

THE EAGLE LAKE NEWSLETTER

June 2013

1907 - Eagle Lake Property Owners, Inc. - 2013

Celebrating 106 years of responsible lake stewardship.

A Special Message from Board President Chris Hyde: Milfoil Decision Questions

Over the past six months there have been a lot of changes to the perception and management of invasives. As a boat dealer I have seen the changes first hand. Last fall we were told by Galway Lake in Saratoga County that we would have to use a dedicated trailer for all the boats we deliver to that lake. The trailer could not be used in any other lake and must be washed after each use. Because we do a fair amount of business on that lake we invested in a specific trailer for that lake. This spring the rules have been updated to say that each boat must have its own trailer, and that trailer cannot go into any other body of water. Galway is a private lake with a gated launch, so their lake association can make such rules.

Another private lake we deal with, in Greene County, has also made a similar rule, with the exception that if we wash the boat and trailer at their facility and then leave it there on land for seven days, we can use one trailer to launch various boats.

Lake George is working toward a mandatory boat wash. There has been a public hearing on the issue and there are of course pros and cons to the idea. One of the biggest problems with this is logistics. Where will it get done? Where will the wash water drain to? Who will monitor it? What will be the fees involved? Should boat and trailer be washed both before going in the water and after being taken out?

Are these rules extreme? The obvious goal is to stop the spread of invasives at all costs. I view them as generally a good idea – but they only work in the private, controlled environments that these lakes have. We could not require or manage such rules because we are not a private lake. Our boat launch is open 24/7 and we have little or no control over what goes in and out.

Where does this leave Eagle Lake? As we get into the summer season at the lake we once again have to ask the question: What are we doing about milfoil this year?

Our efforts to come to a compromise with the APA and move forward with a modified herbicide plan have come to another dead end. The hope that we had last spring of getting the governor involved to help us work with the APA has not gotten us any closer to a herbicide treatment in Eagle Lake.

As I see it, we have four options to deal with the milfoil problem:

Option 1. Continue to try to work with the APA, and submit a permit application for the Fox Island site that meets their guidelines (a small treatment area, the use of curtains, and extensive water testing).

Option 2. Submit a permit application for a large treatment area or multi-site treatment, meeting some of the APA guidelines (no curtains, limited water testing).

Option 3. Start work on securing funds to do a lake-wide hand-harvesting campaign through an outside contractor.

Option 4. Do nothing; let nature take its course.

Some of my thoughts on each of these options, as a spur to discussion at the annual meeting on July 6th:

Option 1.

It makes little sense to me to spend in the range of \$40,000 to treat such a small area. The APA is looking for us to do their homework – and then not to use the results to change the process to make future treatments less restrictive. We would spend all the money we have and be no further ahead 12 months later. The only reason to go for this option is to say that we have succeeded in getting a herbicide treatment in Eagle Lake after more than 20 years of hard work.

Option 2.

Why would we submit a permit knowing that it will probably be denied? Why go through the expense and the time? I think the argument would be that we would have an actual application in their office, and we would not be talking about a "what-if" situation. I agree that the dialog that has taken place has been beneficial to helping us understand the APA's side – but we are unfortunately no closer to getting a permit.

Option 3.

Hand harvesting I see as the best option to actually get something done in the near future. Hand harvesting is 50%-60 % effective, while a herbicide treatment is 80%-90 % effective. But if we don't ever get a herbicide permit, then it is 0% effective. If we ever get a herbicide permit we will still need to do hand harvesting as a part

of a long-term continuous approach. Nothing will rid the lake of all milfoil and keep it out forever. We will always be dealing with milfoil at some level, and hand harvesting will be a good way to manage the milfoil if we reach a level of control.

Option 4.

Doing nothing is what we did last season. Milfoil grows at varying rates, affected by a number of factors – over most of which we have no control. The only two things over which we can exert control are (1) spreading the plant by careless boat traffic, and (2) nutrient introduction through septic system discharge and fertilization of lawns and gardens. Milfoil will grow to a

given level in Eagle Lake. It will never overtake the lake from shore to shore as it has in smaller, shallower bodies of water, but it will always be much more of a nuisance for some people than it is for others.

