



NEWICHAWANNOCK NEWS

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

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Pat Theisen

As I near the end of my term as president, I can't help but reflect how fortunate GELIA is to have such an abundance of dedicated volunteers to sustain the programs to protect our lake. I would like to thank everyone involved for their stewardship.

The highly successful Lake Host and Weed Watcher programs have warded off the invasive species which are in so many lakes around us, but our vigilance must continue. The Water Quality Monitoring program has expanded to include more testing sites; the navigational markers in Maine are placed, removed and constantly monitored.

To create a vibrant and healthy lake community, several new programs have been initiated. 'Meeters and Greeters' welcome new property owners – giving them a packet of information and inviting them to join GELIA. The tradition from years past of receiving a membership sticker to display in the window of a camp door or car has been reinstated. This year, GELIA hopes to sponsor the first annual Great East Challenge, including the water sports we all enjoy. Our website, www.greastlake.org contains GELIA information, lake photos and many valuable links.

Most exciting is the formation of the Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance, which was spearheaded by the Directors of GELIA. This group is initiating efforts to protect the lake through education, outreach and mitigation of erosion causing landowner practices through the establishment of a Youth Conservation Corps. (See related article)

I have thoroughly enjoyed my tenure as your president. Thank you all for your support. See you at the lake!



Annual Meeting
Saturday July 2nd
see page 2 for details

Do You Have an Erosion Problem?

By Linda Schier

If you've noticed any of these problems you may have an erosion issue. Look elsewhere in this newsletter for the article about Acton and Wakefield Lakes to read about a new program we are starting to help out with these, and other, erosion problems.

- Is your driveway or camp road washing away?
- Has your shorefront eroded?
- Is there sediment in the water at your shorefront?
- Does the runoff from your roof run into the lake?
- Is there exposed soil on your property?
- Do you have a steep slope without drainage ditches?
- Is your shoreline open with no plantings?

If you would like advice about how to deal with these issues please call one of the GELIA reps to the Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance.

WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

NEW LAKE CHARTS

GELIA now has 200 laminated charts of Great East Lake with additions, corrections, and more precise water depths. As always, they can be purchased for \$10 each before and after the Annual Meeting on July 2nd. If you are unable to attend the Annual Meeting, Pat Theisen will have them at her cottage on the North Shore of Maine and can be reached at 207-636-2263 or by email at pthaisen@hotmail.com.

ANNUAL MEETING, LAKE CONCERT, FLARE UP
July 2, 2005

MEETING: Weeks Park (off Dearborn Road which is off Acton Ridge Road) Wakefield. **Call to order 10:00 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.

Yard Sale is set up for browsing before and after the meeting. Please bring items to contribute (practical or recreational items for use at camp). Proceeds go to the Fish and Wildlife Fund.

Flare and Sticker distribution: Each paid-up member family may pick up one flare for the evening flare-up and their 2005 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 can be purchased for \$10. Charts will also be available by calling Pat Theisen at 207-636-2263.

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: Officials from Maine and NH will talk about boating safety and regulations, listen to your concerns and answer questions. Learn about GELIA's newest initiative: establishing a Youth Conservation Corps from a representative from Maine DEP.

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.

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!



GELIA Continues to Be On Guard – Lake Hosts

By Linda Schier

As in past years, GELIA is continuing to host both the Lake Host program and the Weed Watchers program. Through the Lake Host program we will staff the Maine Boat Launch off Canal Rd on Fridays from 4-7, Saturdays from 6am – 7pm, Sundays from 6am – 6pm, Holidays and the week of July 4. Our volunteers and paid hosts perform courtesy boat inspections to be sure that invasive weeds aren't carried into Great East Lake. Their primary mission is to offer educational information about the dangers of an invasive species infestation as well as boating safety regulations. We are able to do this with the help of grants from the NH Lakes Association and the ME Lakes Environmental Association as well as the much needed volunteer time from our concerned members.

We do need Lake Host volunteers to staff the launch on Saturdays and Sundays from 6am – 10am. Experienced Lake Hosts will tell you that it is a nice way to meet some neighbors and share your genuine appreciation of the gem of Great East Lake. No experience is necessary as we will arrange training for the new volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering at the launch or just want to know more please contact Mary Kraft at mfdkraft@comcast.net or Linda Schier at lindabschier@aol.com.

