

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Elliott Hillback, IRLC President

**Aaah, it is Spring!** Spring is always a special and exciting time, but in the North Country it seems extra special. Signs of change like melting snow, bubbling streams, ice going out, loons coming in, tip-ups going away, and paddles coming out are everywhere. Explosions of migratory birds coming north, some just passing through but many stopping to use the woods, fields, swamps and waterways we protect to nest and raise their young. This birth, regeneration, growth, blooming is happening with amazing diversity all around us – from dragonflies to beavers, from ospreys to golden-winged warblers, from birches to trillium. And we, all of us, have chosen to be active helpers in this most amazing process.

Does the first loon call of the spring put a big smile on your face like it does on mine? I think I've finally figured out it's really the first "thank you note" of spring I receive. So while I am pleased to add our thank you for your involvement and support of the IRLC, I hope that as you hear and see all the "thank you notes" that nature provides this Spring you will smile a lot, and then recommit yourself to the opportunities we have all around us to make an impact.

Spring has also been tremendously exciting for the Conservancy: we've launched a website and Facebook page (*see page 2*); our trail map is now available; several new parcels of land are in the final stages of being acquired with support from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funded by the US Fish and Wildlife Service; stewardship policies have been written, and the stewardship plan for our Grand Lake Reserve is in final development. To cap all that off, on March 14 we were awarded an extremely important \$25,000 Capacity Development Grant from

the NY State Conservation Partnership Program funded by the Department of Environmental Conservation (*see page 2*). These achievements and many others are generating tremendous momentum for our Conservancy.

I was very proud to represent the IRLC as one of only two land trust leaders invited to speak at the grant announcement event in Albany. My focus was to highlight both the great progress we have made in just 13 years and the scary (for a 13 year old) challenges we are facing as we continue to grow up. We have successfully taken a number of important steps toward maturity in the last couple of years, such as: conducting and acting on a comprehensive organizational self-assessment, expanding and broadening our board, and creating focused stewardship and development committees.

As we were completing those important steps we never lost site of the fact that our commitment to the land we protect is **forever**. This means that we have our most important challenge still remaining. We must develop a strong renewable supply of the two resources most crucial to long term success: a significant pool of involved and committed people and a consistent and appropriate level of financial support. This Funding from our major new capacity grant will help us begin to create enduring capabilities in both these areas. We invite you to join with us to build this long lasting strength for the IRLC. We would love to hear your thoughts and ideas.

Have a great spring and summer. We look forward to seeing you out and about, LEARNING and ENJOYING while listening to the "thank you notes" from the world you are helping to PROTECT. We thank you too.



*The Eagle Marsh eagles were seen returning to their nest in late March by Mark and Louise Scarlett. Here one lands on the nest as its mate circled nearby, along the Grand Lake Reserve Butterfield Lake Trail.*

### IRLC CONTACTS

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# IRLC Receives Major Capacity Development Grant

On March 14<sup>th</sup>, at an Albany event with over 50 land trusts in attendance, hosted by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Land Trust Alliance (LTA), our Conservancy received a \$25,000 Capacity Development Grant from the New York State Conservation Partnership Program (NYSCPP).

This important grant, the largest ever given to an all-volunteer land trust in the nine year history of the NYSCPP, will support several closely related initiatives that are crucial as we build the IRLC into a truly sustainable organization. We are responsible in perpetuity for all the land we now own and all other land we may acquire outright or manage through conservation easements. To successfully fulfill this long-term commitment, we must build the capacity to continuously expand and strengthen both our human and financial resources. This grant provides the funding for us to take a number of major steps toward that goal.

Initially, a significant part of the funding will help us conduct an in-depth dialogue with our members and a wide variety of other individuals from throughout the roughly 325 square miles we serve around the Indian River Lakes. Our goal is to better understand the interests, needs, and opinions of our constituents related to the environment and the programs and activities of the IRLC. Based on what we learn through

those conversations, and consistent with the keywords "Protect, Learn, Enjoy" that help define our goals and mission, we will develop significantly expanded public programming including classes, outings, and events. While fulfilling key parts of our mission, another important outcome of this effort will be to identify, involve and develop future generations of volunteers, members and leaders of the IRLC.

