



2013 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

Celebrating the 45th Anniversary of the FCLA

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Hello to all, members old and new, and happy spring! 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!!

Speaking of members, one of our goals for 2013 is to increase our membership. As member's properties change hands over the years and folks leave the area, their properties are not being replaced with new members. It's our membership and their wholehearted support that makes our clean lakes possible. Without a strong membership we will not be able to continue our mission. To help in our quest for more members we now have a new Membership Chairperson, Carolyn Belknap of Fourth Lake. She and her committee are forming new initiatives for 2013. YOU as a member can help as well. I ask that if a property near you has changed hands recently, that you approach the new owners, 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. You can also 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 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. Both of these are further detailed 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.

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

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

2012 ANNUAL MEETING

The 2012 FCLA Annual Meeting was held in Inlet on the third of August. We were most fortunate to have two informative speakers. Margaret Murphy, Ph.D. spoke on the many challenges we have on the Fulton Chain to preserve and protect our waters. One of the challenges is the harm phosphorus can cause in our water. Beginning on January 1, 2012, New York State passed a law prohibiting the use of fertilizers containing phosphorus within 20 feet of any surface water in addition to other restrictions. Phosphorus affects water quality in a number of ways. Excess phosphorus has been linked to causing excessive aquatic vegetation and smelly algae bloom. The algae and weeds discourage swimmers, anglers and boaters from using a water body. Once the weeds die they use up oxygen that is vital to fish and other animals. Phosphorus can also feed toxic blooms of blue-green algae (a bacteria called cyanobacteria) which can result in beach closings and health alerts.

Jeff Sann, of the Paul Smith's College Watershed Steward Program, spoke about his program that has been serving the Adirondack Park since 2000. Their primary objective is to combat the spread of invasive species specific to local watersheds. Stewards are stationed at 24 Adirondack Park area boat launches where they inspect boats and trailers for potential threats to our waterways and increase public awareness about the dangers of transporting invasive species from one lake body to another. Eurasian Water Milfoil, which has been found in the Fulton Chain is not the only invasive plant threatening our water. Hydrilla, the newest aquatic invasive plant can grow up to 25 feet and form dense mats in a lake or pond. It is common in Florida but now has reached New York and present in Linderman Creek near Ithaca. It can grow very quickly one inch a day and produces tubers that grow deep into the lake bottom making it difficult to eradicate, in fact scraping the bottom of the lake is the only solution. One single tuber can reproduce to more than 6,000 new tubers and plants. Another concern is the spiny water flea. This small creature of $\frac{1}{2}$ inch long adheres to fisherman's lines and down rigging. It eats zooplankton so it is competing with small fish like perch that also eat zooplankton. As a result the perch do not grow as large or die for lack of food. Predators are few of the fleas because of their sharp long tail where spines stick out. Both Margaret and Jeff's reports remind us that we must constantly be vigilant in order to keep our waters unpolluted.

Jeff was pleased to point out the value of the Steward project here on the Fulton Chain. There is a steward stationed at the Fourth Lake access in Inlet, and Hollywood Hills private access. Results of the 2011 inspections at the Fourth Lake access indicate there were 1346 inspections and Eurasian Milfoil was found on 14 boats. Bladderwort and zebra mussels were also found. The best result is that 736 people had taken preventative measures to be sure their boats were clean before attempting to launch in another water body. We all can be stewards, clean, drain, and dry your boat before launching your boat in a water body.

NEWS FROM SKULL ISLAND

Don Kelly

Work continued this year on FCLA's "adopted" island in Second Lake. Board members met twice to place logs along the shoreline, replace ropes and signs, and to continue planting plugs of native vegetation in protected areas. The State Department of Environmental Conservation also contributed

significantly late in the Fall of 2011, planting several hundred seedlings and saplings on the island.

The good news continues-the public is respecting the signs and (for the most part) keeping away from revegetated areas. Without heavy foot traffic, much of the transplants are surviving.

NOTES FROM YOUR HISTORIAN

Ed Stafford

The summer of 1967, I was enjoying a relaxing day on my boathouse deck when a neighbor came by and invited me to a meeting regarding pollution levels in the Fulton Chain of Lakes. The meeting was held at the Old Forge High School in a full auditorium. Much discussion about the high levels of fecal coli and the ear infections of the children swimming at the beach dominated the meeting. As a result of this meeting and several more the Fulton Chain of Lakes Improvement Association was formed by volunteer members of the local communities in 1968. This summer we will celebrate 45 years of our success in securing excellent water quality. It was not then and is not now an easy task as there are always new threats evolving. Countless volunteer hours of dedicated people are continually monitoring our lake waters.

