



Newsletter 2007

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2007 President's Letter

Welcome to the 2007 edition of the Three Lakes Council annual Newsletter.

One of the very meaningful recommendations taken from the survey we conducted last Fall was the importance of our newsletter in helping to communicate with and educate the Three Lakes watershed residents. As you will see when reading through this year's edition, our team of volunteers has been working hard to keep you informed, update you on our initiatives, and raise your awareness of how your daily lifestyle around these lakes has an impact on this fragile environment—both positive and negative.

As you jump in to this new edition, take time to learn more about the Three Lakes Survey conducted in November 2006. There is a wealth of information and opinion to help guide us with our plans and priorities. And learn about our Geese Stabilization Initiative and the active role you can play in this process. Read what we learned in our first season of water quality monitoring in cooperation with New York State CSLAP. Take in the interesting perspectives from a number of our seasoned (and highly

successful) fishermen. Learn about why your “pet poop” needs to be sensitively managed, in addition to our annoying “geese poop” issue. And take some guidance on lake home management practices that will have a significant effect on our lakes: septic systems, lawn fertilizers, dishwasher detergents, household chemicals, etc. The list is long and your knowledge is critical.

By investing our time and energy into the development of this newsletter, the Three Lakes Council hopes to encourage your continued use of “best practices” and urge you to do even more. To accomplish this, to make this task worthwhile, each of us must take the necessary steps. Examine more “lake friendly” practices and make the investment in improvements that will positively affect the quality of our lakes and, in turn, our community life. Thank you for sharing in this effort.

And finally, let's all remember to thank our many volunteers who work so well to fulfill the purpose

of the Three Lakes Council. You will see many familiar names, and fortunately many new names, of involved volunteers as you read and enjoy this newsletter. Take the time to shake their hands and just say Thank You for the important things they do for all of us. And don't forget that there is room for you on the team as well. Just give me a call or send me a note and I'll sign you up (763-9859 or jsinnott@optonline.net). Thank you.

*Jack Sinnott, President
Three Lakes Council*



Jack Sinnott and Lou Feeney attempting to move floats and docks during the high water this spring

Lake Management Plans

In September 2002, Michael Martin, President of Cedar Eden Environmental, took a “snapshot” of our lakes and subsequently submitted a brief report based on his tests and observations. One of his recommendations was to develop a lake management plan, of which one component was more extensive water quality testing. We contracted with him to do that in 2003 and we received a comprehensive report in 2004. We continued to work with Cedar Eden through 2006. We learned a lot from this effort and have been implementing many of Martin’s recommendations.

The Three Lakes Council will continue to need the services of a professional to guide us with activities such as:

1. Helping us develop and oversee a comprehensive plan for the lakes and streams. Phosphorus is the primary nutrient affecting weed and algae growth in the lakes. We need to continue monitoring phosphorus levels to guide our corrective actions. CSLAP testing, with some supplemental testing, will be the basis for our lake testing protocol. An improved stream sampling protocol is also required.
2. Analyzing the newly gathered data together with recent and perhaps historical data, looking for trends, and indicators of corrective actions needed, or, optimistically, to see if corrective actions are having a beneficial impact.

3. Helping develop future action plans. The Three Lakes Council has a number of improvements in process that we need to evaluate and prioritize, identifying which projects will yield the most benefit for the cost or effort required to implement them.
4. Conducting educational seminars for watershed residents. A review of how lakes function, a summary of test results, and relevant corrective activities would be the major topics.
5. Further evaluating major projects, such as alum treatment and/or activation of new or improved aerators. Both are expensive projects and technical assessment is essential. Lake residents’ desires and concerns must also continue to be understood and evaluated.

We have interviewed two very good potential candidates to help guide us with these lake management tasks. Requests for proposals have been solicited from both consultants. We will likely begin to utilize the skills and talents of one or both these professionals as we develop our lake management plans this summer.

Paul Lewis and Jack Sinnott



Burning phragmites

Lewisboro Lakes Committee

The purpose of the Lewisboro Lakes Committee is to support the Town Board's stewardship of the health and quality of the lakes in Lewisboro, particularly through the comprehensive study of the lakes and in the administration and oversight of a \$625,000 construction program (which includes a \$312,500 matching grant from the NYCDEP and \$312,500 from the Town).

The following persons were appointed by the TLC to this committee:

Ron Tetelman – Lake Waccabuc
Paul Lewis – Lake Oscaleta
Jack Cedarholm – Lake Rippowan

In addition to the Three Lakes, Lake Truesdale, Lake Kitchawan, Lake Katonah and Timber Lake are represented on the committee. David Sachs is the chairperson of the committee.

Activities of the Lake Committee are expected to include:

1. Recommending and prioritizing storm water management and other projects which can help the lakes and thus the related downstream NY reservoirs of which the lakes are part of the watershed.
2. Assisting the Town in securing and administering grants provided by the Town, County, State, Federal or other sources which have been provided for projects or activities directly related to storm water management and the health of the lakes.

3. Providing education to the residents of the Town, the Town Board, Town Highway Department, and other town committees or Boards relative to improving and protecting the lakes.
4. Researching “best lake management and protection practices” and providing this information to the residents of the Town, the Town Board, Town Highway Department and other town committees or Boards.
5. Managing chosen projects including providing the Town with the documentation needed to assist the Town with the financial and reporting commitments required for implementation and periodic updates to ensure that all concerned are apprised of progress with respect to the East of Hudson funding and Water Quality Planning and Implementation funding.

