



# Indian River Lakes CONSERVANCY

Protect • Learn • Enjoy • Forever

Newsletter

Summer 2019



Last December I wrote to you this about our Mission. ***“Our Mission is to protect the unique resources of the Indian River Watershed for the benefit and enrichment of present and future generations. We will focus our human and financial resources first and foremost on the environmentally sound stewardship of our conserved lands, the quality of our lakes and other bodies of water in the Indian River Watershed, development of additional public and recreational facilities, including all access trails, while providing an array of high quality educational opportunities for children and adults, and a commitment to serving the environmental needs of our local communities.”*** We continue to expand and carry out that Mission.

The articles and photographs in this newsletter will provide more information so I will only mention a few key activities and milestones:

- ↪ The beautiful Beatrice Rosemond Trail (all access) was dedicated and is now used by a broad spectrum of visitors from 1 to 90 years old on a daily basis.
- ↪ Our unique Project WHIRL which provided hands on aquatic resources & invasive species education to a group of high school students over a 6 week period.
- ↪ Our 3 day Kids Camp had 57 students (ages 3 to 12) learned about nature by being in nature on our Redwood Hill Preserve.
- ↪ The Baker Woods Preserve in the southern part of our service area was expanded by 237 acres and 5 miles of new trails have been constructed.
- ↪ Our Trailside Classroom was busy with our well-known speakers series and we were very pleased to host two Regional Water Conferences with broad attendance.

Our first Capital Campaign is underway. It is focused on ***Education and Water Quality Programs, Staffing Support***, expanding our ***All Access Trail*** plus other improvements in our programs. Your support is crucial.

We are also expanding our efforts to connect and collaborate with lake residents and lake associations on a regular basis, and we also plan to meet periodically with area town governments to develop ways to collaborate for the benefit of the Indian River Watershed. Please feel free to contact us at any time.

We would appreciate your thoughts and ideas to help make the Indian River Watershed a better place for all.

***If it is to be, it is up to US.***

Thank you.



# Ribbon Cutting and Trail Dedication

of the Beatrice Rosemond Trail at Redwood Hill Preserve



We had a magical trail opening ceremony at the Redwood Hill Preserve on July 1<sup>st</sup> with the dedication of the Beatrice Rosemond Overlook Trail. The trail, named for the mother of former Board member and avid supporter Dani Baker, is now American's With Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant and hosts several new amenities. It includes a handicapped accessible Clivus Multrum Solar Powered Composting Toilet, a wheelchair ramp to our Trailside Classroom, and an overlook deck that enables magnificent views of Butterfield Lake for all. The fire pit near the Trailside Classroom now has a ramp, enabling wheelchair access. We also have two all-access picnic benches, one beside the fire pit and the other on the overlook deck. Interpretive

panels addressing the formation of the Frontenac Arch, formation of the Indian River Lakes, and the Birds of the Redwood Hill Preserve may also be found along the trail. We would also like to extend a special thank you to Kathy Sommer for playing her lovely violin music, providing the perfect ambiance and a touch of class for our ceremony.

Trail construction was supported by a grant from the Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, the Northern New York Community Foundation, and by bench naming donations from Mark and Louise Scarlett, Gary and Myra Dake, and Craig and Sally Waterstraat.

We would like to extend a special **Thank You** to a group of 14 volunteers who took two days of their busy summer schedule to construct the wheelchair ramp in early June. And a very special **Thank You** to our project leads, Richard Edgar and Jim Corriveau for your leadership and construction management skills. Also a special **Shout Out** and **Thank You** to Rt. 37 Building Supply and Home Depot for making substantial donations for the ramp's materials.



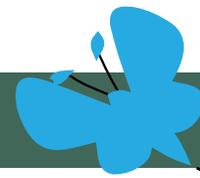
This trail project is truly amazing and we are so excited to open up trail access to those people with physical impairments who may find it challenging to enjoy and connect with nature. If you haven't had the chance to enjoy the trail yet, please come check it out! It is absolutely the perfect spot for a fall picnic!