My wife Heather and I decided we would like to do more to help improve lake quality than pay our dues to the FCLA, so we joined the Board of Directors over 30 years ago. At the time the Board met alternating between Howard Johnsons in Old Forge and the Capital in Inlet for their Saturday breakfast meetings. The Secretary/Treasurer was Marilyn Griffin who unfortunately passed away last year. Marilyn was devoted and tenacious in seeing that members paid their dues. If you went to Eckerson's on Friday night, you better have paid your dues, if not she would not

hesitate to come to your table and request the fee. Marilyn was on the board with her husband Jerry for over 20 years. The FCLA owes them a debt of gratitude for their many hours of enthusiastic service.

When I became a Director we were doing our own testing of the lake waters with test tubes and liter bottles. Times have changed, water samples are still gathered but taken to a lab for testing. Bob Plank came on the Board intent on seeing that samples were transported carefully. He also was instrumental in creating our present navigation brochure that is used by thousands of people who live and visit the area each summer. Bob was President of the FCLA and his wife Ellen served on the Board as well. The Planks moved from the area several years ago and last year Bob passed away. He is well remembered and the FCLA is grateful for his many years of dedication.

We have much to be thankful for these past 45 years. Looking back to our founders whose initial goals still exist today and the dedication of the present Board of Directors we should hold our heads high. Enormous thanks and gratitude goes out to you each and every member for your continued support. Together we shall keep our lakes of pristine quality and safe.

This new vegetation, along with leaf and needle-fall from the island's mature trees, has resulted in a significant increase in ground cover.

As we've said before, this effort will take many years. FCLA plans on continuing efforts, in coordination with the NYSDEC, in 2013 and beyond. Watch for news this summer.



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

NAVIGATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Mark Steigerwald

There are so many ways to enjoy these beautiful lakes we call the Fulton Chain and with all of these activities let's keep in mind the guiding principles of your Association – “To Preserve and Protect.”

Regarding boating safety and navigation, we have a couple of readily available resources for you on our website www.FultonChainOfLakesAssociation.org including downloadable copies of both the 2013 New York State Boaters Guide (http://fultonchain-of-lakes-association.org/fc_boating.html) 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 responsibility of safe boating. Please keep in mind

the following restrictions on the use of Personal Watercrafts, generically known as WaveRunners. 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.

Fishing is another great recreational use of our lakes. 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. Once again with those youngsters in mind, if they are younger than 16 years of age, they do not require a fishing license so take advantage of this great opportunity to introduce someone to lifetime outdoor activity.

Time to get out and enjoy your lakes and remember to “Preserve and Protect.”

EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL SUCCESS AND CHALLENGES

Ron Smith

Our efforts to manage milfoil in the Fulton Chain have been very successful from Old Forge Pond up to Seventh Lake. In lower Seventh Lake we have been relatively successful up to the state launching ramp, while in upper Seventh Lake, there are still large areas with persistent beds.

In surveys of areas that previously contained milfoil no new plants were discovered below Fifth Lake. In Fifth and Sixth Lakes a few scattered plants were discovered and removed. It is likely that these areas can be maintained with minimal effort.

In Seventh Lake considerable regrowth was discovered in the bay area near Payne's Marina. A team of volunteers hopes to remove most of the plants this summer. We estimate that the effort may require two divers a couple of weeks to clear.

Our hand harvesting efforts in the area in Upper Seventh Lake above the state launch ramp have been considerably less successful. The density of the beds combined with a mucky bottom covered with stumps and trees made it virtually impossible to successfully remove all of the roots. We are investigating the possibility of applying for a permit to use herbicides in this area. Fortunately the rate of reintroduction to the lower lakes from these beds is relatively low. The prevailing winds tend to keep fragments that would spread the milfoil, from drifting down the lake, and most of those fragments that do get past the boat launch would settle in to water that is too deep for them to grow.

WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Margaret H. Murphy

The Water Quality Committee was busy during 2012 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.
- 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. Results from the sampling have been positive – anyone can view them online at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/77866.html>
- 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. We are evaluating chemical treatment for the largest milfoil bed on upper Seventh 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.
- Continued 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 had one work session over the summer, and hope to plan several in 2013, along with education and outreach to help those using the island understand the impacts to the island.

NEW AREAS OF CONCERN:

Our CSLAP volunteer, Steve Pitela will be retiring from his position after six years of service. Steve traveled from Fourth Lake to Second Lake every other week to gather water samples and to do "Secchi Disc" readings. He is not compensated for time and energy and he carefully sends the samples back to the state labs with the necessary paperwork completed. We thank Steve for all his great work...

NEW DIRECTOR, PAUL WILLSEY

The Fulton Chain of Lakes Assoc. is pleased to welcome Paul Willsey to its Board.

Paul was born in Schenectady and when he was very young camped and fished in the Adirondacks and as an adult camped in our beloved mountains. He later purchased his camp on Fourth Lake in 1986 which he enjoys with his wife Donna and their 2 grown children who visit often. He spends the rest of the year at his home in Florida.

Paul has a degree in Mechanical Engineering from Clarkson, an MS in Computer Systems and an MBA. He worked in the Power Industry his entire career and lived in many locations in the US and abroad ending up back in New York State finishing his career with Niagara Mohawk and NRG Energy in Syracuse.

He has always had a love of the outdoors. Paul enjoys running, biking, swimming and sailing both in the Adirondacks and in Florida. He shared these thoughts with us: "As I grow older I realized that clean lakes can't be taken for granted. I feel I have a responsibility to do my part so that my children and their children can enjoy the beautiful lakes as I have."

Thanks Paul, and welcome to the FCLA!

If anyone is interested joining one of our Committees or becoming a member of the FCLA Board of Directors, please contact Tom McCabe at: tmccabe862@aol.com

DYE TEST PROGRAM 2012 REPORT

Andy Getty

The dye testing program for last summer [2012] proved to be quite uneventful, which should be a good thing. Two-hundred-six [206] dye tests were performed around the Chain of Lakes, in the Town of Webb. For each test, no dye was observed at the time of the test or on the follow up inspections usually conducted the next day.

There were additional follow-up visits left over from the year previous, totaling approximately ten. Outside of the dye testing program there were over sixty new septic systems installed around the town. The majority of these new systems are within the watershed area of the Chain of Lakes. Some were new systems and many were replacement systems of old, non-conforming systems.

The summer of 2012 being so dry it was no surprise that there were not any problems detected. Being so dry, the ground was like a dry sponge, holding and retaining moisture. During periods of saturating rains the moisture in the ground travels more freely, to streams, stormwater ditches and then ultimately downhill to the lakes.

The failure of older systems, almost always old drywells, will continue to be the main cause of system replacement. Replacing the stone around a dry well is not an acceptable repair. Since the 1972 adoption of

Appendix 75-A, the NYS standards for the construction of on-site, residential waste water treatment systems [septic systems], the installation of a drywell was all but prohibited. When people, especially contractors are told this, we usually get a surprised response.

In appendix 75-A the section that gives the specifications for drywells or seepage pits, the very second sentence of the first paragraph states "*if soil and site conditions are adequate for absorption trenches, seepage pits shall not be used.*" In almost all cases, the ability to install traditional trench type leach field can be found, and the drywell should not have been installed.

The code office is not going around telling people to replace their old drywells, unless failure is detected. However, we certainly are encouraging people to plan and budget accordingly. This is where the members of the Fulton Chain of Lakes Association can be very helpful by talking about this with their neighbors, especially new neighbors, who purchase their property without any knowledge of what is in the ground.

In a few months schedules will be in place for this summer's dye testing. If you should have any questions please feel free to contact the code enforcement office at 315-369-8650.

WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM – 2012

Kathleen Wiley of Paul Smith's College

In 2012, the Paul Smith's Watershed Stewardship Program (WSP) at the Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI) received a Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grant through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to continue their coverage of the west-central Adirondack lakes in the Lake Ontario watershed. Lakes in this area included Long Lake, Forked Lake, Raquette Lake, Limekiln Lake Campground, Hollywood Hills, Stillwater Reservoir, and White Lake. Areas also covered include the Fulton Chain of Lakes river system at Fourth, Seventh, and the Eighth Lake campground. At all of these locations, stewards were present to check all boats and to spread the message of preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS).

