



NEWICHAWANNOCK NEWS

GREAT EAST LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION - 76th YEAR, Winter 2008

President's Column

By Steve Dagley

One of the reasons my wife and I moved up to Great East Lake was because of the winter. The lake this time of year is so quiet and peaceful one can get lost in thought snowshoeing or cross country skiing around the lake. One thing I really enjoy doing is ice fishing. Some people will go by and say "I can buy fish in the store". I just say to them "**You just don't get it**".

After a hard week at work there is nothing like going on to the lake with the dogs, drilling a couple of holes in the ice and setting my ice fishing traps. Then setting up a lounge chair, pouring a hot cup of coffee and taking in the beautiful scenery, I wait for a flag from my traps to go up. I encourage anyone who has not been out on the lake in the winter to do so. It is a whole different experience.

However, the most important thing is ice safety. Here is a chart for clear black ice conditions:

- 2 inches** will hold one person on foot
- 3 inches:** a group of people in single file
- 6 inches:** a snowmobile
- 7.5 inches:** a passenger car
- 8 inches:** a light truck (2.5 tons)
- 10 inches:** a med truck (3.5 tons)
- 12 inches:** a heavy truck (7-8 tons)

When temperatures get above freezing for 24 hours more ice will lose its strength and this chart will no longer represent safe conditions. These are estimates provided by Maine Department of Inland Fish and Wildlife. For more information check out their web site at www.maine.gov/ifw. So if you get the chance, come up and enjoy the lake this winter.

Also keep reading the news letter to find out more information about the GELIA photo contest, required boating certification and committee news.

Although most of the directors are off the

lake during the winter we all still continue to work hard on environmental and water quality issues together with AWWA. Both organizations work together to help inform property owners about the consequences of storm water runoff issues from their property. If you have any concerns about the lake or your property please contact either GELIA or AWWA (contact numbers can be found within the newsletter.)

Hope to see you out there on the ice,
Steve

SAVE THE DATE!!

When: Wednesday, April 23, 2008, at 6:30 p.m.

Where: The Opera House, Wakefield Town Hall, 2nd Floor

What: The NH Dept. of Environmental Services—Shoreland Protection Division will be at the Wakefield Town Hall to discuss the recent changes to the comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act and to answer questions from property owners and contractors.

Seating is limited. For more information or to reserve your seat, please call 522-6205 x309 or email

PLANNINGBOARD@WAKEFIELDNH.COM.

LAKE HOSTS WANTED

to conduct courtesy boat inspections during Summer 2008

GREAT EAST LAKE

Paid and Volunteer Positions Available!

*Minimum Age: 18 for paid positions.
(We will consider exceptional 16- and 17-year olds.)*

Contact:

Great East Lake Improvement Association
Linda Schier, Point Person
603-659-3302 or lindabschier@comcast.net

Great East Lake Improvement Association
Statement of Changes in Fund Balance for the Period
January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007

Revenue:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Dues for 2007 | \$16,420.00 |
| Contributions – ISDF | \$4,352.00 |
| Memorials and Charitable Gifts | \$1,550.00 |
| Interest – Operating Reserve Fund CD | \$629.22 |
| Interest – Money Market Account | \$52.45 |
| Interest – ISDF Reserve Fund CD | \$551.96 |
| Charts and Maps | \$450.00 |
| Maine Grant | \$2,000.00 |
| GELIA Clothing | \$2,033.00 |
| Raffle | \$937.00 |
| History Books | \$5,265.00 |
| Golf Tournament | \$1,371.02 |
| Adjustment | \$12.20 |
| Total Revenue: | \$35,623.85 |

Expenditures:

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| Winter Newsletter | \$332.19 |
| GELIA Clothing | \$2,928.50 |
| Wakefield Chamber of Commerce Dues | \$55.00 |
| Membership PO Box and Postage | \$83.28 |
| Tax Map Info and Color Copies | \$84.50 |
| Membership Mailing | \$455.85 |
| PO Box 911 | \$38.00 |
| Checking Account Fees | \$32.95 |
| “Reflections” History Book | \$16,491.16 |
| Spring News Letter | \$618.37 |
| Magnets and Stickers | \$339.00 |
| 4/21 Board Meeting Lunch | \$27.99 |
| Directors’ Shirts | \$649.57 |
| Mailing Labels and Postage | \$39.23 |
| Contributions* | \$2,900.00 |
| Flairs | \$360.00 |
| Band | \$600.00 |
| Water Testing | \$655.50 |
| Dissolved Oxygen Meter | \$710.70 |

