



# NEWICHAWANNOCK NEWS

GREAT EAST LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION - 77th YEAR, Spring 2009

## *President's Column*

By Bess Smith

Welcome back to the lake! It was certainly a long and snowy winter here in New England. But now the ice is gone, the loons are back and the docks and boats are going in.

As you recall, last summer we partnered with UNH and surveyed all of the residents of the lake asking you where the Association should focus its voluntary efforts and money. It was clear that everyone who participated in the survey felt that environmental issues, both on land and water quality, should be our primary concerns. To that end, we are proud to be partnering with the Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance to conduct watershed surveys of the lakes and ponds that make up the headwaters of the Salmon Falls River. The survey of the Great East Lake Watershed will begin on June 13, 2009.

There have already been successful surveys done on Horn Pond, Wilson Lake and Lovell Lake. So, here comes the challenge!

Volunteers are the key to a successful watershed survey. As volunteers we will have a training session in the morning of 6/13 and then break up into teams to survey all the properties in the watershed. Horn Pond was fortunate to have 20 volunteers for 200 sites, Wilson had 30 volunteers for 249 properties and Lovell had 34 volunteers for 852 sites. Well, Great East has 1,282 sites that have to be surveyed. Therefore, we need a minimum of 40 volunteers. And guess what? It's really fun. You get to meet new people around the lake and see what they have done with their property. Who knows, you might get some ideas for your own shoreline!

So I urge you, please volunteer for this important project. There is no better way to learn about our

environmental issues and have the opportunity to get involved. Hope to see you there!

## **39<sup>th</sup> Annual Maine Lakes Conference**

This year's theme is Nurturing Living Lakes: Actions You Can Take

The conference will be held on Saturday, June 20, 2009 at St. Joseph's College in Standish, ME. Registration is from 9:00 to 9:50 am. There will be a keynote address, morning breakout sessions and afternoon workshops. A \$35 registration fee includes breakfast, lunch, snacks and materials. For more information or to register online go to: [www.mainecola.org](http://www.mainecola.org) or call 1-877-254-2511.



## **Please note ANNUAL MEETING DATE CHANGE**

Mark your Calendars

The date of the 2009 Annual Meeting will be **July 11<sup>th</sup>**. The tables will be open at 9:00 and the meeting will get underway at 10:00 as usual. Tables will be closed during the business meeting.

And, of course, there will be the traditional hot dog lunch and raffle!

Great East Lake Improvement  
Association

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Bess Smith, President  
Jennifer Craig, Vice President  
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Mission

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

## ***5434 Boats Inspected at GEL Boat Ramp!***

By Linda Schier

Yes, it's true 5434 boats have been inspected by volunteer and paid lake hosts since 2004! They found 49 plant fragments, 4 of which were documented as "Saves." That doesn't sound like too many but each one could have led to an infestation. Don't forget that 5434 launch visitors have been reminded to do their part to keep Great East Lake on the uninfested list.

In addition to the frontline of defense at the launch, GEL Weed Watchers have stayed vigilant. In 2006 Carol Lafond spotted one Variable Milfoil plant growing near the launch which was removed and has never returned. Carol has organized an Invasive Plant Identification workshop for July 14th so look for the details in this newsletter and visit the Weed Watcher table at the Annual Meeting to learn more about GELIA's Weed Watcher Program.

GELIA has done such a thorough job of educating its members about the need to avoid any invasive species infestations that you may be getting sick of hearing about it. Even though it is old news, a new infestation can occur at any time so it continues to be essential that you are each keeping an eye on the lake bottom and your boats.

Training for **Volunteer Lake Hosts** will be done at GEL again this year. Point Person, Linda Schier, will conduct Lake Host training on an as needed basis for anyone interested. Volunteering as a Lake Host is a great way for students, 16 and older, to satisfy school community service requirements and for adults to share your love of Great East. Call Linda at 603-659-3302 or email her at [lindabschier@comcast.net](mailto:lindabschier@comcast.net) for more info.

Despite reduced funding from the NH Lakes Association and the Maine Courtesy Boat Inspection program, GELIA has made a commitment to keep the launch staffed at its usual level. We thank you for your generous contributions to make this possible. The paid staff will be at the launch on weekends and holidays beginning on Friday, May 22. Stop in and welcome Lake Host Captain Caitlyn McKay, and crew Courtney McKay, Mack Hendrick, Jay Fugarazzo, Scott Mrazik, Tessa Venell and Nick Lee.



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## *Nominations for the 2009-2010 Biennium*

By Douglas Smith

The Nominating Committee has nominated and the Board of Directors has accepted the following slate to the Executive Committee for the 2009-2010 biennium:

President: Bess Smith

Vice President: Jennifer Craig

Treasurer: Chris McKay

Secretary: Gene Rosenthal

Past President: Linda Schier

The Nominating Committee has nominated and the Board of Directors has accepted the following slate to the Board of Directors:

Ron McKay

Janet Gould

Stephanie Theisen

Chuck Hodsdon

**The Challenge is On! Let's outdo Lovell Lake's 34 volunteers!**

**Come to Volunteer:**

## **Great East Lake Watershed Survey**

**Saturday, June 13th 9 AM - 3 PM**

**Meet at the Acton Congregational Church  
35 H Road, Acton, Maine**

**To volunteer for the survey contact**

**Linda Schier: 603-473-2500 or [lindabschier@comcast.net](mailto:lindabschier@comcast.net)**

***Bring your friends and meet your neighbors.***

Survey time can qualify for Community Service hours for anyone 16 or older.

