

The Lake George Association

People working together to protect, conserve and improve the beauty and quality of Lake George.

The Floating Classroom, *Rosalia Anna Ashby*, is named after the mother of Bruce Ashby, an LGA member whose generous financial support helped to fund the purchase of a new boat in 2009. The Floating Classroom's continued operations are made possible by donations, memberships, and grants. Your financial support of this vital and exciting program is needed and welcome!



Established in 1885, the Lake George Association is the nation's oldest lake association, and a pioneer in the conservation movement.

As a non-profit membership organization, the LGA strives for a balanced approach to the management of the Lake and its watershed, ensuring both the long-term stability of the Lake's water quality, and the economic viability of the region.

The LGA's varied educational programs engage audiences of all ages in lake stewardship. Workshops, training sessions, publications and presentations are offered on septic systems, invasive species, fertilizers, lake-friendly landscaping, safe boating and more.

LGA Lake Stewards inspect thousands of boats each summer, removing invasive species before they enter the Lake. Citizen Science volunteers monitor for turtles and zebra mussels. CSLAP volunteers test water quality for New York's Citizen Statewide Lake Assessment Program.

Together with volunteers, members, municipal partners and agencies, the LGA identifies sources of pollution and erosion throughout the watershed. We then seek funding and collaborate with others to implement solutions to these problems.



Lake George Association

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The Lake George Association's

Floating Classroom

A hands-on aquatic adventure for all ages!



Welcome aboard the *Rosalia Anna Ashby*, the LGA's Floating Classroom!

From earthquakes and glaciers, to stormwater and invasive species, learn all about Lake George and the science behind keeping its water clean and clear.

Investigate the Lake George ecosystem. Find out what makes Lake George unique. Catch and identify tiny animals that live in the Lake. Help us measure the water's quality and clarity. Find out if Lake George is healthy, and what people can do to help.

The Floating Classroom operates from May through October. Programs are typically two hours long. Call or visit our website for a schedule of programs for the general public.

Programs for schools, tourists, youth groups, municipalities and homeowner associations are customized to meet each group's specific needs.

"Thank you for letting me go out on the Floating Classroom. It was a wonderful learning experience, and something that everyone who lives near, or enjoys the Lake, should be able to do." E. Smith, N. Creek, NY

"Thank you for hosting the Floating Classroom. Your staff was knowledgeable and engaged all the students regardless of the questions they asked." S. Showers, Bolton Central School

"The program tied in perfectly with the New York State science curriculum for our 4 - 6th grade students. It 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 highlight was catching plankton and examining them under the microscopes. This activity was a good primer for our study of invasive-aquatic plants in the Adirondacks." M. Beeman, Putnam Central School



Your Journey Aboard the LGA's *Floating Classroom* Includes:

Lake George Basics.

Learn what makes Lake George different from other lakes. How long is it? How many islands does it have?

History.

Get a brief geological history of the formation of Lake George. What did the Lake look like before the glaciers came through? Why does the Lake flow north?



Water Chemistry.

Using a water sampler, capture some water and measure temperature, pH and dissolved oxygen levels. What do these tests tell us over time?

Nature Protection and Pollution Control.

Learn about threats to the Lake. Invasive plants and animals like Eurasian watermilfoil and zebra mussels crowd out native species. Pollution from fertilizers, septic systems, stormwater runoff and road salt make the Lake unhealthy.



Water Clarity.

Learn to use a special tool, called a Secchi disk, to measure water clarity. How far can you see into Lake George?

Food Webs and Plankton.

Catch and identify zooplankton using plankton nets and field microscopes. Why are they important to the health of Lake George? What else lives in the Lake?



Some facts to keep in mind...

Capacity on board: 30 passengers. All ages are welcome. Groups of up to 60 can be accommodated by adding our on-land stream monitoring program. (The Floating Classroom is NY State and U.S. Coast Guard certified. It is built to exceed the standards set by the American Bureau of Shipping.)

What to wear: We recommend that you dress warmly in layers and wear sneakers or other comfortable flat shoes. The wind on Lake George can be chilly! The boat is partially covered to provide protection from light weather.

Life jackets: Life jackets are provided for all passengers. (Everyone under 18 is required to wear one.)

Where to board: At the Lake George Village Dock, just north of Shepard Park, at the end of Amherst Street. We can also arrange to meet groups at a different location if a suitable dock is available.

Funding: When grant funding and sponsorships are available, the LGA is pleased to provide the program free of charge to school children within the Watershed. Some programs are partially underwritten. Call for more information! Donations are encouraged.



*Ecology, Conservation, & Lake Stewardship.
Only we can protect beautiful Lake George for future generations.*