



SPRING 2012

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 to all and happy spring! I hope the winter treated you well.

First of all, I hope you have noticed our "logo." This spring, we are introducing a new logo for the Fulton Chain of Lakes Association, and will be using this logo consistently on our web site and across all of our publications. You also can view it online at our website, www.fultonchainoflakesassociation.org. We hope you like the new look!

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. The dye testing program will continue as before, 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.

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.

Work will also continue with the various New York State and County agencies to provide for the quality of our fisheries as well as safety on our waters.

We continue to look for support from the residents of our Towns, not only in volunteer work on our projects, but also your financial support through membership dues and donations. With your support we can continue to have the cleanest and safest waters in the Adirondack Park.

To learn more about our Association, to become a member, to be more involved, or to make a donation, please visit our web site:

<http://fultonchainoflakesassociation.org>

Have a wonderful summer season on the "lakes"...

Jim Murphy
President

NEW FCLA LOGO

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2011 ANNUAL MEETING

Heather Stafford

The Annual Meeting was held at VIEW in 2011 for the first time. There were 65 people who attended the short business meeting followed by a wonderful speaker Dr. Jim Paruk. Dr. Paruk is the Director of the Loon Program with the Biodiversity Research Institute in Gorham, Maine. The institute's mission is to assess emerging threats to wildlife and ecosystems. Dr. Paruk's informative talk began with Loon Natural History. Loons can live twenty to thirty years. They are considered a large bird and as such have few natural predators. Unfortunately they have a low birth rate whereby only one chick reaches adulthood between four pairs of loons. Loons do not mate for life; they do stay together for perhaps five years but then find another mate. They also return each year to their favorite nesting lake. A family of four loons can eat 900 pounds of fish during the breeding season. Mr. Paruk pointed out there are 250,000 pairs of loons in North America. Only 6% of the population live in the United States, the other 94% live and breed in Canada during the warmer months and migrate south for the winter. They basically migrate because of food, lakes in North America freeze. The state with the most pairs of loons is Minnesota, 4500 pairs. Maine is purported to have 1700 pairs, Wisconsin 1250 pairs, Michigan 400 pairs and New York 250.

Dr. Paruk played recordings of the many sounds a Loon will make. The most common sound is called a Wail and is a contact call for communication with a mate or neighboring loon. The Tremolo is a sound the loon makes when it is anxious. It indicates stress and is heard when its nest or chicks are being threatened.

One can adopt a loon to protect a loon and conserve its habitat. You can contact the program by calling 1-888-749-loon or access the web site www.BRILoon.org.

Gary Lee, our local loon expert, was on hand also for questions regarding the loon locations here in the Old Forge, Eagle Bay and Inlet areas, along with information on the banding project that is being conducted in this area. Gary works closely with Dr. Paruk, the lead person in this valuable project.

HINTS FROM YOUR HISTORIAN

Ed Stafford

The dictionary defines history as a known or recorded past. No mention of how many years, days, weeks ago that it occurred. Our Directors are always striving to keep up with events and progress regarding the quality of the water in the Fulton Chain. Last summer at the Directors Meeting on July 30 three different speakers shared their valuable information.

Supervisor John Frey of Inlet spoke on the new Sewer System to be constructed in Inlet. Mr. Frey reiterated that this system exceeds the present DEC regulations. It will enhance the town of Inlet providing more quality than the present individual septic systems that exist. The facility will accommodate 64 users at its inception but the design will allow for quadruple that size if necessary in the future. The system will extend from Mary's Gift Shop at the south end to the Delmarsh property on Fifth Lake at the north end.

Leif Frymire was the Dye Inspector for the summer of 2011. He reported on his progress in testing 300 homes as of that date on both the Fulton Chain and Big Moose Lake. He uncovered one violation and conveys to every home owner the importance of not only knowing the location of their septic system but also how to maintain it.

