



2021 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

“Our world has changed significantly since the 2019 FCLA newsletter,” so began the newsletter in 2020, what an understatement. Maybe it is still appropriate to start 2021 in much the same way. I have spoken several times in this newsletter about how blessed we are to have our slice of paradise within the 6 million acres of the ADK park, literally in our back yards. Having now lived in a world of sequestering and quarantining, masking and social distancing... and yes, great concern for the health of our family and friends, we at the Fulton Chain of Lakes Association truly hope that the cliché, “The light at the end of the tunnel,” is on the road to our ADK Park. My wish is that we can once again enjoy, fully, “our slice of paradise.”

The Fulton Chain of Lakes Association’s mission has not changed because of Covid-19 but may have expanded and taken on greater urgency. I hope we all have come to realize the interconnectivity of all our environments natural and social. We might even become more mindful of how we can better “share and sustain” our resources in the Fulton Chain which is core to fulfilling the Association’s mission to “Preserve and Protect” the waters and surrounding watershed of the region. Your board continues to ask how can we, as your lake association, be more proactive in “protecting and preserving” our lakes, their ecological and human environments, in a way that we emerge stronger and more focus on our shared “slice” of the ADK. With that in mind:

- Maintain the Chain – Boon Family – FCLA July 10 - 11 event. Log on to maintainthechain.net to see the activities you can participate in to help keep our lakes beautiful and healthy for all of us and future generations. You will be receiving more information about this soon (or you will have received information by the time you read this newsletter.)

- Recent deadly accidents on our waters reinforces your association’s mission to actively promote safe boating on the Fulton Chain, working with both Hamilton and Herkimer County Sheriffs to provide additional water safety patrols and supplying lake-based rescue launches with important tools and equipment.
- We have expanded our partnership in, both time and money, supporting the Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI) to ensure that we continue to inspect watercraft and educate boaters entering the lakes to minimize the introduction of “invasive species” in our waters. In addition, the AWI provides a washing station to clean boats entering and leaving our lakes near Inlet, NY.
- We have continued to be active in monitoring and testing of our lakes (we are C-Slap and CEC participants) that assure the continued quality of the waters of “the Chain.”
- The Association continues to provide an interface between the various lake “stakeholders” that enjoy all the benefits of the waters throughout our communities.
- Your Board continues to ask for your help and support. Attend our board meeting, volunteer for committee work, spread the word to your neighbors and friends about the benefits of joining and supporting the Association.
- As our public health and physical climate continue to rapidly change and the recreational use of our lakes grows, so do the challenges to the ecosystems of the Fulton Chain watershed. We must closely monitor these changes and be watching carefully for those we cannot yet see.

Thank you for your continued support.

John Jeffery – President

WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Tom Vawter – Chair of the Water Quality Committee

CSLAP RESULTS

The Citizens' Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP), supported by the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation (NYDEC) and the New York Federation of Lake Associations (NYSFOLA) trains citizen volunteers to collect data on water quality on over 400 New York State lakes. The Fulton Chain of Lakes Association (FCLA) enrolled Second Lake of the Fulton Chain in the program from 1986-1990 and from 1995 to 2012. Sampling of Second Lake was suspended between 2013 and 2017, but FCLA re-enrolled the lake in 2018.

In 2020, FCLA board member Tom Vawter sampled water quality on the lake at roughly 2-week intervals between June and September. Tom measured some parameters on site and collected a series of water samples to be sent to the lab at Upstate Freshwater Institute for detailed chemical analysis. The detailed results of this analysis will be posted on the FCLA website.

In summary, the results show that there has been very little change in water quality in second lake since CSLAP sampling began in 1986. The lake is moderately “unproductive,” which is good. “Productivity” in the ecological sense means able to grow unwanted algae. The pH of the lake is near neutral, which is good for fish production. The lake remains good for all recreational uses.

Although invasive Eurasian and Variable-leaf Milfoil remain present in the Fulton Chain, they have been well controlled, especially in the lower lakes, and no invasive animal species (e.g., Zebra and Quagga Mussels) have been detected (See report of Lake Steward Program below.).

