



2014 ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

F C L A

A Publication of The Fulton Chain of Lakes Association, Inc.

PO Box 564 • Old Forge, New York 13420

www.fultonchainoflakesassociation.org

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

As we start off another summer season, I wish everyone a Happy New Year and well wishes for a wonderful, SAFE, 2014!!! I hope the winter treated you well.

As in the past our team of wonderful volunteers will continue to work with both our towns, Webb and Inlet, to assure you that the water quality in the Fulton Chains of Lakes will be up to the standards that you have grown to expect. Our lakes are among the purest, if not THE purest in the Adirondack Park! This is all accomplished with the support of our wonderful members!!

Again, working with our Towns, as well as County and State officials, we will be a stronger emphasis on supporting and advocating for water safety. For this purpose we have added a new committee.... the Government Liaison Committee, chaired by long time Board Member and Past President, Tom McCabe of 4th Lake. He is joined on the committee by Board members: Don Kelly and Ron Smith and volunteer Kevin Jost. Through efforts of advocacy with our elected officials and through support for boater safety education, we hope that all be able to enjoy our lakes without concern for their personal safety. Be sure to read Tom's comments in his Committee's report.

Again in 2014 one of our goals is to continue to increase our membership. As I said last year, it seems now more than ever, that properties change hands, folks leave the area for one reason or the other, and they are not being replaced with new members. It's our membership and their wholehearted support that makes our clean and safe lakes possible. Without

a strong membership we will not be able to continue our mission. YOU as a member can help!! I ask that if a property near you has changed hands recently, that you approach the new folks, tell them of the great work the Association has done for them and ask them to become a member and support the continued operation of our association. Also, please check with your current neighbors and friends and make sure they have joined as well. Your efforts will be truly appreciated!!! Copies of this newsletter are available at the Old Forge and Inlet Information Offices or you can e-mail info@fultonchainoflakesassociation.org if you would like us to send a newsletter or membership form to a potential member. Thanks in advance for anything you can do.

The dye testing program will continue as always, supervised by Andrew Getty, Town of Webb. Monitoring of the water quality in the lakes will continue to be overseen by the Board members of the Association. Both of these are detailed in respective committee reports further on in this news letter.

Work will continue also on the restoration of "Skull Island." Work done thus far has been very successful and we thank all the community volunteers who have assisted in this successful project. See committee remarks for details.

To learn more about our Association, to become a member, to be more involved, or to make a donation, please visit our website at fultonchainoflakesassociation.org/

Have a wonderful safe and happy summer.....!!

Jim Murphy
President

2013 Annual Meeting

Phyllis Sanzone

The annual meeting of the Fulton Chain of Lakes Association was held August 2, 2013 aboard the Clearwater, while cruising from Old Forge to Fourth Lake and back. This was a celebration of the 45th anniversary of the founding of the organization. Members and guests enjoyed a variety of hors d'oeuvres and the beautiful scenery on a lovely summer evening.

President James Murphy welcomed all aboard, and indicated that the board members were

wearing their director shirts if anyone had any questions. He briefly summarized some of the activities that the group is involved in, including water quality, invasive plant recognition and control, and safety on the waters of the Fulton Chain. Copies of the minutes from the 2012 meeting and the 2013 annual treasurer's report were available on request.

NEWS FROM SKULL ISLAND

Don Kelly

Not much progress was made on the Skull Island project this year – I was in a cast for much of the summer and unable to organize any FCLA activities. There are some encouraging things to report, though: The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation remains interested in the project and continues to plant vegetation on the island. We are also beginning to discuss more permanent efforts at shoreline erosion control with them.

We received reports through the Town of Webb Offices last summer that young people were spotted pulling up vegetation on the island. This is not good news-we certainly don't want to lose what progress we've made-but there is a silverlining – the fact that the reports were made means people are looking out for the island. The more the lake community gets engaged in this process, the better. Keep your eyes on the island and don't lose an opportunity to educate the boating public about the importance of these efforts.

We hope to report more progress after the summer of 2014.

Don Kelly

DeCamp Island erosion 3 September 2008



NOTES FROM YOUR HISTORIAN

Phil Sanzone

A NOTE FROM YOUR HISTORIAN

There has been a change of the guard at the FCLA. Last fall our historian Ed Stafford retired from the Board of Directors, as did Heather Stafford. As the longest serving current member of the board I have taken over as historian.