## ***BOATING SAFETY***

BUOY . . . OH BUOY

By Walter Neff

Trivia Question: Safety marker buoys used on New Hampshire lakes are identical to those used by the State of Maine True or False

Answer: False

Comment: Well, not exactly!!! Although many of the marker buoys are similar in appearance there are some distinct differences. Best example: Spar buoys which are used to mark safe channels are black and red in New Hampshire; Maine uses the more customary green and red .

As a long time resident at Great East Lake you may be familiar with the particulars of safe navigation on the lake. BUT HOW ABOUT YOUR VISITORS AND GUESTS?

The two states' Boating Guide Handbooks give well illustrated examples of their marker buoy systems as well as many other important facts needed for safe boating. At our annual meeting we have ample quantities of these two handbooks for you and your guests' reading pleasure. FREE!

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Speaking of buoys, here's something that may be of interest to you as a property owner. Each year we hear a fair share of complaints about boats operating at speed in "no wake zones" especially within the 200 foot limits from shorelines (Maine) and the 150 foot limits in New Hampshire.

We have had some inquiries about the possibility of obtaining small marker buoys that could be used in front of an owner's property to identify the beginning of the "no wake zone" so that boaters will have a little better gage of those areas where they need to slow down rather than relying on the old "½ of a football field" guestimate.

If this would be of interest to you please contact me at 603-926-7278 or [wsneff@comcast.net](mailto:wsneff@comcast.net). Depending on the interest level we can pursue this further.

SAFE BOATING !!!!!



## ***AWWA Update Spring '09***

By Linda Schier

### ***Watershed Surveys Bring Light to Erosion Issues***

Over 1300 properties have been surveyed around Horn Pond, Wilson Lake and Lovell Lake revealing that over 250 sites on those water bodies have erosion problems caused by storm water runoff that can affect water quality. 84 volunteers and technical advisors attended training sessions and walked the watersheds talking with homeowners and identifying problem areas. The lake associations and AWWA will use the information collected to assist landowners to remedy their problems and will apply for grants to fix the bigger issues. The Great East Lake/Lake Ivanhoe watershed survey will begin on June 13<sup>th</sup> and AWWA hopes to work with lake associations in the rest of the AWWA region watersheds in the near future.

### ***AWWA Designs Solutions***

AWWA's Technical Director, Adam Shoukimas, is busy responding to requests for assistance from property owners with identified erosion problems and others who have recognized their own issues. Adam will meet with anyone concerned about an erosion problem and create a site specific design to remedy the issue using simple, low cost conservation practices such as runoff diverters, rain gardens and dripline trenches.

### ***YCC Pulls It All Together***

The AWWA Youth Conservation Corps installs landscaping solutions to protect water quality and provides jobs for local youth. Since 2006 the YCC has installed 135 conservation practices preventing 51 tons of sediment and 44 pounds of phosphorus from entering the lakes each year. These solutions are attractive and effective additions to properties that have a measurable effect on reducing pollution caused by storm water runoff. The YCC can accomplish 15 – 20 projects each year which are chosen from amongst the technical assistance designs based on criteria defined by the AWWA YCC Committee.

### ***The Plan Looks At the Big Picture***

The Salmon Falls Headwaters Watershed Management Plan Project is moving ahead full steam. The Steering Committee - made up of town officials, lake association reps and concerned citizens from both Acton and Wakefield - met throughout the winter to describe the actions needed to protect the region's high quality waters in the years ahead. These actions are tied to the scientific study of the lakes, ponds, and the land that drains into them. Action categories include Road Best Management Practices (BMPs), Residential BMPs including Low Impact Development and Septic Systems, Education and Outreach, state and local Regulation and Enforcement, and Land Conservation. AWWA will work with the local and state agencies, lake associations, road associations and individuals to bring life to the plan recommendations.

### ***How Can YOU Get Involved?***

- ◆ If you would like help with an erosion problem contact Adam Shoukimas at **(603) 473-2500** or **techdirector@AWwatersheds.org**.
- ◆ If you would like to find out about volunteer opportunities contact Linda Schier at **(603) 473-2500** or **info@AWwatersheds.org**.

## ***2010 Great East Lake Calendars***

The 2010 Great East Lake Calendars are almost ready!  
Plan on picking one up at the Annual Meeting on July 11th.



## *Water Quality and Phosphorus*

By Charles Hodsdon, Water Quality Monitor for Great East Lake

Over the last two months, Water Quality Scientists at the state level in both Maine and New Hampshire have been focusing on the phosphorus level in Great East Lake and the other lakes in the towns of Acton and Wakefield. Why this concern over phosphorus and why are Water Quality Scientists so interested in its level in these lakes?

