



2016 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 2016." For the snow lovers the winter season was a big disappointment! Here's hoping we have a better summer season on the beautiful Fulton Chain of Lakes. My name is Mike Schreppel and I will be serving my second year as President of the Fulton Chain of Lake Association! I look forward to working with the FCLA Board of Directors and our members again this year.

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 2016, 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 plants and organisms? Reach out, help increase our membership. 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

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2015 Annual Meeting

Phyllis Sanzone

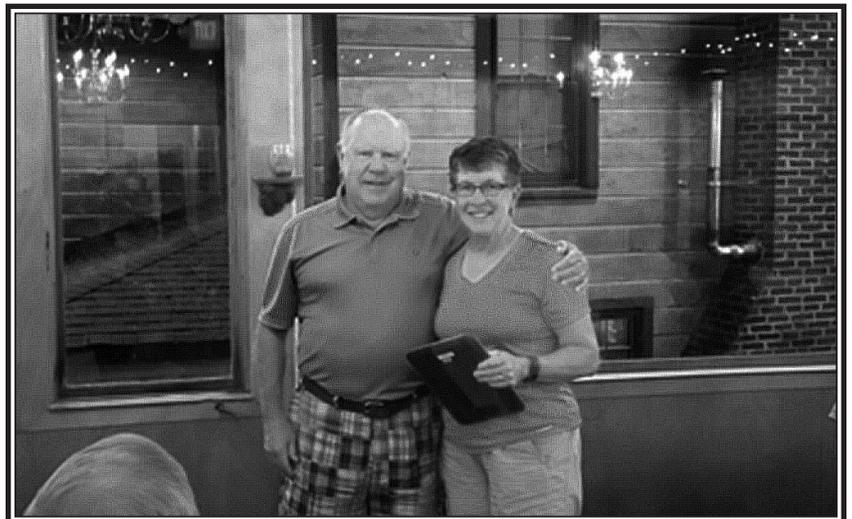
FCLA held its 2015 annual meeting on August 7th at the Woods Inn. Our members enjoyed a delicious “picnic” buffet in the new outdoor pavilion. Following a short business meeting, Chris Farber, Herkimer County Sheriff was our guest speaker. He discussed his department’s efforts to patrol the lakes to insure safety on the water. Following our speaker, music for dancing and listening was provided by the one man band “On-Going Problem” (aka Mike Schreppel).

Carolyn Belknap was presented with the FCLA Service Award for 2015. The award is presented to a director that has made a significant contribution to FCLA. Carolyn was a member of FCLA for many years and joined the Board of Directors in 2010. Among other things, she was responsible for our website. She coordinated responses to information requests on the website and maintained the membership database. Carolyn and her husband Frank moved to California. She will be missed by everyone in FCLA.

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



Sheriff Farber and Mike Schreppel at the Annual Meeting



Tom McCabe presents Carolyn Belknap the FCLA Service Award for 2015

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 to 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. We will again be placing ads in the local newspapers to encourage people to protect the water quality of our lakes and to remind people of some of the laws related to safe boating. Watch the newspapers for the time and place of our annual meeting.

Cabin Living magazine frequently has a column highlighting lake associations throughout the US and Canada. FCLA will be highlighted in the September issue. Both paper and electronic copies of the magazine can be purchased online, if they aren't available locally. Visit our website at <http://fultonchainoflakesassociation.org/>

GET "ADKicted" IN THE ADIRONDACKS

T-shirts with this clever logo have been cropping up along the Fulton Chain. The T-shirts were the brain child of one of our lakeside residents who decided to honor our beautiful Adirondack surroundings and give back to the community. The Fulton Chain of Lakes Association is lucky to be one of the benefactors of this endeavor. A portion of the proceeds from the sale of the "ADKicted" shirts has been donated to the FCLA to help us continue to protect and preserve the lakes. The FCLA is very appreciative of the donations and on behalf of all our members we say, Thank you very much!!

"ADKicted" T-shirts are available at French Louie's in Inlet and the Old Forge Hardware Store. The FCLA is very grateful for being included in this initiative. Stop by and get "ADKicted" and show off your love of the Adirondacks.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Tom McCabe

FCLA has always worked very well over the years with our Government Officials at all levels informing them of our goals, soliciting their knowledge and in many cases FCLA has assisted them in passing effective legislation to formalize our goals.

These governmental bodies include: The Towns of Inlet and Webb, the counties of Hamilton

and Herkimer, the State of NY and its many departments and the Federal Government.

Our working relationships have always been excellent and effective and we will continue to work alongside our governmental officials toward clean water, safe water and preserving the environment.

NAVIGATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Mark Steigerwald

To preserve and protect is the guiding principal that has served this association so well for so many years now and when it comes to navigation let's remember to add "Respect." Let's act responsibly and show consideration and respect for everyone with whom we share a love for these beautiful waters. Always with safety and courtesy in mind be respectful not only of others on the water but of property owners as well. Know how close to shore you can operate your watercraft, know and observe the legal decibel level of your watercraft and of course know and observe the speed limits. For your protection and the protection and enjoyment of others these lakes are patrolled by law enforcement. The Fulton Chain is available for everyone to enjoy, showing respect will not only add to the enjoyment of others but to yours as well.

