



# The Water Level

NEWSLETTER OF THE LONG LAKE ASSOCIATION

JULY 2014

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

To All Full Time and Seasonal Residents of Long Lake:

The life of our town revolves around the beauty of Long Lake, whether we live and work here all year, enjoy boating and swimming in the summer or snowmobiling in the winter.

Therefore, the mission of the Long Lake Association is important to everyone. It 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."

Everyone in Long Lake is a member of this Association since this mission is partially supported by taxpayers of the Town of Long Lake. However, the work that the Association does all year is carried out by the Board of Directors. Thanks to everyone in the past who has served on this Board and to those people who are new members on the Board this year. It is open to all residents, seasonal and full time, so if you'd be interested in becoming involved, tell any member of the present board.

Current projects of the Association are: sponsoring the Lake Steward program that hires stewards to monitor the boat launch to check boats for invasive species; sponsoring a water monitoring program to ensure the quality of water; co-sponsoring with the Town, the Long Lake Paddling Olympics; and the loon census, which counts the loon population of the lake. This year we are adding a fish line recycling program. We also have the Annual Meeting, open to all, that features a speaker who presents a topic relevant to some aspect of the lake. All of these activities are presented in greater detail in other parts of this newsletter.

Thanks to all of the Board Members who have agreed to be officers for the coming year. The health of this organization depends on rotating directors and officers, so thanks to all who have been involved over the years and into the future.

Jackie Mallery, President

### Current Officers:

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

### New Officers, to be voted on at Annual Meeting:

Barbara Taylor, President  
Chuck Taylor, Vice President  
Sue Kunzmann, Secretary

### Board of Directors:

Bill and Sue Kunzmann  
Barbara and Charles Taylor  
Frank and Lorraine Pine  
John and Jackie Mallery  
Amy Van Laak  
Ed Rockstroj  
Hallie Bond  
Tom Whitney  
Brian Castler  
Kathy Duffendack  
Carma and Steve Flannery  
Phil Terrie



## LONG LAKE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

WHEN: Friday, August 15th at 4PM

WHERE: Adirondack Hotel

SPEAKER: Carol Inserra - "History of the Adirondack Hotel"

We are trying a different format for the Annual Meeting this year. This meeting is open to everyone, so we hope you will come. It will be held at the Adirondack Hotel at 4 PM. We will provide the hors d'oeuvres and you can get your own drinks and join us to learn about the LLA projects, vote on new officers, socialize, and learn about the history of the hotel. It's been here a long time, is at the heart of the town, and present owner, Carol Inserra, will tell us about what happened before her tenure. Hope to see you there!

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Lake Stewards at Long Lake DEC Boat Launch:

Memorial Day through Labor Day, 7 AM to 4 PM, and earlier for special fishing events

### Long Lake Paddling Olympics at the Long Lake Town Beach:

Friday, July 25th, 11 AM to 2 PM  
Sign-ups start at 10:30 AM

### Loon Census:

Saturday, July 19th, 8 - 9 AM, followed by breakfast at Phil Terrie's camp. Contact Joan Collins (see article on page 3).

### Long Lake Association Annual Meeting

Friday, August 15th, 4 PM at the Adirondack Hotel

## NEW THIS SUMMER

### ADIRONDACK ANGLERS! BE PART OF THE SOLUTION!

#### PLEASE HELP LOONS AND OTHER WILDLIFE!

- **Recycle or dispose of used fishing line in the recycling container at the DEC Boat Launch provided to the LLA by Biodiversity Research Institute's (BRI) Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation.** ([www.briloon.org/adk.loon](http://www.briloon.org/adk.loon)).
- **Use non-toxic fishing tackle.**
- **If you see a loon tangled in fishing line or in distress,** please contact the NY DEC, BRI's Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation, or a wildlife rehabilitator.
- **If a loon swims close to you, stop fishing until it moves off or move away yourself** as loons sometimes mistakenly grab fishing lures or baits. You will save your lure, and the loon may save its life.

### Why Recycle Fishing Line?

When fishing line is disposed of improperly, or is snagged and left in the environment, wildlife and boat propellers can become tangled in it. In recent years, there has been an increasing incidence of loons and other wildlife entangled in fishing line on ADK lakes, causing needless suffering and even the death of some loons. To help prevent this problem, BRI's Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation is providing fishing line recycling containers to Adirondack lake associations to remove abandoned fishing line and tackle from the environment (see picture on left).

