



Newsletter 2011

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President's Letter

It's Sunday afternoon in mid-June and the lake is quiet and calm. The ripples are moving in the "good weather" direction; a pair of Kayakers is moving sleekly down the lake; a lone Fisherman is visible in his rowboat in the distance, and a couple of youngsters are diving off their floating dock next door. Aren't we fortunate! What a wonderful place to live.

The Three Lakes Council is pleased to offer you the 2011 edition of our annual Newsletter. Our mission is to preserve the beauty and cleanliness of our lakes through education, scientific study, and advocacy in and around our community. This newsletter is an important means to help accomplish that goal. Please take the time to read this material, enjoy it, and take action or make changes in your lifestyle to make a positive impact on these lakes and watershed.

The Three Lakes Council has been most fortunate to secure the financial support needed to implement initiatives aimed at improving the quality and enjoyment of our waters. "Thank You" to all of our contributors. As you will read in our Treasurer's Report, we are financially sound. In my view, our one limitation is not having the resources (volunteers) to initiate and manage more activities that would be

meaningful and beneficial to our stated mission. If you would like to volunteer, if you have the time and interest in helping our group accomplish more, please let us know (email jsinnott@optonline.net). I promise it will be a rewarding and interesting experience.

Another point I don't want to fail to address in my message is that while



more than 200 families are annual contributors to Three Lakes, there are over 350 property owners who have lake rights and receive the benefit of our work. If friends or neighbors with lake rights are not on our list as members, I would appreciate your urging them to join in and make a contribution to support our efforts.

I hope to see many of you at our Picnic and Annual Meeting at the Waccabuc Country Club on Saturday, August 6th. Enjoy your summer.

*Jack Sinnott, President
Three Lakes Council*

The Three Lakes Council: Trailblazer in Lake Preservation

There are many different lake associations around our three lakes. It's worth explaining what the Three

Lakes Council does that is different from the other lake and neighborhood associations in this area. Over four decades ago, a few visionary residents recognized that Lakes Waccabuc, Oscaleta and Rippowam are all part of the same watershed, so what affected one lake affected all three lakes. The various lake and neighborhood associations, in contrast, focus on issues that are local to their members, whether those concerns are road maintenance or maintaining a common beach or shared right-of-way. In 1970 the Three Lakes Council was organized with a goal of protecting the watershed and preserving the health of all three interconnected lakes. The Board of Directors is made up of representatives from each of the lakes associations.

Our Mission

The Three Lakes Council has a five-point Mission Statement in our By-Laws that guides our activities.

- 1. To maintain and improve the condition and quality of the waters and watershed of Lakes Waccabuc, Oscaleta, and Rippowam.**

Inspired by findings from the burgeoning field of limnology (the study of inland waters), and recognizing that we needed scientific analysis of data collected, the Board saw the benefits of hiring a limnology consultant. Therefore, in 2002 a Lake Manager (Cedar Eden Environmental) was hired to conduct comprehensive water quality studies on the three lakes, develop a Lake Management Plan, and monitor trends so that any

actions would be based on scientific knowledge. It was felt that the knowledge gained would also give us more clout when requesting cooperation or assistance from the Town and other agencies regarding issues affecting the lakes.

Water quality analysis by our Lake Manager is augmented by CSLAP water sampling done on all three lakes. CSLAP (The Citizens State-wide Lake Assessment Program) is a volunteer lake monitoring program run by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the NYS Federation of Lake Associations, Inc. (NYSFOLA). Volunteers from the Three Lakes Council test lake water for clarity, temperature, color, dissolved oxygen, phosphorus, nitrates, chlorophyll A, and calcium. The samples are sent to a state certified lab for analysis, and at the end of the season they send us an annual report. This data is valuable in establishing long-term trends.

