



President's Column

By Bess Smith

I am looking out my window as I write this and enjoying the blooming trees and flowers. Spring has sprung, as they say, and it couldn't be soon enough for me. Ice out was declared on Wednesday, March 24th. This is the earliest one since recording began in 1958. The latest was May 2, 1971. Go to the GELIA website to learn more about previous ice out dates (www.greastlake.org).

Now that we're all back in "lake mode" I hope you find the contents of this newsletter inspiring and informative. It's time we ramp up and remember our boating safety information and get out there and obtain your boating license if you haven't already done so. Remember, it's the law now and The State of NH is enforcing it. Just a suggestion, I took a class at a church and then took the test after two hours of study time. It made it much easier since the information was fresh in my mind. Take a look at this web site for a list of available classes - www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/ss/boating/index.html.

I'm excited that we have some fresh faces and new energy working with our lake host and weed watcher programs. We can never forget that working to avoid invasive species is much easier than eradicating them. As a result of last summer's lake survey, conducted in coordination with the Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance, GELIA will be supporting a variety of efforts that address erosion issues around the lake.

We all know that protecting our lake, its water quality and surrounding environment is the foundation of the Great East Lake Improvement Association. But it's also wonderful to know that we have a sense of community. I love the opportunity to see you at local shops and especially the Annual Meeting so we can catch up.

Please note that the Board, after polling the membership, has decided that the Annual meeting will be held on the *second* Saturday of July this year and all years going forward.

Speaking of community, I just glanced at my 2010 Great East calendar and smiled at the picture of my friends helping to hurry ice out with the help of a shovel. I'm sure we're all looking forward to seeing the judges' choices this year.

In closing, I know you all join me in welcoming in yet another beautiful summer (maybe not so much rain this year). Please know you can contact me anytime at pres@greastlake.org.

LOOKING FOR THE FEW, THE PROUD, THE MUSICALLY INCLINED

By Gene Rosenthal

In the spirit of volunteerism, sense of community and plain old musical jubilation, we are looking for volunteers to put a band together for the annual concert on the lake to be played on Saturday July 10, 2010 at 7pm. If you play an instrument and would like to volunteer your services please forward your name to grosen123@mac.com.

The GELIA Board of Directors would like to take this opportunity to thank Hal Moulton and his crew for many years of musical enjoyment on the water.



**Great East Lake
Improvement
Association**

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Jennifer Craig, Vice President
Chris McKay, Treasurer
Gene Rosenthal, Secretary
Linda Schier, Past President

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Ron McKay
Walter Neff
Dorothy Smith
Doug Smith
Pat Theisen
Stephanie Theisen

Mission

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

AWWA Spring 2010 Update

By Linda Schier

Now that the watershed management plan is complete AWWA is actively addressing some of the recommendations in the plan.

- Our Youth Conservation Corps, led by our new program director Howard Dupee, will be busy fixing erosion sites that were identified in the watershed surveys. If you'd like some advice please give him a call at (603) 473-2500 or email hdupee@AWwatersheds.org.

- AWWA is partnering with the UNH Stormwater Center, York County Soil & Water Conservation District, the towns of Acton and Wakefield, the Maine Dept. of Environmental Protection and the NH Dept. of Environmental Services to address pollution problems caused by roads in the watersheds.

- Community roundtables will be coordinated to share ideas about how our land use may affect water quality and brainstorm new efforts to get the word out and fix existing issues.

- AWWA is developing a Phosphorus Footprint program.

Phosphorus is a naturally occurring nutrient can cause algae blooms when too much reaches the lake. It exists in sediments, fertilizers, pet waste, septic systems and washes into the lakes with the rain. There are many actions we each can take to reduce our personal Phosphorus Footprint so be on the lookout for how to participate.

- The Floating Classroom will highlight the wonders of lake ecology for youth and adults. The two hour pontoon boat program will include conducting water quality sampling, catching and viewing the local zooplankton, and identifying native and non-native aquatic plants. Announcement of the program details will be on the GELIA and AWWA websites.

For more information about AWWA's efforts please visit the AWWA website www.AWwatersheds.org or call (603) 473-2500.

Remember - What happens in the water begins on land.

LOOKING FOR ROAD ASSOCIATIONS

The GELIA Board of Directors has been compiling a database of Road Associations surrounding Great East Lake. It is our hope to eventually get these groups together to share ideas, strategies, and to educate all concerned property owners. These Associations can be formal groups or be a bunch of neighbors who pool their money to fix their roads. To date, we have had some excellent feedback on the main portion of the lake but are still looking for information on any groups down through the Narrows & Basins.

