

Dusty and Tom Putnam – Lake-friendly Living

When LGA members Dusty and Tom Putnam bought their Lake George summer home three years ago, they didn't want it to look like an everyday suburban home – with a manicured lawn and clipped bushes. They wanted a natural looking getaway, with a true Adirondack camp feel.

The Putnams have been visiting Lake George since 1975, and love it dearly. They feel strongly about preserving and protecting the beauty of Lake George and they never want to do anything to harm it. Because the Lake is now their source of drinking water, the idea of pouring loads of fertilizer on a lawn didn't make sense to them at all.

Several of the local landscapers they spoke with at first didn't seem to get it. These landscapers kept recommending the same large expanse of lawn, down to the edge of the lake, with clean, exact edges and precisely manicured shrubs. It was the same exact landscaping look they could see everywhere, back home, and on Lake George too. The kind of landscaping that requires lots of weeding, watering and fertilizing. Luckily,



Native plants, an alternative peat septic system (shown above) and permeable pavers... all three combine at the Putnam's lake home ... creating a lake-friendly landscape to be envied!

after a bit of frustration with local landscapers, the Putnams were introduced to the LGA's Director of Education Emily DeBolt. Emily gave the Putnams a list of native plants that would thrive on their property, and encouraged them to follow through on their dream of a natural looking landscape. The Putnams were delighted to learn that what they wanted for aesthetic reasons

turned out to be exactly what was so good for the health of the Lake. The native plants would thrive without fertilizer, while also slowing and filtering the stormwater on their property, reducing sediments and nutrients from entering the Lake.

A lake-shore buffer of trees was already in place when the Putnams moved in, and they have left those trees intact – they like the privacy. The buffer also screens out light and sound from the lake, prevents erosion, and keeps their shoreline intact, while framing a beautiful view.

Alternative Peat Septic System

The Putnam's septic system was old, and they wondered if they could trust it to treat their effluent

(continued, next page)



Alternative Septic Systems & Permeable Pavers Make a Lake-friendly Landscape

More about Alternative Peat Bio-filter Systems:

1. Ideal for sites with intermittent use, sites needing repairs or upgrades, and new sites as well.
2. Work well in difficult sites – small lot sizes or with high bedrock, but also are superior to traditional systems in the quality of wastewater treatment they provide.
3. Systems have been in use for over 15 years in a large number of U.S. residential and light commercial applications.
4. Operating costs are low.
5. Factory assembly reduces installation costs, ensures quality.
6. Average installation time is three days.
7. High quality, specialized peat, imported from Ireland, requires replacement every 15 years.
8. No blowers or re-circulating pumps are required. Waste water flows from the home to a water-tight septic tank. The solids settle and the liquid effluent flows by gravity to a pump basin or tank. Next, the liquid effluent is pumped by time-dosing at specific intervals into the peat modules, where it is distributed evenly.
9. A combination of biological, chemical and physical processes treat the wastewater as it filters through the bio-fibrous peat media.
10. Treated effluent disperses either into a gravel pad beneath the peat modules or is collected for dispersal by other methods, including gravel trenches or a separate drain field.

(continued from page one) efficiently. Last year they installed an alternative septic system, using a unique bio-fibrous peat filter media, and are pleased with how the system is working. Alternative systems like these can generally be installed in just three days; they are reliable, simple to operate, and odor-free. They require little or no power. They also clean the waste water in a much more comprehensive way than standard systems, filtering it both biologically and chemically before it goes into the ground, making these systems ideal for those who are environmentally concerned.



Trees frame a view, and provide privacy, in the Putnam's backyard.

Permeable Pavers

As if the septic system and the native plants weren't enough, the Putnams went one step farther. They also installed permeable pavers to create spare parking on



Wildflowers grow between the permeable grass pavers in the Putnam's spare parking area. Grass, mulch or other vegetation can also be used. The LGA is happy to recognize Putnam's lake-saving investments, which will help keep Lake George healthy for future generations. Please let us know if we can feature your project in a future newsletter!

their property. Permeable pavers are an alternative to more traditional pavers or asphalt surfaces; they enable water to filter through the surface to the underlying soils. Water in more traditional systems hits the surface, flows down to the nearest drainage channel, and becomes stormwater runoff. This stormwater runoff brings with it pollutants, chemicals, fertilizers, sediment and oils, reducing the quality of the water flowing into the catchment areas. Permeable pavers permit rainwater to be absorbed by the ground underneath, while still providing a stable and strong surface for vehicles.

