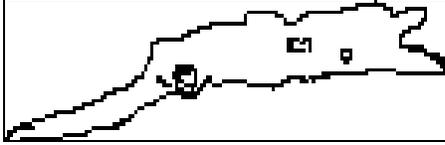


**Eagle Lake Property Owners, Inc.
c/o 11 Deepwood Drive, Ticonderoga, NY 12883**

www.eaglelake1.org



Officers;

President – Susan Barwig
Vice President – Jere Paddack
Secretary – Caroline Baldwin
Treasurer – Rinaldo Fraize

Board of Directors;

Andy Belkevich
Rolf Tiedemann
Lewis Zankel

Todd Condon
John Pynn

NOVEMBER – NEWSLETTER – 2005

Greetings, Eagle Lake Residents!

It's hard to believe that fall is here and that camps are shuttered, docks are out of the water, porch furniture is squeezed into spaces inside, and small forest creatures are "holed up" for the winter – hopefully, not in mattresses!

The holidays – already? – are approaching, and so are the catalogues in mailboxes! I've noticed that in several of these unsolicited mailings (I've been inundated with them recently!) there are wall hangings and pillows inscribed with, "If you're lucky enough to be on a lake, you're lucky enough!" How true! And, how blessed all of us are – whether "year-round" or "seasonal" residents – to have our own spots on Eagle Lake!

I'm grateful for the support of a dedicated Board, as well as many volunteers who work tirelessly for the good of our lake. I wish to thank officers Jere, Caroline, and Rin, and Board Directors Andy, Rolf, Lew, Todd, and John. Also, I thank Committee Chairs and members Lloyd and Paul Burroughs, Chryl Pynn, Tonya Condon, Andy Belkevich, Floyd Barwig, Wendy Davis, and Carlos Alden. A special "KUDOS" to Rolf Tiedemann for the countless hours he has given this year in the name of milfoil control, eradication, and prevention. You will learn more about his and his volunteers' work below.

The news:

MILFOIL on eagle lake

In September, Rolf Tiedemann was able to gather and supervise four divers and a handful of dedicated property owners to begin the process of removing milfoil from the lake by hand harvesting. For three days the air pump (called a “Hooka”) provided compressed air for the divers to pull and bag milfoil. Property owners Jere Paddack, who contributed to this report, Lewis Zankel, Forrest Lisle, Jack, Debbie, Brian, and Chris Malcahy, Jim Davis, and Rolf and Katie Tiedemann pulled milfoil by raking the lake bottom and putting the “debris” into boats and later bagging and loading it into Paul Burrough’s pickup. Rolf reports that raking was done to remove dense milfoil prior to having the divers pick it out by the roots. Three small pickup loads of milfoil were the result of over 30 hours of paid dive time and 80 hours of volunteer labor including setting up and taking down equipment, getting the divers into the water, skimming out floating fragments, raking, and preparing 3 custom, 15 foot long milfoil rakes! Most of the work was in water between 10 and 15 feet. Jim Shultz took the removed milfoil to use as compost for his garden. (The divers were Peter Borho, Keith Miller, and Jim and Chris Funstine.) The general assessment of this approach to hand harvesting is that it is a very effective way to handle small patches, but on large, very dense milfoil, it is not effective. Some discussion has taken place to consider spot treatment by covering small dense areas with mats and in larger dense areas spot treatment with sonar using a containment curtain. You will be hearing more about this possibility in the future. Several things are clear: We need a lot of property owner hands to tackle this problem effectively, and we will need continued financial support.

The expenses for the milfoil project this summer included about \$5,000 for equipment and about \$1,000 for divers, leaving roughly \$12,000 from the initial 75% release on the \$25,000 grant from New York State. At project completion, we should receive the remaining 25%.

The common consensus of those who worked on this project is that “we came, we saw, and we were not as successful as we hoped we’d be,” reports Rolf. The good news, though, is that WE, Eagle Lake homeowners, can pick our own milfoil – up to 1,000 square feet in front of our own properties without a permit. All of us can monitor our shorelines!

COLAM (Coalition of Lakes against Milfoil)

Some history: It doesn’t seem possible that it was back in 1993 when the “Milfoil Management in Northeastern Lakes” conference was held at The Roaring Brook Conference Center in Lake George. For the Coalition of Lakes Against Milfoil (COLAM), it was the realization of one of their primary goals – the education and dissemination of knowledge about Eurasian watermilfoil. Wendy Davis is to be congratulated for “getting the ball rolling” on Eagle Lake’s milfoil problem solving, along with her role in instigating this conference. The conference was arranged into six sessions: 1) An Introduction to Milfoil Management; 2) Milfoil Control Strategies; 3) Aquatic Vegetation Workshop; 4) The Politics of Milfoil; 5) Citizen’s Actions Against Milfoil;

and 6) Questions and Answers: An Open Forum. While the conference was a giant step, unfortunately many of the problems are still being discussed and debated today.

