



# NEWICHAWANNOCK NEWS

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

## President's Column

by Linda Schier



This is the “winter that wasn’t”, so far, here in NH. Today is a balmy 50 degrees as was last Saturday. I visited the lake last weekend (Jan 21) and it felt like late March. The ice, which had frozen solidly before New Years, had pulled away from the shore leaving a stretch of open water. The wind was howling and blowing water across the ice leaving it like glass. If it had gotten cold enough the skating would have been perfect. However, it snowed again and then the temperature rose so we’re back to unsafe ice. It feels very strange indeed. I’m hoping to be able to get at least one good ski across the lake and I’m sure winter enthusiasts of all types are eager for winter to reappear.

The GELIA board has been busy behind the scenes in preparation for another wonderful season at the lake. We’ve been putting away buoys, gearing up for the Lake Host and Weed Watcher programs, addressing safety issues, planning membership initiatives, and working with the towns of Acton and Wakefield to protect the environmental quality of the Great East Lake area.

A number of GELIA directors: Steve Dagley, Chuck Hodsdon, Carol Lafond, Pat Theisen and myself; have been working very long hours with the Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance to establish a Youth Conservation Corps so be sure to read about its activities elsewhere in this newsletter. Chuck, Carol

and I are also members of the Wakefield Water Resources Planning Committee that is an offshoot of the Natural Resources Outreach Coalition. Our committee is working on the development of a Water Resources Chapter for the Wakefield Master Plan to help insure that the waters of Wakefield remain the treasures that they are. We are learning a lot and are pleased to see the effort that Wakefield is taking to plan for the future. Steve, Carol and Pat, along with other members of AWWA met with the Acton selectmen who were very supportive of the AWWA initiatives. We’ve been heartened by the interest that both town governments are showing for our budding program.

The October rains brought some real excitement to Great East Lake. The state had not yet lowered the lake and we experienced severe flooding. Many docks and shorelines were affected, but most significantly, the “floating island” just inside the opening to the Scribner River broke loose and has closed the entrance to the river to any boat traffic. For a detailed account of this see the enclosed article.

Please feel free to contact me with any comments or concerns at [president@greateastlake.org](mailto:president@greateastlake.org).

I hope this “winter” is finding you happy and healthy and that you are looking forward to, or are already, enjoying your time at Great East.

*“A lake is the landscape's most beautiful and expressive feature. It is earth's eye; looking into which the beholder measures the depth of his own nature.”*

~Henry David Thoreau



Go to  
[www.greateastlake.org](http://www.greateastlake.org)  
For the latest scoop on  
GELIA activities

Great East Lake Improvement Association  
**Statement of Changes in Fund Balance for the Period**  
**January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2005**

**Revenue:**

Dues for 2005	\$13,035.00
Contributions – ISDF (Invasive Species Defense Fund)	\$3,135.00
Maine State Grant for Lake Host Program	\$2,000.00
Annual Meeting Sales	\$1,122.00
Golf Outing	\$539.27
Sale of GELIA Shirts	\$534.00
Interest – CD General Fund	\$369.01
Grant from the Cain Fund of the Community Foundation	\$250.00
Interest – Money Market Account	\$50.94
Lynch Memorial from the Clancy Family	\$25.00
<b>Total Revenue:</b>	<b>\$21,060.22</b>

**Expenditures:**

Lake Host Program	\$2,827.00
Contributions*	\$2,600.00
Directors' and Officers' Insurance	\$1,455.00
GELIA Shirts	\$1,290.75
Newsletters – copying & postage	\$1161.99
Annual Meeting	\$870.61
UNH Water Testing	\$665.00
Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance	\$500.00
Band for Lake Concert	\$480.00
2004 Financial Review	\$438.75
“No Wake” Signs	\$360.00
Acknowledgement Letter, Printing & Postage	\$159.25
Maine COLA – Newsletters for Board Members	\$120.00
GELIA Website	\$107.40
April Board Meeting – Food	\$105.81
Bank Fees	\$93.68
P.O. Box Rental – Membership Dues, etc.	\$70.00
Dues – Greater Wakefield Chamber of Commerce	\$55.00
Treasury Postage and Copies for Meeting	\$37.72
PO Box 911	\$36.00
Postage & Address Services – Membership	\$27.92
Continuation of Non-profit Status	\$27.00
<b>Total Expenditures:</b>	<b>\$13,488.88</b>

**INCREASE: \$7,571.34**

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**\*Contributions for 2005**

Action Ambulance Association	\$400.00
Wakefield Ambulance Association	\$400.00
Seven Lakes Snowmobile Club – Rescue Sleds	\$300.00
Loon Preservation Committee	\$250.00
Maine Audubon Society	\$250.00
Maine Congress of Lakes Association	\$250.00
Moose Mountain Regional Greenways	\$250.00
New Hampshire Lakes Association	\$250.00
Three Rivers Land Trust	\$250.00
<b>Total Contributions:</b>	<b>\$2,600.00</b>

