



2015 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

Welcome "Spring of 2105." It was a very, very long cold winter! Here's hoping we have a sunny, warm spring and summer season on the beautiful Fulton Chain of Lakes. My name is Mike Schreppe and I am taking over as President this year following in Jim Murphy's footsteps. Many thanks to Jim for a job well done over the last few years as our President! I look forward to working with the FCLA Board of Directors and our members.

As in the past our team of wonderful volunteers will continue to work with both our towns, Webb and Inlet, to assure that the water quality in the Fulton Chains of Lakes will be up to the standards that we have all grown to expect. We can boast that our lakes are the best and cleanest recreational waters in the Adirondack Park! This is all accomplished with the support of our members!! Working with our Towns, as well as County and State officials, our efforts continue to support and advocate for clean water, boating safety and public awareness of issues concerning our Lakes.

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.

We need new input and ideas for the continued restoration of "Skull Island." The association and the NYS DEC planted seedlings to stop erosion of the soil but much more needs to be accomplished to stop further damage to the island. We are looking for new

ideas and volunteers to accomplish this difficult task. We thank all the community volunteers who have assisted with this on-going project and we hope to keep this effort alive.

Again in 2015, one of our major goals is to continue to increase our membership. The real estate market has been very active and many properties have changed hands. We need to make our new neighbors aware of the mission of the Fulton Chain of Lakes Association because it's our membership and their wholehearted support that makes our clean and safe lakes possible. Without strong membership we will not be able to continue our mission and we need our members to help keep our organization strong and active. If a property near you has changed hands recently, please approach your new neighbors and inform them of the great work the Association has done in the past and ask them to become a member and support our mission that will ensure the future of the lakes that we all love.

Don't stop there, check in with all your neighbors and friends and make sure they have joined as well. Owning lakeshore property is not a requirement for membership. Everyone, including year round residents, business owners, seasonal residents and visitors benefit from our clean, safe lakes. Ask yourself, what would it be like if the lakes became polluted or overgrown with invasive species? Reach out, help increase our membership. Your efforts will be truly appreciated!!!

continued on page 2

2014 Annual Meeting

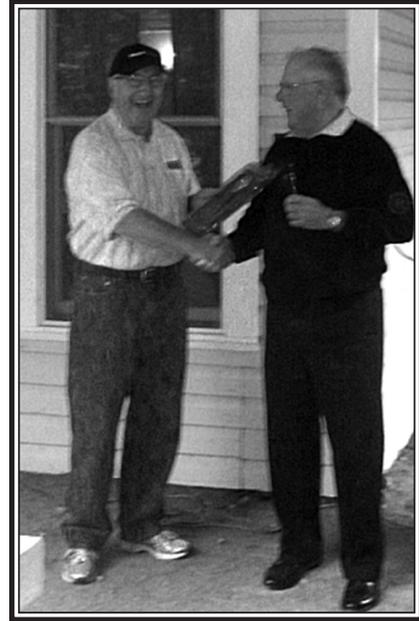
Phyllis Sanzone

The annual meeting of the Fulton Chain of Lakes Association was held August 16, 2014 on the grounds of the Wood Hotel in Inlet. Fifty one members and guests were in attendance.

President Jim Murphy welcomed everyone, and highlighted some of the association activities during the year. There was display describing FCLA's efforts to maintain and improve the water quality and safety on the lakes. Paul Garrison, a Paul Smith's Watershed Institute steward who worked in this area last summer, gave a brief summary of the stewards' activities. Doug Johnson spoke of the efforts of volunteers to remove invasive plants Japanese knotweed and wild parsnip in the area.

Tom McCabe presented the FCLA service award to Jim Murphy for his years of service to the organization.

Incoming president Mike Schreppel told of his extensive diving in the Chain of Lakes that has not revealed invasive plants in the area from Old Forge through Fourth Lake.



Tom McCabe is shown here presenting Jim Murphy with the "Outstanding Service Award" in appreciation for his service the past four years as president

Those present enjoyed a cook-out, while enjoying music provided by Mike Schreppel.

