



1970 – 2010: Celebrating Forty Years of Lake Stewardship

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President's Letter

Welcome to the 2010 edition of the Three Lakes Council annual newsletter, celebrating **forty years of Environmental Stewardship**. Just about the time the US began celebrating Earth Day, and New York State established the Department of Environmental Conservation, a small, but dedicated and informed, group of residents from our area decided that it was very important to bring attention to the environmental activities that were affecting the lakes in our watershed. The Three Lakes Council was formed to accomplish that goal, and how fortunate we all are today because of that effort.

This year's newsletter will try to capture many of the historically significant events that our council became engaged in to support our environmental efforts. Forty years of environmental study, advocacy and education in this community have certainly had an immense effect on our lakes. Read through this publication, enjoy the history, take pride where you have been personally involved, and give thanks to all of those committed volunteers who have contributed their time and effort to preserving and protecting our lakes.

*Jack Sinnott, President
Three Lakes Council*

The Role of the Three Lakes Council

Those fortunate enough to live in the Three Lakes watershed sometimes may be confused by the different associations, clubs, and councils around our lakes. Most of these are neighborhood associations with responsibilities for some common space such as right-of-ways, lake fronts, entrances, or roads.



Autumn on Lake Rippowam

The Three Lakes Council's role is to address the watershed issues that are wider in scope than the concerns of the other local lake organizations. In 1970, residents organized the Three Lakes Council because they recognized that actions of any one individual or association could affect many residents around the lakes.

The Three Lakes Council was formed in the context of growing environmental awareness. The first Earth Day occurred in 1970. New York State formed the Department of Environmental Conservation that year. The early

Three Lakes Council leaders brought together all of the local associations to direct and coordinate the environmental activities in the Lake Waccabuc - Oscaleta - Rippowam watershed.

Since 1970, the Three Lakes Council has lead environmental education and outreach. Since the founding days, the Council has worked to retain a pragmatic and focused approach to conservation around the lakes. Our mission statement below defines our role.

The purpose of the Three Lakes Council is:

1. To improve and safeguard water quality and the condition of Lakes Oscaleta, Rippowam and Waccabuc.
2. To inform and educate the community in the Three Lakes watershed about safeguarding and improving the quality of the waters and watershed.
3. To encourage and support the management, preservation and acquisition of valuable wetlands, shoreline and other undeveloped portions of the Three Lakes.
4. To address issues that may be impacting the enjoyment of the lakes by residents of the community.
5. To study and report on potential issues relevant to these purposes and to coordinate community action when necessary.

If you haven't already done so, please join the Three Lakes Council to help us continue our forty years of environmental stewardship.

2008 ⇒ Goop and Zoop: Algae and Zooplankton in our lakes

In 2008, our lake manager sampled algae and zooplankton to get a better handle on the food web in our lakes. A food web is a model or description of how energy is transferred in the environment from sunlight into plants and algae and then into creatures that eat them, and up the chain to larger predators like fish, birds, and people. Understanding the components of the food web is important because it makes a difference on the amount of algae, the critters that eat the algae, and the health of lake fish populations, which in turn affects other wildlife and our recreational enjoyment of the lakes.

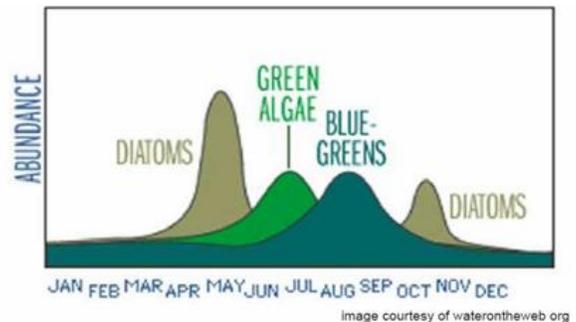
Goop – the algae in our lakes

Algae will grow in our lake water as long as there are nutrients and light, just like aquatic plants will grow where there are nutrients and light reaching the lake bottom. Although it may seem strange, we want some algae in our lakes. Algae is an important source of nutrition for fish and mussels. What we don't want is too much algae, or the "wrong" kind of algae. Both of those can occur when the lake is out of balance, when there are too many nutrients and too much algae grows, or when there are too few algae-eaters in our lakes. That's when we get goop, not merely algae!

Just like there are Spring flowers and Fall flowers, there are algae that are more prevalent in different seasons in our lakes, since different types of algae grow better than others depending upon water temperature and light, and different algae-eaters appear at different times in the lakes. Typical seasonal patterns for algae are diatoms in Spring and Fall, green algae in early Summer, and blue-greens in late Summer. Our lakes have other algae too, including golden algae, which is sometimes dominant in Lake Rippowam.

Diatoms are not typically a nuisance in lakes, since they grow best outside recreational seasons, and they are a favorite food source. Green and golden algae can sometimes become a problem, especially when types are present that form clumps or filaments that are harder for predators to eat. Blue-green algae can form scums that look like paint on the top of the lake surface, an unsightly barrier to recreation. Blue-greens sometimes generate toxins that make them less palatable to grazers, which help them become the most numerous in the lakes. There is an increasing amount of research into these toxins, and the NYS Department of Health has tested samples from our lakes. Most algae experts say people should be alert to, but not alarmed by, the presence of blue-green algae, which have been a part of our lakes' ecosystems for centuries.

Some algae are filtered out of the water by mussels, and some algae are eaten by young fish, but most of the algae in our lakes are eaten by small animals called zooplankton. Algae that don't get



eaten die and fall to the bottom of the lake, where the decay processes can use up oxygen. On some lakes, fish kills occur after large algae blooms because of the oxygen depletion from algae decay. Lake management plans often address how to keep algae in balance – and to do that, we need to consider zooplankton.

Zoop – the zooplankton in our lakes

Zooplankton are tiny animals that eat algae (and sometimes each other). There are three major categories of zooplankton: rotifers, cladocera, and copepods. Larger zooplankton can eat more algae, and so for algae control it's better to have bigger and more mobile zooplankton. Cladocera, and especially one of the cladocera called daphnia, are great algae eaters.

