



# The Water Level

NEWSLETTER OF THE LONG LAKE ASSOCIATION

**JULY 2012**

## **Message from the President:**

The beauty of Long Lake continues to enrich all of our lives. The mission of the Long Lake Association is to preserve and enhance the health and beauty of the lake and to promote its wise use for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Some of the ways that this mission is implemented is by sponsoring the Lake Steward program that hires stewards to monitor the boat launch to check boats for invasive species. We also sponsor a water monitoring program to make sure the quality of water stays high. To promote the enjoyment part, we co-sponsor with the Town, the "Cool, Crazy Regatta", a family event of fun paddling races which involves children and adults. This year, we are adding a new project – taking a census of the loon population of the lake. We also have an annual meeting that features a speaker who presents an education topic relevant to some aspect of the lake. All of these are presented in greater detail in other parts of this newsletter.

Membership is open to anyone in the Town of Long Lake and is free. The administrative work is done by a volunteer Board of Directors and officers. Prue Churchill, Larry Plummer and Eunice and Walter Hartmann have been Directors and held various leadership positions over a long period of years and have really held the organization together. They are going off of the Board this year, and we would like to thank them for all of the work they have done in the past. We are always open to volunteers to be on the Board, so let us know if you are interested. It involves attending three meetings a year (we are open to electronic attendance) and carrying out some committee assignments.

So – do come to our annual meeting, which is featuring Hallie Bond. She will be present "A Paradise for Boys and Girls: Children's Camps on Long Lake." People who attended camp on Long Lake are urged to come and bring their memories. We'll have a story swap after Hallie has set the scene with lots of wonderful pictures. Join us with your children and grandchildren at the "Cool, Crazy, Regatta", and let us know if you'd like to be involved in volunteering to promote the Long Lake Association mission.

Postage for this newsletter is paid by the Long Lake Association. Thank you to the Town of Long Lake for allowing the use of its bulk mail permit.

## **Calendar of Events**

Lake Stewards at DEC Boat Launch:  
Memorial Day through Labor Day  
7 AM to 4 PM

Cool , Crazy Regatta:  
Friday, July 13th, 10 AM to 2 PM  
Long Lake Town Beach

Loon Census:  
Saturday, July 21st, 8 AM to 9 AM

Long Lake Association Annual Meeting:  
Saturday, August 11th at 10 AM  
Long Lake Town Hall

## **Other Events of Interest**

Eurasian Watermilfoil Management Summit, *Lessons Learned from the Adirondack Region*

Thursday, August 16th, 9 AM to 5 PM  
Horicon Town Hall, Brant Lake, NY  
Organized by the ADK Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management and Sponsored by the ADK Lake Alliance  
RSVP to Allie Smith at [acsmith09@stlawu.edu](mailto:acsmith09@stlawu.edu) or



## **Officers:**

Jackie Mallery, President  
Gordon Fisher, Vice President  
Fran Fisher, Secretary  
Phil Terrie, Treasurer

## **Board of Directors:**

Bill and Sue Kunzmann  
Barbara and Charles Taylor  
Frank and Lorraine Pine  
John Mallery  
Amy Van Laak  
Ed Rockstroh  
Hallie Bond  
Tom Whitney

## **ANNUAL LONG LAKE COOL, CRAZY REGATTA**

### **Friday, July 13th at the Long Lake Town Beach**

The Regatta features a day-long program of paddle races for all ages. The program of events provides a water-based day full of free fun activities and competitions for the whole family, as well as delicious food.

Free registration for the races starts at 9:30 AM, and continues throughout the day. Activities at the town beach will begin at 10 AM. The races are for all age groups, genders and types of boats, including canoes, kayaks, and stand-up paddle boards. Novelty races include hand paddling a canoe; bang and go back (reverse direction when a horn sounds); a dress up relay; a dipper race (an opposing team member is in each canoe, and tries to fill it with water and swamp it); tug-of-war, and other imaginative and creative things to do in canoes. Canoes, kayaks and life jackets will be provided, or bring your own. Prizes will be awarded and everyone is a winner!

