

F C L A



A Publication of The Fulton Chain of Lakes Association, Inc.
PO Box 564 • Old Forge, New York 13420

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

It is with great pride that I begin my term as president of the Fulton Chain of Lakes Association. I'm proud to be associated with a group that has had such striking success, proud to be associated with such a distinguished board, and proud to be part of a diverse and committed membership.

Our partnership with the Towns of Inlet and Webb has been enduring and productive. For nearly forty years, we have partnered with the towns to work on every issue affecting the quality of our lakes. We've also worked with the towns on any number of issues affecting our quality of life. Our latest efforts have focused on invasive aquatic plants, particularly Eurasian water milfoil. Working closely with the Town of Inlet, we've made progress in this complicated and difficult task. Most importantly, we've shown that such a control effort is possible and have demonstrated methods that can be used in the effort. This work must continue, and

efforts to track the spread of invasive plants must continue as well.

Our board of directors makes this work possible. We are privileged to have so many committed, experienced members on our board. Collectively, we have many decades of experience in the history of the Fulton Chain. This experience makes us uniquely capable to deal with issues that arise.



Connie Schreppel – Presentation at Antique Boat Show

Lastly, our membership makes all of our efforts possible. Your financial and political support allows us to do what we do. Please continue supporting our efforts. Better yet, recruit an additional member. It used to be that you "had to be a lakefront property owner" to feel the need to join FCLA. But our work affects all town residents-lakefront and hamlet, permanent and seasonal. Without the continued high quality of our lakes, all of our lives

would be negatively affected-our recreation, our property values, our pride in our communities. Recruit more strong links in the chain!

Don Kelly

FCLA WEBSITE PREMIERES

The FCLA proudly announces the creation of its new website! The association is hoping to use this new method to raise awareness of the beauty of our region and of the programs necessary to protect our resources. Please take the time to visit our site at www.fultonchainoflakesassociation.org or www.ADKFCLA.com. We plan on using this site as a way of introducing the story of our association to a larger public. We intend to provide copies of our newsletters and publications, reports on programs such as the aquatic invasives control project, links to area sites, and more.

Helen Black and Don Kelly

ADIRONDACK COOPERATIVE LOON PROGRAM

Amy Sauer

WHAT IS THE ADIRONDACK COOPERATIVE LOON PROGRAM?

The Adirondack Cooperative Loon Program is a collaborative research and education organization that focuses on the natural history of the common loon (*Gavia immer*) and conservation issues affecting loon populations and their aquatic habitats. Initiated in 2001, the Loon Program is a partnership of the Wildlife Conservation Society, Natural History Museum of the Adirondacks/The Wild Center, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, BioDiversity Research Institute, and the Audubon Society of New York State.

COMMON LOONS AS A REFLECTION OF ADIRONDACK HEALTH ~

Listed as a Species of Special Concern in New York State, common loons are long-lived, territorial and high on the food chain, characteristics which make them good indicators of the health of aquatic ecosystems. As the impacts of environmental pollution on wildlife species and their habitats is being increasingly recognized on a global scale, the Loon Program is dedicated to examining the role that atmospheric pollutants, such as mercury and acidic emissions, have on the loon population in the Adirondack Park. These emissions, primarily from coal-fired power plants located in the Midwestern United States, are transported to the Northeast on prevailing westerly winds and deposited in the form of rain or snow. Such environmental pollution affects both wild and human inhabitants, as illustrated by the New York State Department of Health's recent Adirondack Park fish consumption advisory — a warning to anglers not to eat many fish species that are affected by elevated mercury levels in Adirondack lakes.

Mercury is a neurotoxin that accumulates as it progresses up the aquatic food chain. In top predators, such as loons, mercury can significantly impact the behavior, reproduction, and survival of these birds. Adult birds with high mercury concentrations exhibit behaviors different from

normal, such as less time foraging for food and incubating eggs, and a reduced interest in defending territories. Juveniles and chicks spend less time learning the behaviors necessary for survival. Therefore, adult loons with higher mercury levels fledge fewer young than those pairs with lower mercury concentrations. The indirect effects of acid rain are seen on many levels in Adirondack lakes. A reduction in the number of fish (a primary food source for loons) requires that adult birds spend more time searching for food to feed themselves and their young. As the diversity of fish species decreases, adults provide chicks with less suitable or less nutritious prey items. Acid deposition also contributes to increased availability of methylmercury, the toxic form of mercury. As a result, common loons living on acidic lakes, particularly in the southwest region of the Adirondacks, have higher mercury levels than those birds living on less acidic waters.