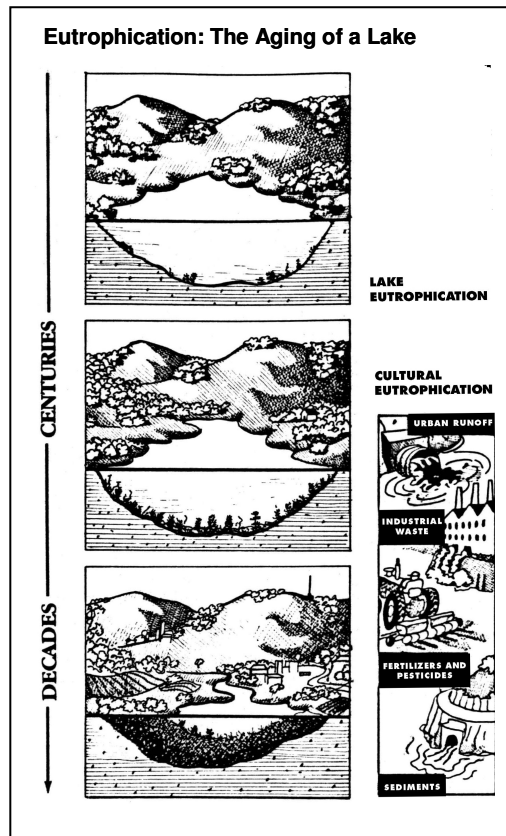
The Town has authorized the release of funds to support the first five projects out of a possible 13 projects. Work shall continue for a five year period or until the funds are used. One of the first five projects involves our lakes. The work will involve drainage improvements at the end of Twin Lakes Road near the channel to reduce sediment runoff into the wetlands. Future projects involving the Three Lakes include:

1. Old Pond Road – Reduce sediments and nutrient from entering the wetland.
2. Tarry - A - Bit Drive – Reduction of sediments entering Waccabuc Creek.

The Town will either use its own forces to do the work or an outside contractor depending on the complexity of the project.

In addition to this project, the Committee is issuing a Request for Proposal for a Town Wide Lake Management Plan (LWMP) which is being funded through another matching grant. The study will be used to supplement the data already obtained by the Cedar Eden Study of the Three Lakes, a similar study being done for Lake Kitchawan and other existing data from the other lakes. It is expected that the LWMP will also be used by the town in obtaining future Lake related grants. The development of a LWMP will facilitate the preparation for and execution of Lake Management and improvement projects.

Ron Tetelman



What is Eutrophication?

Eutrophication is the process of increased nutrient input to a lake which usually results in an increase in the biological productivity of the lake. Any activity in a lake's watershed that increases nutrient input accelerates eutrophication. Activities that contribute to eutrophication are fertilizers, faulty septic systems, erosion into the lake, dumping leaves and sediment in or near a lake, and goose and pet waste.

Eutrophication is not the same as lake aging, which is the natural process by which a lake fills in over geologic time. The natural path is lake to pond to marsh to meadow to dry land. But an eutrophic or highly productive lake can increase the rate at which a lake fills in.

Lakes are divided into three trophic categories: oligotrophic, mesotrophic, and eutrophic. An oligotrophic lake is typically a large deep lake with crystal clear waters and a rocky or sandy shoreline. Both planktonic and rooted plant growth are sparse, and the lake can support a coldwater fishery. A eutrophic lake, on the other hand, typically has a soft, mucky bottom. Rooted plant growth is abundant along the shores and out into the lake, and algal blooms are not unusual. Water clarity is not good. If deep enough to thermally stratify, the bottom waters are devoid of oxygen.

Mesotrophic is an intermediate trophic state with characteristics between the other two, with moderate algae growth, and some sediment accumulation over most of the lake bottom.

Jan Andersen

Invasive Species Continue

In *The History Boys*, the Alan Bennet play about a small group of students preparing for college entrance exams, one character is asked to define history.

“How do I define history?” the character responds. “Well, it’s just one (expletive deleted) thing after another, isn’t it?”

So it is with the history of invasive species in the Three Lakes. This newsletter began covering the threat invasives pose here more than a decade ago, when we described how the newly arrived woolly adelgid endangered our hemlock trees. Every year since, there have been new threats to report.

The latest menace is curly-leafed pondweed, which we discovered in Lake Waccabuc last year and in Lake Oscaleta this spring. It’s a classic aquatic invasive, much like the Eurasian milfoil that we’ve all been pulling out from our waterfronts for decades: it shoves out native plants, grows in thick mats on the surface that make swimming and boating impossible and absorbs oxygen as it dies and decays, worsening the already anoxic conditions in our lakes and killing fish. A separate story about curly-leaf accompanies this article.

On land, we’ve also had our hands full. Garlic mustard, oriental bittersweet, Japanese stilt grass and Japanese barberry are overrunning your yard. Don’t believe it? Look up these plants (<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien>) on the Web and then look around your yard.

