

# THE EAGLE LAKE NEWSLETTER

Spring 2017

1907 – Eagle Lake Property Owners, Inc. – 2017

*Celebrating 110 years of responsible lake stewardship.*

## TONYA CONDON CLEANS UP



**Tonya Whitford Condon** was feeling accomplished back on April 24 when she completed day one --- and half her route --- of her annual Adopt-A-Highway Clean-Up on behalf of Eagle Lake Property Owners. Tonya has been performing this service for years, making her one of ELPOI's most valuable members. (In addition to her Adopt-A-Highways chores, she also co-manages ELPOI's Facebook page.) Of course, all of us can help by picking up in front of our own properties!

## LLOYD BURROUGHS DEFINES COMMUNITY SERVICE



Elementary schoolkids throughout the region received dictionaries from the Ticonderoga Elks Club; here's our fellow Eagle Laker **Mary Lloyd Burroughs**, pictured third from left above, along with her fellow Elks making the presentation to Ticonderoga third graders. Lloyd and Paul Burroughs are staunch, long-time ELPOI volunteers, too, contributing decades of work on lake level and water testing teams, as board members, and much, much more.

## Annual Meeting & Picnic: July 8

This year's annual meeting and picnic are scheduled for Saturday, July 8th, at the Chilson Volunteer Fire Department Community Center at 60 Putts Pond Road. The annual meeting begins at 10:00 A.M., and the picnic follows at noon. Enclosed with this newsletter are the membership renewal, picnic sign-up and proxy forms for you to complete.

Treasurer Rolf Tiedemann reports that income from dues, sales of themed souvenirs, website sponsorships and some generous direct-support donations has enabled ELPOI to cover the expenses of water testing (CSLAP and in-house fecal), member communications, donations to select service organizations, and website and webcam hosting. Full details will be available at the annual meeting, and a printed report is available at [EagleLake1.org](http://EagleLake1.org) on the archives page.

The most important part of the annual meeting is that it's our chance to come together as a community to share ideas and work together to solve problems large and small.

And, of course, election of board members and officers is also a critical part of the meeting. The current officers (Chris Hyde, Steve Phelps, Rolf Tiedemann and Keith Park) have agreed to stand for re-election for another year. Board member Mary Lloyd Burroughs, whose term is expiring, has agreed to stand for re-election for another three-year term.

**But please remember that nominations from the floor will be most welcome – new blood and new ideas have kept ELPOI vital for 110 years!**

More than 50 property owners have been dues-paying members this past year, and all paid-up members are eligible to vote as well as to stand for election – and you can pay your \$25 annual dues at the meeting to join or renew your membership.



**“Like” Eagle Lake Property Owners, Inc. on Facebook to keep up with the latest news and share photos & other items of interest.**

## TOM PFEFFER GETS CREATIVE



Member Tom Pfeffer is justifiably proud of his lake-maintenance invention – a homemade aluminum-can jig (four long screws on the end of a seven-foot stick), which, he reports, “Works great... Nothing worse than seeing a can five or six feet down and wishing you could get it easily!”

## OBJECT LESSONS IN FIRE SAFETY

An accidental fire on Fox Island last July 4 was kept from causing real damage when ELPOI member Ada Phelps, who’s also a (non-firefighting) member of Chilson Volunteer Fire Department, spotted the smoke, called 9-1-1, then – by kayak, with bucket and shovel – contained the fire until the Chilson firefighters arrived. Ticonderoga Fire Department also responded with their fire boat, above, to soak the area.

In September there was another fire, this one on Forrest Lisle’s property, apparently started by careless trespassers. The fire consumed more than an acre of land, but no structures, before being brought under control by NYS Environmental Conservation officers and the Chilson and Ticonderoga fire departments, here obscured by smoke.