We have "good" zooplankton like daphnia in our lakes. But we also have fish that like to eat zooplankton. While there are some bottom feeders like carp and catfish in our

1971 ⇒ 2010 Picnic and annual meeting bring the community together

The first Annual Meeting was held in 1971. The traditional picnic was started by Dick Cirulli, who had a picnic at his home when he was president of the Three Lakes Council. Gladys Wolkof also hosted several picnics at her home. It appears that for some years, both an Annual Meeting and a picnic were held, but at some point the two meetings were combined. During Peter Treyz's presidency, the picnic was moved to the Waccabuc Country Club. If you know more about this history, contact us!

The tradition continues in 2010. Please join us on July 31 for a friendly gathering, excellent food, and to hear about the happenings on the Three Lakes. Bring salads or desserts to share. RSVP using the form on page 13 or email the relevant information from the form to ThreeLakesCouncil@gmail.com

lakes, most young fish and many of the fish in our lakes eat zooplankton. Alewives are examples of these zooplankton eaters, also called planktivorous fish.

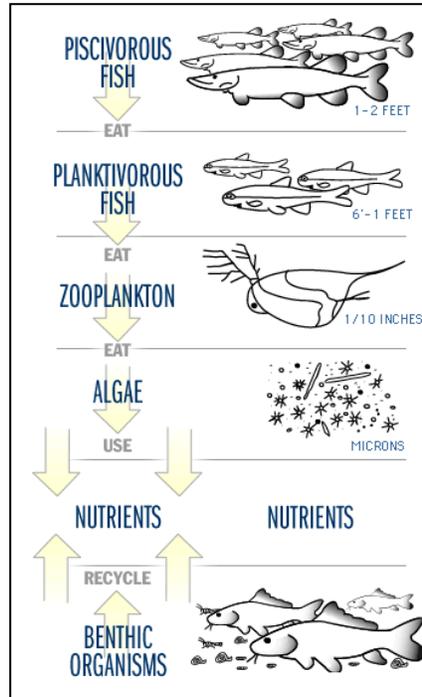
Blue gills and alewives are good food for trout, pickerel and bass, and that's one of the reasons people like to have plenty of them in our lakes. But when we have too many planktivorous fish, they can decimate the zooplankton population. And then there are fewer "zoop" to eat the "goop". This food web dynamic is understood generally, but it is very hard to quantify. There have been many attempts to rebalance lakes by adding predator fish (aka piscivorous fish) or by extracting planktivorous fish, and some of these actions have been successful. However, it's difficult to predict the results of this intervention or biomanipulation.

Food web dynamics

The picture at right shows a simplified food web. If there are lots of predator / piscivorous fish, then there are fewer zooplankton-eating or planktivorous fish. That in turn means there are more zooplankton who can eat more algae, helping to keep down blooms. On the other hand, if there are not enough predator / piscivorous fish to keep the alewives and blue gills in check, then these planktivorous fish will devastate the zooplankton population, leaving algae to flourish.

As an aside, blue gills and similar fish also eat a lot of the small invertebrates and aquatic insects in

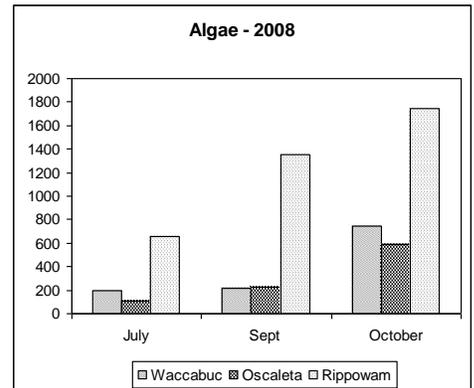
our lakes. This includes the insects that feed on milfoil, like weevils and moths. It's very likely that we have milfoil weevils and moths in our lakes, but they aren't populous enough to gain the upper hand on the milfoil.



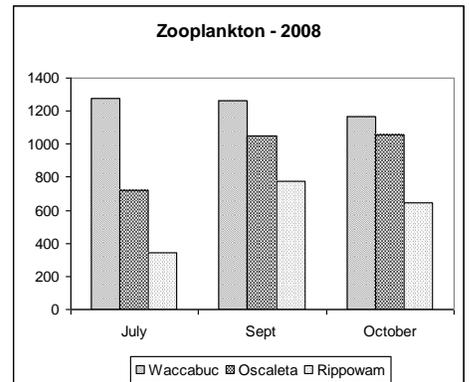
What was found on Waccabuc, Oscaleta, and Rippowam

In 2008, our lake manager analyzed the plankton on our lakes, both goop and zoop. (Plankton refers generally to anything that floats around in the water.) The algae counts were much higher on Lake Rippowam on all three sample dates. Zooplankton counts showed that Rippowam had the smallest number of algae-eating zooplankton of the three lakes at each sample time.

Does this make sense with the food web considerations? It does if the fish that were stocked over time have altered the fish populations in

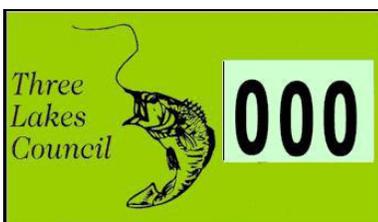


one or more of the lakes compared with the others. A table showing some fish stocking records (probably incomplete) shows that fish were stocked in Lake Rippowam only once. Alewives were probably stocked in one or more of our lakes, but we don't have a record of that. So, why don't



we just stock predator fish in Rippowam? We know there are alewives there and from the data, it seems to make sense that they are eating too many zooplankton. But alewives, like many zooplankton, like to live and feed in open water or pelagic areas of the lakes. Bass

1993 ⇨ Boat stickers introduced to keep invasives out of our lakes



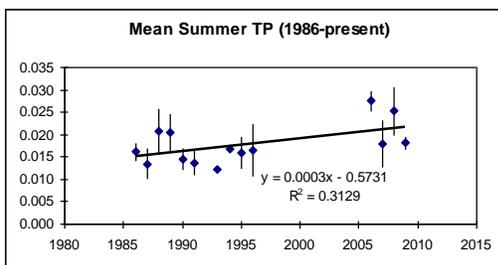
Three Lakes Council began issuing stickers in the fall of 1993 in an attempt to keep out invasive species by keeping transient boats off the lakes and educating lake residents about this issue. At that time, the primary species of concern was zebra mussels. Over 1600 boat stickers have been issued in our efforts to prevent the spread of invasive species – and the stickers have also helped return many wandering boats.