The second major focus of the project is to increase our skills and expand our programs to build long term financial support. As we continue to add new parcels to be protected, implement comprehensive stewardship plans for all our land, and increase our public education and programming, we must develop sufficient and predictable sources of funding. In this effort we will broaden and professionalize our



*IRLC President Elliott Hillback speaks at the New York State Conservation Partnership Awards Ceremony*

fundraising efforts from local and regional sources including individual, corporate and foundation donors. Fundraising is not everyone's favorite topic for discussion, but financial strength and fiscal responsibility will be crucial contributors to our continued long term success.

Through the grant we will also be acquiring and installing volunteer, member and donor contact software (and associated hardware) to help us stay in touch with you in a more timely and effective manner.

In summary, this significant NYSCPP grant will enable us to continue building a strong renewable base of the two resources that are most crucial to our long term success: committed people and adequate funding. We invite your involvement as we take on the challenge of making sure the Indian River Lakes Conservancy has a long and strong future. We know we can do it with your involvement. Let us know how you would like to help.

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.

## [www.IndianRiverLakes.org](http://www.IndianRiverLakes.org)

Shortly after the new year, the Indian River Lakes Conservancy launched a website at [www.IndianRiverLakes.org](http://www.IndianRiverLakes.org). The site contains IRLC background and membership information, a calendar of events, and PDF copies of our most recent publications, including our new trail map and brochure.

It's just a beginning, and we have great plans for additions and modifications, but it is absolutely

worth a look. The homepage features some spectacular photographs from our talented membership. Keep abreast of Indian River Lakes activities, news and events by visiting [www.IndianRiverLakes.org](http://www.IndianRiverLakes.org) often.

Submissions of photographs for the site and appropriate events for the calendar are always welcome. They can be submitted to [IndianRiverLakes@gmail.com](mailto:IndianRiverLakes@gmail.com), and please write "website" in the subject line.

AND now we're on Facebook too!



Our Facebook page offers another way to keep communication about the Indian River Lakes area flowing. This spring we've had text, video and photo postings about the progress of spring on our lakes. We hope you'll "like" us and post your own information about what's happening on your favorite lake. Type "Indian River Lakes Conservancy" in the Facebook search box, or follow the link on our website.

# Common Raven

## Charismatic Birds of the Indian River Lakes Region: Part 11



The Common Raven pairs that ply the skies of The Indian River Lakes area today would have been very familiar to the Native American residents of the region in earlier centuries. Not so, however, to human residents of the mid-nineteenth to late 20th century. This species of large forest tracts had all but vanished from most of New York State except the Adirondacks. Persecution by farmers afraid this large corvid (crows and their close relatives) would take small livestock further reduced populations in eastern North America. The cutting of forests for farming peaked around 1900-1910 and since then forest cover has rebounded in the northeast. Combined with more human understanding of many wildlife species, this has allowed for the return of the native Common Raven to many of its former haunts. As a young birder in the 1960s, I remember the thrill of seeing this magnificent flyer amidst the deep Adirondack wilderness. Now, locally, one needs go no farther than their deck to watch these birds soar and spiral above the rocky shores of the Indian River Lakes.

While immature birds may disperse, adults usually are present year round. This species and Great Horned owl are the two earliest nesting birds of the region. Often by mid-January or earlier adult pairs are performing their spectacular courtship flights above frozen lakes. On windy and/or sunny

days both birds spiral, roll and dive with each other in a complicated and spectacular courtship flight. Sometimes a third bird or a second pair may join a soaring group. In addition to courtship, territorial defense chases may involve very vigorous aerial maneuvers. Common Ravens are superb flyers in ways that their cousin, the American Crow, cannot even begin to match. Even though the courtship season of January to March is the peak period for aerial displays, these activities occur intermittently during much of the year. The Common Raven is very much a bird that benefits from the updrafts of rising air found throughout the varied topography of our region.

Nesting may occur on cliff faces or in trees and is well underway by late February. Nests are built or refurbished with fairly large sticks as territoriality and courtship develops. These nests are large and often conspicuous, particularly on cliff faces. The female appears to do most of the nest building and by late February to early March it is ready for eggs to be added. Clutch size is from 3-7, averaging about five eggs. Incubation is primarily done by the female and may last 21-27 days. Given the adverse, often snowy, weather of the early part of the nesting season, females may sit much of the time with limited feeding opportunity. Unlike many large birds, but like its songbird relatives, young ravens are born helpless. The development of Common Raven young illustrate that this species is indeed our largest songbird. Young Ravens must be carefully brooded and kept warm as well as fed for many days. This is an impressive accomplishment during

*(continued on page 4)*

*Gerry Smith is a senior Northern New York ornithologist and consulting ecologist. Gerry is a devoted friend and advocate for grass roots land trusts and the dedicated volunteers who share his love of nature.*

*Tips from The Cornell Lab of Ornithology*

## CROW or RAVEN?

With all-black plumages and a similar physical appearance, distinguishing between the two birds is often difficult, especially in an area like the Indian River lakes where both species are widespread. While the raven is slightly larger than the crow, has a thicker bill and stronger legs, long shaggy throat feathers, a wedge-shaped tail and longer wings, the Cornell Ornithology Laboratory suggests it is easiest to distinguish between the two by sound and behavior.

