

LGA Floating Classroom Back Out on the Water !



After a long winter of hard work, we were rewarded by the arrival of the new boat this spring on May 5th, 2009. The boat arrived at Norowal Marina from Corinthian Catamaran in Tarpon Springs, Florida to be rigged and readied for her maiden voyage, and our crew of volunteers didn't let the rain dampen their spirits as they attached the roof and other various parts.

On May 20th, the boat was ready to go and arrived at its dock in Lake George Village on the north end of Shepard Park. Our first cruise with passengers was May 27th, as we took some area school teachers and principals out for a ride to demonstrate the safety and stability of the new craft. Spring field trips began on May 28th and went into the beginning of June. We had 261 students out on the boat this spring, including students from South Glens Falls Middle School, Glens Falls Middle School, and Stuart M. Townsend Middle School (Lake Luzerne).

After spring field trips were over, we began running programs for other groups. Around 472 people of all ages participated in the program during the summer. We worked with the Lodges at Cresthaven this summer and offered 6 Floating Classroom programs to their guests. We also took out community groups such as **Ticonderoga Kiwanis** and the **Black Point Road Civic Association** and Municipal Board members from the **Towns of Bolton** and Hague and **Lake George Village**. We took a variety of youth and school programs out, including day campers at the Northern Lake George Yacht Club and summer school students from Warrensburg, Glens Falls and the Southern Adirondack Education Center.

This fall was also very busy with school field trips in September and October. Students from Queensbury, Lake George, Whitehall, Bolton, Ticonderoga, Minerva, and the Southern Adirondack Education Center all participated in the program aboard the new boat.



Thanks to our dedicated volunteers, the boat was ready to go in just a few short weeks!



Above: A group from the Family Nature Summit held at Silver Bay YMCA joined us for a Floating Classroom trip at the end of July.



We have received many accolades for the program from many of the groups that have participated, and are very happy to have had such a successful first season on the new boat. It is so exciting to be able to offer this unique educational opportunity to area school students and also to area residents and summer visitors. Already, we are booking programs for next summer and looking for ways to continue to expand our programming. If you know of an organization or community group who would like to schedule a Floating Classroom Program for next year, please have them give us a call at 518-668-3558.

Left: Officials from the Village of Lake George joined us to learn about the lake that they serve.

To all who made this possible, *Thank You!*



On July 10th the boat was officially named the *Rosalia Anna Ashby*, after board member **Bruce Ashby's** mother, at a ceremony held at the Lake George Village dock. Bruce was instrumental in getting the the program back out on the water, generously donating his time and energy along with significant funding that made the purchase of the boat possible. Members of Bruce's family joined us for the naming ceremony, as well as other supporters who so generously gave to the cause of purchasing the new boat. After brief remarks by **Buck Bryan**, LGA President, Lake George Village **Mayor Bob Blais**, and LGA Board member **Bruce Ashby**, Executive Director Walt Lender read aloud a naming tradition, officially naming the boat. Mary Ashby placed an evergreen branch on the bow of the boat for safe return to land, and the guests took a cruise aboard the new boat.



Don Smith
Captain



Kristen Rohne
Watershed Educator



Richard Seeger
First Mate



Emily DeBolt
Director of Education

Our Able-bodied Crew

Don Smith, who has driven boats on Lake George for over 30 years, was behind the helm for us. When Don wasn't available, we had alternate captains that were just as capable, John Kearney, Jim Young, and **Buzz Lamb**.

Our generous supporters for the purchase of the *Rosalia Anna Ashby*

Bruce and Mary Ashby
Corinthian Catamaran
Holly and Bob de Buys
Matt and Denise Finley
David C. Lawrence Memorial
Rick and Lynn Kudlack
Claneil Foundation
Peter and Gretchen Menzies

Joe and Kathy Miller
Helen V. Froehlich
Foundation
Francis J. Kain Memorial
The Family of Kenneth E.
Robbins
Ruth P. Allen Memorial
Town of Bolton Landing

Additional funds are anticipated from NYS Dept. of State.



There are still naming opportunities available to help support the program.

Thank you to the Village of Lake George and the Village Trustees for supporting the program and helping make it all possible by donating valuable village dock space for the *Rosalia Anna Ashby* to be docked in Lake George Village.

Our generous donors of equipment for the Floating Classroom Program

The **International Paper Foundation** funded the purchase of a classroom set of water samplers to be used by students to learn about temperature, pH, and dissolved oxygen in the lake.

Dock Doctors supplied us with a classroom set of vest-style life jackets for the students to wear on the boat this fall. The orange, around-the-neck style jackets the students wore in the spring and summer proved to be very difficult to maneuver in when using the sampling equipment, and all students, regardless of age, wear life jackets.