Permeable Pavers:

- Can sustain heavy loads and can be used for commercial and residential driveways, public parking lots and pedestrian paths.
- Reduce stormwater runoff, flooding, and erosion, and promote groundwater recharge.
- Are made from many different types of materials.
- Grass pavers are made of a plastic or concrete grid system, with gravel, mulch or vegetation planted in the voids. They allow water to seep into the ground, providing necessary nutrients and minerals for plant life.
- Porous concrete pavers are made with a special mix of concrete that comes out with small holes in it, through which water can filter.

Trees: A Key Ingredient in Protecting Lake George

What tree-cutting restrictions currently exist around Lake George? The LGA is called frequently with questions like this one, by people looking to us for accurate information on how they can best protect the Lake. Last month, a landowner called who wanted to save a mature tree standing in an area near the shoreline of Lake George in the town of Bolton. A neighbor wanted to remove the tree. What do the rules say?

The Adirondack Park Agency (APA) has regulations that protect against removing trees and other vegetation along the lake shore. The APA allows any local government within the park to develop its own local land-use program, which if approved by the Agency, may transfer some permitting authority from the APA to the local government. These towns include Bolton, Lake George, Hague and Queensbury.

According to the current APA Citizen's Guide, there are generally no requirements for the harvesting of trees on non-shoreline parcels unless an owner plans to clear-cut more than 25 upland acres or three wetland acres, or

Here's how trees help Lake George:

- Trees provide privacy, and frame a view.
- Trees reduce nighttime glare and light pollution.
- Trees serve as acoustical barriers, absorbing the sounds of boats and other noises.
- Trees along streams, wetlands, and lakes help control stormwater runoff, remove soil sediment, reduce flood damage, and increase water quality.
- Tree roots stabilize the soil, preventing erosion.
- One square mile of forest produces 50 tons of erosion sediment. In contrast, land prepared for construction produces 25,000 to 50,000 tons of sediment per year.
- Shade trees on the east and west side of a home can cut cooling costs 15 – 35%.
- Trees can form a windbreak to slow and redirect the wind, lowering your heating bills in the winter.
- Trees produce food and habitat for wildlife – enjoy watching it!
- Trees produce oxygen and store carbon dioxide (just the opposite of humans), which helps to clean and restore our air.
- One acre of trees on your property can absorb the carbon dioxide you produce by driving your automobile 26,000 miles, and produces enough oxygen for 18 people every day.

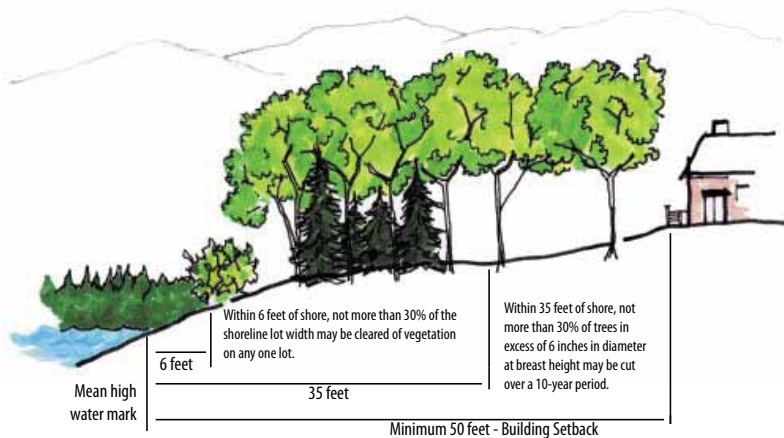


Photo courtesy of Adirondack Park Agency

the property is located in a Designated River Area. Along shorelines, however, APA rules limit cutting is to the following:

- Within six feet of shore, not more than 30 percent of the shoreline may be cleared of vegetation (bushes and trees) on any one lot.