The good news is that most invasives can be controlled if they are identified early and uprooted quickly. The Lake

Management Committee of the Three Lakes Council has helped show the way by removing purple loosestrife from several areas it threatened, including both channels between the lakes. We’re maintaining our diligence against loosestrife, and we’re also removing a large stand of phragmites from the Two Lake Club Beach at the west end of Oscaleta. We’ll be replanting it shortly with native trees and grasses. Volunteers are needed.

But the larger battleground against these plants is your own backyard. Controlling non-natives requires each of us to get our hands dirty. Most of us live on lots of a half acre or less. If each of us takes responsibility for just that much, our work will be done.

Here’s how:

- Educate yourself. The National Park Service Web page listed above has links on most invasive plants, with pictures and methods for removing each.
- Educate your neighbor. If you’re pulling out invasives but your neighbor isn’t, you’ll have to contend with them again. Invasives are defined in part by how quickly they leapfrog.
- Educate your landscaper. Many landscapers will bill customers substantially for planting and maintaining wonderful (if over-fertilized) portions of a property while allowing invasives to overrun the rest. Tell your landscaper that the first job is to get rid of the invasives.
- Get your own hands dirty. If you have a vine grabbing onto tree limbs or climbing up trunks into the canopy, it’s almost certainly bitter-sweet (poison ivy – another

invasive! - grows up trunks but rarely reaches the canopy). Rip out or cut the vine and spray it with the pesticide Roundup, taking care to protect surrounding plants, earth and nearby water. The fuzzy white, snow-like stuff clustering under the needles of your hemlocks is woolly adelgid, a microscopic bug that will kill an 80-foot hemlock in a few years. Hire a licensed arborist to treat your hemlocks. Pull up garlic mustard’s leafy stalks by the root as soon as you see them. Ignore it and next year you’ll have to contend with ten times as much.

- Replant with something native (www.nativeplantcenter.org).
- Some general strategies: Don’t compost any of these plants; put them in sealed plastic bags and leave them at the curb. The pesticide Roundup is effective against all of these plants, but should not be broadcast sprayed or used on plants growing in water. Weed or mow these plants several times each spring and summer for several years as they try to sprout again.
- Call us. A key mission of the Lake Preservation Committee is to help you get started to control invasives. We can help you identify them and begin the task of removing and replacing them, but the on-going diligence needed to win against invasives on your property is yours. Call Keith Eddings at 914-763-6450 so that the last chapter in the history of invasives in the Three Lakes will describe how we drove them out.

Keith Eddings

Visit our website at www.threelakescouncil.org

Fish Stories

The fishermen were a vocal part of the impressive response to the TLC survey, making quality fishing a notable priority as we take action. Any given morning, those fishermen are just off my dock, often pulling out the smallmouth (that I can never catch) for a few minutes of admiration. Here are a few of their comments.

Ron Tetelman has been fishing almost daily on Waccabuc since 1993 but misses his trout: “I have not seen or caught a trout in three or four years. Bass fishing, pickerel have been very good on the other hand,” he says. He questions continued stocking until we can “improve the oxygen levels to sustain the trout fishery.”

Veteran Bob Williams has been fishing the lakes, especially Oscaleta, for 52 years. He likes the large crappies but he'd also like to see more trout. These days his son fishes all day during his vacations and helps stock Bob's freezer with bass filets.

Zeke Hunter of Waccabuc (and The Cross River Sportsman's Shack) feels fishing has declined over the 18-plus years he's fished the three lakes. He's interested in stocking walleye and hybrid bass.

In contrast, Gene Tedaldi says fishing has just gotten better over the 50 years he's fished the three lakes, especially on Waccabuc. “I'll fish for anything with fins,” he says. While he's seen fewer trout, he enjoys the pickerel, bass and those big crappies showing up in Rippowam recently. Thanks to a “gill clip gadget” he acquired

years ago, he knows he often catches the same fish 4-5 times.

John Lemke has been plying our waters since 1975. “The size and variety of fish is fabulous,” he says. When the trout stocking has “taken,” fishermen can expect to take 5-8 lb. fish but the temperatures and oxygen levels recorded last year do concern him. He recalls a friend's dare to catch an edible trout; within five minutes John had caught a 3-pounder destined for the frying pan.

In addition to his yearly Fishing Report included in this newsletter, Joe Tansey has been gathering more information about fishing habits and concerns with a survey of the “regulars” he knows. “When you can fish lakes that can claim 4 record catches, hear fisherman say they can catch 6-8 bass per hour, catch nice trout, along with a huge crappie and a few eels, consider yourself lucky,” says Joe. He's even considering starting a fishing club; contact him at joetansey@msn.com or 763-3456

Judy Hausman

Who Was that Masked Lumberjack?

Some people may not even be aware that the channel between Waccabuc and Oscaleta was blocked by a very large tree that fell across it in the first of the storms this spring. An anonymously modest Mystery Lumberjack took it upon him (or her)self to cut it and clear a passage. We can't be sure who so generously volunteered but we want to say thanks for taking care of it!

Judy Hausman

Why do we care about geese?



Waterfowl, according to some studies, can produce 25% to 34% of the total phosphorous budget in a watershed. And phosphorous is what we need to limit in order to control weeds and algae. Also their “poop” is unsightly and unhealthy. In the Fall 2006 Three Lakes Survey, 88% of the respondents said geese droppings were “some” or “serious” problems, one of the top three problems identified in the watershed.

