



NEWICHAWANNOCK NEWS

GREAT EAST LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION - 74th YEAR, Fall 2006

President's Column

By Linda Schier

Autumn on Great East is a spectacular time. Columbus Day weekend shared the most beautiful weather and sunsets that I've experienced this year. The lake was calm and remarkably clear, the skies were first bright blue and then every shade of the rainbow, the air was warm, and the vibrant full moon was an added gift. One more time to revel in the glory of Great East Lake.

Another summer has passed in my "reign" as president of the Great East Lake Improvement Association and I continue to be awed by the level of effort that GELIA members put into being part of our very fortunate community. We had a noteworthy year for both our Lake Hosts, when Tessa Venell logged a "save" by finding a piece of Eurasian milfoil on a jet ski about to launch into the lake; and for our Weed Watcher program when Carol Lafond found a plant of Variable milfoil growing near the boat launch. All the effort that has gone into these programs, by a myriad of volunteers, is truly paying off. Our membership committee, steered by Jon Rouillard and Gary Field, launched a streamlined effort at increasing our membership that paid off with a marked increase in our membership. Some members of GELIA, led by Chuck and Marcia Hodsdon, in conjunction with Lake Forest Resort, revived the Great East Lake Yacht Club with a fun Sunfish race on an otherwise dreary late summer weekend. The Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance had a very successful season battling erosion including three projects on Great East.

We have many reasons to feel proud about our role in protecting the quality of life we share on Great East and many reasons to pay close attention to all we can do to ensure that those who follow us can enjoy the same pleasures. GELIA continues to explore the many facets of lake protection as well as enhancing each of our experiences in other ways that bring us together as a community of individuals who share the joy of life on the lake. The articles in this newsletter illustrate how varied our activities are and how much all of you give to the experience we all share here on Great East. It continues to be such a pleasure for me to get to know new faces around the

lake and enhance the friendships that Great East Lake has shared with me.

"Life is so good."

J. Venell

2006 Loon Report

By Carol Lafond

Erin O'Brien, the Loon Preservation Committee biologist for the Seacoast area, visited Great East three times this summer. In early summer there were as many as twelve adult loons on the lake with three pairs nesting. Four loons were seen spending a lot of time together in the second basin. This is very unusual behavior to observe during nesting season, but none of these four nested this year.

The Scribner pair produced two healthy chicks at the end of June. They are almost full size and thriving as of this fall. The Loon Island pair didn't use the floating nest this year but did successfully hatch one chick on July 13th. It is also healthy and thriving. The Copp Brook pair nested a little later and in late July were off the nest. Egg fragments were found in the nest, but no chick was seen. We later had unconfirmed reports of a dead loon chick in that area. Erin visited all nest sites and gathered egg fragments, which will be tested at the LPC.

The most unusual reports we have had this year involve the sighting of two chicks born late in the season. They are elusive, but have been seen in the Scribner area and along the North Shore.

If you see the two young loon chicks or have any other information or questions about the loons, please email Carol Lafond at webmaster@greastlake.org

GELIA Annual Meeting

By Carol Lafond

2006 GELIA Annual Meeting was held on July 1, 2006.

Another beautiful Saturday morning and a large crowd was in attendance for the GELIA Annual Meeting. Committee chairs gave updates on fish stocking, water quality, Lake Hosts, Weed Watchers and the growing membership. This year there were speakers from the The Loon Preservation Committee, The Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance, and the NH Dam Bureau. Announcements were made about the Lake concert, the Golf tournament to be held in September and a request from a member to slow down on the dirt roads around our lake.

Bess Smith was nominated and elected as the new secretary and Marcia Hodsdon was elected as a director. A high bush blueberry plant was presented to Pat Theisen to thank her for the wonderful job she did as past President. Thanks also to retiring directors Don Mills, Bob Chooljian and Sharon Theiling for their many hours of service to GELIA.