Wendy gave hundreds of hours to personal study and assessment of Eagle Lake's milfoil situation, researched the ramifications of various types of milfoil control, and became a founding member of COLAM. There has been a hiatus for COLAM, but once again it is "up and running" with Wendy's remaining an integral participant.

She reports that COLAM's goals, bylaws, and membership list are being brought up to date, and a new brochure is being created to be circulated to lake associations and other interested people. Also, Wendy notes, "This year we were invited to sit on a governor-appointed task force to work on a report dealing with invasive species. COLAM was invited to provide input...Jim Hood of the Lake George Association, and Rolf Tiedemann...were our representatives." The public comment period has just ended and COLAM has submitted comments. The report is due on the Governor's desk November 30 of this year and, with a new Governor to be elected this year, it is very important to "keep the pressure on the Governor's office to follow through with the recommendations."

Wendy also reports that COLAM hopes to meet with FOLA (Federation of Lakes Association) in the spring.

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES ERADICATION PLAN

Complimenting the Task Force Report to the Governor (see COLAM above) is an Aquatic Invasive Species Eradication Plan which includes a New York State budget appropriation of \$1,000,000. According to NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, "This program will award State Assistance Funds for approved projects proposing to eradicate infestations of aquatic invasive species such as Eurasian watermilfoil, water chestnut, zebra mussels, common reed (invasive strain), purple loosestrife, or others. Administration of this program has been assigned to the Bureau of Habitat of the Division of Fish, Wildlife, and Marine Resources. State Assistance funds will be awarded on a 1:2 (State funds: Applicant's funds) basis; that is, the state will reimburse up to 33% (ranging from a minimum of \$10,000 to a maximum of \$100,000) of the costs of approved projects. Applications should be available in November, and ELPOI plans to "get in there," fast!

Rolf reports that the funds that we currently have from former Senator Stafford can be used for matching a grant. Any and all in-kind volunteer time for the milfoil eradication process should be applicable at a competitive cost per hour. This means that the time you spend removing milfoil from in front of your own place should be logged and reported to the association so that we can utilize it for leverage in getting money from the eradication grant to work in other areas. The grant will be available to not-for-profits and municipalities. We will work with the towns of Ticonderoga and Crown Point to see if they have any funds or services which can be applied as additional match.

Please contact me or any board member if you wish to make a tax-deductible contribution. If your employer has a matching plan for donations, it can provide additional funds.

LAKE LEVELS, WATER QUALITY, BEAVERS

Lloyd and Paul Burroughs report that in early spring the water level was at “0.” Paul placed boards and the level rose to 4.” Because of the heavy rains in June, the lake rose to 24” by early July. (That’s when various watercraft and dismantled dock sections were seen floating about the lake aimlessly! It’s hoped that all items were recovered by their owners!) Rolf Tiedemann saw the need to pull the boards during a driving rainstorm, under very adverse circumstances, and the lake dropped back to 4” over the summer. On Columbus Day, Paul pulled two more boards, dropping the lake to -1” and it’s now back to 2” due to torrential downpours. However, the Burroughs report that it will recede again and be fine for winter.

Each year, Lloyd and Paul work with the Citizens State Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP) and, in a parallel effort, with Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute’s Darrin Fresh Water Institute at Lake George, to test Eagle Lake’s water. One of the CSLAP tests, a calibrated “Sechi” disk lowered into the water, examines the clarity of the lake; Eagle Lake’s water is sufficiently clear to see to a depth of roughly 6 meters (20 feet), indicating that there is little suspended material or algae in the water.

The Fresh Water Institute tests the lake for total coliform bacteria and fecal streptococci. State standards for water used for contact recreation are 2400 colonies per 100 milliliters for total coliform and 200 colonies per 100 milliliters for fecal streptococci as the mean values for a sample of up to 5 locations. The final 2005 water quality testing shows:

Location	total coliform	fecal streptococci
Ti Bay	5	1
Lake center, north	4	2
Lake center, south	7	1
Bridge, south	16	2

Last year, the test values were:

Location	total coliform	fecal streptococci
Ti Bay	7	1
Lake center, north	2	1
Lake center, south	2	1
Bridge, south	5	1

Eagle Lake clearly meets state standards.
Paul and Jim Hebert (our loyal trapper) continue to monitor beaver activity.

