



NEWICHAWANNOCK NEWS

GREAT EAST LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION - 80th Year, Fall 2012

President's Column

By Jennifer Craig

While every season is beautiful at the lake (even mud season), I don't think I am alone in feeling a special affection for autumn. The cool nights, crisp apples, morning mist on the water and roaring fires in the fireplace add to the delight of the gorgeous foliage to make fall at the lake an amazing experience. I hope you have all had a chance to get to the camp this fall, even if just for a day trip.

This is a very special fall as it marks the 80th Anniversary of the founding of the Great East Lake Improvement Association! It's hard to believe but GELIA has been working to protect the lake and enhance people's enjoyment since 1932. And we are still at it.

The Lake Hosts worked long hours, seven days a week, to keep invasive weeds from entering the lake. While there were no actual "saves" this year, we think of that as a good thing! Boat owners are clearly getting the word that if they visit Great East, they will need to be weed-free. And thanks to our Weed Watchers we have a second line of defense from any invasives that might come into the lake from somewhere besides the boat ramp.

This protection does not come free. While the Weed Watchers are volunteers, we pay the Lake Hosts in order to ensure reliable, extensive coverage throughout the summer. Although our Lake Hosts receive \$6500 directly from the New Hampshire Lakes Association (largely funded by a private donor), \$2000 in ME DEP funding and \$5000 in grants from the towns, GELIA also allocates over \$13,000 from its annual budget to keep our lake weed-free. However, compared to the hundreds of thousands of dollars we would have to spend just to "control" an infestation, never mind eradicate it, this is a real bargain

We are very grateful to the many of you who pay dues, with special thanks to those who contribute at the Steward, Patron, Sponsor and Supporter levels, and also for your contributions to the Invasive Species Defense Fund, which we hope we will never need.

In this newsletter you will find informative articles about the many other GELIA initiatives we are pursuing as your board. We have much more we'd like to do but could use some additional time and skills. We are looking to expand the board and are particularly seeking new board members with accounting, IT, and marketing skills. We meet three times per year plus the Annual Meeting and don't meet October-April. Serving on the board is a great way to expand your awareness of issues affecting the lake, to meet like-minded people who will become friends, and to make a difference for your own and future generations. We hope you will think about nominating yourself ... or your friends!



Make it a habit to visit the GELIA website at www.greastlake.org! You will see photos and highlights from the 2012 Annual Meeting and much more.

**Great East Lake
Improvement
Association**

OFFICERS

Jennifer Craig, President
Dave Mankus, Vice
President
Linda Schier, Acting
Treasurer
Gene Rosenthal,
Secretary
Linda Schier, Past
President

DIRECTORS

Janet Gould
Mack Hendrick
Chuck Hodsdon
Marcia Hodsdon
Bill Hohenberger
Effie Jaramillo
Dee Kasprzak
Carol Lafond
Chris McKay
Ron McKay
Arnie Murray
Walter Neff
Dorothy Smith
Pat Theisen
Stephanie Theisen

Mission

To preserve, enhance and
protect the advantages of
Great
East Lake and its
environs.

In Memoriam: Bess Smith

By Jennifer Craig

It is with great sadness and continuing shock that I write these lines about our friend and the most recent Past President of the Great East Lake Improvement Association Board of Directors: Bess Smith. Bess died suddenly on Tuesday, July 10, 2012 after experiencing a brain aneurysm. Just three days before, many of you saw Bess at the GELIA Annual Meeting where she was her usual peppy, organized and cheerful self, wearing her blue director's shirt and helping get everything set up and taken down. It is still very difficult to believe that a woman with this much energy could be gone from us. Her absence at our last board meeting was palpable.

Bess and her husband Doug spent many a wonderful hour at their camp, enjoying friends, family and the company of dogs. Bess was a committed environmentalist and she served on the GELIA Board since 2005 as director, secretary, vice-president and president. She had only just been elected as vice-president when the current president resigned and Bess got promoted in a hurry! Demonstrating her "can-do" attitude, Bess jumped right in and exercised fine leadership for the balance of that term and her own term which followed.

