



President's Column

By Jennifer Craig

The mild winter makes us feel like this is the longest spring ever! Bird songs fill the air, flowers are popping up, the black flies are gone already, and mosquitos? We can deal with them until the bats, swallows, and dragonflies show up. It is always such a joy to be at the lake!

There is no question about last winter being odd. In fact, we set a record for "Ice Out". While our records are not 100% complete, the 2012 ice out date of March 21 was the earliest on record, the closest being 2010 at March 24. And although the average is around tax day, April 15th, ice out has been as late as May 2 (1971) and May 1 (2001). Perhaps more striking this year was the low water level, the result of a very light snow fall last winter. Water levels were below the level of the dam at a time when, under normal circumstances, the sluice would be open and spilling freely into Horne Pond. At this point, we appear to be back to normal.

Speaking of the dam, work is now being done which calls for the naming of the dam and canal as a national historic site. Anyone who has paddled or cruised there knows how amazing the pre-Civil-War stonework is! It is our hope that additional funding may come our way to complete necessary improvements on the bridge while also preserving this important piece of the region's history.

There is so much going on at your lake! Our plan for this summer is, once again, to offer full coverage of the boat ramp by our Lake Hosts, who make such a difference in keeping the curse of invasive species out of our lake. We will be revitalizing our weed watcher ranks and providing education for our membership via the AWWA-sponsored Discovery Cruises.

Please be sure to attend this year's Annual Meeting on July 7th at Weeks Park.

Finally, I want to extend my personal thanks to all of you who are GELIA members, not only for your financial contributions (which are greatly appreciated!) but for all you do personally to ensure the quality of our most precious resource, Great East Lake. We invite those who are not yet members to join and to come to the meeting on July 7. Together, we will ensure that this lake remains a rare and beautiful treasure for generations to come.

Come to the Annual Meeting: July 7, 2012

This year's Annual Meeting will take place on July 7, 2012 at Weeks Park, off Dearborn Road, Sanbornville. Please plan to come at 9 a.m. to view the many displays and booths! The meeting will start at 10 a.m. and the displays will be closed during the meeting. This year's speaker will be Pam Judge, the woman behind the move to get the dam and canal declared a national heritage site. We will also offer the board as "panelists", on hand to answer any questions you might have about any aspect of GELIA's operations. Please come with your questions! Bring a lawn chair and be aware that we will again be renting a nice big tent for those who wish to sit in the shade during the meeting. And don't forget the hot dogs and raffle afterwards. Hope to see you on the 7th!

Great East Lake Improvement Association

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Jennifer Craig, President
Dave Mankus, Vice President
Chris McKay, Treasurer
Gene Rosenthal, Secretary
Bess Smith, Past President

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Chuck Hodsdon
Marcia Hodsdon
Bill Hohenberger
Effie Jaramillo
Dee Kasprzak
Carol Lafond
Ron McKay
Arnie Murray
Walter Neff
Linda Schier
Dorothy Smith
Pat Theisen
Stephanie Theisen

Mission

To preserve, enhance and protect the advantages of Great East Lake and its environs.

Save the Newichawannock Canal!

By Linda Schier and Pam Judge

The Newichawannock Canal between Great East Lake and Horn Pond forming the state border between Maine and New Hampshire is a masterpiece of 19th century civil engineering and manpower. Built to control the flow of water down the Salmon Falls River to the Great Falls Manufacturing Company's mills in Somersworth, the canal and bridge stand today as a testament to the ingenuity and industry of the region's citizens.

The "**Save Our Canal Bridge**" group, members of the Wakefield and Acton communities, is focused on preserving this special historic resource, protecting the water quality of the Salmon Falls River, and ensuring that the bridge repairs will support the necessary traffic and loads to meet the needs of public safety and convenience for the local residents and visitors. The committee is researching funding opportunities and technical assistance. This project will require significant funds and volunteer energy.

The Wakefield Heritage Commission is very interested in seeing that the area around the Newichawannock Canal and Bridge is preserved as well as recognized as an historic landmark. Pam Judge, Chairman of the Heritage Commission, is working on a grant to nominate the bridge and canal to the National Register of Historic Places. In order to accomplish this, Acton and Wakefield must support the endeavor as well as the States of NH and Maine, all four being the property owners of this area. Both towns have agreed to write letters of support and the Commission is waiting to hear from NH and Maine. Pam has also received an email of encouragement from the National Park Service stating that this would be a national example! The Commission reached out to Acton and Wakefield residents to work together for the preservation and repair of the bridge. A steering committee, which includes several residents of Veazey Point, has been formed to "Save Newichawannock". You will hear more about this in the coming months.