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.

**LONG LAKE PADDLING OLYMPICS**  
*formerly known as the Long Lake Regatta*  
Friday, July 25th at the Long Lake Town Beach

**LONG LAKE WATER MONITORING REPORT –**  
**2013**

This annual summer event is the revival of an historic Long Lake tradition that was dropped in the 70's and was revived by the Long Lake Association in conjunction with the Town Parks and Recreation Department. The day of week for the Regatta was moved from a Saturday to a Friday in 2011, and we will continue to hold it on a Friday in 2014 so that we can include not only local residents and visitors, but also the campers from the Newcomb Youth Program who have attended since 2011.

In 2012, we changed the name of the Long Lake Regatta to the Long Lake Paddling Olympics to emphasize that the races are fun for the whole family. In 2013, we moved the date to the last Friday in July to attract more participants and started a little later, with sign up at 10:30 AM and the activities beginning at 11 AM, continuing until 2 PM.

The Paddling Olympics features a day-long program of canoe, kayak, and SUP (stand up paddleboard) races. The day also includes novelty races, such as standing paddling, hand paddling, back paddling and a tug-o-war. In 2013, there were 17 events, some for just children, some for adults, and some for a combination. We had a total of 170 boats racing in the various events. There are events for everyone. Prizes and participation ribbons are awarded at the conclusion of each race. The entire program of events provides a water-based day full of fun activities and competitions for the whole family, as well as delicious food sold by the Long Lake Lions Club. Canoes, kayaks, SUP, paddles and life jackets are provided.

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

In order to monitor the quality of the water in Long Lake, Bill and Sue Kunzmann continue to measure the conductivity of the lake in various locations. Conductivity is useful as a general measure of water quality. Each body of water 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 the specific body of water. A failing sewage system would raise the conductivity because of the presence of chloride, phosphate, and nitrate, while an oil spill would lower the conductivity.

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 (25 °C). Conductivity is measured in micromhos per centimeter (µmhos/cm) or microsiemens per centimeter (µs/cm). The conductivity of rivers in the United States generally ranges from 50 to 1500 µmhos/cm.

In 2011, most of Long Lake's conductivity was between 33.4 and 37.2. The exceptions were at Shaw Brook, upstream of the Route 30 bridge (93.9) and the spillway from Jennings Pond (76.2). In 2012, Long Lake's conductivity ranged from 36.9 to 41.7, with the one exception of Shaw Brook, upstream of the Route 30 bridge (116.6). In 2013, Long Lake's conductivity ranged from 5.5 to 38.3. Shaw Brook was also tested in two places – upstream of the Route 30 bridge (96.6) at the bridge, and downstream of the Route 30 bridge, west of the RV Park (100.8). In addition, Jennings Pond east of the Long Lake Diner was tested at the culvert discharge (147.5). The report is filed with Elizabeth Mangle, District Manager of the Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District. Her department then takes further action if any is necessary.



**LONG LAKE ASSOCIATION WEBSITE**

<http://www.longlakeassociation.org>

The Long Lake Association website provides an easy resource for information on the Long Lake Association sponsored events and links to invasive plants, boating, and other lake-related articles. Check out our latest updates, including more information on the recently enacted NY legislation (see Did You Know?).

Our website is linked to the Town of Long Lake informational website [www.mylonglake.com](http://www.mylonglake.com) and the Long Lake Central School website at [www.longlakecsd.org](http://www.longlakecsd.org) under Community on the Home Page..

If you have information that you would like to post on the website, please contact Amy VanLaak at [avanlaak@gmail.com](mailto:avanlaak@gmail.com).

## LAKE STEWARD PROGRAM 2013 AT THE LONG LAKE DEC BOAT LAUNCH

This is the seventh 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. This year, an emphasis will be made on inspecting watercraft not only when launched, but also when they are removed to ensure that none of the plants in Long Lake are taken to other lakes. Long Lake has been classified as containing invasive plant species by the NYDEC since we have variable leaf milfoil, which had previously been classified as non-invasive. Over the many years that the LLA has been monitoring Long Lake for invasive species, we have not seen an increase in incidence of variable leaf milfoil, nor any notable damage to the ecosystem due to its presence. We have been outspoken with various organizations regarding our disappointment in this reclassification; however, we will continue to be vigilant to ensure the overall health of our lake.

