



2017 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 2017". It was a long unpredictable winter. Here's hoping we have a great summer season on the beautiful Fulton Chain of Lakes. My name is Mike Schreppel and I am serving my second term 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.

Again in 2017, 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 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

2016 Annual Meeting

Phyllis Sanzone

FCLA held its 2016 annual meeting on August 7th at the Inlet Town Hall. Following a short business meeting a presentation was given on the Adirondack Watershed Stewards Program. A representative from Paul Smith’s College gave a report on the boat inspection stations and the invasive species detected on the Fulton Chain.

NAVIGATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Mark Steigerwald

Indeed – what a beautiful chain of lakes these are and so inviting for so many activities and ways to enjoy them year round but especially so in the summer months. Always keep in mind our trusteeship responsibility, to “Preserve and Protect” as we enjoy these waters while respecting others as they enjoy them in the same responsible manner.

So many of these activities involve boating and with boats of all types safety is always paramount. Remember with power boats things happen quickly, know how to operate your boat in all conditions and know the rules of the road. When you’re on the water keep an eye to the sky especially with some of the extreme weather we’ve seen of late. An approaching summer storm will likely include some lightning strikes, seek safe harbor and get off the water immediately. By law appropriate life jackets are required to be worn or on board for all occupants. Engage our youth; operation of a power boat can be a wonderful rite of passage for them. First teach them by example and then enroll them in one of the certified Boater Safety courses held by either the Herkimer County (315) 867-1167 or Hamilton County (518) 548-3113 Sheriff’s Departments. Successful completion of the course qualifies them for a New York State Boating Safety Certificate which is necessary for ALL operators of Personal Water Crafts and for power boat operators under the age of 18.

Kayaks and canoes are an ever increasingly popular way to combine enjoyment with exercise. Their portability allows you to explore waters otherwise inaccessible. Sailboats too offer many opportunities to enjoy these lakes. There are rentals available for anything from Sunfish to daysailers, lessons are offered as well. Invite a friend along for a nice sail in a Sunfish or enjoy a lunch with a group of friends out on a daysailer. Or perhaps you’ve seen some of the organized racing that takes place on some of the lakes, it’s fun and easy to participate. These groups are always inviting and welcoming to new participants.

Finally when it comes to enjoying these Fulton Lakes, what more important lesson can we teach our youth than learning to swim. Always remain vigilant of those who can’t especially toddlers. Drowning happen quickly and often silently. We can easily be absorbed in a good book or distracted with our cell phones.

Indeed – these lakes are for everyone to enjoy, so let’s “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
- Open Lake – Night 25 mph

WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Tom Vawter – Chair, Connie Schreppel – Committee Member

The Fulton Chain water quality-monitoring program continued during the summer of 2016. 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 2016, pH ranged from 7.16- 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 17 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.

New This Year: A Homeowners Guide to Lake Friendly Living on the Fulton Chain of Lakes

John Jeffery

Your Fulton Chain of Lake Association is pleased to make available to our members and other Fulton Chain residents a thoughtful guide to sustainable living on and around our Adirondack lakes. This 24 page color brochure provides 15 strategies to protect our lakes' waters and lakeshore environment. These strategies discuss how to reduce pollutants, minimize erosion, manage lawns, maintain septic systems, create rain gardens, and install vegetative buffers and more.

15 Simple Strategies for Sustainable Lakeshores & Landscapes



- 1. Reduce Impermeable Surfaces**
- 2. Limit Lawn Size**
- 3. Use Water Wisely**
- 4. Minimize Erosion**
- 5. Be Smart About Lawn Care**
- 6. Use Phosphorus-Free Fertilizer**
- 7. Maintain Your Septic System**
- 8. Don't Flush Your Drugs**

- 9. Maintain Your Vehicles**
- 10. Conserve Water**
- 11. Reduce Household Hazardous Wastes**
- 12. Install a Vegetative Buffer**
- 13. Plant a Rain Garden**
- 14. Go Native**
- 15. Join the FCLA today!**

<http://www.fultonchainoflakesassociation.org/>

All these tactics are the key to enhancing the value of our personal property, our lakes and surrounding lands for our current generations and future generations.

This brochure will be available to our membership, new members and we would be happy to mail to any interested party at their request.

Nominating Committee

Tom McCabe

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

DYE TESTING REPORT

Peg Carroll – Town of Webb Code Enforcement

During the Summer of 2016, more than 300 dye tests were performed at water front properties at Big Moose Lake and 1st through 4th Lake on the Fulton Chain in the Town of Webb. Only one major failure was discovered and this is great news! Perhaps ideal summer weather was a major factor for finding a more significant number of people available than in years past?

Here are a few reminders to assure a healthy septic system.

- Pump out tank regularly. Usually every 3 to 5 years
- Plant only grass near your septic system, tank & drain field. Roots from trees & shrubs can cause damage to your system.
- Do not allow heavy machinery to drive or park on septic area.
- Do not build over drain field.
- Conserve water; check for water leaks in home.
- Divert external water sources like roof drains from septic areas.

You may also want to review some guidelines with your guests if they are unfamiliar with septic systems.

RULE OF THUMB

NOTHING SHOULD ENTER SEPTIC SYSTEM THAT CAN BE DISPOSED OF IN THE TRASH. (More solids in tank, the more often a pump out will be required)

NO: food, coffee grinds, grease, oils, plastics, paper towels, sanitary products, kitty litter, paints, harsh chemicals...the list is long.

Avoid overuse of bleach, disinfectants, toilet bowl & drain cleaners. Living organisms digest and treat waste. Don't kill the organisms!