Safety on and near the water is so important, accidents are never anticipated and can happen so quickly with devastating results. Young children whenever near the water should always be supervised by a responsible adult free from distractions such as cell phones or even reading material, drowning can happen quickly and quietly. And remember water toys such as noodles, air rafts, even water wings are never a substitute for a proper life jacket. Don't tempt fate when there is an approaching storm, lightning is extremely dangerous, get out of and off the water immediately and seek shelter.

Speaking of those young ones, here are some ways to get them hooked on the joys of an

Adirondack summer and free them from those digital devices. Try introducing them to what might become a lifetime love of an outdoor activity – fishing. Here in New York State children less than 16 years of age do not require a fishing license. Or get them out on the water and teach them the responsibility and independence of operating a watercraft. Boater Safety courses will again be held by both sheriff departments. Successful completion of the course qualifies them for a New York State Boating Safety Certificate which is necessary for ALL operators of personal watercraft and for power boat operators under the age of 18.

Ignite their passion – so many of today's adults who have a love for these lakes started out as "Adirondack Kids" so let's pass it on to today's children.

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.

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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
- Open Lake - Night 25 mph

DYE TESTING REPORT

Peg Carroll – Town of Webb Code Enforcement

During the summer of 2015, more than 210 dye tests were performed and only two septic tank failures were discovered. Visits include commercial businesses, rentals, and 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. 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.

Since we want a smooth and accurate job with as little inconvenience to the homeowners, the Town of Webb Code Enforcement office is always available to assist with the proper procedures. Although a failure isn't news people want to hear, it does offer an opportune time to get facts straight and documented. Where exactly is the tank? Where is the port(s) for clean out? Is the system undersized for the size and location of the structure?

A septic system is as important to a home or business as any other fixture. It also needs care and maintenance. Be sure to budget for your septic system along with other needs: roof, heating system, and appliances and septic. Eventually, it will need work or replacement.

There has been an increase in seasonal properties for rent possibly due to the present economic conditions. The common theme of: "the more the merrier!" does not always apply when the septic tank is only capable of holding 500 gallons and problems arise due to overuse.

I will soon begin my fourth season of dye testing for the Town of Webb and it will be good to see everyone again! Thank you FCLA and Code Enforcement for your continued support.

President's Notes continued from page 1

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://fulton-chainoflakesassociation.org> or visit us on our new

Facebook page. We encourage you to post pictures and events happening on the Fulton Chain to the page. Have a wonderful safe and happy summer..... see you on the water!!

Mike Schreppel
President

Navigational Committee Report continued from page 4

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 Wave Runners. 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."

WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Connie Schreppel

The Fulton Chain water quality-monitoring program continued during 2015. 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. 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

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 watershed stewards from Paul Smith's College maintained boat inspection and wash stations in Inlet and at the parking area on Route 28 near the Okara Lakes this past summer. Funding was provided by an EPA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grant with the intention of finding and removing invasive species from boats traveling between lakes before they were launched. New York State and the Department of Environmental Conservation continue to be very proactive in the fight against invasive species. 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 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.

WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

2015 was the Watershed Stewardship Program's 5th year providing stewards at Fourth Lake. The Fourth Lake Boat Launch is located off NYS Route 28 in Inlet. The Fourth Lake NYSDEC Boat Launch is one of the busiest Adirondack Watershed Institute Stewardship Program's locations in the west-central region. It is the only public access point for motorboats to the lower Fulton Chain. Funding was provided by an EPA Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grant. The Fourth Lake launch was typically covered 5-7 days

a week during the summer and every weekend until Columbus Day. Watershed Stewards covered the launch for a total of 106 days and stewards educated a total number of 5,328 visitors. Stewards inspected a total of 2,275 watercraft with 7.7% of boats found to have one or more organisms and 3 aquatic invasive species.

For a complete report on the program visit: http://www.adkwatershed.org/files/awisp_program_summary_2015.pdf



Steward decontaminating personal watercraft



Fulton Chain of Lakes Watershed Stewards



Elevated water supply tank and cribbing – Okara Decontamination Station



Stewards at the Old Forge Farmers Market educating the public about invasive species spread protection

2016 Annual Newsletter

FCLA Officers & Directors – 2016

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

Directors:

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
Jim Riedel

Honorary Directors:

John Frey Robert A. Moore

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
John Jeffery Jodelle Pross

Navigation/Boating:

Mark Steigerwald–Chair
John Jeffery Jim Murphy
Tom McCabe 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
Mike Schreppel Phyllis Sanzone
Jim Murphy Connie Schreppel
Jodelle Pross

Membership: Jim Murphy

By-Laws: Phil Sanzone

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 _____