If you would like to know more or be involved contact Pam Judge at pamjudge@roadrunner.com or call (603) 387-3698 or the Heritage Commission at (603) 998-0860.



Fishing with Mark

By Dave Mankus

The following article was written based on an interview with Mark Lovering who is a seasonal camper at Lake Forest Resort on the north shore.

Q: How long have you been fishing Great East?

A: About 9 years.

Q: What species are found in Great East?

A: Rainbow trout, lake trout, pickerel, sunfish, black crappie, perch, small and large mouth bass.

Q: What is the best strategy in the spring, before Memorial Day?

A: The Temperature of the water is critical, below 50 degrees everything bites. Even Lake Trout will venture into shallow waters. The Second Basin and Scribner River are good early in the season for all species. Fish the shallow waters with surface lure; popper plugs are exciting when a bass hits on the surface. You can use a "rattletrap lipless crank bait" (a plastic small fish imitation which is retrieved) or a "Senko" plastic worm which can be rigged weedless by threading the hook thru the tip and embedding the point in the body. These colorful worms wiggle as they sink and are irresistible to bass.

Q: What about after Memorial Day?

A: When the water temperature reaches 60 degrees most species retreat to deeper waters. The female large mouth bass spawn in the shallow waters and lay their eggs in about a week. The smaller males guard the nest for a month afterwards. A few bass, pickerel, and perch stay in the Basin and River all summer. A night crawler and bobber will still provide a youngster with a chance to catch a fish.

Q: In the summer-- June, July and August-- where are the opportunities?

A: The large mouth bass, which is what I primarily fish for, move to large rocks 15 to 30 feet deep. These are found off points and around islands and rock shoals, sometimes several hundred feet away. You must fish down on the bottom. I use a double tailed grub or other "creature" lures which simulate crawfish, on a "football" jig and let it sink. I have caught several lake trout while fishing for bass with this rig.

Q: What do you recommend for rods and reels?

A: I provide closed face spin reels, Zebco type, because they are easy for my guests to use, and fluorocarbon line because it transmits the feel of the lures. For more experienced fishermen, open faced spin reels or casting reels with braided line are popular.

Q: How does the weather affect the fishing?

A: When a cold front passes, play golf! The fish will not be active. When it is windy, a spinner lure below the waves will raise fish. The temperature and clarity of the water are important.

Q: And finally, what do you like best about fishing?

A: I like being out on the water, enjoying the sky and the weather. I see eagles, ospreys, Canada geese and loons and their young: every bird, fish and reptile interacting in a beautiful environment. When you work indoors as I do every day during the week, being out on Great East Lake on weekends is the



Rainbow Trout Received

By Bob Chooljian

Good news, fishermen! In 2011, New Hampshire stocked the lake with 1150 rainbow trout over a year old and in April, 2012, they did it again. They usually add fish two or three times per year. We'll keep you posted!

Weed Watcher Opportunities

By Dorothy Smith

Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program is again presenting workshops to help you be a better weed watcher.

The Introductory Invasive Plant Patrol Workshop is presented in 4 parts:

- Overview of invasive species issues in Maine and beyond
- Plant identification fundamentals
- Plant identification hands-on exercise with live plants
- Conducting a screening survey: tools and techniques

This year the York County Workshop will be held on Tuesday, July 3 in Waterboro, ME from 3 to 9PM. Having attended this workshop twice I highly recommend it. All workshop participants receive an "*Invasive Plant Patroller's Handbook*" and the *Maine Guide to Invasive Aquatic Plants*.

The Invasive Plant Patrol Field Methods Workshop provides on-lake instruction and practice conducting invasive aquatic plant screening surveys. This workshop will be held Saturday July 28 from 8:30AM to 12:30PM on Little Ossipee Lake in Waterboro, ME. Though primarily for those who have attended the Introductory Workshop others may attend. You will need to supply your own canoe or kayak.

Both workshops are free and you do not have to be a resident or property owner in ME to attend. To register call (207) 783-7733 or email to vlmp@mainevlmp.org indicating which workshop you wish to attend. On line registration is available at www.mainevolunteerlakeminitors.org/workshops. If you do register I would also like to know that you have so that I can keep my list updated.