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Annual Meeting Copies | \$18.00 |
| Annual Meeting Toilet | \$119.00 |
| Lake Host Program | \$6,005.45 |
| Treasury Postage Copies, etc. | \$47.64 |
| Annual Meeting Food | \$244.56 |
| Family Festival | \$1,610.98 |
| Fall Newsletter | \$531.47 |
| Storage, Rental & Insurance | \$705.00 |
| Directors' Liability | \$744.00 |
| Posters & Misc. | \$21.25 |
| Website | \$107.40 |
| Total Expenditures: | \$37,556.54 |

DECREASE: \$1,932.69

*** Contributions:**

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| New Hampshire Lakes Association | \$300 |
| Maine Congress of Lakes Association | \$300 |
| Moose Mountain Regional Greenways | \$250 |
| Acton Wakefield Watershed Alliance | \$500 |
| Three Rivers Land Trust | \$250 |
| Wakefield Ambulance Service | \$400 |
| Acton Ambulance Association | \$400 |
| Loon Preservation Society | \$250 |
| Maine Audubon | \$250 |

Balance Sheet – December 31, 2007

ASSETS

| | |
|--|--------------|
| Invasive Aquatic Plant Fund – ISDF Money Market | \$9,342.41 |
| Fish and Wildlife | \$1,292.63 |
| Certificates of Deposit – Operating Reserve Fund | \$23,583.15 |
| Certificates of Deposit – ISDF Reserve Fund | \$16,267.60 |
| Cash – Checking Account | \$(2,498.37) |

Total: \$47,987.42

FUND BALANCE

| | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| Beginning 1/1/07 | \$49,920.11 |
| Decrease during Period | \$1,932.69 |

Ending Balance: \$47,987.4

Water Quality Monitoring Report

By Chuck Hodsdon

The lake monitors for this year as for the past several years were Chuck Hodsdon and Dave Lafond, with occasional help from our wives. We also made one trip as we do every year with a team from UNH as they make some additional measurements with much more sophisticated equipment than ours. We also made one trip with some youngsters so that they could see what we were doing to test the water quality in the lake. We found that the youngsters could see our Secchi Disk somewhat deeper in the lake than we could and our wives disagreed with us on the colors of the alkalinity indicator. (Alkalinity is based on a vague blue to gray to pink color change as acid is added to the water.) Have no fear. When Dave and I compare our data with the professionals from UNH we are usually right on.

This year we took samples of water from the lake starting on April 29th and finishing in early October. We took data from 4 sites on the lake including the second basin. The data was sent to the Lakes Lay Monitoring Lab at UNH and also to the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program in Maine. This enables us to have a long standing data base so we can compare the long term changes that are taking place in the lake. We have records going back more than 30 years and the State of Maine has even older records from occasional years before that.

The record for this year will be a good one as the water temperature stayed low late into the summer which tends to inhibit the growth of algae somewhat. Some of the early readings were not so impressive though as there were very heavy rains early in the season, which tend to wash lots of sand and organic matter into the lake, which has both short and long term effects on water clarity. Anything you can do on your own property to prevent this erosion of matter into the lake is really helpful in preserving water quality. If you have serious erosion problems you might want to contact the Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance which is a local non-profit group dedicated to improving water quality by preventing erosion. They will send a person to your property and give you some suggestions about how to fix your erosion problems. The phone number is 603-473-2500.

The average Secchi Disk readings during the midsummer months were right around 10 meters which is excellent. There are few lakes in the country who can report better readings than that.

One other item; for the second time in three years we were stuck on the lake during our monitoring trip. The first time I was in the second basin and my trusty motor just would not start. This was in late September but I found someone to tow me home. (about 6 miles) This year Dave and I ran out of gas off Veasey Point in the worst rain shower we had all summer. We finally got a tow from some folks but many people passed us by in spite of us frantically waving our arms and giving other distress signals. It was midweek so the boat traffic was sparse especially given the downpour but I would like to know if there is a universal distress signal for a boat in trouble. When I am onshore and I see a boat adrift I usually watch it for awhile to see if they are in trouble or just drifting on purpose it would be good to have a way to give a signal if one is in distress. I have also resolved to carry my cell phone with me when we go out on a trip on the lake.



