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Protecting Our Water. Educating for the Future.

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NEWS RELEASE

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Nearly \$50,000 in grants will be used to protect Lake George water in 2016

Lake Champlain Basin Program provides funding for four LGA projects

LAKE GEORGE – The Lake George Association has been awarded a total of \$47,908 in grants by the Lake Champlain Basin Program for programs, projects and equipment for 2016. The grants will allow the Lake George Association to continue to protect Lake George water quality and to provide education for the future.

The largest of the grants totals \$19,608 and will be used for major stream repairs – the LGA’s 2016 Project Focus. The two streams targeted with this grant money are Hague Brook and Jenkins Brook – both in the town of Hague. The work that the LGA is planning with our partners is expected to stabilize streambanks in order to prevent sediment and other material from entering Lake George and degrading the lake’s water quality. The stream repairs are also expected to improve fish habitats in both areas and allow fish to move farther upstream than is currently possible.

“Stream health is very important to Lake George,” said Randy G. Rath, Project Manager for the Lake George Association. “Maintaining or repairing the paths of streams and brooks – and stopping stormwater from eroding streambanks – keeps Lake George clear of runoff, sediment, and debris that can contaminate the Lake.”

The second grant – \$14,300 – will help to pay for two Invasive Species Spread Prevention Education Interns. With a long history of educational outreach on invasive species, the Lake George Association plans to hire two interns for the season who will help educate visitors and the community about the threats of invasive species – and about ways the public can help prevent the spread of invasive species both on land and in the water.

“The Lake George Association understands the importance of spread prevention education,” said Kristen Rohne, Director of Education for the Lake George Association. “It’s something we have been doing for a long time as part of our mission.

(MORE)



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“We realize that the more visitors and residents know about the threats, the better they will understand how their everyday actions can protect the Lake as well as protect all of the surrounding water bodies,” Rohne said.

“We expect that in addition to their own work, our invasive species interns will supplement the outreach and informational work being done by Lake George Park Commission’s Boat Inspection Program. The interns will be able to interact with visitors and residents away from the boat launches and increase awareness before the visitors even get to the shoreline,” she added.

The third grant – for \$10,000 – will be used to allow the Lake George Association to continue to offer our award-winning Floating Classroom program free of charge to schools within the Lake George watershed: Towns of Lake George, Bolton, Lake Luzerne, Hague, Warrensburg, Ticonderoga, Putnam, Fort Ann, Whitehall, and Queensbury and the Village of Lake George. As part of the Floating Classroom trips, the students learn about the formation of Lake George, measure the clarity of the water, and search for plankton, all on the LGA’s custom built vessel.

The Floating Classroom program is central to the LGA’s mission (“Protect Our Water. Educate for the Future.”). For more than 20 years, the program has taught students, visitors, residents and municipal leaders about Lake George in a way that can only happen while experiencing it out on the Lake – and has provided a wider understanding of how through our actions we all protect our water. Since 2009, the program has reached 14,391 people

The final grant – of \$4,000 – will allow the Lake George Association to replace its 15-year-old large-format printer that is no longer operational. The printer is used by the Lake George Association to print GIS-based maps, project plans, signs, outreach materials, educational materials and informational materials, as well as for use in membership drives and other in-house programs.

“While the Lake George Association focuses its efforts, time and money on the Lake George watershed, we understand that we do not operate in a vacuum,” said C. Walter Lender, LGA Executive Director. “The Lake George watershed is a major piece of the Lake Champlain watershed, and we realize that everything we can do to keep Lake George clean will also protect Lake Champlain downstream. We are happy to have the Lake Champlain Basin Program as a partner for all the important work we have planned for Lake George in 2016 and we thank them for their support of our work.”

(MORE)



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What does the Lake George Association do?

We protect Lake George water quality each day because **we develop and perform in-the-ground projects (stormwater control, pollution control, erosion control)** dedicated to keeping Lake George's water pure, and **we develop and deliver educational materials** (provided in schools, to homeowners, to businesses, to visitors, to boaters, and on the Lake with our Floating Classroom) aimed at advising people what they can do to keep Lake George water clean and healthy.

About the Lake Champlain Basin Program

The Lake Champlain Basin Program works in partnership with private organizations, local communities, individuals and government agencies from New York, Vermont, and Quebec to coordinate and fund efforts that benefit the Lake Champlain Basin's water quality, fisheries, wetlands, wildlife, recreation, and cultural resources. For more information, please visit <http://www.lcbp.org>