New York State, like many other lake districts globally, has recognized an alarming increase in the occurrence of what are called “Harmful Algae Blooms” (HABs), which are actually blooms of Cyanobacteria, often mislabeled “blue-green algae.” Not only are such blooms unsightly, they can release toxins into the water that pose a number of serious threats to human and animal health. Such blooms were recorded in September of 2017 in Seventh and Eighth Lakes in the Fulton Chain, but not in 2018. The reasons for these outbreaks are not very clear, and the chemistry of Second Lake indicates that the chances of such blooms are low. Nonetheless, the fact that they have occurred in similar nearby lakes and are increasing in frequency throughout the state gives reason for watchfulness, and it is important to prevent pollution of the lake with phosphorus, a chemical that promotes HABs. The DEC posts notification of current and recent blooms at <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/83310.html> and keeps an archival record of such blooms at <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/83332.html>.

6th and 7th LAKES

Volunteers of a separate Lake Association on 6th and 7th Lakes, which partners with FCLA, monitors water quality annually. They sample 4 locations in each of the two lakes, and averages of their results over all 8 sites indicate that both lakes are “healthy” with neutral pH of 7.0, less than 0.88 parts per million (ppm) of nitrate, less than 0.20 ppm of phosphorus, and a dissolved oxygen content of 7.0 ppm in 6th Lake and 6.7 ppm in 7th Lake. Secchi disk readings measure water clarity and were 21.4 ft in 6th Lake and 21.3 ft in 7th Lake.

CHEMICALS OF EMERGING CONCERN

In the summer of 2018, John Jeffery and Tom Vawter, along with their CSLAP sampling, cooperated with a program to assess potential problems of “Chemicals of Emerging Concern”, that is potentially harmful chemical pollutants that may appear in low quantities and are not regularly monitored, including the agricultural herbicide. The few samples John and Tom took showed concentrations too small to detect by the methods, so the program was not repeated on the Fulton Chain in 2019.

LAKE STEWARD REPORT

Throughout the Adirondack Park, the Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI) Stewardship Program located in Paul Smiths, NY, maintains a system of inspection and decontamination stations, protecting Adirondack lakes from invasive aquatic organisms. Park wide, the Stewardship Program conducted 100,894 inspections and 3,965 decontaminations.

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They intercepted 2,694 invasive aquatic organisms, mostly Eurasian milfoil. This number of interceptions is significantly fewer than 2018. Their full report for 2019 is delayed because of NY PAUSE restrictions>

In partnership with the FCLA the Adirondack Watershed Institute maintains 4 inspections stations on 4th Lake and one on 7th Lake: The Rocky Mountain Trailhead Parking Area, the State Boat Launch near at Inlet, the launch for Alger Island off Petrie Road and off Rt. 28 near 8th Lake Camp Ground. The station on Route 28 at the Rocky Mountain Parking Area is also a decontamination station. Personnel from AWI conducted a total of 2,290 inspections among the 3 sites on 4th Lake and decontaminated 161 vessels from May to November 2019. They intercepted 37 boats carrying aquatic invasive species, again mostly Eurasian watermilfoil, but also variable leaf milfoil and zebra mussels. Again, down significantly from the 69 contaminated boats in 2018.

Owners of all types of vessels, including kayaks, canoes and paddleboards, should be mindful of the spread of aquatic invasive species and drain, wash and dry their vessel before moving to a new waterbody. There is a move by the Adirondack Council to make boat washing mandatory whenever a vessel is moved from one waterbody to another.

TOWN OF WEBB SEPTIC SYSTEM DYE TEST PROGRAM

The Town of Webb Code Office conducts routine dye tests and superficial inspection of septic systems around the Fulton Chain and some other nearby lakes. During the summer of 2019, the town had trouble maintaining personnel. Peg Carroll, who had done the testing for a number of years resigned, and a new hire quit after only a few days on the job. As a result, only 104 properties were tested, approximately a third the number of tests usually done.

104 septic systems were tested • No failures were discovered.

