



NEWICHAWANNOCK NEWS

GREAT EAST LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION - 78th YEAR, Fall 2010

President's Column

By Bess Smith

What a wonderful summer we had this year! I think every weekend was perfect except the day of our Annual Meeting. One of our Directors told me that the rain at the meeting was the first he had experienced in 25 years. My thanks to all of you who stuck it out and stayed until the end.

As you peruse this edition of the newsletter take a look at the list of Directors – there have been a couple of changes. There are also informative articles about various things that you have emailed me about during the summer. Some of these include information about the algae that many of you have concern about as well as the status of our water quality and loon population. The Lake Host program had a very successful season and we had a very well attended Weed Watcher training.

We are holding the third annual photo contest so go find some of your best shots and submit them according to the directions found within.

I would like to thank the Board for the tireless commitment to the Great East Lake Improvement Association and it's membership. As a group, we all work toward one goal – the preservation of our precious resource.

I would like to ask all of you with internet access to please take a look at our web site. We are publishing a lot of information that I get questions about as well as photos, past newsletters, order forms and surveys. The web site is www.greateastlake.org.

I hope you all enjoy this beautiful autumn and we'll be in touch with our Winter newsletter.

"Winter is an etching, spring a watercolor, summer an oil painting and autumn a mosaic of them all." ~ Stanley Herowitz

Weed Watcher Workshop

By Dorothy Smith

On August 21, 2010 Amy Smagula from NH Department of Environmental Services presented a Weed Watchers Workshop. 15 people (including two boat drivers) gathered at the Maine boat launch and traveled by pontoon boats to the Scribner River. Amy demonstrated various types of weeds that are native and therefore not invasive. She also brought samples of invasive weeds (including milfoil) that should be reported if found. Thanks to those who gave up a beautiful summer morning to become more informed weed watchers. Participants received a Weed Watcher Kit that will help them identify aquatic weeds in their section of the lake. Also thanks to Doug Smith and Chuck Hodsdon, our boat drivers and to Linda Schier who lent her boat. We are fortunate to have the services of Amy Smagula, a very knowledgeable limnologist.

Contacts for more weed watching information are:

Marcia Hodsdon – choddy43@roadrunner.com

Dee Kasprzak – deedeekas@metrocast.net

Dorothy Smith – dorothysmith@gmail.com



Great East Lake Improvement Association

OFFICERS

Bess Smith, President
Jennifer Craig, Vice
President
Chris McKay, Treasurer
Gene Rosenthal, Secretary
Linda Schier, Past President

DIRECTORS

Janet Gould
Chuck Hodsdon
Marcia Hodsdon
Bill Hohenberger
Dee Kasprzak
Dave Mankus
Ron McKay
Arnie Murray
Dorothy Smith
Doug Smith
Pat Theisen
Stephanie Theisen

Mission

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

Lake Host Program

By Chris McKay

I would like to take this opportunity to give a huge thank you to all of the lake hosts and volunteers for another successful summer. Thanks to their hard work, there have been no new infestations of aquatic invasive plants in Great East Lake! This summer over 1,300 boats were inspected, with 1,746 total inspections, at both the Acton and Weeks Public Boat Launches.

This summer our lake hosts had three saves. A save is whenever a lake host removes a plant specimen that is identified by the NH Department of Environmental Services (NH DES), as an exotic aquatic invasive plant. The plants were identified as variable milfoil (twice) and fanwort (once). NH Lakes keeps a pdf file of all saves throughout the summer, visit www.nhlakes.org and click on "2010 Lake Host Program Plant Identifications" (located on the menu on the left side of the webpage).

This is the third straight summer where Lake Hosts have had saves, which indicates that the program is crucial if Great East Lake wants to remain free of invasive plants. It is important to note that we only have the Acton Boat Launch staffed from 4-7pm on Fridays, and from 6am-6pm Saturdays and Sundays (excluding holidays which are staffed all day). If you would like to help the lake host program be staffed all week, please consider an extra donation to the Invasive Species Defense Fund (ISDF) to help fund the Lake Host Program.

It may seem like GELIA's focus has been on water quality the last several years, which is a very important part of maintaining the quality of Great East Lake for all users. However I implore you, the Great East Lake community, not to forget that keeping the lake free of aquatic invasive plants is a huge part of keeping the lake an enjoyable place for all. The Lake Host program is the best way for GELIA and the community to protect against the risks of aquatic invasive plants.

