



# NEWICHAWANNOCK NEWS

GREAT EAST LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION - 75th YEAR, Spring 2007

## *President's Column*

By Linda Schier

Last weekend I had the opportunity to watch the ice go out again. I find it a fascinating and beautiful event. The ice crystals change shape and catch the light while making a marvelous sound heralding spring. Just as the last ice chunk in South Cove broke apart against our dock we heard the loon calls and then saw the resident pair patrolling by. The cycle has begun again.

As I finish up my term as GELIA president I find there is much to reflect on. The efforts of the GELIA board and membership are awesome. During my term as president we have seen remarkable efforts of the GELIA community. The membership committee raised GELIA membership to an unprecedented high. The Lake Hosts stopped an invasive plant from entering the lake. The Weed Watchers found one specimen of variable milfoil before it had a chance to colonize and create an infestation. The safety committee kept everyone informed of all new regulations. The number of GELIA members volunteering for the lake host and weed watcher programs reached a new level. The newly formed activities committee focused on bringing community building fun events to our membership. The history book Newichawannock Reflections has been revised and reprinted. The characteristics of the water have been faithfully and routinely monitored. Our database of GELIA members is comprehensive. Our newsletters continue to inform and delight. Our website has had almost 16,000 hits. We saw the advent of the Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance, spearheaded by GELIA members, focused on a region-wide effort to protect water quality.

All of these accomplishments are the result of an amazing coalition of GELIA board members and volunteers. The Board is a compilation of unique individuals bonded by a shared concern for the place we all treasure, each taking on the tasks necessary to keep the train running. I can't imagine a better team to share the load. I thank

you all.

I am content to leave the board in very capable hands and have no doubt that the efforts of GELIA will continue to preserve the amazing way of life we have all come to cherish here on Great East. Some of us have life-long histories on the lake and others are newcomers to its delight. Nonetheless, we all understand how delicate and fragile this ecosystem is. My hope is that each of us evaluate our personal impact and responsibility, take note of where we can help and take the necessary actions to assure that this treasure is equally as enjoyable for our children, grandchildren, and so on; as it is for us right now.

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."*

Margaret Mead



Photo by Mary Lou Monnat

## *Photo Contest*

By Jon Rouillard

The GELIA Activities Committee is planning a photo contest. The winners will be published in a calendar which GELIA plans to sell via local retailers, [www.greastlake.org](http://www.greastlake.org) and at the annual meeting in 2008. The committee needs your help. First we need you to start reviewing your photos of the lake. Some tentative categories include sunsets, wildlife, sunrises, winter, fall, and boating. More details will be released at the annual meeting. Finally and most important we need some creative, talented people to help us. This is a huge undertaking but we know we have some talented residents on the lake. If you are interested in helping us please call me at 978.969.2256 or write to me at [GreatEastLake@comcast.net](mailto:GreatEastLake@comcast.net)

***ANNUAL MEETING, LAKE CONCERT, FLARE UP***  
**JULY 7, 2007**  
**WEEKS PARK**  
**10:00 am**

**9:00 a.m.** Membership table, displays, informational tables and merchandise will be ready by 9:00, so please arrive early as this year as they will not be conducting business during the meeting.

**Flare and Sticker distribution:** Each paid-up member family may pick up one flare for the evening flare-up and their 2006 membership sticker.

**GELIA Sweatshirts, T-shirts and Hats** will be on sale. Those who wish to make purchases but are unable to attend the meeting may call Joe and Barbara Wadleigh at 603-522-6398.

**Laminated Charts & Paper Maps** can be purchased for \$10 and \$5 respectively. Charts & maps will also be available by calling Pat Theisen at 207-636-2263.

**The revised edition of the Great East Lake history book *Reflections of Newichawannock*** will be for sale for \$20. For more information about the book look for the article elsewhere in this newsletter.

**Displays and Informational Materials** will abound. Come early to collect safety materials, homeowner information, and invasive species information. See the visual displays of what a Youth Conservation Corps accomplishes, and learn more about local conservation organizations.