ADIRONDACK WATERSHED INSTITUTE

Paul Smith's College Adirondack Watershed Institute (PSC AWI) will be providing free boat inspections and decontamination services starting on Memorial Day weekend at 5 locations in the Fulton Chain of Lakes region to help the public stop the spread of aquatic invasive species. Stewards will be working at two launches at Fourth Lake, the public launches at Seventh Lake and Eighth Lake, and the decontamination station at Rocky Mountain trailhead in Eagle Bay. You can expect to see the stewards on most weekdays and weekends from 7:30am-4pm although days and hours vary slightly at some locations. You can help support this effort by ensuring your boat is cleaned, drained and dried before launching and after retrieving and by sharing this message with your guests and visitors.

The Adirondack Watershed Institute is offering a number of virtual and in person programming this summer:

Celebrate Invasive Species Awareness Week - Be A Junior Watershed Steward: Protecting Adirondack Lakes from Aquatic Invasive Species, (Sunday June 6 – Saturday June 12) for kids ages 7-12. Children will visit a local boat launch, interview a watershed steward, and complete activities to learn what it takes to protect their lakes from aquatic invasive species. Please pre-register (<https://forms.gle/yN2R8eo7Q38xDsP46>).

Earn a Certificate in Invasive Species Spread Prevention from Paul Smith's College and help protect clean water. This is a great opportunity for community volunteers or anyone interested in learning more about aquatic invasive species. Self-guided on-line training modules can be completed at your own pace over the course of 10 days (choose either June 6-17; July 12-22; and August 23-September 2) and include quizzes, discussion boards, and a concluding live interactive webinar. The courses are free but pre-registration is required. Email adk.steward@gmail.com

AWI's Water Week will be August 23-27 this year. Special events are planned to focus on the theme of "Valuing Water." The celebration of our water includes a week-long Speaker Series, activities and the final Invasive Species Prevention Certification Program. The events are virtual and free but pre-registration is required. For more info, click here <https://www.adkwatershed.org/community/events>

Ground water contamination from road salt is a threat to human health and safety and our freshwater. This winter, the Randy Preston Road Salt Reduction Act was signed into law by New York's Governor Andrew Cuomo. The law will designate a Road Salt Task Force to develop recommendations for minimizing the use of salt on winter roads in the Adirondacks. PSC AWI and partners have been working together to find solutions to safe roads and clean water. Citizens and municipalities can Take the Pledge to reduce road salt and learn more about this issue through Adk Action's online resources <https://www.adkaction.org/project/reducing-road-salt/>.

SCHOLARSHIP

Thomas McCabe, Sr. Environmental Studies Scholarship



Don Kelly presents scholarship to Macgregor Ritz-Kenney (left) and Wyatt Beckingham (right).



Alexandria Sutherland, engaged in field work in Montana, shows her scholarship award letter.

In 2019, the FCLA Board of Directors established a scholarship for Town of Webb Schools graduates engaged in studies in environmental fields. This annual scholarship program is open to current graduates and alumni of the Town of Webb Schools studying fields such as water quality, water use, water-related land use and climate change. Applicants are evaluated based on their proposed fields of study, their academic records, and their records of community service. By supporting students studying in environmental fields, FCLA is furthering its mission of educating the community about the importance of water and water quality to our quality of life.

For the 2020-21 Academic Year, the FCLA Scholarship Committee (Danielle Kiefer, Tom Vawter and Don Kelly) voted to expand the program and award three scholarships, each in the amount of \$1000. Two of this year's recipients are receiving assistance for the second time: Alexandria Sutherland, currently in her second year studying environmental engineering at Montana State University, and Macgregor Ritz-Kenny, in his third year of academic work in Environmental Biology at Cazenovia College. The third recipient is Wyatt Beckingham, a 2020 graduate of the Town of Webb Schools studying Forest Technology at Paul Smiths College.

In addition to the monetary award, FCLA presented their families with memberships in the Association.

It is rewarding to see our local students interested in studies and careers beneficial to the environment. We should all be proud of them and the community that supports them. FCLA congratulates all three of this year's recipients and wishes them the best in their studies.



NAVIGATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Mark Steigerwald

With the cold months of winter behind us we can again look forward to enjoying the beauty and activities the Fulton Chain of Lakes offers to us. Particularly this year as we ease out of the constraints brought upon us by the Covid-19 pandemic. With that in mind let's continue to follow the CDC guidelines as they change but also let's keep safety in mind as we prepare for a fun filled and **SAFE** boating season.

When operating a motorboat make sure you are up to date on all safety regulations as well as all the local rules and regulations. Make sure there are enough Coast Guard approved life jacket for every person on board and children under the age of 12 must be wearing a properly sized one. Also please be sure to observe the following Fulton Chain of Lakes regulations: Daytime open water speed limit is 45mph, Nighttime 25mph, and when within 200 feet of shore 5mph. With regards to licenses, currently anyone born on or after Jan. 1, 1993 must have a boating safety certificate to operate a motor boat and all operators of a Personal Watercraft (Jet Ski, Wave Runner, etc.) must have a boating safety certificate and be at least 14 years of age. Looking down the road, effective January 1st 2025 all operators of motorized vessels, regardless of age, will need a boating safety certificate. With that in mind why not put some time aside to sign up for a course near you or take one of the on-line courses available. Even better take the course with a child or grandchild of yours. Operating a "putt-putt" or power boat can be such a maturing experience for our youth, teaching them independence and the responsibility that comes with it.

With regards to the cleanliness of our lakes, all boats and the trailers that move them, are the number one source of invasive species to our lakes. The Lake Stewards performing inspections at some of our boat launches are doing a fantastic job. However the responsibility ultimately falls upon each and every one of us to be vigilante and prevent the transportation and introduction of invasive species from other bodies of water to our lakes. Here are some simple guidelines as provided by Adirondack Watershed Institute:

On another "note," have you noticed the noise? Increasingly visitors and residents of the Fulton Chain have noticed the presence of very loud boats on the lakes. So loud in fact that most people ask "Is that legal"? Well the answer is "NO"! Here are the facts: Under New York State law the maximum decibel level for vessels underway is 75dB. Most of these offenders are operating with cut-out through hull exhaust systems which are illegal in New York State. These systems can, at a modest cost, be modified to come into compliance with the law. What can be done you ask, we suggest you contact, as we have, the two sheriff's departments that patrol the lakes and register a complaint. Noise gets action so let's fight noise with noise! Herkimer County Sheriff's Dept 315-867-1167; Hamilton County Sheriff's Department 518-548-3113.

Okay, it's time to get out and enjoy the beautiful majesty of the Fulton Chain and make sure we include our youth by getting them out on the water and away from those devices with key pads and screens. Always be sure however to remain ever vigilant of those toddlers, drownings happen quickly and silently, we can be so easily distracted by our cell phones or books.

Stay safe and enjoy!

To Protect Our Lakes...

CLEAN. DRAIN. DRY.



CLEAN- watercraft, trailer, motor and equipment and REMOVE mud, plants, and animals

DRAIN- water from boat, bilge, motor, and livewell

DRY- boat and equipment completely or wash with high pressure hot water

www.adkcleanboats.com



PUBLICITY

Paul Willsey

The Fulton Chain of Lakes Association was founded in 1968 with a mission of protecting the water quality of the Fulton Chain of Lakes in New York's Central Adirondacks. Our mission of protecting the water quality of the lakes continues and, in addition, we strive to keep the lakes a safe place to enjoy boating, swimming, fishing etc. 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. We hope that when people learn about our mission, they will want to join in our efforts.

Watch for articles and ads during the summer in the Adirondack Express related to our mission.

Our website <http://fultonchainoflakesassociation.org/index.html> continues to be updated. On the website you will find useful information about our organization

and how you can help us with our mission of preserving and protecting the unique environment of the Fulton Chain of Lakes. There is information on steps you can take to prevent introduction of pollutants and invasive species into our lakes so that the current excellent water quality is maintained. There are links to other organizations that are facing a variety of threats to their water quality and steps they are taking to protect their water. In addition to water quality, safe boating is important to all of us. The website has information on how to make your boating experience safer. It also includes information on New York State and local boating laws.