Last year, we invited the local day camps to join us, which added 30 more participants to the fun. We had a total of 128 boats racing in the various events. This year we are adding stand-up paddle board races and the Green Team from the Long Lake Central School will be collecting recyclable bottles at the Regatta. The Green Team is a Long Lake Central School club that grew out of the attendance of several students at two successive Youth Climate Summits at the Wild Center (last year and the year before). The Green Team is dedicated to helping the school and community become more environmentally efficient and creating environmental awareness in the student body. The advisor is Bob Reynolds, the social studies teacher for grades 7-12.

And as always, the Lions Club will be serving lunch on the beach during the Regatta hours.

Many thanks to the volunteers, the Town of Long Lake, and to Raquette River Outfitters and Camp Hilary for the boats, paddles, and life jackets.

### **LONG LAKE WATER MONITORING REPORT – 2011**

In order to monitor the quality of the water in Long Lake, conductivity is measured in various locations. Conductivity is a measure of the ability of water to pass an electrical current. Conductivity in water is affected by the presence of inorganic dissolved solids such as chloride, nitrate, sulfate, and phosphate anions (ions that carry a negative charge) or sodium, magnesium, calcium, iron and aluminum cations (ions that carry a positive charge). Organic compounds like oil, phenol, alcohol, and sugar do not conduct electrical current very well and therefore have a low conductivity when in water. Conductivity is also affected by temperature – the warmer the water, the higher the conductivity. For this reason, conductivity is reported as conductivity at 25 degrees Celsius. Discharges to streams can change the conductivity depending on their make-up. A failing sewage system would raise the conductivity because of the presence of chloride, phosphate, and nitrate; an oil spill would lower the conductivity.

Conductivity is useful as a general measure of stream water quality. Each stream tends to have a relatively constant range of conductivity measurements. Significant changes in conductivity could then be an indicator that a discharge or some other source of pollution has entered a stream. Conductivity is measured with a probe and a meter. Voltage is applied between two electrodes in a probe immersed in the sample water. The drop in voltage caused by the resistance of the water is used to calculate the conductivity per centimeter. The basic unit of measurement of conductivity is the mho or siemens. Conductivity is measured in micromhos per centimeter ( $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$ ) or microsiemens per centimeter ( $\mu\text{s/cm}$ ). The conductivity of rivers in the United States generally ranges from 50 to 1500  $\mu\text{mhos/cm}$ .

In 2011, most of Long Lake's conductivity was between 33.4 and 37.2. The exceptions were at Shaw Brook, upstream at the Route 30 bridge (93.9) and the spillway from Jennings Pond (76.2). We file our report with Elizabeth Mangle, District Manager of the Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District. Her department then takes further action if any is necessary. Elizabeth states "conductivity readings are unique to each lake and really can't be compared to other lakes. A long term change in conductivity in a lake is more what we are looking at rather than the actual number since conductivity levels are determined by numerous factors such as rock composition and size of the lakes watershed."

## LAKE STEWARD PROGRAM 2012 AT THE LONG LAKE DEC BOAT LAUNCH

This is the fifth summer that the Long Lake Association is sponsoring the Long Lake Boat Launch Steward Program at the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Boat Launch in Long Lake, NY. The program will run from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day, 7 AM to 4 PM daily. The primary goals of this program are to raise the awareness about invasive water species, as well as reduce the likelihood of these species being introduced into Long Lake.

### 2012 Lake Stewards

EJ Borchert (pictured on the left) is originally from Marlboro, NY in the lower Hudson Valley and is currently a senior at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry where he is majoring in conservation biology. He enjoys hunting and camping with his friends. This is his first summer in the Adirondacks and it should be an exciting one.

