

SPRING 2010

# 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](http://www.fultonchainoflakesassociation.org)

## PRESIDENT'S NOTES

As I near the end of my fourth year as President of the Fulton Chain of Lakes Association, I think we can all look back with a great deal of pride at our accomplishments, not just over the past five decades, but over the past five years as well:

- Working closely with the Towns of Inlet and Webb, we have established a Eurasian water milfoil control program that is effective, both in controlling a noxious invasive species and in doing so at a very reasonable cost;
- Our dye testing program has been successfully “handed off” completely to the towns, which continue a program of regular testing and water quality monitoring;

- We remain closely connected to events that can affect, water quality, land values and recreation on our beautiful chain of lakes. Issues such as water level management, sewage disposal projects and additional invasive aquatics are monitored regularly and we remain closely involved with any development affecting our lakes.

Our contribution to quality of life has been considerable. The reason we have been effective is because we have an active and interested board and membership. I hope that we can continue to count on your support, despite the rough economic waters we’re cruising. Tell your friends and neighbors (especially the new ones) about us too. Let’s remain strong links in the chain.

Don Kelly

## BOB WHEELER LEAVES FCLA

The Fulton Chain of Lakes Association gives a big “Thank you” to Bob Wheeler, who has left our board after many years of dedicated service. Bob and his wife Carol have relocated and we will miss his enthusiastic and untiring help in everything we do. He was always hard to keep up with and led the way for our communities in many ways—whether it was the development of a milfoil control program or adoption of master plans for our communities and our watershed. We’ll miss you Bob!

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## UPDATE ON THE EURASIAN WATER MILFOIL CONTROL PROGRAM

Ron Smith

The Fulton Chain of Lakes Association (FCLA) continues to lead the effort to remove the highly invasive Eurasian Water Milfoil (milfoil) from our lakes. We began in 2004 and for the first two years our effort was entirely voluntary. In 2006 we developed an invasive species management plan that would utilize professional divers to harvest the milfoil and applied for grants to implement and manage the plan. This project has been funded by the Towns of Inlet and Webb, the Counties of Herkimer and Hamilton, the Sixth and Seventh Lake Association as well as the FCLA. Between 2006 and 2008 the project was highly successful, drastically reducing the extent and density of milfoil beds in Fifth, Sixth and Lower Seventh Lake. In 2008 we began to also harvest the extensive beds in Upper Seventh Lake. This summer (2010) will be the last year funds are available from the New York State invasive species grant.

In 2009 the battle to control milfoil in the Fulton Chain continued with mixed results. The good news is that in from Sixth Lake downstream through Old Forge Pond, plants in the existing milfoil beds have become rare to non-existent. In lower Seventh Lake the plants are also very rare however, in Upper Seventh, above the state boat launch, the battle has been less successful. In addition a few plants were discovered in Second Lake and a small bed was found in Fourth Lake.

An example of the success of our efforts in the lower lakes is the decreased abundance and harvest time required for removal in Fifth Lake. In 2006 it took a team of three divers a month to harvest the Eurasian Milfoil in the lake and hundreds of bags of plants were removed. In 2009 Fifth Lake was

completely harvested by three divers in three days producing about two bags of plant material. Similar results have been produced in Sixth and Lower Seventh Lake.

The extensive beds in Upper Seventh have proven much more difficult to control. In this area the bottom consists of muck covered with stumps and logs. The weed beds are extremely dense. When divers begin harvesting, the composition of the bottom and abundance of plants creates a work area

with zero visibility. The combination of tangled brush and visibility not only slows the harvest, it also makes it extremely difficult for the divers to remove all of the fine roots.

Consequently it has taken the divers two years to complete the first harvest of all of the major beds. Due to plants missed because of low visibility and roots that break as a result of being tangled in the brush, there has also been significantly

greater re-growth here than there was in the lower lakes. We are hopeful that this summer during the second harvest of these beds the decreased density of plants will allow the divers to remove a higher percentage of plants and roots.

A weed survey of First through Fourth Lakes found milfoil in two new locations. Ten small plants were found on the Second Lake side of Treasure Island. The plants were removed and no others were found in the area. The milfoil was located in one of the most popular anchorages and it is likely that fragments were recently brought in by a boat.

Milfoil plants were also found in Fourth Lake on the Inlet side of Dollar Island. They were large



*Eurasian water milfoil, the culprit at the center of our program.*

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## WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Bob Wheeler

The work of the Water Quality Committee (WQC) never ends. This year's activities focused on maintenance and monitoring of past projects as well as moving into new areas of concern.