**Volunteer Sign Up** for Weed Watchers, Lake Hosts, Meeters and Greeters – or maybe all three!

**Reports:** Officers and committee chairpersons will bring you up to date on GELIA's programs and you will have an opportunity to ask questions and express your ideas.

**Guest Speakers:** We will have speakers to inform us about the habits of the local fish, the efforts of the Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance, and other issues relevant to Great East Lake.

**Raffle Drawing:** Area merchants and residents of GEL contribute restaurant meals, merchandise and services. Each year there is more! Tickets may be purchased before 10:00 a.m.

**Food!** Our version of the Fenway Frank: the Weeks Wiener. Compliments of GELIA with chips and sodas.

**LAKE CONCERT:**

Music played from a pontoon boat in the middle of the big part of the lake from **7:00 – 8:00 p.m.** Join the floating boats enjoying the tunes if you can't hear the music from your shore.

**FLARE UP: 9:30 p.m.**

What a sight to see them all lighted at the same time around the lake. Synchronize your watches!

## ***Wakeboarding Responsibility***

By Jon Rouillard

Wakeboarding is one of the fastest growing water sports in the world. An entire industry has been developed around the boards themselves, and accessories. The boating industry has been revitalized by wake boats. Wake boats are typically characterized as ski boats with high towers or extended pylons up to 6 feet high. They are unique in that they contain some type of water ballast tanks or bladders or hydrofoil fins that enable them to displace more water thereby creating large wakes.

Unfortunately with the advent of this exciting sport comes increasing concern for the protection of the shoreline. Our current boating regulations were designed for typical runabouts, not wake boats. So when a wake boat operates within 200' of the shoreline it throws a wave that does not have time to dissipate. The adverse result of this wave close to shore is twofold. First, it creates erosion. In fact there are areas of the lake that never see waves that large during heavy storms. Wave power can have drastic effects on shoreline erosion. As waves hit the shore, they break apart the soil and carry sediments into the water. This results in shoreline recession which can create a loss of beach area or an instability of coastal structures. Waves can also impact shoreline biota, changing the environment in which plants and animals live. When sediments are re-suspended into the water, they can be transported and deposited to other places in the lake. This can cause problems related to loss of sediments or the accumulation of sediments, changing the contours of the bottom of the lake. Sediment re-suspension can also allow particles that may have settled to the bottom to re-enter the water column, causing problems for fish and plants.

These wakes can also cause significant property damage to boats and other watercraft. Anyone who has watched their boat bounce up and down at the dock when a big roller comes in can relate to that. And finally, with a high water table in spring all of the issues noted above are exacerbated. Last year, I saw part of my dock float away when a wake boat drove by and deposited a 3'-4' roller 200' off shore.

GELIA is not adverse to wake boarding nor are we focused on stopping activity on the lake. However we need to create awareness about the impact this sport is having. In fact I personally enjoy watching the stunts and tricks from many riders on the lake. However, coupled with that enjoyment comes a responsibility. We encourage all wake boats to stay further off shore to allow large wakes to dissipate. Also, consider riding in areas of the lake where the shoreline has not been developed and therefore has a better root structure to withstand the wave action. Most important try to avoid any large wake boat operations during early spring or when the lake is exceptionally high.

Although wake boats by design leave a larger than normal wake, all boaters should be aware that any boat operated at a speed below plane can cause a large wake. Every boat operator should be aware of the wake they are leaving.

### ***Nominations for the 2007 – 2009 Biennium***

- 1) The slate of officers for the 2007 – 2009 Biennium is President – Steve Dagley, Vice President – Bess Smith, Secretary – Pat Theisen and Treasurer – Bill Hohenberger.
- 2) The slate of Directors for the 2007 - 2009 Biennium is Linda Schier, Past President; John Ciardi; Gary Field; Marcia Hodsdon; Mary Kraft; Carol Lafond; Dave Mankus; Walter Neff; Gene Rosenthal; Jon Rouillard; Dorothy Smith and Doug Smith.

