

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

Now, more than ever, our communities need us. As the economic future remains uncertain, it places additional stress on government. It's difficult to find any government agency that isn't telling us that hard times mean a decrease in their ability to be all things to all people. But the needs continue. We must remain vigilant in our efforts to protect water quality and we must continue efforts to find and eliminate invasive species that threaten our waterways.

The Fulton Chain of Lakes Association has been effective because of the public-private relationships we have forged within and between our communities. When specific problems were identified, we've been there to suggest solutions (the

BTi program), provide at least a portion of the necessary funding (the septic dye testing program), lobby for legislation (boating safety regulations), or undertake the task (Eurasian water milfoil control). Importantly, we have always undertaken these efforts in partnership with government-local, county and state. It is all the more important that we continue our work; preservation of our quality of life must go on regardless of wider economic conditions.

We hope you will continue to support us in our efforts, and that you will remain active members in the Association. Even better, recruit a neighbor to our ranks. The more of us there are, the better we can accomplish our tasks.

Don Kelly

BOB WHEELER RECEIVES 2009 FCLA SERVICE AWARD

Heather Stafford, Don Kelly and Tom McCabe

At the 2009 Annual Meeting on the Clearwater, Bob Wheeler was awarded the Service Award for his outstanding, long-term contributions to the Association. Bob, an Eagle Bay resident, has co-chaired the Water Quality Committee for the last decade and has been a tireless supporter of the Association's efforts to maintain water quality in the chain. He was instrumental in the preparation and submission of Inlet's two successful water milfoil eradication grant applications and plays a critical role in educating the public about the danger posed by invasive aquatic species. Bob was chair of the Town of Webb's Master Plan Committee and remains a proponent of the development of a watershed master plan. He is active in Central Adirondack Search and Rescue, the Central Adirondack Laboratory for Environmental Studies, Nicolls Church Thrift Shop Ministry, Habitat for Humanity and is an advisor to the Senior High Youth group. Congratulations, Bob. We are proud to have you as a Director and are delighted to present you with this well-deserved award,

WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE REPORT

Bob Wheeler

The Water Quality Committee (WQC) was busy in 2008 and looks forward to an even busier and interesting 2009. As we all know, the program of Septic System Testing of lakeside properties has been the major focus of our water quality activities for over 40 years. The emphasis will remain on maintaining effective septic systems will as we continue to tackle the more recent (2005-present) problems associated with the discovery of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM), an invasive aquatic, in Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Lakes. We continue to survey the lakes of the lower chain for any indications of EWM; fortunately we have found none.

The WQC has concerned itself of late with the broader aspects of water quality by considering the need for a Fulton Chain Watershed Master Plan. A watershed master plan provides a mechanism for government and private organizations to consider the myriad of factors, such as runoff, erosion, stream flows, identification of important aquifers, well water quality and the possible impacts of human activities on these important resources. In 2009 we will be working with the Towns of Webb and Inlet to encourage the development of such a plan.

During 2009, we will begin a program of public education so we all become grounded in the various aspects of our watershed and why its study and health is so important to our communities' quality of life and economic sustainability.

The Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP) is a volunteer lake-monitoring program conducted by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the NYS Federation of Lake Associations (FOLA). Founded in 1986 with 25 pilot lakes, the program has since involved more than 230 lakes, ponds, and reservoirs and 1,500 volunteers from eastern Long Island to the western-most lake in New York, from downstate to the northern Adirondacks, and from 10-acre ponds to several of the Finger Lakes, Lake Ontario, and Lake George.

Second Lake, a 262 acre, class A lake, has been a part of CSLAP since its first sampling in 1986. Over the years, the following volunteers deserve most of the credit for the success of this program at Second Lake: Ed and Heather Stafford, Deke Morrison, Rita and Thomas McCabe, Gerald Griffin, Donald and Edward Belyea, Tyler and Ethan Schadt, Ronald Plank, David and Sheryl Pierson, and our current steward, Steve Pitela of Fourth Lake.

CSLAP has been the benchmark for comparing all the other sampling and testing that we do on the other lakes of the Chain. The report is that our lakes are thriving and healthy.

