



President's Column

By Bess Smith

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Steve Dagley as he has moved from the lake and left his title behind. Steve was a committed GELIA Board member, volunteer and our most recent President. However, it is with great enthusiasm that I assume the role of President. This quote from the GELIA brochure couldn't better describe what our membership is all about: "Our association is a non-profit organization dedicated to the welfare of Great East Lake, its wildlife, and environment. We see education as a primary function of this organization. Only through vigilant action and financial support can we hope to ensure that future generations will share the experience of stewardship for the treasure that is Great East Lake."

While protecting the lake's environment is our primary goal we also look to promote a sense of community. Annual activities such as the photo contest and Family Lake Festival have assembled homeowners and their families to have fun and provide the opportunity to get to know one another. Last year we had a great day teaching the youngsters of GEL about weed watching and water quality. It was wonderful to see how fascinated they were about the plants and organisms in the lake. This was a perfect example of promoting environmental awareness and having fun at the same time.

My goal as President is to continue to advocate this community spirit. We have volunteer groups that can always use new recruits. You can be a weed watcher or a lake host. You can volunteer to be a judge for the next photo contest or run a game or table at the Family Lake Festival. There's always lots to do and never enough people to do it. So if you have time, please consider volunteering. I look forward to seeing you all at the Annual Meeting on July 5th!

Loon Report

By Carol LaFond

The loons returned to Great East the week of April 20th, even before all the ice was off the lake. The water level was down about a foot and rose about 5" over the next two weeks. Then the rains came on April 28 & 29 and raised the lake level to about 2" below the dam level. Hopefully the loons were still involved with their mating rituals during that period, because they may have had to abandon any nests with the rising water. If we only get moderate rain during the spring, nests should be at good levels.

The floating loon nest will be positioned in Copp Brook again this year. During the spring nesting period, please keep a reasonable distance from any nest so the loons won't be tempted to abandon the nest.

For more information about ongoing research into the effects of mercury on loons, read the excellent article in the Loon Preservation Committee Spring Newsletter, online at www.loon.org.



Ice Out happened on Great East Lake on April 23, as reported by Gary Miller.

BOATING SAFETY ISSUES

By Walter Neff

If you have been a **PROCRASTINATOR** the moment of truth is here. 2008 is the year that **ALL** boaters in New Hampshire must be properly certified if they are going to be operating power boats in excess of 25 HP. Over the last several issues of the News we have put out several reminders that this deadline was coming along with ways to find out when and where boating education classes were scheduled. If you've missed those opportunities you are probably not alone!!

The State's recently updated website (4/25) is the simplest way to find out where and when those courses are offered:

www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/ss

--click on "Boating Education"

--click on "view the most current boating education class schedules"

--click "print" if you'd like a hard copy

And now that you're really into this stuff look a little further down the page and click on:

"view the most current boating education exam schedule"

because as the old professor once said "I hope you've been paying attention because today looks like a great day for a quiz". You need to take the test to get the ticket!

If the above internet exercise is a little more than you'd like to tackle you can actually talk to a live person at The NH Marine Patrol in Guilford by dialing **1-888-254-2125**.

FAQs –answers only

--Yes, if you live on the Maine side but wish to operate in NH waters you must be certified by NH

--Yes, the state will honor licenses certified by the Coast Guard or a state which uses NASBLA certification

--Yes, the state will be making routine checks of boaters

--No, we don't know what penalties or fines may be imposed



*Do Your Part to Keep Great East Lake Free of Invasive Plants
Be a Volunteer Lake Host or Weed Watcher*

By Linda Schier

The GELIA Weed Watchers and Lake Host programs are ready to run again for 2008 and they need your help. **Lake Hosts** greet boating visitors at the launch to educate them about the dangers of invasive species and show them how to inspect their boats and trailers for fragments of hitchhiking weeds. **Weed Watchers** scour the lake bottom to look for invasive aquatic plants such as variable milfoil and hydrilla. Both programs offer a great opportunity to learn more about Great East and spread the word about its natural assets. The Lake Host program is funded by the NH LAKES Lake Host program, the ME LEA Courtesy Boat Inspector program and your membership dollars. We are grateful again for the support from NH LAKES, LEA and your generous contributions.

