



President's Column

By Bess Smith

It appears that all the signs of Autumn are upon us. The drawdown began on October 1st, the foliage is beautiful and there are plenty of apples to go around!

We certainly had a productive (although wet) summer this year. The Watershed Survey was very successful in determining erosion issues around the lake as well as noting properties that boast a wide variety of natural plantings that keep the storm water runoff at bay. It was truly impressive to see a room full of over 40 volunteers willing to take one of our few sunny Saturdays to survey the shoreline.

We had a great turnout at the Annual Meeting on yet perhaps the second sunny Saturday this summer. The second annual Photo Contest was a big hit producing another fantastic calendar. There are still some available so turn to the back of this newsletter to fill out the form to purchase either the calendar or the history book.

As you may know, I have been the Weed Watcher Coordinator for many years. I am pleased to announce that a new committee is taking on this position. This committee is made up of Board Members – Marcia Hodsdon, Dee Kasprzak, and Dorothy Smith. We actually have had a few changes on the Board that I would like to mention. Our new Treasurer is Chris McKay, our new Secretary is Gene Rosenthal and the new Membership Committee is made up of Pat Theisen and Janet Gould. All of the Board members volunteer on a committee or are responsible for monitoring issues such as water quality, boating safety, loon population, the Lake Host Program, etc. Please note the list of Directors on the sidebar of this newsletter.

I would like to thank the Board for the tireless commitment to the Great East Lake Improvement Association and it's membership. As a group, we all work toward one goal – the preservation of our precious resource.

For those of us that winter in New England – let's hope the precipitation does not match that of this summer. But if it does, keep these words in your heart:

"How full of the creative genius is the air in which these are generated!"

I should hardly admire more if real stars fell and lodged on my coat."

--Henry David Thoreau, 1856

THANK YOU LAKE HOSTS!

We've made it through another summer with no new infestation of invasive aquatic plants thanks to our vigilant staff and volunteer lake hosts. They inspected **1124** boats launching into Great East and Caitlyn McKay caught a piece of Variable Milfoil on a boat coming from Lake Winnepesaukee. **Well Done!**

STAFF

Jay Fugarazzo, John Hendrick, Nick Lee, Ashley Lizotte, Caitlyn McKay, Courtney McKay and Scott Mrazik

VOLUNTEERS

Herb Burwell, Sue Cain, Michael Craig, Gregg & Janice Hunter, Michelle Lee, Hayley Mandeville, Catherine Mills, Dorothy Smith, Doug Smith, Nancy Smith and Charlie Wills

WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU

**Great East Lake
Improvement
Association**

OFFICERS

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

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Janet Gould
Chuck Hodsdon
Marcia Hodsdon
Bill Hohenberger
Dee Kasprzak
Dave Mankus
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.

Watershed Survey Update

By Linda Schier

On Saturday, June 13th, 38 volunteers and 11 tech leaders surveyed properties in the Great East and Lake Ivanhoe watersheds to identify sources of pollution caused by storm water runoff. Over 1500 properties were surveyed and 177 properties on Great East were noted as having some issues with erosion that flowed into the lake. The majority of the sites were on residential properties and driveways, most of which could be fixed with simple, low cost erosion control practices. A number of private road issues were documented and GELIA and AWWA will work with the road associations to brainstorm solutions.

Letters will be sent to each of the 177 property owners offering assistance and ideas for solving their problems. There will be absolutely no identifying information published in the survey reports. If you are wondering about your property please feel free to contact the AWWA office at info@AWwatersheds.org or (603) 473-2500. The final report and summary sheet will be available by the end of the year and will be posted on the GELIA website: www.greateastlake.org

The surveyors were pleased to report that they met with many concerned and interested landowners who were eager to know how to deal with their chronic erosion problems. GELIA will continue to educate our members about the dangers of polluted runoff and the importance of preventing sediments from entering the lake. The GELIA Board of Directors has agreed that the association will make every effort to assist landowners and road associations in finding ways to correct problem areas.

