



# NEWICHAWANNOCK NEWS

GREAT EAST LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION - 79th YEAR, Spring 2011

## *President's Column*

By Bess Smith

Spring is finally here. Ice out was April 18<sup>th</sup> this year. I wasn't sure it would be out by Memorial Day given the snow we had this past winter! Check out the GELIA website to see some photos of the ice beginning to break and learn more about previous ice out dates ([www.greastlake.org](http://www.greastlake.org)).

We opened our camp last weekend and enjoyed some sunshine and even heard a few loons calling to us. We had a Board of Directors meeting on April 30<sup>th</sup> and it was great to see all of my Board friends after the long winter. We always accomplish a lot at the spring meeting and you will see the results of that in this newsletter.

We all know that protecting our lake, its water quality and surrounding environment is the foundation of the Great East Lake Improvement Association. You'll find several articles in this newsletter covering topics that relate to preserving our lake and shoreline.

I've enjoyed representing you as President of the Lake Association over the last few years. My term is over as of the Annual Meeting but I will remain on the Executive Committee as Past President for the next two years.

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, July 9<sup>th</sup> at Weeks Park. Hopefully the skies won't open up again this year. The tables will open at 9:00 am and close at 10:00 for the meeting. They will reopen after the meeting is adjourned.

In closing, I know you all join me to welcome in yet another beautiful summer. Please feel free to contact me anytime at [pres@greastlake.org](mailto:pres@greastlake.org).

*"April is a promise that May is bound to keep." ~Hal Borland*

## *Tanglewood Camp*

By Dave Mankus

The Conservation committee sponsors Wakefield youngsters from 8-14 years old to attend the Tanglewood camp for a week in the summer. Fund raising helps to defray some of the cost to local families as some send two youngsters. GELIA's contribution is enough to send one child and is greatly appreciated. The following is a thank you note sent regarding our contribution as well as a photo of the campers:

**Wakefield Conservation Commission  
2 High Street**

**Wakefield, NH 03872**

11-8-10

Great East Lake Improvement Association  
P.O. Box 911  
Sanbornville, NH 03872

RE: Environmental Camp Donation

Dear Association Members:

We would like to thank you for your generous gift of scholarship to campers attending Tanglewood 4-H Camp & Learning Center. The 17 campers sponsored by your gift had the opportunity to learn about and actively participate in ways to help conserve our land, water & air. We have taped some of the children telling us about their experience, and will air it on the PEG channel.

Sincerely,  
Bill Day, Nate Fogg, Relf Fogg, Peter Kasprzyk,  
Dave Mankus

**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.

***Passages***

By Mimi Daitz and Pat Theisen

GELIA extends condolences to the family and friends of POLLY CLANCY who passed away on November 11, 2010. Polly and her husband Dick had their first summer at the Lake in 1968, having purchased the Marple cottage, with its stone "Spoonery" on Rogers Point, with a spectacular view of the big portion of the lake.

As Polly's good friend and neighbor, Mimi Daitz remembers Polly and Dick, with their young twins Cindy and David, enjoying all the summer delights of swimming, fishing, boating, and listening to the loons. In later years, Polly and Dick delighted in the visits of their grandson, Adam (son of her daughter Cindy and Doug Ovian) as he began to swim in Great East.

Fascinated by the history of her own cottage, nearing 100 years old in 1995, Polly formed the History Committee in 1992 and was the co-chair and driving force behind the publishing of *Newichawannock Reflections: Memories of Great East Lake*. As stated in the book, Polly recruited volunteers, organized lists of long-time summer residents and year-round residents to interview, studies and shared techniques for conducting oral histories, and arranged for volunteers to begin transcribing the interviews. As a social worker, Polly was especially good at interviewing for the oral histories, conducting many more interviews than the other volunteers. When it came time to write, Polly became acquainted with computer technology.

The many important contributions Polly made during her life can be read in the on-line obituary of the D'Esopo Funeral Chapel ([www.safeplacetogrive.com](http://www.safeplacetogrive.com)) Online tributes, Past Services.

Born December 20, 1924, Polly had a long and fruitful life. We will miss her greatly.



**Please note  
ANNUAL MEETING  
DATE CHANGE**  
Mark your Calendars

The date of the 2011 Annual Meeting will be July 9<sup>th</sup>. The tables will be open at 9:00 and the meeting will get underway at 10:00 as usual. And, of course, there will be the traditional hot dog lunch and raffle!

