

SPRING 2011

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

Hello, I'm Jim Murphy, the 2011 President for the FCLA. As the new President I look forward to continuing the long tradition of our Association, of protecting and preserving the high quality of water in our lakes, that we have come to enjoy.

I want to personally thank Don Kelly, our immediate Past President, for his outstanding four years of service. Thanks Don!!

Going forward we will:

- Continue to work closely with both our towns, Inlet and Webb, and their Supervisors, John Frey and Robert Moore, to continue the water quality programs that we have been so successful in the past.
- Continue with our 'new last year's project' at restoring Skull Island. (*See the related article*)
- Continue to work with our New York State Agencies to not only maintain the quality of the water in our lakes but the quality of the fisheries as well.
- Continue to support all of our local authorities who provide for safe navigation on our waterways. This may be especially challenging this year as our new Governor may reduce or limit funding for the Agencies who provide this support for the Fulton Chain.

- Continue to involve the residents of our Towns, both full- and part-time, as we work on our many projects. Last summer we had many volunteers who helped with the Skull Island restoration. We will certainly need more as we continue the project this year. To contact us please use our website: <http://fultonchainoflakesassociation.org/>, e-mail: info@fultonchainoflakesassociation.org or contact any one of the Board Members listed at the end of this newsletter.
- Continue to ask for your financial support, through dues and donations, to help us carry out projects so that we might all continue to enjoy some of the very cleanest waters in all of the Adirondack Park. A membership application is on the last page of this newsletter. Please cut it out, fill it in and send your check to the address on the application.

Please encourage your friends and neighbors to join as members to help us:

KEEP OUR LAKES CLEAN!!!

Happy spring!!
Jim Murphy

FCLA RECOGNIZES DON KELLY

Heather Stafford

Don Kelly received the Association's highest honor in August of 2010. The Outstanding Service Award is presented to that Director who has made a significant contribution to the Association. Don served as President for four years, from 2006 to 2010. He has served on the board for over ten years chairing various committees and each year insures a major presence of the Association at the Antique Boat Show held in Old Forge. Don is not a stranger to the Old Forge area; he was the Town of Webb Code Enforcement Officer for over 14½ years (January 1986 - August 2000). He and his wife Naomi have lived in Old Forge for nearly 25 years and have raised four wonderful children, Sarah, Katie, BJ and Margaret, who have all graduated from the TOW School. Don continues to serve in an Administrative role at Mohawk Valley Community College in Utica. Fortunately he has agreed to continue to serve on

the Board of the FCLA. Thank you Don for all that you do.



Picture shows Past President Tom McCabe and in-coming President, Jim Murphy, presenting the award to Don as they worked on one of Don's favorite projects, the restoration of Skull Island (see article)

WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM – 2011

Kathleen Wiley of Paul Smith's College

Goals for Watercraft inspectors/stewards:

Beginning in summer 2011, the Adirondack Watershed Institute's Watershed Stewardship Program will implement a watershed-level watercraft inspector program in the Black/Oswegatchie and St. Regis/Raquette/Grasse watersheds. The program will be supervised by staff at Paul Smith's College Watershed Stewardship Program, a program of the Adirondack Watershed Institute. Watercraft inspections will take place within waterways located within five watersheds of Lake Ontario within the Adirondack Park: the Oswegatchie/Black River Watersheds and the St. Regis/Raquette/Grasse River Watersheds. Waterways with public access sites where inspectors will be located within the Oswegatchie River Watershed will include Cranberry Lake and the Oswegatchie River. Within the Black River Watershed, watercraft inspectors will be located at 4th Lake (located in

Village of Inlet), 7th Lake, 8th Lake State Campground, and Limekiln Lake State Campground. Within the Raquette River Watershed, watercraft inspectors will be located at Raquette Lake Village, Golden Beach State Campground, Forked Lake State Campground, Blue Mountain Lake, Long Lake and Tupper Lake. In the St. Regis River Watershed, watercraft inspectors will be located at Upper St. Regis Lake, St. Regis Canoe Area, Osgood Pond/Jones Pond, and Meacham Lake. One watercraft inspector will be assigned to the Grasse River Watershed.

Inspectors will prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species by performing careful inspections of all watercraft launched at and exiting these sites, as well as educating the public in order to increase visitor understanding of aquatic invasive species issues and spread prevention measures that they can take themselves.

