



NEWICHAWANNOCK NEWS

GREAT EAST LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION - 82nd YEAR, Fall 2014

The Presidents Column

By Dave Mankus

Volunteers

By now most camps around the lake are closed, leaves are rapidly falling and the few warm days left defy the inevitable first snow. Usually the first snow is in November and some years just before the holidays but a couple of years ago we had ankle deep wet snow on Halloween.

At our fall meeting the GELIA Board of directors approved the appointment of a subcommittee of directors to oversee the Host Program which has grown to our largest function employing a dozen staff and costing almost \$30,000 a season. It consists of Charles Crespi, our Treasurer, Pat Theisen, Chris Allen, myself, the Host point person Caitlyn McKay, and Linda Shier as an advisor.

At our first meeting we discussed extending the coverage earlier in the season before Memorial Day on weekends to the first weekend in May and later past Labor Day until Columbus Day. We also discussed the use of volunteers in the summer to offset the added weekends. We are the only lake assoc. in our region to have only paid hosts and some have all volunteers. We however have more launches inspected as our coverage is presently seven days a week from Memorial Day to labor Day.

The subcommittee agreed to ask each director to man the ramp for two shifts each season as well as any other person who would like to volunteer to help with our staffing. This would increase the involvement of our board and other members and allow us to extend coverage without increasing the cost to the Association or our grant providers.

We will also need a volunteer coordinator to ensure desired coverage, perhaps in conjunction with AWWA or other nearby lake host programs. I would like to invite any member to consider donating a little time next summer to help protect the lake from invasive plants by being a Host Volunteer at the ramp. Please email your interest to: pres@greateastlake.org

Great East Lake Improvement Association

OFFICERS

Dave Mankus, President
 Arnold Murray, Vice President
 Charles Crespi, Treasurer
 Effie Jaramillo, Secretary
 Jennifer Craig, Past President

DIRECTORS

Chris Allen
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 Gene Rosenthal
 Dwayne Scruton
 Pat Theisen

Mission

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

Lake Host Summary

By Caitlyn McKay

It seems to happen every year, but it always comes as a surprise when summer suddenly ends. Although it was a cooler summer, there was a lot of sunshine, which is great for people who like to relax on a pristine lake. Lucky for us, the Lake Hosts on Great East Lake had another successful year and kept all of the invasive aquatic species, like milfoil, out of the lake. When thinking about this feat, it is helpful to consider how many inspections we had at the Acton Public Launch. This summer we had over 2,800 inspections, which is more than the combined total for all of the other lakes in Wakefield.

Although it is a group effort shared between all of the members in GELIA, NH Lakes Association, Maine Lakes Environmental Association, Acton, Wakefield, and the local boaters, I would like to take a minute to acknowledge the Lake Hosts and thank them for another successful season. These employees include: Jackson Callahan, Ashley Dahl, Avere Ireland, Brian Kraft, Courtney McKay, Michael Raftery, Raychel Roane, Amy Stanieich, Tyler Stanieich, Alex St. Pierre, Erin St. Pierre, and our volunteer Selene Berube. If you see any of these great Lake Hosts, you should thank them for their part in protecting our beautiful lake.

This year was successful, but it is crucial to remain vigilant. Therefore, it is important to think about next summer. Once again, the Lake Host Program will have a presence at the public launch to educate boaters, but there will be some changes. We are hoping to utilize more volunteers, including our Board Members, to spread the knowledge of invasive species. As always, I would love to hear from people who are interested in learning more about the Lake Host Program and I will see you all next year at the launch.

Water Quality Monitoring Report: September 2014

By Chuck Hodsdon

GELIA representatives joined team from the University of New Hampshire on the lake Wednesday, September 17 for some water quality tests. The University team was collecting data as part of the Lakes Lay Monitoring Program, a 30-year study analyzing water quality around the state of New Hampshire. Bob Craycraft heads the program. Bob and some of his crew make one visit to Great East Lake a year to do extensive sampling with some very sophisticated equipment that allows the team to detect changes and trends in water quality over time.

This program is essential, because the lake's water quality is affected by many factors such as weather; building development; and home, industrial, and recreational waste that enter the lake intermittently. The parameters that are measured give the most accurate picture that we can get about how the lake is handling all of these factors.

The short term report is that the Secchi Disc reading on September 17, 2014 was 11.3 meters which is an excellent clarity measurement. If you are interested in how a Secchi Disc works there is more information on the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program's website, <http://www.mainevlmp.org/>.

The testing also showed some negative trends occurring in Great East Lake: There is a considerable amount of algae growth at the bottom of the lake (at least on the north shore) that blooms in late summer. In the shallow Second Basin there was a temporary bloom of blue green algae-like cyanobacteria, which has faded and sunk back to the bottom. High phosphorus levels in the lake contribute to the increased frequency and scope of algae and cyanobacteria blooms.

To maintain water clarity, it is imperative that we do all within our power to reduce the amount of phosphorus entering the lake. The biggest contributors to the phosphorus level are:

- The runoff of plant matter, silt, and sand from the shoreline
- Septic systems that are not working properly

Please do your part in maintaining Great East Lake's clear waters and keep an eye out for invasive plants (ex.-milfoil) and animals (ex.-Chinese Mystery Snails). If you see anything in the lake that appears unusual or is something that you have never seen before report it to someone from the GELIA Board of Directors. See the Great East Lake Website for more information.