WHAT IS THE LOON PROGRAM TRYING TO LEARN?

As an indication of the impact of mercury pollution on Adirondack aquatic ecosystems, the Loon Program is evaluating the reproductive success and survival of banded loons in relation to the mercury concentrations in their blood and feathers. From May through September, Loon Program field staff conduct intensive weekly monitoring of uniquely color-banded birds and their offspring. Currently, the Loon Program is monitoring the productivity and survival of more than 180 loons on over 70 lakes in the Park. In 2006, 15 loons were sampled and banded on 11 lakes in the Adirondack Park. Preliminary results of this study have determined that almost 20% of the loons sampled in the Adirondack Park have blood mercury levels high enough to potentially impact their reproductive success. To date, the Loon Program monitors the survival and productivity of banded loons on First, Sixth and Seventh Lakes in the Fulton Chain of Lakes.

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SEPTIC SYSTEM DYE TESTING PROGRAM

Andy Getty and Bob Wheeler

For over thirty-five years, the Town of Webb has supported FCLA's septic system dye testing program. During the summer of 2006, the FCLA, in cooperation with the Town of Webb and the Big Moose Property Owners Association, pursued a different approach in employing a seasonal septic system dye tester. Previously, the FCLA has funded deputy sanitation inspectors, usually college students, to work with the Town of Webb Zoning Officer to conduct dye tests and inspect septic systems on lakefront properties. In 2006, we were asked to contribute funds to create a seasonal inspector position, working directly with Town of Webb Codes Enforcement Officer Andy Getty, who would be responsible for implementing a septic system inspection and dye testing program on a town-wide basis. This is part of the Town of Webb's strategic plan and permits expansion of the inspection program from the previous ten week program, conducted entirely during the summer, into a longer program extending from spring until late fall. Since FCLA believes that all of the lakes in the town can benefit by such a program, we agreed to participate.

Bob Vineall was hired for the position last spring and continued work well into the fall. Bob lives in McKeever and has two daughters. He is an EMT with considerable experience in emergency response and has worked several construction jobs in the area. Town of Webb Zoning Officer Andy Getty and our Water Quality Committee were impressed with his work and found him energetic and intensely interested in the quality of our waters. The FCLA is excited about this new program and will continue to participate. We welcome Bob and hope that the town continues to expand this important program.

Last year over 115 properties containing at least 169 structures were tested. Testing began at Cold Spring Road and proceeded west to Old Forge, continuing along South Shore Road to Indian Point Road. Two catastrophic failures were found.

Catastrophic failures result in raw effluent going into the lake. In both instances, voluntary and immediate action was taken by the property owner to discontinue use and begin the necessary replacement of the system. Both failures were due to improperly designed, located, and installed drywells. Several minor problems, such as leaking pipes under buildings, were found and corrected. Cooperation from property owners was generally good. A few were difficult or otherwise uncooperative, but we were never denied access to any properties. Records were kept regarding any missed properties within the testing area. Followup will occur in 2007 along with continuing testing east from Indian Point Road.

2006 was a big year for septic system failures. Most were drywell failures. High groundwater conditions made many drywells unable to function. This was true for all areas, on-water or off.

FCLA tests of fecal coliform levels may prove helpful in identifying specific target areas and to compare to dye test results.

We suspect that the discharge of raw sewage from onboard toilets may be the cause of a number of complaints. Public awareness of this problem may help. Anyone noting any suspicious discharge should note the type of boat and registration number and report them immediately to the Town Police, Department of Environmental Conservation or to the Town of Webb Codes Enforcement Office (Box 157, Old Forge, telephone 369-3001).

It is anticipated that Bob Vineall will be coming back to continue with dye testing for the summer of 2007. Although we made a request to bring Bob back full time, year-round, he will again be a seasonal employee under the direction of the Codes Enforcement Office. Bringing Bob back full time would allow an expansion of time for testing and would provide this office with the needed man-hours to more aggressively pursue inspections.