Goose facts

Migratory Canada geese are not the same as resident geese. Migratory geese nest in Canada. Resident geese nest here, and do not migrate. Migration is a learned trait, and resident geese generally fly no more than 100 – 200 miles to find food and safety. Resident geese were introduced after hunting reduced the range of Canada geese, but their population grew rapidly and complaints about their numbers (and their droppings) were heard in this area starting around 1985.

Geese live about 20 years, start to nest after about 3 years, and lay on average 5 eggs each year. Geese have a very strong tendency to return to where they were born to nest. Left unchecked, their population will double every 5 years. While feeding, geese defecate every 7 minutes. Each goose produces 1 to 3 pounds of waste per day. In addition to phosphorous, they contribute pathogens such as *e coli* and the bacteria that cause swimmer's itch, as well as giardia, cryptosporidium, and

campylobacter. Geese are also one vector for the spread of invasive plants such as milfoil and water chestnut.

Best practices to keep geese away

There are some things that we can do to make our shores less attractive to geese.

1. **Don't feed the geese.** Most of the geese in our lakes will approach people, a clear indication that they are used to getting fed. Don't do it. It's not healthy for the geese or for the lakes.
2. **Plant a border.** Geese are one of the few wild animals that find the typical lake landscaping just perfect! If asked, they would request lake waters surrounded by a low wall with a grassy lawn. If they can't see out to the lake, for example if there is a tall edging of bushes or grasses next to the lawn, the grass won't be as inviting to feed on. When cleaning up after geese, don't throw poop into the water. Scoop up their waste and put it into the trash to get it out of the watershed.
3. **Interfere.** A two-foot fence made of 5 strands of monofilament line can deter geese from docks, floats, and lawns while they are molting and can't fly. It's legal to herd or harass geese, but not to hurt them. People have had success using **remote controlled cars** and **boats** to encourage them to leave the area. Also a **laser pointer** has had some success at dusk or dawn – the spots on the ground or water appear to annoy geese enough to make them get up and move.
4. **Cleaning your Docks and Yards.** When cleaning up droppings after geese have visited, don't throw the waste

into the lake water. Scoop it up and put it into the trash to get it out of the watershed.

Geese action calendar

Because geese droppings were identified as such a problem on the survey, members of the Three Lakes Council learned more about an approach to geese management endorsed by GeesePeace, the USDA, the Humane Society, PETA, and other organizations. Here's the suggested events for each time of the year.

April – Mid May. Egg oiling, or population control. Geese generally nest between April and mid-May. If they have goslings, adult geese won't leave them and therefore can't be chased away all summer. Therefore, our goal is to minimize the number of successful nesting pairs. Eggs are oiled with corn oil rather than destroying nests because geese will lay more eggs in a new nest somewhere nearby but harder to find.

Mid-May to Mid-June. Harass. If geese don't have goslings, they can be encouraged to leave between mid-May and mid- to late-June, before they molt. This is when many lake associations use dogs that have been trained to herd but not hurt geese. Chase them off lawns and herd them with your boat. The goal is to have them look for an easier place to go, where their droppings won't be as annoying.

July – Mid-August. Fence. Geese molt so at this time they can't fly, and so there is no getting them off the lakes then – but this is also a time when fencing or border plantings *might* help keep them off the lawns. This is why the spring actions to get geese to leave are so important.

Mid-August – March. Harass. Geese can fly again and we'll get resident and migrating populations. But geese are smart and if they are getting hassled, they will look for an easier spot to feed and breed.

Three Lakes Council Actions

Three Lakes Council registered with the government to oil eggs this year, and a few hardy volunteers oiled a total of 68 eggs. That's 68 geese at an average of 2 pounds a day for 20 years – that's a whole lotta poop not happening!

The geese may be upset and noisy, but they aren't hurt. We gently urge birds off the nest and cover the eggs with corn oil. Generally as we back off the goose is already getting back on the nest. Failed nesting is fairly common in the wild, with eggs lost to storms, predators, or poor conditions.

Goose spotters wanted. You can help by contacting us if you see a solitary "sentinel" goose in April or May – it's likely to be a gander guarding his nest no more than 50 yards away. We'd also like your permission to oil eggs in nests on your property.

Jan Andersen



Goose eggs after oiling

Fishing Report 2007



Fishing in our three Lakes continues to be outstanding. Those who fish mainly for bass usually find great fishing in all lakes and there is no reason to think it will be any different this year. Smallmouth bass fishing in Waccabuc has been especially productive in both quality and quantity, with even better prospects for this coming season. The pickerel stocks in Oscaleta have grown to a very healthy population. I'm hoping this pattern will be replicated in Waccabuc and Rippowam.

There were reports of large crappies (14-15 inches) caught in Rippowam in May and early June. Another fisherman reported a number of smallmouth bass in Rippowam; they have been increasing in number over the last 2-3 years, which is indeed good

Guidelines:

| Species | Season | Size | Daily Limit |
|------------------------------------|--------------|-----------|-------------|
| Trout (brook, brown rainbow trout) | 4/1 – 10/15 | Any size | 5 |
| Bass | 6/16 – 11/12 | 12 inches | 5 |
| Pickerel | 5/5 – 3/15 | 15 inches | 5 |
| Crappie | All year | 9 inches | 25 |
| Perch/Sunfish | All year | Any size | 50 |
| Carp/suckers | All year | Any size | None |

news. While we have not stocked smallmouths in Rippowam, it looks like they have found their own way into the lake. Rippowam has always been the most consistent producer of large yellow perch and big bluegills.