Alayne Vlachos continues her many years of service as the contact person providing boat stickers to residents. We appreciate her ongoing support for this important program. Please use the boat sticker request form (p. 12) to register any boats on the Three Lakes.

and many warm water fish prefer weedy shore areas. Trout like the pelagic zone, but are not likely to thrive in the warm waters of Lake Rippowam. So neither bass nor trout may be the ideal fit for this situation, but other fish like white perch and/or hybrid bass might provide the desired results. However, more study is needed before stocking of either would be done. White perch are natural to our lakes but hybrid bass are not. To stock hybrids we would need to do a great deal more research. However, since there probably isn't much downside to stocking predator fish in Rippowam, it would be interesting to do that and see if there are any changes over time.

Three Lakes Fish Stocking History				
Year	Stocked	Waccabuc	Oscataleta	Rippowam
2009	Trout	200	300	
2008	Trout		350	
2006	Trout	425	225	
2004	Trout	400	250	
2003	Trout	350	150	
2001	Trout	300	120	
2000	500 Trout			
1999	Trout	800	200	
1998	S M Bass		250	250
1973	Trout	2100		

Jan Andersen



1986 – 1996, 2006 → Volunteers monitor lake water quality

The residents of the Three Lakes are fortunate that our lakes were

studied in many different projects over the years. In July 1936, New York State studied Waccabuc's physical and water chemistry. Extensive studies of Lake Waccabuc accompanied the Union Carbide installation of the aerators in the early 1970's. SUNY Purchase sampled water chemistry from 1979 to 1981 on all three lakes. The Adirondack Lake Survey Corporation (ALSC) studied Waccabuc and Oscataleta's fish populations in May 1987 and their water chemistry in July 1987. There were also some independent studies including the longtime coliform sampling by Peter Treyz and a study of septic options by cadets at West Point.

The most extensive, consistent, and comprehensive set of data that we have on the Three Lakes comes from the volunteer sampling program run in conjunction with the New York State Department

began in 1986, and Peter Beardsley continued lake sampling through 1996. In 2006, the Three Lakes Council restarted participation in the program for all three lakes. As part of this program, volunteers gathered 1918 samples and measures, and recorded 477 temperature and dissolved oxygen profiles. These years of chemical and physical data were gathered at minimal cost to our lake residents. We have compiled a valuable database of information about our lakes that makes it possible for us to evaluate trends. As the CSLAP program celebrates its 25th year, the Three Lakes Council is proud to have been in at the start and to be a current participant.

This testing produced significant results both statewide and locally. For example, state-wide testing has demonstrated that individual volunteers can gather samples and record data as effectively as trained scientists. Also, temperature records over the past 25 years shows warming in our lake waters across the state, which



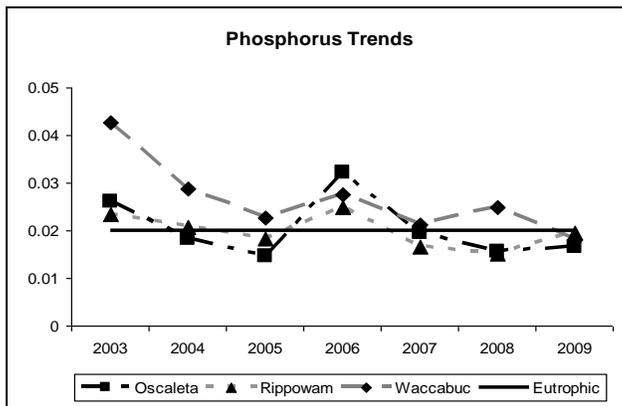
1995 – 1996 ⇔ Land Acquisition

In support of our efforts to preserve and protect our lakes, during 1995 and 1996 the Three Lakes Council decided to take ownership of two adjoining parcels of land on the west side of Oscataleta Road, just north of the Waccabuc-Oscataleta channel. There had been some prior interest by developers to build on this property. In fact, one parcel has a partially completed foundation on it.

The Three Lakes Council worked closely with the Town of Lewisboro and negotiated the acquisition of nearly two acres of land at virtually no cost to our organization. The objective was to be able to control any future usage of this land (predominantly wetlands) with the goal of keeping it forever wild. In 1997 the Council also decided to give a permanent easement to the New York Telephone Company (NYNEX) for the installation of a small service sub-station on one of the parcels of land. This property is still owned today by our Council and there are minimal expenses for property taxes and insurance. Today, this land retains its ability to absorb storm water and continues to protect the lakes from pollution.

reflect the effects of global warming.

The local results are also interesting. The 25 years of CSLAP data on Waccabuc show that the summer levels of phosphorus have tended upward an average of 0.03% each year. See chart at right. While there are annual and seasonal variations, that trend has taken Waccabuc to levels above the state phosphorus guideline. In terms of trophic state, that has worsened the condition on the trend line from mesotrophic to eutrophic. The phosphorus data correlates with readings showing an increase in algae, a reduction in lake visibility, and an increase in pH. Over 25 years, conductivity and calcium also show upward tendencies, both indications of human influence on the lakes.



It's great news that things don't seem to be getting worse, but this is a typical glass half-full, half-empty situation. If we don't improve our phosphorus situation, we are going to continue to live with the seasonal and yearly variations that will produce occasional "green" lakes and high plant densities. To change that, we need further improvement actions in our watershed.

Jan Andersen

The four years of CSLAP data for Oscaleta and Rippowam are tantalizing, but there isn't enough data yet to assess trends. Even when we include the Cedar Eden study data, no strong trends are evident. The chart shows the average summer phosphorus levels for 2003 – 2009, and the "dividing line" that marks the more productive Eutrophic levels from the clearer water Mesotrophic levels. High readings in 2006 accompanied a season of noticeably bad algae blooms on our lakes. We think the very high levels of phosphorus in the Waccabuc readings in 2003 could have been partly caused by malfunctioning aerators.

2008 ⇒ BEEP

BEEP stands for the Brazilian Elodea Eradication Project. BEEP began when the Three Lakes Council commissioned a baseline plant survey from our lake manager in 2008. In recent years, observers have found curly leaf pondweed and brittle naiad, two invasive plants and Eurasian water milfoil has been in our lakes since at least 1970. The Three Lakes Council wanted to map the plant species and densities to enable more science-



Brazilian elodea, *Egeria densa*

based monitoring of changes in the aquatic plant growth and coverage.

