

Subject: ELPOI March 2002 news/ Sonar use Times of TI 3/2/02

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From: Rolf Tiedemann <Rolf.Tiedemann@greece.k12.ny.us>

Organization: Greece Central School District

To: Tiedemann Rolf <Rolf.Tiedemann@greece.k12.ny.us>

March 2002

Hello all,

Just a short note to let all of those that have been involved in the Eagle Lake happenings know that your Board and I are still active and planning for spring. In recent weeks we have been monitoring the progress that the folks at Lake George are making with their efforts to control Milfoil. Attached to this is a copy of a recent article that appeared in the Times of Ti. I believe it to be a fair look at the problem from the Lake George prospective

We are waiting for a report from the Army Corps of Engineers, that was due in late January. They are behind due to the events of Sept. 11. Their office was only 2 blocks from ground zero and served as a command post for several weeks. The Board will share the highlights of their recommendations on dealing with our milfoil problem when available.

Request for 2002/3 membership renewal with notice of the annual meeting and picnic will be mailed in May. The 95th Annual Meeting of the ELPOI will take place at the Chilson Community Center on July 6, 2002. ALL are welcome!!!! Mark your calendars and come out to hear what's happening in detail and plan to join all the members for a great picnic. Reservations can be made by replying to this e-mail or waiting till the mailing in May.

Forrest Lisle is compiling the results of the Lake Management Survey and he reports that there is lots of great information contained in those pages that you returned. Approximately 50% of you have returned the survey. If you did not return your copy it's not too late. If you don't have a copy go to our web site and down load your copy and send it in.

The link is: <http://www.eaglelake1.org/PDE.FILES/Lake%20Management%20Survey%20Fin.pdf>

Returns go to Lloyd Burroughs, Vice President ELPOI, 7 Prospect Way, Ticonderoga, NY 12883. We expect the results of the survey will be available at the Annual Meeting, and then posted on the web. Remember your input is important!!!

Our mailing list has been updated with the new enhanced 911 mailing addresses. Hopefully all of the information that was provided to us is accurate, because we want to continue with our 100% delivery rate to our membership. If you or someone you know does not hear from us by/in May by US mail please let us know, we don't want to miss anyone.

The Grant Administrator at International Paper contacted me recently and we discussed this year's grant request. I've been told some great news regarding this. Last year we received a \$474 grant based on 20% of our income (the maximum for which we are qualified). What I found out was that we can also use some of our membership volunteer hours calculated at a reasonable \$ rate, and some of the un-reimbursed operational expenses as income. I will work with the Board to figure out just how many of the hundreds of hours that have been spent last year qualify.

The funding for this year's grant will again be used to support our communications expense with our

membership and with all of those across the State that have supported our efforts to maintain the quality of Eagle Lake. Over the past two years, we have participated in CSLAP, Citizens State Lake Assessment Program. This program is a 5-year monitoring program between the State and our association where we collect water samples for State analysis and tracking. The program in past years has been administered without cost to lake associations. Due to recent state budget issues, a \$200 co-pay is required for participation this year. We are anticipating using some of the Grant money to cover this cost.

I have been asked to participate on an Adirondack Park Agency Advisory Panel. Our first meeting will be on March 25 for the purpose of planning how/ where / what etc. needs to be addressed on the invasive species issue. The APA recently received a Federal Grant to bring a person on board specifically for the purpose of addressing some of the issues related to invasive aquatic plants across the Park. My participation in this is based on ELPOI active communications on this subject. Those wishing specific feedback or wishing to ask a question please feel free to contact me.

Please join me in welcoming our new Town of Ti Supervisor, Robert Dedrick. I spent a few minutes talking to him last month. He is very familiar with Lake George's issues with milfoil, etc. as he has spent many years patrolling their waters. Robert expressed to me that he intends to continue the Town support of our efforts for lake management in whatever way that he can. If you get a chance, stop in, welcome him to the office and let him know how much you appreciate the efforts that both the Towns Ti and Crown Point have provided. I also want to say again, THANKS to former Supervisor Mike Connery for all of his support over the past years.

On a different note, I have to make the following announcements: My current job requirements dictate that I not run for re-election as President and our Vice President, Lloyd Burroughs, has also indicated that she will not run for re-election. Lloyd has been on the Board for many years and has provided much strength and stability to the organization. She indicated her interest to step down last year. We have indicated our decisions to the board and will help in finding replacements. If anyone is interested please let us know. We both are still interested in being involved in the lake/ milfoil management issues. In addition to identifying a new President and vice President, Board Members Jim Davis and Bill Allen have served the maximum of 2 consecutive 3 years terms, so we are also looking for two new Board members. Jim and Bill THANKS!!! for all your years of service. Please let a current Board member or Officer know your interest in filling one of these jobs.