Members were encouraged to come early to visit the many Informative tables set up on Loons, Conservation, Safety and the Youth Conservation Corp. The membership is up this year, but less time was spent collecting dues because the spring request for dues brought in most of the dues before the meeting, so the membership table spent most of their time distributing flares and stickers. Volunteers signed up and learned about Weed Watchers and Lake Hosts. There were tables where GELIA logo clothing, books and lake charts were sold. In addition, there was a yard sale and a very successful raffle. The business meeting ended at noon and a hot dog lunch was served.

At 7pm, a concert took place in the middle of the lake, and at 9:30 the annual flare-up lit up the lake front.

Water Quality Monitoring 2006 Great East Lake

By Chuck Hodsdon

This summer we managed to monitor 4 sites on a consistent basis for the whole summer beginning in June and continuing until October. We continue to send our data and samples for study to the Lakes Lay Monitoring Program at UNH. In addition we will be sending our data to the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program operated by the State of Maine. Chuck Hodsdon was recertified at a workshop in early May by the VLMP in Maine.

In addition we had a team from the Freshwater Biology Group from UNH visiting Great East Lake this summer as we have done for many years to collect more extensive data on the condition of the lake.

Because of the large volume of rain in the early summer we had large volumes of debris and silt washed into the lake. Any sort of buffer that landowners can provide to prevent this erosion of foreign matter of any kind into the lake will help us to continue to keep a pristine lake that we all can enjoy. If you have serious erosion issues on your property we have a group called the Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance that is providing technical assistance and a crew to help people who own lakefront property to change their landscape to help prevent this damaging erosion. If you burn flares or fireworks remember that the debris from these should be kept out of the water. They burn phosphorus which turns into phosphate which is the single most important nutrient in promoting the growth of Algae in the Lake.

Great East Lake Wins the Lovell Lake / Great East Lake Golf Tournament!

By Al Polmonari

Congratulations to the Great East Lake Golfers for netting \$1,048.06 to help with our water monitoring efforts. Look for more details on the Golf Tournament in our next newsletter.



2006 Lake Host Update

By Linda Schier

The GELIA Lake Host program has become a real community fixture in its fifth year. Our residents and visitors are accustomed to the friendly inspection that accompanies a boat launch and the response is overwhelmingly positive. Our surveys show that almost every boater is pleased to see that we are being excellent stewards of the lake and doing our best to prevent an infestation of an invasive aquatic plant. This season our volunteer and staff Lake Hosts inspected 1025 boats, found 16 stowaway weed fragments and one was determined to be an invasive species, Eurasian Water Milfoil, coming in on a jet ski from Vermont. We are very proud of our staff and look forward to many more seasons of top notch performance. Job well done to the staff of Tessa Venell, Jay Fugarazzo, Matt Jantzen, Dan Field, Kerry Polmonari and Maggie Schier.

Once again we thank both the NH Lakes Association and the Maine Lakes Environmental Association for their generous support. We would also like to thank all the GELIA members whose contributions help us make our match dollars for the grants. The majority of our match contribution comes from the volunteer hours that go into keeping the Lake Host program running. Recognition for their tireless volunteer efforts go to John Ciardi, Steve Fugarazzo, Mary Kraft, Don and Catherine Mills, Win Robin, Dorothy Smith, Doug Smith, Nancy Smith (no relation between any of them!) and Charlie Wills for giving up their summer weekend hours to educate the boaters at the launch. A **very special thanks** goes to John Ciardi who volunteered EVERY weekend during the summer in the popular (NOT) Sunday 6-8 am time slot. Not many volunteers are willing to share so much of their time and John never missed a beat. We are very fortunate to have John on our team.

We can use more volunteer lake hosts next season so please stay tuned for info about training. Our volunteers will tell you that it is a great way to meet our neighbors and contribute to the preservation of the quality of life on Great East.