Water quality conditions in Fulton Second Lake continue. . . moderately to highly unproductive, with low nutrient and algae levels and high water clarity. Recreational assessments. . . usually highly favorable during the summer . . . The productivity of Fulton Second Lake does not change in any predictable way during the summer and into the fall . . . recreational assessments and perceptions of lake conditions (how the lake looks) are also fairly stable (and highly favorable) during the summer.

This year's report states that Second Lake has: higher clarity, and lower nutrient and algae levels than other nearby (Black River basin) lakes, and other NYS lakes, and were about as productive as other lakes used for potable water intake (Class A lakes). Recreational assessments have been more favorable than in the typical lake in each of these classes of waterbodies; This is due primarily to lack of invasive weed problems.

In the light of the highly favorable water quality conditions and recreational assessments, the report states that: lake management activities should focus on preventing the introduction of exotic plants and animals to the lakes via education, surveillance of boat launch sites (public and private), and

boat inspections. This is particularly important since invasive exotic weeds have been found in other parts of the Fulton Chain of Lakes. Any on-going efforts to minimize nutrient loading

should be continued.

The full CSLAP report on Second Lake is available on-line at our website.

UPDATE ON THE EURASIAN WATER MILFOIL CONTROL PROGRAM

Ron Smith

The Inlet/Webb Eurasian Water Milfoil Eradication Project-Upper Seventh Lake includes a project area consisting of 46 acres in which there are many extremely dense weed beds and 22 acres in which the weed beds are at much lower density.

We began removing Eurasian water milfoil in this project area in June of 2008. Dive teams worked in the bay across from the Eighth Lake campground for 66 hours, typically utilizing three divers and one surface support person. These beds are extremely dense and were almost exclusively harvested using a pump to carry hand-harvested plants to bags, and a screened box on the boat. Twenty-two 30-gallon containers of milfoil were removed in June. (Note: after plants go through the impeller of the pump they take up 1/3 to 1/2 the volume of hand bagged plants, therefore the same amount of hand bagged plants would fill between forty four and sixty six 30-gallon containers).

The project continued removing Eurasian Water milfoil in July and August of 2008. The Dive team worked 36 days during this period, logging 891.75 paid diver hours and 253 paid surface support hours.

Approximately 60% of the high-density beds were harvested once. Due to the turbidity produced in harvesting beds of this density, many plants escaped the first harvest. No plants were removed from the lower density beds in 2008.

The plants in the dense areas were almost exclusively harvested using the suction pump. Use of the pump greatly decreases turbidity and increases productivity. One hundred and eight 30-gallon containers of plants were removed from the project area in July and August. (The same amount of hand-bagged plants would fill between 216 and 324 thirty-

gallon containers)

The dive team worked 24 days in the bay near the Eighth Lake campground removing 78 containers of milfoil. They worked 12 days in the downstream beds removing an additional 32 containers of plants from beds.

In addition, divers spent six days revisiting areas of Fifth Sixth and Seventh Lake that were harvested during the past two years as part of the previous grant project as well as by FCLA volunteers in 2005 and 2006. Scattered, mostly small plants were found, indicating regrowth from root or stem fragments, with a few larger plants that had been missed in earlier harvests.

The goal for 2009 is to harvest each bed in Upper Seventh Lake at least once and to again revisit areas in Fifth Sixth and Lower Seventh Lakes. In 2008 the density of the plants led to frequent clogging of the suction pump. While the hoses or pump were unclogged, divers were unable to continue harvesting plants, reducing efficiency. In 2009 we hope to significantly increase productivity by renting an additional pump with only two divers utilizing each pump.



*Diver working on the milfoil control program.
Photo by Ron Smith*

DYE TESTING PROGRAM

Andy Getty and Don Kelly

Last year, 2008, the dye-testing program wrapped up in the Eagle Bay Park area of the Town of Webb. Over the last three summers, since the Code Enforcement Office has administered the program, approximately 250 properties have been tested each year. Our goal is to test each of the nearly 900 lakefront properties very three years. This is a daunting task, but one which is important to maintain water quality. In addition to our systematic dye testing program, we test other properties as well, including follow up inspections, complaints, new or repaired systems and re-inspection of suspected systems.