This message is being sent electronically to those that have e-mail, and will be sent to others by US mail. If you are not on our e-mail list or have an updated address, please contact a Board member or Officer to be added. E-mail communications do save your association mailing costs. Please free to share this information with all of your friends and neighbors. If anyone would not like to receive information in the future please send a reply indicating your wishes.

We are looking forward to seeing you all at the Lake for the Annual Meeting, July 6th.

Rolf Tiedemann
President ELPOI

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SONAR use debated for Lake George milfoil problems

NANCY O'B:
Editor

TICONDEROGA -- To SONAR or not SONAR, that has become the question for Lake George.

The chemical known as SONAR has been used in lakes throughout the country and state to control the invasive water weed called Eurasian Watermilfoil, and proponents of using the chemical in Lake George have been frustrated by a recent decision by the Adirondack Park Agency (APA), denying approval to use SONAR this spring pending further hearings.

Eurasian Watermilfoil, referred to as just 'milfoil,' is native to Europe, Asia and North Africa and was first discovered in this country in 1942 where it was most likely brought here in the ballast of a ship. The weed can now be found throughout the U.S. and Canada. Milfoil spreads quickly, crowding out native plants and diminishing fish habitats as well as inhibiting swimming, fishing and boating in areas of infestation.

SONAR was proposed for use on approximately 36 acres of Lake George, according to Michael White, executive director of the Lake George Park Commission (LGPC).

"The overall lake is about 28,000 acres, just to keep this in perspective," White said. After environmental groups such as the Adirondack Council protested to the proposal, a scaled back version was agreed to by most parties as part of a settlement discussion. That new proposal was for just two sites, Moonlight Harbor and Paradise Bay, but the APA rejected the plan, asking for further scientific data on the chemical before giving its OK for application.

"We're currently working with the original plan," White said. "That includes four sites, including Sawmill Bay and West Tongue Mountain Cove as well as Moon-

light Harbor and Paradise Bay.

White said no dates had yet been confirmed to begin the hearing process, which he said were adjudicatory in style.

"It's kind of courtroom style, with witnesses sworn in to testify and subject to cross examination by opposing parties," White said. "It's presided over by an administrative law judge. Technical experts from around the country will be called on to present expert testimony on the use of SONAR."

"There really aren't any negative effects (to using SONAR) from our perspective, all concerns have been adequately addressed," he said. "There's no basis for not going ahead, but we do want to bring all the facts out."

John Sheehan of the Adirondack Council sees things differently.

"Like any other chemical herbicide or pesticide, we think it should be a last resort in controlling an invasive species," he said. "Lake George has several species of plants not found anywhere else, some extremely rare. Our desire is to keep all pieces of the lake's biological diversity together." He said that SONAR is designed to interrupt the photosynthesis process in plants and it is effective on a variety of different plants. "We have no idea what impact it will have on the rare species in the lake," Sheehan said.

Mary-Arthur Beebe of the Lake George Association (LGA) agrees that the lake has some rare species that need to be protected.

"SONAR is very selective in the plants it kills," she said. "It has a very high kill rate with milfoil, and one particular rare species would be killed by SONAR, but the milfoil is killing them anyway, that has failed to be stated, milfoil is bad for lake ecology. We will transplant these native species to the areas where the milfoil is killed."

Beebe said that the LGA has always said no to any chemicals in the lake unless

absolutely needed and safe for those who use the lake.

"SONAR has been proven to work in many locations throughout the country," she said. "New York is the only state that says you can't swim in an area that SONAR has been applied within 24 hours. Everywhere else, swimming is allowed immediately. It is not harmful to drink lake water after SONAR has been applied, it's probably safer than water that comes through a water filtration plant."

Sheehan questions the need for SONAR at all. He said that milfoil has been in the lake since the '80s and only eight percent of the lake is capable of supporting the weed and less than two percent of the lake actually has milfoil.

"Of the 140 or so sites monitored or treated for milfoil, all but a couple of dozen are now free of it," Sheehan said. He said methods such as hand harvesting and mats placed on the lake bottom are responsible for these successes.

"We commend the LGPC, the LGA and the Fund for Lake George for making this work," he said.

Beebe said that hand pulling works in areas where just a few plants are growing, but it is not possible in large beds.

"Fragments of milfoil will just re-root and spread, making the problem worse," Beebe said. "It just doesn't work in dense beds."

As expected, there are differing points of view on the outcome of this next hearing process.

"We're very glad that we're going back to the original plan," said Beebe. "We would learn enough from doing it one

time. We expect to get a very high degree of success with this plan, and also allow a great many native plants to repopulate the lake."

Sheehan feels the next hearing process something of a waste of time.