### Maintenance and Monitoring Activities:

- Continued support of the Town of Webb's Septic Dye Testing Program. We are beginning our fifth decade of these efforts to insure water quality;
- Continued participation in the Citizen's Statewide Lake Assessment Program. Working in conjunction with the Department of Environmental Conservation, we continue to monitor long-term water quality using our Second Lake sampling site;
- Conduct spot water quality sampling/testing at various points along the Chain.
- Work with the Towns of Webb and Inlet in implementing a maintenance program for controlling Eurasian water milfoil in the Chain.
- Advise the Towns on the progress of the Black River Watershed Plan, which includes the Fulton Chain of Lakes in the Towns of Webb and Inlet;
- Continue dialogue with the Towns of Webb and Inlet on the value of developing a Watershed Master Plan for the Fulton Chain of Lakes.

### New Areas of Concern and Activities:

- 2010 will see the completion of the grant for harvesting Eurasian water milfoil from Upper Seventh Lake. Decisions will need to be made as to how to control/manage that area for 2011. This has been one of the densest milfoil beds discovered to date, and will require continued assessment and management. We also face difficulties in finding the funding for continuing these efforts.
- We have identified a cluster of homes on the Chain producing significant nutrient loading, resulting in the growth of lots of unwanted water weeds (not milfoil). We will work with individual owners to advise them on the use of zero phosphate fertilizers to reduce nutrient loading and on hand raking to remove plant growth.
- We will complete a survey and map aquatic growth in the Chain, from Old Forge Pond through Eighth Lakes. The Adirondack Watershed Institute of Paul Smith's College is performing this project. This survey will be important in identifying new areas of concern and in developing a long-term invasive species control program. For example, in 2009, the survey identified two small areas of invasive plant growth that were quickly cleaned up.
- We will be working with volunteers to identify the causes of significant plant growth on the lower Moose River.

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mature plants indicating the bed had been established at least three years ago. Twenty five plants were removed and no others were found during a thorough search of the area. The bed was located directly downstream of the outlet from Fifth Lake. A likely scenario is that this bed was established by fragments that floated down from the extensive beds that existed in Fifth Lake prior to their removal in 2006.

This summer we will work with the towns and other interested local organizations to develop a long term management plan to try and maintain the level of success that has been achieved in the lower lakes and to continue efforts to eliminate the beds in Upper Seventh.

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### SUMMER DYE TESTING PROGRAM AND WATER QUALITY

Andy Getty - Town of Webb Code Enforcement Office

As the 2010 season starts to kick in, the Code Enforcement Office has started organizing the summer schedule. Cindy Racine has returned for another long spring, summer and fall dye testing program. Generally, properties are visited on a three year cycle. Cards requesting appointments for dye tests are being prepared and will be mailed out through the course of the spring and summer.

Last year (2009), over 200 properties along the Chain of Lakes were dye tested. No catastrophic failures were found. Unrelated to dye testing, many septic systems were replaced, repaired or installed new around the lakes. The most common repair is the replacement of the septic tank or pumping systems.

Several new systems were finally installed in areas previously found to be problematic along the

side of 4th Lake. Coincidentally, there were no complaints from neighbors last summer either. Hopefully this finally resolved two issues that had been nearly impossible to prove, but were highly suspect.

Dye testing continues to be a great tool to find serious problems as well as a wonderful tool of public education. The Code Office encourages a Town wide dye testing program for all properties along bodies of water, and should even include areas considered as part of the watershed to the lake. This takes personnel, which means additional costs. With your continued support, and until such time as a Town wide program can be supported, funded and implemented, this office will continue the same program along the Chain of Lakes.

Please call 369-3001 to schedule your dye test.

### MEET OUR NEW DIRECTORS

Tom McCabe

**Tom Vawter** has a B.S. in Biological Sciences from UC Irvine and a PhD. from Cornell in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. He is a Professor of Biology and Environmental Studies at Wells College and a Visiting Professor and Fellow at Cornell. He is also involved with the Cayuga Lake Watershed's Floating Classroom, dedicated to raising watershed awareness, and in a number of watershed restoration and protection projects in upstate New York and elsewhere. Tom is on the Board of the Central Adirondacks Arts and Sciences Advocacy (CAASA) and has provided assistance this year with FCLA's Water Quality and Eurasian water milfoil control programs. He resides in Lansing, NY with his wife, Thea Martin and they are part-time residents in Old Forge.