As many of you know, Tessa Venell who has been a Lake Host for four seasons and served as the Lake Host captain this year, was severely injured in a car accident on July 26. We have had many inquiries about her recovery and I am pleased to report that, as of this writing, Tessa is making great strides in her recovery at a rehab facility in Braintree, Mass. Those of us who have had the pleasure of being touched by Tessa know that her remarkable spirit and support system will carry her through this very difficult time. All of your thoughts and prayers can only enhance her recovery. I would also like to note that both the paid and volunteer staff took on extra duty to complete the coverage in Tessa's absence and their contributions are gratefully noted.



Contact our President, Linda Schier at 603-659-3302 or email lindabschier@comcast.net with any questions, comments or concerns

Weed Watchers

By Bess Smith

The Weed Watcher Program at Great East Lake continues to thrive with over 60 volunteers on the lake. We have been most fortunate to swim, boat, and relax on our pristine lake.

This year we had a brief scare when Carol Lafond (one of our dedicated volunteers) found something suspicious in the neighborhood of the public boat launch. Carol routinely snorkels around the launch area and on July 11 she noticed a plant looking like a neon sign amongst the native vegetation. She took a piece and brought it to Linda Schier (President of the Great East Lake Improvement Association). Linda and Carol then donned masks and snorkels and went back to the site. Linda pulled the plant complete with roots while Carol held a net around it. The plant was kept in the refrigerator until meeting with Amy Smagula of The New Hampshire Department of Environment Services (NH DES). Amy delivered it for DNA analysis. As we suspected it proved to be Variable Milfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum* for those who want to know). Carol has revisited the site, as well as the rest of the launch cove area, on a weekly basis and fortunately there has been no sign of regrowth.

The above information was distributed to the GELIA membership via email and we received an outstanding response from concerned members. NH DES has a variety of ways to combat Milfoil. Thankfully, we don't need to do anything at this time, except to keep watch. As a side note, Carol is such a dedicated Weed Watcher that she bought herself a wetsuit to continue her patrolling into the cold weather!

This story is the perfect example of how important a Weed Watcher Program can be and how successful ours is at Great East Lake. So please, keep any eye on your shorefront. If you're interested in volunteering please contact Bess Smith at bess.smith@techcelerate.biz. If you're not receiving email from Bess, please contact her so she can add you to the list.



Thanks to all of the volunteers and a special thank you to Carol and Linda!

Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance

P.O. Box 468

East Wakefield, NH 03830

603.473.2500

awwa@adelphia.net

Successful first season for the 2006 Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance Youth Conservation Corps

by Alix Marcoux, Technical Director, AWWA YCC



From left to right: Crew members Nigel St. Pierre, Anthony Stanton, Craig Hill, and Sam Wilson work on a project at a residence on Balch Lake in Acton, Maine

The Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance (AWWA) Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) successfully completed its first season. AWWA's mission is to preserve or restore the water quality in the area by implementing best management practices (BMPs) to help control storm water runoff and erosion. With a crew of local youths and a crew leader from the University of New Hampshire Forestry Department the YCC completed 10 projects at properties on lakes throughout Acton and Wakefield.

Projects were selected from applicants in the watersheds that had significant runoff or erosion issues. The technical director met with the homeowner and created an environmentally sound landscape design that was mindful of the homeowner's desired use of the space. Once the design was completed, the homeowner purchased all the necessary materials for completion of the project and the YCC provided all the labor. Springvale Nurseries in Sanford, Maine generously offered participants 10% off all plant purchases with a YCC signed letter of agreement.

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The projects on Balch, Belleau, Great East, and Lovell Lakes all focused on controlling and diverting storm water runoff and the resulting sediment before it reached the lakes. Among some of the BMPs installed by the crew, consisting of high school students from Acton, Middleton, and Wakefield, were five dripline trenches, four rain gardens, six vegetative buffers, and five rubber razors. The crew worked as a team to plant over 100 plants, spread nearly 100 yards of mulch and soil, and lugged approximately 20 yards of crushed stone. The crew worked tirelessly for 8 weeks during their summer breaks and should be applauded for their contributions to the watershed.