Problems are discovered each year. Some are major and some are relatively minor fixes. Each year this office gets a little more proficient in scheduling and communication, thus allowing us more time for actual site visits. And as we begin the cycle over again, the inspector is that much more familiar with the properties, septic system components and potential issues.

Cooperation from the property owners remains very high. Most express an immediate desire to correct any deficiencies found. Every now and then a little more formal correspondence is required to obtain action. Each situation is unique with its own circumstances and is dealt with accordingly. Our goal

is voluntary cooperation and compliance, reducing and minimizing the impacts on our waters and shorelines.

The public awareness and education benefits of this program have a huge positive impact as well. The number of applications received in this office for new, expanded or replacement systems has been strong. Very few are actually because of results of a test. Most are due to obvious failure, expansions or new installations.

Cindy will be back for this summer and starts scheduling tests beginning June 1st. Post card reminders will be sent out as in last year in an attempt to encourage scheduling of properties, trying to maximize the number of properties visited per mile driven.

The Association is also urging the Towns of Inlet and Webb to explore the possibility of an intermunicipal agreement to allow expansion of the Town of Webb program into lakefront properties on the chain in Inlet. Such a consolidation agreement would provide economic and practical benefits to both towns as well as to water quality.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact this office at 369-3001

Andrew W. Getty
Code Enforcement Officer, Town of Webb

NAVIGATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Jim Murphy

Greetings friends of the Fulton Chain of Lakes!! Once again we look forward to spring and a safe and happy boating season!!

We are preparing for a new printing of our most welcome 'lake map brochure'. Again, thanks to many of you for your input on improvements to the map. Each time we re-print it we change it this way or that to make it more user friendly and a true navigational aid. Hopefully, it will be out in early May. It is available at local marinas, information centers and police stations.

As overall safety of vessels on our lakes is always one of our main concerns, please feel free to let us know of your concerns. Last year on a couple of different occasions we were made aware of concerns with navigational hazards or the navigational lights. We quickly passed those along to our great friends at DEC and the problems were addressed immediately!

NOTES FROM YOUR HISTORIAN

Ed Stafford

As part of our 40th anniversary celebrations, we took the time to thank many of our original members for their years of support. The FCLA first began as the Fulton Chain of Lakes Improvement Association. The objectives stated in the organization's Certificate of Incorporation were to "promote a program for the preservation of pure water in the Fulton Chain of Lakes by eliminating those sources of pollution which constitute a threat to the purity of the water." The FCLA created a dye-testing program that tested septic systems on a third of the homes around the chain every year. The Town of Webb lent a hand by making the dye tester a town employee, while the FCLA reimbursed the town for the dye tester's wages. A few of the local residents who were inspectors employed by the program were Dick Hession, Sue Mitchell, Lori Hurlbutt Armstrong, Bob Wanamaker, Carey McCabe Lorraine, Scott Maimone and Steve Graham. The Town of Webb has now assumed all responsibility for hiring and supervising the position. The inspector in 2008 was Cindy Raccine of the Town of Webb Codes Enforcement Office.

In addition to the dye-testing program, the FCLA has for 40 years sampled the waters of the Fulton Chain for total coliform and fecal coliform bacteria as well as pH. In more recent years, testing has included phosphates and nitrates, important indicators of eutrophication. Samples are taken from

five sites on the chain: Old Forge Pond, First, Second, Third and Fourth Lakes. Improvement of water quality has clearly resulted from these efforts. In the late 60's and early 70's, excessive bacterial levels created a danger that the Old Forge Beach would be closed. Today, water quality in the chain is outstanding. The association has participated in other endeavors in keeping our lakes clean and safe and now is keeping a watchful eye out for Eurasian water milfoil, an aggressive invasive. Eurasian water milfoil has been found in Fifth, /sixth, and Seventh Lakes, and the Association has been working closely with the Town of Inlet to eradicate the plant from existing beds.