NOTES FROM YOUR HISTORIAN

Ed Stafford

The Fulton Chain of Lakes Association, founded in 1968, is coming into its 39th year. Over the years, the FCLA has been recognized by various organizations and government agencies for its accomplishments and dedication to preserving our most valuable resource, our lakes. I would like to share with you a few of our awards:

On July 13, 1983, The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation awarded us a citation for "restoring the high water quality of the Fulton Chain of Lakes." The citation was signed by Henry S. Williams, DEC Commissioner

On July 16, 1988, we received a letter from Town of Webb Supervisor George Hildebrandt. It was a letter of congratulations to the FLCA on its 20th Anniversary and of thanks for working with the Town of Webb in establishing the excellent quality of water we enjoy today.

On May 21, 1989, a Certificate of Appreciation was received from Don Lawson,

President of the Webb Residents Association, for keeping our lakes environmentally safe.

On September 26, 1992, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation awarded The Adirondack Centennial Award to the FCLA. This award recognized our twenty-five years of informed and dedicated stewardship of the water quality of the Fulton Chain of Lakes. Also in September of 1992, The Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks awarded the FCLA the Adirondack Park Centennial Citation for its work in water quality.

On May 24, 1993, the Black River Regulating District recognized the FCLA on the twenty-fifth year of it's founding.

The FCLA has been fortunate to have dedicated volunteers who have worked to establish excellent water quality for everyone in the area to enjoy. Without volunteers this recognition would not have been awarded.

NAVIGATIONAL COMMITTEE REPORT

Jim Murphy

Greetings friends of the Fulton Chain of Lakes!! Once again we look forward to spring and 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!

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 places. Both Sheriffs said they would continue to provide support for patrolling the 'lakes', to continue to support safe and responsible boating on our 'Lakes'.

HAPPY BOATING!!!

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH MILFOIL?

Ron Smith and Heather Stafford



At the 2006 Annual Meeting, Ron Smith, Member of the FCLA Board of directors and science teacher at the Town of Webb

School, updated the membership on the status of the Eurasian water milfoil control program initiated during the summer of 2005. Ron acted as coordinator of the program last summer, working with three divers in Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Lakes.

Last year, in cooperation with the Towns of Inlet and Webb, an application was made to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for a grant under DEC's Aquatic Invasive Species Program. Contributions from the Herkimer County Water Quality Coordinating Committee (\$11,865 over a three-year period), the Towns of Webb and Inlet (\$5,000), FCLA (\$5,000) and the Central Adirondack Association (\$500), along with the hours contributed by volunteers, allowed the Town of Inlet, as the recipient of the grant, to qualify for matching funds amounting to a total of \$29,000 from the state program. Chris and Diane Gaige, owners of Rivet's Boat Livery in Old Forge donated a party barge and motor, capable of serving as a mobile base for divers. This allowed the establishment of a comprehensive program to control Eurasian water milfoil in our lakes.

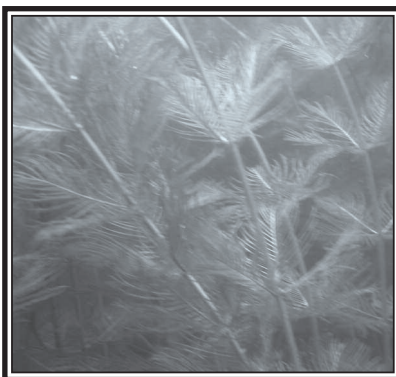
The control program is labor intensive. During the summer of 2006, divers were in the water four days a week, cautiously hand picking milfoil from beds identified in Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Lakes. In 2006, our divers removed tons of

milfoil from the lakes. All of the weed beds identified by FCLA in Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Lakes were harvested at least twice. We estimate that 80 to 90% of the Eurasian water milfoil in these beds was removed. Mike Schrepel led a team of divers, snorkelers and kayakers who conducted a search for milfoil along the shores of Fourth Lake in August. The good news is that none was detected in these areas.