Loon Report

by Bill Hohenberger

On July 19 the New Hampshire Loon Census was conducted throughout the state that included Great East Lake. Vermont, Maine and New York also did one on the same day. This year 626 observers covered 133 New Hampshire lakes. A total of 549 adult loons were counted as well as 12 immature loons and 91 loon chicks. 70% of the nesting pairs hatched 197 chicks.

On Great East we counted 14 adult loons and 2 chicks. Our lake had 3 confirmed nesting pairs in the Scribner River, South Cove and the Second Basin with a possible fourth unconfirmed pair on Loon Island. The three pairs each produced a single chick. Having a nesting pair in South Cove was a first in recent years and was probably the same pair that had nested in Copp Brook in previous years. Unfortunately the chick from the Scribner did not survive and disappeared shortly after hatching but the two from South Cove and the Second Basin did and were observed recently after Labor Day weekend. The following is census data for Great East for the last five years.

	Territorial Pairs	Nesting Pairs	Chicks Hatched	Chicks Surviving
2010	4	2	2	1
2011	4	2	4	4
2012	4	2	3	3
2013	4	2	1	1
2014	4	3	3	2

Overall both the State and Great East had a rather positive loon year!

Shortly before the GELIA Annual meeting we had a report of two jet skis harassing several loons including a chick. If anyone sees this happening in the future they should try to get the bow number of the boat or jet ski and report it to the Association or the appropriate state.

The Gafney Library

by Barb Wadleigh

The Gafney Library located in Sanbornville is doing an Awareness Campaign to let people know the many and varied programs offered. Although part of the lake is in Acton, we do have patrons from there and perhaps more of you would like to enjoy our library. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

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We are your community resource for books, magazines, newspapers, DVDs, audiobooks, computers for patron use, 24/7 wireless access, IRS tax prep, GED/Adult Ed program and career counseling, state-wide interlibrary loan, notary services, copy and fax machines.

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14 High Street, P.O. Box 517, Sanbornville, NH 03872

Phone: 603-522-3401 Youth Library: 603-522-9735

Fax: 603-522-7123

Email: gafney@worldpath.net

Also find us at www.gafneylibrary.org and on Facebook.

Newichawannock Canal Recognized as Historic Place

By Linda Schier

Pam Wiggin, Chair of Wakefield Heritage Commission was notified in September that Newichawannock Canal and Bridge has been added to the National Register of Historic Places. This is a project that WHC has been working on for over eight years. This designation will help us preserve and save the Canal and Bridge for future generations. The Commission is presenting a program on October 25th at 1PM at the Wakefield Town Hall in Sanbornville entitled "The Real Story" of the Newichawannock Canal. The presentation will include the history of the Canal as well as what is being planned for the future there. It is open to the public and everyone is encouraged to attend. The Commission is hoping to work with other groups in town to develop interpretive trails along the Canal. More information about the Canal and Bridge will be made available through the Wakefield Heritage Commission website at <http://historicwakefieldnh.com/>.

AWWA and GELIA 2014

By Sam Wilson, AWWA Project Manager

Great East Lake residents continue to show their commitment to water quality protection in their work with AWWA. This year, the Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance (AWWA) installed 22 erosion control features on 6 properties on Great East. These features include rain gardens, infiltration steps and trenches, rubber razors, waterbars, native vegetation and erosion control mulch. The projects will prevent an estimated 6.7 tons of sediment and 5.7 pounds of phosphorus from entering Great East Lake each year. Special thanks to Manny Rogers, Mark Shaw, Michael Warren, Tom Alessi, Tom Skinner, and Helen Cummings for being our 2014 Great East Lake Project Hosts. This brings the totals for Great East to 175 erosion control features installed on 47 properties! Next spring keep an eye out for AWWA signs around the lake and check out the work. You'll find attractive features that control stormwater. Win – Win for the lake and the homeowner.

AWWA is also pursuing grants to fund a sustainable fix of Lakeside Drive, on the southeastern shore of Great East Lake. The hill at the start of Lakeside Drive is washed out in every major rain event, washing driveways and lawns into the lake and often leaving six inch deep gullies in its wake. We're working with the Lakeside Drive Road Association to improve runoff management along Lakeside Drive, and we're looking for Project Hosts on all sections of Great East Lake. If you're interested in reducing erosion on your property, improving the aesthetics of your land, and helping to keep Great East Lake clean, please contact Sam Wilson at swilson@awwatersheds.org or (603) 473-2500.



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2014 Fishing Derby Results

By Marcia Hodsdon

The annual Great East Lake Fishing Derby was held on July 12, 2014 before the annual meeting. The turnout increased a bit from last year and prizes were awarded to the first place winners. Elijah Wadleigh in the 8 and under group and Ja Kai Laroche in the 9-12 Group. The Committee is hoping for an even bigger turnout next year when the Derby will be held on the day of the Annual Meeting.

Great Holiday Presents!

Keep remembrances of the summer alive all year long by giving gifts reflecting Great East Lake

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Holiday orders must be received by Dec.5