All of these efforts have been made possible by the support of our residents and local businesses. We want to offer a big thank you to folks like Alan Barnum, Janet Blakeman, Marge Bonnett, Jack Boylan, Alex Brynlsen, Bill Buckley, Alan and Margery Burstein, Elmer Crouse, Midge Daiker, John Droz, Mary Evans, Annette and Arthur Eyre, Jack Goldstone, Franklin Gould, Marilyn Griffin, Charles and June Kiefer, Terry and Ellie Ledger, Tom and Marge McCabe, Rita McCabe, David Palmer, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Rettig, Bill and Carol Rivet, Howard and Judy Slater, Yale Soloman, Ed Stafford, Al Stripp, Dutch Vandervort and Clayton and Leo Villiere. All were members during that critical period when the Association was formed. Our thanks as well to all who have supported us over the past four decades.

Boater safety classes will be held again this year. Please contact the Herkimer County Sheriff's Office or the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office for dates, times and local training sites. In addition, information regarding recreational boating and education is located on the web site for the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. This is a great way to find out where training classes are available outside of Hamilton/Herkimer counties, for those of you who may want to take the courses "closer to home". The web site is: <http://www.nysparks.com/> (Just click on boating then education)

For information regarding the annual DEC fishing stocking in the Fulton Chain of Lakes and neighboring lakes, ponds and streams see the DEC website: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7739.html>

Reminder to all fishermen: Bait restriction regulations continue!! Check with your local bait store and/or the New York State Department of Conservation for details. The DEC web site is: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/65.html>

HAPPY BOATING AND HAPPY FISHING!!!

UPDATE ON SKULL ISLAND

Margaret Murphy and Don Kelly

Last year, we reported on the deteriorating conditions of Skull Island, a popular but over-used island in Second Lake. We remain concerned about the island's condition and remain determined to assist the Department of Environmental Conservation in its rehabilitation. Our overall goal for the restoration plan is to restore the island while accommodating public use. We are currently developing a restoration plan for submission to DEC that involves the addition of topsoil and mulch to help increase vegetative cover on the island and the use of logs to add structure to the shoreline, reducing the effects of waves and boat wakes. Our plan also includes measures that would direct public use to specific areas, allowing other portions of the island to recover. This will require that we educate the public about the details of the plan

and about the fragile nature of the island. Signage indicating how to reduce impacts while still enjoying the island will be critical to reduce further deterioration and to protect efforts at rehabilitation. Look for additional information on this project as it develops.



Skull (DeCamp) Island photo by Heather Stafford.

BLACK RIVER WATERSHED PLANNING INITIATIVE

Margaret Murphy

The Fulton Chain of Lakes is located within the larger Black River Watershed. The Black River Watershed encompasses 1.2 million acres, which includes five counties, one city (Watertown), 37 towns, and 18 villages; one third of the watershed is within the Adirondack Park. Recently, the Black River Watershed Planning Initiative was undertaken to look comprehensively at the watershed, with a community-based approach. A Steering Committee was formed to implement various watershed initiatives and includes representatives from the Lewis County Division of Soil and Water, NYS Tug Hill Commission, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, and the Town of Grieg. The Town of Grieg is serving as the grants administrator on behalf of all of the communities within the watershed, including the Towns of Webb and Inlet.

Initiatives in the include development of a Black River Watershed Management Plan, a public/stakeholder outreach plan, groundwater assessment, and socio-economic analysis. The Town of Grieg has hired consultants to conduct these assessments and write the reports. The development of a watershed management plan sets priorities for improvements within the watershed (e.g., habitat restoration, water quality improvements). State and federal funding become easier to procure with a management plan in place. The current timeline includes release of a Final Plan in December 2009.

The Fulton Chain of Lakes Association has reviewed the materials produced to date by the consultants, and has provided detailed comments to the consultants and to the Towns of Webb and Inlet. We have also attended a local public meeting on the plan, providing additional comments. We intend to remain closely involved with this plan as it is developed, since it has the potential to affect our area.

