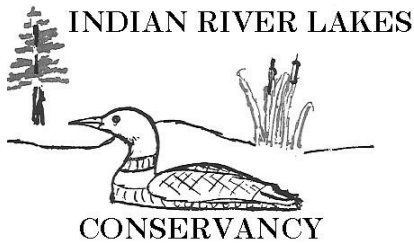


Newsletter IRLC

Indian River Lakes Conservancy

FALL/WINTER 2004



The goal of the Indian River Lakes Conservancy is to preserve the natural character of the area, with a focus on protecting clean water, fish and wildlife, and the scenic vistas along the shores of the lakes and the Indian River and to educate ourselves and the community about the natural habitat in which we live.

Formed in 1998 to conserve critical lands in the Indian River Lakes Area of Northern New York, the IRLC is a non-profit land trust with 501(c) (3) tax exempt status operating in a manner consistent with the published standards of "Land Trust Alliance", a national organization.

CONSERVANCY UPDATE

Your Land Trust has been joined by many new friends in 2004. Many thanks to all who are helping to preserve this special place where we live through donations and by volunteering. The paddle and oar outings and the Wine & Cheese party were the best to date. The NYS Flora Assoc. field trip on The Reserve was extremely interesting with 13 botanists from all around the state and many members enjoying a beautiful and informative day in the forest. Work is progressing on the surveying of Grand Lake Reserve. Volunteers helping with the effort have enjoyed learning about surveying and experiencing the beauty of the 1,000 acre Reserve from many different locations on the property.

PROPERTY NEWS

Mary Ellen & Bob Kernan and Liz & Dick Samson have donated 15.5 acres to the Conservancy. The land is a maple swamp lying right in the heart of the Grand Lake Reserve just East of the Butterfield Lake shore line. Their gift fills a void in the Reserve making it a more contiguous parcel. Our sincerest thanks to the Kernans and the Samsons for supporting the Conservancy with this generous gift.

WHAT CAN ONE PERSON DO?

"A true conservationist knows that the world is not given by his fathers but borrowed from his children."-

AUDUBON

We knew we faced an enormous challenge when we created the IRLC. We had little doubt that preserving and protecting the special qualities of this beautiful place would take time. However, as we have discovered, that task is even greater than we imagined, and more lasting. Indeed, if what we have learned is any guide, our most enduring legacy may be the values we instill in future generations to carry on.

One sure measure of our commitment to those values is the time and money we devote to sustaining them. In addition to volunteering and supporting special events, there are many ways you can help the IRLC preserve the quality of this place that we all enjoy and love so much.

First and foremost, ongoing support through your membership and annual gifts is vitally important to our continued operations. As an IRS qualified 501 (c)(3) charity, your donations to the IRLC are tax-deductible.

In addition, one of the most lasting and beneficial gifts of all is the gift of land itself. If you own a special place worthy of protection, please do not hesitate to contact us. We will be glad to talk with you about ways you may contribute property, or an interest in your property, that will assure its continuing benefit to future generations. Please understand, though, that gifts of land require careful planning and the counsel of professional advisors for both the donor and the IRLC. In addition, proper stewardship of that land will entail a cost over time that should also be considered.

Finally, please remember the IRLC in your Will. 89% of Americans make charitable contributions in their lifetimes, yet only 42% have a will, and of those only 8% make a charitable bequest. When you include charities you care about in your Will, you provide them with needed resources to continue serving your community and the loved ones you leave behind. We hope you consider the IRLC one of those worthy charities.

What can one person do? The commitments you make to the IRLC can help ensure the future of this place and leave a lasting legacy for your children, your grandchildren, and for many generations to follow.

MEMBERSHIPS

Thanks to the support of our members IRLC is able to continue it's mission of preservation and education. For 2004 we would like to extend sincere thanks to the following contributors and

