



NEWICHAWANNOCK NEWS

GREAT EAST LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION - 73rd YEAR, WINTER 2005

President's Column

By Pat Theisen

Word has it, the ice fishermen have drilled their first holes into the 4 ½" thick ice. The ice has formed over the entire lake despite the crazy weather we've had this month. Temperatures in early January fluctuated from 5 degrees to 60 degrees on January 14! What snow there was disappeared with the pouring rain. By the time you read this, winter sports enthusiasts could be either skiing or ice skating on the lake. We know the fishermen will be out there either way.

Environmental protection issues continue to be the major focus of the GELIA board. In addition to our successful Weed Watcher, Lake Host and Water Quality Monitoring programs we are looking into other ways we can protect the water quality of Great East Lake. Both the towns of Wakefield and Acton are invested in programs to protect their natural resources and GELIA has been working with them to our mutual benefit. The Town of Acton is involved with the Mousam Lakes Youth Conservation Corps which is a wonderful model for dealing with erosion control. The Town of Wakefield has recently been selected to participate in the NH Natural Resources Outreach Coalition to study approaches to natural resource conservation. Look elsewhere in this newsletter for the specifics of these initiatives.

In a continued effort to be responsive to concerns from property owners, GELIA has addressed some smaller issues. It has been brought to the attention of the Board that there is considerable disregard for speed limits within the First Basin. To make boaters aware that the First Basin is entirely a "NO WAKE" zone, an official sign and a navigational marker will be placed at the entrance from the Narrows.

GELIA's effectiveness depends on hearing from our members about your concerns. Please continue to communicate your concerns, questions and ideas by contacting me at ptheisen@hotmail.com or by phone at (603) 772-2043 or via the web at

www.greastlake.org. The next Board of Directors meeting will be on April 16th so please share your ideas before that date.

Check out GELIA's website www.greastlake.org for regularly updated photos and information as a way to visit the lake and see its all-season beauty.

The Otters of Great East Lake

By Carol Lafond

One of our favorite times of year on the lake occurs shortly before ice-out. We couldn't believe our eyes the first time we saw it, so we took out our binoculars and confirmed that there were two otters on the ice in front of our house. There are two channel markers in the water, and they absorb heat from the sun. This melts the ice in an ever-increasing circle around them. When these circles of open water get to be about two feet in diameter, we see otters pop up out of them. They stay for many hours, lolling in the sun, chasing each other around, sliding into the hole and coming back up with fish. They sometimes come back for several days, and then disappear until next year. Needless to say, we don't accomplish much around the house on those days! We've been told they are seen in and around the canal between the dam and Horne Pond in the summer, but our only experience with them is for those few days before ice-out.



NROC Comes to Wakefield

By Linda Schier

Excerpted from Moose Mountain Regional Greenways publication Greenway Gazette:

“Congratulations for the Towns of New Durham and Wakefield, which have both been accepted into the competitive **Natural Resources Outreach Coalition (NROC)** program. The program provides free environmental consulting services from state, regional, and nonprofit organizations to coastal watershed communities facing unprecedented growth to protect their natural resources.

Wakefield will work with NROC to map a community-wide natural resources inventory, set criteria for targeting conservation land, and secure needed funding for conservation efforts. In addition, Wakefield voters will have an opportunity to increase the change-of-use allocation for conservation from \$25,000 per year to \$100,000 and invest a onetime donation of \$100,000 into the town’s conservation fund at the upcoming town meeting.”

Environmental News from GELIA

By Linda Schier

The off season is a busy time for the GELIA Environmental Committee. Steve Dagley, Chuck Hodsdon, Carol Lafond, Linda Schier, and Pat Theisen have put in many hours to keep themselves up to date with all the environmental news and programs affecting Great East.

GELIA has submitted an “intent to participate” letter to the NH Lakes Association for the 2005 Lake Host program. The threat of an invasive aquatic species infestation continues to be our most pressing concern and the courtesy boat inspectors at the launch are our best defense. We expect to be working on the grant proposals for both Maine and NH this spring.

