



# NEWICHAWANNOCK NEWS

GREAT EAST LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION - 79th YEAR, Winter 2011

## ***President's Column***

By Bess Smith

Happy New Year!

I hope you all had a joyful holiday. This has certainly been a blustery winter with more snow than we've had in a long time. My husband is outside snowblowing and chipping ice as I write this column. I'm counting the days until ice out!

I hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter. Jennifer has written a column about some new options we are considering to help support our stewardship for the lake. Chuck had written a great article for the fall issue but we had some space constraints back then so we have included it this time. The photo contest is back so please dig out those amazing pictures and submit them.

If you have internet access and have not yet checked out our new website, please do. It has a completely new look and we are polling visitors to see if you would be interested in doing some GELIA activities online. Log on to [www.greastlake.org](http://www.greastlake.org) and give us your opinion.

If you are interested in contributing information or photographs to the website, send them to [webmaster@www.greastlake.org](mailto:webmaster@www.greastlake.org).

I look forward to seeing everyone in the spring and until then I wish you a happy and healthy 2011.

*If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.*

- Anne Bradstreet



## ***Great East Lake Website Update***

By Stephanie Theisen

Thank you to all who have sent in pictures and updates to add to the website. 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](mailto: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 had some great submissions. You can check them out at [www.greastlake.org/photos](http://www.greastlake.org/photos).

If you have ideas or suggestions for the website, please let us know. 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.

## ***March is Membership Month!***

Be on the lookout for your membership renewal letter to arrive sometime during the month of March. As always, we urge you to mail your membership form and dues at your earliest convenience.

Many thanks  
Pat Theisen,  
Membership Coordinator

**Great East Lake  
Improvement  
Association**

## OFFICERS

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

## DIRECTORS

Janet Gould  
Chuck Hodsdon  
Marcia Hodsdon  
Bill Hohenberger  
Dee Kasprzak  
Dave Mankus  
Ron McKay  
Arnie Murray  
Dorothy Smith  
Doug Smith  
Pat Theisen  
Stephanie Theisen

**Mission**

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

Great East Lake Improvement Association  
Statement of Income  
For the year ended December 31, 2010

## Income

Membership Dues	\$ 18,750.00
Dues-ISDF Fund	3,300.00
Golf Tournament In- come	749.04
Grant Income	3,000.00
Raffle Income	529.00
GELIA Product Sales	2,210.00
Interest	358.57
Total Income	\$ 28,896.61

## Expenses

GELIA Product Ex- Annual Meeting Contributions	\$ 2,873.25 592.14 4,300.00
Lake Host Program Newsletters	11,817.23 2,170.98
Water Quality Monitor- ing	789.00
Insurance	1,464.00
Legal & Professional Fees	1,787.93
Mailing	697.21
Dues & Subscriptions	350.00
Storage	540.00
Other	717.17
Total Expenses	28,098.91
Net Income	\$ <u>797.70</u>

Great East Lake Improvement Association  
Statement of Fund Balance  
As of 12/31/2010

Checking Account	\$ 20,079.46
ISDF Fund	<u>37,826.45</u>
Total Deposits	\$ <u>57,905.91</u>

## *Dare to Dream....*

By Jennifer Craig

You have to admit it...in the last decade, GELIA has done a lot to protect our lake for the future. Weed Watchers, Lake Hosts, contributions to loon preservation, water quality monitoring, Three Rivers Land Trust and the Acton Wakefield Watershed Alliance are all areas where we have made a difference. Your membership dues and the labor of so many of you who have been involved in the various initiatives have made this happen and for this, you deserve a hearty “thank you”! Please continue to lend your support!

And yet as we look to the future, we see numerous opportunities for even more important and impactful work.

- There were three actual “saves” at the boat launch last year from invasive species and yet we only staff the launch at the busiest times; wouldn’t it be great to expand that coverage and thus our safety net?
- The survey of Great East Lake conducted by AWWA revealed several critical areas where town roads are potentially impacting water quality. Wouldn’t it be great to have some matching funds we could use to stimulate contributions from municipal and state coffers to correct these situations before they get out of hand?

The average age of our membership is pretty high and yet we all know that it is our youth that will carry forward the ideals of clean water we all cherish. Wouldn’t it be great if there were more programming for youth on the lake that was both educational and provided good, clean fun?