Ravens aren't as social as crows and, while frequently seen in pairs, they are rarely seen in large flocks. In flight Ravens are graceful, interspersing gliding and soaring amongst their wing flaps. Crows, on the other hand, rarely glide or soar. Finally, ravens prefer the forests and are rarely seen, as the crow is, in towns and cities.

The calls of the two birds are also different. The adult raven has a deeper and more throaty call that tends to reverberate through the forest. The classic "rok" is distinctive. Crows, on the other hand, have a higher-pitched voice that tends to be more of a "caw."

*For more information, or to hear the difference between the calls of crows and ravens, visit the Cornell Lab of Ornithology website: <http://www.birds.cornell.edu>*



Common Raven

## Common Raven cont.

March and early April in Northern NY. The young develop over about five to seven weeks and by 35-40 days the survivors fledge. My impression is that most successful Common Raven pairs in our region produce 2-3 fledged young. Young may remain with the parents for up to several months and I have seen clear family groups into November.

As an early nesting species, Common Raven families can fully enjoy the bounty of food available in summer. They are omnivores and will eat almost anything they can swallow. This includes carrion, small birds and mammals, and fruit and other vegetable products. As with crows and hawks, any Common Raven flying low through an area from May-July is usually attended by an entourage of small birds mobbing the potential predator. For ravens, mobbing species often include cousin crow, a species that I suspect is far less enamored of the Common Raven's return than we humans are. Given the vigor that territorial American Crow pairs attack Common Ravens, it is clear they view that species as serious competitors and predators. During the summer and early fall months, family groups of Common Raven drift through their territory and territory lines may break down some as all search for food.

Exactly when family bonds weaken and young begin to drift away is unclear in the Indian River Lakes Region. I suspect that by October many young ravens are on the move as they begin to appear at locations away from nesting areas. Migration in this species is poorly understood and most evidence comes from areas where the species does not breed. The Common Raven is widespread throughout most of Canada, Alaska and the western United States west of the Great Plains. It is more localized in the northeastern United States and down the Appalachian Mountains spine. The species is widespread in northern Europe and throughout the Holarctic region that circles the northern hemisphere. It is generally absent in the interior

## Help Wanted: VOLUNTEERS

This is an exciting time to be involved with the Indian River Lakes Conservancy. A number of ambitious initiatives have created dozens of new volunteer opportunities. Whether you have a few hours a day, or a few hours a season, we have a great way for you to help the Conservancy in its mission to Protect • Learn • Enjoy.

**Enjoy our trails?** We often need help with trail maintenance and are always looking for volunteer trail stewards to report conditions on the trail. Are there any trees down? Are there washouts or erosion problems after a heavy rain? Have you spotted evidence of illegal dumping or ATV activity? *For additional information or to volunteer*, contact Rick Lopez at [rdwd77@yahoo.com](mailto:rdwd77@yahoo.com) or 315.405.1464.

**Avid birder?** We need volunteer trail walkers to identify wildlife and birds along the trails (especially species like warblers, bald eagles and ospreys)

**Know your flora?** We need volunteer trail walkers to be on the lookout for invasives (see article page 5).

**Like to plan events?** We need committee members to orchestrate our July 23rd Summer Picnic and

Celebration of the Lakes. Help is welcomed to settle on the site, the menu, the invitation list, and gather the silent auction items.

**Is education your thing?** Volunteers are needed to help with our first forays into public programming: a children's workshop? workshops for adults? hikes or paddling trips? speakers? Help plan, organize and present activities to help people learn about the Indian River Lakes area.

**Facebook fanatic?** We need a volunteer to help maintain our page and encourage more fans and friends.

**Website experience?** Only a *bit* needed to help keep our calendar and news postings current.

**and More . . .**

We need help with data entry, help distributing our new materials, help reaching out to new members, and we are always looking for individuals with special interests, new ideas and creative energy to help preserve and protect the Indian River Lakes area.