President's Notes continued from page 1

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 to you, our members for helping to keep us strong.

To learn more about our Association, to become a member, to be more involved, or to make

a donation, please visit our website at <http://fultonchainoflakesassociation.org>. We will also be launching a Facebook page so "Like us on Facebook." Have a wonderful safe and happy summer..... see you on the water!!

Mike Schreppel
President

The FCLA Welcomes John Jeffery to its Board of Directors!

Tom McCabe

In his own words, John said: “My interest and goal in joining the FCLA Board is to continue to protect and promote the quality and safety of the lakes which have provided so much pleasure for my family’s past, present and hopefully future generations!”

The Adirondacks and the Fulton Chain of Lakes have been a frequent destination for John and his family since his childhood. Born in Syracuse John has camped, canoed and hiked in the Adirondack Park for his whole life. His wife, Lyn, also has a similar long history of enjoying the lakes. Her family purchased property on Fourth Lake in 1912, the PAOWNYC, and for the last 40 years, John, Lyn and their three children have spent the summers right here in “God’s Country.”

John has 30 years of senior management experience in early stage to mature businesses and remains on some boards all while residing in Middleton, WI, AND making frequent trips to summer in the lakes. He and Lyn have also contributed much of their time to various community activities in the greater Madison area and especially the Dane County Foster Care where they have welcomed over 30 children in their homes in Wisconsin and at the lake.

Recently John and Lyn have retired to the Washington, DC area and plan to spend even more time on Fourth Lake.

The FCLA is proud to welcome John Jeffery to its Board!

If anyone is interested in joining the FCLA as a Committee or Board Member please contact me at: tmccabe862@aol.com.

PUBLICITY

Paul Willsey

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. Great progress has been made since then, but the job is not finished. New threats develop. We are now faced with invasive species that weren’t here in 1968. The Publicity Committee’s goal is to make residents and visitors aware of issues that affect the quality of our water, and things they can do to protect it. We want protect the quality of our lakes for future generations.

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.

Visit our website <http://fultonchainoflakesassociation.org/index.html> to learn more about FCLA.

Watch for announcements in the local papers for the date, time and place of this year’s annual meeting.

NAVIGATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Mark Steigerwald

Greetings to all, members and non-members alike! Check out the forecast, we have some beautiful weather coming our way and all the better for us to enjoy these beautiful lakes we call the Fulton Chain. These beautiful and CLEAN lakes provide such a wide variety of activities for us to enjoy, so get out and make use!

What's new you ask – well the Town of Inlet has been chosen by the State DEC to host one of their 20 new Boat Wash Station. This is part of their initiative to mitigate the introduction of invasive aquatic species to our lakes.

Fishing, just one of those magnificent opportunities provided by these 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. Do you have some children or grandchildren to entertain? 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 a lifetime outdoor activity.

“Respect” – regardless of the activity you're enjoying remember to respect not only this precious natural resource but other too. When you're boating become familiar with and respect the navigational laws. 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 appropriate sheriff's patrol or 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 www.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 WaveRunners. The minimum operator age is 14 and ALL operators, regardless of age, 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”

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

Connie Schreppel

The Fulton Chain water quality-monitoring program continued during 2104. The waters of the Fulton Chain of Lakes were sampled and tested from Old Forge Pond to Inlet. The purpose of this program is to collect data over a long period of time and keep a watchful eye out for any significant changes that may occur. The water quality monitoring takes into account chemical, physical and biological parameters. Thus far the water appears to be of good quality. In 2014, pH ranged from 7.19-7.36 pH units and the alkalinity averaged 14 mg/l. The scheduled routine E. coli (indicators of fecal pollution) tests produced low levels of bacterial density and ranged from less than 1 organism to 16 organisms per 100 milliliters, with an average of 3 organisms per 100 milliliters. New York State standards for bathing beaches require fecal coliform levels be less than 200 per 100 milliliters. However, during random grab sampling, of the Old Forge pond several bacteriological samples showed higher than normal bacterial counts. Follow up samples were taken at intervals during the summer and bacterial counts dropped significantly. These higher levels of bacteria may be linked to duck and goose activity in the Old Forge Pond. It is important to discourage visitors from feeding water fowl.