members: Judy Adams, John Amyot, Robert Andrews, Dani Baker & Dave Belding, Karen Bald & Nadine Gardner, John Bartlett, Dave & Debbie Bearup, Ken Bearup, Dave Bearup, Jr., Fred & Rosemarie Belcher, Bob & Betty Belge, Peter Berzins, James Boothby, Jim & Gail Borkman, Mary & Bill Bostick, David Brandt, John & Elizabeth Briggs, Janet Buckland, Butterfield lake Association, Mike Buzzell, Steve Caldwell, Harold & Shirley Carpenter, Henry Carse, Jeff & Priscilla Cashmore, Laura Cashmore, William Catlin, Mike Chetwin, Jerry & Kathy Cole, Donald Coley, Kevin Corbishley, John & Judy Dixon, Verna Docteur, Mike & Renee Donovan, Marlene Douglas, David Duff, John & Lauren Evans, Alan & Carol Felder, Anthony Felder, Brian Felder, Dale & Judie Felder, Kyle Felder, Shawn Felder, Tim Felder, Lee & Bev Fischer, Kate & Ken Fisher, Wallace Freeland, Richard & Helen Fuhrman, Jeffrey & Elaine Garvey, David & Christine Gascon, Robert & Kathey Gibbs, James & Elizabeth Golembeski, Rebecca Halstead, Raymond & Toni Heer, Elliott & Marge Hillback, George Hills, Priscilla Hiter, Debbie & Fred Hoffman, Robert & Joyce Holmes, Brandon Hunneyman, Guy Hunneyman, Cheryl Hurley & Walter Dutcher, Donna Hutchinson, Robert & Betty Jennejohn, Anne Johnson, Barbara Kinner, Elliot Klass, Henry Koster, Lake of the Woods Owner's Association, Jim & Susie Larkins, Lawrence LaRue, Richard LeClerc, Alex Macur & Catherine Zehr, Al Mahar, Bruce Mahon, Curtis Mahon, The Malotte Family, Ron & Barb Mann, Kim Martusiewicz, Joe & Janet McChesney, Steven McDonald, Martha & Jack McFall, Dr. & Mrs. Thomas Morgan, Bill & Diane

Muthig, Allan Newell, Tonia Novak & Kaye Chetwin, Nelda Ordog, John & Stephanie Palmer, Louis Panunzio, Terry Panunzio, Joe Pasquini, Richard & Lorraine Peal, Dr. Dale Porter, Will Ramsiere, Gail & Daniel Rizzo, George Robertson, Bill Robertson & Heather Souders, Ed & Denise Robertson, Tom & Phoenix Robertson, Robert & Susan Rusch, Richard & Jacqueline Sabat, Richard & Sally Sauer, John & Elizabeth Scarlett, Louise & Mark Scarlett, Doug & Jan Scott, Shari Scott, Al & Carol Sealy, Gerry Smith, Jerry Smith, John & Denise Sobolewski, Gretchen Starks-Martin, Jeffrey & Judy Stelljes, John & Susan Stine, Chris & Tami Storey, Don & Vicky Storey, John Sundbeck, Jerome Thissi, Dr. Kenneth Thomson, Butch & Kathy Tipper, John & Paula Tobin, Daniel & Panela Tordy, Mr. & Mrs. Roland VanDeusen, The VanEpps Family, Alex Velto, Robert & Janet Wakefield, Jason & Emily Walker, Gerald Walsh, Cal & Marcy Waters, Doris & Harland Waterstraat, D.E. Wilcox, Judith & Charles Willis, Yvonne Wimmer, Don & Phyllis Wingerath, Allan & Bonnie Wysocki, Stephen & Deborah Wysocki, Amy York Wakefield, Dave & Mary Lou Zimpfer

Contributions received in memory of:

Paul Bocka, William Calvert, Bob Dake, Dorothy Hills, George McBride, Carol Ryan, Lyle Spies and Kathleen Teasley
We greatly regret any errors or omissions.

HUNTING PROGRAM

Twenty-one hunters are participating in this season's permitted hunting program on the Grand Lake Reserve. The primary purposes of the IRLC permitted hunting program are to manage the deer population on the Reserve; and, to provide community access for the enjoyment of recreational deer hunting activities.

Hunters participating in the permitted hunting program have

agreed to spend at least 16 hours assisting in the maintenance of the Reserve. Maintenance includes such activities as posting signs, removing unwanted or unauthorized items [such as trash, permanent tree stands or other structures], and maintaining the blazing of Reserve trails and boarders. This year hunters have already assisted in cutting brush to allow easier access to trails from the Burns Road to both Grass and Butterfield Lakes, and worked on identifying Reserve boundaries for the ongoing surveying project.

The IRLC is grateful to all hunters who contribute time and labor to help maintain the Reserve. Also, special thanks are given to this season's IRLC hunting program coordinators, Dave Gascon, Guy Hunneyman and Terry Panunzio.

If you have questions or suggestions about the permitted hunting program, or are interested in obtaining a permit, please contact us.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The IRLC received over \$1,000.00 for the scholarship fund from a rousing auction of donated items at the Butterfield Lake Owners annual picnic. With these proceeds, and individual donations, we will be able to increase the scholarship amounts to be awarded next year. The high school recipient will be from Alexandria Bay and again a JCC student will be awarded a scholarship to further his or her education in the field of environmental science. For information on our scholarship program please contact Shirley Carpenter.

PADDLE & OAR

The paddle & oar outings were led by Dani Baker of Clayton and Millsite Lake. Dani is an enthusiastic kayaker and we thank her for planning and leading these excursions. This year paddlers enjoyed Butterfield Lake, Millsite Lake and The Indian River. These outings are a terrific way to meet others and enjoy a day in the outdoors. Dani also has written an article for the Atlantic Coastal Kayaker based on her experience on the Indian River Lakes, which we are pleased to reprint here with permission from her and Atlantic Coastal Kayaker.