For more information or to volunteer:  
[IndianRiverLakes@gmail.org](mailto:IndianRiverLakes@gmail.org)

plains and southern U.S east of Texas. Whatever migration occurs probably involves immatures just seeking to survive until they can claim a territory of their own and begin to breed.

While the future of this species appears rosy in the reforested northeast there are still problems in other areas. "Control programs" by ranchers and other agricultural interests in the western United States still kill many of this species. Common Raven do occasionally kill small young of sheep and feed on others that have died, thus generating blame from humans. Such control programs are often ineffectual and threaten other non-target species when poison baits are used. In our part of the world, careful management of

forested areas and enlightened public attitudes should assure that the Common Raven will delight future generations of residents for millennia to come.

*Mounting scientific evidence indicates that the raven may be the world's second smartest creature, with an innate ability to solve complex problems. Testing the raven's use of logic, scientists designed an experiment with a piece of meat dangling on a string from a perch. To retrieve the meat, the birds pulled up some of the string, held it down with a claw and repeated the process until the food was within their grasp. In the wild they are known to make calls to bring wolves and foxes to carcasses so that these animals will break apart the dead animal, making the meat more available to the bird. These and other observations lead many to believe they have an intelligence similar to the dolphin or ape.*

Renew your membership. Don't miss out on our 2011 Newsletters!

\_\_\_\_ Renewal

INDIAN RIVER LAKES CONSERVANCY  
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FORM - 2011

\_\_\_\_ New Member

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Seasonal Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount  
Enclosed:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Levels:

Dragonfly - \$25.00

Warbler - \$50.00

Whip-poor-will - \$100.00

Loon - \$250.00

Osprey - \$500.00

Eagle - \$1,000.00 and above

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Scholarship Fund

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Endowment Fund

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Stewardship Fund

This is a Donation in Memory/Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

This is a Gift Membership for \_\_\_\_\_

Please send an acknowledgement to: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Please contact me:**  regarding Conservation Easements  with information about including IRLC in my will  I have included IRLC in my will

If you prefer to keep your newsletter intact, this membership form is also available online at [www.IndianRiverLakes.org](http://www.IndianRiverLakes.org)

## Member Profile

### Bob and Betty Belge Sixberry Lake

Bob and Betty Belge have been summer residents of Sixberry Lake since 1967, and IRLC members since the organization was founded in 1998. They treasure the quiet and the community they find among the Indian River Lakes.

Like many of us, they feel their knowledge base is not quite broad enough to refer to themselves as "birders," but they really enjoy watching birds. For years they served as "loon rangers" counting loons on neighboring lakes. Bob and Betty always enjoyed encounters with IRLC supporter Stephen Caldwell, because he knew "every bird and every bird call."

For more than four decades the Belges have enjoyed their summers on the Indian River Lakes. Bob says, however, that Betty is the more courageous summer resident because for many years he would return to his job teaching at Syracuse University during the week, while Betty stayed at the Lake to supervise their 8 children, with no car and no phone. They both agree that

Sixberry Lake was a wonderful place for their children to grow up. Each one learned to love the water, and a number of them enjoyed it so much that they went on to swim competitively in high school and college.

#### Why do the Belges support the IRLC?

*If we don't start protecting what we have, it will be gone. We appreciate that the Conservancy approaches preservation with sensibility. We need to make sure that our lakes are used intelligently, so they can continue to be enjoyed by all of us.*

#### About the IRLC

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 the Land Trust Alliance, a national organization



*Starflower on Millsite Lake*

#### Millsite Lake Cottage for Rent:

2 BR seasonal cottage on scenic Millsite Lake with deck, dock, woodstove, loons. Available for 2011 season: May 15 through October 15. \$5000 plus security and utilities. **All rental proceeds to benefit the Indian River Lakes Conservancy.** Call 315-482-3663 for more info.

# ODE NOTES

## Common Green Darner: Migratory & Resident

It's a sunny, late April day and snow and ice have all but vanished. Walking the edge of a pond near Moon Lake, signs of fresh beaver activity are everywhere. Suddenly, what appears to be a lime green hummingbird zooms by just above the water surface. Lime green hummingbird in late April? Another flyby reveals the truth ... a lime green dragonfly ... the Common Green Darner. A fortunate encounter, an unfortunate name as there is nothing "common" about *Anaxjunius*.

