

Eagle Lake Property Owners, Inc.

Officers '07 – '08

President – Jere Paddack
Vice President – Rolf Tiedemann
Secretary – Tonya Condon
Treasurer – Rinaldo Fraize

Board of Directors '07 – '08

Andy Belkevich
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Visit us on the web at www.Eaglelake1.org

100 plus years of responsible lake stewardship 1907 - 2008

Established in 1907 and incorporated in 1993, the ELPOI is a 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization that serves to protect the mutual interests of its property owners and to maintain the environmental and recreational quality of Eagle Lake.

Recipient of a NYS DEC Invasive Species Eradication Grant 2007

The ELPOI newsletter is a publication used to communicate with the ELPOI membership. It is co-authored by Jere Paddack, the ELPOI Officers and Board of Directors. Address questions and comments to ELPOI President Jere Paddack, Eagle Lake Property Owners, Inc., C/O 11 Deepwood Drive, Ticonderoga, NY 12883-9410 - or by email at Jerepaddack@yahoo.com

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Newsletter - February 2008

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Dear Property Owners, Family and Friends:

It seems like just yesterday that we were at the lake enjoying the last bits of summer and early fall, but here it is mid winter and snow surrounds most of us in the north. A lot of exciting items have taken place since the last time we shared information with you. Here are some of the most recent events. More great news will be shared with you in a late Spring newsletter. *Enjoy!*

On behalf of the Board,
Jere Paddack
ELPOI President

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MILFOIL GRANT HAS BEEN APPROVED

For years we have been talking about doing something about Milfoil REMOVAL, and now we can tell you that we will proceed with attacking this WEED this summer!! We have been waiting for a decision on our grant request and we are very pleased to inform you that we (Town of Crown Point, Town of Ticonderoga and ELPOI) have been awarded a '07 NYS DEC Invasive Species Eradication Grant for our proposed three-year (08-10) milfoil removal project. We will receive \$55,000 in matching funds from the DEC to carry out the \$110,000 plan. As you may remember this grant is for an integrated approach for milfoil removal, including hand harvesting, matting and use of an herbicide. Thanks to Rolf and Dianne Tiedemann for their tenacity on pursuing the Grant! We already have \$45,000 of ELPOI's required \$55,000 grant commitment met! More information will be forthcoming in our next mailing that will clarify the monetary and volunteer labor commitments we will need from you to raise the remaining \$10,000 needed to make this project successful!!

JULY 2007 ANNUAL MEETING AND PICNIC CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION



ELPOI President Jere Paddack welcomed everyone to the 100th annual meeting of the Eagle Lake Property Owners on July 7, 2007. To mark the event, a special gathering of the past and current Presidents was assembled. Pictured are Bill Knauss, Bill Allen,



John DiPofi, Rin Fraize, Sue Barwig, Jere Paddack and Rolf Tiedemann, Several commemorative items were

also created for the occasion. They are detailed under *Commemorative Items*. Minutes of this meeting will be included in our next mailing. Following the meeting was a picnic with lots



of good food, opportunity for socializing and desert.



COMMEMORATIVE ITEMS



Pictured is the Bistro 100-year commemorative mug (\$5 each for either a 16 oz Bistro style cup or an 8 oz traditional coffee cup) and aerial picture postcards of Eagle Lake (3 for \$1). We still have items available for purchase. Contact Tonya Condon at nativesky@nycap.rr.com or 518-585-9044. We will also have them available at the July 2008 annual meeting.



MILFOIL BOUY MARKERS



Ten new milfoil buoy markers were constructed and placed in the lake this summer. Rolf Tiedemann showed them to the membership at the July 2007 Annual Meeting. They were placed over milfoil patches that were

considered significant in size and were in places where motorboat operation would cut the plants and cause a spread of the milfoil. The new buoys are lighter and easier to place and remove than the older ones; they also have a solar powered light on top to mark their location at night. Lettering, lights and anchor materials were purchased with grant money provided by International Paper. We would like to remind everyone to stay away from the patches and be particularly careful about fragmenting the plants. Jere Paddack and the Tiedemann Family helped in the construction and placement/ removal of these markers.