There are some early indications that we may have lost the trout in Waccabuc due, probably, to unfavorable water conditions (high temp and low oxygen) during the late summer of last year. In Oscaleta, trout were caught through the ice indicating that they were able to make it through the hot summer. If this trend continues, we may want to take another look at the types of fish we stock. Some research has already been done regarding the possibility of stocking hybrid bass, a cross between a female striped bass and the male white bass. Walleye pike has also been suggested as an alternative.

In response to questions about the quality of the fishing in our lakes, I refer you to the following 5 record catches:

| | | | | | |
|--------------|--------------------------------|-----------|------|---------------|----------|
| NYS Record | Bullhead | 8lbs | 1947 | Kani Evens | Waccabuc |
| NYS Record | White Perch | 3lb, 1oz | 1991 | Joe Tansey | Oscaleta |
| World Record | 6lb test line as fish as above | | | | |
| NYS Record | Hybrid Bass | 11lb, 6oz | 2001 | George Harris | Waccabuc |
| NYS Record | Hybrid Bass | 15lb, 5oz | 2004 | Bryan Colley | Waccabuc |

In addition, George Harris' nephew beat George's record with a hybrid that was 6 oz larger than George's. However, the fish never made it to the record books.

We are planning to stock again this year as we have in the past, but as of early June I cannot supply the details.

Some 2003 NYS fishing regulations that govern our 3 lakes are as follows:

Licenses are required anyone between ages of 16 or older and can be obtained from the town clerk. Additional information on fishing can be found on the NYS DEC website: <http://www.dec.state.ny.us/website/dfwmr/fish/fishregs/index.html>

Please take a kid fishing this summer. If you or any kids you know in the neighborhood are interested in learning how to fish, please give me a call at 763-3456.

Joe Tansey

Pet poop pollutes!

Scoop and bag. According to several national studies, about 40% of owners do not clean up after their pets. Most people recognize that dog and cat poop can be a nuisance and can affect water quality, but they think it is a minor contributor to the overall

problem. small dogs contribute to the problem.

What you don't pick up grows weeds in our lakes. Pet waste contains nutrients that promote weed and algae growth, contributing to the eutrophication of our lakes. A 45 pound dog produces 2 pounds



problem. The effects can be bigger than most people think. It's also something that is in our control, and much easier than stopping geese or fixing old septic systems.

It's not just fertilizer. Dog and cat poop is not fertilizer. It's the same stuff that humans have learned to put into toilets and septic systems. The primary reason we do that is to control bacteria, including *e coli*. Studies in Seattle showed that 20% of the identifiable watershed bacteria came from dogs. The US EPA estimated that for watersheds up to 20 square miles, 2 – 3 days of droppings from 100 dogs would contribute enough bacteria and nutrient to close waters to swimming and fishing. And here size doesn't matter - even

of phosphorous annually. It washes off roads and lawns and into our lakes.

Yuck! On a personal note – I'd really like to be able to walk to the mailbox barefoot in the summer. So please pooper-scoop, and dispose of the poop in your trash to get it out of our watershed! Put cat waste in the trash too.

It's The Law. Finally, let's talk about the law. According to the Lewisboro Town Code, it's unlawful for a dog to urinate or defecate on property that doesn't belong to the owner. (See section 105-6 A (6)). http://www.codes.generalcode.com/codebook_frameset.asp?t=tc&p=1300%2D105%2Ehtm&cn=162&n=11182]

Jan Andersen

Survey Results

THANK YOU! In the fall of 2006, the Three Lakes Council Lake Preservation Committee sent out a survey. Our response rate was over 50%, a practically unheard of response rate.

The details of the survey and results are on our website: www.threelakescouncil.org.

The survey responses are available for all responses and for each lake individually. The write in comments are also available and are sorted by lake.

Some survey facts:

- The response rates were great from all three lakes.
- Most of the people who responded are currently Three Lakes Council members (82%).
- Almost one in five people on Waccabuc who responded get their household water from that lake (19%).
- The biggest turnover has been for people who access Lake Oscaleta, but most people have been here more than 10 years (68%) and some reported over 65 years!
- Almost all lake users swim or wade (93%) and use non-motorized boats (91%).
- Respondents said that algae and aquatic weeds are both problems, but didn't indicate that one is much more of a problem than the other. This did not clarify tradeoff actions, for example alum, which should reduce algae but, because of increased water clarity, might increase plant growth.

- Geese droppings are a big concern, identified more often than algae blooms as a serious problem (47% vs 44%).
- 13% of users consider poor fishing to be some problem or a serious problem. (Joe Tansey, head of the Fish Committee, wants to speak to you!)
- Many of the write-in comments were critical of motorboat use on our lakes.
- Most respondents chose voluntary contributions as their first or only method of fund raising.

Some actions we've taken as a result of the survey:

People wanted email communications in addition to the newsletter and the website, so we started a google group. If you want to join this group, send an email to Jan Andersen at fablesx2@optonline.net and please give your name and lake location to help us keep out spammers.

Because geese were highlighted as a problem, we got educated on humane actions and began a new project this spring. See the goose article in this newsletter for more information on that project.