If you see any of the following people please thank them for their help, whether it is at the boat launch or around town, I assure you they are all very friendly and would appreciate your gratitude.

Lake Hosts:

Caitlyn McKay
Courtney McKay
Jay Fugarazzo
Nick Lee
Dan Kraft
Hayley Mandeville
Brian Vanderhoof

Volunteers

Charlie Wills
Alison Tutlys

If anyone is interested in being a Lake Host next summer please contact me at chris.mckay916@gmail.com. Have a great winter!

Annual Meeting Review

By Gene Rosenthal, Secretary

The annual Great East Lake Improvement Association meeting was held at Weeks Park on Saturday July 10th, 2010. What started out as an overcast gray morning soon turned into a rainy mess that put somewhat of a damper on the festivities. The GELIA board of directors would like to thank everyone that came out for the meeting and braved the inclement weather. The meeting was fairly well attended considering the forecast.

The highlights of the meeting were as follows:

Treasurer's Report-Chris McKay gave a brief overview of the Association's financial status and was happy to say that the overall financial condition of the Association is very good.

Nominating Committee- Doug Smith informed the membership that that the Board of Directors had nominated Arnie Murray to become a member of the board. Doug gave a synopsis of Arnie's desire to become a board member. A motion was made and seconded to accept Arnie Murray as a member of the GELIA Board of Directors. Motion passed. Welcome Arnie!!

Water Quality-Chuck Hodsdon gave a short presentation of some of the tools he uses to measure the water quality of Great East Lake. Chuck went on to say that at a secchi disk reading of 12.4 meters, Great East Lake rates right up with some of the clearest lakes in the country.

Lake Host- Chris McKay was very happy to inform the membership that the lake hosts have made two official saves and one unofficial save this summer alone with regard to discovering live invasive aquatic plants on boats about to be put in to the lake. The association has received a \$500 grant from the State of NH to be used for the lake host program. Chris indicated that the money would be used to fund the lake hosts at the Wakefield launch on weekends.

Membership Committee-Pat Theisen reported to the membership that as of today there are 389 members as compared to a total of 403 for the entire year ending 2009. There are 17 new members of which nine are new property owners.

Weed Watchers-Dorothy Smith informed the membership of two upcoming training seminars, one of which will be here at GEL featuring Amy Smugula of the NH DES.

Loons- It was reported to the membership that it has not been a great year for loons. There are currently 4 pair of loons on the lake. Two of those four have nested. One in the Scribner River and the other in the second basin. Two broken eggs were found in the nest in the second basin and it wasn't readily apparent whether the eggs had hatched or been a victim of a predator.

Watershed Survey-Linda Schier gave the membership a brief overview of the results of last year's watershed survey, indicating that 177 properties have been identified as having some type of erosion issue. Linda said that both Wakefield and Acton planning boards have been working together on road erosion issues and are taking advantage of various grants.

Newly elected Acton selectman, Ted Kryzak briefly addressed the membership. Ted was happy to see such an active organization on the lake. He said that he looked forward to working with the GELIA membership when it came to town issues.

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Bess explained to the membership that this year there will be no band concert due to budgetary constraints. Bess solicited volunteers for any one that is musically inclined with the hope of having the band concert return next year on a volunteer basis.

The meeting adjourned at 10:32am and the traditional raffle began soon after and soon after that, people headed for higher ground!



New GELIA Members

By Pat Theisen

Welcome to the following new members of GELIA! An increasing number of lake residents continue to join the ranks as members, including many new property owners.

Raymond Blanchette
 Craig Bridwell
 Nicolas and Janet Capano
 Lynette Colangelo
 Paula Edwards
 Rosemarie Fuller
 Adrian and Diana Genotti
 Joe and Randi Grodin
 Cherie Hoyt
 Shaun and Lisa Kelly
 Richard and Carole Lamb

Jess and Lynette Lewis
 Kathleen MacLean
 Richard and Denise McCarthy
 Michael and Tammy Murray
 David Needham
 Floyd and Nancy Rayburn
 Scott and Dianalyn Sirota
 Tom and Huntley Skinner
 Jeff and Beckie Smock
 Donato Tramuto and Jeffrey Porter
 Donna Vanderhoof

Thanks to each and every one of the 403 members for supporting GELIA's mission!



GELIA Annual Photo Contest

by Gary Field

Our annual photo contest is becoming an important part of preserving and sharing our membership's fondest memories of their time spent at the lake. Participation has been very good and we hope it keeps increasing!