The Water Quality Committee recognizes how important the Town of Webb's Septic Dye Testing Program is to the health of our lakes and applauds these efforts. This program helps to detect failing septic systems that could contribute bacteria, nutrients and other pollutants to our watershed.

INVASIVE SPECIES SUB-COMMITTEE

Our Water Quality Committee continues to keep a watchful eye on the presence of invasive plant species such as Eurasian water milfoil. We are grateful for the Paul Smith's College Watershed

Stewardship Program that has been keeping a watchful eye over our public boat launch sites on the Fulton Chain. In addition, the Water Quality Committee will continue to conduct surveys looking for re-growth in the areas that the FCLA has previously harvested Eurasian water milfoil in 5th through 7th Lakes. We also have divers who volunteer their time surveying the lake bottoms looking for any invasive plant growth. This year we will continue to explore other grant opportunities and control techniques in our fight to control the spread of invasive species in our lakes.

The Town of Inlet has been chosen to host a boat wash, one of over 20 planned in the Adirondack Park. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation plans on getting the Inlet wash up and running before Memorial Day with the intention of finding and removing invasive species from boats traveling between lakes before they are launched. The recently adopted state budget for 2015/16 contains \$1 million to help fight aquatic invasive species in the Adirondack region. Governor Cuomo signed a bill in September of 2014 that prohibits the launch of watercraft in New York State without taking "reasonable precautions" to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. *The New York Boaters Guide to Cleaning, Drying, and Disinfecting Boating Equipment* is available at: www.dec.ny.gov/docs/fish_pdf/boatdisinfect.pdf

In conclusion, our studies have shown that the Fulton Chain of Lakes is a complex system containing a diverse array of plants, animals, and microorganisms, which interact with their environment that in turn is impacted by the geological formations of its watershed and the activities of all its citizens. The quality and

continued on page 7

DYE TESTING REPORT

Peg Carroll – Town of Webb Code Enforcement

During the Summer of 2014, I completed 235 dye tests with no catastrophic septic system failures observed. Several minor plumbing issues were noted which the owners quickly resolved.

My visits include commercial businesses, rentals, year round as well as seasonal residences. Some locations take more time to test due to geography, boat only access and those places that have multiple septic systems on site. Many sites are vacant, for sale or not used in summer months. Even if I could gain entry to those locations, the test would not be valid due to no load on the system. When no one is available to allow entry, I leave a business card with an office number to call and schedule at their convenience. This method has proven fairly effective.

There is one more success story I would like to share, other than no failures found. I had the pleasant opportunity to engage a lovely family vacationing for the first time in our area. Grandparents, parents, children of all ages....While I performed my test I was asked numerous questions regarding procedures, dye test program, FCLA and, and....! “Where is the tank? We don't see it! How does the system work? How long has FCLA performed this service? Why don't other New York State lakes perform this test?” Who knew so many could fit into such a small bathroom! So amazed and pleased with our pristine resources, this family has vowed to return for all their summer vacations to follow. Do I find this encounter indicative of our future? Yes, I do!

Now, certainly, that is a success story. We are doing something right that has long, long lasting results to preserve our natural resources. We are unique. I trust our non aggressive approach assures favored results.

I remain intrigued, dedicated and proud to continue educational involvement and service with the dye test program. Thank you.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Tom McCabe

FCLA has successfully worked with our various governments: the Towns of Inlet and Webb, our counties of Hamilton and Herkimer, NYS and Federal Government since its beginning. In 1965, 3 years before FCLA was formed, FCLA's founders began efforts to alert the various governments to the contamination of the lakes and to try to find a remedies to solve the problem. Even then Senator Robert F. Kennedy sent a letter of support.