Under Bess' leadership, GELIA continued to evolve into the more sophisticated organization it is today. Bess expanded GELIA's use of technology and communication while supporting important improvements in the membership and fundraising areas. Always efficient, organized, and positive, Bess was a joy to work with as both a leader and a colleague.

Bess is survived by her husband Doug and their children and grandchildren. She is greatly missed by all who knew her.

Real Estate Report

By Janet Gould

It has been another busy year for Great East Lake real estate. Eighteen new property owners have been welcomed to the lake since the beginning of the year. While the majority hail from New Hampshire and Massachusetts, one new family will travel from Kentucky. With one property sale pending, thirty-five properties with buildings and two pieces of land remain on the market. If you have any new neighbors in your area, please welcome them to the lake (and of course urge them to become GELIA members).

Three Loon Chicks Born and Thriving in 2012

By Carol Lafond

The Scribner River and the Copp Brook loon pairs nested successfully in 2012 with two Scribner chicks hatching in early June and one Copp Brook chick hatching in late June. All three chicks survived and are doing well at this time. There were no nests found in the Second Basin or on Loon Island this year

The Scribner hatchings were observed by several Great East Lake loon volunteers during a training tour given by John Cooly from the Loon Preservation Committee. He was able to explain that the yodel call from the male loon on the nest was a call to the female to return to the nest. The female traveled the distance from the main lake to the nest in the Scribner very quickly.

The Annual Loon census was held on Saturday July 21st by the Hodsdons, the Murrays the Crespis and the Lafonds. Eleven adults and three chicks were counted this year, the most I can remember in the eleven years I have been involved.

The Loon Preservation Committee is seeking more input from members of the lake community. If you would like to participate, LPC has provided several forms available online at <http://www.loon.org> under the Volunteer Documents tab. These forms help you to report loon behaviors you have observed. The LPC believes that increasing the number of observations by volunteers can lead to better knowledge of loon behavior.

Thanks to all the Loon volunteers on the lake and to everyone who takes the time to report the status or concerns about the loons during the year. Thanks also to all lake users who have been careful about their speed around the loons and those who have stopped using lead fishing weights leading to **another year with no reported loon deaths!**

Fishing Derby 2012

By Marcia Hodsdon

This summer saw the return of the Fishing Derby which many years ago was part of the annual meeting. Kids of all ages proudly arrived at the meeting by boat, car or on foot with their prize catch in an assortment of buckets and bins. Each fish was measured, weighed and recorded in the appropriate age category. It was great fun to watch the kids check out each other's catch and discuss their technique for fishing. The winner in the under eight category was Luke Gagnon and for the over eight category, Ryan Allen. A grab bag gift was given to all participants. The response for the Fishing Derby was wonderful. Hope to see many more of you next year!



***Partnerships Make Things Happen-
GELIA, AWWA and more***

By Linda Schier

What do catch basins, rubber razors, culvert armoring, check dams and infiltration ditches have to do with beautiful Great East Lake? Funny you should ask as this was the year of digging in by fixing some of the major pollution issues affecting the water quality of Great East and all these erosion control measures have been incorporated.

The partnerships between the Langley Shores Association, Abbott Road/Jericho Way Association, Great East Lake Improvement Association, Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance, Lakes Environmental Association, NH Lakes Association, York County Soil & Water Conservation District, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, the NH Department of Environmental Services, the Towns of Acton, ME and Wakefield, NH and homeowners around the lake are forces to be reckoned with in the war to protect the pristine waters of Great East.

In the summer of 2012 GELIA and AWWA partnered with all of these organizations to address many pollution problems around the lake, ensuring that when our experiences in the water to swim, boat, fish or check out what we can see on the bottom continue to be the miraculous pleasure we know.

The **nasty road erosion problems on Langley Shores Drive** that allowed tons of sediment to wash into the lake, causing the residents there (particularly Arnie Murray, Art Follis, Bob Berlan and Steve Geranian) to have to place hay bales and regularly truck huge piles of road pack back up the hill, **have been corrected**. What are they going to do with all that free time on the lake now? Their efforts will reduce the sediment loading to the lake by an estimated 6 tons per year!