**Balance Sheet – December 31, 2005****ASSETS**

Certificate of Deposit – General Fund	\$12,418.66
Certificate of Deposit – ISDF (Reserve Fund)	\$10,000.00
Cash – Checking Account	\$7,109.52
Invasive Aquatic Plant Fund – ISDF Money Market	\$5,202.36
Fish and Wildlife Fund	\$1,203.63
Check # 500 Outstanding	(\$400.00)
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$35,534.11</b>

**FUND BALANCE**

Beginning 1/1/05	\$27,962.76
Increase during Period	\$7,571.35
<b>Ending Balance:</b>	<b>\$35,534.11</b>

***GEL HISTORY REVISITED***

by Pat Theisen

It has been nearly eight years since the publication of “NEWICHAWANNOCK REFLECTIONS Memories of Great East Lake”. The 1000 copies printed were sold within a year and requests for the book have been steadily increasing. As a result, a second edition will be published later this year.

We would like to make the second edition more complete by giving you the opportunity for your additions and corrections to be included.. Anyone wanting to make corrections or add material should contact Pat Theisen at 16 Peninsula Drive, Stratham, NH 03885, (603) 772-2043, or email [ptheisen@hotmail.com](mailto:ptheisen@hotmail.com) by March 1, 2006. At this date, I would like to have an indication of the extent of the revisions and/or additions to share with the editor.

It’s hard to know what was missed in the first edition, so here’s your chance! I look forward to receiving whatever you have to contribute.

## ***Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance (AWWA) to Start Youth Conservation Corps to Address Erosion Issues***

By Carol Lafond

In 2004, community members interested in protecting the water quality of lakes that lie within the Ossipee and Salmon Falls watersheds formed the Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance. The current membership is made up of both community residents and members of area lake associations including Balch, Belleau, Great East, Horn Pond, Lovell, Pine River Pond, and Wilson. AWWA's mission is to preserve or restore the water quality in these watersheds through scientific study, remediation of impairments and public education regarding the importance of water quality.

In the summer of 2005, AWWA hired two local youth and worked with existing Maine Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) to complete two demonstration projects. One on Great East Lake stabilized a path that had been eroding into the lake over the years. The YCC put in steps that stabilized the slope and redirected runoff from both the stairs and from the roofline into planted and mulched areas where it could be absorbed. A second project on Pine River Pond prevented road water runoff from washing sand, soil and other pollutants into the lake. A berm was built and planted with bushes along the roadside to stop and absorb the water coming from the road. Stepping stone walkways were installed and the entire area, except for a narrow perched beach, was mulched and planted with ground cover to prevent runoff. Both of these projects demonstrated that erosion could be stopped in an environmentally friendly manner that also beautifies the property.

This spring AWWA will create our own YCC to reduce erosion-caused pollution in lakes in the towns of Wakefield, NH and Acton, ME. After securing funding, we will be hiring a Technical Director who will select a minimum of 15 properties with erosion problems from all requests for assistance. Custom landscape designs based on environmentally friendly Best Management Practices will be created with the property owner, to correct the problems.

Assistance with the permitting process and the labor of a 5 or 6 person crew will also be provided. The property owner will pay for plants and materials used. The Technical Director will also design about 30 additional landscape plans for those who are interested in completing the work themselves.

We hope to continue this program in the coming years. AWWA has and will continue to raise awareness of erosion problems through presentations to town officials, member lake associations and community organizations; articles in local newspapers, lake association newsletters and websites; signs at project sites; public tours of projects; and an erosion prevention educational program for local schools.

**We are currently looking for property owners who would like to participate in our erosion control projects this summer.**

You may qualify if:

1. You own property in Wakefield, NH or Acton, Me in the Ossipee or Salmon Falls watersheds.
2. Storm water runoff is causing erosion into a lake or stream.
3. You would like to have a custom design to solve your erosion problems and have the YCC implement it, all free of charge.
4. You are willing to pay for plants and materials to implement the design.
5. You are willing to allow AWWA to publicize the finished project, so awareness of this program will grow.

Please check for erosion problems on your property during spring melt or heavy rains. Perhaps we can help you solve your erosion problems with a beautiful and environmentally friendly solution, at relatively little cost to you. If you are not interested in having the YCC install a design but would like to meet with the Technical Director to discuss your runoff concerns please contact us to schedule a visit.

If you are interested in learning more or participating in this project, please email Carol Lafond at [webmaster@greateastlake.org](mailto:webmaster@greateastlake.org) or phone Steve Dagley at (207) 636-3582.