MEET OUR NEW PRESIDENT

Heather Stafford

James J. Murphy became FCLA's President in August 2010. Jim is no stranger to the area as he and his family have owned property on Fourth Lake for a very long time. Jim has served on the Board of the FCLA since 2001. He has chaired the Navigation Committee and served as Vice President. Jim and his wife Mary came to the Old Forge/Inlet area as children and both retired from their workplace in 2009. Their goal now is to spend more time with family and friends on Fourth Lake.

Jim has worked for the Federal Government as an Operations Specialist with HUD. He acted as a liaison between HUD and local communities in Syracuse. He also served as Senior Vice President and district sales Manager for Key Bank for over twenty years. The Fulton Chain of Lakes Association is most fortunate to have Jim as their new President.

DYE TEST PROGRAM 2010 REPORT

Andy Getty

During the late spring, summer and early fall, over two-hundred properties were dye tested. Through last year's program there were four different properties found in violation, one in a "catastrophic" failure mode. Each of these has been corrected.

Through the years, the dye testing program has gained recognition by property owners. Most anticipate the "call" and are very supportive of the intent of the program. However, each year there are

always those who avoid making appointments when contacted by this office, which has always been the preferred method.

In the summer of 2010, there were a number of properties visited, without an appointment, who had avoided a dye test for many years. This 'cold-call' method proved to be quite effective as almost all of the cold calls resulted in tests, of which at least one was in violation.

2010 ANNUAL MEETING

Heather Stafford

The 2010 Annual Meeting was held in Inlet on August 6. Inlets Supervisor, John Frey spoke regarding Inlets plans to build a sewer system for 40 dwellings within the Town of Inlet. The project is 84% funded with grants. There is concern regarding the location of the waste water treatment plant and where the effluent will flow. Mr. Frey assured everyone that the system has been well thought out and all precautions and alternatives are being met and examined.

Ron Smith, Coordinator of the Eurasian Milfoil Control Program reviewed the progress that has been made to eradicate the invasive weed in the Fulton Chain. The FCLA began a Eurasian Milfoil Control Program in 2002. This labor intensive program involves having divers remove each plant and its roots individually including its roots which can only be done by divers. The majority of Eurasian Milfoil has been found in Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Lake. There were two small findings in both Second and Fourth Lakes in 2009. Progress has definitely been made as the size of former large beds of milfoil is greatly reduced and the number of bags of the plant being removed from areas previously harvested is also greatly reduced. The program needs to be continued and hopefully additional funding can be sought.

NAVIGATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Mark Steigerwald

Greetings to all. Fishing on the lakes may be a yearround activity but this is the time of year when the ice again turns liquid and boats start returning to the water. With that in mind let's use caution when on the water and keep safety on our minds as we prepare for a fun filled and safe boating season.

Speaking of boater safety – 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. Successful completion of the course qualifies you for a NYS Boating Safety Certificate which is necessary for ALL operators of Personal Watercraft and for power boat operators under the age of 18.

The association will again be printing its Navigation Information brochure fresh with updates and

suggested changes from its users to keep it current. As in the past it will be available at area marinas, waterfront businesses, campsites, information centers and police stations and it's also available for download from our website www.fultonchainoflakesassociation.org. Take a minute now to download a copy, there's some good information to become familiar with and pass along to your guests and friends.

On the fishing front, the State will be stocking our lakes again this season. You can find more information at this DEC website www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7739.html and don't forget, use only certified bait. For more information go to www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/47282.html .

Get out and enjoy your lakes, safely and respectfully.

WORK BEGINS ON SKULL ISLAND RESTORATION!

Margaret Murphy

Sixteen volunteers met on Skull Island on Saturday, August 14, 2010 to begin work on restoring the island's soil and vegetation. Working with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the Fulton Chain of Lakes Association has taken on the project under DEC's "Adopt a Natural Resource" program. The plan for restoring heavily eroded areas involves roping off portions of the island, building up the soil to cover exposed roots, and transplanting native plants from adjoining areas of state land. Although the public is asked to stay off of areas being restored, access to portions of the island is still open. August 14's work included placement of signs, erection of rope barriers indicating areas under restoration, and replanting on a portion of the island. A second work day was conducted on August 28 where a dozen or so volunteers continued to place soil on exposed roots and transplanting native plants. Work will continue in 2011 with plans for placing logs in the water to reduce erosion from wave action, assessment of transplanting from last summer, and to continue placing soil and native plants in highly eroded areas. Volunteers are welcome! Contact Margaret Murphy for information on volunteering.