If you are a current Road Association member or know someone who is, please have them contact Ron McKay at 847-922-9769 (Cell) or at: rmck57@hotmail.com to be added to our list.

WEED WATCHERS WANTED

By Dorothy Smith

WHO? Anyone who is committed to maintaining the pristine conditions of our beautiful lake that is free from invasive weeds, so far.

WHY? Invasive aquatic plants have been a problem in lakes in NH and ME for several decades. Variable milfoil is by far the most widespread. This plant is found in portions of Lake Winnepesaukee and numerous other bodies of water in our area. It takes only a small portion of this plant to take root in our waters. Wildfowl can also spread these invasive plants. Other problematic species include fanwort, hydrilla, water chestnut, Eurasian milfoil and curly - leafed pondweed. Early detection of invasive aquatic plants ensures the most effective control. Once an invader is well established, eradication is extremely difficult and costly, if not impossible.

HOW? By monitoring a portion of the lake (most often the section in front of your shoreline) you can check regularly for an unusual aquatic plant that you have not seen in the past.

WHAT ACTION DO YOU TAKE? If you find something suspicious do not attempt to pull it. That is something an experienced person should do. Collect a representative sample (preferably with seeds or flowers), wrap it in a moist paper towel, seal it in a plastic baggie and refrigerate it. Then contact one of the weed watcher chairpersons as to what to do with it. Be sure to mark the place where you found it because if it is found to be invasive, experts will want to look over the area and remove all suspected plants.

HOW DO YOU SIGN UP? You can contact one of the persons listed below or you can come to our table at the Annual Meeting at Weeks Park on July 11. We will also be contacting those of you that have signed up in the past to determine if you are interested in continuing as weed watchers.

HOW DO YOU KNOW AN INVASIVE SPECIES? There are books available which have pictures to help in identification. Many present weed watchers have been trained in identifying the invasive plants. Both NH and ME offer training sessions for new weed watchers. When you sign up we will keep you advised as to training opportunities.

While our Lake Host program at the boat launch has been very effective in “catching” a few plants before they are brought in to the lake, the more eyes we have looking the better chance we have of keeping our lake free of invasive species.

Weed Watcher Chairpersons and their contact info

Marcia Hodsdon 603-522-3372 or choddy43@roadrunner.com

Dee Kasprzak 207-636-2913 or deedeekas@roadrunner.com

Dorothy Smith 413-448-8446/603-522-3193 or dorothysmith@gmail.com

***2010 ANNUAL MEETING
JULY 10th AT WEEKS PARK***

- Membership table, merchandise sales and informational tables open at 9:00 am and close at 10:00 for the meeting
- Members may pick up a flare for the 9:30 pm Flare Up
- Informational material will abound – boating safety, environmental, invasive species, septic systems and more
- Booths – Loon Preservation Committee, local land trusts, AWWA
- 2011 GELIA Calendars will be available for \$15
- *Newichawannock Reflections: Memories of Great East Lake* 2nd edition sold for \$15
- Laminated Charts and Paper Maps can be purchased for \$10 and \$5 respectively
- GELIA sweatshirts, t-shirts, hats and more will be for sale
- 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 and the GEL Watershed Survey
- Stay for lunch – compliments of GELIA and enjoy hot dogs, chips and soda

Lake Host/Courtesy Boat Inspector Program Update

By Chris McKay

The Lake Host/Courtesy Boat Inspector Program is back for 2010 and bigger than ever. We have received additional funding from NH Lakes to expand our program to include the Weeks boat launch (where the Annual Meeting is held). This will not affect our staffing of the public boat launch in Acton, Maine which we will continue to staff as in the past.

Our staff this year consists of returning lake hosts: Captain Caitlyn McKay, Courtney McKay, Jay Fugarazzo, and Nick Lee. We have also hired two new lake hosts – Dan Kraft, who has volunteered in the past, and Hayley Mandeville. The paid staff will be at the launches starting Friday, May 28th.

As in the past two years, training for volunteer lake hosts can be done at a GEL boat launch. If anyone is interested in volunteering please call Chris McKay at 603-686-9069 or email him at chris.mckay916@gmail.com for more information. Volunteers work two hour shifts on Saturdays and Sundays with a paid lake host.

Last year our lake hosts made 1,463 inspections. From those inspections our lake hosts made two official saves by preventing variable milfoil and pondweed from entering the lake. A third unofficial save was also made by removing a dead specimen of milfoil from a trailer. The New Hampshire Lake Host program had a total of 297 saves statewide, and the Maine Courtesy Boat Inspection program had 114 saves. Our continued participation in the Lake Host program is an essential part of keeping Great East free of invasive weeds.