We plan to discuss these options at the annual meeting next month, so please be sure to attend and make your voice heard. If you have questions in the interim, address them to Milfoil Project Coordinator Rolf Tiedemann or to me, and we'll either answer or pass them along to the right person.

Chris: cdhyde1@gmail.com,

Rolf: camptouchstone@yahoo.com.

For more detailed information on the Eagle Lake milfoil project, visit http://eaglelake1.org/html/banner/milfoil_project.shtm

2012 Annual Meeting



The 2012 annual meeting and picnic was held on July 7th this year; board members for 2012-2013 were confirmed: Chris Hyde, president; Steve Phelps, vice president; Mary Loose, secretary; Jeff Becker, treasurer; and Peter Popinchalk, Mary Lloyd Burroughs, Jack Mulcahy, Steve Stubing, and David Williams, board members.

Rin Fraize provided the yearly treasurer's report – his last for now, as Rin, long-time board stalwart and Eagle Lake champion, decided not to seek re-election as treasurer this year. Rin was thanked and applauded by all present for his years of service.

Rolf Tiedemann, who heads up ELPOI's milfoil-abatement effort, reported on recent events – the Town of Ticonderoga was expected to agree to be lead agent for the process for the upcoming year once a permit application has been formulated, and a meeting with the state Department of Environmental Conservation, representatives of local elected officials, and the Adirondack Park Agency was scheduled for August 7th to work on the details of that application. Under discussion at the time of the meeting was a possible demonstration project for this year that would have treated the bay behind Fox Island, with a single curtain across the east inlet, followed by treating the entire lake in 2014. (See Chris's message above for an update on the milfoil process.)

Rolf said that he would see to placing milfoil warning buoys in the lake for summer.

In other business, it was decided that new Eagle Lake T-shirts and hats will be designed; Helen Oates will follow up and submit ideas for the board to review. The Eagle Lake web site will be updated with the capacity to accept paid sponsorships from local vendors, and with a web cam offering a four-season view of the lake; Peter Popinchalk agreed to work on this project with Rolf and web master Michael Tiedemann, but it's currently delayed by technical problems. Chris reported that a call to the state Department of Transportation revealed that there are no current plans to replace the causeway bridge.

Special thanks were expressed to Tonya Condon for her Adopt-a-Highway cleanup efforts along Route 74. The need for beaver control at the spillway was discussed; Chris will follow up.

Our next meeting will be held at the Chilson Volunteer Fire Department Community Center, 60 Putts Pond Road, on July 6, 2013.

The Truck in the Lake



Perhaps the biggest excitement on Eagle Lake last summer came when a tractor-trailer driver hauling paper from the International Paper mill mistook a sharp curve on Route 74 for a straightaway and flipped his whole rig over the guardrail and into the lake upside down just east of Lew and Sharon Zankel's place. Despite the reportedly hellacious roar of the accident and the sirens and clamor of the rescue effort, your editor – the closest Route 74 resident in residence that night – managed to sleep through the whole thing. Luckily for the driver, fellow ELPOI board member Steve Stubing was more alert: he raised the alarm and boated quickly from Fox Island to the scene, where he was able to help the hapless trucker keep his head above water in the crushed and inverted cab until Chilson Volunteer Fire Department Chief Steve Hunsdon and his crew could free him. With mutual aid from Ticonderoga P.D., Ticonderoga E.M.S. and members of the Ticonderoga and Schroon Lake fire departments, the Chilson squad used their "jaws of life" tool – under water! – to pry open the wreck and extract the victim. The driver was transported to hospital with a broken leg and other less-serious injuries, and at last report was recuperating well. Steve Stubing's quick thinking that night continued, and he also deployed containment booms (secured by ELPOI after the last truck rollover accident) for the motor oil that seeped into the lake from the truck's engine. Steve Stubing, along with first responders from Chilson Volunteer Fire Department and the other fire, police and E.M.S. departments who participated that night were honored for their response a few weeks later at a recognition ceremony by the Essex County legislature in Elizabethtown. No lasting damage to the lake occurred; the guard rail and a downed pole were quickly repaired. Donna Wadsworth at International Paper has warned I.P.-associated truck drivers – yet again – about the danger of speeding on Route 74, and Rolf Tiedemann followed up to get the last of the sodden paper waste removed from the lake bed. At the urging of ELPOI's Chris Hyde and Rolf Tiedemann, as well as Chilson Volunteer Fire Department Chief Steve Hunsdon, Ticonderoga Supervisor Deb Malaney intervened with NYS DOT to have special truck-rollover warning signs posted on both the eastbound and westbound travel lanes of Route 74 prior to the causeway and S-curve.