Motorboat courtesy was also raised as a new and surprisingly vocal issue. See the article about motorboat rules elsewhere in this newsletter.

If reading the survey results makes you want to speak up, please get in touch!

Jan Andersen

Motorboat Etiquette

Community response to the TLC survey surprised us in two areas. The first was the scale of the geese problem and the second was the intensity of the reaction to motorboats. Before collecting survey results, the Three Lakes Council had not identified motorboats as a priority concern. Since this topic is important to so many, we want to remind everyone about the boating codes, laws and guidelines for our lakes.

Sticker your boat.

Please ensure your boat has a Three Lakes Council sticker on it. That will speed its return if the boat gets loose. In addition, stickers help us identify and keep transient boats off our lakes, which can be a source of invasive plants and zebra mussels. Stickers can be obtained from your Lake Association President or Alayne Vlachos (763-3800).

Town Codes and State Laws Apply

The basic rules for motorboats on our lakes are determined by the town and NYS, not by the Three Lakes Council. We don't want to become enforcers issue, so your voluntary compliance is appreciated.

Horsepower limits are 25 hp on Waccabuc, and 10 hp on Oscaleta and Rippowam.

Hours of operation for powerboats are limited to between 8:30 am and 30 minutes after sunset. Water-skiing, tubing, and other recreational towing are restricted to between 10 am and 4 pm.

The **Town Noise Ordinance** prohibits noise of a degree to annoy or disturb the "quiet comfort or repose" of a reasonable person or normal sensitivities.

Right of way

Non-power boats (sailboats, canoes, kayaks, rowboats) have the right of way over powerboats. It is considered courteous to give fishermen some space as well.

Avoid swimmers and divers.

Be watchful for swimmers, waders and divers, who also have the right of way. Powerboats shouldn't come within 100' of a float or dock. Some of the coves in Waccabuc also have "no wake" buoys; respect them and please slow down.

Use appropriate care with oil and gas

Gas engines are capable of environmental damage. A pint of oil can cause an oil slick the size of a football field and can pollute 125 thousand gallons of water. Consider electric motors to avoid these potential hazards and to reduce noise on our lakes.

Inform visitors and renters

If visitors and renters can use your boats, you have a responsibility to ensure they can operate the boats safely. Please inform them of these rules.

Recent NY State safety requirements for motorboat operation.

Expanded NY State requirements for boating certifications mean that there are many safe boating classes offered locally. Operators between the ages of 10 and 18 must be certified before they can operate a powerboat. A child

under 10 can operate a boat only if a certificate holder over 18 is on board and supervising. Check with a local US power squadron or NYS Parks and Recreation. http://nysparks.state.ny.us/boatinfo/edu_boat.asp

Please check our web site, www.threelakescouncil.org, for this and other important links and information.

Betsy Sinnott

ALERT - NEW INVASIVE WEED FOUND IN THREE LAKES

Curly-leafed pondweed gets its name from its rippled, wavy, and crinkled submerged leaves, growing in water up to 15' deep. It has small "teeth" along the leaf edge.

Curly-leafed pondweed can be an aggressive invader that can cover large portions of lakes. It is a non-native plant and should be eradicated as soon as possible. In early summer of 2006, we found and pulled out one patch in Waccabuc. This spring we've found fragments in Waccabuc and a stand at the west end of Oscaleta. Please keep an eye out!

Young curly leaf pondweed plants can form under ice cover during late winter, which makes this invasive one of the first nuisance aquatic plants to emerge in the spring.

Curly leaf pondweed spreads in many ways: turions, which look like small

brown pine cones, are dispersed by water movement;

established plants form large colonies from rhizomes; and curly leaf pondweed can also spread by fragmentation.

Impacts: Curly-leaf pondweed is a highly

competitive plant, capable of rapid growth and spread. Infestations may displace native species, reduce biodiversity, impede recreational activities, and reduce property values. As the dense mats of vegetation decay, available oxygen in the water may be depleted. The resulting anoxic (low oxygen) conditions may lead to fish kills and harm other aquatic organisms. Nutrients released from the decaying plant matter may also contribute to cultural eutrophication and algae blooms.

At the early stage of infestation, we may be able to control this by hand harvesting. Please contact Paul Lewis 763-3231 or Jan Andersen 763-3615 if you find this plant in our lakes and let us know where you found it. Pull it out by the roots, carefully collecting all the pieces and dispose away from the water.

This plant most likely came to our lakes as a "hitchhiker" on a boat. Please ensure you carefully inspect all boats or water toys that come into our lakes. Also please be careful to dispose of unused bait appropriately.

Jan Andersen



Curly Leaf Pondweed

Septic Pumping Discount

We've negotiated a 20% discount for septic pumping when it is scheduled with others in the neighborhood. Please call Mimi Shane at 763-6564 to take advantage of this discount.

THREE LAKES COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

PUBLISHER: THREE LAKES COUNCIL
CO-EDITORS: JUDY HAUSMAN,
 STEPHANIE HARDING

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 JOE TANSEY BETSY
 SINNOTT JUDY HAUSMAN RON TETELMAN

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR MAY BE MAILED TO
 P.O. BOX 241, SOUTH SALEM, NY 10590 OR E-MAILED
 TO web@threelakescouncil.org

TIPS FOR GREEN LAWNS, NOT GREEN LAKES

Don't use phosphorus fertilizers on your lawns. Phosphorus (P) is a plant nutrient that can feed algal blooms in our lakes. Most lawns only require nitrogen (N) fertilizer, and do NOT require phosphorus. The three numbers on fertilizer bags show N-P-K nutrients. The **middle** number is the phosphorus content. Phosphorus-free fertilizer has a "zero" in the middle number. Lawns, in fact, rarely need extra potassium (K) although it will not be detrimental to the lakes.

