



Indian River Lakes CONSERVANCY

Protect • Learn • Enjoy • Forever



"In the end, we will conserve only what we love, we will love only what we value, and we will value only that we have come to appreciate through experience."

- Bill Scott, ecologist

A letter from the Board Chair

Celebrate 25 years with us!

The Indian River Lakes Conservancy was founded in 1998 and celebrates its silver anniversary of 25 years this year! While we are relatively young for an organization, we are forever wild, thanks to all of you!

The United States was the first country in the world to recognize the importance of protecting vital ecosystems in our natural world. While this concept has been around for over 150 years, to see it happening in the Indian River Lakes Conservancy Watershed – right here in our own backyard, is monumental to say the least!

As we celebrate 25 years of land and water protection and environmental education this spring and summer 2023 season, we plan to honor the contributions of the visionaries that have played such a significant part of who we are, what we stand for and why the work we do matters. Please, if you're able, join us at upcoming events and receptions as we not only give a nod to the past, but share a glimpse of our future with all of you.

As we look to the future, we can introduce new board members, and a new office organizational chart with new positions and more time devoted to all of you! When this team looks at acquiring new parcels, developing programs, sustaining existing initiatives and creating new partnerships; you can be sure of one thing, we will always work to ensure what we do is for your benefit, forever.

We wish to thank all board members, former and current, staff, volunteers, and members for a wonderful 25 years of hard work and dedication. Each and every one of you has left a legacy, no matter how big or how small the contribution, that will endure forever. It is an incredible gift to leave the generations that follow.

Thank you,

Lynn Brown





Ferrone Woods Preserve to Open near Black Lake

One family's land preservation is a symbol of hope

Pat Ferrone was just 9 years old when she started visiting Black Lake in the summers, spending time helping with gardens, rowing in flat bottom boats that her aunt and uncle had fashioned, and picking blackberries on the hill near her aunt and uncle's camp.

For Pat, these summer days spent savoring the slowness of nature and the water were formative to her character. "Black Lake has come to be a place I go back to in my mind, a peaceful place, a place of beauty."

Pat still prides herself on her "eye" for the heliotrope-tinted purple berries that show up along the ridge on hot, summer days, along with the other gifts of color that nature delights us with regularly.

Because of her love for this area, in 1987 when a farm came up for sale near Hutch's Hollow, the neighboring farm where she spent her youth, she and her husband, Joe, felt compelled to purchase it.

Pat recalls a spring day, as she, her mother, and sister, were up from Connecticut and out surveying the land. Pat sauntered by the farm's porch and thought to herself I have seen this before.

Looking down at the book she had been reading,

Places in the World a Woman Could Walk, she noticed that the cover of the book resembled the property that she and her husband, Joe, had just acquired. Knowing that the farm had previously been owned by a famous artist, Jack Beal, she looked into the coincidence. As fate would have it, the book cover was painted by the former owner of the farm.

Pat's sense of being in the right place has only grown over the years. "It never gets stale," she says. She loves to reconnect with people when she returns to Black Lake, plant her garden, and slow down a little. "Being at the Lake is a real gift that I'm truly grateful for."

Sharing Joy with others

Joe and Pat began talking with the Indian River Lakes Conservancy about conservation for a portion of their property in 2021. The land officially became protected and owned by IRLC at the end of 2022, and Ferrone Woods Preserve will open to the public summer 2023.

"Someday, when I can no longer enjoy this place, I will really miss it." She is excited at the notion of opening Ferrone Woods Nature Preserve and seeing many others walk the land and experience the simple joy of reaching the top of the hill and spotting a blackberry." continued on page 6...

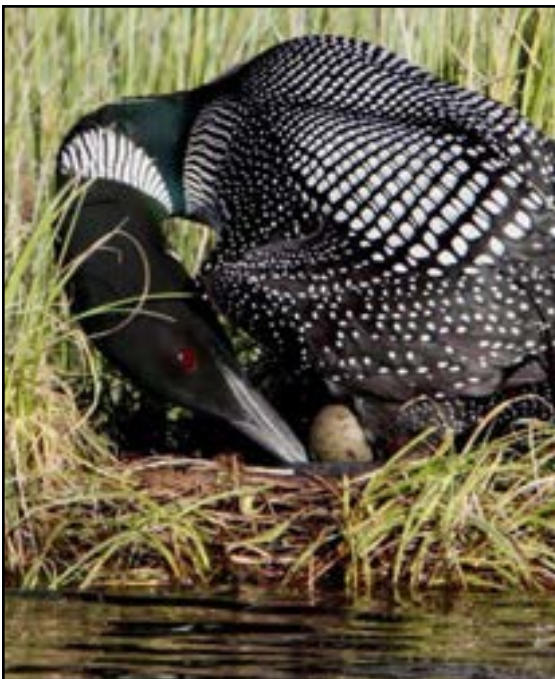
"The preserve is meant to be a refuge, a little bit of hope in the midst of our complicated and often destructive world."