Other Milfoil Project News



To address one concern raised by the APA, Rolf and Dianne Tiedemann, working with a professional diver, located and marked 17 examples of a rare-and-threatened aquatic plant called Water Marigold; APA professes concern for this plant even though it exists in other lakes treated, and has survived. Our thanks to Ticonderoga Volunteer Fire Department Chief Jeff Burns for filling our divers' air tanks for this project. Rolf, Dianne, Chris Hyde and others also attended last August's Eurasian Watermilfoil Management Summit in Brant Lake sponsored by the Adirondack Lake Alliance. They heard presentations on the status of the Eurasian watermilfoil invasion and its management in the region. Speakers included state agency staff, elected officials, not-for-profit representatives, and shore owners.

Lake Maintenance Notes

ROADBED EROSION. The spot along the lake just east of Cole Hickland's place where the edge of the Route 74 road bed was crumbling into the lake (this is a "before" picture) has been repaired by NYS DOT. Leland Loose followed up with Ticonderoga Supervisor Deb Malaney who followed up with DOT and the APA to get the repairs made so that the guard rail would not end up dangling into the water.

CSLAP. For years now, Paul and Lloyd Burroughs have taken responsibility for Eagle Lake's participation in The New York Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program, or CSLAP (pronounced see-slap), but perhaps not all of us are entirely aware of what the program does, and what it means for Eagle Lake and the rest of New York' lakes. Now our one-lake-removed neighbor Mike Purdy has written a cogent explanation for the Schroon Lake Association, and we hereby share it with you.

"CSLAP is a cooperative effort between the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the New York State Federation of Lake Associations, Inc. (NYSFOLA). The goal of CSLAP is to implement scientific research and educational outreach using volunteers to collect information and samples on a representative number of New York State's some 11,000 lakes, ponds and reservoirs. This program began in 1986 and to date over 200 NYS lakes have participated. Eight samplings are taken during the summer on a bi-weekly basis. The on-lake procedures call for taking samples at a specific GPS location at depths of 1.5 meters from the surface and 1.5 meters from the bottom. The water temperature at both depths is recorded as well as the air temperature. Water clarity is measured using a device called a Secchi disk. Other observations including sky conditions and wind are also recorded. Information about quality of the lake for swimming and boating on the day of testing is also requested. The samples are taken back to shore and put into bottles following specific procedures such as filtering some samples. These bottles are frozen and then shipped to the lab for analysis. This year we have been asked to send samples of any identified algae blooms at the time of sampling. To date none have been identified on the day of sampling. ESSLA understands that water quality is of the utmost importance and provides substantial funding and manpower for the testing which is crucial for this program."

Thanks to Mike Purdy for this explanation, and special thanks to Lloyd and Paul for their efforts on behalf of Eagle Lake.

DAM AND WATER LEVEL. Thanks to Jack Mulcahy, Keith Park and others who have been managing the dam and working to keep the spillway clear. Some minor but labor-intensive and important improvements by Rolf Tiedemann to the dam – special "handles" on the dam boards to make them easier to place and remove, and lockable storage for the boards not in use and a handy debris rake – will make it easier for Jack and Paul and other ELPOI members to control the lake level.



Also at Rolf's instigation, the lake water-level gauge has been replaced by Crown Point D.E.C. Manager Frank Burnham and crew, with paint renewed by Paul Burroughs and crew.