Phosphorus is the most limiting nutrient to the growth of organisms in lakes. A low level of phosphorus is most important in limiting the growth of algae in fresh water lakes. Excess phosphorus leads to increased algal productivity and growth. High phosphorus levels indicate that nutrient loading into the lake may be occurring. This nutrient loading may be caused by human activities and sources: use of fertilizers, erosion from the watershed into the lakes, and leaching of nutrients from septic systems into the lake.

Preliminary investigation of the phosphorus level in Great East Lake gives some indication that there is a trend of phosphorus increasing over the last 10 years. This should be taken as a cause for increased vigilance.

This spring the Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance along with the Great East Lake Improvement Association is doing a comprehensive watershed survey of the waterfront property on Great East Lake. The purpose of this survey is to identify ways to decrease amount of erosion that is washing nutrients into the lake.

Individual landowners can do their part by avoiding the spreading of fertilizers onto land which is near the lake and making sure that their septic systems are in good working order. Limiting nutrients is the only way to prevent the growth of algae and weeds in the lake and preserve our water quality.

### **Invasive Plant Patrol Workshop**

**Presented by the Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program**

**Hosted by Great East Lake Improvement Association, Long Pond Association and  
York Soil and Water District**

Pre-registration is required. Contact VLMP at 207-783-7733 or [vlmp@mainevlmp.org](mailto:vlmp@mainevlmp.org).

Workshop Details: Tuesday, July 14, 3:00 to 8:30, Acton Town Hall

The primary goal of this comprehensive, 5 ½ -hour workshop is to provide those who wish to join Maine's "early detection" effort with information and guidance needed to get started. All IPP training sessions are open to the public and FREE to anyone interested in learning more about the threat of invasive aquatic plants in Maine.

The workshop is presented in four 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

All workshop participants receive an "Invasive Plant Patroller's Handbook," and [Maine's Field Guide to Invasive Aquatic Plants](#). You may become a certified IPP volunteer by attending this workshop and by submitting your plant survey data on an annual basis. Certified IPP volunteers will be given a free bucket scope which helps you view the plants from a boat.

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 6

The Invasive Plant Patrol workshops are made possible by boater participation in the Maine Lake and River Protection Sticker program.

*I attended this training in 2007 and I can highly recommend it as one of the best training workshops I have ever attended. The hands-on identification of invasives and natives uses fresh plants submerged in water to help you better recognize these plants in the water. I came away with much more confidence in my ability to recognize any potential invasives in our lake.*  
– Carol Lafond

## ***The Loons of Great East Are Back On the Lake***

By Carol Lafond

I have information that the Scribner loons were sighted on April 20<sup>th</sup>. I have since seen loons in the Canal area of the lake, but I don't have a boat on the lake yet, so I don't know the status of any of the other Great East Loons. We will probably be putting the artificial nest back on the lake again this year. We'll keep you posted on the website as we have more information about the loons. Remember to give the loons some space during the mating and nesting season and watch out for loons and chicks when you are in your boats. According to LPC, 2007 marked the 4th year of declines in loon breeding success, even though the total loon count remains steady. If you are interested in participating in the Annual Loon Census count on July 18th between 8 and 9am, please email me at [webmaster@greateastlake.org](mailto:webmaster@greateastlake.org) or sign up at the Loon table at the Annual meeting.

I thought you might be interested in the [Shoreline Development Study](#) being undertaken by the Loon Preservation Committee. This information was taken from their website [www.loon.org](http://www.loon.org)

*Development and recreational pressures on lakes have been implicated in declines in numbers of breeding loons or in reduced breeding success. Several authors suggest that shoreline development and associated recreational use of lakes play an important role in limiting loon populations, and might be the primary factor in the reduction of the loon's breeding range.*

*New Hampshire is now the fastest growing state in the northeast and one of the fastest growing states in the nation and even marginal shoreline sites on many of our lakes are being developed or altered from their natural state. Shorefront property values on our pristine North Country lakes are skyrocketing as these lakes become accessible to increasing numbers of people in Concord, Manchester and other southern New Hampshire cities.*

*LPC's Shoreline Development Study will determine how much development is too much for loons and establish a reasonable cutoff point for the proximity of shoreline alterations to known nesting sites, based on previous studies (which differ widely in their conclusions) and data collected in-house on shoreline development and nest locations.*

*Research showing measurable benefits to loon populations of limiting development will also help organizations like the Lakes Region Conservation Trust and the Audubon Society of New Hampshire raise funds to purchase critical lakeshore habitats. Since shoreline development is highly correlated with recreational use of lakes, we will be able to use the data collected as a metric to estimate the impact of boating on loons as well.*

Redeem your coupon for a  
FREE GELIA mug

The GEL Watershed Survey Training

Saturday, June 13th, 9:00 AM at the Acton Congregational Church, 35 H Road, Acton, ME

OR

Apple Core Gift Shop,

Rt 109, Acton, ME

OR

GELIA Annual Meeting - July 11

Weeks Park, N. Shore Rd, E. Wakefield, NH



Mugs will also be available for purchase at the GELIA Annual Meeting

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