Loons call this place home too

Our community rallies around Loon Protection

The beautiful waterfowl with the enchanting song, the Loons of our Indian River Watershed, overflow from the Adirondacks to use the Indian River Lakes as nesting habitat. Each year, some loon pairs are successful, but others succumb to the many challenges our environment presents, including human threats from lead tackle and fishing line, water level fluctuations, predators, and territory disputes between other waterfowl both native and invasive.



Our lakes also have small surface space which we share with wildlife when using lakes for recreational purposes such as boating, kayaking, and fishing, and loons can abandon their nests when humans come too close for comfort.

As healthy lake and wetland habitats are lost, the stresses on loons multiply. The time to act to save these threatened birds is now.

The good news is with your support and greater know-how, we have the opportunity to help our loons by increasing their chances of nesting success through use of nesting rafts.

Partnerships make it happen for Loons

The Indian River Lakes Conservancy and the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation (ACLC) are teaming up to give our loons the best chance we can at nesting success in our lakes.

We and our affiliated lake associations are excited about this new adventure and are eager to learn all that the loon biologists of ACLC have to teach us.



Loon Photo by Nina Schoch

Thanks to this partnership and your support, Butterfield, Grass, Payne, and Millsite Lakes will have loon rafts this coming spring.

Water quality matters

How we handle everyday systems like sewage and trash management will affect lake vegetation, fish that provide food for loons and other wildlife, and the health of our water and loons.

Since all life in the watershed is connected, when we help loons by protecting or improving their environment, by extension we get to aid all life in our watershed. The presence or absence of loons as an "indicator species" give us clues as to the overall health of our watershed.

Loons depend on all the elements that make up a lake ecosystem and therefore benefit from the health of the whole system, from mud and soil, to the macroinvertebrates and vegetation, to fish health and more.

We can't let up with protection of natural shorelines as the first line of defense in protecting water quality within our lakes. Loons call these lakes home too.

Local businesses support loon conservation through lead buy-back program

Lead tackle can end up in fish that loons eat. If a loon swallows lead, it is likely to suffer and die from lead poisoning. This is a serious threat to our loon population because it takes loons at least 6 years to mature to nesting age, and they may produce 1-2 and very rarely 3 loons per season once they reach maturity. Many of these new chicks do not live through their first year because of the many threats they encounter.

Thanks to the Corner Market in Theresa, you can now turn in 1oz of lead fishing tackle in to receive a \$10 voucher to use toward new non-toxic fishing tackle.

Get involved. Help save Loons with IRLC.

1 View loons from a distance.

One hundred foot binoculars are great for watching these beautiful birds without disturbing them. A stressed loon can abandon a nest if they feel entrapped.

2 Educate visitors about loon presence and

advocate for buoys as signifiers of loon nest presence so people know to avoid those areas of the lake.

3 Have your septic checked for leaks.

Dangerous chemicals and bacteria can leak from old or failing septics and affect water quality and the health of loon populations.

4 Replace your lead tackle and use non-lead ammunition.

Both of these options are more environmentally friendly options.

5 Support loon conservation with a monthly donation.

IRLC monthly donors are called "Lake Guardians" because they are enabling the protection of habitat for wildlife today and into the future. Thank you for showing up for our threatened loons who need us now more than ever.

Continued from page 3...

Visitors to the Ferrone Woods Preserve will also be able to find enchantment in the vernal ponds, a small Hemlock forest, spring ephemerals, or a walk along a large stone wall from another time.

For Pat and Joe, they also see their land donation as a way to connect with others who may also have conservationist values. After all, it is thanks to the conservancy's membership - that's you - for making it possible for IRLC to preserve tracts of land and help conservationists to realize their hopes for the future of their properties.

Imagining a peaceful and protected world

Spending time in wild places and being comfortable being outside, in contemplation, changes us as people. In turn, it affects our communities and our world.

"It makes you listen in a way you might not otherwise," Pat suggests.

Pat says, "The preserve is meant to be a refuge, a little bit of hope in the midst of our complicated and often destructive world. When we're facing threats to the literal existence of our species, I felt that taking the step to protect the land was important."

Growing into our next 25 years - thanks to you!

IRLC's growth over the past quarter century is like that of a young White Oak tree in our forest, at times slow but steady and at times vigorous, yet always with purpose and direction.