Contact our President, Steve
Dagley at 207-636-2788 or email:
s1maine@psouth.net with any
questions, comments or concerns

Last Call for the Photo Contest!

By Gary Field

You may have heard that we're having our first Photo Contest this year! In fact it's pretty likely that you have. I've been pushing it since the annual meeting last July!

We want our members to share their fondest memories of their time spent at the lake, and bring the whole association closer together. Alright, that last part may be a bit much. But come on, I know you're sitting on a box of great pictures that the rest of us would like to see. Dig 'em out and send 'em in already!

If you don't have pictures you want to share then you're still not off the hook; we also need volunteer judges to pick the best ones. You don't need to be a photography expert. As long as you have a computer with a CD/DVD drive that you can display pictures on, you're all set!

The idea is that we will take the best 12-18 photos submitted and create a calendar which will be available at the 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. The best of the runners up will be posted on GreatEastLake.org.

You have until the end of February to work on digging out and selecting your favorite pictures so you can send them in.

There are of course rules:

<http://www.greateastlake.org/contest.html>

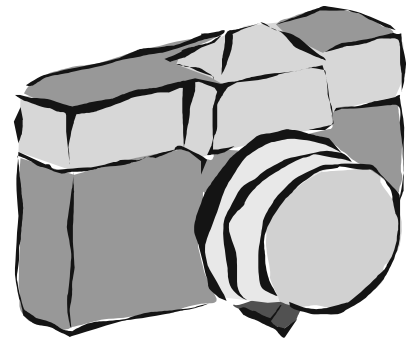
Download and print an entry form:

<http://www.greateastlake.org/entry.html>

Or, if you have no Internet access you can write to:
Gary Field, PO Box 762, Tewksbury, MA 01876

And I'll send you the rules and an entry form.

To volunteer your services as a judge send and email to: PhotoContest@GreatEastLake.org



New Shoreland Protection Laws for NH

by Linda Schier

As of April 1, 2008 the new rules for NH RSA 483-B Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act become effective. If you are planning to make any changes to your shorefront property in NH be sure to check with the Wakefield Shoreland Compliance Officer (and GELIA Director), John Ciardi at 603-522-6205 x 310 to determine what is allowed. John has been attending all the hearings and will be able to advise the community on the rules once they are finalized. The NH DES will be at the Wakefield Town Hall on April 23 to discuss the provisions of the new laws. See below for details.

At the request of the Wakefield Planning Board, NH State Senator Joe Kenney filed Senate Bill 406 with the state legislature requesting that Wakefield be exempt from the 50 foot setback requirement. The bill was heard by the Energy, Environment and Economic Development Committee on January 15 and has been ruled inexpedient to legislate which means that it is tabled for now.

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Follow the links below for more information on the NH CSPA:

Frequently asked questions:

<http://www.des.nh.gov/cspa/faqs.htm>

Summary of the Standards:

http://www.des.nh.gov/cspa/pdf/CSPA_StandardsSummary.pdf

Full text of the act with changes:

http://www.des.nh.gov/cspa/pdf/CSPAchanges_incorporated.pdf.

Exciting Projects for AWWA and Great East Lake

by Linda Schier and Carol Lafond

YCC a Resounding Success! AWWA continues to expand its efforts for water quality protection in the Wakefield/Acton border lakes region. The first two-year cycle of the Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) project was a resounding success with 30 YCC projects completed. These projects will prevent 36.2 tons of sediment and 31.5 pounds of phosphorus per year from entering the local lakes. An additional 60 technical assistance designs were provided to homeowners planning to install their own repairs. Six of the YCC projects and seven of the technical assistance designs were on Great East.

Environmental agencies in both NH and Maine consider erosion as the number one priority for water quality protection. Sedimentation increases algae growth, decreases water clarity and destroys habitat for aquatic creatures. Phosphorus, which attaches itself to sediments, is a nutrient, or plant food, which also increases algal blooms and rapid growth of aquatic vegetation. Uncontrolled runoff dumps significant amounts of these pollutants into the lakes and AWWA projects stop the flow.

AWWA will continue its YCC again this season so please don't hesitate to call if you have any questions or concerns about your property's impact on the water quality of Great East. **Remember that any decline in water quality directly affects the value of waterfront property.** Look for a buffer evaluation form in the Spring newsletter that will help you identify any issues that AWWA may be able to help you remedy.