During the 2008 plant survey, our lake manager discovered a new aggressive aquatic invasive plant, Brazilian elodea, or *Egeria densa*, in one cove of Lake Waccabuc. This plant is one of New York's "10 most unwanted" aquatic plants, but

at the same time it is a favorite in aquariums and koi ponds. The plant only spreads by fragments, but that doesn't slow it down. Stems of Brazilian elodea are reputed to grow a foot a day, and coverage can increase 100 acres in a year.

The Three Lakes Council consulted with experts and held meetings with residents about potential actions, and decided to try to eradicate the plant by suction harvesting. During the winter and spring of 2009 we obtained all the required permits and raised the needed funds. Thanks to the support and generosity of over 150 members of the Three Lakes community who contributed to BEEP,

we were able to move forward with the project in early 2009.

The Three Lakes Council contracted with a specialized suction harvesting company to remove plants from the north cove. Suction harvesters were on the lake from June 8 to July 10, 2009. During that period, they harvested

2000 ⇒ Website brings Three Lakes Council into the new millennium

The Three Lakes Council website, www.threelakescouncil.org, was initiated in 2000. Over time, the website has been expanded and now contains general information like stewardship guidance and newsletters, member information such as minutes of meetings and copies of seminar presentations, and research reports from the past and present. Our website may help answer your questions about our lakes. Please visit www.threelakescouncil.org to learn more.



plants from 1.7 acres of the north cove, hauling 10 to 15 loads of plants out of the lake on most days. While the suction harvesters were here, volunteers monitored the shores and the containment curtain, searching for Brazilian elodea fragments.

After completion of the suction harvesting, volunteers began monitoring the bottom of the cove. In mid-August 2009, the bottom was examined by snorkeling in the shallow waters and scuba diving in the deeper areas. Both fragments and plants were found. In some spots it appeared that the top of the plant had been removed, but the root crown had stayed in the soil or between rocks, and had been able to regrow. As work continued, we also found plants that had regrown from fragments. Two volunteers surveyed the cove and hand harvested plants three to five days most weeks through October 22, when the water got just too cold to continue. The last plant fragment was found on October 7.

In November, four representatives from the Three Lakes visited Lake Guymard in Orange County, NY. Lake Guymard is a lake about the size of Lake Rippowam, and Brazilian elodea was found there in 2006. Residents around Lake Guymard applied herbicides unsuccessfully in 2008. They hosted us to a canoe ride around the lake. For about half of their lake, Brazilian elodea crammed the



Shaded area is the area of the north cove of Lake Waccabuc that was harvested in 2009. The dots indicate where plants or fragments were found during the monitoring that occurred from August to October 2009.

water to about 2 to 3 feet from the surface. It was clear this plant had the ability to alter dramatically the lake environment. This visit made a lasting impression and reinforced the need to continue to monitor our lakes for Brazilian elodea.

Early in the spring of 2010, volunteers resumed wading and raking along the shore of the north cove. In June snorkeling and diving searches were restarted. The search is more difficult this year, as there is a lot more plant growth than there was shortly after the harvesting last year. We will engage an additional diver this year to search for and selectively hand harvest the invasive plant.

As to the cove environment one season after the suction harvesting, there is ample plant regrowth. This growth provides food and shelter for the fish, turtles, waterfowl, and other wildlife that depend upon lake plants. In the shallow areas, the

native elodea is dense and plentiful. As seen on Lake Guymard, Brazilian elodea would be about three times as wide and bushy as the native plant. Stands of Eurasian water milfoil, bassweed, Robbins pondweed, coontail, and other typical lake plants are back, although much of the deeper lake areas remain quite sparse. There are also thriving patches of the invasive curly leaf pondweed, which are pulled when found. Lake

plants all over this area seem to be doing well this year, perhaps because of the very warm weather. In the north cove, plants may be growing vigorously also because so many large stands of water lilies were removed. The water lilies shaded out some of the bottom-growing lake plants. The lilies are coming back, but they are not yet as widespread as they were since many of the lily tubers were removed during the suction harvesting.

The outlook is cautiously optimistic as of this writing. While it is very unlikely that we completely eradicated the Brazilian elodea, after searching about one acre so far this year, no Brazilian elodea plants or fragments have been found!! (knock wood). The search for Brazilian elodea will continue in the cove this summer.

Thanks to donors, there are funds available in the BEEP account to augment the monitoring efforts.

2007 ⇔ Google groups provide timely communications

Google groups allow us to reach the members of our community without the expense of mailings, and with news and information that is seasonal and timely. We started the first Google group for Three Lakes Council stewardship information in 2007. If you aren't yet on the Three Lakes Google group, contact ThreeLakesCouncil@gmail.com to join. If you're currently on this distribution list and would like to be removed, also please contact ThreeLakesCouncil@gmail.com.

Many residents wanted a general issues community group, to be used for topics from yard sales to heating oil prices, so in 2009 Tara Owen set up a separate group for these community bulletin board issues. Join this group by contacting Tara at tara@taocommunications.com

Joe Tansey also set up a google group for the fishermen of the Three Lakes. If you want to join this "fish net", contact Joe Tansey at JoeTansey@msn.com

The Three Lakes Council has contracted with our lake manager for a rake-toss plant survey in Lake Waccabuc to help ensure that the Brazilian elodea did not spread beyond the north cove. The plan is to complete this survey in July.

Your help is needed to continue to look for new plants both in the cove and around our lakes. Please contact ThreeLakesCouncil@gmail.com if you see a strange or new plant in the lakes, or if you have any concerns about any plants that you see.

Jan Andersen

1973 ⇨ 2005 – The Aerators of Waccabuc

In our thermally stratified lakes, the level of dissolved oxygen in the hypolimnion, the bottom of the lake below the thermocline, drops to almost zero. Aeration, the process of artificially raising the levels of dissolved oxygen in these waters, can be used to help offset the effects of eutrophication. It has a longer history of use in Europe where the use of chemicals is more strictly regulated for the control of weeds and algae. Waccabuc and Oscaleta both become stratified during the spring and there is generally no dissolved oxygen below 15 to 20 feet until late November when the lake turns over. By putting oxygen into this lower layer, aeration can help remove organic debris by encouraging bacterial action in the

sediments, bind phosphorous to the sediment to prevent it from leaching into the water column and providing nutrients for algal growth, and provide cold oxygenated water to enhance a cold water or salmonid (trout) fishery.