Heather Stafford first joined the Board in September, 1986, and Ed came aboard in August, 1987. Heather served the Board in many capacities starting with being Board Secretary. Most recently, as our Publicity Chair, she arranged for all of the newspaper ads and notices in the two local papers. Her ads and notices were exceptionally attractive and informative. Both Ed and Heather did the CSLAP water testing in Second Lake for several years. They helped arrange many of the annual meetings as well. There were many other times when Heather and Ed did yeoman's work to help improve the environment of the Fulton Chain. They will be sorely missed.

We thank them for their many years of service and wish them the best as they now will have more time to enjoy the fruits of their efforts.

PUBLICITY

Paul Willsey

I joined the Board of Directors of the Fulton Chain of Lakes Association in 2012. Late in 2013 Heather Stafford resigned from the Board of Directors. She was Chairperson of the Publicity Committee. I am taking her place. She did an outstanding job, we will miss her on the Board. She has been very cooperative in helping transition onto the Publicity Committee.

The Fulton Chain of Lakes Association was founded in 1968 with a mission of protecting the waters of the Fulton Chain of Lakes in New York's Central Adirondacks. The Publicity Committee's goal is to make residents and visitors aware of issues that affect the quality of our water, so that future generations can continue to enjoy them.

Watch for articles in the Adirondack Express and The Weekly Adirondack related to preserving and improving the quality of our water. During the summer months we run ads in the local papers to remind people of actions they should take to protect our waters.

Another outstanding resource for learning about the Fulton Chain of Lakes Association and issues related to our water quality is the FCLA website, <http://fultonchainoflakesassociation.org/index.html>. Carolyn Belknap has done a very good job of creating and updating it.

The FCLA annual meeting is scheduled for Friday evening, August 1st. Watch for announcements in the local papers for time, place and program.

NAVIGATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Mark Steigerwald

Welcome Back! As the ice melts away we welcome back the warm, liquid state of our most beautiful lakes we call the Fulton Chain. We've waited and watched as first the snow came and then the ice, patiently waiting for that warm weather when we could again enjoy the broad array of activities these lakes provide for us.

"To preserve and Protect" for 46 years now the guiding principal of your association, let's add to that "Respect." When enjoying these many activities let's preserve and protect by showing respect for others, respect for the navigational laws and of course respect for the lakes. Motor boats of any size can be very powerful and tragic outcomes can happen quickly. Let's make sure everyone knows how to safely operate their boat and they know the local navigational laws (refer the speed limit summary below). But let's not stop there! We should all be vigilant. If you spot ongoing reckless or unsafe activity call 911, they will direct the sheriff's patrol or appropriate agency to respond. This level of vigilance and respect will provide the greatest level of enjoyment for all.

Looking for some resources? Here's a convenient place to get started, check out our website at FultonChainOfLakesAssociation.org. Here you'll find downloadable copies of both the New York State Boaters Guide and our Navigation Information brochure detailing information on safety and regional activities, resources and regulations. Boater Safety courses will again be held by both the Herkimer County (315-867-1167) and Hamilton County (518-548-3113) Sheriff's Departments, contact them for further details. These courses are a great way to introduce youngsters as young as 10 to the independent enjoyment and respect of safe boating. Please keep in mind the following restrictions on the use of the increasingly popular Personal Watercrafts, generically known as Wave Runners. The minimum operator age is 14 and ALL operators must have completed a boating safety course. Operation within the Town of Webb is patrolled and permitted only between the hours of 9am and 6pm daily.

Time to get out and enjoy your lakes, remember - RESPECT, "Preserve and Protect" and be vigilant, report any ongoing reckless or unsafe activity by calling 911.

FULTON CHAIN OF LAKES WATERCRAFT SPEED LIMITS:

- | | | |
|---|--------|---------|
| • All Channels | 5 mph | NO WAKE |
| • Old Forge Pond – Jet Skis | 5 mph | NO WAKE |
| • Within 200' of Shore (6th & 7th Lakes 100') | 5 mph | NO WAKE |
| • Open Lake - Daytime | 45 mph | NO WAKE |
| • Open Lake - Night | 25 mph | NO WAKE |

WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Margaret H. Murphy, Ph.D.