In addition to completing 10 YCC projects, AWWA also provided technical assistance to 35 homeowners on Balch Lake, Belleau Lake, Great East Lake, Horn Pond, Lovell Lake, Pine River Pond, Province Lake, Wilson Pond, and Woodman Lake. Homeowners were given a plan and asked to sign a pledge sheet stating that they would implement at least one of the recommendations on the plan within the next year. Along with the plan, property owners were provided with BMP fact sheets outlining proper installation and maintenance of the recommended BMPs.

The AWWA YCC was well received by the public at our end of the year tour and we have already secured several projects for next summer. We are aiming to complete at least 20 projects during the next YCC season. Homeowner's interested in receiving technical assistance and possibly host the YCC during the 2007 season should contact the technical director by May at 603-473-2500 or awwa@adelphia.net.

New GELIA Members

By Jon Rouillard and Gary Field

Again this year, an increasing number of lake residents are supporting GELIA's mission by becoming members, including several who are new property owners. Welcome (or welcome back) to the following members.

Charles and Lucinda Arlington	Anthony and Debra Maffeo
David and Vicki Benjamin	Lloyd Mason and Jean Proach
Cory Bridwell	Joseph Murdoch
Marilyn Castle	Bryan and Jane O'Neil
Robert and Maria Chipman	Hansley and Virginia Pella and Carol
Brian and Claudia Conn	Maccarone
Richard Cummings	Ruth Petrick
Scott and Linda Cunningham	Alex and Marie Petrosino
Richard and Joan Dailey	Charles and Claire Poirier
William and Diane Darke	Ann Prest and Elizabeth Clogston
James DeWolf and Cheryl Dolan	Todd and Gail Richards
Joseph and Angela Diorio	Sheila and Doug Ross
Erin Donnelly	Carol Milligan Rubin
William Dorogy and Debra Bernier	Peter and Rona Sparco
James and Kevin Foss and Kathleen	Jeffrey and Molly Springer
(Foss) Puchulu	Robert and Linda St. Germain
C Harriman and M Rausch	Robert and Victoria Sullivan
Daniel and Greer Higgins	Ted Teitelman and Ruth McCarron
David and Kerri Janocha	Stephen and Donna Towne
T O Johnson	Jack and Marilyn Towne
Mary Kalapinski	Doug and Terri Van Everen
Robert and Joan Klotz	Barbara and Charles Wahl
Pamela Kosinski and Susan Tamulaitis	Olive Wallace and Deborah Blackwood
Dana and Laura Macallister	Peter White and Deborah Colleton

Sailboat Races are Back!

By Chuck Hodson

12 Sunfish sailors braved a cold and rainy day and sketchy winds to hold the first regatta on Great East Lake in many years.

At least three veterans of the old Great East Lake Yacht Club were there for this inaugural event. Rolland Marsh, Chuck Hodsdon, and John Hodsdon were all involved in the races which were held on the lake on Saturdays (and sometimes Sundays) more than twenty years ago.

The races were organized by Chuck Hodsdon and Paul Lindenberg with lots of help from Dave and Judy Mankus, owners of Lake Forest Resort. The Race Committee was Carol Mairs and Marcia Hodsdon who bravely stood in the rain and ran the races.

Three races were held and the results were as follows:

Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Total Score	Name	Overall Finish
1	2	2	5	Rolland Marsh	1
3	4	1	8	John Hodsdon	2
4	1	3	8	Peter Belknap	2
2	3	4	9	Chuck Hodsdon	3
5	6	6	17	Art Chouinard	4
6	7	7	20	Ales Petrosino	5
7	8	5	20	Jack Mc Guinness	5
8	5	10	23	Les Shea	6
9	10	8	27	Neil Foster	7
10	9	9	28	Harmon Connors	8
				Don Cox	DNF

It is hoped that a series of races can be organized for next summer perhaps to include classes of sailboats other than Sunfish. Anyone interested should send their name, email address, address, and type of sailboat to Chuck Hodsdon at choddy@surfglobal.net or 105 North Shore Drive, East Wakefield, NH 03830.