BEAVER REMOVAL. The board has engaged John Bezon, a New York State Nuisance Wildlife Control Operator, to trap and remove the beaver family that keeps rebuilding its dam in competition with our state-approved dam. John has the required permit and has begun the process; once all the beavers have been evicted, ELPOI will put out a call for volunteers to demolish and remove the vacated lodge.

Adopt-A-Highway. Tonya Whitford Condon again this year completed her spring cleaning of Route 74 along the lake, removing more than 60 pounds of trash from the roadside. Tonya is one of the staunchest defenders of Eagle Lake and its wildlife and environment, and I wish people could just wait until they get home to throw away their trash. They wouldn't like it if I came over to their house and tossed some out on their lawn."

ELPOI HAS NEW MAILING NEW ADDRESS

Please send all correspondences to our new address, although of course if you have urgent information to send us please use ELPOI President Chris Hyde's e-mail address – cdhyde1@gmail.com.

**ELPOI
P.O. Box 287
Ticonderoga, NY 12883**

Chilson Volunteer Fire Department Needs “Dry Hydrant” Sites!

Chilson Volunteer Fire Department asks if any Eagle Lake lakefront property owners would be willing to let the department set up a “dry hydrant” on their land. Dry hydrants provide an easy access to fill tank trucks regardless of weather. A dry hydrant is an unobtrusive, non-pressurized, low-cost pipe system, usually made of PVC, installed along the bank of a body of water. The top of the pipe extends above the ground near the shoreline and the bottom of the pipe extends down into the water. A minimum of two feet of water must be maintained over the bottom of the pipe to assure year-round water supply. New dry-hydrant sites are needed because of the problems that Ticonderoga is having with its water supply lines; the few fire hydrants that the town maintains in our area may not be in reliable service until those problems are resolved. If you might be willing to give the firefighters access to your property to help them in their mission to protect our lives and homes, please call CVFD Board Chairman (and ELPOI member) Jim Davis at (518) 585-6686 or Fire Chief Steve Hunsdon at (518) 585-6823.

...and Thanks Us and Our Members for Our Support

In a letter to ELPOI, Chilson VFD has expressed deepest thanks to the members of Eagle Lake Property Owners for their generous support of the department’s 2013 dinner dance. All told, ELPOI members donated almost \$3,000, in addition to ELPOI’s own sponsorship gift, all of which will help defray the cost of a new, Federally-mandated radio system. As we learned in the devastating aftermath of Hurricane Irene in 2011, effective communications are essential to saving lives and property – and that’s as true here at Eagle Lake as it is everywhere throughout the country. For this reason, as part of the national post-9/11 plans for a nationwide communications system for first responders, fire, ambulance and police departments and other government agencies that respond to emergencies must by law upgrade to radios that will allow them to communicate seamlessly with each other.

Invasive Species News

Mandatory boat inspections are being seriously recommended for Lake George, and the associated costs – at least some of which would be borne by boaters themselves – could drive boaters to seek other lakes for recreation and fishing. Eagle Lake is not a prime target, but this might have an impact on us, and ELPOI will have to closely monitor this trend to be sure that we in turn don’t fall prey to the careless visitors who import the Asian Clams and other species that Lake George is fighting now. We have to remember that it’s not just power boats that can spread invasives – kayaks, canoes, water toys, rowboats and even fishing gear are also suspect.

In other invasives news, Emerald Ash Borer University has an **Asian Longhorned Beetle** Update webinar on line; go to the www.emeraldashborer.info web site or to <https://connect.msu.edu/eab-university/>



Spiny water fleas, an aquatic invasive species that has spread from Great Sacandaga Lake, into the Adirondacks, Hudson River and Champlain Canal, have reached Lake George, off Ticonderoga. The flea was almost certainly brought in by boaters from infested waters elsewhere. A native of Asia, the flea, which is actually a tiny crustacean, is troubling because it can out-compete native fish for food sources, and swarms in such large numbers that masses of fleas can foul fishing lines. Unless equipment is properly cleaned; the flea has the ability to survive for some time out of the water in damp locations.