## *Thrills and Chills*

By Chuck Hodsdon

Fireworks on our Lakes

(excerpted from "Lake Tides, a Univ. of Wisconsin publication)

*"It was a black and sultry night. Not a breath of air was stirring. The lakes surface was as flat as glass. The first starburst lit up the sky in a wild and sizzling display of crimson and white. The water mirrored an exact duplicate, doubling the visual thrill... The Independence Day celebration had begun."*

How do you remember the Fourth of July at the lake? Barbeques, sparklers, boat parades around the lake? What about the day after when the nasty procession of scorched cardboard and plastic remains wash up on the lakeshore, not to mention how the noise affected the loons!

Fireworks are a big business in the USA. According to the U. S. Census Bureau, the value of fireworks imported from China in 2003 was 163.1 million dollars. 220.8 million pounds of fireworks. Fireworks consist of a wide variety of products with a highly variable composition. Although the available safety and environmental effect data on fireworks are often incomplete, issues with fireworks usually fall into the categories of noise, property damage, accidents and pollution. **Noise:** The sounds of fireworks going off around the lake seems to start in late June and continue all summer. The noise can terrify pets, young children and wild animals alike. **Accidents and Property Damage:** Sparklers burn at temperatures of over 1800 degrees. On average about 9000 people are injured severely enough by fireworks to require hospital treatment. Forty-five percent of those injured are under the age of 15. Annually fireworks cause over 30,000 fires nationwide, resulting in millions of dollars in property damage. **Pollution:** Some researchers believe that heavy metal fallout from exploding fireworks poses a threat to the environment and to us. The solid reaction products that give us the pretty colors and special effects include a nasty bunch of chemical additives. The unknown factor is the concentration needed to cause a problem. Black Powder, used to propel the fireworks contains carcinogenic sulfur and coal products. Ammonium Perchlorate causes problems with the human thyroid gland. White Phosphorus is another toxic substance used in fireworks. Its residue can persist in aquatic environments and has caused die-offs in fish and waterfowl. Fireworks also contain a number of toxic metals that are used to create a range of colors. Strontium, copper, magnesium, titanium, sodium, aluminum, mercury zinc, lead, chromium, cadmium, potassium and rubidium to name a few.

Like so many activities that we enjoy, watching fireworks comes at a price. Some such as the noise and cardboard waste are immediate and visible. Others such as the carcinogenic chemicals let loose to contribute to the pollution of our soil, water, and air are not visible and not thought about. Celebrating Independence Day can be more enjoyable for everyone if we are all respectful of our neighbors and wildlife, cautious in how we use fireworks and concerned with the potential that they may have.

(The red flares that we use for our "Flare Up" will contribute several pounds of waste directly into the lake if we allow the ash to fall into the water. If you use them please catch the ash in an aluminum pan and dispose of it somewhere other than in the lake.)



## ***Lake Host/Courtesy Boat Inspector Program Update***

By Linda Schier

The Lake Host/Courtesy Boat Inspector program has become such a fixture on Great East that it's beginning to sound like old news. However, the importance of the program in its role of protecting Great East from an invasive species infestation cannot be overstated. The careful inspection of each boat entering Great East is our first line of defense in our ongoing battle to keep Great East invasive weed free.

Note that I've added Courtesy Boat Inspector to the name of the program which is more accurate. We receive support from both the New Hampshire Lakes Association and the Maine Lakes Environmental Association; in NH the program is the Lake Host program, in Maine it is the Courtesy Boat Inspection program. This arrangement does complicate matters for our staff as they are required to complete the paperwork for both programs but it is well worth the effort for all the financial and advisory support we receive. In the past we have had to apply for grant funding from each state but because one specimen of Variable milfoil was found near the launch last season Great East Lake is now on the infested water bodies list in Maine, thus making us eligible for funding without an application. Careful what you wish for!