Another event which might be of interest to folks on Great East Lake is the Marshmallowman Triathlon. It is held on the Sunday before Labor Day at Shady Nook on Balch Lake. It involves a quarter mile swim, a 12 mile bike ride and a 1 ½ mile run. Keep this in mind for next summer, it is a fun event with a family hot dog roast after and the neatest little marshmallow man trophies. Folks can compete as individuals or as teams. They even have family teams. And Marshmallow kids competition on Saturday. GELIA is looking into organizing a similar event on Great East for the summer of 2007. If you are interested in helping plan it please contact Chuck Hodson, GELIA Activities Committee Chairman at the above addresses.

To Bathe or Not to Bathe?

By Linda Schier

I would like to share this correspondence with one of GELIA's vigilant members, Ernie Henrichon, who contacted me in late summer to ask for information about the practice of washing in the lake with biodegradable soap products. I forwarded his question on to Jody Conner, NH DES Limnologist and Jeff Schloss, UNH Water Quality Extension Professor. Thanks to all first for the question and second for the helpful advice.

Dear Linda,

I recently pointed out to some guests that using soap to bathe in the lake is subject to a \$150 fine (NH lake rules picked up a number of years ago at a GEL annual meeting). My guests said they were using bio-degradable liquid soap and that it should be ok. I have noticed that some others around the lake also have containers of Camp Suds or equivalent sitting on their shores.

Do you or someone on the board know if using this type of soap is acceptable for lake bathing?

Thanks, Ernie

Jody responded:

The law you are referring to is RSA: 22, from our safe drinking water act and it refers to public drinking sources. "If any person shall bathe in such water, lake, pond or reservoir, within the limits prescribed for protection of said water supply by the local board of health or health officer or the department, he shall be guilty of a misdemeanor."

Although there is not a direct RSA for non water supply that is specific to prohibiting the act of washing ones body in a waterbody, there are laws that prohibit the addition of wastes to the waters of New Hampshire. We also have rules that address water quality violations that create scums or turbidity to state waters.

The first step is trying to educate those who insist on using these products in the waters.
Jody

Jeff responded:

"As Jody already stated- it is not advisable to use any soap or cleaning agent to wash in a Great Pond or any pristine water or wilderness area. If you look at the specific instructions for Campsuds you will find the following info:

Please remember to use Campsuds with care in alpine wilderness areas.

- *Use sparingly*
- *Soap up and wash at least 200 feet away from alpine lakes and streams.*
- *Dig a hole 6 to 8 inches deep for disposing of soapy wash and rinse water. This allows bacteria in the soil to completely and safely biodegrade Campsuds.*

However, we all know that people do wash in the lake even though it can have a localized impact. The good thing is that only a minority still do as many people who have a concern to keep the lake as pristine as possible have learned about those impacts.

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Thus, Jody and I would never advocate any product for washing IN the lake. Since CAMP-SUDS does not contain Phosphorous and it is designed to be used sparingly I would recommend its use according to the instructions which would be washing 200 ft AWAY from the lake. Just because something is biodegradable does not necessarily mean that it is safe for aquatic organisms- many vegetable based pesticides that are biodegradable still carry use and poison warnings.

The ionic and nonionic cleaning agents used are surfactants that allow for the foam to be created and these compounds are harmful to the mucus coating that fish and other aquatic critters use to guard their gills and skin from infections.

I currently have no knowledge of any cleaning agent that does not have some impact on water quality or aquatic life.

Sorry,
- Jeff Schloss, UNH Water Quality Extension Professor

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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