



NEWICHAWANNOCK NEWS

GREAT EAST LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION - 81st Year, Spring 2013

President's Column

By Jennifer Craig

Welcome to another glorious season on our beautiful lake! As you open up the windows, turn on the water, sweep up the mouse turds from closets and cabinets (well, *some* of us have winter visitors) and remove the fallen branches from the yard, isn't it great to be listening to loon calls, feeling the cool breeze and watching the clouds move across the big open sky? Even with the black flies and pine pollen, somehow spring cleaning at the lake seems easier than elsewhere, especially since your reward at the end of the day might be a beautiful sunset or a refreshing boat ride.

Your GELIA Board is likewise preparing for the new season and gearing up for another summer of protecting our water quality. Once again visitors to the boat ramp will be greeted by our smiling blue-shirted Lake Hosts who will check their boats for invasive weeds. Our new Lake Host Captain, Caitlyn McKay, has recruited a great team that will "man" the ramp seven days a week for the whole season. The Lake Hosts have been highly effective in keeping invasive species out of the lake and yet we must not get complacent! It is up to each one of us to support the ongoing effort to stay weed-free, whether by patrolling your own shoreline, becoming an official weed watcher, educating renters or those who might be visiting you on the lake, or contributing financially to the Lake Hosts or the Invasive Species Defense Fund. It is up to ALL of us to keep our lake healthy and beautiful.

This year's Annual Meeting will be on July 13th at Weeks Park and we hope to see all of you there! It is always fun to reconnect with friends and neighbors after the long winter and the board will do our best to make it informative and educational as well. As you will see in this newsletter, important business to be conducted at the meeting is a vote on the proposed slate of six new directors and the renewal of eight others as well as the election of officers.

We are delighted about the new talent and enthusiasm coming to the board and we are confident that this will allow us to do even more to advance GELIA's mission in the months to come.

In closing, let me express my gratitude for those of you who are GELIA members, not only for your financial support (which is deeply appreciated) but for all you do personally to ensure the quality of our most precious resource, Great East Lake. We invite those who are not yet members to join and come to the meeting on July 13. Working together, we can ensure that our lake remains the treasure it is today for generations to come.

Come to the Annual Meeting: July 13, 2013

This year's Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, July 13 at Weeks Park, off Dearborn Road in Sanbornville. Please plan to come at 9 a.m. to view the many displays and booths! The meeting will start at 10 a.m. and the displays will be closed during the meeting. This year's speakers will be Arnie Murray, who will tell us a bit about the very successful Langley Road project done in connection with AWWA, and Don Pierce, the new president of the Balch Lake Association, who will describe their experiences in battling milfoil infestation. GELIA directors will also be on hand to answer any questions you might have about any aspect of GELIA's operations. We welcome your participation! Bring a lawn chair and be aware that we will again be offering a large tent for those of you who prefer to sit in the shade. And don't forget the hotdogs and raffle! Hope to see you on the 13th!

**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
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.

Weed Watchers Still Needed

By Dorothy Smith

The need for people to continue to look carefully and regularly for invasive weeds in the lake has not diminished. One of the areas of greatest concern is the area near the boat launch. For many years Carol Lafond was a diligent weed watcher in this area. She frequently snorkeled in a large area near the launch. In fact, it was in this area that one small piece of milfoil was discovered that was pulled out early enough to prevent an infestation. It is critical that this spot be monitored since it takes only a small piece to produce a big problem.

So I am asking if there is anyone who would be interested in patrolling in that area; particularly someone who snorkels.

Please contact me if you are interested; dorothysmith@gmail.com.

On another note, any and all weed watchers are asked to stop by the Weed Watcher table at the Annual Meeting so that we can be sure our database is up to date. Come to meet the new coordinator, Deb Parkin.

2013 Membership Update

by Pat Theisen

Many thanks to those 300+ lake residents who have renewed their membership for 2013! Reminder letters are mailed in May to past members who have not yet renewed their membership for the year. Each year membership grows, with 430 members in 2012. With over 700 properties around the lake, all reaping the benefits made possible by member contributions, let's make 2013 the year for substantially increased membership.

If you have never been a member, and have misplaced your March membership request letter, there is one on the GELIA website, www.greateastlake.org. Your \$20 for a family membership would go a long way to ensure the continued health of the lake. Please consider joining the hundreds who are stewards of Great East Lake.

Your Nominating Committee Has Been Busy!

By Walter Neff and Ron McKay

New Directors Nominated for Election

The Nominating Committee is pleased to propose a slate of six new directors for election at the Annual Meeting on September 13. These individuals will bring great talent and experience to the Board and have expressed their willingness to serve.