While we hope that most of our paid lake hosts will return we may be looking for some new staff. If you know of someone, or are, 16 years old or older who has a keen interest in the environment, good interpersonal skills, and reliability, that might be interested in being a lake host please have them contact Linda Schier, 603-659-3302 or lindabschier@aol.com.

An exciting new initiative, instigated by GELIA president Pat Theisen, is a newly formed group comprised of reps from the Acton/Wakefield lakes, Town representatives as well as experts in environmental protection from Maine DEP, NH DES, UNH, and ME & NH Cooperative Extensions. The purpose of the as yet to-be-named group is to explore various environmental protection issues as they impact the lakes. At the time of this writing, the group is working with an outreach coordinator from NH Cooperative Extension to help define its mission and goals. We are very excited to be sharing our concerns and love of the lakes with like-minded volunteers and are looking forward to all we can accomplish as a unified group.

One of the focus areas is to enhance the lake quality by controlling erosion both along the shoreline and within the watershed. The group is investigating a number of ways to help homeowners solve erosion issues on their properties. By the spring newsletter we hope to have more detailed information on how you can get help if you have concerns about your own property.

While this new group is just beginning to formulate its goals and strategies, we have high hopes for the possibilities. We have tremendous support from local and state agencies that have a never-ending supply of helpful information. We will be sure to keep you informed of all the progress as it unfolds.

As we look forward to spring and another summer on the lake we are hopeful that all of you will consider volunteering in one of our environmental programs. We can always use more volunteer lake hosts and weed watchers. It’s a lot of fun and a great way to get to know your neighbors. Much appreciation to all who have volunteered in the past. Great East Lake thanks you!

VEGETATED PHOSPHORUS BUFFER STRIPS

WHAT ARE THEY?

Vegetative Phosphorus buffer strips are areas of natural vegetation, which have been left undisturbed or are replanted to naturally existing species. These vegetative buffer strips are composed of trees, shrubs, bushes and a thick duff layer (pine needles, bark mulch, etc.)

WHY DO WE NEED THEM?

Where there are humans, there is nutrient pollution. The way we live tends to over-nourish and pollute our environment. Fertilizers wash down over our carefully graded lawns directly to the lake. The oils and greases from our cars are rinsed off our driveways and roads down to the lake. We rest and play along the lake and our foot traffic tramples the vegetation. We park our cars and launch our boats as close as possible to the lake – our heavy vehicles compact the earth until it's as hard and impenetrable as asphalt. Our lifestyles are hurting the lake.

Vegetated buffers provide a filter and percolation area for the runoff that comes from our home and play areas. The vegetation in the buffer uses the nutrients carried in the storm water. If the nutrients reach the lake, the aquatic plants will use them and an algae bloom can occur.

Vegetated buffers are designed so that the nutrients are used by land vegetation rather than by lake algae.

If you own property on a lake, the water quality of the lake directly impacts you. If water quality deteriorates, the value of your property decreases. Boating and swimming becomes less attractive. Fish populations can decline or be killed off completely.

WHERE SHOULD BUFFERS BE LOCATED?

Vegetated buffers need to be placed between people and the lake. We need to filter the storm water runoff from our houses, garages, driveways, roads (both paved and gravel), and road ditches through flat vegetated areas. Lakeside parking areas and playing fields should drain through a buffer too.

Equally important are the streams and ditches which flow into the lake. They also need to be protected by leaving vegetated buffer strips between them and developed areas.

For illustrations and further information, log on to the University of Maine's Cooperative Extension website: www.umaine.edu/waterquality/lake_a_syst/buffers.htm (underscore before and after the "a") then choose buffers which brings you to the heading "Landscape and Vegetative Buffers". Great presentation!