## ***2011 Membership Update***

By Pat Theisen

Thanks to those of you who have renewed your membership this year. As of May 12<sup>th</sup> GELIA has 317 members. There are more than 700 property owners on the lake, all enjoying the benefits of programs enabled by the generosity of dues paying members. Your participation this year is enabling GELIA to increase Lake Host coverage of the boat launch and other programs.

Our invasive species free water body isn't just luck. The diligence of many trained volunteer Weed Watchers scouring the shoreline to spot non-native plants, Lake Hosts who detect and remove milfoil on boats prior to entering Great East Lake, has provided all of us a beautiful place to swim, fish, and boat in one of the most desirable lakes in the area.

GELIA's goal is to have 100% of property owners be active members. If you have never been a member, and have misplaced your March membership request letter, there is one on the GELIA website. Your \$20 per year 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.

## ***Nominations for the 2011 - 2013 Biennium***

By Douglas Smith

The Nominating Committee has nominated and the Board of Directors has accepted the following slate to the Executive Committee for the 2011- 2013 biennium:

President: Jennifer Craig

Treasurer: Chris McKay

Secretary: Gene Rosenthal

Past President: Bess Smith

The Nominating Committee has nominated and the Board of Directors has accepted the following slate to the Board of Directors:

Janet Gould

Chuck Hodsdon

Marcia Hodsdon

Bill Hohenberger

Dee Kasprzak

Carol Lafond

Dave Mankus

Ron McKay

Walter Neff

Linda Schier

Dorothy Smith

Pat Theisen

Stephanie Theisen

If anyone is interested in becoming a Board member, please contact me at

[Dougusa@comcast.net](mailto:Dougusa@comcast.net).

## ***Lake Host/Courtesy Boat Inspector Program Update***

By Chris McKay

The Lake Host/Courtesy Boat Inspector Program is continuing for the summer of 2011 with some exciting changes! We have received enough funding to staff the boat launch seven days a week from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend this year. In addition to the funding provided by the NH Lakes Association and the Maine CBI program, we also obtained funding from the town of Wakefield, and we are in the process of receiving funding from the town of Acton. The additional grants in conjunction with the continued support of the GELIA membership have enabled us to staff the boat launch full time. Staffing the boat launch seven days a week has long been a goal of the board and we are excited to be able to provide this service to the Great East community. Additionally, we will continue staffing lake hosts at the Weeks Boat Launch during selective times throughout the summer.

As in the past, training for volunteer lake hosts can be done at a Great East Lake boat launch. If anyone is interested in volunteering please call Chris McKay at 603-686-1634 or email him at [cmckay@lmrpa.com](mailto:cmckay@lmrpa.com) for more information. Volunteers work two hour shifts with a paid lake host.

Last year our lake hosts made three official saves, visit <http://nhlakes.org/LakeHost20101025Saves.pdf> for a complete listing of all saves of the NH Lakes Program. Lake Hosts removed specimens of Variable milfoil (2) and Fanwort from boats launching at the Acton boat launch. This is the third year in a row where our lake hosts made at least three saves. This was a driving force behind GELIA's decision to push for full time staffing of the boat launch. Due to our close proximity to lakes with invasive plant infestations the Lake Host program continues to be extremely valuable to our community.

## ***AWWA's Floating Classroom Comes to Great East Lake***

By Linda Schier

Have you ever wondered...?

Is the water clean enough to swim in?

How to tell an invasive from a native aquatic plant?

Who lives in your lake?

Join the Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance on a 3-hour guided tour of Great East Lake where you'll practice water quality sampling, learn how to identify invasive plants and meet some of the critters that share your lake. The program is fun and interesting for all ages 8 and above. Children and adults are encouraged to participate. The dates and times will be set when we know who is interested so call or email soon to reserve a spot or ask for more info. (603) 473-2500 or [info@AWwatersheds.org](mailto:info@AWwatersheds.org).

## ***Weed Watchers Training***

By Dorothy Smith

Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program is presenting two Invasive Plant Patrol Workshops in early summer in our area. Several of our members have participated in these workshops in the past and they are highly recommended. Both are FREE to participants.