These are just a few of the “dreams” held by members of your board. With the March membership renewal letter and throughout the year, we will be encouraging you to join in and take GELIA to the next level. We will offer our most sincere thanks and recognition of those who participate by thanking you by name in the next winter newsletter. Many of you are already very generous in your contributions to the invasive species defense fund and in general contributions above and beyond base membership and we think you should be recognized for that..

We will also be making it easier to give by offering on-line donation capability. You will receive more information on where to go to make an on-line gift in the March Membership letter..

Finally, we know that GELIA is YOUR association. The board welcomes your ideas on where you would like us to seek improvements and have us take initiatives. Your ideas are another resource that we are eager to tap.

Plans are being made now to take GELIA’s service to a new level with your help.....stay tuned!

## *A Day in the Life of Your Water Quality Monitor*

By Chuck Hodsdon



In order to get the job done on the lake we have to choose a day with a light wind and reasonably bright skies. Otherwise our attempts to keep the boat on a site while we do our work and collect our samples is foiled because an anchor just will not hold the big pontoon boat that we use in a steady wind of any appreciable force. (It is difficult to determine the depth at a site when the wind is dragging the cable at a 20 or 30 degree angle.) Also lying on one's belly on a pitching boat trying to look at a small black and white disc through a view scope does not work very well either.

We make visits onto the lake every two weeks from late April or early May until late September or early October.

We start out on a trip when my partner in this endeavor, Dave Lafond, picks me up at my dock. We load all of our equipment and sample bottles onto the deck of the boat and head out. We stop at four sites on the lake:

1. The deep hole in the center of the big portion of the lake.
2. A spot extended out from the canal which is in the south cove basin but a few hundred yards off the south side of Veazey Point.
3. A site near the beginning of the narrows about 500 yards off the Mann Farm.
4. A site in the second basin beyond the last island as you head east.

At each site we take a Secchi Disc reading to determine the water clarity. This involves lowering an 8 inch disc which has quadrants of alternating black and white down into the water column until it goes out of sight. One of the properties of Great East Lake is that we typically are able to see the disc down as deep as 10 meters of water or more. This puts it in the top 1% of lakes in the country in water clarity.

In lakes the water stratifies over the sampling season. We use a thermometer to determine at what depth the upper level of water, called the epilimnion ends and the middle level called the thermocline begins. It is this upper level of water which is most productive in terms of growth of organisms in the water. The thermometer which we lower into the lake also carries a meter to measure the percent of saturation of dissolved oxygen. We measure and record the dissolved oxygen content all the way to the bottom of the lake at each site. It is the level of dissolved oxygen which determines the health of large game fish in the deeper waters in the lake.

We then lower a 1 ¼ inch diameter tube down into the lake to the depth of the top of the thermocline. This enables us to sample the water through the whole depth of the water column.

After sampling each site we take a 100 ml. sample of water and titrate it with an acidity indicator to determine its alkalinity. This gives us an indication of the ability of the lake to resist acid precipitation

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Since I am colorblind and the acidity indicator is a color change in the sample I must depend on Dave to make that determination.

After sampling the four sites we take the samples home and do further processing in my garage/laboratory. We take a 250 ml sample of water, fix it with 1 ml. of concentrated Sulfuric Acid and freeze it to be sent to UNH for further processing. We then pass another 500 ml. of water through a very fine filter. This filter is then sent to UNH to determine the amount of algae in the water. We also save 60 ml. of water in bottles from each site to measure the saltiness of the water and also the color of the filtered water. All of these samples and the data that we collect are sent to the Lakes Lay Monitoring Lab at UNH where the samples are processed. The results are then recorded and used to write the report that we hand out each July at the annual meeting. These reports have been archived for over 30 years which gives us a revealing history of the water quality in the lake.

It is always a pleasure to visit the lake in the process of this important work. We love to see the changes that occur over the 5 or 6 months that we do these visits. This summer we saw an eagle in the second basin, loons everywhere, kingfishers, and great blue herons. In the laboratory when we filter the samples we often see some rather large plankton. No doubt anyone who was in the lake in mid-August was able to see the colonies of the blue green alga *Gloeotrichia* which proliferated in the lake for a few weeks. In the course of water monitoring which we do on Lake Ivanhoe we even encountered some rather rare fresh water jellyfish. They are about the size of a dime but have all the features of a jellyfish including tentacles and they swim with an undulating motion. Word is that they are completely harmless.