The idea is that we take the best 13 photos submitted and create a calendar which will be available for sale at the following annual meeting. This also has the benefit of being a fund raiser for GELIA and creating a historical photo archive of our beloved lake and its inhabitants.

Let me first thank the judges who worked so hard to rank the 61 photo submissions from 20 photographers. It's not an easy task! Our Judges for 2010: Elaine Meagher, Dave Needham, and Nancy Duran.

Drum roll please... The winners of the 2011 Calendar Photo Contest who received a framed copy of their picture at the Annual Meeting are:

Ranking	Photographer	Title
1st Place (Cover):	Leo Ginns	Morning Light
2nd Place (Feb):	Gary Field	Misty Morning Fog
3rd Place (Sep):	Gayle Elsberry	A Calm South Cove
Best in Special Category (Oct):	Susi Alvino	Fall in Anderson Cove

The following people submitted pictures that were accepted for use in the calendar and received a free copy of the 2011 GELIA Calendar: "A Measure of Time at Great East Lake"!

January	Leo Ginns	Lifting Mist
March	Ginny Hallett	Early Morning Mist
April	Ann Travers	Just Ducky
May	Adam Wobrock	Knee Boarder
June	Jennifer Whitney	Got Ya!
July	Rebecca Ginns	Great East Lake Kayaker
August	Margot MacArthur	Jumping Into Summer
November	Nancy Maloney	The Flasher
December	Mary Field	Sunday Evening Sunset

All the above people will receive a free copy of the 2011 GELIA Calendar

I thank everyone who participated, for making the GELIA Photo Contest a great success! Submissions for the 2012 Calendar will be accepted starting January 1st, 2011, and you have until March 15th to work on digging out and selecting your favorite pictures so you can send them in.

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- There are of course rules: <http://www.greastlake.org/contest.html>
- Download, print, and mail an entry form: <http://www.greastlake.org/entry.html>
- Any questions relating to the photo contest can be directed to: PhotoContest@GreatEastLake.org
- Or, if you have no Internet access you can write to: Gary Field, PO Box 762, Tewksbury, MA 01876, and he'll send you the rules and an entry form.
- We also need volunteer judges. No special qualifications are required, just an appreciation of nice photography! The top three 2010 prize winners are not eligible to enter photos in 2011, but are strongly encouraged to be judges! Volunteer by sending an email to: PhotoContest@GreatEastLake.org

Two Loons Killed by Boat Collisions in 2010

By Carol Lafond

Only two loon pairs nested in 2010, the Scribner River and the Second Basin pairs. The Scribner pair was the only nesting pair that hatched chicks, producing two, but only one chick was observed with its parents in the large part of the lake shortly after. This chick was observed diving and fishing with its parents in July.

The floating loon nest was moved to the Second Basin this year, but was not used by the loons who moved back to a previous nest site. The second basin pair was observed without chicks and egg fragments were found in the nest. It is not known if the eggs were eaten or if the chicks were lost after hatching. There was no nest found in Copp Brook and the nesting site on Loon Island was not used. The Annual Loon census was held on Saturday July 17th by Dave Nordengren, the Murrays and the Crespis. Nine adults and one chick were counted this year.

I spoke with John Cooley at the Loon Preservation Committee (LPC) about the causes of deaths and illness to three loons on Great East Lake this year. I was very disturbed to hear that two of the three deaths were from severe trauma determined to be consistent with boat collisions.

The first boat trauma death, picked up in the narrows, was an adult and was given to LPC on July 20th.

The second, picked up on the north side, was given to LPC on July 28th was first thought to be a juvenile, but was confirmed to be about a two month old chick. According to our recorded birth dates of the Scribner loon chick, it would have been a little over a month old at the time, so there is a question about whether there might have been another earlier hatch that was missed. There was a report of an early nest in the Scribner, but it was thought to be abandoned and was reoccupied and successful later.

The last death was due to lead poisoning from a lead sinker the loon had ingested. This loon was observed to be behaving strangely. It was swimming close to shore and not avoiding people. This loon was picked up on the lake by LPC and brought to a vet for evaluation. It was in such poor condition that it had to be euthanized. There was also evidence of pellet shot in this loon.