If you are already a Weed Watcher and plan to continue, please email me and let me know what portion of the lake you are surveying. Or you can stop at the Weed Watcher table at the Annual Meeting to let us know you are still active. My email is dorothysmith@gmail.com.

You can also contact the other co-chairs Marcia Hodsdon choddy43@gmail.com or Dee Kasprzak deedeekas@metrocast.net.

Thanks to all weed watchers for the terrific job you do in helping to protect our lake from invasive species!

Water Quality Monitoring

By Chuck Hodsdon

Water Monitoring on Great East Lake was carried out last year by Dave Lafond and Chuck Hodsdon. Complete reports will be available at the Annual Meeting. The results once again found Great East to be an Oligotrophic or "Pristine" lake. We hesitate to give strong positive results as we don't want people to fail to do everything possible to maintain the fine water quality that we have always enjoyed. However to put our water quality in perspective, our average Secchi disc readings last year in the main part of the lake were over 10 meters. This means that an 8" black and white disc is visible in over 30 feet of water. Data from 450 of Maine's 2000 lakes in 2008 found only 8 lakes which had an average transparency of 10 meters or more. Most of these were in Aroostook or Hancock counties where the lakes are likely to see a lot less stress than those in more populated areas. We need to continue doing everything possible to maintain this exceptional water quality.

Lake Host Program Update

By Chris McKay

After a successful first year of staffing the boat launch full time during the summer of 2011 the Lake Host Program will be back seven days a week between Memorial Day weekend and Labor Day weekend this summer. Last summer we recorded 2,295 courtesy boat inspections at the Acton Public Boat Launch. Of those 2,295 inspections fourteen boats were found with plants arriving to Great East Lake, and five samples of suspected invasive aquatic plants were sent to the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services for identification. Our program had three confirmed saves, one weekend save and two weekday saves. It is important to note that the weekday saves were made during times when the program was not staffed previously. A save is defined as the prevention of a live invasive aquatic plant from entering or leaving a water body.

To help the association better understand what goes into the Lake Host program please see the summary below:

Funding:

Total cost of the program for 2011: \$26,183.04

Total out of pocket costs paid by GELIA in 2011: \$14,093.18

Total outside funding for 2012: \$12,089.86. Outside funding sources:

NH Lakes Grant : \$6,089.86

Maine CBI Program Grant : \$2,000

The Town of Acton: \$2,000

The Town of Wakefield: \$2,000

Staff: Eleven Lake Hosts staff the launch. A majority are college aged, and live on the lake.

Returning Lake Hosts

Caitlyn McKay

Courtney McKay

Dan Kraft

Nick Lee

Paige Lee

Hayley Mandeville

Tyler Stanieich

New Lake Hosts

Brian Kraft

Katie Samuelson

Kyle Cormier

Ruth Gutman

Administration: I spend 260 volunteer hours to administer the program.

There is no doubt that this is a major effort for Great East Lake and we value your continuing support. Considering the cost of eradicating an infestation of invasive weeds, which at neighboring Balch Pond has now topped \$300,000, we continue to feel that the Lake Host program deserves our very best effort and investment. Thank you for your help!

Coming Soon: The Great East Lake Fishing Derby

By Marcia Hodsdon

For all of you who love to fish, we are hoping to hold a fishing derby on the day of the Annual Meeting, July 7, 2012. Fisherpeople will need to be up early as the fish will be measured and weighed at 9:30 AM just before the Great East Lake Improvement Association meeting. The present plan is for the fisherpeople to be 12 and under. Details will be available on the Great East Lake web site after June 15th. Anyone interested in volunteering to help measure fish and track entrants, please call Marcia Hodsdon at (603) 522-3372.

Greetings from AWWA

By Linda Schier

As another summer unfolds into its Great East glory the Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance is ready to partner with each of you to help keep our lakes clean. What we do on land determines what kind of lake we leave for our children and future generations. Our most exciting project for 2012 is our grant to fix chronic erosion problems on gravel roads. The folks on Langley Shores Drive are busy working with AWWA, the York County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Maine Dept. of Environmental Protection to install much needed erosion controls on their private road and are setting a great example for other road associations around the lake. The work should commence in June so take a ride over this summer and check out their solutions to tough road problems. GELIA Director Arnie Murray is leading the charge on Langley Shores so give him a call at (207) 477-8494 or email arniemaine@metrocast.net if you want to know how to get your association going.