MORE ON SKULL ISLAND

Don Kelly

Last year, we told you about the sorry shape this small island was in. Heavy recreational use has resulted in the loss of most of the island's vegetation, and erosion had severely damaged the island's shoreline. FCLA board member Margaret Murphy worked with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to develop a plan to restore the island's understory and reduce shoreline erosion, while still allowing recreational use. In early summer 2010, FCLA signed an agreement with NYSDEC under the department's "Adopt a Natural Resource" program. The Association is now beginning work on the project.

The restoration plan involves replacing soil on the most heavily eroded areas and planting "plugs" of vegetation harvested from nearby DeCamp Island. Restored areas have been roped off to prevent entry and signs have been placed notifying visitors about the project. Care was taken to leave parts of the island accessible to boaters. Plans call for the placement of logs and/or rocks along heavily eroded parts of the shoreline and the placement of "no wake" signs to prevent further losses.

The first work session took place on August 14.



Sixteen volunteers put in a day's work carrying heavy buckets of soil, harvesting plugs of vegetation and planting in strategic areas. The rope swing and landing areas along the shore were left accessible. The Association wishes to thank Wally and Linda Cook, Bruce Hegedorn, Dale Vance, Berkely and Jack Ellis, Tom and Mary Ann Luther, and David Large for their efforts on August 14. They are great friends of the Fulton Chain! Work continued with another work session on Saturday, August 28 as part of the board's last summer meeting. Work will resume this summer. Look for notices of workdays in local newspapers and on our website. The restoration will take a number of years; the public's cooperation and assistance will be essential.

The restoration effort received a financial and morale boost over the fall. Sue Kiesel, a long-time visitor to the island, has taken some beautiful photographs of the island. Working with Debra Burrington-Mills of Gallery 3040 in Old Forge, she offered a beautiful framed photo of the island for sale to the highest bidder. The auction raised \$150 for restoration efforts. Thanks Sue and Deb for your help!

WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Margaret H. Murphy

The Water Quality Committee was busy during 2010 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.

Continued participation in the Citizen's Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP). Working in conjunction with the Department of Environmental Conservation, we continue to monitor long-term water quality using our Second Lake sampling site. Thanks to Steve Pitela for conducting the biweekly sampling. There will be changes in the CSLAP program this year. The fees will be going up and we may be rotated off for one year so that lakes on the waiting list will be able to be included in the program.

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.

Continue dialogue with the Towns of Webb and Inlet on the value of developing a watershed Master Plan for the Fulton Chain of Lakes.

Completed a survey and map of aquatic growth in the Chain, from Old Forge Pond through Fifth 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.

New Areas of Concern and Activities:

This is the last year of the state funding for the milfoil removal project, so we need to come up with a way for the towns to assume long term management of this problem, not only to prevent build up of plants in the lower lakes, but also to keep control of the beds in Upper Seventh.

Continuing to track Inlet's proposal for a new sewage treatment system that will discharge into Fourth Lake. Tom McCabe and Bill Landmesser participated in Inlet's Clean Water Committee, representing the FCLA.

Started work on restoring Treasure Island (Skull Island) on Second 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 had two work sessions over the summer and will be planning more in 2011.

NOTES FROM YOUR HISTORIAN

Ed Stafford

BTI, we have heard of it, both the Towns of Inlet and Webb use it but what is it? In 1982, The Fulton Chain of Lakes Association began an introduction to the residents of the area about the uses and effectiveness of BTI. The dreaded black fly was, at that time, a pest everyone was bitten by each spring. The chemical Dibrom 13 was sprayed by airplane in the area in hopes of killing the miserable fly. Many thought this chemical to be harmful to humans and wildlife. The DEC eventually banned its use on New York State Land. Dan Malloy, of the NYS Museum and Science Service State Education Department was the speaker at the FCLA Annual Meeting in 1982. Field testing of what was then called a strain of bacteria lethal to the black fly larvae began in the spring of 1983 in the Adirondacks to determine the practicality, feasibility and cost effectiveness of implementing the program on a

MILFOIL

Ron Smith

The battle against the invasive aquatic plant, Eurasian water milfoil (milfoil) moves to a new phase in 2011. Over the last five years the FCLA led a major effort to remove the invasive milfoil from the Fulton Chain. This effort was financed by grants from New York State and matching local funds from the Towns of Inlet and Webb, as well as the FCLA and 6th and 7th Lake Associations. The new phase will primarily focus on maintaining the gains that have been made and preventing milfoil from spreading in to the lower lakes.