Chris Allen: NH South Shore. His family has been on the lake since 1935. Director of a technology company and owner of a marketing company.

Charles Crespi: Second Basin. Extensive experience with nonprofits. Has agreed to serve as GELIA Treasurer.

Jim Labrie: North shore Maine. Retired owner of construction business with experience in real estate on NH seacoast.

Jack Orenstein: Spent 20 years on NH side and on the South Shore, Maine. Independent consultant and software designer.

Deb Parkin: North shore Maine. New owner who has already become part of the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitor program.

Dwayne Scruton: South Cove.. Long-time lake resident and boating enthusiast.

We look forward to your vote and to bringing these enthusiastic new directors on board.

Directors Up for Re-election

The following slate of directors is also proposed for re-election at the Annual Meeting:

Janet Gould

Ron McKay

Stephanie Theisen

Chuck Hodsdon

Walter Neff

Gene Rosenthal

Bill Hohenberger

Pat Thiesen

Officer Nominations

Finally, the following individuals are proposed for election as GELIA officers for 2013-2015:

President: Dave Mankus

Vice-President: Arnie Murray

Treasurer: Charles Crespi

Secretary: Effie Jaramillo

Please join us at the Annual Meeting and cast your vote for the proposed GELIA leadership.

BOATING SAFETY

By Walter Neff

BOATING ON THE NEW HAMPSHIRE SIDE OF OUR LAKE

Although most boaters living on the New Hampshire side of the lake are aware of the state's requirement that they have a Safe Boating Education Certificate, it is worth reminding new boat operators (e.g., your kids or grandkids) or visitors (e.g., Camp renters) on the lake that this Certificate is mandatory for the operation of any boat in excess of 25 hp **in New Hampshire waters.**

--this includes operators whose property and/or boat reside on the Maine side (i.e. registered in Maine) when they're operating their boat on the NH side.

--for more important information on this and age requirements for operators of boats and "ski craft" see the "WHO MAY OPERATE A VESSEL" in the Boater's Guide of New Hampshire Handbook—available at local marinas or at the GELIA annual meeting.

--for those who do not yet have the required certification, contact the state's website at nhboatingeducation.com or 1-888-254-2125 for approved courses and information.

BOATING ON THE MAINE SIDE

Although strongly recommended, Maine does not have a requirement for a boating safety certificate EXCEPT in the following instance:

"Persons 16 years of age and under 18 years of age MAY NOT operate a personal watercraft unless they possess on their person, identification showing proof of age and proof of successful completion of a boating safety course unless they are accompanied by a person 18 years of age or older who physically occupies the personal water craft."

-- for more information see the Maine Boating Safety Handbook and/or go online to: maine.gov/ifw/education/safety/boat.htm. Handbooks are available at marinas and at the GELIA annual meeting.

. . . . MORE ON CERTIFICATION

New Hampshire also accepts boating safety education certificates if issued by *another state agency and NASBLA approved* and certificates issued by the US Power Squadron, the Coast Guard Auxiliary and unexpired commercial boating licenses issued by the Coast Guard or State of New Hampshire.

As such, **the boating education courses offered by the State of Maine do not meet New Hampshire's requirement** because Maine's courses do not result in a *state issued certificate* .

Therefore, if you're considering a boating education course make sure it complies with the State of New Hampshire boating certification requirements. (see above for contact info).

Attention Fishermen!

Bob Chooljian reports that Great East was stocked by the State of New Hampshire with rainbow trout during the week of April 15-19. No numbers have been released at this time. In 2012, NH stocked 1150 rainbow trout in the lake.

GELIA Supports Mission Partners

By Jennifer Craig

The mission of the Great East Lake Improvement Association is listed on our website as follows:

“Our association is a non-profit organization dedicated to the welfare of Great East Lake, its wildlife, and environment. We see education as a primary function of this organization. Only through vigilant action and financial support can we hope to ensure that future generations will share the experience of stewardship for the treasure that is Great East Lake”.