PADDLING THE INDIAN RIVER LAKES by D.F. Baker

Reprinted courtesy of Atlantic Coastal Kayaker..October, 2004

One of the best kept paddling secrets in the Northeast are the Indian River Lakes in northern New York State. Upstaged by nearby "great" Lake Ontario and the "mighty" Saint Lawrence River with The Thousand Islands, these small lakes, numbering 18 in total, are a delight to explore by kayak, especially in October when summer visitors have departed and fall foliage peaks.

A booklet titled, "Fishing the Indian River Lakes," published by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) catalogues these lakes and includes detailed topographical maps of each. The lakes are named Black, Hickory, Lake of the Woods, Muskellunge, Butterfield, Mud (x 2), Sixberry, Pleasant, Yellow, Grass, Payne, Crystal, Red, Moon, Clear, Hyde, and Millsite. Formed by glacial abrasion on the St. Lawrence River Plain, the lakes range in size from 115 acres to nearly 11,000, and in depth from less than 20 feet to more than 90.

Several lakes feature picturesque islands, ice-and water-sculpted rocky shorelines, and steep vertical cliffs. Most have free public access and are clustered within a few miles of each other in Jefferson and St. Lawrence Counties. A day's paddling can take in one or several lakes, depending on the paddler's degree of compulsivity. Reminiscent of an Adirondack landscape without mountains, the Indian River Lakes region in October is painted with the vibrant orange, red, and yellow leaves of maple and poplar, and the more subtle mauve and burgundy hues of ash and oak, all against a green background of white and red pine, hemlock, and cedar. Patches of wild blueberry drape the shoreline in brilliant crimson. The cool night air in contact with the warmer lake water creates morning mist that gently lifts as the rising sun heats the air.

The lakes as a group are relatively pristine, with several having long stretches of undeveloped shoreline. Wildlife is abundant. Almost every lake has one or more pair of nesting loons, which linger late in the fall and often congregate together in large groups before embarking on their southbound migration. I have witnessed a group of a dozen or more loons arrange themselves in a circle and engage in a ritual in which each bird in turn runs over the water wildly flapping its wings in a dramatic display to the delight of its peers. Osprey live on several of the lakes and bald eagles are sighted occasionally. Seeing one of these raptors dive for the water and emerge with a fish in its talons is a memorable sight. Great blue heron stalk the shoreline on the lookout for hapless frogs and fish. Flocks of turkey vultures, wings outspread, gracefully ride the thermals high above or stare down menacingly at passing paddlers from their perches in trees at lake's edge.

Water-dwelling mammals are numerous. Most lakes have beaver

which venture from their shoreside lodges to demonstrate their swimming prowess and warn of approaching paddlers with thunderclap slaps of their tails. You can see mink, muskrat, and otter in the water or along the shore. In woods and meadows bordering the lakes wild turkey, deer, fox, porcupine, raccoon, and coyote are common, most frequently sighted at day's beginning and end.

Fish are plentiful in the Indian River Lakes. With perch, rock bass, sunfish and bullhead, small and large mouth bass, walleye, northern pike, Atlantic salmon and lake trout, these lakes are well known to locals as productive fishing grounds. Multiple public camping opportunities exist in the area. The New York State Department of Parks and Recreation operates an extensive network of campsites long the St. Lawrence River, six of which are open through Columbus Day and are within a half hour's drive or less of one or more of the Indian River Lakes. For those wanting greater creature comforts, the river communities of Clayton and Alexandria Bay offer abundant hotel, motel and B&B accommodations at off-season rates. Thousand Island Adventures, a local kayak outfitter, can supply boats and equipment to those who wish to rent. It's easy to fall in love with the Indian River Lakes in October. You should go visit, paddle, and judge for yourself.

IRLC CONTACTS

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Elliott Hillback, V.P.
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INDIAN RIVER LAKES CONSERVANCY
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Address: _____ **Phone:** _____

Seasonal Mailing

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_____ **Renewal** _____ **New Member**
Circle One Membership [\$20.00]

Total Check Enclosed \$ _____
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Eagle [\$1,000.00 and above]

\$ _____ **Scholarship Fund** **\$** _____ **Endowment Fund** **\$** _____ **Stewardship Fund** **\$** _____ **Additional Donation**

Make checks payable to: **Indian River Lakes Conservancy** and mail with this form to: **P.O. Box 27, Redwood, NY 13679.**
Thank You.

Know someone who might be interested in joining? Please give us their name and address

Indian River Lakes Conservancy

P.O. Box 27

Redwood, New York 13679

Return Service Requested