GELIA Continues to Be On Guard – Weed Watchers

Our Weed Watcher program has taken on a life of its own with over 60 Weed Watchers covering most of the shoreline. Weed Watchers do a regular survey of a stretch of the shoreline, out to about 15 feet deep to look for new or unfamiliar plant growth. There will be training times offered but if you would like to volunteer and can't fit in training we are happy to get the materials to you and explain the process. It is our hope that everyone on the lake has become a Weed Watcher whether formally or informally. The threat of a milfoil infestation is a real danger in our area since both Belleau and Balch Lakes just to our north are infested as well as Winnipisauke and Wentworth just to our west. If you find any plant growth that you cannot identify or think might be an invasive species please make one of these contacts:

GELIA through Linda Schier lindabschier@aol.com, (603) 659-3302, or (603)522-5225.

NH DES (if you find the plant in NH) at 603-271-2248

ME DEP (if you find the plant in ME) at 207-283-7733

GELIA will be participating in training sessions with both NH and ME this summer. Please join us in one of these informative sessions to learn more about invasive species and what you can do to help avoid infestations. Both these workshops are free and all are welcome to attend.

Saturday, July 16: 11 am – 1 pm. **Weed Watcher Training** at the Great East Boat Launch with Amy Smagula, NHDES. For info or to register please contact Pat Theisen at pthaisen@hotmail.com or 603-772-2043 (home), 207-636-2263 (lake).

Wednesday, August 24: 3:30 pm – 9:00 pm. **Invasive Plant Patrol Workshop** at the Waterboro Central Fire Station, Waterboro Center, ME with the ME Center for Invasive Aquatic Plants. The workshop includes an overview of the threat of invasive aquatic plants in ME, practice identifying live plants, fundamentals of conducting a survey and the IPP Handbook full of useful information on invasive aquatic plants. Coffee and tea will be provided but you should bring a meal or plan to buy it locally. **IMPORTANT: Pre-registration is required. Please contact the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program at vlmp@mainevlmp.net or (207)783-7733 to register, or for more information.**

WAKEFIELD NEEDS YOUR PARTICIPATION!!!
Seasonal Residents and Year-round!

Are you concerned about...

- The water quality of Wakefield's beautiful lakes?
- Maintaining our community character?
- Our town's shrinking inventory of open fields, working forests and farmland?

Then come attend the "Dealing with Growth in Wakefield" presentation on Wednesday June 8!

We need your participation -this is your chance to help plan the future of Wakefield!

The Wakefield Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Zoning Board and Board of Selectmen invite all year-round and seasonal residents to attend "Dealing with Growth in Wakefield" on Wednesday, June 8 starting at 7:00 p.m. The presentation will be held at the Wakefield Town Hall at High Street in Sanbornville, NH. There will be a follow-up action planning session inviting LOTS of community input on Tuesday, June 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the same location. Be there!

In March the residents of Wakefield voted for a temporary growth moratorium that gives the town a unique opportunity to plan for, rather than react to, our community's land use needs of the future. We need your help now to create an action plan that will conserve Wakefield's most special natural resources while allowing for future growth.

But time is short! We have just one year to review our zoning, identify possible conservation easement areas, and formulate plans to ensure smart growth for the town of Wakefield. Come and be part of the vision!

The presentation is free and open to the public. The program will be presented by the Natural Resource Outreach Coalition (NROC), a partnership involving several state, regional and nonprofit organizations. For more information, contact NROC Coordinator Amanda Stone at amanda.stone@unh or 364-5324 or Nancy Spencer Smith at 522-3373.

***Nominations for the 2005-2007
Biennium***

The Nominating Committee of Rollie Fernald, Don Mills and Charlyn Brown, chairman, has proposed the following slate of officers and directors for the 2005-2007 biennium.

- Officers: President – Linda Schier
 Vice President – Steve Dagley
 Secretary – Janet Hansen
 Treasurer – Bill Hohenberger

Board of Directors: Pat Theisen, Past President; Charlyn Brown; Bob Chooljian; Gary Field; Ginny Hallett; Chuck Hodsdon; Mary Kraft; Carol Lafond; Don Mills; Walter Neff; Brian Riley; Gene Rosenthal; Jon Rouillard; Charles Sargent; and Sharon Theiling.