BOATING SAFETY

By Walter Neff

As most of you know Great East Lake is not patrolled by either NH or ME safety/enforcement personnel on a continuous basis. Visitations by each state do occur on somewhat unpredictable intervals, but due especially to budgeting and peoplepower considerations most patrols take place on an “as needed” basis—in most cases in response to calls from lake residents. Based on those continuing considerations and many discussions with both agencies, that’s the way it’s going to be for a long while.

So what are you going to do if you see the need to have a boating safety patrol visit the lake? **(KEEP IN MIND THAT IN TRUE EMERGENCIES DIALING 911 IS THE PROPER CALL).**

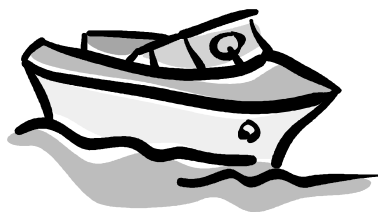
MAINE: The Maine Warden Service, a division of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, is the agency to call. They are reached at **1-800-452-4664** which is actually Dept. of Public Safety Dispatch in Augusta, Me. An alternate number is 1-800-228-0857 in Gray, ME. Identify yourself and address and ask to have a warden call you.

NEW HAMPSHIRE: Call the NH Department Of Safety Marine Patrol in Guilford, NH at **1-603-293-2037**. You can relate your request to them but the better move is to ask to have an officer call you.

Note: These telephone numbers are noted on your GELIA refrigerator magnets

Some tips:

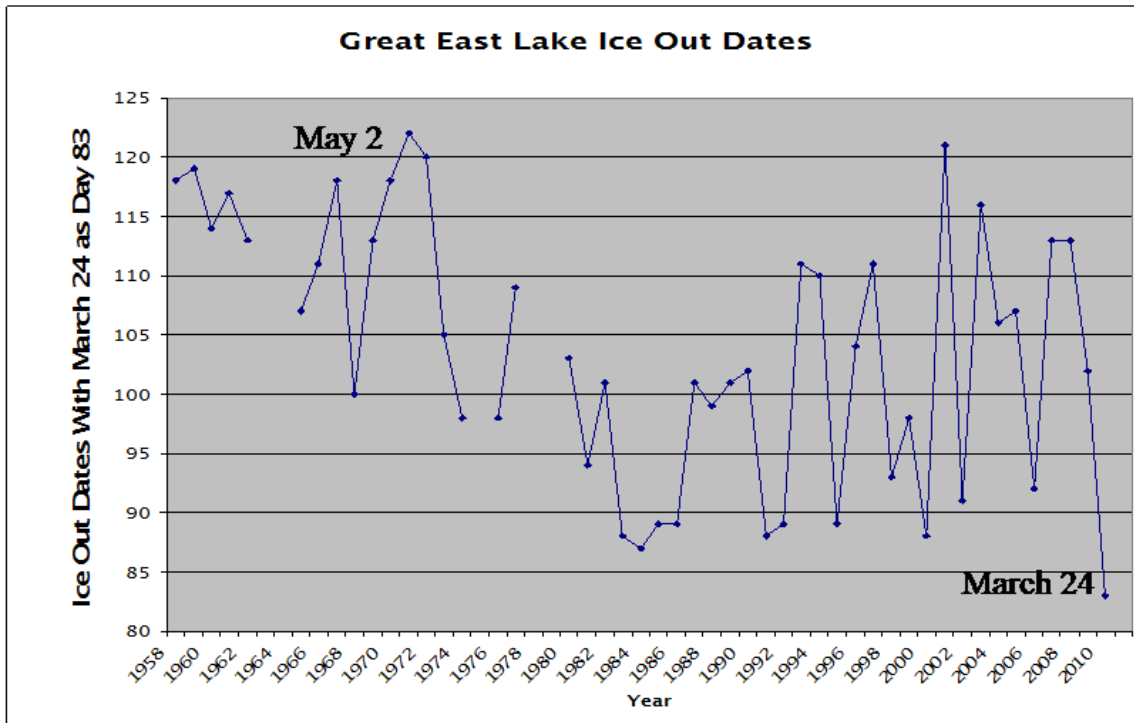
- Identify yourself, say “this is a call for service”(note: they may assign a number to your call), **ask for a warden or officer to call you back**, record the date and time you made the call, and when you received a response
- If reporting an offending boating operation, record state registration number, pictures of the boat and operator(movies are the best!!), record date and time
- The more complaints they get the more they’re apt to act
- A step beyond the simple reporting of an alleged violation--You are entitled to lodge a citizen’s complaint. If you do, keep in mind that you will have to be prepared to appear in court. Also, if anonymity is important to you, when a formal complaint is registered, your name may go out over the airways and local scanners
- The best results are usually obtained when you talk with an officer and he/she visits the lake to witness the situation personally and to take appropriate action i.e. “friendly visit”, warning, issue citation, etc.
- Although the system works somewhat slowly, I think you’ll find the law enforcement folks helpful and cooperative. They have had results!