I am very pleased to announce that Tessa Venell will be returning to the launch in her capacity as Lake Host Captain. She will be coordinating the volunteer and staff schedules as well as the piles of required paperwork. We have some returning and some new staff as well. Inspectors at the launch this season will be Jay Fugarazzo, Dylan Venell, Chris McKay and John Hendrick as well as our intrepid early morning volunteers. As you launch your boats please do say hi and introduce yourselves as one of the GELIA membership.

Can you see yourself in a bright blue shirt greeting boaters on weekend mornings in the summertime? As always, we are looking for anyone interested in being trained as a volunteer Lake Host. The training sessions are held in Concord, NH throughout the spring and early summer which is a hike for most but very informative and interesting. All your time and miles will count towards the required local match for our grant funding. Your fellow volunteers will tell you that being a lake host is a great way to share your love of the lake and meet your neighbors. If you are at all interested please contact me at 603-659-3302, by email at [lindabschier@comcast.net](mailto:lindabschier@comcast.net) or stop at our table at the annual meeting on July 7<sup>th</sup> at Weeks Park.

## ***Newichawannock Reflections – 2<sup>nd</sup> edition on the way!***

By Pat Theisen

Get ready to pull up a chair – and perhaps don your reading glasses. The second edition of *Newichawannock Reflections: Memories of Great East Lake* is being printed as you read this and will be available at the Annual Meeting on July 7<sup>th</sup>. This edition is updated, revised and has additional historical material, old photographs and added sections.

**Books purchased at the Annual Meeting will be sold at a discounted price.** If you are unable to attend the meeting, books will be available at several convenience stores in the area. Locations will be posted on the GELIA website.

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

Order your copy in the following ways:

Online through the GEL website: [www.greastlake.org](http://www.greastlake.org) (information will be posted in early June)

By mail at GELIA, PO Box 911, Sanbornville, NH 03872.

Shipping charges will be added to orders placed online or by mail.

## *Weed Watcher Report*

By Bess Smith

### **Some History**

Invasive weeds have been a problem in New Hampshire/Maine lakes and ponds since the mid-1960s. Variable milfoil, by far the most wide-spread exotic aquatic plant, was first found in Moultonborough Bay in Lake Winnepesaukee. From there it has spread to infest numerous waterbodies. Fanwort, water chestnut, Eurasian milfoil, purple loosestrife, and common reed are also problematic species.

It therefore becomes increasingly more important to prevent infestations, and to identify new infestations early. DES biologists conduct numerous field investigations each summer, the efforts of volunteers in monitoring waterbodies for new infestations become critical. Through materials and training sessions by DES, numerous lakes and ponds have initiated their own Volunteer Weed Watching programs.

### **Volunteer Program**

GEL is fortunate to have very active and educated volunteers. To further that education, Amy Smagula of NH DES has once again offered her professional assistance in providing us with a Weed Watcher training session on the lake. This training is scheduled for August 4th at 9:30 a.m. We'll be meeting at the public boat launch just off of Canal Road. Anyone interested in attending and/or willing to volunteer a captain and pontoon boat, please call or email Bess Smith at 978-689-9202 or [bess.smith@techcelerate.biz](mailto:bess.smith@techcelerate.biz). We'll also be doing a separate training just for kids that will be both fun and educational! Information on that is included in this newsletter.

### **Found Something Suspicious?**

If you happen to see anything suspicious, collect it and wrap in a wet paper towel, put it in a plastic baggy and send to either NH DES (603-271-2248) if found in NH or ME DEP (207-283-7733) if found in ME.

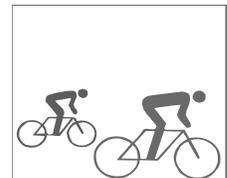
## *Activities Committee Report*

By Chuck Hodsdon

The Activities Committee has a number of activities in the planning stages. However because of concern over liability in these activities we need to narrow down the number of possible activities so that we can develop a plan for each and determine what the cost of liability insurance be for that activity. To this end please let us know if any of the following activities seems especially interesting. Either call the chairman, Chuck Hodsdon at 603-522-3372 or email him at [choddy@surfglobal.net](mailto:choddy@surfglobal.net).