The dragonfly we have just observed migrated to this pond ... it did not emerge in this county, not even in this state ... would you believe the Carolinas, Georgia, Florida, Mexico, or possibly Venezuela? Migration is uncommon among dragonflies; of the 400 or so Odonata species in North America, only 8 to 11 other species are thought to migrate.

With a body length of 2 ¾ to 3 1/8 inches and weighing up to 4 grams, this is one of the largest dragonflies in North America. Common Green Darners have a bright green head and thorax complimented by an outrageous bull's eye pattern on top of the face. In females and young males, the abdomen is washed in a stunning mauve/purple. Not to be outdone, mature males sport vivid blue on their abdomens. All have yellow on the leading edges of their wings.

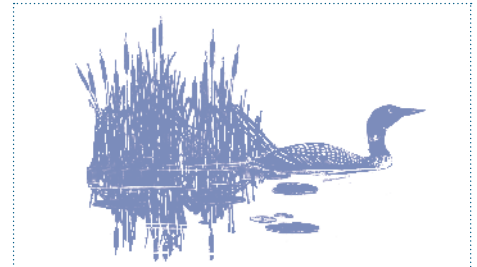
Migrants are sexually mature when they arrive and consume whatever insects are flying, in preparation for mating ... up to 25% of their body weight (that's 500 fewer mosquitoes). Their large compound eyes make them masters at finding insects against a bright sky, or taking advantage of outdoor lighting at night. Like many large dragonflies, they are "endothermic" ... they generate their own heat ... enabling them to fly in cool mornings, throughout the day and well past dusk.

These Green Darners mate and oviposit eggs shortly after arrival at a wide variety of wetlands, including well-vegetated ponds, small lakes, even ditches. This is the only darner that lays eggs while in tandem with the male, ovipositing in aquatic and emergent vegetation. The eggs quickly hatch and adults emerge in late summer.

The migratory Green Darners cannot be distinguished from the identical "resident" adult population which emerges in late May or June from nymphs/larvae that have overwintered underwater, in the same ponds or lakes. Adult Green Darners seen in mid-summer are probably resident individuals.



*Female Green Darner with mauve abdomen*



### IRLC Summer Highlights

- July 5** TILT and IRLC Kayak Trek on Millsite Lake
- July 23** 2011 Annual Meeting  
12:30 pm IRLC Offices  
43982 Stine Rd Redwood
- July 23** Summer Celebration of the Lakes  
*Location to be determined*

check [www.IndianRiverLakes.org](http://www.IndianRiverLakes.org) for more information and updates.

By September, the offspring of the migratory type have emerged and are building up energy supplies, getting ready to head south. Coinciding with bird migrations and aided by cool northerly winds, massive swarms of Common Green Darners fill the autumn air pursued by American Kestrels and other birds who use them as a handy food source. After flying, on average, 40 miles per day, they end their migration, having flown hundreds to thousands of miles. Eggs are laid, hatch and in about 3 months the nymphs have matured ... they emerge as adults and are soon heading north ... returning to our wetlands in the spring.

*Mature male Green Darner.*



## INVASIVES: Swallow-wort

Swallow-worts are non-native, invasive plants that appeared in Jefferson County in the late 1980's. Members of the milkweed family, there are two species of swallow-wort: pale and black.



*Black Swallow-wort*

**Identification:** The two swallow-wort species, pale (*Vincetoxicum rossicum*) and black (*Vincetoxicum nigrum*) are very difficult to distinguish from one another. Swallow-worts are perennial vines, 2 to 6 feet in height, with opposing, oval to wedge-shaped, glossy, medium green leaves ... 2.5 to 4.5" long by 2 to 2.75" wide. In late summer, the leaves turn a warm yellow brown. The flowers, present from late May through July, are small and fleshy with 5 pink to maroon colored petals. Black swallow-wort flowers tend to be maroon to black.

The fruits are smooth, slender, pointed pods, formed abundantly during July and August - light green in color and frequently borne in pairs. Like our native milkweeds, the pods split open in late summer. *A single seed may start a whole new infestation.* In a season, one plant is capable of producing up to 1700 seeds, which are dispersed by wind and can travel great distances.



*Pale Swallow-wort*

**Habitat:** Both species can be found in mixed hardwood forests to heavily shaded woods. They are also found in disturbed sunny areas, open fields, and along roadsides in moist to dry soils. Pale swallow-wort prefers limestone-based soils, is drought tolerant and will thrive in a wide range of conditions. The only place pale swallow-wort will not grow is wet areas. Black swallow-wort prefers more acidic, loamy soils.