**Carolyn Belknap** and her husband Frank have been owners on Fourth Lake since 1973 and have been members of the Association for most of that time. Carolyn, a graduate of Smith College, is retired from a 33 year career in information systems and customer service management. She and Frank split their time between Fourth Lake and Shady Shores, Texas, a small lakeside community north of Dallas. Carolyn enjoys hiking, kayaking, golf, and nature photography. Her pictures of the brown pelican's visit to Fourth Lake last year were featured in local newspapers. In the past year she has contributed greatly to FCLA as our website coordinator.

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## NAVIGATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Jim Murphy

Greetings friends of the Fulton Chain of Lakes!! Once again we look forward to spring and a safe and happy boating season!!

We are preparing for a new printing of our most welcome 'lake map brochure'. Again, thanks to many of you for your input on improvements to the map. Each time we re-print it we change it this way or that to make it more user friendly and a true navigational aid. Hopefully, it will be out in early May. It is available at local marinas, information centers and police stations.

As overall safety of vessels on our lakes is always one of our main concerns, please feel free to let us know of your concerns. Last year on a couple of different occasions we were made aware of concerns with navigational hazards or the navigational lights. We quickly passed those along to our great friends at DEC and the problems were addressed immediately!

Boater safety classes will be held again this year. Please contact the Herkimer County Sheriff's Office or the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office for dates, times and local training sites. In addition, information regarding recreational boating and education is located on the web site for the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. This is a great way to find out where training classes are available outside of Hamilton/ Herkimer counties, for those of you who may want to take the courses "closer to home". The web site is: <http://www.nysparks.com/> (Just click on boating then education)

For information regarding the annual DEC fishing stocking in the Fulton Chain of Lakes and neighboring lakes, ponds and streams see the DEC website: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7739.html>

**Reminder to all fishermen: Bait restriction regulations continue!! Check with your local bait store and/or the New York State Department of Conservation for details.** The DEC web site is: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/65.html>

HAPPY BOATING AND HAPPY FISHING!!!

## NOTES FROM YOUR HISTORIAN

Ed Stafford

The Fulton Chain of Lakes Association began in 1968 with a definite mission in mind. Over four decades later, the organization continues to uphold these ideas. Our original objectives included:

1. To promote a program for the preservation of pure water by eliminating sources of pollution that constitute a threat to the purity of the water.
2. To promote good conservation practices for the protection of fish, wildlife, and forests in this area.
3. To raise funds as needed to carry out the purposes of the Association.
4. To encourage fair and safe use of our waterways.

Today we continue testing the quality of our waters and contribute to the cost of dye testing septic systems. The eradication of milfoil in the lakes, a major project of the Association, protects our fish along with protecting water quality and recreation. The Association prints thousands of boating brochures that are made available free to both the visiting public and residents encouraging safe use of our waterways. The brochures can be obtained at marinas, information centers, or by contacting any board member.

We continue to remain a force for protecting our quality of life.

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## SKULL ISLAND RESTORATION PLAN

Margaret Murphy and Don Kelly

We've been concerned for a number of years about the deterioration of conditions on Skull (DeCamp) Island, which is located on Second Lake. The island is a popular recreation spot and is showing serious signs of over-use and erosion. We've been working with the Department of Environmental Conservation to develop a remediation plan for the island. The draft plan includes background on the history of the island (thanks to Peg Masters and the Town of Webb Historical Society), a description of the island's current status and a plan for restoration. The plan includes: 1) Placement of topsoil and mulch and planting of stabilizing vegetation on severely eroded

areas; 2) Placement of wave-breaking logs along the shorelines most subject to erosion from waves and boat wakes; and 3) Excluding visitors from the better-vegetated portions of the island, letting these areas recover, then moving the exclusion area to a different portion of the island. The hope is that, by directing use to specific areas, other portions of the island can recover. The plan also includes a public education component, involving placement of signs on the island and articles in the local press informing all of the intent of the restoration plan. We've sent the plan to NYSDEC and hope to receive their approval, cooperation and assistance in our efforts. Want to help? Stay tuned for additional information.