### ***Free Property Consults Available***

by Linda Schier

Would you like some help figuring out how to control the stormwater running across your property? The Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance (AWWA) is following up on the 2009 Watershed Survey and would like to help out. Program Manager Dustin Johnson will be glad to visit your property with you to talk about ways to make it more lake friendly. If you have erosion issues that may be impacting the water quality of Great East Lake your property may qualify for an AWWA Youth Conservation Corps project site which brings an enthusiastic crew of local teens to install erosion control measures. All you need to provide are the materials - the labor is free to the landowner. If you would like to meet with Dustin to get some great ideas please contact him at [djohnson@AWwatersheds.org](mailto:djohnson@AWwatersheds.org) or call (603) 473-2500 to set up an appointment for this spring.

***Do You Know if the Ice is Safe?***

Below are helpful guidelines from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife:

**Judging Ice Conditions**

**"Thick and blue, tried and true. Thin and crispy, way too risky."**

The ice traveler should look for bluish ice that is at least 4 to 6 inches thick, in order to support people and their gear. Even if the weather has been below freezing for several days, don't guess about ice thickness. Check ice in several places. Use an auger, spud, or axe to make a test hole, beginning at shore and continuing as you go out.

If ice at the shoreline is cracked or squishy, stay off. Don't go on the ice during thaws. Watch out for thin, clear or honeycomb-shaped ice. Dark snow and dark ice are other signs of weak spots.

Choose small bodies of water. Rivers and lakes are prone to wind and wave action, which can break up ice quickly. Avoid areas with currents, around bridges and pressure ridges.

In the wintertime, outdoor enthusiasts frequently need to know how thick the ice is and whether it is safe to walk across it. The American Pulpwood Association has published a handy reference chart that gives a good rule-of-thumb for ponds and lake ice thickness.

The chart below is for clear, blue ice on lakes. Reduce the strength values by 15% for clear blue river ice. Slush ice is only one-half the strength of blue ice. This table does not apply for parked loads.

Wait for a long cold spell, then test the ice thoroughly.

**Ice Thickness Chart**

<b>Ice Thickness (in inches)</b>	<b>Permissible Load - Clear, Blue Lake Ice (Reduce strength values for other types of ice)</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>One person on foot</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Group of people walking single file</b>
<b>7 1/2</b>	<b>Passenger car (2 ton gross)</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Light truck (2 1/2 ton gross)</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Medium truck (3 1/2 ton gross)</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Heavy truck ( 7 - 8 ton gross)</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>Heavy truck ( 10 ton gross)</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>25 tons</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>45 tons</b>
<b>30</b>	<b>70 tons</b>
<b>36</b>	<b>110 tons</b>

**What if I break through the ice?**

If you break through the ice, don't panic.

- Don't try to climb out - you'll probably break the ice again.
- Lay both arms on the unbroken ice and kick hard. This will help lift your body onto the ice. Roll to safety.

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- To help someone who has fallen in, lie down flat and reach with a branch, plank, or rope; or form a human chain. Don't stand. After securing the victim, wiggle backwards to the solid ice.
- The victim may need treatment for hypothermia (cold exposure), artificial respiration or CPR
- "If your feet are cold, put on your hat."  
That may seem odd, but it's good advice. Most of our body heat is lost through your head and neck. So wear a hat and cover your face and neck.
- Dress in layers. Wool, silk and certain synthetics are best; they'll keep you warm even if they're wet.
- Insulated, waterproof boots, gloves and a windbreaker are very important. Take extra clothing.



### *Photo Contest*

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 are currently being accepted and you have until March 31st to find your favorite pictures and send them in. This year's special category is "vintage photos" (25 years or older)

There are of course rules:

<http://www.greastlake.org/contest.html>

Download, print, and mail an entry form:

<http://www.greastlake.org/entry.html>

Any questions relating to the photo contest can be directed to:

[PhotoContest@GreatEastLake.org](mailto:PhotoContest@GreatEastLake.org)

Or, if you have no Internet access you can write to:

Gary Field, PO Box 762, Tewksbury, MA 01876



## ***Bald Eagle on the Scribner***

By Bess Smith

A bald eagle has been observed on several occasions nesting or resting along the shoreline of the Scribner River. It was seen about 50 yards past the boathouse on the same side. A chick has not been spotted but little bird-like cries were heard coming from the same area. So those of you residing at the lake this winter please keep your eyes and ears open. I would welcome any further information.



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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