In the last few years, we have begun to ramp up the pace of conservation adding two preserves in the last year. We created WHIRL, our teen environmental education program, and we made our children's educational programming a foundation of what we do at IRLC.

Going into 2022, we realized that our ever-expanding programs had begun to outpace our ability to increase awareness about the wins we have been making in our community. Like the tree that grows too tall before its roots system is fully established, IRLC needed to get grounded.

The beginning of forever

Thanks to the generosity of the Northern New York Community Foundation and our supporters, we were able to create our first Communications and Engagement Coordinator position, raise awareness about the need for more

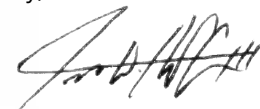
land protection, and begin to revamp our website.

This shared vision and generosity has already enabled our growth when so many of you stepped forward to support our recent appeal to permanently protect over 2,000 feet of shoreline and 116 acres on our new Red Lake Preserve.

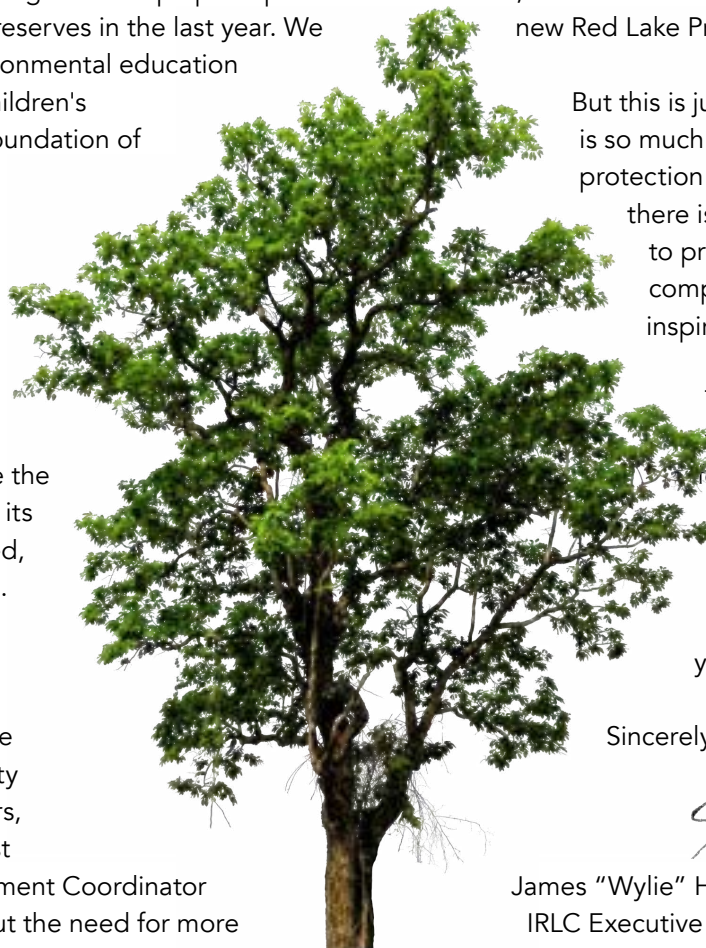
But this is just the beginning. There is so much more to do. More land protection projects are in the works, there is more loon nesting habitat to protect, a website to be completed, and more children to inspire as future conservationists.

Thanks to you, our IRLC, like the White Oak tree in our forest, will have the support structure to continue our growth and become more sustainable and resilient... This is what it takes... it takes you.

Sincerely,



James "Wylie" Huffman, III
IRLC Executive Director



2022 Annual Report Highlights

You are the reason we can save land and water for people, for wildlife, forever!

While we are well on our way through 2023, we wanted to share some reflections about the last year with you. It is humbling to be surrounded by people that care so profoundly. Your insight and generosity is a gift you give to the people and wildlife of tomorrow. Thank you for joining us on this journey, protecting the land and water, and being renewed and inspired here alongside us.

We hope to see you at an IRLC preserve opening or at our annual dinner this summer to celebrate the amazing things your support has done for the North Country!

2022 Highlights

35 Community Programs

218 Acres Conserved in 2022

2,000 Feet of Shoreline Conserved

2,010 Volunteer Hours

3 Conservation projects in the works



2022 Financials

Revenue



- Events/Programs
- Donations/Sponsors
- Memberships
- Grants
- Appropriated Fund Balance

Expenses



- Operations
- Programs/Events
- Land Acquisition and Stewardship
- Misc. Non-Cash Expense

*Fiscal Year 2022 numbers represented are rounded to the nearest dollar and have not yet been compared to the CPA's annual financial review, which could lead to year-end adjustments.

In Gratitude for your Support in 2022

Conservation Business Partners

Many thanks to these businesses who are taking a leadership role within our community and who care about the protection of this special place for this and future generations.

