



2018 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

After a very long winter it looks like spring is finally arriving in the beautiful Adirondacks. It is now time to enjoy a great summer on the beautiful Fulton Chain of Lakes. My name is Mike Schreppel and I am concluding my second term as President of the Fulton Chain of Lakes Association! I look forward to working with the FCLA Board of Directors and our members again this year. 2018 is a very important year as the Association will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary. We have many plans to celebrate this very important milestone.

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 Chain 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.

Again in 2018, one of our major goals is to continue to increase our membership. The real estate market has been 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, become a member, be more involved, or to make a donation, please visit our website at <http://fultonchainoflakesassociation.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

WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Tom Vawter – Chair, Connie Schreppel – Committee Member

CSLAP and the Water Quality Committee

The Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP) is a volunteer lake monitoring program run by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the NYS Federation of Lake Associations, Inc. (NYSFOLA). It was initiated in 1985, with the support of New York Governor Mario M. Cuomo. It was modeled after successful volunteer programs in Vermont, Maine, Illinois and Minnesota. Each participating lake association is a member of NYSFOLA, a not-for-profit coalition of lake associations and others interested in lake management. NYSFOLA was founded in 1983 and presently serves nearly 200 lake associations as well as individual and corporate members.

Citizen volunteers from NYSFOLA-member lake associations are responsible for collecting biweekly water quality data and samples from June through October. About 100 lakes participate in the program each year. Samples are collected from surface waters (epilimnion) for shallow lakes. Bottom, or hypolimnion, samples are collected from deeper lakes. Parameters include water temperature, transparency, conductivity, pH, color, phosphorus, nitrogen, Chlorophyll a and calcium.

Two of our Board Members, John Jeffery and Tom Vawter recently were trained to be CSLAP volunteers. This will enable the FCLA to continue monitoring the water quality in the Fulton Chain through the CSLAP program.



CSLAP Water Quality Monitoring Program

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.

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

Last summer 7th and 8th Lakes experienced a bloom of harmful Blue Green Algae (HAB). The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation has announced a statewide monitoring program for HABs. FCLA will be monitoring this program closely.

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.

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. We are looking forward to celebrating our 50th Anniversary this year. The Publicity Committee's goal is to make residents and visitors aware of issues that affect the quality of our water and to promote safe boating on the lakes.

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.

Under the leadership of John Jeffery our website fultonchainoflakesassociation.org has been updated. Information about the FCLA is also available at www.facebook.com/fultonchainoflakesassociation.org/

The FLCA 50th Anniversary Celebration will be held this summer. Watch for announcements in the local papers for updates and details.

DYE TESTING REPORT

Peg Carroll – Town of Webb Code Enforcement

Over 275 tests were performed on septic systems in 2017. No complete failures were detected. Ten minor plumbing issues were found and easily corrected by the property owners. Numerous permits were issued for septic system installations on water front properties and additions due to growth or age of the systems. The office has been spending more time with new owners and owners of camps with aging systems to encourage planning ahead and explaining general septic system operation.

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!

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.

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.

NAVIGATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Mark Steigerwald

For 50 Years now your vigilant association has been working hard to improve the water quality of this magnificent chain of lakes in the heart of the beautiful Adirondack Mountains. As a result of these efforts your lakes today can continue to be enjoyed in the same wide variety of ways as they have been by visitors like yourself for well over 100 years.

Of course during the summer months boating and boating related activities are among the most popular of these uses. With that heightened level of activity in mind let's take a quick look at a short list of safety reminders...

Weather-Wise – Keep an eye to the sky and check the forecast for weather watches and warnings.

Know Your Vessel – Motor, Sail, Kayak, etc., regardless of what type of boat, are you knowledgeable of its safe operation and are you licensed or certified to operate it?

Life Jackets, PFDs – Do you have a properly sized PFD for every participant and are those required to be wearing them, wearing them?

Check List – Depending on the vessel, check for items such as: adequate fuel, water, sun protection, food, required safety equipment...

Rules of the Road – Know the rules, laws and regulations and abide by them in all waterways especially in crowded situations. Know the speed limits, rights of way, *noise limits*, distance from shorelines etc.

Common Sense – Accidents happen quickly - Be alert at all times and aware of traffic and activities around you.