## *ICE*

By Chuck Hodson

One of the real joys of living on the Lake in late fall and winter is watching the formation of ice on the top of the lake. Having grown up on a river in New Hampshire and having spent hundreds of winter days on the ice it brings back fond memories of ice fishing, ice skating and cross country skiing and listening to the ice bellowing and groaning at night.

I will never forget one Christmas when we stayed at the lake. The temperature was well below zero for several days and our running water consisted of chopping a hole in the ice and carrying buckets to fill a garbage can in the bathroom. On Christmas Eve after everyone was asleep I found it necessary to go out onto the lake and chop the ice away from our water hole so we would have water for the night and in the morning. When I got out onto the ice I found that a full moon had arisen and since the ice on the lake was covered with snow, the whole surface of the lake seemed to have a surreal glow. I just stood there for a long time with chills running up and down my spine. I have never had such a feeling in my whole life. Being on the ice at night still gives me a warm memory of that night.

Ice Floats. This is one of the many interesting properties of water. Almost all common substances are more dense in the solid state than in the liquid state. Therefore most solids sink in their own liquids. Ice however is less dense than liquid water. So the ice floats on top of the lake. Water is actually most dense at a temperature slightly above freezing. (39 degrees F) Consequently when the water on the surface reaches 39 degrees it sinks, thus bringing the warmer water up from below to the surface. This process continues until all the water is cooled to 39 degrees. Then the water at the surface can start to freeze. This is a slow process however because each gram of water, once it is at the freezing temperature of 32 degrees F, must lose 80 calories of heat to the air in order to change from a liquid to a solid. It only takes the loss of 1 calorie of heat to lower the temperature of water by 1 Celsius degree but 80 calories to freeze the same amount of water.

On a cold night when the air is well below freezing the water on the surface will often get a skim of ice on it, but then the warmer water from below melts it. This often happens many times before all the water in the lake is cooled down to its freezing temperature and complete freezing of the surface can take place. In some deepwater lakes such as Crater Lake in Oregon the whole lake never gets cooled down to the point where freezing can occur. Crater Lake is more than 1800 feet deep and contains more water than can be cooled by nature over the course of a winter. (It did actually freeze one winter in recorded history.) Water is the only common substance on earth which exists in all three states, solid, liquid, and vapor, at the normal temperatures on earth. As you cool water vapor in the atmosphere it condenses to form liquid rain which can then freeze and form sleet. Water vapor can also undergo sublimation which means that the individual vapor particles collect at a point and form the ice crystals that we know as snow.

Early this winter we saw an unusual phenomenon on the lake. There was a skim of ice about two or three inches thick along the edge of the lake. Overnight, when the temperature was about -5 degrees Fahrenheit, water vapor evaporating from the lake out beyond the ice formed directly into ice crystals on the surface of the ice. They were large crystals which looked very much like huge snowflakes which sat on the surface of the ice. In the morning the crystals in all their different shapes were clear and sparkled like diamonds, In the afternoon as the sun was setting the crystals took on the pinks and oranges of the sky. It was beautiful.

Water is so common that we take it for granted especially in New England. A recent article in Time Magazine expressed the opinion that Maine's abundant fresh water supply would be it's "Oil" for the 21<sup>st</sup> century as 1.5 Billion People in the world do not have access to pure drinking water. The suggestion that bottling companies be taxed for fresh water that they bottled may seem far fetched, but just look at the shelves in the supermarket. Coke and Pepsi are already heavily into the fresh bottled water market. Or rather the "filtered" water market. Think about it!

***High waters, erosion lead to drifting chunk of land in Scribner River feeding Wakefield's Great East Lake***

***by Larissa Mulkern***

***Staff Writer*** Granite State News

Reprinted from the Granite State News

10/20/2005



WAKEFIELD — An uninhabited island about 4,000 square feet large dislodged in the Scribner River after last weekend's rains and high winds, and drifted towards the opening where it feeds Great East Lake.

Crews from a local towing company were en route to the scene early yesterday morning where the initial idea was to somehow attach cables to the island to prevent further drift. The property has been in Christopher Bancroft's family for seven generations, purchased in 1781. At the site Wednesday morning, Bancroft said the island has shifted before, perhaps about 150 years ago. This time around, Bancroft learned of the shifting when he took a walk down to the river on Sunday afternoon.

"We had a problem at the top of the hill with flooding, so I took a walk," he said. When he hit the water, he saw the island wasn't where it was supposed to be."

"Whoa, that's not right," he said when he saw Mother Nature's handiwork.

Linda Schier, the co-chair of the Great East Lake Improvement Association, checked out the scene from the vantagepoint of her kayak Wednesday morning under sunny yet windy conditions. A number of area homeowners and association members – half dozen or so – visited the site to experience and document this unusual event.