In 1972, Union Carbide was looking to expand aeration in the United States. It picked three sites to demonstrate various technologies: a reservoir near Attica, New York, a quarry in Ottoville, Ohio, and Lake Waccabuc. The first two projects pumped water from the lakes and applied pure oxygen to the water before it was returned to the bottom of the lake. In 1973, Union Carbide installed a different system in the deeper parts of Lake Waccabuc. Two aerators, made by Atlas-Copco, pumped compressed air to the units from a compressor on shore. Lake Oscaleta was used as a control to compare changes when the aerators were running.

Union Carbide operated the system from 1973 to 1975. At that point it turned over ownership and operations to the Three Lakes Council. The council continued operating the system from around Memorial Day to Labor Day each year through 2004. During that time the aerators went through two rebuilds to replace the bubblers in the bottom of the units and the compressor was replaced twice. In the fall of 2001, the aerators were refitted again to increase their efficiency by extending the length of the bottom of the aerator and installing new fine diffusion bubblers. The units and a new compressor were

reinstalled in 2002.

So what happened? First the good news. Oxygen levels in the hypolimnion were improved to levels that could support a cold water fishery. As part of the Union Carbide study, 2,100 trout were stocked in August, 1973. Creel studies in subsequent years showed that they were doing well with normal growth patterns. A second observation was that the chemistry of the hypolimnion had been altered because the bad smelling hydrogen sulfide (rotten eggs smell) was being eliminated by the aeration as well.

Now for the not so good news. The first year of operation, there was a 30% decrease in the phosphorous levels in the hypolimnion. The presence of oxygen keeps the phosphorus bound with the sediment. The reduction of this nutrient was a prime goal of the system to help combat eutrophication of the lake. However, this phosphorus reduction was not seen after the first year. Union Carbide testing to determine what was occurring with the phosphorous was not conclusive. Additionally, data collection was not consistent over the years. However, reports indicated that the system was partially successful in maintaining oxygen levels at least until the early 1990's.

Now for the bad news. Except for some of the final reports, much of the raw data and information gathered has been lost. (Anybody got some boxes down the basement full of paper?) This

2007 ⇨ Initiation of the Goose Population Stabilization Program

The watershed user survey alerted the Three Lakes Council to how widely geese were seen as a significant problem on the lakes. Geese droppings were mentioned as problems about as frequently as weeds and algae. While newsletters had been asking residents not to feed the geese since at least 1999, it appeared that the geese problem was only getting worse.

Volunteers contacted the USDA and GeesePeace to find something that could be done besides education about feeding geese. In 2007, we began a geese population stabilization program approved by the Humane Society and PETA. Where property owners give us permission, we oil geese eggs each Spring. From 2007 through 2010, about 350 eggs have been oiled. Not all of the eggs would have produced goslings in any case, as many nests were lost to predators. Feedback received to date confirms that the overall issue of geese droppings has been reduced, but there is more to be done. Thanks again to all who allow us to access the nests on their property and to alert us to possible nests.

Please don't feed the geese. It's unhealthy for them and unhealthy for our lakes.

leaves us with gaps in our knowledge to better understand what was really going on in the system. Secondly, operating an aeration system is expensive. The costs were running about \$10,000 per year for electricity and there were multiple breakdowns from broken arms on the unit to broken compressed air hoses and compressor problems. Finally, the units just could not keep up with the oxygen demand in the lake. A simple rule of thumb is if the water coming out of the pipe from the aerator smells like rotten eggs, then the aerator isn't keeping up with demand. In 2004, it became clear that the aerators were not providing any meaningful level of oxygen in the hypolimnion and the decision was made to cease operations in the spring of 2005.

What's the future? As currently configured, the aerators cannot keep up with the oxygen demand in the hypolimnion and will not be operated. The concept has been proven that they can help sustain a cold water fishery if they do operate properly. The suppression of phosphorous leaching has worked in some cases of aeration. However, this comes with a strong caveat that if the aeration is stopped, then all of the phosphorous that has been artificially forced to stay combined with the sediment will start leaching out as soon as the water becomes anoxic. The final decision comes down to cost. To restart aeration, we need to update our data for how much oxygen is required to meet the demand in the hypolimnion. A determination must be made if the

units we have can be set up to meet that demand or if some other units would have to be obtained. The cost of operating the system has to be explored including operating for a longer period than in prior years, since we now know that our lakes stratify at the start of May and stay stratified until mid-November. Finally, if the system is found to be unable to suppress the leaching of phosphorus, are we willing to pay for the operation and maintenance of aerators just to have a cold water fishery.

Lou Feeney

2006 ⇨ Watershed survey collects community inputs

In the fall of 2006, an opinion survey was sent to 296 residents in the watershed, and 51% of the

THREE LAKES COUNCIL 2010

President: Jack Sinnott jsinnott@optonline.net
Vice President: Jan Andersen fablesx2@optonline.net
Treasurer: John Lemke blockisland44@ATT.net
Secretary: Jean Lewis jeanlewis@aol.com

Board Representatives by Organization

Lake Osaleta Association

Joe Tansey joetansey@msn.com
 Kevin Karl (alternate) kkarl97@optonline.net

Lake Waccabuc Association

Regina Anderson reginalha@hotmail.com
 John Lemke (alternate) blockisland44@ATT.net

Lakeside Association

Beth Llanos bethllanos@gmail.com
 Paul Llanos llanopa@gmail.com

Perch Bay Association

Dave Eggers deggers@me.com

South Shore Association

Alayne Vlachos twinkle160@aol.com
 Lila Gordon (alternate) lilagordon@wmconnect.com

Two Lake Club

Denis Hickey hicdaddy@hotmail.com
 Jan Andersen (alternate) fablesx2@optonline.net

Waccabuc Country Club

John Grimm jgrimm6@gmail.com
 Tizzie Mantione (alternate) tmantione1@comcast.net

Waccabuc Landowners Council

Dan Kleinman kleinman.daniel@gmail.com
 John Scott (alternate) jscott@praesidiumim.com

Committee Chairs

BEEP: Jan Andersen fablesx2@optonline.net

Boat Stickers: Alayne Vlachos twinkle160@aol.com

Fishing: Joe Tansey joetansey@msn.com

Lake Preservation: Paul Lewis lewispa@optonline.net

Membership: Jack Sinnott jsinnott@optonline.net

Betsy Sinnott esinnott@optonline.net

Newsletter: Judy Hausman hauswriter@gmail.com

Stephanie Harding scharding@optonline.net

Picnic / Annual Meeting:

Barbara Posner btposner@aol.com

Joe Tansey joetansey@msn.com

recipients responded to questions about their activities on the lakes, thoughts about lake conditions, likes, dislikes, and preferences for action. Among the important

1970 - 2010 ⇨ Three Lakes Council Leadership

We pay tribute to those who have led the Three Lakes Council over the past 40 years. While we can't possibly thank all who have contributed in so many ways over so many days, there are those who must be mentioned.