IN MEMORIAM

GELIA extends condolences to the family of Helen Lynch, who passed away recently. Bob, Helen and family have summered on the North Shore of Maine for many years. We gratefully thank her friend for giving a gift in her memory

Gifts given in memory of lake residents for whom Great East Lake was a special place in their lives can be mailed to GELIA, P.O. Box 911, Wakefield, NH 03872. Please include the name and home address of the family member we should inform of your generosity.

Donations will be placed in a fund earmarked for use on current projects to protect water quality.

Wakefield and Acton Lakes Working Together

By Linda Schier

This winter was a busy time for the lake associations of Acton and Wakefield. Representatives from Balch Lake, Belleau Lake, Great East Lake, Lovell Lake, Pine River Pond and Wilson Lake have formed a new group called the **Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance (AWWA)**. The group met regularly to discuss issues relating to the water quality of local lakes. With the help of people from the ME Department of Environmental Protection, Mousam Lake Region Association, NH Dept of Environmental Services, NH Lakes Association, NH Natural Resources Outreach Coalition, Town officials, UNH & UME Cooperative Extensions, (whew!) AWWA has come up with some exciting new plans.

According to the ME DEP, “the single greatest threat to water quality is soil erosion”. As soil washes into the streams, rivers and lakes, it carries phosphorous, a plant nutrient, as well as chemicals and other toxins. Too much phosphorous can cause algae to multiply rapidly. When algae takes over it displaces wildlife, and ruins fishing, swimming and boating.

Soil erosion is also one of the easiest problems to cure. It is most often a result of having no vegetated buffer at the water’s edge or unstabilized slopes leading to the water. Undiverted runoff from camp roads, driveways and roofs can also be a serious culprit. AWWA is beginning the process of creating a **Youth Conservation Corps (YCC)** to work on erosion problems within the lakes’ watersheds. Mousam Lake Region Association has been running a YCC program for 5 years with great success.

The primary focus of AWWA is to use the YCC as an outreach and education tool. Through the YCC projects the message that **EROSION = POLLUTION** will be clearly illustrated. AWWA plans to spread its message through community visibility, press releases, lake associations and neighbor to neighbor. The YCC is overseen by a technical director who offers technical advice to homeowners seeking to resolve their erosion issues. The crew of youth workers will plant vegetation, clean out culverts and ditches, and install other conservation practices. The YCC is not a regulatory agency in any way and the projects are done on an invitational only basis. Homeowners who are concerned about their erosion issues will meet with the technical director to discuss the remedies for their particular property and then the crew will provide the labor. The YCC crews use only hand tools. The only cost to the homeowner is for the materials.

AWWA will be conducting two pilot projects this summer—one on Pine River Pond in NH and one on Great East Lake in Maine. The projects will be publicized and available for viewing when completed so stay tuned for dates and times. In the meantime, take a good look around your property to see if you might be interested in having the YCC help you out. There are many beautiful fixes to erosion problems. We will soon have examples of YCC projects posted on our website www.greateastlake.org.

This coalition of lake associations and natural resource agencies is an exciting development for Acton and Wakefield. With all these active groups around the same table their voices are joined in a group effort to protect and enhance the quality of life around these precious lakes.

GELIA Representatives to AWWA

Steve Dagley—s1maine@psouth.net
207-636-2788

Chuck Hodsdon—choddy@surfglobal.net
603-522-3372

Carol Lafond—djlafond1@netzero.net
603-522-6538

Linda Schier—lindabschier@aol.com
603-659-3302 or 522-5225

Pat Theisen—ptheisen@hotmail.com
603-772-2043 or 207-636-2263

Boating Safety—Reminders

By Walter Neff

The day after the ice left Great East Lake boats were out—so it's a good time to be getting ready for the boating season. Some important things to remember:

--NH Boating Safety Certification--If you were born on or after Jan. 1, 1967* you are required by law to pass an approved boater education course. State of New Hampshire offers three ways to take this course:

-by video (Order your video course by calling 1-800-460-9698, or on line at www.boat-ed.com/nh/nh_video.htm)