2008 ANNUAL MEETING

Don Kelly, Heather Stafford and Phyllis Sanzone



On Friday, August 1, 2008, the Fulton Chain of Lakes Association held its 40th Anniversary Annual Meeting aboard the **Clearwater** on a cruise from Old Forge Pond to Fourth Lake. Nearly eighty members and guests enjoyed a variety of hors d'oeuvres on a beautiful summer evening.

Tom McCabe announced that Don Kelly had agreed to serve another two-year term as president, and that all of the members of the 2008 class of the Board of Directors, Ed Stafford, Bob Wheeler, Ron Smith and Mike Schreppe, will continue as the class of 2011.



Bob Wheeler spoke briefly about water quality issues affecting the chain and Ron Smith reported on the success of the Eurasian water milfoil harvesting project on Upper Seventh Lake, funded by a grant administered by the Town of Inlet. Andy Getty, Town of Webb Codes Enforcement Officer gave a presentation on the septic system dye testing program, now entering its fifth decade.

The 40th anniversary celebration gave the Association an opportunity to thank several of the people who were most instrumental in the establishment of our organization, and who continue to be active members. Heather Stafford presented

bouquets to Marge Bonnett, Rita McCabe and Marilyn Griffin. Marge Bonnett was a Director from the start and served as Historian for many years. Today she continues to enlist new members. Rita McCabe, with her husband, Tom McCabe, Sr. was a driving force behind the formation and early

successes of the organization. Marilyn Griffin served for many years as board member and treasurer. It was an honor to be able to personally thank these three for their contributions.

Heather also expressed a note of thanks to Alan Burstein, who, as an attorney fresh out of law school, volunteered his time and knowledge in the legal establishment of the Association. Unfortunately, he could not join us on the cruise, but the organization owes him a debt of gratitude for his work and continued support.

We look forward to a fifth decade of success.

Meeting Dates for 2009:
(Saturdays) May 23, June 20, July 25
and August 29

Annual Meeting Friday, August 7,
Location to be announced.

FCLA Officers & Directors – 2009

President	Don Kelly
1st VP	Jim Murphy
2nd VP	Mike Burke
Sec/Treasurer	Phyllis Sanzone

Board Members:

Ed Stafford	Jodelle Pross
Bob Wheeler	Amy Sauer
Ron Smith	Phil Sanzone
Mike Schreppel	Heather Stafford
Tom McCabe	Bill Landmesser
Mark Steigerwald	Connie Schreppel
Helen Black	Margaret Murphy
Robert Moore, Town of Webb Supervisor	
John Frey, Town of Inlet Supervisor	

Committees:

Water Quality:

Bob Wheeler-Chair	
Don Kelly	Ron Smith
Mike Burke	Bill Landmesser
Connie Schreppel	Mike Schreppel
Amy Sauer	Helen Black
Margaret Murphy	
Steve Pitella-CSLAP volunteer	

Historian: Ed Stafford

Scholarship:

Phil Sanzone-Chair	
Ed Stafford	Ron Smith

Publicity:

Heather Stafford-Chair	
Jodi Pross	Helen Black-website

By-laws:

Phil Sanzone-Chair	Heather Stafford
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Nominating/Awards:

Tom McCabe-Chair	
Heather Stafford	Phil Sanzone
Ed Stafford	

Navigation/Boating:

Jim Murphy-Chair	
Tom McCabe	Mark Steigerwald
Charles Bartolet-Volunteer member	

Annual Meeting:

Don Kelly-Chair	
Phyllis Sanzone	Connie Schreppel
Jodi Pross	

To become a member, fill out the application below and either give it to a FCLA representative or mail it with your check to FCLA, PO Box 564, Old Forge, NY 13420.

**Membership Application
Fulton Chain of Lakes Association**

Please print

Name _____ Spouse _____

Home Address _____

Home Telephone _____

Fulton Chain 911 Address _____

Local Telephone _____ Camp Sign or I.D. _____

Annual Membership dues are: \$10 Basic \$25 Family \$35 Sponsor \$50 Friend of the Lakes \$100 Patron

Date _____, 20____ Signature _____