Past Three Lakes Council Presidents are Wayne Van Tassel, Gladys Wolkof, Dick Cirulli, Mary Wilson, Peter Beardsley, and Peter Treyz. Jack Sinnott took on the position in 2004 and continues at the helm.

Jean Lewis was secretary at the first annual meeting in 1971 and is again today. Gladys Wolkof was Second Vice President. Paul Lewis was among the initial directors listed in the 1970 Certificate of Incorporation and remains an active contributor today. Dr. Peter Treyz was among the thirteen Founding Mothers and Fathers as well.

Unfortunately, we have an incomplete history of the Council. If you know more details, please help us fill in the gaps!

findings were the top three issues identified by three lakes users -- algae blooms, weeds, and geese droppings. Also, the most popular pastime on our lakes is scenic enjoyment, followed by swimming and non-motorized boating.

The respondents gave us a reality check on "in-lake weed actions" by supporting hand harvesting over chemical treatment.

	Yes	Consider	No
Hand harvest	49	33	2
Mechanical	24	49	11
Chemicals	8	28	48

And people wanted us to continue to raise funds through volunteer contributions.

How do we pay for actions? (rank choices 1 thru 4)

Total of first & second choices

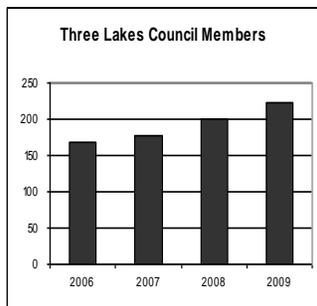
Voluntary	65%
Assoc. Assessments	38%
Usage Fees	38%
Tax district	31%

Complete results for the survey are available on our website: www.threelakescouncil.org

Membership drives reflect community support

Since 1970, membership in the Three Lakes Council has always been voluntary. We are grateful to all of those who support our work, and we hope to continue to grow our membership in the future.

If you haven't joined yet this year, please consider supporting the environment of our beautiful three lakes. Please fill out the membership form on page 10 and send it in with your contribution. Or, if you prefer to use electronic banking, just add pertinent information in the memo area.



Fishing – One for the Books

The occasion of our 40th Anniversary might be a good time to look back at some of the more memorable catches in our lakes. The Three Lakes have certainly had their share of record fish catches and we're currently on the books with three New York State and World records. Throw in 2 previous NYS records and we are up to five. I seriously doubt any other impoundments of comparable size within NYS can compare to what

we have here in our back yard. The first record that I know of was an historic 8lb-plus black bullhead that was caught by Kenny Evens in Waccabuc in the early to mid 50's. It remained on the records until a couple of years ago at which time NYS purged most of the old historical records. The next record was a white perch, 3lb.10z., caught in Oscaleta in 1991, which is still both the current state record and world record for 6lb. test line (world records are by line class) and caught by yours truly. The next record was the hybrid bass caught by George Harris in Waccabuc in the late 90's and that fish weighed in at 11lb. 6oz. George's record held up until Brian Colley broke it in July of 2004 with one that weighed in at a whopping 15lb 5oz.

Another "One for the Books" is probably out there so go for it-- give it a shot. And happy fishing. Tight lines!

Joe Tansey

THREE LAKES COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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

CONTRIBUTORS: JAN ANDERSEN
 LOU FEENEY
 JACK SINNOTT
 JOE TANSEY

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

THREELAKESCOUNCIL@GMAIL.COM

Letters, newsletters, postcards highlight stewardship actions

For many years the Three Lakes Council sent letters several times each year to residents around the lakes. When Peter Treyz was president, Tara Owen began an annual newsletter, which continues to this day. In 2009, the Three Lakes Council newsletter won the NYS FOLA newsletter competition in the large membership category. Congratulations and thanks to Judy Hausman and Stephanie Harding who put the award-winning newsletter together for us and continue to do so now.

The Three Lakes Council has also gone back to old traditions of more frequent communications. We've been supplementing our newsletter with other mailings since 2005, and we've gone to postcards for easy to read and affordable communications with our community. And of course we now use our website and Google group too.

Join now

Join the Three Lakes Council and be an important part of the Three Lakes Community. Unite for an effective environmental voice.

Special contributions

Special contributions have made it possible to conduct scientific research, to combat invasive species, to continue our fish stocking, and to undertake key initiatives focused on our lakes' water quality and environment. These gifts are much appreciated.

Membership Form

Your Name: _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Local Address

Street Address: _____

Town, State, Zip _____

Mailing Address (if different)

Mailing address: _____

Town, State, Zip _____

Telephone: (_____) _____

Email: _____

Minimum Contribution for Membership is \$55.00

Membership: \$ 55.00

Additional contribution: \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

Make checks payable to Three Lakes Council & mail with form to address below. Enclose a matching grant form if applicable. Thank you for your support.

*Three Lakes Council is a 501(c)(3) organization (EIN: 13-2873769)
celebrating forty years of environmental stewardship*

Fishing Report



My experience, over the last 30 plus years of fishing here, has been that about every 6-8 years there is a year or two where there seem to be a lot of very large bass. I think the 2009-2010 season may have been the beginning of that 1-2 year cycle because of the large number of 5lb. plus bass caught last Fall and into this Spring. In late April, Robbie Williams, fishing in Oscaleta, caught and released one that was 7¾ lb and 22 ½ inches long. I have had 2 other people tell me they are catching big bass in Waccabuc as well. I have caught 2 that were pushing the 22 inch mark on my ruler.