Certification you ask? Here's a breakdown of who is required to take a boating certification course. If you were born on or after May 1, 1996, you are required to successfully complete a state approved course and obtain a boating safety certificate to operate a motorboat. Additionally, all persons, regardless of age, must complete a Boating Safety Education Course in order to operate a Personal Water Craft (AKA - Wave runner, Jet Ski, etc.) on New York State waters. For a class in your area check this State of New York calendar listing <https://parks.ny.gov/recreation/boating/safety-courses.aspx>. Or for information about online courses available 24/7 check out this website - <https://parks.ny.gov/recreation/boating/boating-safety-class.aspx>

Swimming, fishing and boating are three fantastic ways to get our youth out of doors and enjoying these beautiful lakes. All three are activities that can be enjoyed by them for the rest of their lives, let them remember you for that gift. For swim classes you might find this website by the Red Cross helpful to find some classes near you - <https://www.redcross.org/take-a-class/swimming/learn-to-swim-providers>. For a young child boating can be a wonderful empowerment of independence and responsibility, perhaps you have such a memory yourself...

Your lakes await you, now it's time to get out there and enjoy them always keeping in mind to "Preserve and Protect" while respecting others as they enjoy them in the same responsible manner.

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 | |

WATERSHED STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

The Stewardship Program is the education, outreach and spread prevention arm of Paul Smith's College. It is a comprehensive environmental science, education, and management institute, the Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI) directed by Eric Holmlund, PhD. The AWI is the only organization in the Adirondack Park offering a full range of environmental services including general environmental science, water quality monitoring, fisheries program management, aquatic invasive species (AIS) monitoring, ongoing AIS infestation management, AIS infestation rapid response, large-scale public outreach, data analytics and support services, and AIS spread prevention. AWI staff members coordinate and maximize the impact of AIS prevention, management and response activity by sharing information between the complementary aspects of the program.

The Stewardship Program initiated services in 2000 on one northern Adirondack lake chain, the St. Regis Lakes, and has since expanded its coverage to nearly 70 locations across the entire North Country region. Our 2017 field season featured boat inspection and outreach from Glens Fall in the southeast to Wilson Hill on the St. Lawrence River in the northwest, and



Watershed Steward decontaminating a boat

Summary of the Stewardship Program on the Fulton Chain

- Invasive species intercepted: 60**
- Boats inspected: 3,695**
- Dates of Operation: May 27 – October 9**
- Number of visitors: 8,727**
- Boats failing inspection: 10.1%**
- Total Number of Days Covered: 123**
- Weekly Coverage: 7 days**
- Visitors showing spread prevention awareness: 72%**
- Number of previously visited waterways: 109**
- AIS Present in Waterbody: variable-leaf milfoil**
- Stewardship History: 2011 - present**
- Partnership: Fulton Chain of Lakes Association**

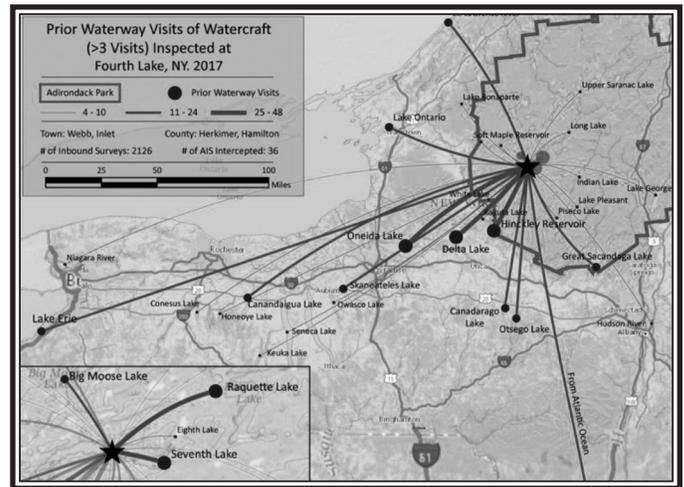
from Old Forge in the southwest to Plattsburgh on Lake Champlain in the northeast.

The boat wash decontamination station will be moved from the parking area near Okara Lake to the parking area near Rocky Mountain on Fourth Lake for the summer of 2018. This new site will enable the program to reach more boaters and help educate the boating public on the fight to stop invasive species.