All of which is to remind us that fire safety is a top priority for those of us who want to continue to enjoy life here at Eagle Lake. And remember that you can help emergency services – police, fire, EMS – identify your home by being sure your property is posted, or that your street number is prominently displayed. Contact Chilson Volunteer Fire Department at [ChilsonVFD@gmail.com](mailto:ChilsonVFD@gmail.com) if you have special concerns or questions about fire protection for your individual property.

## WWW.EAGLELAKE1.ORG

The Eagle Lake Property Owners web site is a popular attraction, with about 900 pages loaded and viewed every month – a more than respectable number for such a small organization. Rolf Tiedemann manages the content, and Michael Tiedemann provides technical management for posting and formatting. Unfortunately, the web camera – one of the reasons for the site’s popularity – was knocked off line by a May lightning strike; it will be repaired as soon as possible this summer.

## INVASIVE SPECIES

Central to our mission as stewards of Eagle Lake’s waters and environment is the need to be vigilant and responsive when it comes to invasive species. Members are reminded again this year that our front-line defense should be “Clean-Drain-Dry” – and it applies to things like water toys and fishing tackle as well as to boats whenever they’re moved from one body of water to another. Clean: Whenever leaving a waterway, inspect watercraft and gear and remove aquatic plants and animals, including mud and algae and dispose of away from the shoreline. Drain: Drain all water from live-wells, bait buckets, bilges and other reservoirs. Dry: Allow boats and equipment to completely dry for at least five days.

Our struggle with Eurasian milfoil continues. Last year milfoil topped out at four or more existing patches, including the huge patch in the middle of the lake, which was bigger in area and amount of topping out than it had been in many years. There’s still no affordable solution in sight, and no substantive help has been forthcoming from environmental authorities, least of all the Adirondack Park Agency. Rolf Tiedemann attended the Adirondack Lakes Alliance meeting in December of 2016, and at our annual meeting will provide us with an update on the progress – and frustrations – associated with invasives control throughout the North Country.

We’re also still searching out Curly Leaf Pondweed, first discovered in the lake by the Tiedemanns in 2014.

This year we’re newly on the watch for the spiny waterflea, because it’s a bug that has already invaded eight other Adirondack lakes. They feed on other native zooplankton that young fish rely on for food, which can lead to less for sport fish such as lake trout and salmon – and they’re very easily spread from lake to lake on sport-fishing gear.

Thanks to sharp-eyed, conscientious member Peter Popinchalk, we’re also on the lookout this year for flowering rush (*Butomus umbellatus*), a fast-spreading plant that grows up to four feet high on an erect stem along shores in shallow water. It can form dense stands that interfere with recreational lake use and crowd out native plants. It’s already taken root in areas on the southeast shore. If spotted, small infestations can be dug up, taking care to leave no bulbils behind.

## CAMPING AND CAMPGROUND ISSUES

Charles Island, also known as Conklin Island, is private property, and trespassing and especially camping there are unlawful without the owner’s permission. POSTED signs have been put in place around the island, and members are asked to keep an eye out for trespassing campers. If you see campers there who won’t heed your advice to desist, e-mail Rolf who will contact the property owner.

On the other hand, the state-owned campground at the tent sites in the trees behind the public beach at the

northeasternmost corner of the lake is a designated "primitive camping" area, and camping there is allowed even without a permit, except that camping for more than three nights or with ten or more people requires a permit from a forest ranger. Normal campground etiquette – fire safety, no late-night noise, carry-in/carry-out, etc. – is expected on public lands, of course: violations should be reported to the forest ranger.

Speaking of the public beach, this spring Rolf noticed some dead trees looming precariously there and reported them to DEC. This week NYS DEC Forester Corrie E. O’Dea assessed the situation and removed two “hazard” trees, the dead white pine seen in the center of the beach area in Rolf’s photo below, and a dead aspen near the first tent site. Forester O’Dea spotted more dead trees at the left side of the beach area, and after checking to be sure they’re on state land she plans to cut them down, too, though some may have to wait for winter so that they can be dropped on the ice and hauled away.