- Within 35 feet of shore, not more than 30 percent of trees in excess of six

inches in diameter, measured at 4.5 feet above the ground, may be cut over a 10-year period.

Bolton's tree cutting restrictions in this case, mirror the APA's.

As LGA members, we know that trees are essential to maintaining the integrity of sensitive environmental areas surrounding the lake shore. We hope all Lake George residents will take some time to learn how valuable trees are to our watershed and how they are an investment in the future of Lake George. Because trees have so many benefits, both for individuals, and for the lake, decisions to remove trees within the watershed should be made with complete information, weighing all the facts.

Homeowners and developers may wish to remove trees on their property to improve their view, and they think that removing all the trees is the only answer. Or they may be concerned a tree might fall on their house, even if it is healthy. Sometimes, unbeknownst to a homeowner, a construction project or new driveway will disturb the tree roots, their soil will be compacted, removed, or too much soil will be piled up against the tree, leading to unwanted disease and death.

According to Laurel Gailor of the Warren County Cornell Cooperative Extension, residents should take extra precaution during construction projects to protect the trees that they have. Only those trees that are diseased or insect-ridden should be removed, to protect the neighboring trees. Mitzi Nittmann, the zoning enforcement officer in Bolton, will visit a homeowner's property to help assess whether a dying tree, or one damaged by lightning, presents a threat to a structure on the property, and should come down. These are all good reasons why trees should be removed.

But in most cases, the more trees the better.

Project Will Study Stormwater Issues in Putnam

This past December, the LGA signed an agreement with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) to study the town of Putnam's current stormwater infrastructure. Black Point Road, Glenburnie and Gull Bay are the areas in the watershed that will be evaluated.

In the spring of 2008 several concerned residents and Putnam Town Supervisor John LaPointe contacted the LGA to discuss their concerns regarding the town's stormwater. We already knew of issues along Black Point Road, but after our discussion, we agreed that a comprehensive study for the entire portion of the town located within the Lake George watershed was definitely needed.

We contacted Jason Shea from the Army Corps to discuss one of their grant programs, called the Planning Assistance to States Program. This program allows the Corps to assist states, local governments, and other non-federal entities in the preparation of comprehensive plans for the development, utilization, and conservation of water and related land resources.

After discussing the project with Jason, we began defining the scope of work required. We started with a day in the field with Highway Superintendent Gary Treadway and Gull Bay resident Peter Leyh. We located and recorded several locations of concern as well as the locations of the stormwater culverts. While not entirely complete, this effort provided enough data to create a map and explain the scope of work to the Corps.

The basic project steps will include the following:

1. Document the existing stormwater infrastructure in the field;
2. Conduct limited hydrologic analysis on sites needing improvement;
3. Prioritize these sites;
4. Make recommendations on how to retrofit the highest priority sites.

Last summer, Roman Rakoczy from the Corps and a small contingent of residents took a tour of some of the sites along Black Point Road and took a look at the Beaver Dam in Glenburnie. This gave the Corps a better understanding of the project and helped further define the scope of work required.