Most of these larger fish prefer larger baits and/or lures. I usually have a couple of my salt water lures with me when I go plugging so don't shy away from large lures if you are looking for big bass. However, try to remember big fish are too precious to be caught only once – every big one you kill is one you will never catch again. If you are going to keep some fish for table fare, I would encourage you to keep the 14-18 inch fish and release those 20 inches or larger. Those big fish are too valuable to be caught only once---they are the source of fond memories and many great stories.



You can measure and use the info below to help you judge the size of your fish.

12 in bass	1.08 lb
14 in	1.71 lb
16 in	2.56 lb
18 in	3.63 lb
20 in	5.00 lb
22 in	6.65 lb
24 in	8.64 lb

While I have been away for a good part of the spring fishing, I have managed to get some fishing in and have heard some good reports from some regulars about the crappie fishing at the east end of Waccabuc and the east end of Oscaleta, as well. Unfortunately, I missed out on this by being out of town for so long.

Well, are you ready for more good news?? I have always wondered if our lakes could support an environment where we could see a trout over the 10 pound mark. It happened on Oscaleta this spring when a 29.5 inch, 12lb brown was caught, as you can see from the picture. Pat Black also told me this spring in Waccabuc, he caught and released a brown that, in his estimation, was over 10lb. Bob Williams reported that he had foul hooked a carp that was so big that he could not get it in the boat and it even broke his rod. I asked how big he thought it was and he said, "It was 4 feet long and weighed about 50 lbs." Wow, a monster. If that is indeed so, we could be close to another state record which is currently at 50 lb., 6 oz. Suffice it to say. put on some new line and get out there; this could be the year for your trophy.

We did not stock this spring because the hot weather warmed up the surface to the point where the top 6 feet was above 80F. When I talked to the hatchery about it they suggested that we wait until the fall to stock, which is probably what we will do.

I'm also looking at stocking Rippowam with white perch. I've been chatting about stocking walleye's in Waccabuc and would like to hear what you have to say on that. Please let me know – joetansey@msn.com

Tight lines,
Joe



Treasurer's Report

2009 was a unique year for the Three Lake Council's financial responsibilities. The Brazilian Elodea Eradication Project (BEEP) required the establishment of a separate fund and fundraising effort to support this project. Additionally, we needed to fund our ongoing lake management, water testing, fish stocking, insurance/taxes, administration and educational projects.

Fortunately, our membership responded to our fundraising efforts and we were able to raise \$80,000 in support of BEEP and \$19,000 for our general fund. In addition we reached 217 donors and 203 members, the highest level of participation ever.

There is currently a \$45,000 balance in the BEEP fund that will be used for continued inspections and possible further eradication of the Brazilian Elodea if necessary.

The 2010 general fund budget is \$22,950 for the projects mentioned above. Our goal is to raise the needed funds from this year's membership dues and contributions.

Thank you for your generous financial support.

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



Three Lakes Council

P.O. Box 241
South Salem, NY 10590

Boat Registration Form and Request for Three Lakes Council Boat Sticker

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Phone: ____-____-____ Email address: _____

Local Address:	Mailing Address (if different):
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____, _____ (City) (State) (Zip)	_____, _____ (City) (State) (Zip)

Affiliated Organization:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Oscaleta Assoc. | <input type="checkbox"/> South Shore Assoc. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Waccabuc Assoc. | <input type="checkbox"/> Two Lakes Club |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lakeside Assoc. | <input type="checkbox"/> Waccabuc Country Club |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Perch Bay Assoc. | <input type="checkbox"/> Waccabuc Landowners Council |
| <input type="checkbox"/> None | |

Number of Stickers Requested: _____ (supply information below for each sticker)

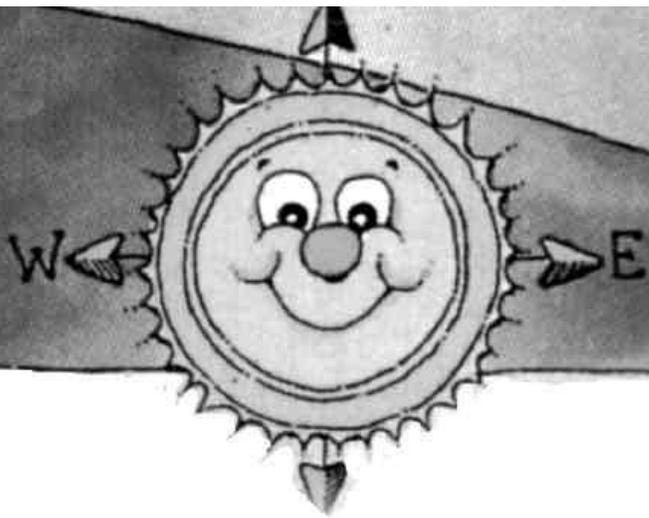
Description of Boat and Motor if applicable:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Please include boat make, color, engine make, horsepower or other descriptive information for ease of identification if boat is found and sticker is not legible. Also, if boat is not kept at residence, please indicate the location where it is kept. (dock, right of way, etc.)

You must have deeded lake rights and authorized access to the lakes to have a boat sticker.

Return form to address above or to ThreeLakesCouncil@gmail.com



Three Lakes Council Annual Picnic

Enjoy the beach and the lake with your Three Lakes neighbors! 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 ____?

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 31st

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

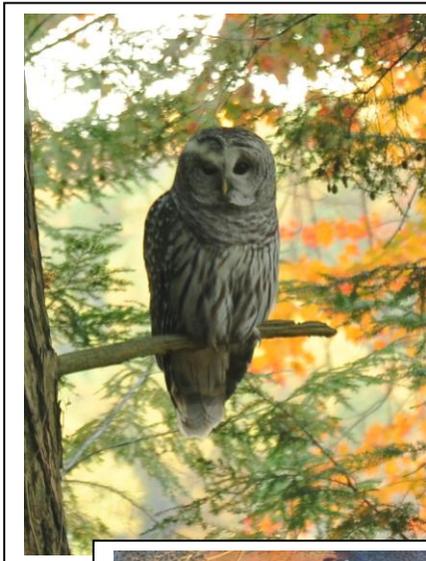
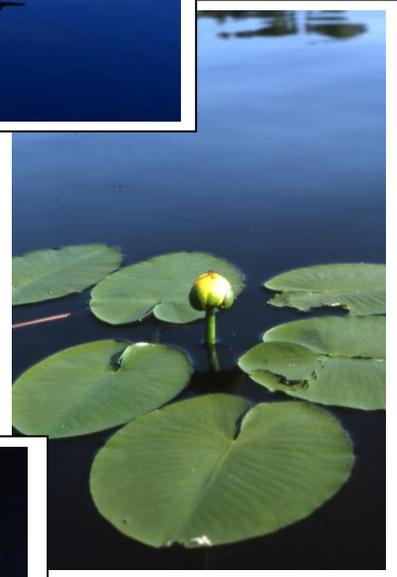
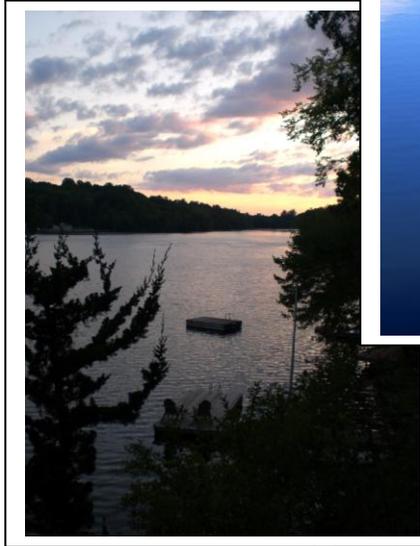