*(Below & Right) Volunteers working on the wheelchair ramp for the Trailside Classroom.*



*Redwood Hill Preserve, with the Beatrice Rosemond Overlook Trail is located at 44010 Stine Rd., Redwood, NY.*





2019 Kids' Camp

Our Education Committee had a great summer! The second annual Kids' Camp went off without a hitch, thanks to the efforts of 24 amazing volunteers led by Camp Director Pam Nelson, and co-directors Denise Haddock and Elizabeth Duvall.



Kids' Camp Volunteers

Fifty-seven children attended and were divided into three groups: ages 3-5 "Knee High Naturalists", ages 6-9 "Junior Naturalists", and ages 10-12 "Adventure Naturalists."

Camp highlights included a day with Westie's Birds of Prey, another with the Traveling EdZOOcation from the New York State Zoo at Thompson Park, while the third day focused on learning about the importance of Water Quality in our watershed. **Kids' Camp 2020 will be held July 14-16! Save the Dates!**



One Junior Naturalists learning about water pollution sources.

*"The camp was a great learning experience as well as a chance for the campers to be creative individually and work together in groups. I really enjoyed volunteering and look forward to next year! Thank you!!"*

- Vicky Storey

**SUMMER KIDS' CAMP** at REDWOOD HILL PRESERVE



Some dancing to warm up at the beginning of camp.

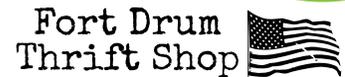


Beaver sticks.

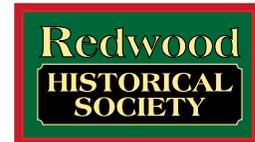
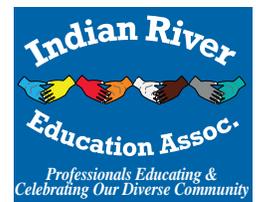
We owe a big **Thank You** to Carthage Area Hospital for providing a substantial donation to support our K-12 and family education programs. Thank you also for providing breakfast, lunch, and a nurse each day of Kids' Camp.



Additional Kids' Camp sponsors include:



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### More Education NEWS

Our Education Committee, in partnership with Great Lakes Education Exchange (GLEE), developed a curriculum of nine lesson plans based on New York State Science and Learning Standards for elementary and middle school classes. Lessons include a Watershed Orientation, Web of Life, Name that Plant, and other active-learning and hands-on activities that stimulate children to think about the impact of human activity on our ecosystems' animal and plant life within the Indian River Lakes and Great Lakes Watershed.

The inaugural year of Protectors of Water and Habitat in the Indian River Lakes (Project WHIRL) was a great success with the first class graduating seven Indian River High School Students.

Project WHIRL is a program for high school students (mentees) and volunteer environmental science field professionals and college students (mentors) affiliated with our partner organizations whose logos are displayed below. Project WHIRL focused on providing quality classroom and hands-on watershed education and experiences in two tracks: invasive species and aquatic resources management.

The program culminated with the students making oral, video, and slide presentations describing what they learned to area lake associations, local residents, and elected officials. The key goal of these presentations was to stimulate cross-generational interest in the stewardship of our watershed's lands, rivers, lakes and wetlands.

Further education and outreach will continue throughout the year within the Indian River School District as Project WHIRL graduates provide presentations to high school and middle school students with a goal of exposing and educating a broader and younger population of children about our watershed's environmental challenges and best management practices.

In the next few years this program will expand our goal to improve environmental literacy in the realms of invasive species management, aquatic resources management, and watershed management; thereby increasing student interest for pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).

Our goal for next year is to expand the program and make it available to students from all of the IRLC service area school districts by including the opportunity for a high school biology credit and an additional credit from Paul Smith's College.