### 2014 Lake Stewards

Funding and oversight of the lake stewards is provided by the Paul Smith College (PSC) Watershed Stewardship Program (WSP). The WSP continues to receive funds through federal Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grants to combat aquatic invasive species. The WSP stations lake stewards at 23 different lakes across the Adirondacks, including Long Lake and Raquette Lake. This year our Lake Stewards are Jackie McCabe, Alex Wall, and Brendan Tully.



Jackie is from Cicero, NY and a recent graduate from Paul Smith's College in Environmental Studies. As a watershed steward last summer for the AWI in the Tri-Lakes region, Jackie was excited to work again this year as a regional supervisor for Long Lake, Tupper Lake and Cranberry Lake. Jackie has a passion for environmental education and loves how this program allows her and the other stewards to reach out to so many people!. Alex is from Williamsburg, VA. He attends Longwood University in Farmville, VA with a major in Environmental Science and a minor in Theatre. Brendan is from Carmel, NY. He is a senior at Paul Smiths College pursuing a degree in Natural Resource Management and Policy.



### **Help Count Loons on Saturday July 19<sup>th</sup>! Annual Adirondack Loon Census**

On the third Saturday of July, the Wildlife Conservation Society conducts an annual loon census with the help of local Adirondack residents and visitor volunteers. This data provides a quick glimpse of the status of the breeding loon population in and around the Adirondack Park and across New York State. The results help guide management decisions and policies that affect loons.

On 14-mile Long Lake, the count is accomplished by 6 to 7 motorboat parties. Each group covers a section of the lake. The count takes place for one hour from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. The Long Lake Association is the local sponsor for the Loon Census each year.

In both 2012 and 2013, twelve Common Loons were tallied on Long Lake. In 2012, eleven loons were found north of the bridge, which is the less developed part of the lake. In 2013, ten loons were found north of the bridge.

This year, Phil Terrie, Adirondack author and retired history professor, is hosting an after-count breakfast at his rustic, boat-access only camp near the scenic north end of Long Lake. We will gather for a continental breakfast from 9:15 to 10:30 a.m.

If you would like to participate in the count, contact Joan Collins at [Joan.Collins@Frontier.com](mailto:Joan.Collins@Frontier.com) or by phone at (518) 624-5528. There will likely be additional room in the motorboats to accommodate Long Lake visitors that would like to ride along and help count loons!

## DID YOU KNOW?

On June 20, 2014, the NY State Senate gave final legislative approval to legislation sponsored by Senator Tom O'Mara (R,C-Big Flats) to help stop the spread of aquatic invasive species throughout the Southern Tier and Finger Lakes regions, and statewide, by requiring boaters to take reasonable precautions when launching their boats. The legislation (S.7851-B/A.9619-B) was approved on June 19th by the state Assembly, where it was sponsored by Assemblywoman Barbara Lifton (D/WF- 125th District) of Ithaca. It will now be delivered to the governor to be signed into law.

The legislation requires the NY DEC to develop rules and regulations for boaters to take precautions to prevent the spread of invasive species, such as removing all visible plants and animals from, or washing, draining and drying both motorized and non-motorized watercraft and related gear when entering and leaving a launch site. "Individual boaters are the front line of defense against the spread of invasive species, and this legislation offers a straightforward approach asking all boaters to do our part to help protect waterways, regional tourism economies and local jobs," said O'Mara, a member of the Senate Environmental Conservation Committee. "Taking every possible step to stop the spread of destructive invasive species before they take hold is the most cost-effective and common-sense approach to combat this severe threat to the environment and economy of the Finger Lakes and other waterways statewide. I, together with numerous regional leaders, know firsthand how difficult it's been trying to eradicate hydrilla from Cayuga Lake in Tompkins County. Greater awareness, education and prevention are the best solutions."

Some estimates have pegged the annual cost of invasive species to the national economy at \$120 billion a year.

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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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