New Project to Develop a Watershed Plan: AWWA is very excited to announce a new project, funded by public and private grants, to develop a watershed-based management plan for the lakes in the AWWA region that meet the criteria of High Quality Waters. These lakes all drain into the Salmon Falls River and include Great East, Horn, Ivanhoe, Lovell and Wilson. The management plan will offer suggestions about how to maintain their pristine conditions.

Throughout the two-year course of the project AWWA staff, volunteers and partners will work with landowners and local volunteers to survey the watersheds and lakes to identify areas of concern that may affect water quality. The end result of the project will be a management plan that the communities can use as a tool to plan for the future protection of the region's waters.

How to Get Involved: If you are interested in learning more about (or volunteering to help with) any of the AWWA efforts please don't hesitate to contact us at 603-473-2500 or info@AWwatersheds.org.

Linda Schier, Executive Director

Carol Lafond, Vice President

Adam Shoukimas, Technical Director

The Lake in Fall and Early Winter

By Chuck Hodsdon

This has been a wonderful season living on the Lake. We have had 4 or 5 snowfalls over 6 inches some with as many as 14 inches. (Probably caused by my wife Marcia praying for snow as my son Jeff was coming from Colorado for Christmas. She overdid it.) The snowbanks are 5 feet high on all the roads and it is really quiet. The only real commotion is caused by snowmobilers who are reveling in what must be the best few weeks they have seen in years. They worry me a bit though. The lake really never skimmed with ice until a few days before Christmas. The smaller ponds have abundant ice on them though. (I even saw a hockey game on Lake Ivanhoe.) Deepwater lakes freeze later because all the water in the lake must cool down to freezing temperature before the lake can really freeze. The deeper the lake, and the more water it has in it, the longer it takes to cool to 32 degrees. As the lake freezes on the surface it puts pressure on the water below and that water must escape from under the ice, as water is really incompressible. This water seems to come out from under the ice along the North Shore. There always seems to be open water along the beach there. Marcia and I went snowshoeing along the North Shore a week ago and as we got close to the Scribner River we ventured out onto the ice for a ways (where the water is only about a foot deep) then back on to the beach as we got close to the river. The river mouth tends to be less safe because there is always water flowing out of the river. When we returned we found that our tracks were filled with slush which indicated that the ice was not all that safe. Around Christmas we saw a snowmobile go through the ice right out in front of our camp. Luckily the water was only about a foot deep and he was able to get his machine back onto solid ice. (The snow machine seemed to have good traction in the sand on the bottom at that depth but I don't think it would have worked in 6 feet of water.) Another machine went by and we heard a massive CRAACK, a while later a wet line appeared in the snow parallel to the shore and further out in the lake from where the machine had traveled. The crack was at least a quarter of a mile long and what I think happened is that the snow machine caused a huge sheet of ice to break. There was a lot of traffic further out in the lake, but I noticed that even with a foot of snow the tracks filled in with slush. The first bobhouse appeared off the Weeks Park ramp this weekend and we saw several ice fishermen. The mergansers that seem to be regular fall visitors were here in large numbers again this year. I think that they come here to fish when the lakes further north freeze over. One morning I was up at about 5:30 AM and I heard a commotion out front so I looked out the window to see a large flock of mergansers flying by right out front. Just behind them was a huge dark bird, probably a very big owl or maybe an eagle. He must have jumped them on the water and missed. They are very skittish and unlike the loons they can get up and go from the water really fast. He missed a big breakfast that morning and probably had to settle for some unsuspecting mouse or something like that.

I especially love this season because around the solstice I can see both the sunrise and the sunset from my kitchen.



Just A Reminder

By Walter Neff

As you probably know 2008 is the year in which ALL operators of boats in excess of 25 H.P. operating in NH waters will be required to be certified by the State of New Hampshire, or to have been certified by the Coast Guard or another state which meets NH's standards, i.e. is NASBLA approved. Also, online testing is no longer approved for this certification and in-person testing IS required.

In talking with the NH Marine Patrol recently I was informed that they are planning to hold training and testing sites very convenient for Great East Lake boaters. Beginning in February 2008 and once a month thereafter the courses will be offered at the Wakefield Fire Department. The schedule of classes when established will be indicated on their website www.boat-ed.com/nh or by calling 1-888-254-2125. There will be a \$10.00 pre-registration fee and if you successfully pass the test, a \$10.00 fee to obtain your permanent license.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

GELIA
P.O. Box 762
Tewksbury MA 01876