Many thanks to those who participated in the survey and gave so generously of their time. You are terrific ambassadors for water quality protection - Jeanne Achilles, Joe Anderson, Don & Emily Bell, Missy Brandt, Barbara Caron, Don Chapman, Kent Coit, Jennifer Craig, Geoff DelSesto, Joanne Emerson, Gary Estes, Gary & Mary Field, Wendy Garland, Heather Germadnik, Janet Gould, Chuck & Marcia Hodsdon, Dee Kasprzak, Dave & Carol Lafond, Ashley Lizotte, Shirley MacFarlane, Dave Mankus, Bill Marshall, Deb Mayo, Chris McKay, Ron McKay, Arnie Murray, Ella Richardson, Linda & Rachel Rosenthal, John & Linda Schier, Cheri Schlenker, Susan & Paul Shannon, Adam Shoukimas, Bess & Doug Smith, Dorothy Smith, Sally Soule, Pat & Stephanie Theisen, Julie Venell, Penny Voyles, Megan Wooster and Charlie Wills. A special thanks to Hayley Mandeville who gave many hours to put all the survey info into a database.

BOATING SAFETY

by Walter Neff

The recent survey taken of our membership indicated a significant interest in GELIA's role in "encouraging boating safety". The reasons behind this level of interest and concern are underlined by some recent information received from the U.S. Coast Guard.

Although the statistics relate to the year 2007 you can be sure they're appropriate today.

Of the 5191 boating accidents reported, this resulted in 3673 injuries, 685 fatalities and \$53,106,496 in property damage.

--Drowning was reported as the cause of death in two thirds of all fatalities, and 90 percent of drowning victims were not wearing life jackets

--Alcohol was the leading factor in approximately one-fifth of all boating fatalities

--Only 14 percent of all boating fatalities occurred on boats where the operator had received boating safety instructions

--The most reported type of accident was a collision with another vessel. However, capsizing and falls overboard are the most reported types of fatal accidents and accounted for the majority (60 percent) of all boating fatalities

--Overall, operator inattention, carelessness/reckless operation, excessive speed and passenger/skier behavior are the leading contributing factors for all reported accidents

The facts and information from this report sound somewhat familiar don't they? That's because similar information and language is found in the Boating handbooks provided by the states of New Hampshire and Maine that contain their respective boating laws and regulations.

Although some people see boating safety laws as restrictive and an infringement on their basic freedom to enjoy their lake experience as they wish, they may be missing the whole point. Safety laws are written AFTER the accidents and personal tragedy have occurred!!

The laws and regulations are enacted in an effort to prevent those losses from occurring again—they're an attempt to learn from some bad experiences. In most cases they are simply common sense responses to the behaviors that cause accidents. If you're a boat operator you owe it to your family, your friends and the other folks enjoying this beautiful lake to think "**SAFETY FIRST**" before you turn the key!

AN ENJOYABLE LAKE EXPERIENCE IS NO ACCIDENT

Real Estate Update

By Janet Gould

Despite the slow economy, summer 2009 was a busy year for real estate transactions on the lake. There was no activity from January to June, then during the summer months, nine properties were sold in Maine and one in New Hampshire. At last count, twenty-three properties remain for sale.

New GELIA Website

By Stephanie Theisen

The Great East Lake Improvement Association is pleased to announce its new website. Thanks to the diligent work of the previous webmaster, Carol Lafond, the site was packed with helpful information. Contributions and articles from the board and from GELIA members had made the site a wealth of information. In order to make the most of the content on the site, we reorganized the information to make it easy to find and navigate through.

As with the previous site, there is a lost and found section. There are still some unclaimed items from this summer. If you would like to contact the GELIA community about an item, you can email the webmaster at webmaster@greastlake.org or fill out the contact form on the site. If you choose not to make your contact information public, we will act as an intermediary.

The GELIA board will continue to update the site on a regular basis, but we welcome your photos and updates as well. You can email the webmaster or fill out the form under the contact section. You can also upload photos and files. We have already had some great submissions. You can check them out at www.greastlake.org/photos.

If you have ideas or suggestions for the website, please let us know. We also invite you to take a poll that can be found on the homepage of the site. The poll is about accepting dues and donations online and we want YOUR opinion. The site is a great way to build the Great East Lake community and to keep all members informed. We hope you find it helpful.