FISHING

Andy Belkevich reports that the Crown Point Fish Hatchery stocked our lake with brown trout this past spring. No fall stocking took place. The last inspection of trout in the lake was in August and they were very healthy! Milfoil continues to be a problem for fishermen by blocking access to some favorite fishing spots on the lake. On the other hand, the bass are doing phenomenally well because they love any dense weed, including milfoil; with more cover, the fish can hide, reproduce, and get bigger. Fishing is generally good, but Andy is working on getting more trout stocked next spring to bring the number up to former levels when a couple of thousand fish were stocked. He also mentioned that the loons, who eat three to five pounds of trout per day, are serious predators! “They can see and dive to the bottom of the lake and stab the trout with their beaks.” Sometimes, trout are caught and slash marks from the loons are still visible. Once again, we are reminded that we share the lake with nature and its creatures!

CONFERENCE

Our Association is grateful to Rin Fraize and Rolf Tiedemann for attending the third “Adirondack Water Quality Conference” in August. More than 100 people from across the Adirondacks attended the conference at Paul Smith’s College and represented 6 towns and villages, 22 lake and river associations, state and federal agencies, and private companies. The object of this conference was “to seek input on the Adirondack Park Aquatic Nuisance Management Plan.” The Plan was drafted by a three-person writing committee, reviewed by a diverse group of stakeholders (including ELPOI Board member Rolf Tiedemann), and then made available to participants before the conference. All conference participants had the opportunity to provide input on the Plan in a series of facilitated breakout sessions. The main outcomes of the conference were 1) the creation of a large list of recommendations for improving the Plan and 2) the development of a broad base of support for having an Adirondack Park plan. Included in the suggested improvements was an emphasis on action rather than continued observation of the problems. For details of this conference, visit www.paulsmiths.edu/PAGE=1685/page.pl.com.

adopt-a-highway

Thanks to the Condons and the Burroughs, a successful Adopt-A-Highway program was started several years ago. Route 74 along the lake has been virtually litter-free, due to their diligence and the support of other volunteers. The permit for the coming year is in place, and a sign-up sheet for volunteers will be available at the 2006 Annual Meeting along with procedures and safety instructions. A few hours of “cleanup” per week makes a difference!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

The ELPOI Board of Directors met on three occasions – July 7, July 9, and July 22, 2005. A slate of officers was proposed for presentation at the Annual Meeting; figures for the 2005-2006 budget were fixed; the milfoil project was discussed, including a report of donations that had been pledged in 1997; a report of and discussion about costs and funding for hand harvesting during the summer, and discussion of the method of disbursement of milfoil project funds that the Town of Crown Point holds; approval to send Eagle Lake representatives to the Adirondack Water Quality Conference; approval to keep the official ELPOI mailing address at 11 Deepwood Drive when the slate of officers changes; Annual Report from the ELPOI President for the Annual Meeting approved; the Agenda for the Annual Meeting approved.

The Annual Meeting was held on July 9, 2005 at the Chilson Community Center and included reading of the President's Annual Report; approval of the 2004 Annual Meeting Minutes; Treasurer's Report; report on COLAM (Coalition of Lakes Against Milfoil); committee reports, including membership, water quality, fish stocking, Adopt-A-Highway program; milfoil project; reading of the Annual Resolution; announcement that the updated By-Laws are being refiled with the IRS; discussion of details for commencing the summer's milfoil harvesting; approval of ELPOI donations to the community; other announcements.

The complete 2005 Minutes can be read on our website www.eaglelake1.org. Since some Eagle Lake residents do not have internet access, and for continuity and discussion purposes, the Minutes will be read in full at the 2006 Annual Meeting.

Nature journal

When I arrived at the lake last spring, people there were already counting loons! By the middle of summer, I'd seen five (heard them, too!), and I was informed that there actually had been six! How lucky we are to have these visitors each year! Well – maybe I should say instead, “How lucky we are to be visitors at THEIR lake!” We must always keep in mind that, although Eagle Lake provides a suitable habitat for Common Loons, we have many environmental challenges to think about. We must be “environmentally wise,” say The Partners of the Adirondack Cooperative Loon Program www.adkscience.org/loons. **“Out on a lake? Keep your distance (-100 feet or more) from loons. Going fishing? Use non-lead fishing sinkers and jigs. Lead is poisonous to loons. Pack out your line. Lost or cut fishing line can entangle loons.”** All of us need to help ensure that the loons remain an integral and vital part of the wildlife we enjoy!

The above news serves as a reminder of the hard work, challenges, and successes shared by those who are involved! I hope that every household on the lake will be a part of these activities

to keep our lake enjoyable! Again, if you have questions or ideas to share with the Board of Directors, feel free to contact me.

Best wishes to you for a safe and healthy winter that delivers both inner and world peace,

Sue

Susan G. Barwig, President

- P. S.
- 1) *Enjoy the ELPOI Website!*
www.eaglelake1.org
 - 2) *Save the date: July 15, 2006 - --*
Annual Meeting