As we strive to maintain our water quality, educate the public and preserve the special lake experience we all love, we have partnered with various other organizations whose missions are similar to ours. By contributing to other agencies with a shared vision as well as supporting our local communities, we believe we further advance our own mission. In this spirit, the following dollar contributions were approved at the GELIA board meeting on April 20, 2013:

AWWA	\$2,000
Moose Mountains Regional Greenways	500
Three Rivers Land Trust	500
Wakefield Conservation Commission	425
Acton Ambulance Association	400
Wakefield Ambulance Service	400
Maine COLA	300
NH Lakes	300
Loon Preservation Committee	250
Maine Audubon Society	250
Maine VLMP	250
NH Audubon Society	250
Acton Public Library	100
Gafney Library	100
Wakefield Parks and Recreation	100
TOTAL	\$6,125

Ice Out Back to Normal

By Jennifer Craig

After a new record set last year for the earliest recorded “Ice Out” date (March 21), this year’s timing was perfectly typical: April 15. The latest Ice Out date recorded was May 2 in 1971. Let’s hope this “normal” winter means we’ll be looking at a summer that is not too hot, too cold, too wet or too dry, but “just right”!

Come Paddling on the Salmon Falls River with AWWA & Friends

By Linda Schier



The Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance (AWWA) is pleased to offer three paddling trips up and down the uppermost navigable reach of the Salmon Falls River which begins in Great East Lake and forms the border between Maine and New Hampshire below Horn Pond.

With Linda Schier and guest guides on this ~4 mile paddle you will

- see pristine vistas, wildlife habitats, a wide variety of aquatic plants

- learn how water health is tested

- meet some microscopic river critters

- play Watershed Bingo

- hear about the efforts of local groups to protect this special river watershed and how you can make a difference

Bring your kayak or canoe for this engaging paddle. A few kayaks will be available to borrow. *US Coast Guard approved personal flotation device is required.*

When and What:

Monday, July 15 - 9 AM to 3 PM:

This is a terrific opportunity to learn about the plants that live in the river and how to spot problem invaders. Laurie Callahan and Melissa Brandt of the York County Invasive Aquatic Species Project (YCIASP) will lead a morning workshop and an afternoon paddle session. During the morning workshop, from 9-12, attendees will learn about invasive aquatic species of concern in southern Maine and New Hampshire and basic identification techniques – with a PowerPoint presentation and some live plant samples. Then, during the afternoon paddle, the group will head out onto the river from 1-3 to see what's there and to use their "new-found" knowledge – checking plants that we see to determine if they are native species or ones we need to suspect as possible invaders. YCIASP is grant funded project sponsored by York County Soil & Water Conservation District. Lunch will be provided. (*Paddling portion rain date is Friday, July 19.*)

Friday, August 23 – 9:30 to 12 Noon:

See the changes the late summer brings to the river, teeming with a full season's growth and sharing new secrets. Laurie and Melissa of York County Invasive Aquatic Species Project (YCIASP) will return to lead the investigation of the plant growth in the river.

Preregistration is required for all paddles and space is limited so call or email AWWA today – (603) 473-2500 or info@AWwatersheds.org.

Events of Interest for Our Members

By Jennifer Craig

Be sure to mark your calendars for some important and exciting day-long events being planned by environmental organizations in our area!

NHLakes' Annual Lakes Congress: Saturday, June 21, 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Colby Sawyer College, New London NH

This annual gathering of lake association members like yourselves, state and local government officials, environmental scientists and other experts on lake ecology is always educational and offers a great opportunity to network with like-minded people concerned about the health of our lakes. To register and for more information, go to www.nhlakes.org.

Maine Congress of Lake Associations (COLA): Sunday, June 22, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Colby College, Waterville ME

The theme for the 43rd annual Maine Lakes Conference will be "Sentinels of Change". As with the NHLakes event, this is an opportunity to hear from experts, network with others and gain a deeper understanding of the challenges and opportunities in lake preservation. For more information, go to www.mainecola.org.

Moose Mountain Regional Greenway: "Woods, Water and Wildlife Festival"
Saturday, August 10, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Branch Hill Farm, 307 Applebee Road,
Milton Mills, NH

This event, which GELIA helps sponsor, combines family fun with education about our local ecosystems. There are hayrides, rescued live animals to learn about from naturalists, guided walks, games, music, crafts, and much more. This is a great way to spend a day exploring the world beyond your own dock and having fun while you learn. For more information, go to www.mmrg.info/festival/index.html.

New Look for GELIA Calendar

By Dave Mankus

We are trying a new format for the GELIA 2014 calendar. We need digital photos of the lake, weather, wildlife, seasons and sunsets. You may submit any photos you wish to give GELIA to use on the calendar or possibility other uses like our website. Credits will be given. Photos received in the next few weeks will be considered for the 2014 edition. We also plan to include useful and interesting information like Town hours and historical ice out dates. Any suggestions would be appreciated. Submissions should go directly to Dave at Mankus@worldpath.net

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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