The indoor workshop will be held at Acton Town Hall from 2:30 to 8:00 PM on Wednesday, July 6<sup>th</sup>.

Topics to be covered include:

Overview of invasive species issues in Maine and beyond

Plant identification fundamentals

Hands on plant identification exercise with live plants

Conducting a screening survey, tools and techniques

All participants will receive "*The Invasive Plant Patroller's Handbook*" and *Maine Field Guide to Invasive Aquatic Plants*.

A light supper will be provided during this workshop.

A field workshop will be held on Saturday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> from 8:30AM to 12:30PM at Carpenter's Cove, Mousam Lake (north end of the lake). Specific directions will be sent when you register. Attendees should bring their own beverage, snacks and/or lunch.

This workshop provides on-lake instruction and practice conducting plant surveys. Participants must bring their own shallow draft boats, e.g. canoes, kayaks, inflatable or a lightweight skiff. This training is designed as advanced training for those who have already had the introductory workshop, but previous workshop experience is not a prerequisite. This workshop is limited to the first 24 people to enroll.

Pre-registration is required for both workshops. Contact the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program at [vlmp@mainevlmp.org](mailto:vlmp@mainevlmp.org) or (207)783-7733 to register. Online registration is available at [www.mainevolunteerlakemonitors.org/workshops](http://www.mainevolunteerlakemonitors.org/workshops).

Local co-hosts are Great East Lake Improvement Association, Bauneg Beg Lake Association, Mousam Lake Region Association, Square Pond Improvement Association and York County Aquatic Species Project/York County Soil and Water Conservation District.

If you have questions or perhaps would like to car pool contact Dorothy Smith at [dorothysmith@gmail.com](mailto:dorothysmith@gmail.com). Registration should be done at the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program.

## *You, Your Lawn and Great East Lake*

By Linda Schier

What is the connection between you, the owner of property on beautiful Great East Lake, your lawn and the future of our lake? Water quality is the connection and is the key ingredient to a beautiful lake. What we all do on and to the land around the lake determines whether the water quality is good or bad. In the case of Great East Lake, the water quality is good now but is threatened with pollution from many sources. As rain and snow melt flow into the lake they carry polluting hitchhikers from roads and driveways, septic systems, and lawns.

That brings us to you and your lawn and how it can affect the water quality in our lake. When the nutrients contained in fertilizers, particularly phosphorus, flow into the lake they promote weed and algae growth and can cause water quality to go downhill. Excessive quantities of nutrients also make a much more favorable environment for invasive weeds, like milfoil, to take hold.

If you don't have a lawn now, don't put one in. Develop a garden of native plants along the shoreline. If you do have a lawn, follow these helpful tips to maintain a lake-healthy property:

Plant natural vegetation or stop mowing at least 10' between the lawn and the water. This will take up nutrients and discourage troublesome Canada Geese.

A soil test\* will let you know exactly what you need to maintain a healthy lawn. As will often be the case, if the test informs you that only nitrogen is needed, look for no phosphorus fertilizer blends (middle number of the N-P-K rating on the bag should be "0").

Remember that Lime is the only fertilizer permitted within 25' of the high water line in NH.

Maintain your lawn at 3" or higher. Short lawns increase erosion and runoff.

Return clippings to turf after mowing – they become a natural fertilizer.

Avoid overwatering. One inch per week is generally plenty, more increases leaching.

Don't use pesticides – when they get into the water they can kill microscopic animals and destroy the aquatic food chain.

Above all realize that you have the future of Great East Lake in your hands. What you do on your property determines the kind of lake you'll leave for future generations.

\*For soil test information contact UNH Cooperative Extension at (603) 862-3200 or visit the website at <http://extension.unh.edu/Agric/AGPDTS/SoilTest.htm>.

Not all fertilizers are created equal. The use of fertilizers is **site specific!** Fertilizers should not be used until a **Standard Soil Test** is performed. Soil tests allow lawn owners to monitor pH, phosphorus (P), potassium (K) and other influential nutrients as well as providing reliable recommendations for lime. Most of the soils in our region naturally contain ample amounts of phosphorus. Contact UNH Cooperative Extension for details on performing a soil test for your property at 603-862-3200 or [www.extension.unh.edu/Agric/AGPDTS/SoilTest.htm](http://www.extension.unh.edu/Agric/AGPDTS/SoilTest.htm).

