



## NEWICHAWANNOCK NEWS

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# NEWICHAWANNOCK NEWS

**GREAT EAST LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION - 82nd YEAR, Summer 2014**

## The Presidents Column

By Dave Mankus

### The Mission

The rituals of Spring have mostly been completed, open the Camp, water on, leaves raked, its hard to do the annual chores without being distracted by beauty of the Lake and Nature. Raking away leaves we discover the Daffodils, Iris and Peonies have decided its time to make their annual appearance. It's so easy to take a break and sit by the Lake and marvel at the water. No silent still ice, we now have ripples, waves, sparkles and transparent liquid to view into the depths. This is what we all cherish and strive to protect.

Since the formation in 1932, the Association has addressed many issues. The greatest threat to the lake today is the invasive aquatic plants which have invaded so many nearby lakes. A few years ago the Directors voted to increase the hours our Lake Hosts inspect boats at the Ramp to 12 hours a day seven days a week. This is our first line of defense. The budget this year for this coverage is approx. \$29,000. The cost of this program along with other good things we do has drawn our available cash reserve down from approx. \$19,000 three years ago to \$8,600 presently. At the last Directors meeting we deferred \$3,525 in contributions to non-mission organizations in an effort to reverse this decline. This should, if present trends and history repeat itself restore our cash reserve to about \$12,000 at the end of the year. A good start to return to a comfortable level.

While Charles has given us an amazing financial analysis looking back four years and into the future, Jennifer has done a simple math calculation to clarify our situation: the Host program costs \$70 per member per season, several grants reduce that cost to the Association to \$42 per member, and only the number of members contributing more than the minimum \$20 membership allow us to continue with this level of coverage.

The Directors will be looking at ways to balance the budget without cutting services, including increasing the dues.

The Directors voted to defer every contribution the Association makes to other organizations except our Maine and New Hampshire lakes memberships and our \$2,000 annual contribution to AWWA. We felt the work AWWA does was central to our mission to protect the Lake and its water quality. The other contributions we have been making these last few years were worthy and important to our members. The Action and Wakefield Libraries and Ambulance Associations, conservation camp, Wakefield Parks and Recreation Department, Moose Mt. Regional Greenways, Three Rivers, Land Trust, Maine and New Hampshire Audubon, Society and the Loon Preservation society are all wonderful causes and we will reconsider them at our fall meeting. In the meantime we encourage all members to consider making a contribution to their favorite organization on their own.

We also encourage all members to volunteer their time in ways which support our mission. Chuck is continuing our water monitoring program and always could take another volunteer, and Deb Parkin is leading the Weed-watchers group, our second line of defense against invasive species.

I would like to thank all of our members, contributors, volunteers and Directors for their continuing support of the Association and the work it does.

## 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  
 Janet Gould  
 Chuck Hodsdon  
 Bill Hohenberger  
 Dee Kasprzak  
 Jim Labrie  
 Ron McKay  
 Arnie Murray  
 Walter Neff  
 Deb Parkin  
 Gene Rosenthal  
 Dwayne Scruton  
 Pat Theisen

### Mission

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

## AWWA's Many Faces of Lake Management

By Linda Schier

As I walked along Lakeside Drive in early May I heard a riot of crow caws. As is often the case, this signaled the presence of a threat – in this instance, a bald eagle with dinner in its talons. It lit in a nearby white pine and proceeded to dine al fresco. There are so many miraculous facets to the wonder that is Great East Lake and it is all a delicate balance. The bald eagles, loons, mergansers, kingfishers, ducks, songbirds, bats, otters, mink, beavers, fish, turtles, amphibians, snails, zooplankton, aquatic plants, phytoplankton, the water itself and people must all work in harmony to preserve that balance.

Here at the Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance (AWWA), our focus is to assist the communities of Acton and Wakefield to maintain, or some cases achieve, that balance, not only in Great East but the other lakes in the region as well. Lake management is a broad term that encompasses a wide range of activities. For Great East those have included:

- the watershed survey to identify erosion issues and the subsequent publication of the “Salmon Falls Headwater Lakes Watershed Management Plan,”
- working with landowners to correct erosion problems with our Youth Conservation Corps,
- partnering with Abbott/Jericho Way and Langley Shores road associations to solve chronic erosion issues with drainage,
- working with the town boards and committees to identify ways to strengthen pollution prevention policies,
- assisting the lake associations with their battles against aquatic invasive plant infestations,
- offering workshops on healthy lake topics,
- leading discovery cruises and paddles to share our fascination with all things aquatic,
- bringing hands-on lessons to local school children to highlight the importance of clean, healthy water so that future community leaders are committed to protection of these fragile precious resources.