Earliest Ice Out Recorded

By Linda Schier

Great East Lake boaters will have a longer season to enjoy the lake in 2010 with the earliest recorded Ice Out date of March 24th. The definition of Ice Out is a bit arbitrary and there are as many ways to determine it as there are lakes. At GEL we've chosen to use the Winnepesaukee idea which is that ice out occurs when it is possible to navigate a boat from one end to the other. That means that there may still be sections of ice in some coves. Art Follis called it this year in an email to President Bess Smith on March 24th. At that time there was still some ice in South Cove preventing boats launching at the main ramp but the rest of the lake was navigable. The latest recorded Ice Out occurred on May 2nd in 1971. It is interesting to note the variability of the dates.



Nominating Committee

by Douglas Smith

The nominating committee had asked the Board of Directors to consider people to be nominated to the Board of Directors. Arnie Murray was nominated and accepted by the Board of Directors. He will be nominated at the Annual Meeting and voted on by the membership.

The Board is always looking for new members. To be considered, the Board requires all members to participate in some form of volunteerism on the lake. You can be nominated by someone at the Annual Meeting and voted on by the membership. You may also contact me, Doug Smith, at 978-771-9699 in advance of the Annual Meeting for consideration .

Third Annual GELIA Calendar!

By Gary Field

The GELIA photo contest is bringing the whole association closer together. From January through the end of March, I collected 60 pictures submitted by over 20 Great East Lake photographers. This year's "Special Category" is "Fall" and we have some wonderful examples in that category. After compiling and renaming the images, on May 1st I sent them to the loving embrace of our panel of four judges, who will score each one. Once I get and review those resulting scores, I will take the 13 highest scoring photos (one for each month plus the cover) and create a calendar, which will be available for sale at the Annual Meeting. This has the benefit of being a fund raiser for GELIA, but also creates a historical photo archive of our beloved lake and its inhabitants.

I can hardly wait to get this year's calendar compiled! Be sure to attend the Annual Meeting on July 10th to purchase your copy!



Lovell v. Great East Golf Tournament Report

By Chris McKay

This past fall the sixth annual Lovell Lake versus Great East Lake golf tournament was held at Province Lake Golf Club, in Parsonsfield, Maine. This event is a fun scramble in which teams compete to have their respective lake represented via a winner's plaque in the Poor People's Pub. Great East Lake was well represented at the event with 48 golfers out of a total of 74. However, we lost the cup to Lovell Lake, who has won the event four out of the six times it has been held. This is a great event whose proceeds go to support Lovell Lake Association and GELIA. Last year GELIA received \$1,754.72 and Lovell Lake Association received \$2,155.68 from the event.

This year the event will again be held at Province Lake Golf Club and will be on September 18th. We encourage GELIA members to participate as a way to have an enjoyable day golfing and to help raise money for our organization. As information for this year's event becomes available it will be posted at <http://www.greastlake.org>.



Membership Update

By Pat Theisen

Many thanks to all who have returned their membership forms with your 2010 dues so promptly! To date, more than 300 have joined or renewed and the goal is to have as many as possible memberships renewed prior to the July 10th Annual Meeting. A reminder mailing will be sent at the end of May to those who have been members in the past, but not yet renewed this year.

Great East Lake is very fortunate to have so many caring, generous stewards. The GELIA Board of Directors thanks each and every one of you for your support in our efforts to protect the lake water quality. If you are not currently a member, or have not yet renewed for this year, won't you join those who are committed to the welfare of Great East Lake? Our membership goal for 2010 is 500 members.

For members who have received the 2010 membership stickers – don't forget to proudly display them!

The *Newichawannock News* is a publication of the Great East Lake Improvement Association. The Spring edition is mailed to all GELIA members and all non-member property owners. **The Fall and Winter editions are mailed to GELIA members only.**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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