Many fertilizers are available, but the majority use three essential nutrients: nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P), and potassium (K). These nutrients are represented as percentages at the top of fertilizer bags. **Nitrogen** is the key element that promotes growth in grasses. **Phosphorus** works to build the root system and establish the grass as well as helping nitrogen work. **Potassium** works towards grass stress tolerance and longevity.

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If you must fertilize, avoid using fertilizers such as 12-12-12, 5-10-5, or 10-6-4 as they contain far more phosphorus than is generally necessary. Instead use fertilizers with little or no phosphorus such as 23-0-6, 30-4-4, or 26-4-4. Don't use water-soluble nitrogen sources such as urea (46-0-0) or ammonium nitrate (33-0-0). These nitrogen sources leach quickly through soils and move rapidly toward water bodies. Rapid leaching makes it difficult for grasses to take up nutrients. Make sure you inform your lawn care contractor to follow the same advice for your lawn. You do have a choice.

The best advice for keeping Great East Lake clean and beautiful is not to use **any fertilizer on land that drains to the Lake**. . Keep them low growing: your view will be maintained and you'll be helping to protect the Lake as well. If you have a lawn now, consider planting those same kinds of native plants along the shoreline. This will help establish a protective area for our Lake. Above all realize that you have the future of Great East Lake in your hands. What you do on your property determines the kind of lake you'll leave for future generations.

## Lawn Care Tips

### To fertilize or not to fertilize...

1. As will often be the case if the test informs you that only nitrogen is needed, look for low to no phosphorus fertilizer blends (middle number of the N-P-K rating on the bag should be "0") since phosphorus causes algae blooms in lakes.

**Perform a Standard Soil Test!** This is the best way to first assess your needs, if any, for turf grass management. Many soils may only need a slight pH or organic matter adjustment without additional fertilizers.

2. If unfertilized lawn is considered acceptable, then do not fertilize.

3. If fertilization is chosen: Do not apply before spring green up. May is the #1 time for turfs. Roots like it cool and will be ready to grow and take up nutrients that are added. Root growth is non-existent at temperatures above 85°F. Apply no later than October 15<sup>th</sup> in Southern New England and September 15<sup>th</sup> in Northern New England.

4. Never apply fertilizer at higher rates than are recommended on the labels of fertilizer bag. Most lawns will require 1/2 to 1/3 less fertilizer than is recommended.

5. If soil tests indicate that P and/or K are at acceptable concentrations, try to avoid blended fertilizers with N-P-K. Only N fertilizers may be needed.

6. Use slow release, water-insoluble N fertilizers (marked as WIN on bags). Fertilizers containing greater than 50% as WIN are preferred.

7. Avoid combination products, such as pesticide and fertilizer.

8. If fertilizing, set a target maximum loading rate of 2 lbs N/1000 ft<sup>2</sup>/year on established lawns of 10 years or older.

**AWWA Clean Lakes Campaign Kickoff**  
***“Lake Protection – It’s Everyone’s Job”***  
**Saturday, June 11, 9 AM – 12 PM**  
**Wakefield Opera House**  
**2 High Street, Sanbornville, NH**

**Do you love your lake? Do you want to know how to keep it clean?**

**Come hear inspiring speakers, play the Watershed Game, meet your fellow lake lovers and share exciting ideas for clean lake projects.**

**Door prizes, refreshments!**

The Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance is hosting the **Clean Lakes Campaign Kickoff** on Saturday, June 11 from 9:00 AM to noon at the Wakefield Opera House to celebrate the precious Acton and Wakefield lakes and strategize how to keep them that way. The program is targeted at lake association members but anyone who cares about clean water is encouraged to attend. Experts from both Maine and New Hampshire will be on hand to talk about issues that are threatening the health of our lakes and drinking water and offer solutions we can manage right here. You’ll have the opportunity to play the entertaining Watershed Game to learn ways we can each make a difference. Each lake association will go away with a tool kit to help them plan projects to protect their lake for now and generations to come.

Please call (603) 473-2500 or email [info@AWwatersheds.org](mailto:info@AWwatersheds.org) to register.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

GELIA  
PO Box 145  
Stratham NH 03885

NEWICHAMANNOCK NEWS