While we have gotten a lot done there is more to do. As we look to the next few years we see additional YCC projects, more road work to be done, a focus on healthy septic systems as a priority and continued educational opportunities. Successful lake management involves identifying and fixing existing problems, planning to avoid future problems and expanding the understanding that what we do on land and in the water is what determines the health of the lake. Each of us makes a difference and it is up to us to be sure it is a positive one. See what AWWA is up to at [www.AWwatersheds.org](http://www.AWwatersheds.org) and get on our mailing list to be kept up-to-date.

Remember – Clean Water Begins on Land!

## Lake Hosts

By Caitlyn McKay

The arrival of summer brings loons, sunshine, water sports, and Lake Hosts! This will be my seventh year as a Lake Host and I have loved having the opportunity to protect this great lake. Every year I have to go to the training sessions for each state, and every year, I am shocked by the success of the program as well as the difficult nature of invasive species. Since the implementation of this NH Lakes Association program, there have been no new plant infestations in clean lakes that utilize Lake Hosts (except for a couple of strands that were removed from our lake a few years ago). It's amazing to see how well this program works at keeping invasive plants out of clean lakes. On the other hand, there are always new “invasive aquatic species” that can threaten clean lakes. Although there were no new plant infestations, there have been some new animal and clam infestations in some water bodies. That is why it is so crucial for everyone to be aware of the problem and to be part of the solution.

Throughout my seven years as a Lake Host, I have seen a countless number of boats. I have also been lucky enough to have personally made a couple of “saves.” To know that one person can actually make a difference and protect the lake is a great feeling and I don't think that it should only be limited to “official” Lake Hosts. As a community, we can make a difference and protect our lake as well as our neighboring lakes. I encourage you to inspect your boat, check your property, support GELIA, or even volunteer. From my own personal experience, it is such a great feeling to be part of this program and it doesn't hurt to brag a little about making “saves.” If anyone wants to help protect this astonishing lake, I urge you to take part in any way possible. That being said, if anyone wants to volunteer you can always reach me by email ([Caitlyn.mckay@hotmail.com](mailto:Caitlyn.mckay@hotmail.com)).

## Loon Report

By Chuck and Marcia Hodsdon & Bill Hohenberger

We are happy to say that the loons are back, in full force as far as we can tell. We have been in touch with the loon biologist and he will be scheduling a visit soon.

This is a crucial time for the loon population on Great East Lake and other lakes as well. The Loons are in the process of nesting or are already sitting on the nest. Although they sometimes nest later in the summer and will occasionally try a second time if the first is not successful, it is during the months of May and June that they are most active. **If you observe the loons in nesting activity please stay away and do not disturb them. We have seen far too many pictures of nesting loons and very young chicks. PLEASE OBSERVE FROM AFAR.**

If you witness any harassment or violations you can contact the Fish and Game dispatcher on weekdays 8 AM to 4:30 PM at 603-271-3361, the police dispatch on weekends at 603-271-3636 and for larger lakes, Marine Patrol at 603-293-2037.

There are state and federal laws protecting loons. The number at the Loon Center in Moultonborough is 603-476-5666.

Two loons have actually been found shot in New Hampshire this spring. One in Dover, which had been rehabilitated and placed on a pond, and one in Moultonborough area.

We are thrilled to have an eagle that is seen around our lake and even reports of an immature eagle as well. However loon chicks are in danger from these predatory birds.

In addition powerboats traveling at high speeds threaten loons. Please enjoy them but remember that we had only one chick which survived last season from four pairs that live on our lake.