We are also on Facebook where up to date information and photos can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/fultonchainoflakesassociation.org>



Photos courtesy Carolyn Belknap

MAINTAIN THE CHAIN EVENT

Paul Willsey



Our first annual Maintain the Chain lake and watershed improvement event is the weekend of July 10 and 11. We hope you will plan a project with a team of friends and family members (up to five per team), put on your official T-shirt and on July 10 and 11, get to work. Registration is online (by June 21 if you want T-shirts for your team) at www.maintainthechain.net.

The event got its start when the Boon Family (Carin Gonsalves and Maurit, Nolan and Isabella Boon) invited friends and family to help them clean-up the lake bottom in front of their Fourth Lake camp. It became a yearly ritual that has continued over the past nine years. Hauling bags of trash onto the shore gave them an incredible feeling of pride knowing that they were improving the environment, not only for the wildlife, but also for the local community. In hopes of inspiring others to improve the environment, they shared their efforts with the local newspaper (<https://www.adirondack-express.com/adirondack-express-08-04-2020/>). The Fulton Chain of Lakes Association was inspired by the article and has pledged its support in hopes of establishing this as an annual community event.

The projects will be self-directed. The Maintain the Chain website www.maintainthechain.net has links to resource material for helping teams plan what they will do. It isn't necessary to finish the project on the July 10-11 weekend, just get it started. Each team is asked to provide, immediately after the event, a description of what was accomplished. These descriptions and photos of the teams at work will be published on-line and, in the Adirondack, Express. Gift certificates will be awarded to teams for creative and exceptional accomplishments. A "Best Project" award will be presented at the FCLA Annual Meeting in August.

The Towns of Webb and Inlet, the Sixth and Seventh Lake Improvement Association and the Adirondack Watershed Institute are co-sponsors, endorsers and supporters. The event planning committee includes John Jeffery, Carin Gonsalves, Maurits Boon and Ray Letterman.



Nolan and Isabella Boon spent the day with their parents, uncle Brian Hotaling, cousins Owen and Peter Hotaling, and Isabella's friend Ava Grabar, cleaning up the bottom of Fourth Lake around the family's camp.

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FCLA Officers & Directors – 2021

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

Directors:

Butch Hartsig	Phil Sanzone
Don Kelly	Connie Schreppel
Danielle Kiefer	Michael Schreppel
Ray Letterman	Ron Smith
Tom McCabe Jr	Tom Vawter
Jodelle Pross	Paul Willseys
Jim Riedel	

Honorarys Directors:

Dave Berkstresser – Town of Webb Supervisor
 John Frey – Town of Inlet Supervisor

Directors Emeriti:

Janet Blakeman	Amy Sauer
Jack DeBevoise	Ed Stafford
Richard Knight	Heather Stafford
Jim Murphy	Bob Wheeler

Ex-Officio: Ray Cardella – President
 6th & 7th Lake Association

Committees

Thomas B. McCabe Environmental Studies Scholarship

Don Kelly-Chair	
Danielle Keifer	Tom Vawter

Water Quality

Tom Vawter-Chair	
Mike Schreppel	Connie Schreppel
Don Kelly	Ron Smith

Publicity/Marketing

Paul Willsey-Chair	
Butch Hartsig	Danielle Keifer
John Jeffery	Jodelle Pross

By-Laws

Phil Sanzone-Chair

Website: John Jeffery

Nominations/Awards

Tom McCabe-Chair	Don Kelly
Phil Sanzone	

Navigation/Boating

Mark Steigerwald-Chair	John Jeffery
Tom McCabe	Paul Willsey

Annual Meeting

Mike Schreppel	Jodelle Pross
Phyllis Sanzone	Connie Schreppel

Government Liaison

Tom McCabe-Chair	Kevin Jost
Don Kelly	Ron 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 _____

Contribution: \$10 Basic \$10 Business \$25 Family \$35 Sponsor \$50 Friend of the Lakes \$100 Patron

Date _____, 20____ Signature _____