Thank you to all the 2009 Three Lakes Council Members

Anonymous
Stephen & Betty Ackilli
Ellen Adrian
Peter & Sue Ainsworth
Alfred & Kathleen Albano
Mimi & Barry Alprin
Janet Andersen
Kevin & Christine Andros
Susan Annar
Robin Arita
Richard Attridge
John & Ellen Bailey
Deborah Baker
Armand & Loretta Bassi
Peter & Lyn Beardsley
Stephen & Patricia Beckwith
Jennifer Fisher & David Berger
Alan Berk
Alan & Elaine Berman
Janice Billingsley
Chris & Linda Binns
Patrick Black
Lee Blum
Patricia Bobletz
CJ & Kimball Bocklet
Charles Bocklet, Jr.
Terry & Barry Bocklet
Joseph & Charlene Bocklet
William & Jeanette Bosshart
Curt & Lynne Brockelman
Stephen Brodie & Barbara Hickox
Regina Anderson & Christian Brutzer
Amanda Byrne
Douglas & Linda Campbell
Ed & Francesca Cantine
Barbara Capo
David & Laura Carravella
Dominick & Agnes Catalano
Nancy Walsh & Jack Cedarholm
Loren Case
Richard & Audrey Cirulli
Linda Van Tassell & Arthur Clark
Robert Cohen
Rick & Bobbie Cohan
Joan Colello
Bryan Colley
Eugene & Lois Colley
John & Ingrid Connolly
Eugene Conroy
Frederick & Christina Cowles
Virginia Crucy
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Kevin & Ann Daley
Nancy Darboven
Olga & Louis DeAngelis
Edward & Gail Delaney
Margaret & Al DeLuca
Bill & Jane Donaldson
Raymond Duffy
Jean Dunnington
Echo Bay Marina
John & Jenny Eckerson
Ed Burroughs & Keith Eddings
Linda Broudy & David Eggers
Jeanne & David Elliott
Vincent & Clotilde Farrell
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Senia Erlich Feiner
Paul & Katharine Fennelly
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William Finke
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Candida Fitts
Lou & Lois Froelich
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Dorothy Gale
Judie & Howard Ganek
Joe & Jennifer Garrity
Jeffrey Gaynor
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Randall & Laura Glading
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Elizabeth Golde
Allan & Alice Gottlieb
Lila Gordon
Marjorie Gordon
Melissa Gordon & Christopher Culler
Carol Gracie & Scott Mori
Michael & Mary Greenblatt
Waldie & Barbara Gullen
June Gumbel
Robert Gureasko
Re & Pam Hagele
Nancy Hallberg
Andy & Jennifer Hammerstein
Richard & Martha Handler
David & Anne Hardy
Ethna Harris
Sara Hartley
Judy Hausman
Matthew Heineman
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Charles & Susan Herzog
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Raymond & Patricia Hinkley
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Mary Horowitz & Family
Doug & Kelly Housman
James & Lisa Jinkins
Richard & Janet Karl
Karl Family
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Edward & Sue Kelly
Sandra Kewley
Bradford & Bonnie Klein
Daniel & Jane Kleinman
Christine Konetchy
Lucy Koteen
Victor & Gale Kuziak
Lake Waccabuc Association
Bill & Bernadette Langenstein
Elizabeth Lanza
Morvin & Charlotte Leibowitz
John & Elizabeth Lemke
Peter & Nadine Levy
Paul & Jean Lewis
Paul & Beth Llanos
Shirley Lobenthal
Stephanie Harding & Brian Loxley
Theodore & Nancy Lundberg
Matthew & Andrea Lustig
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Richard & Harriet Mayer
Eileen McAleer
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Eileen McGann
James & Carol McMonagle
Andrew Metal
Mike Miller
Katherine Moreau
Mark & Laurie Mosello
Joan Nisbeth
Wayne & Victoria Ohlandt
Amy Handler & Stephen Ohnemus

Christopher Owen
Tara Owen
Elizabeth Palmer
Marianne Pei
Mary Jane Massie & William Pelton
Perch Bay Association
Albert & Valerie Perruzza
Jane Peter
George & Sarah Peterkin
Dave & Judy Petro
Barbara Posner
Mrs. F.F. Randolph, Jr.
Robert & Tom Reynolds
Mary Louise & Ogden Reid
Peter & Audrey Rinaldi
Bonnie Robbins
David & Shannon Robinette
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Natalie & Jacques Theriot
The Two Lake Club
O. Robert Theurkauf
Keith & Katherine Thompson
Peter & Betty Treyz
Mike & Alayne Vlachos
Waccabuc Landowners Council
Marc Wachtell
Susan & Kenneth Wallach
Elizabeth Wattles
Ross & Carol Weale
Sara Weale & John Rudge
Daniel & Debbie Welsh
Westchester Land Trust
Philip & Susan Wick
Robert & Marie Williams
Victor & Sherri Wilson
Gladys Wolkof
Stephen & Liora Yalof



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



Membership Dues form enclosed

Three Lakes Council Annual Newsletter Fortieth Anniversary issue!

Inside Find:

3LC over the past 40 years

CSLAP

BEEP

Goop and Zoop

Aerator history

And more!