In 2004, Cornell University summarized results from the 1039 Westchester County soil samples submitted for analysis over a seven year period. While the summary states that these results may be skewed to problem soils (because most non-farmers do not submit soil tests unless they have a problem), it concluded that the "majority of tested soils also appear to have adequate amounts of phosphorus to grow different plants including lawns." No samples tested very low in phosphorus, and 9% tested low, and 34% tested very high. The report continues: "This is important information because excess phosphorus continues to be a problem in certain bodies of water in Westchester County. One of the manageable sources of this phosphorus is phosphorus-containing fertilizer for lawns. ...fertilizers containing phosphorus should not be applied to established lawns unless a soil test report specifically indicates that it is needed."

Phosphorus-free fertilizer is available at Gossett Brothers Nursery, Evergreen Nursery, and Young's and may be available at other area nurseries. Availability should get easier if the legislation currently before the Westchester legislature passes, banning phosphorus fertilizer on established lawns.

If you use a lawn service, you should insist that they use phosphorus-free fertilizer. You are paying for their service, and you have a right to ensure that they don't waste your money or degrade the water. As you may guess, this is NOT their standard practice today with lawns. Even if pending legislation passes, lawn service providers will be permitted to use phosphorus fertilizer in some cases, so you will need to be vigilant!

To help keep a healthy lawn, overseed with additional grass seed each fall and spring to out-compete weeds and fill in any bare spots. Mow to a height of 3 to 4 inches to help grass tolerate pests and shade out weeds. Pay attention to timing as well; don't fertilize before a heavy rain because the nutrients simply wash off your lawn.

Don't treat our lakes like dirt!

Jan Andersen



This goose returned to her nest after her eggs were oiled

Three Lake Council 2007

Executive Committee

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| President: | Jack Sinnott jsinnott@optonline.net |
| Vice President: | Jan Andersen jablex2@optonline.net |
| Treasurer: | John Lemke blockisland44@worldnet.net |
| Secretary: | Jean Lewis JeanLewis@aol.com |

Board Representatives from each lake organization:

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Lake Waccabuc Association: | John Lemke blockisland44@worldnet.net |
| Lakeside Association: | Ron Tetelman rontetelman@aol.com |
| Two Lakes Club: | Shannon Robinette skarob47@optonline.net |
| Lake Ocaleta Association: | Joe Tansy joetansy@son.com |
| Perch Bay Association: | Randy Glading randalgl@optonline.net |
| South Shore Association: | Alayne Vlachos twinkle160@aol.com |
| Waccabuc Landowners Council: | Jack Sinnott jsinnott@optonline.net |
| Waccabuc Country Club: | John Hogan jhogan@woodandhogan.com |

Committee Chairs:

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Lake Preservation Committee: | Paul Lewis lewisp@optonline.net |
| Membership: | Robby Rochfeld rochfeld@heroncovepress.com |

Treasurer's Report



2006 Financial Highlights:

| | 2006 | 2005 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| # Of Dues Paying Members | 164 | 140 |
| Total Dues Received | \$8,200 | \$7000 |
| Contributions | \$11,720 | \$18,800 |
| Total | \$19,920 | \$25,800 |

Membership increased substantially in 2006, thanks to a lot of hard work and a focused plan by Robbie Rothfeld. We had a net reduction of \$5880 in total fact that we did not have a

major fundraising drive in revenue, due primarily to the 2006. Thank you to all that made tax deductible donations and matching grants in 2006. We had 2 donation of over \$1000 and 9 in the \$500 range. More of our revenue comes from donations than dues, so we really appreciate your support.

The TLC 2006 expenses were spread over 7 line items and came within budget at \$27,253. This includes (Rounded off):

| | |
|----------|---------------------------|
| \$11,000 | Lake Manager (Cedar Eden) |
| \$ 6,250 | Taxes |
| \$ 3,500 | Insurance |
| \$ 2,000 | Picnic |
| \$ 1,800 | Fish Stocking |
| \$ 2,700 | Printing, Mailing & Misc. |

2007 Financial Outlook:

The TLC budget for 2007 will have no additional increase to the budget. Thanks to Jim Greaves' efforts to have our taxes re-evaluated, we will realize a \$5000 decrease in tax obligation. We have additional line items to better manage our initiatives for 2007. They include more educational and lake monitoring items e.g. water quality initiatives, and a new septic system seminar

Please get your tax deductible dues and contributions in before the picnic and thank you in advance for your support.

John Lemke
Treasurer, Three Lakes Council, Inc.
(a 501(c)(3) charitable organization)

Tax-deductible membership dues of \$50 (if you haven't already renewed)..... _____

guests for picnic (\$25 each)..... _____

added donation for fish stocking, Cedar Eden study, other..... _____

Total amount of check (made out to "Three Lakes Council")..... _____

Name: _____ E-Mail: _____

Spouse/Partner's Name: _____ Phone: _____

Does your company have a matching gifts program? Name of company: _____

Local Address: _____ Post Office: _____

Preferred Mailing Address _____ (by post or e-mail?)

