

# Newsletter **IRLC** *Indian River Lakes Conservancy*

SPRING/SUMMER 2002



## CONSERVANCY UPDATE

The Indian River Lakes Conservancy was formed in 1998 to protect critical lands in the Indian River Lakes Area of Upstate, NY. IRLC is a non-profit Land Trust with 501(c)(3) tax exempt status operating in a manner consistent with the published standards and principles of "Land Trust Alliance", a national organization. IRLC now has two protected properties totaling 44 acres.

IRLC membership is growing. We are especially encouraged by new members that are the adult children of property owners supporting the Conservancy.

## PROPERTY NEWS

The Conservancy received its second donation of land in January. A 16.9 acre parcel at the South end of Muskellunge Bay on Butterfield Lake in the Town of Theresa was donated by Mike Chetwin, one of the initial

founders of the Conservancy. This land has been named the Cottage Hill Marsh and is a little more than a mile from the head of Butterfield Lake, along the Eastern shore. The Cottage Hill Marsh will be held as a conservation area, remaining forever wild to provide a refuge for native wildlife. There are no buildings on this property and none are contemplated. The marshland is rich with wetland flora and fauna. The area supports loons and feeding grounds for osprey. Otters and a variety of aquatic life are likewise supported by the Marsh. The cliffs provide a natural home and resting area for a variety of birds. There are numerous nests and other natural habitats, which should remain undisturbed. Initially, the Marsh will be posted to deter activities inappropriate for the area. Based on further study, nesting areas for ducks, loons and or osprey may be constructed. IRLC plans to evaluate and implement further educational and conservation initiatives based upon input from its membership and other interested people.

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Jefferson Community College has announced that the winner of the Conservancy Scholarship for 2002 is Matthew Fischer. Matthew has been a science major while studying at JCC, and he is going on to Cornell University this fall where he will be pursuing studies in environmental science with emphasis on fish and wildlife. The high school scholarship this year will be given to an Alexandria Central graduate, and the winner will be announced at a later date.

This scholarship was made possible this year through the generous donations of Butterfield Lake residents. By auctioning items at their annual picnic and by sending in

additional contributions, the people on Butterfield have shown their continued strong support for the scholarship program. As the IRLC membership has grown to encompass all of the area lakes, it is hoped that the residents of Millsite, Clear, Sixberry, Hyde, Lake of the Woods, Red, Moon and others will get involved with this worthwhile endeavor. Please be generous to this cause, making it possible to increase the amounts of the scholarships for these deserving young people. Remember, the scholarships are available to **1**: a local high school graduate who has majored in science and maintained at least a B average **2**: a JCC graduate going on to study in the field of environmental science, and **3**: to qualified children or grandchildren of an IRLC member or a member of any Indian River Lake Association that is a member of the IRLC.

## PANEL DISCUSSION ON WATER QUALITY

A panel discussion on water quality will be held on Wednesday evening, **June 26<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 PM at the St. Francis Xavier church hall in Redwood. This session is free and open to the public, and everyone who is concerned about the water quality of our lakes is invited to attend. Ann Rice from the DEC, Tom Boxberger, Director of the NYS Dept. of Health for the district, Bill Moore, the waste water technician associated with monitoring wastewater from the Redwood Sewage Plant and others will be present to discuss data and water testing results. There has been much confusion about water testing results and what the numbers actually mean. Perhaps the information available at this meeting will help to clarify some of our concerns. Mark your calendars and be there!!

## NEW YORK STATE PROMOTING LAND CONSERVATION

NYS Department of Conservation  
Commissioner Erin M. Crotty and  
New York Secretary of State, Randy  
A. Daniels, wrote to State  
Conservation Officials this Spring  
"Governor Pataki has committed state  
government to work in partnership  
with local government and non-profit  
conservation organizations to  
conserve our magnificent out door  
heritage" with the stated goal of  
"protecting one million acres in New  
York State by 2012".

## MEMBERSHIPS

As our membership continues to grow  
and more friends join the  
Conservancy, we are better able to  
pursue our mission to permanently  
protect natural places. A goal of the  
current membership drive is to  
involve the next generation of  
residents of the Indian River Lakes  
area. We ask that you copy and  
forward the "friends and family"  
membership form to your adult  
children and grandchildren or have a  
membership form available to pass to  
your guests that come to enjoy the  
area as a respite from their busy  
lives. If you have already paid for  
your 2002 membership, we thank  
you. Please pass on your form or  
consider an additional gift at this time  
to help support our goals. We invite  
you to explore ways of becoming  
more involved in the Conservancy's  
work.

## FUTURE PROJECTS

We need your help

We are looking for potential projects  
that would benefit the community and  
that would meet the goals of IRLC.  
Please notify us if you have ideas that  
we could help bring to fruition, or if

you know of anyone interested in  
permanently preserving their land  
while receiving a significant tax  
deduction.

## SUMMER EVENTS

Save these Dates

Our annual meeting will be held at the  
cottage of Shirley Carpenter, Rogers'  
Road, Butterfield Lake on Sunday,  
**June 30th at 1:00 PM.** Immediately  
following this meeting, we will have  
our first paddle and oar excursion.  
This year we will paddle to the two  
protected properties on Butterfield  
Lake. Load up your kayaks and  
canoes and join us.

A wine and cheese party to help  
support the scholarship fund and  
other endeavors of IRLC will be held  
at the lakeside home of Sandy and  
Marge Hillback on **July 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:00.**  
There will be a donation of  
\$15.00/person or \$25.00/couple.

We will have a workshop for  
interested members **August 3<sup>rd</sup> at  
9:00 AM.** This workshop will be for  
posting the new IRLC property, and  
maintaining the postings of our other  
property, and any necessary litter  
clean up. Meet at Ed Robertson's  
Cottage. Sign up will be at the  
annual meeting.

### Directions to Events:

Annual Meeting: Turn off Stine  
Road at Rogers' farm. Follow signs.

Wine & Cheese Party: Turn off  
Route 37 and follow road down to the  
public dock on Butterfield Lake.  
Watch for signs at the bottom of the  
hill.

Workshop: Take Cottage Hill Road to  
Kunkel Road. Watch for signs.

## IRLC CONTACTS

Contact IRLC by mail, at P.O. Box 27,  
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