The bad news is that two additional massive beds of milfoil were identified in the northeast end of Seventh Lake near the Eighth Lake Campground. The amount of milfoil in these areas dwarves the biomass in all of the other weed beds combined. The



Diver emerging from milfoil bed



Closeup of Eurasian water milfoil bed

good news here is that these beds are separated from the rest of the lake by an area of deep water that is inhospitable to the weed. This deep-water barrier provides a partial deterrent to fragments spreading from these newly discovered beds. However, fragments could be transported from these beds by boats or by unusually high flow rates.

In the spring and summer of 2007, we will resume intensive efforts to control the spread of Eurasian water milfoil. The newly identified beds will be the focus of early season efforts, in an attempt to control bed size before the plants have produced much new growth. This will involve high volume hand harvesting using the suction pump to handle the high volume and control turbidity. Without the pump, divers are quickly working in near zero visibility, making it difficult to remove all fragments. Although it is unlikely that we will be able to remove the majority of these beds within the current budget, enough funds will be reserved to allow at least one harvest of previously harvested beds in Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Lakes.

NEWS AND NOTES

FCLA APPRECIATES CONNIE SCHREPPPEL

The Fulton Chain of Lakes Association took great pleasure in awarding Connie Schreppel the Association's highest achievement award. The award is presented to the director who has made a significant contribution to the association. Connie changed the direction of the Water Quality



Committee to include new and better innovations to determine the water quality of the Fulton Chain. She has also provided education on the identification of Eurasian water milfoil and other invasive aquatics. She served as FCLA president for two years. Connie is the Director of Water Quality for the Mohawk Valley Water Authority. She lives with her husband, Mike (also a FCLA board member) and two sons, in Whitestown. She and her family spend a good deal of time at their camp in Hollywood Hills. The FCLA is delighted that Connie will continue to serve on the board and delve into what she likes best, water quality.

Heather Stafford

2006 ANNUAL MEETING

The 2006 Annual Meeting was held on Friday, August 4th at the Park Avenue Building in Old Forge. Guest speakers included Amy Sauer, Program Manager of the Adirondack Cooperative Loon Program. Amy discussed the greatest threat to the loon population in our area-the mercury. Mercury levels not only affect a loon's reproductive ability, but also interfere with their coordination. Amy and her staff tag loons in our area and follow their migration, in addition to testing mercury levels. Amy shared a slide presentation, complete with interpretation of loon calls. The FCLA is most fortunate to have Amy on its Board of Directors.

In addition to Amy's presentation, board member Ron Smith updated attendees on the status and success of the Eurasian water milfoil control program, in its second year.

The 2007 Annual Meeting is scheduled for Friday, August 3 at the Inlet Town Hall.

Heather Stafford and Don Kelly

MEET OUR NEW MEMBER: AMY SAUER

The FCLA Board of Directors is pleased to welcome a new board member-Amy Sauer. Amy actually joined the board in the spring of 2006, and has been active in many ways. She has assisted in the association's aquatic invasive control program, and made an entertaining and informative presentation at our Annual Meeting concerning the habits and stability of our local loons. Amy has been coming to Fourth Lake her whole life with her family to visit the Eagle Bay cottage her grandparents bought in 1944. The cottage is still used by the family and Amy is now a fulltime resident. She has an undergraduate degree in Environmental Studies from the University of Rochester and a Master's degree in Conservation Biology from Antioch University. She has lived and worked in many parts of the country and abroad pursuing her interest in wildlife and the environment. Amy is currently a Program Manager and Field Assistant for the Adirondack Cooperative Loon Program and has been with the program since 2003. The ACLP is dedicated to improving the environment through collaborative research and education efforts, focusing on the natural history of the common loon (*Gavia immer*). The ACLP also promotes conservation measures that beneficially affect our loon populations and their aquatic habitat.

The FCLA welcomes Amy and is interested in fostering cooperation with ACLP as both organizations work toward protecting and improving our wonderful resources.

(See Amy's article about the Adirondack Cooperative Loon Program in this issue of the newsletter.)