Note from Bess Smith, President, GELIA

Please join me in thanking Stephanie for her fabulous job of renovating our website. Stephanie is one of our new Directors and we are very pleased that she has joined us. Thanks Steph!!!!

Weed Watcher Update

By Dorothy Smith

On July 14, 2009 an Invasive Plant Patrol Workshop was held at the Acton Town Hall Meeting Room. This workshop was hosted by GELIA and York County Soil and Water District. It was presented by Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program and was an excellent presentation with opportunity for "hands on" identification of both native and invasive plants.

Seven members of GELIA attended this presentation. We would encourage all weed watchers (and even those of you who are not but would like to know more about invasive aquatic plants) to attend this workshop if it is held again in future years.

We are in the process of updating the Weed Watcher List to determine if those who volunteered in the past are still continuing to monitor areas near their properties.

If you are interested in volunteering in 2010, contact Dee Kasprzak (207-985-9223 or 207-636-2913), Marcia Hodsdon (603-522-3372) or Dorothy Smith (603-522-3193 or 413-448-8446) .

GELIA Annual Photo Contest

By Gary Field

This past Spring, there were 59 photos submitted by 19 photographers. Our judges deliberated over these and the results of the 2009 GELIA Photo Contest are:

1st Place: Elaine Meagher - Sailboat and Rainbow
 2nd Place: Lennie McKinley - GEL Dam in Fall
 3rd Place: Bill Carroll: Ice Storm Dec 08
 Best in Special category (Winter): Jennifer Craig - Sunrise on the New Year

The following also had their picture included in this year's calendar, and therefore received a free copy: Elizabeth Flemings, Gary Field, Eric Magnuson, Linda Schier, Dave Sells, Julie Sayles, Ann Travers, and Cathy Wall.

In addition to a free calendar, the top three prize winners and the best of special category winner received a framed print of their picture with an attached name plate, which was presented at the annual meeting.

Our thanks go out to our 2009 judges:
 Ernie Alvino, Sue Duran, MaryLou Monnatt, Dave Needham, Lance Ten Eyck, and Jody Wood
 Thanks and Congratulations to all!

So, let do it again!

Our annual photo contest is becoming an important part of preserving and sharing our membership's fondest memories of their time spent at the lake. Participation has been very good and we hope it keeps increasing!

The idea is that we take the best 13 photos submitted and create a calendar which will be available for sale at the following annual meeting. This also has the benefit of being a fund raiser for GELIA and creating a historical photo archive of our beloved lake and its inhabitants.

Submissions will be accepted starting January 1st , 2010; and you have until March 15th to work on digging out and selecting your favorite pictures so you can send them in.

GELIA 2010 Photo Calendar

By Gary Field

Get 'em while they're hot!

We still have 2010 GELIA Photo Calendars available! These make great gifts and you can get yours in time for the holidays by following the instructions in the form at:

www.greateastlake.org/2010-calendars

Don't miss out, these are very popular items!

What's Your Best Guess?????

Of the 698 properties on Great East Lake (including 102 back lots) ---
 271 are in New Hampshire and 427 are in Maine

New GELIA Members

By Pat Theisen

Again this year, an increasing number of lake residents are supporting GELIA's mission by becoming members, including several who are new property owners. Welcome – we are happy to have you as members!

Assets Realty

Joseph & Joyce Blais

Albert Bolais

Arthur Callan

Dennis Chandonnet

Charles & Dorothy Crespi

Max Follettie

Sergio & Effie Jaramillo

David & Renata Litchfield

Chris McKay

John & Roxanne Moore

Jim Nevin

Holly Nordholm

Art and Karen Solomonides

Clayton Spinney

Craig and Stephanie Theisen

Edward Warren

GELIA membership for 2009 boasts 401 members. Thanks for the support!

CALLING ALL ROAD ASSOCIATIONS

The GELIA Board of Directors is compiling a list of the lake's road associations with the hope of getting them together to share ideas, strategies and concerns. If you represent a road association please contact Ron McKay at 603-772-1967 or rmck57@hotmail.com to be added to the list.

Annual Meeting Raffle

The following business donated items for this year's raffle. Our thanks to all of them for their contributions.