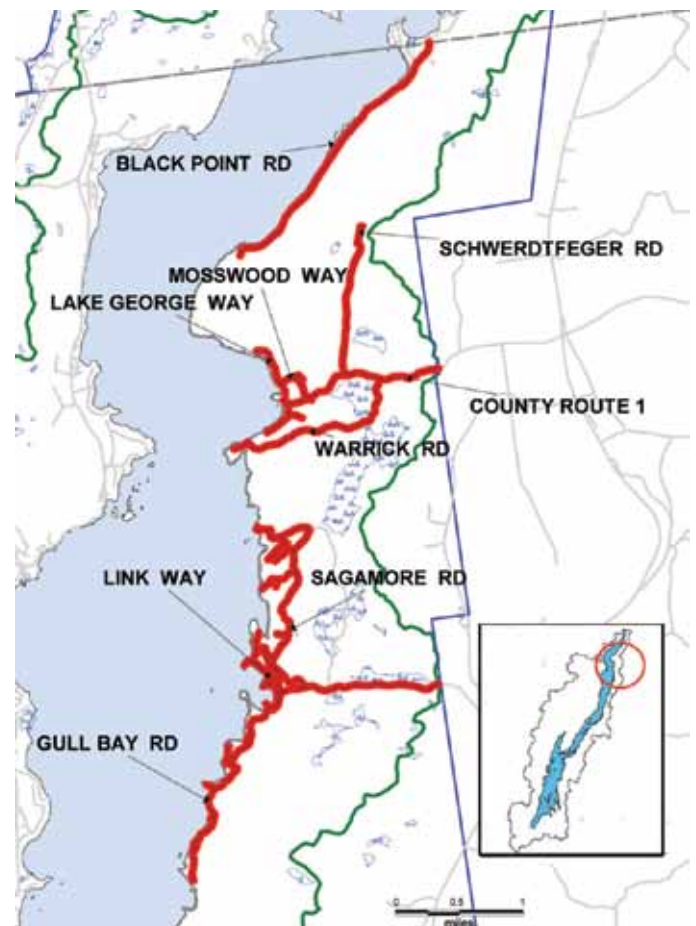
In December, we finalized the scope of work and signed an agreement with the Corps. The Planning Assistance to States Program is a 50/50 matching grant. **The LGA is contributing \$30,000 in funds awarded by the Froehlich Foundation for this project and will be adding, along with some assistance from the town**

of Putnam, \$35,000 of in-kind services to complete the local match for the planning grant. LGA in-kind services will include collecting all available geographic data (digital GIS data), as well as physical collection and analysis of sites in the Gull Bay area. The Army Corps in return will provide \$65,000 for the federal match.

There is also concern about the beaver dam located in the Glenburnie area. A full evaluation for a catastrophic dam failure is outside the scope of this grant. However, we can provide possible dam alternatives and outline the steps needed to realize these alternatives.

We hope to have the planning project completed by the end of 2011. Final recommendations will be used to request technical assistance from the Watershed Environmental Assistance Program, which operates via the Lake Champlain Basin Program in cooperation with the USACOE. If accepted as a viable project, it will receive 65% federal funding with a 35% local match.

To make this project possible, the LGA recognizes the support of Supervisor John LaPointe, Highway Superintendent Gary Treadway, the Helen V. Froehlich Foundation, the USACOE, as well as the support from many local homeowners, especially Peter Leyh.



Roads highlighted in red will be included in the study.

Putnam Students Enjoy Their First-ever Floating Classroom Experience

Students from Putnam School District in Putnam Station, NY were the first to venture out on the Lake George Association's Floating Classroom this spring. And this was the first time in the 20-year history of the Floating Classroom that the Putnam School District has participated. Students from Warrensburg, Glens Falls, South Glens Falls, Ticonderoga and Lake Luzerne will also go out before the school year ends. Due to a grant from the Froehlich Foundation, the program can be provided at no cost throughout 2010 to school districts in the Lake George watershed.



"The program tied in perfectly with the New York State science curriculum for our 4 – 6th grade students," said Meredith Beeman, a teacher at Putnam Station School. "The trip included scientific investigations and methods, and information about the water cycle and the local ecology of Lake George. The students had a fantastic time. They talked about the equipment they got to use for days. The program provided a real world hands on science experience for our students. The highlight was catching plankton and examining them under the microscopes. This activity was a good primer for the students as they are set to begin studying invasive-

aquatic plants in the Adirondacks," she said.

"We instill in the students a sense of life-long stewardship for the Lake," says Kristen Rohne, who took her first trip on the Floating Classroom as a seventh-grade student from Queensbury, and then grew up to become the LGA's watershed educator. "It's an experience the students will never forget... I know I never did! The program helps the students see how important it is for people to protect Lake George."

On the boat, students have the opportunity to use the actual tools of the limnology trade: Secchi disks, plankton nets, field scopes and Van Dorn bottles. Students measure water temperature, pH and dissolved oxygen – all are important indicators of lake quality. In addition, they gain an understanding of how Lake George is different from other lakes, and learn about the Lake's geological history, and about threats to the Lake from invasive species and pollution.