The **Emerald Ash Borer** is a half-inch long metallic-green insect that comes from Asia and is wreaking havoc on the ash trees of North America. This insect overwinters under the bark of the ash tree (black, green or white ash) and emerges as an adult in the spring. After mating, the female lays her eggs in the crevices of the bark and about ten days later they hatch. The larvae now begin tunneling under the bark, eating as they go. In winter the larvae become dormant, and in spring they emerge as adults and the cycle begins again. The pest is transported on firewood, so please remember – and tell your guests and visitors – to buy and use firewood only from local Ticonderoga-area vendors.

Web Site

Thanks go to the Popinchalk family for making possible the web site’s Eagle Lake Web Cam, and to the Condons for hosting it on their property. The camera shows a live view of the lake looking northwest toward the causeway, giving us all a chance to watch remotely as the ice came in and went out this winter, to keep tabs on the weather from day to day, and to indulge in a little wistful homesickness while we were away. The web site continues to serve as an effective way of communicating among ourselves about both the joys and the “business” of preserving our beautiful lake. The site records hundreds of visit every month, a total that was only increased by the attractions of the web cam. New on the site also are images of vintage post cards submitted by Jane Runge Sanger. See them at <http://www.eaglelake1.org>

MEMBERSHIP

Below are your membership renewal form, picnic sign-up form, and proxy form. We need, welcome and value your ideas, support and leadership. Please take a moment today to renew your membership. Full property owner membership remains at \$25.00 per year; associate membership (for those committed to but not owning property on Eagle Lake) is \$15.00. We have added a business membership level, which will allow community businesses to support ELPOI. In return for their support, businesses receive a sponsor "badge" on the ELPOI web site, a sponsor "ad" in this newsletter, each issue of which reaches more than 120 motivated families. Business membership is \$65.00 per year. For current members who want to become business members the additional cost is only \$50.00 per year. To sign up for a business membership contact Chris Hyde at Cdhyde1@gmail.com.

Your membership dues and all other contributions to Eagle Lake Property Owners, Inc., are tax deductible under rules governing not-for-profit 501(c)3 status. Membership dues provide for the day to day operating expenses of ELPOI including minimal stationery, telephone and mailing costs (although most of these are donated by International Paper and our members, very occasional conference costs and travel, annual lake water testing by both CSLAP (analytical) and additional non-CSLAP (fecal), donations to local emergency services, and a limited amount to milfoil control. The officers of ELPOI serve in a voluntary capacity. Dues alone cannot pay for the expense of milfoil control; if you can make an additional contribution toward the milfoil project, please indicate your intention on the membership form below.

2013 Membership Application/ Renewal and Proxy Form

Please return dues by June 30, the date of record for the annual meeting. Membership dues may also be paid at the annual meeting, before the start of the meeting at 10:00 a.m. meeting. Costs are listed below – burgers, hot dogs, soda, water and place settings provided; please bring a dish to pass.

Cut here: Return Lower Portion to: ELPOI, P.O. Box 287, Ticonderoga, NY 12883



Name _____
 Winter Address _____

Winter Phone _____
 Lake Phone _____
 E-mail _____

ENCLOSED:

Member	\$25.00 _____	<u>Picnic Reservations</u>		<u>Additional Donation(s)</u>	
Associate	\$15.00 _____	_____ # Adults x \$6.00	\$ _____	Unrestricted Donation	\$ _____
Business	\$65.00 _____	_____ # Children x \$4.00	\$ _____	Milfoil Restricted Use	\$ _____
		_____ #Families x \$18.00	\$ _____	Total Enclosed	\$ _____
				(Make checks payable to ELPOI)	

Member Proxy

I, _____, as a Member in good standing of the ELPOI, do hereby designate _____, who is also a member in good standing or who is another owner of record of the same membership parcel of said corporation, to vote and act on my behalf on all matters that come before the meeting to be held on July 6, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.

Signed: _____ Date _____

Witnessed: _____ Date _____

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TIME 12PM - 5PM

PLACE 60 PUTTS POND ROAD

DONATION \$12

 Visit us on Facebook at "Chilson Volunteer Fire Department."

Eagle Lake Property Owners, Inc.
P.O. Box 287
Ticonderoga, NY 12883