Gillian Meade worked for the Adirondack Watershed at Paul Smiths. Paul Smiths was able to obtain a grant to hire 27 Stewards this year to inspect boats at boat launches across the state concentrating in the Adirondacks. Gillian worked at Raquette Lake and the Fourth Lake boat launches educating boat owners about the dangers of transporting invasive aquatic plants. She inspected their boats for plants such as water chestnut, and

Eurasian watermilfoil and inspects the hull for zebra mussels. This is all part of a project to preserve the integrity of our pristine water in the Fulton Chain. More information can be obtained by accessing fultonchainoflakesassociation.org.

A wonderful woman and avid advocate of the Fulton Chain of Lakes Association died on April 14. Marge Bonnett spent her summers on Fourth Lake for the past 55 years. She was one of the founding fathers of the FCLA and a Director for over 20 years. She was Historian for a period of time and introduced the organization to every one of her neighbors. Marge never missed an Annual Meeting; we will definitely miss her.

NAVIGATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Mark Steigerwald

Regardless of where you spent your winter months it was likely much warmer than normal and unfortunately for the snowmobile enthusiasts of the Central Adirondacks there was much less snow fall than normal. How will this lack of snow affect our lake levels this spring and summer? According to the Hudson River - Black River Regulating District it should have little effect. Their procedure for raising the lake levels to summertime levels does not begin until the ice is out. And since the snowpack in the watershed area is traditionally gone well before ice out, the restoration of lake levels is almost exclusively dependent on the amount of spring rain fall.

With boating and navigation in mind – 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, additional information is also available online. Successful completion of the course qualifies you for a New York State Boating Safety Certificate which is

necessary for ALL operators of Personal Water Crafts 14 years of age and older and for power boat operators 10 to 18 years of age.

Our updated Navigation brochure will again 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.

Another great recreational use of our lakes is fishing. The State will again be stocking our lakes 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 on baitfish go to www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/47282.html

Get out and enjoy your lakes, with safety and respect in mind.

EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL UPDATE

Ron Smith

The milfoil battle on the Fulton chain has evolved in to a holding operation. The situation looks promising from below the New York State launching ramp on Seventh Lake, down to Old Forge Pond. There were no new reports of any plants below Fifth Lake. Ron and Mackenzie Smith did a volunteer survey and harvest of Fifth Lake and found and removed only about one bag of plants.

Ron performed an informal survey of the large beds in Upper Seventh Lake and found that while large dense areas remain, the regrowth was less than expected. A rapid response team from the Adirondack Watershed Institute of Paul Smith's College spent two weeks last summer hand

harvesting in Seventh Lake. They removed approximately 4,000 pounds of milfoil.

We are currently filing an application with the DEC for the placement of signed warning buoys to warn boaters to avoid driving through the dense milfoil beds. This will decrease creation of fragments and their transport by boat to other areas of the Fulton chain. The Boat Launch Stewards program, also from Adirondack Watershed institute will help purchase and place the buoys.

This summer both the rapid response team and volunteers will survey and harvest Fifth Lake, and previously infested areas in Second, Fourth, and Sixth Lakes.

WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Margaret H. Murphy

The Water Quality Committee was busy during 2011 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. Many thanks to Steve Pitela, our CSLAP volunteer, for conducting the biweekly sampling.
- 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

- Continued work on restoring Treasure Island (Skull Island) on 2nd Lake (see separate update). 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 2012.

NEW AREAS OF CONCERN AND ACTIVITIES:

- 2010 was 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. Inlet has indicated a willingness to help support this program.
- 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.

DYE TEST PROGRAM 2011 REPORT

Andy Getty

Last summer the Dye Testing program for the Fulton Chain of Lakes was successfully completed with the hiring of as our summer tester, Leif Frymire. He proved himself to be courteous and conscientious in his work. Nearly two hundred properties were visited, some requiring several test locations. Additionally, over a period of several days, multiple trips may be required for monitoring and final report.

As in previous years, failures were encountered and reported to the Code Office. Follow up action is then handled by the Code Enforcement Officer. The correction process may vary from one site to another depending on the age of the system, terrain of the site and the nature or cause of the problem.