Tim Grossman (in the center) is from Westmoreland, NY and is a junior at Paul Smith's College. He enjoys keeping the lakes free from invasive species. He enjoys doing just about everything outdoors including cross-country skiing and running.

The weekend supervisor and fishing derby educator is Jeff Sann (on the right), who is returning for his 2<sup>nd</sup> summer with the Watershed Stewardship Program. He is a recent graduate of Paul Smith's college. His experience working in the field of Invasive species management has helped him to realize the importance of awareness and prevention. Jeff is from Remsen, NY and enjoys fly fishing and playing with his dog.

Funding this year is from the Paul Smith's Watershed Stewardship Program grant received from the US Environmental Protection Agency (\$332,000 to support the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative).

The 2011 Paul Smith's Watershed Stewardship Program report is available at <http://www.longlakeassociation.org>



### LONG LAKE ASSOCIATION WEBSITE

<http://www.longlakeassociation.org>

The Long Lake Association created a website last summer to be able to post information for those who like to be 'paper free' but in the 'know'. The website will post The Water Level each season, information on the Long Lake Association sponsored events and links to invasive plants, boating, and other lake-related articles.

Our website is linked to the Town of Long Lake informational website [www.mylonglake.com](http://www.mylonglake.com) and this website is also linked to ours which makes information gathering very convenient.

## LONG LAKE LOON CENSUS TO BE CONDUCTED ON JULY 21ST

Each third Saturday of July, a loon census is conducted in the Adirondacks by the Wildlife Conservation Society, based in Saranac Lake, and many lakes are surveyed to count the resident loon population. Long Lake has had sporadic participation, but has never had the whole lake surveyed. This year the LLA will attempt to have all of the loons on the lake counted during one hour, 8 - 9 AM, on Sat. July 21, under the leadership of the coordinator, Joan Collins. The lake will be divided into seven or more sections, with rather precise boundaries, and volunteers will use motorboats and binoculars to count the loons that they see in their section. They will fill out a form with their loon count on it and send it in to add to the total Adirondack count. If you would like to volunteer to participate in this project, call Joan at 624-5528 or e-mail her at joan.collins@frontier.com.

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### LONG LAKE NY BOATING RULES

**PLEASE HELP KEEP LONG LAKE BOATING SAFE AND FUN FOR EVERYONE. YOUR PARTICIPATION AND COMPLIANCE WITH CURRENT SAFETY RULES AND REGULATIONS ON THE LAKE WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED AND CONTRIBUTE TO AN ENJOYABLE EXPERIENCE FOR EVERYONE.**

1. There is a New York State 5 mph speed limit for Motorboats and Personal Watercraft (PWC) within 100 feet of any shore, dock, pier, raft, float or anchored boat.
2. Reduce speed and increase distance when near swimmers, canoes, or kayaks. Remember your wake can be dangerous.
3. Speed Limit under the Long Lake Bridge is 5 mph.
4. Reckless operation of Motorboats and PWC is prohibited. This includes weaving through congested traffic, wake jumping or intentional last minute swerving.
5. Constant circling and figure eights in one area should be avoided.
6. Motorboats and PWC must yield right of way to canoes, kayaks and sailing vessels.
7. It is illegal for any driver to operate a Motorboat or PWC while intoxicated or with ability impaired. It is illegal for anyone under 21 years of age to operate a Motorboat or PWC after consuming ANY alcohol, and may result in loss of operating privileges until age 21.
8. Motorboat Operators between the ages of 10 years old and 18 years old MUST have completed a safety course and have a valid New York State Safety Certificate.
9. PWC Operators must be at least 14 years old and MUST have a valid New York State Safety Certificate.
10. There must be at least one wearable personal flotation device (PFD) per person on board all water vessels including canoes and kayaks. Children under 12 are required to wear a PFD when vessel is underway.
11. Operation of PWC is prohibited between Sunset and Sunrise anywhere in New York State.

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