**Damage:** Swallow-worts are very *invasive*. They quickly become established, changing the microbial composition of the soil and thus suppressing the growth of other plants and interfering with forest regeneration. *They are problematic where ever they are found ... cultivated areas, disturbed areas, and natural areas.*

**Toxicity:** The swallow-worts contain substances toxic to deer and other grazers. Most animals will not eat the plants, but there is the risk that swallow-wort could become baled into hay and consumed by livestock causing sickness or even death. Since swallow-worts are members of the milkweed family, monarch butterflies lay their eggs on them. The resulting caterpillars eat the swallow-wort leaves and die.

**Where did it come from?:** Pale swallow-wort is native to the Ukraine and eastern Europe and black swallow-wort to the western Mediterranean. The first recorded sightings in the western hemisphere were in the mid- to late 1800s. No one really knows how or why swallow-worts were introduced to North America.

**Local Infestations:** In Jefferson County, extremely large stands (100 to 500+ acres) of pale swallow-wort can be found, most notably, in the Town of Henderson. *Of concern to the Indian River Lakes Conservancy, it is established in the Towns of Theresa, Alexandria and Orleans. Black swallow-wort is well established in the Town and Village of Antwerp.* Mapping of swallow-wort populations is ongoing.

**Control: Prevention is the most effective control!** Once established, swallow-worts are difficult to control. Several herbicides are effective against swallow-wort ... timing and persistence are important! Do not spray when the plants begin to emerge... herbicide applications at this point do not work as the crown of the plant will not be killed. Wait until the plants begin to flower as this is much more effective at killing the crown of the plant. Some literature suggests waiting until August and September to apply herbicides. To prevent seed dispersal, pods should be removed before they open and then burned. Burning plants does not kill them and may improve site conditions for seedling establishment.

Small patches of swallow-wort can be dug out by hand. The entire crown must be removed and destroyed. Place roots and other plant parts into black bags and leave in the sun for at least two weeks, then dispose of with regular trash. Large stands of swallow-wort can be brought under control by mowing when pods are very small (early July) and re-mowing a second time if pods redevelop. *Stay out of swallow-wort areas during seed dispersal to prevent seed dissemination to unaffected areas. Clean boots, ATVs and other equipment when coming out of infested areas.*

*Contact Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County at 788-8450 with questions about swallow-wort biology, specifics on removal or chemical controls.*



*Swallow-wort pods form abundantly in July and August*

Indian River Lakes Conservancy  
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or CURRENT RESIDENT



## GLISTEN Interns to Conduct Environmental Surveys

The Indian River Lakes Conservancy is excited to announce its participation in the GLISTEN (Great Lakes Innovative Stewardship through Education Network) project for the summer of 2011. The program will be administered by Rochester Institute of Technology, SUNY College at Brockport, and Monroe Community College.

Two undergraduate environmental science students will be hosted by IRLC. The Conservancy will provide housing and a \$1,000 per student match to the \$5,000 GLISTEN grant. Students will be supervised by Vici Diehl, Chair, and members of the IRLC's newly formed Natural Resources Advisory Board.

The students/interns will assess water quality and related issues, conduct macro invertebrate sampling and produce site descriptions.

This summer, the field work/research will be directed to Grass, Millsite, Mud,

and Red Lakes and their adjoining wetlands and a portion of the Indian River between Red and Muskellunge Lakes. This is a multiple year project with surveys of different lakes and river sections being conducted during each research season.

Research results will be highlighted in our Fall newsletter and shared with lake associations, local municipalities, Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District, and other interested parties. For additional information on this summer's project, contact Vici Diehl at [IndianRiverLakes@gmail.com](mailto:IndianRiverLakes@gmail.com). For further information about GLISTEN visit [www.ncsce.net/initiatives/GLISTEN.cfm](http://www.ncsce.net/initiatives/GLISTEN.cfm).



*Printed on paper certified by the Forest Stewardship Council.*



Please . . .  
If you find Swallow-wort,  
Report it!

To report any swallow-wort discoveries (note the exact location and take photographs if possible) please contact: Cornell Cooperative Extension of Jefferson County at 315-788-8450 and [IndianRiverLakes@gmail.org](mailto:IndianRiverLakes@gmail.org).