The **Abbott Road/Jericho Way** folks **are gearing up for a major road fix** in October. Kudos to Peter White and Cindy Hart for making it happen. The project should be done by publication time but we'll share the details in the Winter edition as this is being written before the project is underway.

5 more Great East homeowners hosted AWWA Youth Conservation Corps projects that included 21 erosion controls measures including rubber razors to redirect the water flow across lawns and driveways, erosion control mulch to prevent bare soils from washing away, and infiltration devices to slow the flow and let the rain and snowmelt soak in where it lands. There are now **27 GEL landowners** that have taken advantage of the AWWA YCC to **make their properties more lake friendly with 102 erosion control measures!** Well done GELIA folks!

An additional **17 GEL property owners** met with AWWA's Program Manager, Dustin Johnson, and **received site specific designs** to reduce their erosion issues. Some of those are eager to become YCC hosts in 2013 and the rest will be following the designs to install their own solutions. Thanks to you as well!

GELIA and AWWA joined forces to expand the funding base for the Lake Host program that now mans the GEL Acton launch 12 hours a day, 7 days a week from Memorial Day through mid-September. In addition, the GELIA Lake Host crew, led by Point Person Chris McKay and Lake Host Captain Caitlyn McKay, organized the new program on Horn Pond to ensure that our neighbors are being vigilant in the quest to prevent invasive aquatic plants from planting roots in Great East. We are grateful for the support from the NH Lakes Association, the Lakes Environmental Association in Maine, the Towns of Acton, ME and Wakefield, NH.

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4

The partnerships that GELIA has forged with all of these regional organizations and agencies has set the stage for an extremely proactive approach to water quality protection and therefore, the protection of property values, ecological integrity and ultimately our special quality of life that we expect and revere when we come to the lake.

If you would like to know more about how you can partner with any of these groups be sure to contact GELIA president Jennifer Craig at pres@greateastlake.org or AWWA Director Linda Schier at info@AWwatersheds.org. We look forward to expanding our partnership activities and welcome you to get involved.

Clean Water Begins on Land

New Sheriff's Deputy Comes to Acton

By Linda Schier

At a Special Town Meeting on September 27th the Acton voters approved an article "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate from undesignated funds a sum not to exceed the sum of \$20,000 for contract services with the York County Sheriff's Department for Law Enforcement Service to be in conjunction with the Town of Shapleigh." On October 2nd the Town of Shapleigh approved it as well. This will enable the York County Sheriff's Department to hire one officer dedicated to the towns of Acton and Shapleigh.

The York County Sheriff's Office has been awarded a grant that will cover the majority of the cost of the officer for four years. The cost to the Town will be \$5,000/year. At the end of the four years the towns will decide to pick up the cost of the position or terminate it.

As the population has grown in York County, and along with it criminal activity, the law enforcement resources of the Sheriff's Department have been stretched very thin. They are currently operating with 23% of the recommended officer:citizen ratio.

A number of Horn Pond residents spoke in favor of the motion as criminal activity at the Horn Pond boat ramp has made it very difficult to staff the Lake Host program. It is hoped that additional presence of law enforcement will reduce the dangerous activity at the ramp and allow the inspectors to do their jobs more thoroughly. While the nefarious activities at the Great East launch have lessened over the years there have been a number of occasions when the Lake Hosts needed to call for law enforcement assistance and found it difficult to get a response as the department had to prioritize the severity of the issues and were routinely understaffed. The start date has not yet been announced but be sure to obey the speed limits!

Take the Plunge: Get Involved!

GELIA's effectiveness in helping to preserve this wonderful lake over the years has resulted from the combination of extraordinary member participation and the creativity and energy of its Board of Directors. As an association we have moved from a routine "property owners club" to a dynamic organization that thinks beyond our own water quality to address the health of the entire watershed (AWWA), interact with local and state governmental agencies (Acton, Wakefield, NH and ME), and take care of the immediate, daily needs of our lake (Lake Hosts, Weed Watchers, Boating Safety, Water Quality, Loon Watch, etc.).

As a result of these activities we are constantly on the lookout for new candidates for our Board of Directors to help improve these programs and/or to replace members whose terms have expired.