2004 Financial Statement

Statement of Changes in Fund Balance

January 1, 2004 to December 31, 2004

Revenue:

Contributions – ISDF	3,991.00
Dues for 2003	40.00
Dues for 2004	11,595.00
Grant from the Cain Family Fund	250.00
Sale of GELIA Shirts	340.00
Sale of Maps, Stickers and Rules	223.00
Raffle Receipts	596.00
Yard Sale	127.00
State of Maine Grant/Lake Host Program	1,500.00
Interest Earned	199.37
Total Revenue:	18,861.37

Expenditures:

Financial Review	310.00
Newsletters	1,462.65
Membership Brochures incl. dues forms & directors list	889.00
P.O. Box – GELIA	36.00
P.O. Box – Membership Coordinator	71.00
Hazard Sign for NH Boat Ramp	15.00
Dues – Greater Wakefield Chamber of Commerce	55.00
UNH Water Conference	35.00
Copies for Board Members	22.23
Membership Stickers	262.00
Annual Meeting – posters and agenda copies	26.50
Annual Meeting – balloons, safety cards, video	162.44
Annual Meeting – portable toilet	119.00
Annual Meeting – food	210.80
Band for Lake Concert	440.00
Flares	249.00
Copies, Postage, & Address labels for acknowledgement & reminder letters	219.73
Lake Host Program	2,090.67
Water Quality Testing	665.00
Directors & Officers Liability Policy	1,420.00
Web Hosting Site	107.40
200 Great East Lake Laminated Charts	1,375.00
Office Expenses, Postage & Stamps	23.49
Contributions (see below)	1,900.00
Adjustment	16.64
Total Expenses:	12,183.55
Increase for Period	6,677.82

Assets:

Invasive Aquatic Plant Fund – ISDF Money Market	9,669.57
Fish and Wildlife	1,088.63
Certificate of Deposit	12,049.59
Cash – Checking Account	5,154.97
Total:	\$27,962.76

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Financial Statement Continued**Contributions for 2004:**

New Hampshire Lakes Association	250.00
Maine Congress of Lake Associations	250.00
Loon Preservation Committee	250.00
Maine Audubon Society	250.00
Acton Ambulance Association	400.00
Wakefield Ambulance Association	400.00
Three Rivers Land Trust	50.00
Moose Mountain Regional Greenway	50.00

***How About A Great East Challenge?***

By Chuck Hodsdon



For several years in the past my son and I participated in the "Balch Lake Marshmallow Man Triathlon" It was a fun event held on Labor Day Sunday, and included a triathlon, consisting of a 1/4 mile swim, a 10 mile bike ride, and a 1 mile run. They have now changed it into the Marshmallow Man Challenge, which consists of a canoe or kayak race and a short run. It also included an awards assembly and cookout for competitors and family members. For a long time I have felt that something similar might be a fun event for GELIA to sponsor for our lake. To help to develop such an event I would like to hear comments from anyone who is interested and who would like to see something like this happen. My email address is choddy@surfglobal.net.



Let me hear from you.



Some possible events to consider:

Swimming

- A) Across the Lake
- B) Measured distance (1/4 mile, 1/2,??)

Kayaking

- A) Measured Distance
- B) Slalom Course
- C) Scavenger Hunt

Sailing a Sunfish

- A) Measured Course with Buoys

Bicycling

- A) Around the Lake (19-20 Miles)
- B) A 10 mile run over snowmobile trails and dirt road around the area where the Annual Meeting is held.



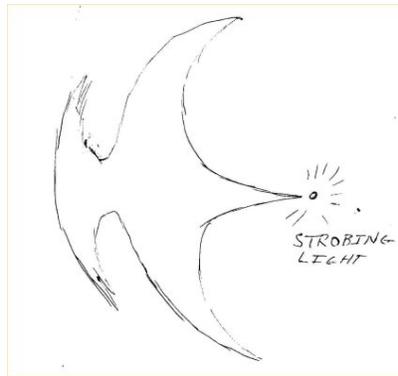
Was Anyone Else Wondering What That Thing Was?