She also saw several instances of live or standing trees that had been cut; cutting live trees is prohibited in the Forest Preserve – only dead and downed wood may be used for firewood, and hazard trees must be assessed and removed by DEC. Ms. O’Dea asks that ELPOI members alert her or the local Forest Ranger if we see anyone violating this law. In addition, she’s offered to help us out with the proper paperwork if we want to have a trash clean-up day at the beach in the fall or spring. “Please let me know if you have any questions,” she told Rolf, “or if I can be helpful in any way, as we work towards a better future for the Forest Preserve.”

Thank you, Corrie O’Dea!

**Corrie E. O’Dea, Forester, NYS DEC – (518) 623-1275**  
**Mark St. Clair, Forest Ranger, NYS DEC – (518) 335-3681**

## **WATER LEVELS and THE DAM BEAVERS**

From all reports, there’s beaver activity all around the lake this year – small trees chewed at many shore points, and even a substantial lodge under construction on Fox Island. But nowhere does their industriousness cause us more grief than at the dam and spillway, and in the stream that leads to them. Deb and Jack Mulcahy, Peter Popinchalk and Rolf Tiedemann have among them made countless treks to the dam over the fall, winter and spring, and removed countless

pounds of painstaking beaver construction, but the dam beavers don’t take the hint. As a consequence – and because we’ve had a particularly rainy spring – the lake level has been unusually high. Jack has been in touch with the trapper we’ve engaged in such circumstances before, and we’ll look forward to further discussion at the annual meeting. The all-volunteer lake-level maintenance team needs more volunteers! If you can help, please e-mail Jack at [jdmulcahy5@verizon.net](mailto:jdmulcahy5@verizon.net), Peter at [pdpop58@gmail.com](mailto:pdpop58@gmail.com), or Rolf at [camptouchstone@yahoo.com](mailto:camptouchstone@yahoo.com).

## **WATER TESTING**

In 2016, Eagle Lake remains one of the cleanest and clearest lakes in the country, fit for all recreational activities, thanks to continuous vigilance by our members, and confirmed by scientific sampling conducted by Paul and Lloyd Burroughs, Chris Hyde, Keith Park, and Dianne and Rolf Tiedemann. The samples are sent out to labs for testing, and updated results are posted continually on our web site at <http://bit.ly/2tj8pld> U explain?

## **TOWN WATER**

Members who live along Route 74 are concerned about the future of Ticonderoga’s Gooseneck Pond water supply line that provides many of them with their drinking water. The line is old, and is increasingly mentioned as needing to be abandoned or replaced; neither option sounds promising for those who depend on it. Replacement has in the past been proposed to require forming an Eagle Lake-Chilson water district, but the rumored costs to ratepayers are unsettling – as is the apparent fact that even those who rely on wells or lake water would necessarily become ratepayers, willing or not. Contacted by telephone last week, Ticonderoga Town Supervisor said that he had no answers yet about the Gooseneck Pond line; the town has been too focused on its need for a second well to replace the Lake George pumping station to consider the question. He said that the town will have to address the issue “soon”, perhaps beginning by polling the affected residents about their preferences. He promised to keep Eagle Lake and Chilson residents informed about the decision-making process as it is formulated, but had no firm answers about when that will happen. ELPOI will continue to monitor the situation.

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## **In Memoriam**

**We are saddened to note the passing during the past twelve months of two fellow Eagle Lakers: Bob Stevens, who lived on Route 74 and was a long-time and well-known figure in Ticonderoga as well as at Eagle Lake, and Carl Harris, who lived on Harris Point and was a member of one of the oldest Eagle Lake families. Good men, good neighbors; they will be missed. As always, we keep a good thought for their families and friends, and wish for them comfort, and healing.**

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## PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR SPONSORS!

There's a sponsor page on our web site at <http://eaglelake1.org> – just click on one of the ad thumbnails on the front page. Sponsorship includes a business-card ad in the newsletter (distributed to 150+ lake residents and friends and viewed by 10,000 plus yearly web page loads), rotating business-card banner ads on web pages, and larger ads on the sponsor page itself, with links to sponsors' own web sites. Contact Chris Hyde (518) 210-9031 or Rolf Tiedemann (585) 647-2514 with any questions, or to become a sponsor.