Between 2006 and 2008 the effort was focused on harvesting the extensive beds of milfoil in Fifth, Sixth, and lowers Seventh Lakes. The success of this effort is best illustrated by the decreased effort required to harvest the beds in Fifth Lake. In 2005 three divers harvested plants from Fifth Lake for over three weeks removing 275 bags of plants. By 2010 the milfoil had been reduced to the point where two divers were able to survey the Lake in less than ten hours and removed less than one bag of milfoil. Similar results were obtained in Sixth Lake and Seventh Lake up to the state launching ramp at Buck Hollow.

From 2008 to 2010 the project focused on extensive and extremely dense milfoil beds that were discovered in upper Seventh Lake between Buck Hollow and the Eighth Lake Campground. The divers also spent time maintaining the gains in the previously harvested beds in the other lakes. Unfortunately the project was not as successful in upper Seventh Lake. The lake bottom in this area is a tangle of trees and stumps both on top of and within the muddy bottom. This made it much more difficult to remove all of the plants' roots. The size and

density of the beds was also many times greater than those previously encountered. While the biomass of plants was reduced by more than 75%, enough remained to allow for rapid re-growth. Without the large and sustained effort that the grant provided, it is likely that the milfoil beds in upper Seventh will eventually regain their former size and density.

Fortunately it is difficult for plants from upper Seventh to spread to the lower lakes, decreasing the rate of invasion. Milfoil is primarily spread when buoyant fragments develop roots and sink. If they are in an area less than 20 feet deep with an appropriate bottom they can establish a new bed which can then expand with stolons that creep along the lake bed sending up new plants, as well as additional fragments. Fortunately the prevailing winds tend to keep the fragments in upper Seventh Lake isolating them reproductively from the lower lakes because. Any fragments that do drift out of upper Seventh are encountering a significant stretch that is too deep for plants to colonize.

This year the primary focus will be on developing a program to maintain the gains that have been made in Fifth Sixth and Lower Seventh Lake. The watershed stewardship program has identified participation in a snorkel survey as a special project. We will then seek funds and volunteers to harvest any milfoil that is located. If any additional resources are available, we will also work in upper Seventh in an attempt to slow re-growth. We also will develop a long term maintenance plan and seek support from local governments and the association to implement the plan.

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full-scale basis. It was the beginning of using BTI (*Bacillus thuringiensis* variety, *israelensis*) in NYS. BTI kills only black fly larvae and filter feeding midges and then quickly dissipates. It is simple to use but is labor intensive and must be done with care in order for it to be effective. The environmental safety of BTI is unparalleled. Beginning in the spring of 1991, the Town of Webb began applying BTI to streams under the direction of Jim Kiefer. Now 20 years later BTI is still being used in both the Town of Webb and the Town of Inlet. It is most effective, and hailed as a dream come true to the area. If you doubt its effectiveness just walk down the street of neighboring towns that do not use BTI in June, you will definitely wish you had not.

FCLA Officers & Directors – 2011

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. Ed Stafford
 Jodelle Pross Heather Stafford
 Margaret Murphy Mark Steigerwald
 Phil Sanzone Tom Vawter

Directors Emeriti:

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 Jack DeBevoise Robert Plank
 Richard Everhart* Richard Rettig
 Gerald Griffin* Eugene Wegman*
 Marilyn Griffin Bob Wheeler
 Richard Knight
 *deceased

Historian: Ed Stafford

By-Laws:

Phil Sanzone–Chair Heather Stafford

Committees:

Water Quality:

Margaret Murphy–Chair
 Don Kelly* Michael Schreppel*
 Bill Landmesser* Ron Smith*
 Amy Sauer* Tom Vawter
 Connie Schreppel* Steve Pitela–CSLAP
 *also on milfoil sub-committee

Publicity:

Heather Stafford–Chair Jodelle Pross
 Carolyn Belknap–Website

Navigation/Boating:

Mark Steigerwald–Chair
 Jim Murphy Tom McCabe

Thomas B. McCabe Memorial Scholarship:

Phil Sanzone–Chair
 Ed Stafford Ron Smith

Nominations/Awards:

Tom McCabe–Chair Heather Stafford
 Phil Sanzone Ed Stafford

Annual Meeting:

Jim Murphy–Chair Phyllis Sanzone
 Jodelle Pross Connie Schreppel

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**

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

Please print

Name _____ Spouse _____

Home Address _____

Home Telephone _____ Email _____

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 _____