Glens Falls Students Monitor a Stream



Sixth grade science students from Glens Falls Middle School enjoyed LGA's stream monitoring field trip this May -- all 150 of them! These programs address a wide array of NYS Learning Standards for science, while instilling in the students an understanding of how important it is to protect Lake George.

Thinking of Moving? Leave a Legacy.

Perhaps you're ready to move into a smaller house, a condominium or a retirement home. Maybe you have a vacation home you no longer use or you're ready to give up country life for a place in town.

Using real estate such as your house, commercial property, vacation home, or investment property to fund a gift allows you to preserve your cash assets, receive significant tax and income advantages, and make a larger charitable gift than anticipated.



By including the LGA in your estate plans, you become a member of the Helen V. Froehlich Legacy Society – the LGA's way of formally recognizing and thanking those who support the LGA's mission through bequests and planned gifts.

If you own property that is fully paid off and has appreciated in value, an outright gift may be the simplest solution. You can deduct the fair market value of your gift, avoid all capital gains taxes, and remove that asset from your taxable estate. You can transfer the deed of your home or property to the Lake George Association today, and keep the right to use the property for your lifetime and that of your spouse.

Outright Gift

The home you're leaving can be given to the Lake George Association outright. If you have owned it for more than a year, you can receive a tax deduction for the full current

market value (rather than your lower cost basis), and you can avoid capital gains tax on the appreciation. Your gift is deductible up to 30 percent of your adjusted gross income, with a five-year carryover allowed for any excess.

Charitable Remainder Trust

Another alternative is to transfer your un-mortgaged home, in which you no longer live, or other un-mortgaged real estate, to a charitable remainder trust. This can secure a life income for you and a survivor (such as your spouse), and provide the LGA with much-needed assistance at the termination of the trust.

How it works: Once the property has been transferred to the trust, the trustee can then sell it and invest the proceeds in income-producing securities, which become the source for the income payments to you and any other recipient you name.

As always, we recommend that you consult with your personal tax advisor or attorney.

125th Celebration is Friday, July 16



Tickets are selling fast for Summer Splash...the LGA's annual gala at the Inn at Erlowest, celebrating our 125th Anniversary, on Friday, July 16. Please don't miss this benefit for the protection of Lake George. Bobby Dick and the Sundowners will make marvelous music to dance to, and the Erlowest's new executive chef, Ken Lingle, will create a vintage 1885 dessert, designed specifically for the LGA's 125th! For the first time, we are posting several of the auction items online – you can preview them at www.lakegeorgeassociation.org.

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Lake George Association, Inc. PO Box 408 Lake George, NY 12845

The LGA is proud to produce this publication using Forest Stewardship Council certified printing & paper.



LGA Lake Stewards - On Duty Once Again at Boat Launches

Lake stewards are once again on duty at boat launches around Lake George for the summer, inspecting boats and educating boaters on how to prevent the spread of invasive species.

Coordinated by the LGA, the program seeks to contain the spread of three species already present in Lake George: Eurasian watermilfoil, zebra mussels, and curly-leaf pondweed, as well as a possible fourth – brittle naiad – which was found and removed from Dunham's Bay last summer. The program also helps prevent new invasive species from being introduced, such as spiny waterflea and water chestnut, which are present in nearby water bodies.

Lake stewards Monika LaPlante, Lee Peters, Mark Altwerger and Brendan Carberry were trained in inspection, identification and data collection by the



Lake steward Monika LaPlante inspects a clean boat at the Norowal Marina. Monika removed three invasive species - milfoil, pondweed and zebra mussels - from one of the boats she inspected on her first day out - May 28.

LGA and at the Adirondack Watershed Institute at Paul Smiths College, in cooperation with the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program and the Lake Champlain Basin Program.

LGA stewards will be located at Norowal Marina in the south end, and Mossy Point, the Hague Town Launch, and Rogers Rock in the north end, throughout the summer. In addition to inspecting the boats for aquatic invasive species, the stewards will also remind boaters of the new Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) firewood regulation, limiting the transport of untreated wood to 50 miles. This law aims to protect forests from insect invaders, such as the Emerald Ash Borer and the Asian Longhorned Beetle, which have had a devastating impact on tree populations in

the Great Lakes and the Northeast regions.