1000 Islands Cruet	Jezi's Cafe
All Pest	JK's Roadhouse
Art's Jug	Heath Photography
Aubertine and Currier Architects, Engineers, and Land Surveyors, PLLC	Kahrs Construction
Ball Family Adventures	L P Thompson Insurance
The Bearded Moose	Lake Of The Woods RE LLC
Broadwell Hotel Group	LaFave, White & McGivern, LS, PC
Butterfield Lake Boat Owners Assoc.	Land of Lakes Shoppette & Gas
Carae's Closet	Mac's Boat Rental
Chippewa Power & Repair Jadd Brown	Marina & Repair Service Northern Marine, Inc
Clayton Island Tours	Martin's Marina Inc.
Clean Waters, Inc	Michael Ringer Galleries
Clipper Inn	Miss Laura's Diner
Community Consultants	Northern Flow Vineyard
Con Tech Building Systems, Inc.	Ripley, Garlock & Assoc. Financial Planning Group
Corner Market Theresa	Robert Connor Painting
Cottage Hill Home	Sboro's Restaurant
Cranberry Boggs Primitive Decor	Stewart's Shops Corp.
Canvas Lady, Lindsay Cutway	Tailwater Lodge
Cup of Joy Cafe	Target
Dark Island Tours	Thousand Islands Winery
Deluke's Garden Center	Uncle Sam Boat Tours
Dragonfly Pottery	Watertown Savings Bank
Felder's Gas Station	Wandering Kayak
Fort Drum Thrift Shop	W Design Group
Gouverneur Savings & Loan Assoc.	Windsor Vineyards
GYMO Architecture Engineering & Land	Windy Hill Studio Arts
	Yesteryear's Vintage Doors

Foundations & Community Organizations

Thanks to the foundations and community organizations who make a difference with their work everyday. Because of you, 2022 was an inspiring year for conservation in the Indian River Lakes Region.

Antique Boat Museum	National Land Trust Alliance
Butterfield Lake Cottage Owners Association	Northern New York Community Foundation
Clear Lake Cottage Association	Preservation Alliance of Hyde Lake
Ducks Unlimited	Renzi Food Service Charitable Foundation
Elizabeth May Duvall Foundation	River Hospital
Grass Lake Association	Sixberry Lake Association
Indian River Baptist Church Men's Group	Sweetgrass Foundation
Indian River Baptist Church Women's Group	Theresa Progress Group
Jefferson County Soil & Water District	Theresa Rotary Club
Millsite Lake Property Owners Association	Twin Trees Foundation
Mud Lake Association	Ty Fuller Memorial Fishing Tournament

Giving our donors proper recognition is vitally important to us. We apologize for any errors or omissions and ask that you email any needed corrections to us at info@indianriverlakes.org.

Honoring your loved ones

Over the years, the Indian River and Lakes have touched the lives of many. It is a beautiful tribute to them for you to honor them in this way. The legacy that we leave on this land will go on for years to come.

In Memory of

Kenneth Ameigh
Moolee Bunnag
Stephen Caldwell
Warren Curtis
Richard Dombrowski
Kathy Edgar
Michael Jaeger
Patricia Knorr
Robert Neulieb
Mike & Jean Ogden
John Scarlett
Michael Spreter

In Honor of

Doris Nagel Baker
Deleuw Magbee Caldwell
Freya DeMetri-Carney
Xavi Vaz Carney
Liam J. Dudley
Sofia Lopez
Maebh K. Nesbitt
Quinn Perry
Ed & Denise Robertson

"Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to pray in and play in, where nature may heal and give strength to the body and soul." - John Muir

Thank you Members!

Stephen & Karen Abbey
Ken & Pauline Adamowski
Arlon & Judith Adams
Robert Adams
Dennis Affinati & Beverly Sterling-Affinati
John Allen
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Colin Anderson
Judy Anderson
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Front Cover: Frog on a Lily Pad
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IRLC Newsletter : Spring 2023



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Join us for an upcoming event...

Water Quality Conference June 2nd
Redwood Hill Preserve at 8:30 am

Red Lake Preserve Ceremonial Opening June 7th
Red Lake Preserve at 4:00 pm

Elizabeth May Duvall Nature Grows Kids Camp July 18th - July 20th
Redwood Hill Preserve at 9:00 am

Community Paddle with Antique Boat Museum July 7th
Lake of the Woods at 2:00 pm

Celebration of Lakes - 25 Years! August 6th
Farm-to-Table Dinner & Music at the TI Winery
Tickets available now!

For a full listing of events and event details, visit indianriverlakes.org.



Children embrace an Oak at Redwood Hill Preserve