Look for the next edition of the AWWA NEWS coming soon for more exciting project. Remember that there are many things you can do to keep your property “lake friendly” by controlling erosion, maintaining your natural vegetation, properly maintaining your septic system and eliminating fertilizers and pesticides from your yard. Clean water begins on land and we can all make a difference.

AWWA can be reached at (603) 473-2500 or info@AWwatersheds.org. Visit our website at www.AWwatersheds.org for news of our programs and helpful clean lakes information.

Board Nominations

By Ron McKay

The Nominating Committee has recommended that the following Directors be reelected for another term, consistent with GELIA By-Laws:

Arnie Murray

Dee Kasprzak

The Board has also accepted the recommendation of the Committee to appoint John “Mack” Hendrick to the board, pending approval by the membership at the Annual Meeting. Mack is a fourth-generation inhabitant of the lake, his family having come here since 1916. He resides on the North Shore with his wife and two young boys (the fifth generation!). Mack works at American Durafilm in Holliston, MA where he is General Manager and director of R&D. Both his skills and his passion for the lake will make him a wonderful addition to the GELIA Board.

Status of Water Level

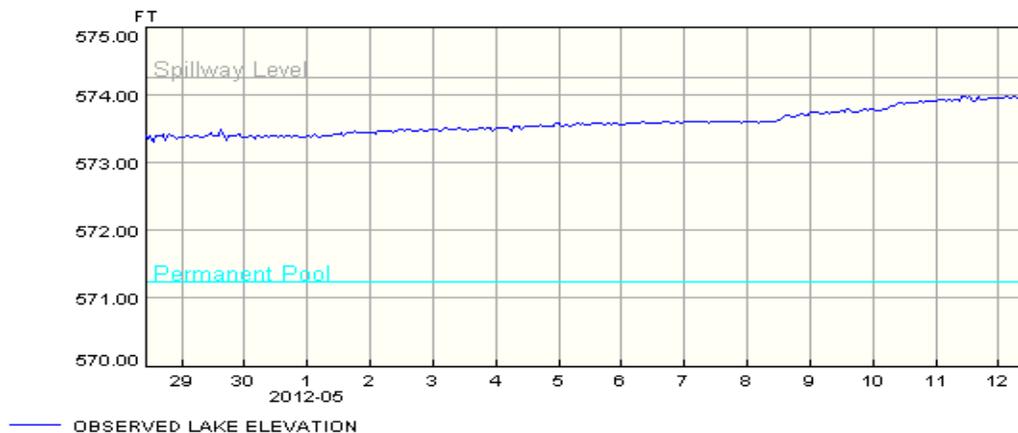
By Bess Smith

Courtesy of NH Department of Environmental Services – Dam Bureau

Below is a graph of the current water level on Great East Lake. As you can see, back in late April, the lack of snowmelt and rainfall had left the lake about a foot below the spillway level. Normally at this time of year, the water is well above the spillway level and the dam needs to be opened to release the excess water. As this is being written in mid-May, we are still behind where we would be for most years but thanks to recent rains, we are only around 4-1/2" from full:

GREAT EAST LAKE ELEVATION [FT]

Created at 05/12/2012



SAVE THE DATE!! NH Shoreland Workshop

When: Saturday, June 23

Time: 9am to 12:30 – refreshments included

Where: Wakefield Opera House, 2 High St., Sanbornville, NH

What: *Working in the NH Protected Shoreland – What are the best practices and how do you do them? What are the regulations and how do you navigate them?*

Do you have a project in mind near a lake or are you wondering how shoreland projects get approved?

Learn from the experts about best practices and regulations for NH shorefront activities. What can you do to keep our lakes clean and enjoy your property?

Join us at this forum to get answers!

2012 Membership Update

By Pat Theisen

Many thanks to those 300+ lake residents who have renewed their membership for 2012! Reminder letters were mailed on May 14 to 175 past members who had not yet renewed their membership this year. With over 700 properties around the lake, all reaping the benefits made possible by member contribution, let's make 2012 the year for substantially increased membership – bringing the total number of members to 550

If you have never been a member, and have misplaced your March membership request letter, there is one on the GELIA website. Your \$20 for a family membership would go a long way to ensure the continued health of the lake. Please consider joining the hundreds who are stewards of Great East Lake.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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NEWICHAMANNOCK NEWS

