography.

SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT

We welcome the following new LGLC supporters! These individuals and businesses gave their first support to the LGLC between **May 1 - September 1, 2025**, including tribute gifts made in memory or in honor of someone or a special occasion.

Anonymous (2)	Sara Deering	Richard and Wendy LeFebvre
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Libby and Tom	Sean Dunleavy	Gretchen and Steve Lovering
Alison Aaron	Eisenberg Family Foundation	Dennis and Tricia MacElroy
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Nate Button	Phoebe Hughes and James White	Wayne Richter and Monica Raveret
Robert and Diane Camardello	Tamara Jacobi and Walter Wright	Richter
Krista Camarota	Laura Theresa Jensen	Jennifer Roca
Christine Caputo	Robert Jensen	Gary and Annette Rodefald
Mary Beth Carroll	Timothy Jensen	Stephen Rodman
Gerald Carruthers	Chris and Jenn Johnson	Christine W. Ross
Ken and Cheryl Catanella	Tanner Jones	Fred and Sheri Rubin
Marissa Chaffee	Christina Kaidas and Jason Henderson	Rory Russell
The Chamberlin Sisters	Beverly Karch and Elizabeth Randal	Mr. and Mrs. Paul Safran
April M. Chase	Larry Kaufman and Melody Marcus	Melissa Safran
Gary and Pamela Chase	Lianna Kendig	James Sawtelle
Lisa Christensen	Annie Kinderman	Kurt and Barbara Schagen
Elizabeth and Steven Cowell Charitable	Eli Z. Kramer	Jonathan and Amy Schutze
Giving Fund	Sarah Gallant Kurita	Wayne Scoville
Clark and Lynne Curtis	The Laico Family	Jonathan Sefcik and Sarah Etkin
Claire Cygan, The Barclay Prize for	Lake George Club	Ray and Maria Selvaggio
Philanthropy	Lake George Jr/Sr High School, Class of	Tim Shea
Tatiana De Luna-Evans	2025	Patrick Shields
Stephen Decker	Denise and Shawn Lamouree	Elizabeth Sieber

New Donors, continued

Silver Cannabis Company
Beth Simon
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Mark Stevens
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Richard and Diana Straut
Robert Terwilliger
Esther Thornton
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David Vincent
Susan Minick Vonsild
John Wagner
Lois Walsh
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Ethan Waters
Jonathan Waters
Ms. Watson

John Weldon and Sitzmarker Ski Club
Karen and Richard Wilburn
Marissa Williams
Selene Wolf
Joel and Becca Wright
Karissa Wright
George Yund and Kathy Leyden
Jessica Zhen
Jerry Zimmer

Next Generation of Philanthropists

Each year the Lake George High School's (LGHS) graduating class collectively decides the recipient of their remaining class funds, supplemented by donations from classmates during the graduation ceremony. The LGHS Class of 2025, guided by the 2025 Senior Honor Group (top 10%), selected the LGLC, with a particular focus on the current campaign to protect the land on and around Pilot Knob Mountain.

Sophia Kassal, representing the Class of 2025 Senior Honor Group, eloquently articulated the significance of protecting Lake George during a speech at the graduation ceremony. Kassal underscored that this act of donating their remaining funds to the LGLC's worthy projects would ensure future generations can continue to enjoy the lake and its beautiful mountains.

Reflecting on the foresight and long-term significance of the gift, Lake George Jr.-Sr. High School Principal Francis Cocozza said, "This year's choice powerfully reinforces that Lake George is central to our community's identity and that our youth deeply understand and appreciate the vital importance of its future protection."



Members of the Lake George High School class of 2025 at graduation.



Claire Cygan, 2025 recipient of the Glens Falls High School Barclay Prize.

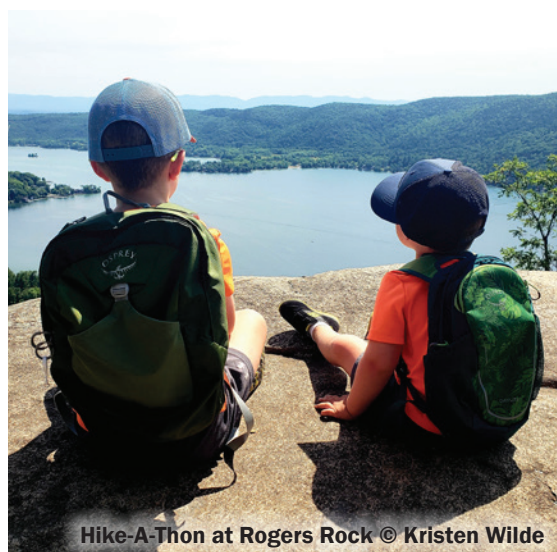
The Barclay Prize acknowledges a Glens Falls High School graduating senior who celebrates the team more than the individual. The winner of this annual Prize receives a college scholarship and is asked to "contribute a significant portion of the Prize award to a charitable cause or purpose of the Prize-winner's own choosing." 2025 recipient Claire Cygan chose to donate to the LGLC.

"I've always felt really connected to Lake George and the surrounding region," Claire explained. "I grew up hiking the trails, swimming in the lake, and spending so much of my time completely immersed in the outdoors. Those experiences shaped not only my love for the area, but also my desire to protect it. As I've gotten older, I've continued to look for ways to turn that passion into meaningful service, and it's only made me more certain that conservation is what I want to dedicate my life to. It feels like a natural extension of who I am and what I've always cared about."

Currently a freshman at SUNY ESF, Claire is pursuing a degree in wildlife science and environmental studies in hopes of working in the field of environmental/wildlife conservation.