IP GRANT 2006

This summer International Paper awarded the ELPOI \$750 to pay for communication with lake residents (this newsletter), hosting costs of our WEB site, water testing and new buoy markers. IP has been a great supporter of our activities over the years and this is but the latest contribution. Tonya and Todd Condon and Rolf Tiedemann are to be thanked for applying for the grant.

SENATE INITIATIVE GRANT

A significant part of the milfoil removal project will involve the securing of permits to utilize an Herbicide. Senator Betty Little in the 2007 State Budget requested and received \$10,000 for ELPOI and Crown Point for the purpose of helping to offset some of the anticipated costs associated with the permitting process. This funding has been applied towards the \$55,000 grant commitment that ELPOI needs to raise and noted above. We thank Supervisor Dale French, and Senator Little for securing these funds for us.

MILFOIL TEST MAT



In September a demonstration milfoil test mat was placed in the lake at a site just north of the causeway. Rin and Carol Fraize used zip ties to attach approximately 90 pounds of re-bar ballast to the mat. Rolf Tiedemann and

certified diver Steve Stubing wrestled the 10' x 15' mat and ballast over a dense patch of milfoil. This approach to killing milfoil is effective in very small increments in flat areas and should work well in some parts of the lake, but we will need to repeat this process thousands of times to make a significant reduction in the 12 plus acres of milfoil in Eagle Lake. You may still be able to observe this matting area by looking out from the causeway (near the underpass) in a northerly direction. You will note a slightly lighter color than the background milfoil. International Paper of Ticonderoga donated mill wire for the mat material.

BARRELS FOUND IN THE LAKE



Two 55-gallon barrels were discovered in the lake on the north side of the causeway. They were found during the matting exercise mentioned above. NYS DEC was notified and

professional experts removed the barrels (using a full hazards material approach). On site testing of the barrel contents immediately after removal showed that no traces of chemicals were presently in the barrels. We do not know how the barrels came to be in the lake or if there were harmful substances in

them at that time. They appeared to have been in the lake for a long time due to their significant deterioration. Several folks that were on site for the removal suggested that perhaps the barrels may have at one time been part of a swim float or dock. Thanks to Steve Stubing for his effort coordinating the removal with DEC and Jim Davis, AJ Belkevich and Rolf Tiedemann for their efforts in assisting the DEC and Haz -Mat team with the removal.

ACTIVITY AT THE OUTLET DAM

DEC personnel did reconstructive work on the dam in early summer because an area of shoreline, exposed by an uprooted tree, was allowing water to flow around the spillway of the dam. This tree and several others that were downed during an April snowstorm were blocking access to the dam area and also presented problems for water flow over the spillway. Bill Armeno, along with Michael and Rolf Tiedemann removed the trees before they could completely block water flowing over the dam. Paul Burroughs' ever watchful eye alerted us to these problems. Paul and Lloyd this summer also worked on installing and removing boards from the spillway to maintain our lakes level within the DEC guidelines. Beaver activity at the spillway has been nonexistent for the past few years but that changed this Fall. After removing the spillway boards in early October it was only a matter of a few weeks and the beavers had built a stick and mud dam on top of the spillway.



Rin Fraize and others have attempted to foil the beavers' effort by removing branches. Pictured is the spillway with the beavers' latest attempt prior to removal by Rin. Mr. Beaver has not yet been captured! But we hope with the efforts of

local trapper Jim Hebert that he will be soon. We will need to keep a watchful eye on this situation this spring and also check the channel from the boat launch to the spillway to make sure water has an unimpeded flow. If you have some time to help with this effort this summer please let us know. Efforts for controlling the lake level and general maintenance around the dam are covered by ELPOI's Adopt-A-Natural Resource (ANR) agreement with the DEC.