By Linda Schier

On a moonless, crystal clear Tuesday evening in August an unusual cloud appeared in the Southwest sky over Great East. It traveled very slowly until it disappeared over the trees in the Northeast. When seen with binoculars it defied explanation. My neighbors, my husband John, and I, who witnessed this event, were totally baffled by this experience and contacted the National UFO Reporting Center. The official explanation from the NUFORC follows:

At approximately 1830 hrs. (PDT) on Tuesday, August 31, 2004, the National UFO Reporting Center began receiving the first of what has proven to be many reports of a bizarre looking object, which reportedly has been seen over FL, TN, KY, PA, NY, OH, NH, VT, and Washington, D.C.. Some of the witnesses include a police officer, an astronomer (Ph.D), an experienced UFO investigator with MUFON, and several public employees. The object has now been identified as an Atlas 2AS missile (see addendum).

The following depiction of the object was submitted by Kim Shaffer, MUFON State Director for eastern Tennessee:



ADDENDUM TO ORIGINAL REPORT: It appears that the events reported to NUFORC, and elsewhere, from the central and eastern United States on Tuesday, August 31st, were caused by the launch of an Atlas 2AS missile from Cape Canaveral, FL, approximately 90 minutes earlier. The missile carried a military payload for the National Reconnaissance Office, it was launched to the northeast, taking it along the east coast of the U. S. during the initial portion of its flight. Witnesses in the central and eastern U. S. observed the remnants of the missile, as it made its first pass over the continental U. S. at an estimated altitude of between 25,000 and 40,000 kilometers above the surface.

Details for the event can be seen at the following website:
www.spaceflightnow.com/atlas/ac167/040824track.html

The "ghost-like" appearance of the event during the missile's passage over the central U. S. was caused by the missile's dumping its unused fuel and oxidizer in space, which dispersed and formed a visible cloud in the nearby environment.

My neighbors and family were greatly relieved to have a scientific explanation as we weren't quite ready for a close encounter. The nights on Great East are just as exciting as the fun filled days.

Boating Regulations You Need to Know

By Walter Neff

If you are boating in New Hampshire waters in a boat exceeding 25 H.P., regardless of the state in which the boat is registered, you must comply with the New Hampshire Dept. of Safety requirements for boater education certification. It's the law!

In 2002 this law was enacted requiring boater certification and allowed a seven year phase-in period which related to your date of birth.

Presently, the age limit is as follows:

--if you were born after January 1, 1967 you must be certified by January 1, 2005.

--individuals born prior to the 1967 date will need to be certified by 2006, 2007, 2008 depending on their birth date

There are a number of convenient ways to obtain this certification as well as certain exemptions that may apply:

--if you maintain a commercial license issued by the State of New Hampshire or the U. S. Coast Guard you will be exempt

--if you hold a certificate from any state that meets or exceeds the requirements of the Boating Education Law (is NASBLA approved) then New Hampshire will accept that as proof of certification

--if you pass a safe boaters equivalency exam with a grade of 80% or higher you can obtain certification.

--if you are "visitor" and pass a "temporary" safe boater examination you can obtain a temporary certification valid for 14 days. This option is available only once if you pass a NH Dept. of Safety Marine Patrol boater education course with a grade of 70% or higher

Marine Patrol courses are available in three ways:

--home study video and exam (1-800-460-9698)

--on the internet (www.boat-ed.com/nh or www.state.nh.us)

--classroom attendance (1-888-254-2125 or www.state.nh.us/safety/ss)

A summary of these course options, "Boat New Hampshire", and classroom schedules and locations near you are listed on www.nhboatingeducation.com or at 1-888-254-2125 or 603-293-2645

With respect to the age requirement and phase-in dates of certification the Marine Patrol has pointed out a sometimes misunderstood detail: In NH, if someone under 16 is driving a boat (over 25 H.P.) they must be supervised by a person 18 years or older who must have a boating safety certificate, regardless of birth date.

GELIA will have copies of the Marine Patrol Safety Course dates and places, "Boat New Hampshire", and "The Boaters Guide of New Hampshire--A Handbook of Boating Laws and Responsibilities 2004-2005" later this Spring. They will be available and on display at the annual meeting. They are also available now at the Dept. of Safety office in Guilford, NH, 1-888-254-2125 or 603-293-2645

GELIA Boating Safety

Walter Neff

603-926-7278

**W I N T E R
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