Every year since then our FCLA has had a close working relationship with our officials toward keeping our lakes clean and safe! In 1968, FCLA initiated the dye testing program in our towns and

continues to supports that effort every year working with the towns Zoning Officers.

The Town Supervisors are Honorary Members of FCLA's Board and frequently participate in our meetings. In the last few we have worked closely with both Towns on grants in a major effort to remove Eurasian Milfoil.

Every year the counties' Sheriffs update us on their efforts to keep the Lakes safe in the previous year and their plans for the next year. This effort has intensified the last couple of years as safety is an increasing concern.

continued on page 7

WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Sue O'Reilly and Kathleen Wiley of Paul Smith's College

2014 was the Watershed Stewardship Program's 4th year providing stewards at Fourth Lake. Coverage occurred 7 days per week from 7am to 4pm, with coverage beginning May 24th and ending September 1st. This was a significant increase over the 5 days per week coverage provided during the 2013 season. The stewards were funded for 2014 by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) through an Environmental Protection Agency grant; funding for the 2015 season at Fourth Lake will be provided by GLRI through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Fourth Lake stewards educated 4,190 total visitors and inspected 1,563 total boats. 28 boats, or 2% of all inspections, were found to harbor one or more organisms. Out of 1,552 groups, 1,072 groups reported taking more than one aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention method for their watercraft: 367 groups inspected their watercraft, 883 groups washed their watercraft, 278 groups drained their bilge, 10 groups emptied their bait buckets, 17 groups drained their live well,

8 groups disposed of unused bait, and 261 groups dried their watercraft. There was 1 case of bladderwort entering or exiting Fourth Lake, 5 cases of Eurasian watermilfoil, 10 cases of grass, 3 cases of native milfoil, 3 cases of unknown milfoil, 2 cases of pine needles, 2 cases of water chestnut, 1 case of zebra mussels, and 1 case of native pondweed. There were 8 total confirmed AIS removals from watercraft at Fourth Lake; 8 AIS entering the lake and zero AIS exiting the lake. Please follow the link:

http://www.adkwatershed.org/files/awisp_program_summary_20142.pdf to view or download the 2014 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

Water Quality Committee Report continued from page 5

quantity of the Fulton Chain's water has attracted development along its banks. While people enjoy the beauty of the lakes, keeping them as pristine as possible must be kept in mind by everyone. We must not be remembered as the generation that ruined this area's greatest asset and through our water quality monitoring program

we will help insure that the beauty of the lakes is preserved with its current high quality as shown by last summer's monitoring. This "watchful eye" will continue to provide the data necessary to establish trends allowing for sound management decisions in the future.

Government Relations Committee continued from page 6

Over the years, FCLA attended meetings in Inlet monitoring their plans for their new Sewage System and last year had a tour of the plant.

We thank all the public officials for their continuing cooperation as we all work together toward the goal of CLEAN and SAFE Lakes!

2015 Annual Newsletter

FCLA Officers & Directors – 2015

President Michael Schreppel
1st VP Mark F. Steigerwald
Sec/Treasurer Phyllis Sanzone

Directors:

Carolyn Belknap Jim Riedel
John Jeffery Phil Sanzone
Don Kelly Amy Sauer
Bill Landmesser Connie Schreppel
Tom McCabe Jr Ron Smith
Jim Murphy Tom Vawter
Jodelle Pross Paul Willsey

Honorary Directors:

Theodore C. Riehle Jr. John Frey

Ex-Officio: Dennis McDermott

Directors Emeriti:

Janet Blakeman Ed Stafford
Jack DeBevoise Heather Stafford
Richard Knight Bob Wheeler
Richard Rettig

Committees:

Water Quality (including Aquatic Invasives):

Don Kelly Michael Schreppel
Bill Landmesser Ron Smith
Amy Sauer Tom Vawter
Connie Schreppel

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:

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

Membership:

Carolyn Belknap–Chair
Jim Murphy

By-Laws: Phil Sanzone–Chair

Government Liaison:

Tom McCabe–Chair
Don Kelly Ron Smith
Kevin Jost

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 _____