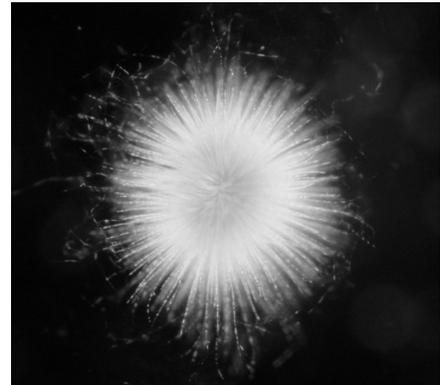
All three of these deaths were human caused and humans are the only ones that can reverse these needless deaths. Lead sinkers have been outlawed on NH lakes for many years. If you are still using lead sinkers, please replace them. It can be very hard to see a loon on the lake if you are traveling at high speeds. Please give some thought to this issue and be very attentive when boating.

Floating Green Things?

By Linda Schier

It seems that everyone was wondering what the little green things were suspended in Great East Lake this summer. My daughter wondered why we had so many “fish eggs” late in the summer, others questioned the presence of pine pollen in August and many people noted the “green slime” on the rocks in the shallow and windblown coves.

At first I just assumed it was the usual algae that we get every year in Great East but this summer they seemed far more abundant. As I am always intrigued by unusual happenings at the lake I set out with my plankton net and microscope for a better look. What I saw under the microscope looked just like a tiny “koosh ball” that my kids loved to play with in the lake. I went to the website for the UNH Center for Freshwater Biology phytoplankton key and there it was – *Gloeotrichia echinulata*.



Gloeotrichia echinulata -- Front-lit colony
Photo by Jonathan Dufresne, University of New Hampshire, USA
Sample from Great East Lake, border of New Hampshire and Maine.

Gloeotrichia echinulata (pronounced glee-oh-trick'ee-ah e-kin-u-la'ta, and more commonly referred to simply as 'G1oeo') is a cyanobacteria species (blue-green algae) that occurs regularly in Great East but was seen in far greater concentrations this year due to the hot, sunny summer. I sent a sample to the UNH Center for Freshwater Biology (CFB) to determine if there were any significant toxins present. While the toxin microcystin was present it was found at a low level of 15 micrograms per liter in the sample that was collected. According to UNH, the World Health Organization recommends levels of less than 1000 micrograms per liter in drinking water. It turns out that long-time GEL summer resident Jonathan Dufresne is working on his graduate degree with the CFB and has been sampling and photographing our plankton populations. Jon will be sharing his findings with us soon.

While this sample was determined not to present a current health threat, this is a good cautionary tale for us at Great East. In shallow, windblown areas of the lake residents noted much higher concentrations of the algae during its peak in August. Any additional increases in Phosphorus, the nutrient that feeds *Gloeotrichia* and all other algae, can cause blooms to occur more frequently and vigorously. Phosphorus enters the lake when stormwater runoff causes sediments from driveways and camp roads, seepage from faulty septic systems, excess fertilizer and pet waste to flow into the lake.

Do your part and make sure that your property and your roadways are not contributing pollution to Great East Lake by eliminating fertilizer or using one with “0” phosphorus, maintaining a healthy septic system, keeping your driveways and camp roads from eroding into the lake, and keeping a vegetated buffer strip between the man made features on your property and the lake. A vegetated buffer strip is simply trees, shrubs, and/or plants that help slow down and soak up stormwater. The wider the buffer, the better the filter.

For more info on *Gloeotrichia* from Roy Bouchard at Maine DEP: <http://www.belgradelakesassociation.org/waterquality.gloeotrichiaalgae.asp>.

For ideas about what you can do to keep your property "lake healthy" visit the Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance website at www.AWwatersheds.org.

Raffle 2010

Despite Mother Nature, once again we had a fantastic raffle for our Annual Meeting. As always, we are so very thankful for the generosity of our local merchants. Given the current economic times and numerous requests from other lake associations, these merchants continue to support GELIA in its endeavors to keep our lake pristine and our programs such as lake hosts, weed watching, water safety and loon preservation going strong. We hope to be able to continue to count on their support as we thank them for their generosity once again and try, in return, to continue to support them throughout the season!