As always, I appreciate all the cooperative home owners, guests, care givers, Fulton Chain of Lake Association and Town of Webb. See you soon if you haven't seen me in three years or more!

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 a preserving the environment.

PUBLICITY

Paul Willsey

The Fulton Chain of Lakes Association (FCLA) 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 developed. We are now faced with invasive species that weren't a problem in 1968. The Publicity Committee's goal is to make property owners and visitors aware of issues that affect the quality of the water and safety on the water.

Watch for articles in the Adirondack Express and The Weekly Adirondack related to preserving and improving the quality of our water and safe boating. During the summer months, we run ads in the local papers to remind people of actions they should take to protect our waters. We encourage property owners to adhere to NY State law when they use fertilizers on their lawns. We encourage everyone, particularly visitors, to get their boats inspected for invasive species before launching them, and washed if necessary. We run ads reminding boaters of some of the laws pertaining to navigation on the lakes. We also run ads encouraging everyone who enjoys the Fulton Chain of Lakes to join FCLA. Protecting our waters is everyone's job.

Visit us on the web at <http://fultonchainoflakesassociation.org/index.html> and <https://www.facebook.com/fultonchainoflakesassociation.org/> to learn more about FCLA.

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

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 protecting and preserving 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 gift store in both Old Forge and Inlet. Look for the displays. The FCLA is very grateful for being included in this initiative. Stop by and get "ADKicted" and show off your love of the Adirondacks.



Watershed steward showing a boat owner how to inspect his boat and trailer.



Example of a steward table display for public education. Watershed Stewards participated with the FCLA at the Antique Boat Show in Old Forge July 9, 2016

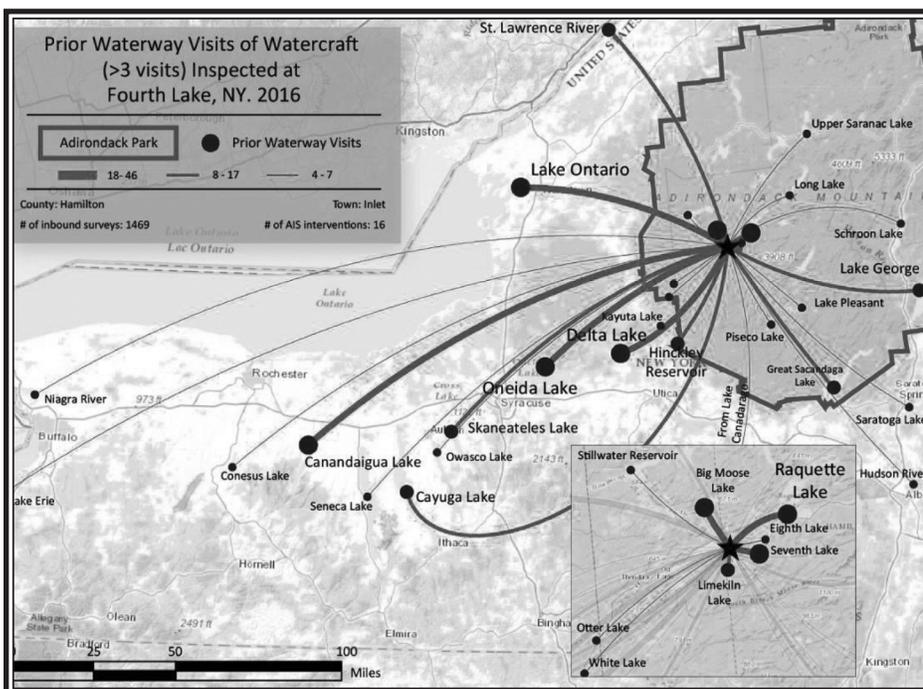
WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

The Adirondack Watershed Institute Stewardship Program (AWISP) is associated with Paul Smith's College (PSC) located in Paul Smiths, NY. In 2016, the AWISP hired 87 stewards stationed at 51 different boat launches and 12 decontamination stations throughout the Adirondack Park and beyond. This allowed the Stewardship Program to implement a landscape scale, coordinated aquatic invasive species (AIS) spread prevention program. Boat inspection and decontamination programs managed and funded by cooperating lake associations placed 31 stewards at 10 additional locations, for a combined total of 118 stewards at 83 locations. The AWISP managed the New York State AIS Prevention Program, funded by an appropriation from New York State's Environmental Protection Fund, for the second consecutive year. In total 58,848 boats were inspected by the program and 1,743 invasive species were detected.

2016 was the Watershed Stewardship Program's 6th 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. The Fourth Lake launch was typically covered 7 days a week during the summer and every weekend until Columbus Day. Watershed Stewards covered the launch for a total of 114 days and stewards educated a total number of 5554 visitors. Stewards inspected a total of 2177 water craft with 4.2% of boats found to have one or more organisms. Six vessels were found to have curly-leaf pondweed, 17 vessels had Eurasian watermilfoil, 3 had variable leaf milfoil and one vessel was found to harbor zebra mussels. The Stewardship program also participated at Raquette Lake, Big Moose and operated a decontamination station on Route 12 near Okara Lakes.

For a complete report on the program visit: http://www.adkwatershed.org/sites/default/files/awisp_program_summary_2016_0.pdf



This map illustrates where boats traveled previously before launching in the Fulton Chain and 16 invasive species were detected on these boats from other waterways. This demonstrates how easy it is to spread invasive species from one water body to another.

2017 Annual Newsletter

FCLA Officers & Directors – 2017

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):

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

Historian: Phil Sanzone

Publicity:

Paul Willsey–Chair
Jodelle Pross

Navigation/Boating:

Mark Steigerwald–Chair
Tom McCabe Paul Willsey
Jim Murphy

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: 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 _____