*Example of the serious erosion on Skull (DeCamp Island). Heavy use has resulted in loss of much of the vegetation, exposure of tree roots and loss of trees to wind and rain. Additional shoreline erosion is taking place due to wakes from boat traffic and heavy foot traffic.*



*Other parts of the island show minimal effects. By directing activities away from undisturbed and restored areas, we hope to re-establish vegetative cover on the island.*

## SPRING 2010

### 2009 ANNUAL MEETING

Don Kelly, Heather Stafford and Phyllis Sanzone

The Fulton Chain of Lakes Association held its 41st Annual Meeting on Friday, August 7 at the Park Avenue Building in Old Forge. Following a brief business meeting, Don Kelly introduced Katie Malinowski and Jennifer Harvill, Natural Resources Specialists from the Tug Hill Commission, who made a presentation on the status of the Black River Watershed Planning Initiative. The FCLA has been participating in the development of the plan to insure that local concerns about water quality and water level management are addressed. Katie and Jennifer invited further participation as the plan develops. The plan can be viewed online at [www.tughill.org](http://www.tughill.org) (select Black River Initiative).



*Katie Malinowski of the Tug Hill Commission reports on the status of the Black River Watershed Planning Initiative*

Glenn LaFave, Executive Director of the Hudson River-Black River Regulating District then showed a video explaining the history and responsibilities of this organization, which is charged with managing water levels and streamflows in the

Hudson and Black River drainages. The district is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2009. The district endeavors to balance the needs of property owners and recreationists with flood control and management of streamflows for downstream users. Glenn pointed out that the Central Adirondack region continues to be represented on the Regulating District board, with the recent naming of Dave Berkstresser of Old Forge to the board. The district welcomes input from lake and property owner organizations.



*Glenn LaFave of the Hudson River-Black River Regulating District describes the history, role and responsibilities of the organization.*

Dates of FCLA meetings for 2010:  
May 29, June 26, July 24 and August 28  
Board Meetings (8 am-Town of Webb  
Park Avenue Building)

Annual Meeting: Friday, August 6, 7:30 pm, Inlet

### BLACK RIVER WATERSHED PLANNING INITIATIVE

Margaret Murphy

Last year, we reported that the New York State Tug Hill Commission, working with the Lewis County Division of Soil and Water and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, was developing a comprehensive management plan for the Black River watershed. Since last year's report, we have met with the Tug Hill Commission staff members developing the plan and provided comments on drafts of the plan as they were

developed. A Draft Recommendations and Strategies Report was released for public comment in September 2009. Public meetings on the draft report were held in November 2009. The report was amended based on public comment and the final report was the subject of public hearings in March of this year. The Final report can be used by municipalities in the watershed in securing funds for recommended projects.

**SPRING 2010**

**FCLA Officers & Directors – 2010**

President	Don Kelly
1st VP	Jim Murphy
2nd VP	Mike Burke
Secretary/Treasurer	Phyllis Sanzone

**Board Members:**

Phil Sanzone	Michael Schreppel
Heather Stafford	Tom McCabe
Bill Landmesser	Mark Steigerwald
Connie Schreppel	Jodelle Pross
Margaret Murphy	Amy Sauer
Ed Stafford	Carolyn Belknap
Ron Smith	Tom Vawter

**Water Quality Committee:**

Don Kelly	Ron Smith
Mike Burke	Bill Landmesser
Connie Schreppel	Mike Schreppel
Amy Sauer	Tom Vawter
Margaret Murphy	
Steve Pitella-CSLAP volunteer	

**Scholarship Committee:**

Phil Sanzone-Chair	
Ed Stafford	Ron Smith

**Historian:** Ed Stafford

**Publicity Committee:**

Heather Stafford-Chair	Jodelle Pross
Carolyn Belknap-website	

**By-laws Committee:**

Phil Sanzone-Chair	Heather Stafford
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**Navigation/Boating:**

Jim Murphy-Chair	
Tom McCabe	Mark Steigerwald
Charles Bartolet-Volunteer member	

**Nominating/Awards:**

Tom McCabe-Chair	Ed Stafford
Heather Stafford	Phil Sanzone

**Annual Meeting:**

Don Kelly-Chair	Jodelle Pross
Phyllis Sanzone	Connie Schreppel

**Directors Emeritus:**

Janet Blakeman	Robert Plank
Jack DeBevoise	Richard Rettig
Marilyn Griffin	Eugene Wegman (Deceased)
Richard Knight	Gerald Griffin (Deceased)
Thomas McCabe Sr. (Deceased)	

**Honorary Directors:**

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

**Membership Application  
Fulton Chain of Lakes Association**

Please print

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Fulton Chain 911 Address \_\_\_\_\_

Local Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Camp Sign or I.D. \_\_\_\_\_

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

Date \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_