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### Special thanks to...

- The International Paper Ticonderoga Mill for printing this newsletter, and Todd Condon for arranging it.
- Our web-page sponsors.
- Tonya Condon, who co-manages our Facebook page and does our Adopt-A-Highway cleanups every year.
- The Alden family for their many years of hosting our web site.
- The Shultz family for sharing their Internet bandwidth in summer, allowing us to upload web cam images.
- Michael Tiedemann for his technical management of our web site.
- Paul and Lloyd Burroughs, Chris Hyde, Keith Park, and Dianne and Rolf Tiedemann for their work on the various water-testing processes.
- Keith Park, Peter Popinchalk and Dianne and Rolf Tiedemann for their work in spotting and removing invasive flora and fauna from the lake.
- Deb and Jack Mulcahy, Peter Popinchalk, and Dianne and Rolf Tiedemann for their work in clearing obstructions at the dam and adjusting it to control the lake level.

**MEMBERSHIP 2017**

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 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 \$120.00 per year. See ELPOI sponsor web page for details. To sign up for a business membership contact Chris Hyde at [Cdhyde1@gmail.com](mailto: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 invasive control; if you can make an additional contribution towards the project, please indicate your intention on the membership form below.

**Current ELPOI Board Members:** Peter Popinchalk (thru 2018); Mary Lloyd Burroughs (thru 2017); Jack Mulcahy (thru 2019)  
**ELPOI Officers 2016-2017:** Chris Hyde, President; Stephen Phelps, Vice President; Keith Park, Secretary; Rolf Tiedemann, Treasurer

**2017/8 Membership Application/ Renewal, and Proxy Form**

Please return dues by June 30, the date of record for the Annual Meeting, or as soon as possible. **Membership dues may also be paid at the annual meeting, before the 10:00 a.m. start.** (Our by-laws state that only paid-up members may vote at the meeting.)

Picnic prices are listed below – Sandwiches, soda, water and place settings provided; *covered dishes, desserts, etc. are welcome!*

**Cut here: Return Lower Portion to: ELPOI, c/o Chris Hyde, 64 Blue Barns Road, Rexford, NY 12148**

✂-----

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Lake Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Winter Address \_\_\_\_\_ Lake Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Winter Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email primary \_\_\_\_\_ Secondary \_\_\_\_\_

**Picnic Reservations July 8 @ Noon**

**Additional Donation(s)**

**ENCLOSED: (check appropriate choice)**  
 Member \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Associate \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_ # Adults x \$6.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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Unrestricted Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**Total Enclosed \$** \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Make checks payable to ELPOI)

**Member Proxy**

I, as a member in good standing of 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 8, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.**

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Witnessed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

The Eagle Lake Newsletter is published by Eagle Lake Property Owners, Inc., c/o Chris Hyde, 64 Blue Barns Road. Rexford, NY 12148. ELPOI is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation and contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law. This issue was written by Chris Hyde, Rolf Tiedemann and Steve Phelps, and edited by Steve Phelps. Send information, changes of address, and especially new or changed e-mail addresses, to Chris at [cdhyde1@gmail.com](mailto:cdhyde1@gmail.com).



#### Mission Statement

Whereas the property owners on Eagle Lake, Essex County, New York, organized themselves, their associates and their successors into an Association on September 13, 1907 for the purposes and objects set forth below,

First, for the protection of the mutual interest and property of the members. Second, for the re-stocking of Eagle Lake from hatcheries. Third, for the regulation and control of a uniform water level in Eagle Lake. Fourth, for the prevention of the pollution of the water in Eagle Lake. Fifth, for the protection of spawning beds in Eagle Lake. Sixth, and for such other objects and purposes as may from time to time be determined upon by the members of the organization for protecting the mutual interests and property of the members.