

Meeting of lake associations
May 7, 2009

Lakes represented were Friends Lake, Brant Lake, Schroon Lake, Paradox Lake, Lake Luzerne, and Eagle Lake. See sign in sheet for attendees.

Old Business:

Insurance premiums – Wendell Lorang shared research he had done on Directors and Officers (D&O) insurance policies. The issue of an attendant being injured at an event run by a lake association and other general liability issues were discussed. The Schroon Lake Scout Program requires volunteers to sign a waiver that volunteer understands what they are getting involved in. Jane Smith suggested calling NYS Insurance Dept. and invite a speaker to educate the lake associations as to what insurance coverage should be purchased. Laurie recommended contacting the Hughes Insurance Agency.

New Business:

Tyler Smith from The Nature Conservancy spoke on NYS Invasive Species Task Force. NYS is divided into 8 prisms; the Adirondacks and Long Island are most active. Milfoil has been found in Paradox Lake first time end of 2008. A meeting was held with Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), the Adirondack Park Commission (APA), Town Supervisor of Schroon, and the lake manager for Paradox Lake, and Paradox Lake Association leadership to develop an early detection and rapid response to this new infestation. A meeting is planned in Paradox on Memorial Day weekend to educate property owners on Milfoil and elicit volunteer help with monitoring and identification. The following is planned:

- Adopt a shoreline volunteer monitoring program
- Develop a brochure with map of lake and fishing information for distribution to boaters at the NYS campsite boat launch
- Water steward education to reach out to boaters and conduct inspections to avoid introduction and spread of Milfoil. Tyler Smith shared that a proposal through the DEC was submitted which uses stimulus dollars to put water stewards program together.

Tyler Smith shared that there is legislation pending to make it illegal if plant material is found on a trailer/boat. Funding for this is built into program as boater would purchase a sticker; an additional fee but part of the registration process.

Aquatic plant training sessions to do surveys are scheduled:

- Bolton Landing, Fresh Water Institute on June 16th
- Tupper Lake, Public Library, June 18th
- Hudson River Black District, Field Office, June 23rd

He encouraged lake associations to apply to matching funds grants that will soon be available. Bob Shen shared that he contacted Senator Little's office and was informed that there was no money available for invasive plant eradication.

Lori Kerrigan from Warren County Soil & Water Department advised that her office deals with storm water on a water shed wide basis and with tributaries to protect area lakes. Her counterpart in Essex County is Dave Reckahn. This office assists individuals on private property with forest management to avoid erosion. Milfoil does well in higher concentrations of phosphorus. She shared a list of phosphorus free fertilizers and stores that carry it, as well as, information on septic systems. Lori shared that her office has bimonthly meetings in Warren County and that additional information is available on the Warren County website.

Terrestrial Invasives was discussed briefly. Tyler Smith advised that it is now NYS law that an individual cannot transport firewood greater than 50 miles. This legislation was brought about by invasive long horned Asian beetle. Alewife is another invasive found in Lake Champlain. Land locked salmon are affected by an enzyme from the bug which causes abnormalities in the behavior of the fish.

Rofy Titerman of Eagle Lake shared the details of their battle with Milfoil and their most recent efforts and challenges. He outlined the permits needed for Milfoil removal in varying water depths. He outlined their lake association's efforts to disprove that the failing septic systems were the cause of rapid growth of Milfoil in Eagle Lake. He shared a long list of frustrations they encountered with the APA's lack of scientific approach to giving permission to use a selective herbicide called Rennovate OTV; the cost is about \$1500 per acre. Another herbicide called Sonar was discussed; this is a systemic chemical and kills everything it contacts. Silica is a sandy substance which is soaked with the herbicide and dropped over a Milfoil bed. He shared the success Saratoga Lake and other lakes have had using Rennovate, a triclopar product. It is a selective herbicide that does effect other vegetation but the native vegetation does return eradicating the Milfoil. A permit is needed from both the DEC and the APA. The APA's requirement to use curtains on a test area and measure the drift is one of the more recent frustrating delays despite support from county members. His concern is that if Eagle Lake Association concedes to the APA's use of curtains, which are very costly, this will become a requirement of the APA for other lakes. Joe Cargli suggested simulate the experiment to obtain the data the APA is looking for. He suggested pursuing academic assistance from local universities. Tyler Smith suggested the group contact NYS Invasive Species Research Institute at www.nysri.org as they are looking for grass roots opportunities to assist.

A lengthy discussion as to how the other lake associations can assist the Eagle Lake Association with APA requirements ensued. The concept of strength in numbers was embraced. Vince offered to strategize with Rofy and then schedule a meeting with decision makes at the APA.

Vince suggested attendees think on the subject of fund raising by way of grant writing.

The majority of attendants felt the meeting of area lake associations was beneficial and should continue to meet. Not all lake associations present are 501 (c) 3 non-profit organizations. Organizational issues were discussed briefly and several names for this group of lake associations were shared. What did this group represent? Irene Jurek suggested writing a mission statement. Bill McGhie asked those present to come to the next meeting on June 2nd with suggestions for the name of the group, recommendations for a mission statements, and strategies as to how to proceed with APA requirements for herbicide treatment of Milfoil.

Meeting was adjourned. Next meeting is scheduled for June 2nd at Horicon Town Hall from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Irene Jurek
(Paradox Lake)