Please remit payment to:
THREE LAKES COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 241
SOUTH SALEM, NY 10590

The TLC will not sell or use your phone number or e-mail for any purpose other than to keep you informed of our lake preservation



THREE LAKES BOAT STICKER REGISTRATION

Voluntary compliance with the Three Lakes Boat Sticker Registration Program serves the following important purposes:

- 1. To protect our lakes against invasive zebra mussels
- 2. To identify owners of stray boats so that they can be returned
- 3. To keep unauthorized, transient boats off the lakes

1. Don't put any boat into our lakes that has been on another body of fresh water without first steam cleaning the hull or leaving the boat bottom exposed to sunlight for a minimum of 10 days to kill all zebra mussel larvae. Visual inspection doesn't suffice; larvae are microscopic in size. Don't permit friends to launch their boats from your dock unless you can personally guarantee that they are free of zebra mussels.
2. If you find a stray boat floating in the lakes, record the sticker number and contact Alayne Vlachos by phone (763-3800) or e-mail (twinkle160@aol.com). She will alert the owner.
3. If you see a boat on the lakes without a sticker, engage the boater in a friendly discussion. First, explain that you notice they don't have a sticker, then inform them that stickers are part of our effort to keep the lakes free of zebra mussels. Finally, ask them to contact Alayne (see above) or their lake association president to get a sticker.
4. If the boater is not a homeowner or the guest of a homeowner, inform him or her that these are private lakes and only people with deeded access rights can put boats on them. If this approach fails, contact our Town Police at 763-3922 and refer the matter to them.
5. Please consider using electric motors on your boats. If you must use a gas motor, be aware that Town law limits the maximum horsepower to 25HP on Waccabuc and 10HP on Oscaleta and Rippowam, and lake associations are enforcing these limits. Also, no 25 HP motors can be kept at the Two Lake Club beach.

BOAT REGISTRATION FORM

Please complete this form even if you think we already have this information

If you already have boat stickers, please provide the information requested below, including sticker #s.

If you need boat stickers, complete the form minus the sticker #, and we will mail the stickers to you.

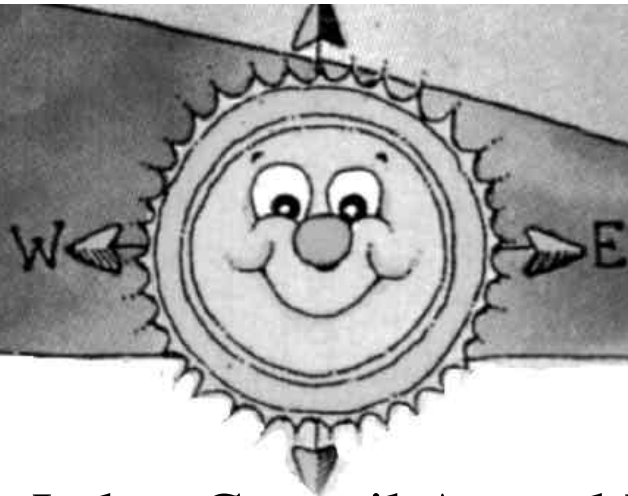
Mail the completed form to: Three Lakes Council, P.O. Box 241, South Salem, NY 10590

NAME: _____
 LOCAL ADDRESS: _____
 E-MAIL: _____
 PHONE: _____

| |
|--|
| <i>If your boats are not kept at your residence, where are they kept?</i> _____ |
|--|

(Boat type: row, canoe, kayak, sail, pontoon, motor, etc.)

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Boat type/color/brand _____ | Sticker #: _____ |
| Boat type/color/brand _____ | Sticker #: _____ |
| Boat type/color/brand _____ | Sticker #: _____ |
| Boat type/color/brand _____ | Sticker #: _____ |
| Boat type/color/brand _____ | Sticker #: _____ |
| Boat type/color/brand _____ | Sticker #: _____ |



Three Lakes Council Annual Picnic

Enjoy the beach, your neighbors, the lake, music and dancing! We'll have our grand cookout featuring filet mignon, chicken filets, salads, beer, wine, soda, hamburgers, hot dogs, dessert, etc. Get all the news on our Three Lakes!

*Reservations are **crucial** to the planning process! Please fill in the information below and mail to: Three Lake Council, P.O. Box 241, South Salem, NY 10590*

Name of family: _____

Number attending: ____

Will you bring: Salad for 8 ____ OR Dessert for 8 ____?

Your telephone #: _____ e-mail: _____

Place: Waccabuc Country Club, lake front facility (**NOTE! In case of rain,** the picnic will be held at the carriage house at the Waccabuc Country Club.)

Date: Saturday, July 28th

Time: 6:00 PM-to-9:00 PM

Admission: Free for families who have paid their \$50 yearly dues. All guests and non-members welcome at \$25 per person.



WACCABUC - OSCALETA - RIPPOWAM
P.O. BOX 241
SOUTH SALEM, NY 10590



Membership Dues form enclosed

Three Lakes Council Annual Newsletter

Inside Find:

Reports on Invasives
Lake Management Update
The poop on Poop
Survey Results
Fishing Report
Annual Picnic Notice
Boat Sticker Registration
And more!