*"I like to present Project WHIRL to our Steward participants not just as a volunteer program but rather as an 'opportunity' – an opportunity to expand their knowledge for natural ecosystems; grow their professional networks; and, most importantly, have fun!" - Tom Hughes FORCES, NYS Parks*



## Project WHIRL 2019 Curriculum & Activities

- ◆ limnology overview and water quality sampling and at Paul Smith's College Adirondack Watershed Institute
- ◆ benthic macro-invertebrate inventories to assess water quality
- ◆ fish inventories mentored by NYS DEC biologists
- ◆ fish identification and lake ecosystem ecology
- ◆ invasive species identification and impacts on ecology
- ◆ iMapInvasives familiarization and reporting
- ◆ 50+ acres of purple loosestrife infested wetlands treated with biocontrol using weevils
- ◆ environmental DNA (E-DNA) testing for aquatic invasive species in partnership with Cornell University



The **2019 Water Quality Conference** was held on June 7<sup>th</sup>.



Indian River Lakes Conservancy's 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Water Quality Conference was held on Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at our Trailside Classroom at Redwood Hill Preserve with over 40 people in attendance.

Students from Project WHIRL were among those who participated, kicking off their involvement with water quality in the Indian River watershed.

Many thanks to our sponsor New York State Federation of Lakes (NYSFOLA) for their support.

Next year's conference will be May 29, 2020. More information will be available in the coming months.

## 2019 Celebration of the Lakes at Bella-Brooke Vineyard

Thank you to everyone who supported this year's Celebration of the Lakes fundraising dinner at Bella-Brook Vineyard. It was an extremely successful evening. We are so blessed to have such wonderful people involved with IRLC! Next year's event will be on August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Save the date!



Thank you to  
**Chalk's Marina &  
Boat Sales**  
for their support of  
Celebration of the Lakes!





*Congratulations!*

Heidi Sourwine, IRLC's Program Coordinator, gave birth to a daughter, Scarlett Dix on May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Scarlett weighed in at 8.7 lbs. and measured 20.5 inches! Welcome to our world baby Scarlett!

**Congratulations** to Robert Smith!

Big congratulations are in order for one of our most dedicated volunteers!

Robert Smith was recently hired by the St. Lawrence-Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (SLELO PRISM) as a Terrestrial Restoration and Resiliency Coordinator.

We wish you the best with your new adventure!



**Baker Woods News**



This year's **Appreciation Cruise** was a wonderful celebration of IRLC's 2019 successes. Many thanks to all our donors and volunteers in helping to make this year our best ever!

Many thanks to Uncle Sam's Boat Tours for donating the cruise and to all of our amazing supporters!



On August 4<sup>th</sup> we had the official opening of the Baker Woods South trails! Bring your paddle craft for a launch at the landing and a short 250 yard paddle upstream to the trailhead on the south bank of the Indian River.

Special thanks to Matt and Liam Carney and their crew of dedicated trail stewards for opening and maintaining the new 5 mile trail loop.



**A note of thanks...**

We owe a special **Thank You** to Julie Covey who stepped in for Heidi during her maternity leave! Job well done Julie, during our busiest summer ever!

**2019 Conservation Pioneer Award Winners**

(by school)

**Garrett Miller** - *Carthage Central School District*  
JCC & Paul Smiths

**Maria Foisy** - *LaFargeville Central School District*  
Nazareth College for Biomedical Sciences

**Gabriel Niles** - *Hammond Central School District*

**Payton Smith** - *Alexandria Central School District*

**Nathan Mills** - *Indian River Central School District*  
Alfred University for Environmental Science

***We wish you all the best on your educational endeavors!***



# Indian River Lakes CONSERVANCY

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**J. Wylie Huffman, III**  
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**Heidi Sourwine**  
*Program Coordinator*

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## Join us at an upcoming event...

<b>Fall Family Fun Day</b>	<b>September 28<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Autumn Walk and Talk</b>	<b>October 12<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Water Quality Conference</b>	<b>May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>
<b>Kids' Camp</b>	<b>July 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>
<b>Celebration of the Lakes</b>	<b>August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020</b>

*For a full listing of event details, visit [indianriverlakes.org](http://indianriverlakes.org).*



*Great-crested Flycatcher at  
Redwood Hill Preserve.*