HIKE-A-THON, JULY 5 From French Mountain in Lake George to Cook Mountain in Ticonderoga, more than 700 people were out on the trails and on the water for this year's Hike-A-Thon. Our 25 hosted hikes and paddles, combined with virtual locations, provided opportunities for everyone to participate in their own way. Hundreds also joined us at the After Party, held at the Charles R. Wood Festival Commons in the Village of Lake George, for live music, food, and activities. Thank you to our many generous business sponsors, and to those individuals who chose to donate during our Hike-A-Thon fundraising challenge. Congratulations to Christine McKee who raised the most and earned a seat in the event's helicopter! For more pictures visit <https://lakegeorgehikeathon.org>.



Hike-A-Thon at Rogers Rock © Kristen Wilde



Hike-A-Thon Group at Cook Mountain © Jim Coutant



Hike-A-Thon SUP © Bill Horne



Summer Solstice © Janice Prichett



After Party fun © Janice Prichett



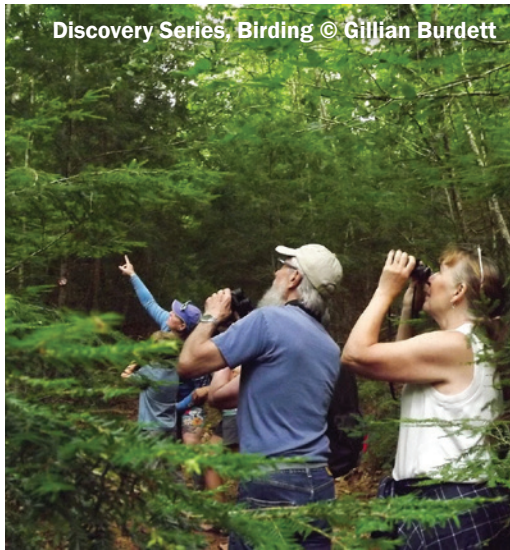
Summer Solstice © Janice Prichett



Next Gen Hike © LGLC



Next Gen Trivia Night © LGLC



Discovery Series, Birding © Gillian Burdett



Discovery Series © Rick Landry



Discovery Series © Rick Landry

2025 SUMMER OUTREACH & EDUCATION Our 4th year of the Discovery Series partnership with Up Yonda Farm is still in progress, but so far we've held nine outings, attended by 118 people, teaching about our local trees, Leave No Trace, birding, invasive species, and more. The Series is sponsored by the Town of Bolton and Lake George Mirror.

The LGLC Next Generation Committee (Next Gen) had a busy summer! In addition to planning the Summer Solstice event (below) and Amy's Race (see page 19), members got together for hikes and a trivia night at Bolton Landing Brewing Company (BLBC) in Bolton.

Next Gen's Summer Solstice Luau Party was a fun and festive start to

the summer! Nearly 140 people joined us at YMCA Camp Chingachgook to celebrate the longest day of the year while supporting our 2025 campaign to protect Pilot Knob Mt. Our thanks to Adirondack Winery/Extreme Heights Cidery and BLBC for sponsoring the Solstice party, and to Chingachgook for hosting.

Our Living Lands Series completed its 9th year with 95 attendees for its four presentations. Topics included Adirondack wildlife, native snakes, moose, and the conservation legacy of James Caldwell.

Thank you to all who participated, listened, and learned with us!



Summer Solstice © Selene Wolf



Birding Paddle © LGLC



GALA, AUGUST 1 The Lake George Land Conservancy's annual gala brings together conservationists, lake enthusiasts, and community leaders to celebrate our shared commitment to protecting the Lake George watershed.

This year nearly 300 guests helped us to celebrate the completion of our \$9 million 2025 Land Campaign, then rallied to raise even more for continued land protection projects. Overall, the evening raised an additional \$330,000 to support the ongoing work of the LGLC to protect the land that protects Lake George.

We are extremely thankful for those who joined this year's generous Honorary Committee, whose leadership gifts were critical to the success of the event, as well as to those who donated items to our silent action, and who volunteered their time and talent to the preparation and running of the Gala.

Visit [LGLC.org/gala](https://www.lglc.org/gala) for more details and a photo gallery from the evening. Photography by Janice Prichett, except fireworks (bottom left) by Chris Reynen.





Amy's Race volunteers © Bill Smith



AMY'S RACE, OCTOBER 4 We had a beautiful day for Amy's Race, October 4, and thank all of our racers, their family and friends, volunteers, and sponsors, for making this a spectacular year! Overall, 73 people participated: 56 in the 4.5-mile race and 17 in the 10-mile race. Congratulations to all who competed!

Held at Amy's Park in Bolton Landing, Amy's Race is organized by the LGLC's Next Gen Committee. **SAVE THE DATE!** The 10th Annual Amy's Race will be Oct. 3, 2026.

Race results and photos at
LGLC.org/Amys-Race

OVERALL RACE WINNERS

4.5-MILE KALEY BELL

10-MILE JAMES WHITE

2025 SPONSORS **THANK YOU!**



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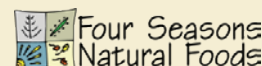


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LAKE GEORGE
LAND CONSERVANCY

4905 Lake Shore Dr
PO Box 1250
Bolton Landing, NY 12814



Thank you, volunteers!



Our amazing volunteers are in the office, on the trails, at events, and all around the lake, year-round. Our sincere thanks go to everyone who contributes their time and energy to helping us carry out our mission. Special shout-out to Mary Lou Doulin and David Oakley (pictured, bottom right) who were awarded LGLC's 2025 Volunteers of the Year at our volunteer porch social in September. Mary Lou and David have spent countless hours at Peggy's Point in Hague, taking care of the gardens and property as a mighty team. Thank you!