New for 2008! – Training for **Volunteer Lake Hosts** will be done at the GEL launch this year so no need to travel to Concord, NH! Point Person, Linda Schier, will conduct Lake Host training on an as needed basis for anyone interested. Volunteers work two-hour shifts on Saturdays or Sundays between 6-10 am or can fill in extra hours when the launch is busy. Call Linda at 603-659-3302 or email her at lindabschier@comcast.net for more info. The paid staff will be at the launch on weekends beginning on Friday, May 23. Stop in and welcome Lake Host Captain Chris McKay, and crew Dylan Venell, Caitlyn McKay and Scott Mrazik.

The job of the Lake Hosts and Weed Watchers is even more important than ever with invasive plants on the move in 2008. A Lake Host on Pawtuckaway Lake in Nottingham, NH already found a water chestnut seed on an incoming boat in 2008! Variable milfoil is still the biggest worry but there is fanwort, hydrilla, curly-leaf pondweed, and a lovely new scare *Didymosphenia geminate*, charmingly nicknamed “Rock Snot”. Rock snot is primarily a threat to rivers and is a problem in the Connecticut River. Infestations look like dirty toilet paper on all the rocks and it chokes out the native microscopic critters. If you’ve been in the Connecticut River be sure to wash your boat with a 10% bleach solution which will kill the organisms.

In 2007 the GELIA Lake Host program inspected 1061 boats and had a “save” by finding a fragment of variable milfoil on an incoming boat. The NH Lake Host program had 157 “saves” throughout the state of NH and the ME CBI program had 11 in Maine. Our continued participation in both the Lake Host and Weed Watcher programs is an essential ingredient in our efforts to keep Great East free of invasive weeds.

Weed Watchers – Bess Smith, GELIA’s new President, will be coordinating the **Weed Watcher** programs. There will be a sign-up for new volunteers at the Annual Meeting on July 5th so please visit the table to get onboard or contact Bess at pres@greateastlake.org. Linda Schier and Chuck Hodson will be offering **Floating Classroom** trips for kids and adults to learn about the GEL ecosystems by identifying weeds, sampling the water, catching zooplankton and looking at the mud. Come to the Annual Meeting for more info or contact Linda directly at lindabschier@comcast.net if you have a group that would like to do some investigation. There is nothing more fun than having a new “ah-ha” moment on the lake!



- Booths open at 9:00 am and close at 10:00 for the meeting.
- Each member may pick up their flare and 2008 sticker at the membership booth.
- GELIA sweatshirts, t-shirts and hats will be on sale.
- Displays and informational material will abound.
- Look for the volunteer sign up booths for Weed Watchers, Lake Hosts, Meeters and Greeters, and more!
- Purchase your raffle tickets before 10:00 am to win gift certificates and merchandise from local merchants.
- Laminated Charts and Paper Maps can be purchased for \$10 and \$5 respectively
- Newichawannock Reflections: Memories of Great East Lake 2nd edition* will be on sale for \$15
- Photo Contest calendars will be on sale for \$15
- Stay for lunch and enjoy Weeks Park Wieners, chips and soda.

Save the Date!

Kickoff Meeting for the AWWA Watershed Plan Project Friday, June 20 @ 3:00 at the Acton Town Hall

The Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance has been awarded a NH DES Watershed Assistance grant to develop a watershed-based management plan for the headwaters of the Salmon Falls River which includes Great East Lake, Horn Pond, Lake Ivanhoe, Lovell Lake, Wilson Lake and all their tributaries.

The plan will describe the present conditions, predict future conditions and offer recommendations to preserve the high quality water status of all the lakes and ponds in Wakefield and Acton that form the headwaters of the Salmon Falls River. This two-year project will include analysis of all water quality data, on-the-ground volunteer watershed surveys, review of all local ordinances pertaining to water quality and land use modeling. It is AWWA's intention to provide the communities, lake associations and other stakeholders with a useful, timely and relevant tool to protect and preserve the fragile treasures that are the region's waterbodies.

Come to the Kickoff meeting to see how you can help or just to learn more about the project. For more info contact AWWA at **603-473-2500** or **info@AWwatersheds.org**.

And the Winners are...

By Gary Field



Well, I declare our first GELIA Photo Contest a big success!

There were 72 photos submitted by 23 photographers. Not bad for our first year!
There were a lot of really great photos submitted, and the judges had to work very hard to choose the very best.

The prizes to be awarded are:

First Prize: An 11"x14" framed copy of your winning photo with brass name/title plate

Second Prize: An 8"x10" framed copy of your winning photo with name/title

Third Prize: An 8"x10" framed copy of your winning photo with name/title

Honorable Mentions: Inclusion in the 2009 GELIA calendar to be sold at the 2008 Annual meeting.