For the summer of 2012, Fourth Lake Stewards encountered 1,752 boats and 4,393 people between May 26 and September 3. The week from June 28 to July 4 was the busiest week for both boats and people with 178 boats and 473 people even with July 4 falling on a Wednesday. Watershed Stewards were stationed at the Fourth Lake Boat Launch for 14 weekends throughout the summer. Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays saw the most amount of boat traffic during the summer with almost over 50 boats seen each weekend. Three-quarters (1,291) of the visiting boats were motorboats. Personal watercraft was the second most common with 333 visiting the boat launch this summer. This is a very large increase compared to last year's numbers. The next biggest visitor to the boat launch was kayaks with 85 kayaks visiting the launch this summer. This was also an increase since last year.

At the Fourth Lake boat launch, there were 158 organisms either entering or leaving Fourth Lake. Most organisms were found going into Fourth Lake. 116 organisms were found on boats entering Fourth Lake and 42 found leaving Fourth Lake. Last year, there were 159 organisms found entering Fourth Lake and 57 organisms found leaving Fourth Lake. The most common specimen found was grass, followed by the category "other," and then by Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) with 11 specimens found.

The total number of organisms is overall less than what was found than last year.

Between May 26th and August 24th, stewards at Seventh Lake collected data for 555 boats and 1,236 people. The peak week for boating on Sixth and Seventh lake was July 19th through July 25th with 74 boats and 173 people. Out of the boats inspected, 253 were motorboats, 182 were kayaks, 89 were canoes, 19 were personal watercrafts, 2 were sailboats, 3 were barges, and 6 were rowboats. Stewards asked boaters what body of water their boats had last been in the past two weeks. A total of 176 boats had not been in the water in the past two weeks. Out of the remaining boats, 139 had been within the Fulton Chain of Lakes, 83 had been in Seventh Lake, 38 had been in 4th Lake, and 11 had been in Raquette Lake. Out of six hundred and eleven groups, three hundred and twenty eight of them said they took steps to help stop the spread of invasive species. 209 said they washed their boat/s after use, 113 said they inspected after use, 21 said they drained their bilge after use, 28 said they dried their boat after use, and 6 did not respond to the question. Seventh Lake is known to have Eurasian watermilfoil. 19 organism fragments were found on boats entering. 18 organisms were found on boats leaving the lake of which only 6 were identified as EWM. The stewards ultimately had stopped 36 organisms from either entering or leaving Seventh Lake.

The Watershed Stewardship Program will continue steward coverage in the Fulton Chain of Lakes in 2013 through a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grant of Great Lakes Restoration Initiative money. Continued coverage of four days per week at the Fourth Lake and Seventh Lake State Boat Launches, one day per week coverage at the Eighth Lake Campground, and occasional coverage at the Hollywood Hills private boat launch is anticipated. Hydrilla and the spiny water flea are specious to be vigilant for in 2013. The continued strong support of the Fulton Chain of Lakes Association has allowed the Watershed Stewardship Program to have a successful second season in the west-central Adirondacks.

Paul Smith's College Adirondack Watershed Stewardship Program (PDF, 17MB)
<http://www.adkinvasives.com/Aquatic/Resources/documents/WSPProgramSummary2012.pdf>

2013 Annual Newsletter

FCLA Officers & Directors – 2013

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 Paul Willsey
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Directors Emeriti:

Janet Blakeman Richard Rettig
Jack DeBevoise Bob Wheeler
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Committees:

Water Quality:

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

Publicity:

Heather Stafford–Chair Jodelle Pross
Carolyn Belknap–Website

Navigation/Boating:

Mark Steigerwald–Chair
Tom McCabe Jim Murphy

Thomas B. McCabe Memorial Scholarship:

Phil Sanzone–Chair Ron Smith
Ed Stafford Tom Vawter

Nominations/Awards:

Tom McCabe–Chair
Don Kelly Heather Stafford
Phil Sanzone Ed Stafford

Annual Meeting:

Jim Murphy–Chair Phyllis Sanzone
Jodelle Pross Connie Schreppel

Membership:

Carolyn Belknap–Chair
Heather Stafford Jim Murphy

Historian:

Ed Stafford
Phil Sanzone–Chair Heather Stafford

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 _____