## 2014 ANNUAL MEETING JULY 12TH AT WEEKS PARK

- Membership table, merchandise sales and informational tables - open at 9:00 am and close at 10:00 am for the meeting
- Members may pick up a flare for the 9:30 pm Flare Up
- Informational material – boating safety, environmental, invasive aquatic plants, septic systems and more
- Booths – AWWA, Loon Preservation Committee, Moose Mountain Regional Greenways, Three Rivers Land Trust
- 2015 GELIA Calendars - \$15    2014 Calendars - \$7.50 (limited supply)
- Newichawannock Reflections: Memories of Great East Lake 2nd edition - \$15
- Laminated Charts - \$10    Paper Maps - \$5
- Volunteer Sign Up for Weed Watchers and Lake Hosts
- Raffle tickets available before 10:00 am for gift certificates and merchandise
- Reports and updates of GELIA programs
- Covered seating available under the tent
- Lunch – compliments of GELIA – hotdogs, chips and soda

## Weedwatchers

By Deb Parkin

It's almost time to kick your feet back and enjoy another summer at Great East Lake. Think about all the swimming, boating, kayaking and canoeing that you'll be able to do because of the weed-free lake that we are all fortunate enough to share. We owe a great debt of gratitude to the Lake Hosts, who inspect the boats entering Great East Lake at the boat launch and act as our first line of defense against the invasive weeds that have infested some of the lakes in our area. But, our second and equally important line of defense has to be all of us who use and enjoy Great East Lake. To that end, GELIA would like to encourage everyone to show an interest in the health and beauty of the lake and add your name and email address to the list of Great East Lake Weedwatchers. Everyone who becomes an official Weedwatcher will receive a set of plastic plant identification tags that you can attach to your boat or kayak to help you identify some of the plants you see in Great East Lake. You can sign up to be a Weedwatcher by sending your information to me at Deborahp4@comcast.net, or by adding your name and email address to the list when you attend the annual GELIA meeting in July.

If you'd like to further your knowledge of invasive aquatic plants, VLMP and AWWA are holding an Aquatic Invasive Plant Workshop on June 14 at 35 H Road in Acton. The location for the workshop probably couldn't be more convenient for Great East Lake residents. If you go to the AWWA website, [www.AWwatersheds.org](http://www.AWwatersheds.org), and look under the AWWA news section on the right of the web page, you'll see the workshop mentioned. You can register for it and find out more about it on the AWWA website.

The more we know about what grows in Great East Lake, the better we'll be able to protect it for the next generation to enjoy.

## BOATING SAFETY “NO WAKE AREAS” and “HEADWAY SPEED”

By Walter Neff

There have been a considerable number of complaints about boats operating at excess speed in areas that are noted on Great East Lake as “NO WAKE AREAS”. In areas that are so identified by signs or marker buoys the proper maximum speed that is allowable under state law is “Headway Speed” defined as the “slowest speed at which it is still possible to maintain steering and control of the vessel” and in New Hampshire is further defined as “or 6 miles per hour”.

Areas are posted as “No Wake Areas” for some very practical reasons: a faster rate of speed there will create a wake that can be dangerous to swimmers, private property such as docks, other vessels, and especially to bordering shoreline where wave action disturbs the fragile shoreline vegetation which in turn can create serious runoff problems that can affect the quality of the lake water.

On the New Hampshire portion of the lake the “Headway Speed” limit is 150 feet from the shoreline; in the Maine portion the limit is 200 feet. Those distances are also applied to swimmers in the water, other vessels, rafts or floats, permitted swimming areas, docks and mooring fields, marinas or anchorages.

In addition to the general shoreline the areas in the lake in which “No Wake” regulations are also in effect are:

New Hampshire---Copp Brook, Scribner River, state launch area

Maine—1st Basin and Third Basin,

Any other location that may be posted as “NO WAKE” or “Headway Speed Only”

Note: These narrow waterway areas are especially susceptible to excess wave damage because there is no room for the waves to dissipate.

This regulation is not just a common sense rule, it is also state law.

Please bring this information to the attention of all operators who may be using your boat and to any guests that may be enjoying Great East Lake. Thanks for your cooperation.

## Treasurer's Update

By Charles Crespi

Thank you to all who increased their contributions to GELIA this spring. As of May 15th, membership dues were up 17% (about \$3300) and contributions to the ISDF were up 93% (about \$2400) relative to 2013. In mid-May we typically have received only 70-75% of the revenues from members. Receiving support for those who have not yet become 2014 members remains important.

If the revenue gains continue, the increase in membership dues will cover about half of the operating shortfall in 2013. During the spring Directors Meeting, the GELIA directors made the difficult budget decisions to ensure a balanced budget in 2014 while maintaining our commitment to our core mission of education and protecting Great East Lake. Most importantly, we were able to maintain funding for 7 day operations of the Lake Host Program in 2014. The increase in ISDF contributions means that we will be better prepared to respond to an event that the Lake Host Program is intended to prevent – the discovery of invasive plants in our pristine lake.