All 12 winners will get a free copy of the calendar.

And the winners are (drum roll):

First prize: Ernie Alvino for "Smoke on the Water"

Second Prize: Mary Field for "Sunset Through Trees"

Third Prize: Judy Mankus for "2007 Regatta"

Honorable Mentions go to: MaryLou Monnatt, Gary Field, Nancy Maloney, Charlene Gottlieb, Shirley Matthews, Robert St Germain, Leo Ginns, Todd Lee, and Kendra Bisson.

Congratulations to all!

To those who didn't win this year; there was a lot of tough competition. Better luck next year!

The prizes will be awarded at the annual meeting on July 5th.

Thanks go to our 5 judges:

Marsha Huntoon, Linda Schier, Bess Smith, Jody Wood, and Lynn Wehrmann who all agonized over scoring those pictures.

This year's winners are encouraged to be judges next year!

I just mentioned a GELIA calendar didn't I... Well, those are currently being designed, and will be available for sale at the annual meeting for \$15. It will be a 12 month wall calendar which runs Jan through Dec 2009.



A New GELIA Annual Event!

By Gary Field

Last year's Family Lake Festival was very well received and we've decided to make it an annual event! The day to remember is the first Saturday in August, which this year is August 2nd, 2008.

Though the details are still being worked out, the event is expected to start at Weeks Park at about 10AM. The first of the day's activities is to be a Kayak event. Starting at noon, carnival-like festivities will begin; free popcorn, snack foods, drinks, and music! Some other possible attractions:

- A face painting and tattoo table.
- A special guest entertainer.
- The return of the Great East Lake trivia contest.
- Fish identification game.

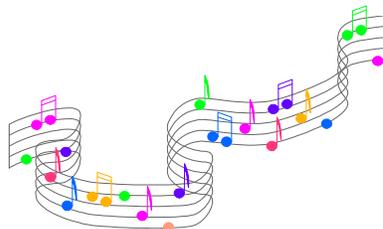
Games for kids from 2 to 92.

Prizes for everyone. As well as GELIA wear items for sale.

Were you there last year? If not, I hope we'll see you this year!

Volunteers are needed to make this event a success. Please consider joining us in planning this fun event.

This is a great way to meet your lake neighbors in a less rushed environment than the annual meeting.



Trivia Question: What former US President once visited Great East Lake?
See answer on page 8

Newichawannock Reflections: Memories of Great East Lake – 2nd Edition

Step right up, ladies and gentlemen – copies of *Newichawannock Reflections* will be available for sale at the Annual Meeting, July 5th, at the reduced price of \$15. This 2nd edition is updated, revised and has additional historical material, old photographs and added sections.

Unable to attend the Annual Meeting?

Purchase your copy of *Newichawannock Reflections* for \$20 at the following locations:

ACTON Apple Core Gift Shop (route 109 next to the Potting Shed Restaurant)
Countryside Corner Store (corner of route 109 and New Bridge Rd.)

WAKEFIELD Gaffney Library (downtown Sanbornville)
Seven Lakes Provisions (corner of route 153 and Acton Ridge Rd).
Wakefield Inn (Wakefield Corner)

Not going to be spending time at the lake this summer?

Order your copy:

Online through the GEL website: www.greastlake.org

By filling out and mailing the order form below

Newichawannock Reflections Order Form

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Phone (if questions) _____

Number of books @\$15 each

Total book cost: \$ _____

Shipping charge for 1 or 2 books: 5.00

Make checks payable to GELIA

Mail to: Mr. Gene Rosenthal
535 Shaker Street
New London, NH 03257

Then pull up a chair and enjoy!



Nominations for the Remainder of the 2007-2009 Biennium

By Doug Smith

The Nominating Committee has nominated and the Directors have approved the selection of

Vice-President Bess Smith to fill out the Biennium as President (due to the resignation of Steve Dagley) and Jennifer Craig (who was brought onto the Board after the Annual Meeting) to fill out the Biennium as Vice-President. In addition, since the 2007 Annual Meeting the Directors have brought Dee Kasprzak onto the Board of Directors. Therefore, all three of these individuals have been selected for election (to take place at the Annual Meeting) to serve in their respective positions.

Trivia answer: Teddy Roosevelt

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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