Business Name	Item
Apple Core Shop	\$10 Gift Certificate
C&G Pizza	2 lg cheese pizzas
Cabin Life Magazine	Subscription
Cindy's Place	\$10 Gift Certificate
Crabby Appletons Ice Cream	37 Coupons
E.T.Hines Mercantile	Pretzel/Dip Gift
Great East Docks	Dock Ladder
Interior Plus	Rug Remnant
Kathy McKay	Loon Broom
Longmeadow Hardware	Igloo Cooler
Lovell Lake Food Store	\$20 gift card
Ray's Marina	Boat Cushion & Warning Sign
NAPA	Case Motor Oil
Natures Gift	Note card gift set
North Conway Scenic RR	2 Adult Tickets & 2 Children Tickets
Organic Source	Sparkling Juice & Water (9- 4 packs)
Patches	\$25 Gift Certificate

Continued on page 7

Annual Raffle continued from page 6

Poor Peoples Pub	\$20 Gift Certificate
Quinn's Bait Shop	Milfoil Sticker
Raise A Dock	Kayak
Roadside Farmer	Hydrangea
Seven Lakes Provisions	1/2 rack of ribs & 2 sides
Seven Lakes Realty	Beach Chair
7 Lakes Roadhouse	\$25 Gift Certificate
Teds Fried Clams	\$25 Gift Certificate.

My Life as a Great East Lake Host

By Tessa Venell

I have been sitting at the Great East Lake boat launch for six summers, checking boats before they launch for invasive species and educating the boating public about the dangers of aquatic invasives. This year, my partner at the boat launch, Jay Fugarazzo, and I decided that this is a job that we want to work for the rest of our lives.

I want to be a lake host for the rest of my life because it feels heroic to me. Lake Hosts are heroes because of the seeming ineffectiveness of educating boaters one by one to combat a problem with the magnitude of the invasive species problems in lakes in the Northeastern United States; the odds are stacked against the hosts (We can't conceivably check every inch of a boat, and an infested boat could launch at a time when hosts aren't staffing the launch.). It's impossible to hermetically seal off Great East Lake from invasive species. We can only do our best to protect our lake with the Lake Host program and we've been successful.

It doesn't matter that, in six years, I've only found a handful of plants—and of those, only one has been tested and then tagged as invasive by the Department of Environmental Services in the State of New Hampshire—our purpose as lake hosts is to highlight the issue of invasives so that boaters are aware and will be more apt to do self inspections. I'm super happy to sit by the lake on a sunny day in the summer ("Life is so good." –J.Venell 2006); Lake Hosts don't work in the rain because the chance of an infested boat launching into Great East is much lower when it's raining (Does this make us fair weather friends?). I'm happy to sit at the boat launch to remind boaters that invasive species are a threat to their fishing and waterfront property values at Great East. Our presence reminds boaters that we should be good stewards of our environment if we want to ensure that our kids can enjoy the lake in the same way we do one day.

Teaching boaters about the importance of being a good steward at Great East Lake has driven me to want to share with others this idea of stewardship. While growing up on the lake and in my years of lake hosting, I learned to love the lake, and I want others to be able to love Great East in the same way in the future. These ideas of stewardship and sustainability—which were reinforced for me at the boat launch—led me to study international environmentalism and conservation in college. Here, I learned how to better help others to feel the same way about the Great East Lake in their own backyards, which will set up the potential for more conservation programs similar to the Lake Host Program. With these programs, this idea of being a better steward will be learned and reinforced and more people will be driven to just do their best to protect their backyard Great East Lake.

*****GELIA Merchandise Order Form*****

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Phone(if questions) _____

GELIA 2010 Calendars # ordered @\$15 each ____ Total \$ ____

NEWICHAWANNOCK REFLECTIONS: *Memories of Great East Lake*
ordered @ \$15 each ____ Total \$ ____

PLUS Shipping Charge for Calendars: \$2.50 for up to 3

PLUS Shipping charge for Books: \$2.50 each Total shipping charge \$ ____

Make check payable to: GELIA Total Cost for Order \$ ____

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

Holiday orders must be received by Dec.5

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

GELIA
PO Box 145
Stratham NH 03885

NEWICHAWANNOCK NEWS