In 2017, however, the APIPP-sponsored AWI rapid response team detected NO new invasions of Adirondack Lakes, the first time that this has happened in over a decade. This is certainly welcomed news, which presumably is a result of the heightened awareness of AIS spread measures and the widespread



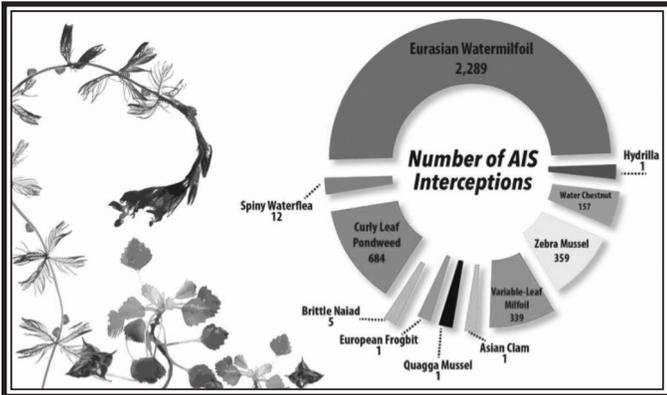
Watershed Stewards Public outreach in Old Forge



This map illustrates where boats traveled previously before launching in the Fulton Chain and 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.

boat inspection and decontamination program run by AWI and partners.

For a complete report on the program visit:
www.adkwatershed.org



Watershed Stewards Invasive Species Interception in the Adirondack Park 2017. (Graphic by Jake Sporn)



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

2017 ANNUAL MEETING AND PUBLICITY

Phyllis Sanzone - Secretary, Paul Willsey - Publicity Chair

FCLA held its 2017 annual meeting at the Inlet Town Hall. Following a short business meeting, a presentation was given by the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) concerning invasive species in the Adirondacks. Recently, APIPP announced that no new reported aquatic invasive species were reported in the lakes for 2017. The Adirondack Lakes Alliance also shared this good news with all the lake and river associations to let us know that continuing efforts to protect our waters is indeed making a difference. The thousands of hours committed yearly by our lake and river volunteers in protecting our Adirondack waters through stewardship, monitoring efforts and successful lake management plans and continue to ensure that Adirondack lakes and rivers are clean and safe for all to enjoy.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: FCLA WELCOMES TWO NEW DIRECTORS

Tom McCabe

The FCLA is delighted to announce that it has added two new members to its Board of Directors. Both are Teachers in the Town of Webb Schools and are year around residents in Old Forge. Danielle Kiefer has a BA in Biology and completed her Masters Degree in Education in 2011, both degrees from SUNY Binghamton. She has been a science teacher since 2012 and teaches AP Environmental Science, AP Biology and Living Environment. Danielle involves her students in numerous experiments, field trips and projects. One of her projects in her AP Environmental Class is to have the students build “boats” out of recycled material and then have them test their work project on Old Forge Pond! As a member of the FCLA Board she says “I want to increase our community’s awareness of the good work of the FCLA”.

Todd Megan Has a BS Degree in Geology from Plattsburgh State and after graduating worked for four years as a ground water geologist for a small environmental firm in Vermont before joining the Town of Webb Schools as a science teacher. Todd grew up on the St. Lawrence River and has a lifelong passion for boating, fishing and conservation. He feels very strongly about conserving and preserving our lakes for future generations especially since he recently became a father. He says “I hope my experiences and passions can help keep the Fulton Chain beautiful!”

Welcome to Danielle and Todd; and if anyone is interested in joining the FCLA as a Committee member or Director please contact Tom McCabe at tmccabe862@aol.com.

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

The Fulton Chain of Lakes Association will be celebrating our 50th Anniversary in 2018.

Our main celebration will be a Clearwater “Dinner” Cruise on August 11th beginning at 5:30 pm at the dock in Old Forge. The celebration will be limited to 100 people. The cost for the evening is \$25.00 per person. This includes heavy hors d’oeuvres and the cruise. A cash bar will be available. Reservations can be made by calling 315 357-2982 by July 31, 2018 or on the Member Application below. Mark the date and plan to join us for this fun evening.

Other Educational events are in the planning stages. They will also be announced in the weekly papers and on our website. Check it out at fultonchainoflakesassociation.org

FCLA Officers & Directors – 2018

President	Michael Schreppel
1st VP	John Jeffery
2nd VP	Mark F. Steigerwald
Sec/Treasurer	Phyllis Sanzone

Directors:

Don Kelly
 Danielle Kiefer
 Bill Landmesser
 Tom McCabe Jr
 Todd Megan
 Jim Murphy
 Jodelle Pross

Jim Riedel
 Phil Sanzone
 Amy Sauer
 Connie Schreppel
 Ron Smith
 Tom Vawter
 Paul Willsey

Directors Emeriti:

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

Honorary Directors:

John Frey	Robert A. Moore
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Ex-Officio: Dan Smith

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 _____

50th Anniversary Cruise Reservation: # of people _____ at @ \$25.00. Amount enclosed \$ _____