## Lake Monitoring

by Chuck Hodsdon

I am not sure how many years I have been going through the routine of getting supplies together, getting a boat in the water and checking my equipment so that I might get out on the lake in early May and take some samples of the lake water so we would have the beginning of a cross section of samples for the coming season. I think that I started in the late 70'S. It is such a pleasure to take a ride around the lake whether it be spring, summer, or fall. Because Marcia and I take samples from many points on the lake, sampling is the equivalent of taking a ride around the lake with four or five stops to anchor and sit for 15 or twenty minutes.

Thankfully, the condition of the lake over all these years has remained quite good. When I give my lake condition report at the annual meeting it is always positive. Sometimes I suppose I have been so naïve as to take credit for this. I know better. Nature has been good to us. We have been lucky as well. The lake does not sit beside one of the main roads in the state and the traffic on the lake is mostly people who live here. Most people are very aware of what a treasure we have and do their best to treat it with respect. There is no industry, no farms, no golf courses. The volume of the lake is large and it is deep with respect to the number of people who live here. There are not a lot of year round residents and this also helps to limit the pollutants that might otherwise cause harm to the lake.

Nevertheless those of us who have been here for a long time have seen the lake condition deteriorate. More growth on the bottom and on the surface is a sign that in spite of our best efforts EUTROPHICATION is proceeding. The natural life cycle of a body of water like Great East Lake has a beginning and an end. Bogs and swamps were lakes at one time. This can happen in a few years, a few hundred years or a few thousand years. To some extent that time is governed by how we treat this beautiful natural thing that we all love so much.

## Trout Stocking

By David Elwell

The New Hampshire Fish and Game department stocked the lake with rainbow trout on the week of April 14th. While the department does not release the amount of fish it stocks until the end of the year, it has annually stocked 1,150 rainbow trout of varying sizes in the past. Through April and May trout were found in abundance in the Scribner River, and ranged in size from 10-14 inches.

## Great East Lake Fishing Derby: July 12, 2014

**Open to anglers in age groups 8 and under and 9-12**

Fish will be weighed and measured at Weeks Park on North Shore Drive between 9:00 and 9:30. This is just before the Annual Meeting which begins at 10:00 AM

All participants will receive a grab bag prize and a first prize will be awarded to the longest fish in each age group. If two fish are the same length the winner will be chosen by weight.

## Membership Update

By Pat Theisen

Many thanks to those of you who have already renewed your GEL membership for 2014. Our much-needed Invasive Species Defense Fund is looking healthier, and our general fund is slightly ahead of last year at this time. However, that said, there are still over 200 potential members – those who enjoy all the benefits of a pristine lake – who have not yet become a 2014 member.

At the beginning of May a reminder letter was sent to those who have been members at some point during the past five years to encourage them to renew this years membership. Hope springs eternal that those who receive our membership request letter, but who have never been members, will join those around the lake and others to do their part to help protect the gem of Great East Lake.

You know you have sent in your membership renewal if you have received an acknowledgement letter and your 2014 GELIA membership sticker.

If you cannot find your membership remittance envelope, you can download and print the form from the GELIA website, [www.greastlake.org/become-a-member](http://www.greastlake.org/become-a-member).

As always, our goal is 100% participation – contributing whatever you can to protect the water quality of Great East Lake.

Thank you!

## Nominations for the 2014-2016 Biennium

By Ron McKay and Walter Neff

The Nominating Committee has nominated and the Board of Directors has accepted the following slate for membership on the Board of Director, to be voted on by the Association's members at our 2014 annual meeting.

Election of new board members:

Susi Alvino

Caitlyn McKay

Michelle Rhudick

David Ellwell

Marcia Hodsdon

The Board of Directors would like to thank Dee Kasprzak for her many years of service to Great East Lake and our association. In accordance with our bylaws, she has reached her term limit of three consecutive two year terms on the Board of Directors. We hope she will join us again after a short break.

If any one is interested in becoming a Board member please contact Ron McKay at [ron.mckay@comcast.net](mailto:ron.mckay@comcast.net) or Walt Neff at [wsneff@comcast.net](mailto:wsneff@comcast.net).