Acton Trading Post - \$50 gift certificate to Acton Trading Post for food/gas
Beadle's Bait & Tackle – Pool Lounge Float
Big Daddy's - \$50 gift certificate to Big Daddy's
Branch River Trading Post – Milfoil Sticker (\$20 value)
C&G Pizza – Large cheese pizza
Cabin Life Magazine – 1 year subscription
Crabby Bear - \$20 gift certificate to Crabby Bear
Gary Field – (2) \$150 photo package – includes sitting, CD, and one print
Great East Docks – Metal dock ladder, Dock cleats, (2) cooler
Hayes Realty - \$50 gift certificate to Wakefield Inn
Longmeadow Hardware – Toaster
Lovell Lake Food Center - \$20 gift certificate to Lovell Lake Food Store
Mike Johnson – 10 Live Maine Lobsters – Fresh off the boat
Muddy Paws Pet Shop - \$25 gift certificate to Muddy Paws Pet Shop
North Conway Scenic Railroad – 2 tickets
Patches Restaurant - \$25 gift certificate to Patches Restaurant
Peak Organic Brewing – (3) 4-packs of Organic Source
Poor People's Pub - \$25 gift certificate to PPP, (9) T-shirts
Raise A Dock – (2) boat fenders, Child life vest, (2) pair of Waldies
Real Estate 2000 - \$100 gift certificate to Ted's Fried Clams
Roadside Farmer - \$25 plant
Seven Lakes Provisions – ½ rack of spare ribs, (2) sub sandwiches with side of macaroni, camping chair
Ted's Fried Clams - \$25 gift certificate to Ted's Fried Clams
Wakefield Inn - \$25 gift certificate to Wakefield Inn



Exciting Partnerships to Protect Water Quality

By Linda Schier

The word is out that keeping the lakes healthy must be a high priority for the towns, lake associations and citizens of the Acton and Wakefield communities. GELIA and the Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance, town officials, local businesses and regional and state agencies are working together on some exciting programs to ensure that Great East, as well as the other lakes in the region, maintain their high quality waters status for future generations.

GELIA commissioned a study of the sedimentation problem in the Scribner Brook which resulted in a recommendation to replace the existing undersized culvert at Acton Ridge Road with an open-bottom embedded culvert and stormwater drainage improvements along the roadway. This project will greatly reduce the sediment washing off the road into the brook and enhance fish and wildlife passage. AWWA helped the Town of Wakefield apply for a grant to fund the project which will be announced in December. If that proposal is not successful AWWA will continue to work with GELIA and the Town to seek other funding.

Stormwater management regulations in both Acton and Wakefield need some strengthening according to the *Salmon Falls Headwater Lakes Watershed Management Plan*. In an effort to address that weakness, the Acton and Wakefield planning boards have agreed to work across town and state boundaries to find new strategies to better manage stormwater throughout the communities. The towns were approved for a Community Technical Assistance Program (CTAP) grant from the Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership (PREP) to work with a consultant to develop stormwater management recommendations for each town based on existing regulations and community needs. This project will highlight the benefits of best management practices for both the communities and the landowners while building support for the concept that property rights, property responsibilities and natural resource protection are not competing goals but rather common interests.

The AWWA Youth Conservation Corps had another busy season controlling erosion on residential properties. To date they have installed 264 erosion control practices (also called BMPs) at 82 project sites. 18 of those sites are on Great East Lake with 63 BMPs that will prevent over 22 tons of sediment flowing into the lake each year. When you see an AWWA YCC sign in your neighborhood stop in for a tour and get some ideas for your own property. Erosion control not only prevents erosion but looks great too. Many thanks to Raise-A-Dock, Great East Docks and AppleCore Docks for their generous support of this year's YCC crew.

One project as part of AWWA's third Watershed Assistance grant from the NH Department of Environmental Services is working with the UNH Stormwater Center to address erosion problems along gravel roads and plans to work with the Maine Department of Environmental Services and York County Soil & Water Conservation District to solve some serious road issues on the Acton side of the lake in 2012.

The lake associations of the area are working closely with AWWA to address recommendations from the watershed plan. Protecting the lakes takes all hands on deck and we are so fortunate to have such willing and able partners at all levels. Big construction projects and improved policies are important but the most essential piece is each individual landowner's commitment to practicing lake friendly behaviors. Do your part to be a Clean Lake Partner. Visit www.AWwatersheds.org for ideas on how you can make a difference.

*****GELIA Merchandise Order Form*****

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Phone(if questions)_____

GELIA 2011 Calendars # ordered @\$15 each ____ Total \$ ____

NEWICHAWANNOCK REFLECTIONS: *Memories of Great East Lake*
ordered @ \$15 each ____ Total \$ ____

PLUS Shipping Charge for Calendars: \$2.50 for up to 3

PLUS Shipping charge for Books: \$2.50 each Total shipping charge \$ ____

Make check payable to: GELIA Total Cost for Order \$ ____

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535 Shaker Street
New London, NH 03257

Holiday orders must be received by Dec.5

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