If anyone is interested in becoming a committee member or member of our Board of directors, please contact me at tmccabe862@AOL.com.
Tom McCabe Chairman
of the Nominating Committee

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Water Quality Monitoring 2006

Bob Wheeler and Connie Schreppel

The Water Quality Committee has had a rather quiet 2006, aside from implementation of the Eurasian Water Milfoil Eradication Grant. Connie Schreppel conducted her sampling of the lakes. Results continue to indicate that our lakes are healthy and clean. Average coliform bacteria count was 1 per 100 milliliters. The Department of Health's standards for bathing beaches states that coliform counts should be less than 300 per 100 milliliters, indicating that our water quality is very good. The special testing that has gone on in Second Lake for the past six years also continues to show that it is one of the most environmentally healthy lakes in the state. A crew of divers, snorkelers and kayakers surveyed the channel from Fifth to Fourth Lakes and much of the Fourth Lake in the Town of

Inlet on the south shore and as far as Eagle Creek on the north shore for signs of Eurasian water milfoil. Thankfully, none was found.

We are very pleased with the Town of Webb's "takeover" of the septic system dye testing program. Andy Getty reports that Bob Vineall jumped into the job with both feet and found some "dirt." Bob was enthusiastic about using the technology provided by the association, such as the conductivity probe, giving promise of locating hot spots of potential pollution.

In 2007, the Water Quality Committee looks forward to enlisting more volunteers for water sample collection and water quality testing in the lakes. Stay tuned.

FCLA Officers & Directors – 2007

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

Directors

Ed Stafford	Mike Schreppel
Heather Stafford	Bob Wheeler
Dave Pierson	Ron Smith
Tom McCabe	Phil Sanzone
Mark Steigerwald	Helen Black
Bill Landmesser	Amy Sauer
Connie Schreppel	Jodelle Pross

Directors Emeritus

Janet Blakeman	Jack DeBevoise
Richard Everhart*	Jerry Griffin*
Marilyn Griffin	Richard Knight
Don McCabe	Thomas McCabe Sr.*
Richard Rettig	Eugene Wegman

*Deceased

Schedule of Meetings 2007

May 26, June 30, July 28, August 25

Annual Meeting

Friday, August 3, 7:30 pm – Inlet Town Hall

Committee Chairpersons

Water Quality-	Bob Wheeler
Scholarship-	Phil Sanzone
By-Laws-	Phil Sanzone, Heather Stafford
Publicity-	Heather Stafford
Nominating Awards-	Tom McCabe
Navigation & Boating-	Jim Murphy
Annual Meeting-	Don Kelly

News and Notes continued from page 6

MEET OUR NEW PRESIDENT: DON KELLY

The Fulton Chain of Lakes Association takes great pride in introducing our new president.



Don Kelly was passed the gavel at the Association's Annual meeting in August 2006. Don is no stranger to the area. He has lived on Garmon Avenue in Old Forge for 20 years with his wife,

Naomi, and four children. Two of his children are currently attending and two have graduated from the Town of Webb High School (one in college). Don has been on the FCLA board for eight years. He is currently a professor in the Life Science Department at Mohawk Valley Community College in Utica. Don was the Codes Enforcement Officer for the Town of Webb from January 1986 until August 2000. He served as a member of the Town of Webb Master Plan Advisory Committee. Don has been a member of FCLA's Water Quality Committee and has been instrumental in continuing our alliance with the codes Enforcement Office of the Town of Webb.

Loon Program continued from page 3

LIKE TO WATCH LOONS? BECOME A LOON CENSUS OBSERVER IN 2007!

On July 21st, from 8-9 a.m., the Loon Program will be conducting its seventh Annual Loon Census to monitor and assess long-term trends in the loon population summering in the Adirondack Park and surrounding region. Census observers report on the number of adult and juvenile loons observed during the census hour, and also provide valuable lake attribute information. In 2006, over 500 census observers surveyed 221 lakes and ponds in and

around the Adirondack Park. The Annual Loon Census is an excellent opportunity to participate in the Adirondack Cooperative Loon Program's research in the Adirondack Park.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE ADIRONDACK COOPERATIVE LOON PROGRAM, PLEASE CONTACT:

Adirondack Cooperative Loon Program
PO Box 195, Ray Brook, New York 12977
(518) 891-8836, aclp2@juno.com or nschoch@wcs.org
www.adkscience.org/loons or www.wcs.org/adirondacks

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 _____