--over the Internet—at www.boat-ed.com/nh or www.state.nh.us

--in a Classroom—call 1-888-254-2125 or on the net at www.state.nh.us/safety/ss to locate the next classroom course in your area

Here is a partial listing of places and dates:

5/23/05 6PM-9 Ossipee Town Hall (2 part)
 6/04/05 9-4:30 Portsmouth Urban Forestry Center
 6/20/05 6PM- 9:30 Exeter Library (2 part)
 6/20/05 6PM -9:30 Huggins Hospital, Wolfeboro (2 part)
 6/20/05 6PM-9:30 Plaistow Library (2 Part)
 6/25/05 9-4:30 Conway Elementary School
 7/09/05 9-4:30 Ossipee Town Hall

*Important Note If you are supervising the operation of a boat (25HP or more) by a person under 16 years of age you must hold a Boater Safety certificate regardless of your age

--NH and Me Boating Regulations—Pamphlets covering each state's regulations will be available at the GELIA annual meeting or by calling in Maine, 1-207-287-5220, and in New Hampshire 1-877-642-9700 or 603-293-2037

--Reporting Violations—Due to budget and staffing constraints both states provide limited scheduled marine or warden patrols on our lake. Most of their response is “complaint driven”. Therefore, if you observe or are aware of possible violations of boating regulations you should call the following agencies to file a complaint:

In NH 603-293-2037, in Maine call the State Police at 1-800-452-4664

GELIA will be providing both abbreviated safety cards and magnetic refrigerator stickers containing these numbers at our annual meeting on July 2nd. We also hope to have representatives from both state agencies available at this meeting to answer any questions or concerns that you may have.



Call for Membership Renewals

By Gary Field, Membership Coordinator

Over the years many people have gotten used to paying their dues at the Annual Meeting in July. This worked OK when our numbers were smaller But now that we have over 350 members, it gets very hectic at the membership table! I would like as many people as possible to pay their dues by mail before June 24th. This will allow me time to get all the data entered, so we can quickly verify your membership, and give you your flare and voting card at the meeting on July 2nd.

Also, starting this year, the membership table will be closed during the business portion of the meeting. So, if you do want to pay at the meeting, please arrive early. Thanks for your cooperation

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Great East Lake Improvement Association (GELIA) Membership Form

New Member Renewal Date: _____

Primary Member's Last Name: _____, First Name: _____

Spouse or Other's Last Name: _____, First Name: _____

Address that serves as your primary residence (Where you vote)

and Street: _____

City/Town: _____ State: _____ ZIP+4: _____

Home Phone: _____ Email: _____

Your email and contact information will be kept only for GELIA business.

If you own property at Great East Lake, Please list the address (or "same" if same as above):

and Street: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Lake Phone: _____

Dues cover membership from July 1st through June 30th the following year.

GELIA is a 501(C)(3) Tax-Exempt organization and your contribution is tax deductible.

Basic: \$20 Supporter: \$50 Sponsor: \$75 Benefactor: \$100 \$ _____

I/We also want to contribute to the Invasive Species Defense Fund in the amount of \$ _____

TOTAL CONTRIBUTION \$ _____

Please make check payable to: GREAT EAST LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION and mail to:
GELIA, c/o Gary Field, PO Box 762, Tewksbury, MA 01876

____ I/we'd like to help. Please contact me/us about volunteer opportunities with GELIA.

MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT

By Pat Theisen

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 continued support in our efforts to protect the water quality of the lake.

Currently GELIA has 358 members. Of those, 115 have made generous contributions above the basic membership level, ranging from \$25 to \$500.

The Invasive Species Defense Fund continues to grow with contributions this past year ranging from \$1 to \$500. With treatments costing as much as \$20,000, we are thankful for your generosity to give us a fighting chance should Great East Lake become infested. With \$4,014 added to the fund this year, the ISDF is currently \$12,102.

If you are not currently a member, won't you join those who are truly committed to the welfare of Great East Lake? Our membership goal for 2005 is 500 members.

Snippets from "Newichawannock Reflections"

By Mary Kraft

Did you Know?

A 20 lb., 12 oz. lake trout was caught in 1975 by Frank Hoy near his camp. It now hangs in the Libby Museum in Wolfeboro.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

GELIA
P.O. Box 762
Tewksbury MA 01876

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