1. A yard sale, field day for the kids and pot luck supper or barbecue to be held in early August.
2. A kayak scavenger hunt or race.
3. A sailboat race. ( 3 are already planned by another group we might use their infrastructure and sponsor a race of our own.)
4. Bicycle ride around the lake.
5. A photography contest with photos to be made into a calendar is planned.
6. If we can find a place to hold it , a swimming race. The problem being we need a shallow area with a dock to start and finish at.

The committee will be meeting soon to make plans for this summers activities, so if you have any ideas for activities please let us know.



## ***Boating Safety—New Hampshire Boating Certification***

By Walter Neff

**If you were born after January 1, 1957, you must be certified by the State of New Hampshire to operate a powerboat with an engine in excess of 25HP in New Hampshire waters.**

Next year will be the end of the seven-year phase-in for this certification: **As of January 1, 2008 all operators of boats in excess of 25 HP must be certified.**

### **Heads Up—a change in requirements by the State**

Effective January 1, 2007 it will now be necessary to take an in-person, proctored exam in order to obtain a State Of New Hampshire Boating Safety Certificate. The State will still offer the three methods of preparing to take the exam: online, video, and classroom.

At the completion of any of these three methods of preparation you will be required to take a Course Completion Exam which, upon passing, will allow you to take the proctored Final Exam to then obtain your certificate.

Information regarding the online and video materials, and the dates, times and locations of the classroom training is best obtained by going to the State's boater education website, [www.boat-ed.com/nh](http://www.boat-ed.com/nh) or by calling 1-888-254-2125. Here are some of the classroom schedules near the Great East Lake area:

06/04 6:00PM-9:30; 06/06 6:00PM-9:30	Dover High School	Dover
06/12 6:00PM-9:30; 06/14 6:00PM-9:30	Wolfeboro Huggins Hospital	Wolfeboro
06/23 9:00AM-4:30	Laconia Lakes Region Hospital	Laconia
06/23 9:00AM-4:30	Rochester Police Dept.	Rochester

More dates and locations are available on the above website and [www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/ss/boatinged.html](http://www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/ss/boatinged.html) There is also a link at this website to give you dates, times and locations for the **proctored Final Exam**.

There are some exemptions to this law:

- 1) Persons holding a current commercial license issued by the State of New Hampshire or the U.S. Coast Guard
- 2) any person who holds a certificate from any state that meets or exceeds the Boating Education Law (is NASBLA approved).

It is possible to obtain 14 day temporary certificate by passing an equivalency test—this is a one-time use certification, primarily for visitors to NH. Also, the state is now offering a “Testing Out Option” which allows you to take the test and if you receive a grade of 80 or above you will be eligible for a certificate. Note: this certificate will only be valid in New Hampshire. Call above number to make arrangements.



## ***Sunfish Races on GEL***

By Dave Mankus

Lake Forest Resort is planning to host three sunfish races, open to all on Great East. The dates are Sat. June 23<sup>rd</sup>, Sat. July 21<sup>st</sup> and Sun. Aug 19<sup>th</sup>, each with a rain date the following day. Interested entrants can register at the Lake Forest Resort docks at 12:30 and may arrive by water or on a trailer and use the Lake Forest ramp.

Races will be three short matches on a course set for approx. 20 minutes of sailing each.

The last race of the 07 season will include a BBQ on Sunday August 19th.

These dates do not conflict with the Americas Cup in Spain.

## ***KIDS WEED WATCHING***

By Bess Smith

**Open to kids 6-16 years old**

**KIDS** – come learn how to find invasive weeds and see some cool things about how we measure water quality. Join us on July 14<sup>th</sup> for a hands-on day out on the lake where we'll identify weeds, use testing equipment and bucket scopes. Your guides will be well-trained volunteers and teachers. For more information or to sign up contact Mary Kraft at 617-803-7215 or [mfdkraft@yahoo.com](mailto:mfdkraft@yahoo.com).



This is Variable Milfoil, have you seen it?

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

GELIA  
P.O. Box 762  
Tewksbury MA 01876