WATER TESTING



Paul Burroughs stated that this years Citizens State-Wide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP,) a joint effort between DEC and local lake associations to monitor general lake quality, got off to a later than usual start. In the past years that ELPOI has been involved, the bi-monthly water sampling started in early June. Due to the changes in political administration for the State

this year's start was delayed by several weeks. Water samples as well as lake water clarity readings are collected through out the summer and sent to DEC for further analysis. A report of their findings is published and shared with ELPOI. These reports show that our Lake remains healthy. In addition to this

general water quality testing, ELPOI completes its own in-house water testing for Fecal Coliform counts and at times specific dissolved chemical analysis. These tests are completed in the Fall and confirm that Eagle Lake is healthy and fit for recreational purposes. Paul and Lloyd Burroughs and Rin and Carol Fraize are to be thanked for their efforts in gathering this information for us.

MISUSE OF PERSONAL WATERCRAFT

Numerous times reckless use of jet ski's /Personal Water Craft (PWC) has been witnessed on the Lake including activities such as playing "tag" at night with no running lights on, running back and forth across the milfoil beds, using buoy markers as if part of a race course, and coming much too close to swimmers and people in canoes and kayaks. I am sure we have all heard of incidents on other lakes where a PWC went out of control and injured someone. At the present time we have a small number of owners on the lake who have PWC. Other PWC operators gain access to the lake via the state boat launch. We urge everyone who uses a PWC to operate it safely and with due consideration for other people and other property, the same thing we'd ask or expect of any boat operator. The state of New York has deferred the decision to regulate PWC use on a lake to the local lake organization or the abutting town. We have the option as a lake organization to encourage safe usage of these craft or to propose to the Towns of Crown Point and Ticonderoga a ban on their use. Leland Loose researched the options available to ELPOI in addressing this concern and we thank him for his efforts. According to NYS rules, "anyone operating a PWC must complete a boating safety course." Those of us that took a course years ago, but cannot produce the original certification, are required to re-take the course. This is because NYS' record system does not go back far enough to contain proof of course completion for many older individuals. To find a course near you, go to: www.nyspark.com.

HIGHWAY CLEANUP



Several Adopt-A-Highway road clean-ups were undertaken this past summer and fall. Tonya and Todd Condon head up this project and are always looking for volunteers. Over the past several years they have helped remove several hundred pounds of trash from Route 74 between the boat launch and the antique store. Any trash that is picked up is kept from blowing into the lake waters. If you should need

bags for collection or need to get rid of trash collected along the road contact Tonya Condon. We thank all who participate in helping with this important effort.

ACCIDENTS AND SPEED ON ROUTE 74

In the past two years, we have seen a marked increase in traffic accidents here in Eagle Lake in spite of well posted speed

limits (45 mph) and additional warnings around the sharp turns. We have asked for and received increased State Trooper and local Ti Police patrols, and yet these efforts have not helped slow the accident rate. The most serious accident occurring not long ago was a double fatality when a motorcycle collided with a truck. Most other accidents involve cars hitting guardrails or going into ditches. Police on the scene almost always cite excessive speed, not weather conditions as the cause. It has been suggested by some that ELPOI should research the use of speed radar signs as these are used successfully in towns like Keene and Lake Placid. Accidents near the water have also placed unwanted material in the lake and threaten the safety of lake residents. We would like to hear from the membership on this topic.

ROAD REPAIR



In October, the Crown Point Highway Department installed a new culvert at the base of the Ben Hunter Road! The new culvert is substantially wider and offers a more secure roadbed for those who live on, deliver and/or travel to the north side of Eagle Lake.

IN MEMORY OF

Two long time Eagle Lake residents recently passed away. Dot Cully suffered a major stroke and passed on January 24, 2008. Anne Conklin passed on November 10, 2007. Both of these women loved the lake and the community. Their presence will be missed. Please join me in expressing our sympathy to their families as they grieve the loss of their loved ones.

JULY 12, 2008 MEETING DATE

Save this date and plan to attend the yearly meeting/picnic at the Chilson Community Center. We will have a lot to discuss especially the specific plans for our Milfoil Project. The talk is now over - we must walk the walk! Please join us for a leisurely stroll!



Summer will be here soon. We all enjoy our time at the lake. During the next three years we also can work on a common goal of improving the quality of the lake. Through cooperation we will succeed. I personally look forward

to getting to know you better as we work together. It will be fun and rewarding! Please join in.

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