The Water Quality Committee was busy during 2013 participating in and coordinating efforts for numerous projects. We continued to focus on maintenance and monitoring of long-term projects as well as implementing some new activities.

LONG TERM PROJECTS:

- Continued support of the Town of Webb's Septic Dye Testing Program. We are in our fifth decade of these efforts to insure water quality.
- Conduct spot water quality sampling/testing at various points along the Chain and evaluated several areas with floating algae (primarily in a few bays) – determined to be non-toxic blue green algae.
- Work with the Towns of Webb and Inlet in implementing a maintenance program for controlling Eurasian water milfoil in the Chain. Conducted surveys of regrowth in 6th and 7th lakes, and conducted a survey and harvest of milfoil on 5th lake.
- Continue dialogue with the Towns of Webb and Inlet on the value of developing a watershed Master Plan for the Fulton Chain of Lakes.

- Continue work on restoring Treasure Island (Skull Island) on 2nd Lake. The FCLA has partnered with New York State in the "Adopt a Natural Resource Program" to work on restoration of Skull Island. We will be the stewards of the plan and DEC will run interference with DEC and the APA. DEC provided signs to mark the areas being restored. We will determine the feasibility of funding more formal restoration of the island along with education and outreach to help those using the island understand the impacts to the island.

NEW AREAS OF CONCERN AND ACTIVITIES:

- In 2013, we discontinued our participation in the Citizen's Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP) after Steve Pitela made the recommendation, due to FCLA's disagreements with the state on liability. We would like to thank Steve Pitela for his countless hours conducting the biweekly sampling for the past several years. We will continue to evaluate the need to join the program again in the future, but water quality has been great. For additional information on the program visit the DEC website at www.dec.ny.gov/lands/77866.html.

DYE TEST PROGRAM 2013 REPORT

Peg Carroll-Tester

My assigned task for the summer of 2013 was to test septic systems on waterfront properties along the Chain of Lakes and on Big Moose Lake. It is the intent to have this program work on a three year rotational basis. Nearly three hundred properties were visited. Two catastrophic failures were discovered, and several that are suspect. In all cases the property owners have been cooperative.

With 87% of all Town of Webb properties owned by seasonal, out-of-town owners, it was a challenge to find someone on-site to gain entry to the 300 plus locations that were due, or overdue, for testing. Finding the owners, property maintenance people, renters or the helpful neighbor was a great first visit discovery!

For the most part people were well informed and receptive to the dye testing program. The children seemed to be the most curious of all. Their interest was captured by claiming to flush a Mountain Dew color down the toilet. Having their

attention, this was an opportunity for some basic and fun environmental lessons regarding the importance of water quality. It was fun to watch the kids as they diligently looked for Mountain Dew along the shore or in the yard.

Many positive comments were received regarding the program. Specifically being economical, fairly conducted and having a direct positive proactive approach for the protection of our lakes, wetlands, streams and drinking water.

It was a pleasure to work with and meet so many different people last summer. In anticipation of another productive summer for 2014, I hope to meet many more people and encourage awareness of water quality and how the cooperative dye testing program can play an important role.

Peg Carroll, Dye Tester
Code Enforcement Office
Town of Webb

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE – 2014

Tom McCabe

FCLA has always worked very well over the years with the Government officials at all levels informing them of our Goals, soliciting their knowledge and cooperation in implementing our Goals and in many cases assisting them in passing effective legislation to formalize and insure proper public behavior to help realize our Goals.

The relevant government bodies include: The Towns of Inlet and Webb, the counties of Hamilton and Herkimer, the State of NY and its many relevant departments, and the Federal Government.

Our working relationships have always been excellent and effective as we work together to make our Lakes even cleaner and safer.

WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM – 2014

Kathleen Wiley of Paul Smith's College

This year was the Watershed Stewardship Program's 3rd year providing stewards at Fourth Lake. Coverage occurred 5 days a week between Wednesday and Sunday from 7am to 4pm, with the season's coverage beginning Memorial Day Weekend and ending the weekend of August 25th. Once again the stewards were funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) through a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grant and funding for the 2014 season at Fourth Lake will be provided by GLRI through the Environmental Protection Agency. Fourth Lake stewards educated 3,815 total visitors and inspected 1,587 total boats. 120 boats were dirty and 8% of the inspected boats had some organism on them. Out of 1,484 groups, 934 groups reported taking more than one Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) prevention method for their watercraft, 387 groups inspected their watercraft, 621 groups washed their watercraft, 98 groups drained their bilge, 2 groups emptied their bait buckets, 26 groups drained their live well, 2 groups disposed of unused bait, and 129 groups dried

their watercraft. There were 3 cases of curly-leaf pondweed entering or exiting Fourth Lake, 5 cases of elodea, 8 cases of Eurasian watermilfoil, 75 cases of grass, 4 cases of native milfoil, 5 cases of unknown milfoil, 9 cases of variable leaf milfoil, 14 cases of pine needles, 2 cases of water chestnut, and 1 case of zebra mussels. There were 23 total confirmed AIS removals from watercraft at Fourth Lake; 12 AIS entering the lake and 11 AIS exiting the lake.

Please follow the link: <http://www.adk.invasives.com/Aquatic/Resources/documents/WSPProgramSummary2013.pdf> to view or download the 2013 Annual Watershed Stewardship Program Report. For more information please contact Paul Smith's College Adirondack Watershed Institute at: Dr. Eric Holmlund, Director, Watershed Stewardship Program, Paul Smith's College, Box 265, Paul Smiths, New York, 12970. Telephone: (518) 327-6341. Email: eholmlund@paulsmiths.edu

Government Relations Committee continued

Over the years FCLA has formed ad hoc Committees to solve particular situations and one of them has been a Government Liaison/Relations Committee and in 2013 the Board unanimously passed a resolution to recreate this Committee to formalize its approach to continue effective working relations with all the Government bodies especially on the important subject of Water Safety.

The members of the Committee as well as the Officers of FCLA, as needed, will meet with and inform and convince the appropriate members of the various Government bodies to have them take the actions the FCLA Board deems necessary to advance Water Safety on our Lakes.

2014 Annual Newsletter

FCLA Officers & Directors – 2014

President	Jim Murphy
1st VP	Michael Schreppel
Sec/Treasurer	Phyllis Sanzone

Directors:

Carolyn Belknap	Amy Sauer
Don Kelly	Connie Schreppel
Bill Landmesser	Ron Smith
Tom B. McCabe, Jr.	
Margaret Murphy	Mark Steigerwald
Jodelle Pross	Tom Vawter
Phil Sanzone	Paul Willsey

Directors Emeriti:

Janet Blakeman	Richard Rettig
Jack DeBevoise	Bob Wheeler
Richard Knight	

Committees:

Water Quality:

Margaret Murphy–Chair	
Don Kelly*	Michael Schreppel*
Bill Landmesser*	Ron Smith*
Amy Sauer*	Tom Vawter
Connie Schreppel*	<i>*also on milfoil sub-committee</i>

Historian: Phil Sanzone

Publicity:

Paul Willsey–Chair	Jodelle Pross
Carolyn Belknap–Website	

Navigation/Boating:

Mark Steigerwald–Chair	Tom McCabe
Jim Murphy	Paul Willsey

Thomas B. McCabe Memorial Scholarship:

Phil Sanzone–Chair	
Ron Smith	Tom Vawter

Nominations/Awards:

Tom McCabe–Chair	
Don Kelly	Phil Sanzone

Annual Meeting:

Mike Schreppel–Chair	
Jim Murphy	Phyllis Sanzone
Jodelle Pross	Connie Schreppel

Membership:

Carolyn Belknap–Chair	
Jim Murphy	

By-Laws: Phil Sanzone–Chair

Government Liaison:

Tom McCabe–Chair	Kevin Jost
Don Kelly	Ron Smith

To become a member, fill out the application below and either give it to an FCLA representative or mail it with your check to FCLA, PO Box 564, Old Forge, NY 13420.

**Membership Application
Fulton Chain of Lakes Association**

www.fultonchainoflakesassociation.org • Email: info@fultonchainoflakesassociation.org

Please print

Name _____ Spouse _____

Home Address _____

Email _____

Fulton Chain 911 Address _____

Summer Mailing Address (if applicable) _____

Local Telephone _____

Annual Membership dues are: \$10 Basic \$25 Family \$35 Sponsor \$50 Friend of the Lakes \$100 Patron

Date _____, 20____ Signature _____