Do you know anyone at Great East Lake who you feel would be a good candidate? Or are you the candidate? Does that person have the time and the possible skills that would help us do our job? At this time we are particularly looking for people who have the following experience or interests:

Bookkeeping/Accounting

Marketing/Media Competence

Information Technology

General Non-Profit leadership

Experience in Town Politics

Environmental Issues

General Science/Nature

Fundraising

If you know of someone who might be a good candidate, please let us know. If you send us a brief email, or a phone call, to either of us at the below addresses we will contact you for more information.

Thanks for your continuing support of GELIA.

Ron McKay

ron.mckay@comcast.net

603-772-1967

Walter Neff

wsneff@comcast.net

603-926-7278

Lake Hosts on Duty in 2012

By Linda Schier

The Great East Lake Host program is thriving with full-time staff and a strong commitment to the prevention of invasive aquatic plant infestations. Thanks for a job well done go to our Lake Hosts - Jackson Callahan, Kyle Cormier, Ruth Gutman, Brian Kraft, Dan Kraft, Nick Lee, Paige Lee, Hayley Mandeville, Courtney McKay, Mike Raferty, Katie Samuelson, Tyler Stanieich and with special appreciation to Captain Caitlyn McKay. Funding from the GELIA membership, the NH Lakes Association, the Lakes Environmental Association, and the towns of Wakefield and Acton allowed us to staff the launch 12 hours a day from Memorial Day through Labor Day and then two weekends beyond.

Continued on p 7

Continued from p 6

The Great East Lake Host Program resulted in almost 2700 inspections none of which resulted in saves of invasive plants. While we love to see “saves” we like even better that the boating public is being more careful about transporting invaders. The hard work and dedication of our Lake Host staff and the very generous support of you, the GELIA membership, ensure that our first line of defense against an invasive aquatic plant infestation is strong and effective. Vigilance is the key.

Merci, Gracias, Danke, Grazie, Asante, Thank you!

We had another great annual meeting this year. Many thanks to all of the wonderful businesses that donated items for our raffle! Please say thank you by shopping with them as often as you can. Thanks as well to all our members who contributed so much time and energy to the Annual Meeting and the Raffle, you are awesome and you made it a success.

Acton Trading Post

Crabby Bear

Get Fired Up

Great East Docks

Knotty Pine Grill & Tavern

The “Little” Bead Shop

Mousam Valley Apiary

Parker's Boathouse

Peak Organic Brewing

Poor People's Pub

Raise-A-Dock

Roadside Gardens

Seven Lakes Realty

Ted's Fried Clams

Beagle's Bait & Tackle

Effie Jaramillo

Good & Tasty Restaurant

Iron Trails Saloon

Longmeadow Hardware

Lovell Lake Food Center

Nute's Trading Post

Patch's Family Restaurant

Pinewood Products

Province Lake Golf

Real Estate 2000 ME/NH

Seven Lakes Provisions

Shaw's Ridge Farm

Wakefield Reiki Clinic

New GELIA Members 2012

By Pat Theisen

Welcome to the following new members of GELIA! Each year the number of new members increases. These new members include property owners, new and not so new, additional family members, and others who support GELIA's mission.

Jaime & Angela Blaisdell
Michael & Cynthia Boyle
Emily Bridwell
Peter Brown
Steve Caramello
Roberta E. Carlson
Doug Desautels
Robert Dick
Rob & Judi Eisenberg
Larry & Sylvia Emery
Robert & Stephanie Fischer
Steve Fortune
Steve & Tricia Gallo
Paul (Sonny) & Lynne Gauthier
Kirt & Maureen Gillum
Mack Hendrick

Larry & Ania Higgins
Richard & Ginger Hilow
William Jones & Tara Jonsson
Philip Max Kay
Wilson & Malathi Kistler
Mark & Karen Lovering
Peter & Kate McCarron
Timothy & Mary Mullin
Joseph Murdoch
Michael & Deborah Parkin
Martin & Jennifer Ritson
David & Laura Schultz
Eddie Silva
Mark Smith & Andrew Mark
Terry St. Laurent

To date, GELIA membership for 2012 boasts 426 members. **Thanks for your support!**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

GELIA
PO Box 145
Stratham NH 03885

NEWICHAMANNOCK NEWS