Funding for the program this year was provided by the towns of Hague and Ticonderoga, the Bolton Local Development Corporation, and the Lake George Park Commission. In past years, the LGA has received

funds from New York State through the Lake George Watershed Coalition to run this essential invasive-species-spread-prevention program, which is respected across New York and New England. We are grateful that we were able to secure funding from other sources this year, including the Helen V. Froehlich Foundation. Without preventative measures like this, Lake George could suffer the kind of devastating impact, both ecologically and economically, that we've seen in other lakes.

LGA's Summer Intern - Jill Trunko



Jill Trunko has joined the LGA as our summer environmental education intern. Jill is working on the Floating Classroom with Kristen Rohne, LGA's watershed educator. She will also assist with the LGA's many summer outreach and education projects. Jill will be a senior in the fall at the SUNY College of Environmental

Science and Forestry in Syracuse, where she is majoring in Environmental Studies with a concentration in Communications, Culture and Writing. Jill lives in Delmar, NY and Warrensburg. So far, her favorite job at the LGA has been working with the students at streams, helping the students discover how important streams are to the health of Lake George. She looks forward to a career where she can help to bridge the gap between science and the public.



Lake steward Mark Altwerger at 2010 steward training, Adirondack Watershed Institute, Paul Smiths College.

Never been out? Join us!
For the first time ever... the general public is invited to board the Floating Classroom for eco-learning adventures!
Wednesdays at 11 am
in July and August
Shepard Park Dock, Lake George

Contact us for a reservation at 668-3558, or info@lakegeorgeassociation.org



LGA's Floating Classroom

Lake George Association
P.O. Box 408
Lake George, NY 12845

Nonprofit Organization
U.S. Postage PAID
Permit No. 17
Lake George, NY

Make sure to join us at these upcoming JULY events!!!

Wed 7, 14, 21 & 28 **Public Floating Classroom** 2-hour eco-learning adventure on Lake George. Leaves the dock at Shepard Park at 11 am. Reservations required. Suggested donation: \$10 adults, \$8 children, \$9 seniors

11 – 17 **Adirondack Park Invasive Species Awareness Week** Lake George Visitors Center, 11 am – 4 pm. Learn about lake, land and forest invaders! FREE

Mon & Tues, 12 & 13 **Safe Boating Course** 9 am – 1 pm at the LGA Office. Call the Lake George Park Commission to register: 668-9347.

Wed 14 **National Secchi Dip-In** on the Floating Classroom. Leaves the dock at Shepard Park at 11 am. Reservations required. Donation suggested.

Thur 15 **Lake Invaders** Family Hands-on Water Ecology program. Shepard Park, Lake George 10 am - 11 am, FREE

Fri 16 **LGA Summer Gala - Summer Splash** A benefit for the protection of Lake George. Celebrating the LGA's 125th Anniversary, Inn at Erlowest, Lake George, 6:30 pm. Reservations required. \$150 per person.

Sat 17 **Aquatic Invasive Plants - Do's and Don'ts** Tyler Smith, Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program. An LGA Lake-friendly living workshop. At the LGA offices, Rt. 9N, 10 am - 1 pm, FREE

Sat 17 **Adirondack Loon Census Count** Volunteers needed to monitor sections of the shoreline around the Lake. 8 - 9 am. Call the LGA to participate.

Thu 22 **Creek Critters** Hands-on Water Ecology Adventure. Lake George Recreation Center Rt 9N, Lake George – Meet at first parking lot – on top. 10 - 11 am, FREE

Fri 23 **WATERFEST** Haviland Cove Beach, Glens Falls, 11 am – 4 pm. Fun and educational family activities all based on water.

Tues 27 **Log Bay LGA Clean-Up** – Volunteers Wanted. Meet in Log Bay. Come by boat or by car (Shelving Rock), 10 am – noon. FREE

Thu 29 **Fish Food** Hands-on Water Ecology Adventure. Rogers Park Pavilion, Bolton Landing, 10 - 11 am, FREE



LGA's MISSION:

Working together to protect, conserve and improve the beauty and quality of the Lake George Basin.