"It's hit a sand bar and it's lodged there," said Schier. To understand the movement of what happened, picture the wind pushing a door from open to closed position. At this time, the island blocks most of the waterway, creating a small opening large enough for a motorboat but questionable for a larger vessel or one of those pontoon party boats popular in this neck of the seven lakes region.

Lakes Association member Craig Farley has been on the lake for 50 years. During a boat tour, he said he's never seen anything like it. Years ago, he used to snorkel around the island. Two birdhouses on stilts near the riverbank marked where the edge of where the island used to sit. Now the birdhouses stick up from the water like lonely scarecrows.

Bancroft said if the land doesn't shift open, the water path could dry up by summer, closing off all access from the Scribner to Great East and vice versa. He said if the island drifts into his boathouse, located at the junction of the river and the lake, he would not be allowed to rebuild under current state law.

Schier said one of the fears was that the island could further shift into the mouth of the lake, and drift to the dam on the other end.

"The reality is it should be a no wake zone anyway – and it is now," she said jokingly. "This is not a Great East Improvement Association project."

The environmental impact at this point is also unknown, but she was concerned with the existence of the nearby Loon nesting site. She spent Monday on the phone with numerous state agencies, including the Bureau of Dams, the Marine Patrol, and Fish and Game. Upon hearing of the situation, she said officials told her the association could do whatever it takes to secure the island. However the state did not offer assistance.

"They said you have permission to do what needs to be done," she said.

Bancroft estimated the island shifted 150 feet from its original location. He said two factors could have caused the shifting. For one, the water levels from the rains lifted his dock about three feet higher. He said the trees on the island apparently did not have roots imbedded in the river bottom. The second factor was the 50-mile an hour winds that pushed the land downstream towards Great East. He suspected that over the years with erosion that the trees that once secured island cables have long since disappeared. He also suspects high horsepower boats stir up the plant life.

Schier said the island shift may likely be a problem with people who own boats on the other side of the river. On the other hand it could also change the natural habitat – it could damage it or it could improve it. If it gets iced in the winter, it could shift with the ice as it melts and end up in the lake.

"It's a big unknown," she said.

***Addendum by Linda Schier:***

The attempt to move the Scribner Island was unsuccessful as it was securely lodged on the sandbar. Even after the lake rose again with another autumn storm the island stayed put. NH DES Wetlands Bureau is now responsible for any decisions regarding the island. As of this printing, the island is iced in and the snowmobiles are using the narrow opening on the north shore to access the river.

## ***GELIA Membership Drive Starts Early in 2006***

by Jon Rouillard

The membership committee is starting their efforts earlier this year in 2006 than in years past, and I am excited about the new changes. For example, instead of our membership requests accompanying the spring newsletter, membership requests will be mailed separately to each property owner in the GELIA database. You should see the request arrive in your mail by the end of March.

There are several reasons for this change. In the past, the membership forms were often lost or misplaced as the newsletters were read and filed and we hope that the new system will alleviate that problem. And finally, we wanted to minimize membership enrollment at the annual meeting, thereby allowing you more time to meet with friends and neighbors as well as review the various informative displays and of course our guest speakers and committee reports. And, we will continue to dispense flares to all members the annual meeting.

We hope you like the new changes and we look forward to your continued support. Whether your support is financial, encouraging a neighbor to join or volunteering for one of our committees it is greatly needed and appreciated. Through your membership and support we can continue our mission; to protect Great East Lake and surrounding environs. Thank you.

# ***BOATING SAFETY AND REGULATIONS***

By Walter Neff

If you haven't yet complied with the State Of New Hampshire's requirement to obtain a valid boating safety education certificate this might be a good time of year to make that happen!!

Remember, you must be certified by January 2006 if you were born after January 1, 1963 if you are going to operate a powerboat with an engine in excess of 25 horsepower on the public waters of New Hampshire.

Are you exempt? The State considers you exempt from this requirement if:

- you maintain a license to operate a commercial vessel issued by the State of NH or the U. S. Coast Guard
- you hold a certificate from any state that meets or exceeds the requirements of the Boating Education Law (is NASBLA approved)

Where can you take it? The NH Dept. of Safety (in addition to the US Power Squadrons and the Coast Guard) holds courses throughout the year at various convenient locations.. The full schedule can be found at any NH Marine Patrol office or online at

[www.nh.gov/safety/ss/links.html](http://www.nh.gov/safety/ss/links.html).

--you also have the option of taking the course online at [www.boat-ed.com/nh](http://www.boat-ed.com/nh)  
or

--there is also a home study course, call 1-800-830-2268

For more information on this law call 1-888-254-2125 or visit the State website above.

I found this course to be very informative (I didn't know as much as I thought I did!), the instructor was excellent, and folks attending were fun to be with! Go for it.

Please check out our website [www.greateastlake.org](http://www.greateastlake.org) for more information on boating classes

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