The most common cause of failures is old metal septic tanks. Any steel tank 15 years old or older may have reached the end of its useful life span. Typically they rust out at the baffle height, the top rusts out and collapses or there are numerous rust holes developed within the tank itself. Any of these conditions are cause to fail the system. A properly sized and operating tank must be completely sealed to prevent infiltration of storm / ground water and to retain the sewage in such a manner as to provide proper pre-treatment before going into the ground through a properly installed leach field.

In anticipation of the Dye Testing program moving forward into this summer, Leif will be our summer tester again. It is anticipated he will continue where he left off last August. Your continued support of our common goal of protection of our lake water quality through routine testing and visual inspections of water front properties is very important. The value of the program may appear to be hard to calculate. However, for those who remember the years before active involvement of the FCLA, or testing by the Code Office, there were legitimate concerns.

If you have any questions about the program, or if your property is scheduled for this summer, please feel free to call the Code Office during regular business hours at 369-3001.

Code Enforcement Officer Town of Webb

WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM – 2011

Kathleen Wiley of Paul Smith's College

In 2011 the Paul Smith's Watershed Stewardship Program (WSP) expanded coverage to the west-central Adirondacks through a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service of Great Lakes Restoration Initiative money. The New York State Boat Launches at Fourth and Seventh Lakes on the Fulton Chain of Lakes had part-time steward coverage. Stewards visited the Hollywood Hills boat launch on First Lake occasionally during the summer to increase aquatic invasive species (AIS) awareness and explore the idea of greater steward coverage at this location in the future.

Between Memorial Day and Labor Day, the stewards inspected 7,950 boats with a total of 17,636 people at ten boat launches in the western region. 59% of the groups took some AIS prevention measures with 23% inspecting their boat, 40% washing their boat, 9% draining the bilge and/or drying their boat, and 1% each emptying bait buckets, draining livewells, and/or disposing of unused bait. 2% of boater groups were not asked. The percentages of compliant boaters may rise next summer as WSP stewards educate more boating parties in the region.

The WSP has been awarded a grant of Great Lakes Restoration Initiative money, this time through the Environmental Protection Agency to continue coverage in this area of the Adirondack Park in 2012. There will be coverage at the Fourth and Seventh Lake Boat Launches Thursday through Sunday from Memorial Day to Labor Day. A steward will be at the Hollywood Hills private launch twice per month to discuss AIS with boaters. Please say hello if you see a steward at a boat launch this summer!

WORK CONTINUES ON SKULL ISLAND RESTORATION!

Margaret Murphy

During the summer of 2011, FCLA board members and volunteers met for two work days on Skull (DeCamp) Island. The Fulton Chain of Lakes Association "adopted" the island in 2010 and is committed to restoring the island's vegetative cover while recreational use of the island continues. We continued our efforts to re-establish a soil cover over the roots of the island's trees and continued to transplant "plugs" of vegetation from nearby state lands. We also placed a number of large logs along the shoreline to protect against wave erosion. Late last year, the NYSDEC significantly aided our efforts by planting a large number of tree and bush seedlings on the island. The good news is that the materials planted last year appear to be doing well, and the areas that have been roped off and protected show significant improvement. The public has respected the effort, the ropes and the signs. The not-so-good news is that the effort has just begun. We'll continue our efforts with additional workdays this summer. Please stay tuned for additional details.



Skull Island – a popular recreation site, but foot traffic has taken its toll.



FCLA Officers & Directors – 2012

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

Directors:

Carolyn Belknap Connie Schreppel
 Don Kelly Ron Smith
 Bill Landmesser Ed Stafford
 Tom B. McCabe, Jr. Heather Stafford
 Jodelle Pross Mark Steigerwald
 Margaret Murphy Tom Vawter
 Phil Sanzone Dave Walsh
 Amy Sauer Nornie Walsh

Directors Emeriti:

Janet Blakeman Thomas McCabe Sr.*
 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 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 _____

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 _____