By 2008 the Council had accumulated a large amount of chemical data relating to lake water quality, and decided to focus on aquatic vegetation found in the lakes. A new lake manager was hired (Allied Biological) to do an aquatic plant survey. The purpose was to document baseline aquatic plant density, identify invasive species, identify rare or threatened aquatic plants, and explore our aquatic plant management options. A rake survey toss by our lake manager revealed the presence of Brazilian Elodea, a highly invasive aquatic plant, in the north cove of Lake Waccabuc. Thanks to early intervention funded by generous member contributions it appears that we might have an



opportunity to eradicate this threat. This effort became known as BEEP (Brazilian Elodea Eradication Project). There will be continued monitoring for any reoccurrence.

2. To inform and educate the residents of the community in the Three Lakes watershed about safeguarding and improving the quality of the waters and the watershed.

Since the Council's inception, this annual Newsletter has been our primary communication tool. Last year our 2009 Newsletter received the "large association" newsletter award from NYS FOLA for a combination of content and presentation.

Best Homeowners Practices have been published in the Newsletter and on the Website.

Postcards have been mailed offering septic tank cleaning reminders and information on such topics

as invasive aquatic and terrestrial plants, and the adverse effects of fertilizers and laundry detergents containing phosphorus.

In 2007, the Google Group 3Lakes@googlegroups.com was established as a new way of communicating lake-related information. Subsequently, another Google Group was established for neighborhood information not related directly to the lakes such as property rentals, equipment for sale, etc. (three-lakes-community-bulletin-board@googlegroups.com).

In 2008 our newly designed web-site was unveiled. Please visit it at www.threelakescouncil.org. There you will find a valuable and "user friendly" archive of all Three Lakes Council information including scientific data, our Lake Management Plan, past

Newsletters, survey results, and Board Minutes.

The Council has also presented educational Seminars. The first topic was new septic system technology. Seminars given by our Lake Managers have focused on our Lake Management Plan, lake water quality trends, aquatic plants, and the role of "goop and zoop" (phytoplankton and zooplankton) in the aquatic food web.

In order to encourage maximum attendance at the Council's Annual Meeting, it is held in conjunction with a picnic. This is used as an opportunity to encourage good lake stewardship and communicate regarding current lake issues.

3. To encourage and support the management, preservation and conservation of valuable wetlands, shoreline and other wild portions of the watershed of the Three Lakes.

During the 1990's, land was acquired by the Council to prevent development of a sensitive wetland parcel. Since then the Council has remained active in monitoring lakeshore development and communicating environmental concerns to the Town.

The Council has worked with the Town to reduce the amount of road salt and siltation entering the lakes from the Town's storm water drains.

Three Council members – one from each lake - serve on the Town's Lakes Committee which was formed to develop a town-wide lake preservation plan, and to consider projects to be funded by the \$312,000 Lewisboro received from the DEP EOH (East of Hudson) Fund.

In 2008, in cooperation with the NYS DEC's Trees For Tribes program, the Council planted over 200 trees and shrubs to form a riparian buffer along 700 feet of Waccabuc Creek to prevent erosion. At the same time,

much Japanese barberry (an invasive species) was removed.

4. To address issues and concerns which may impact the enjoyment of the lakes by residents of the community.

A 2006 survey of residents' concerns and interests received an astonishing 50% response rate. Feedback inspired many subsequent initiatives, including geese population management and nuisance aquatic plants (weeds). We continue to address residents' concerns and questions. Keep them coming!

5. To conduct research and study potential issues relevant to these purposes, and to coordinate community action when necessary.

Our body of scientific data and our Lake Management Plan form the basis for action taken both within our three lake community and beyond.

When the invasive plant, Brazilian elodea, was discovered, Three Lakes Council representatives researched the options and worked with residents to agree upon a course of action. The community generously supported the actions, both financially and with letters supporting the permit process. This community action enabled BEEP, the Brazilian Elodea Eradication Project, to move forward.

We contract annually with lake management consultants to conduct ongoing scientific studies.

How are we doing? Where do we go from here?

The 2010 CSLAP report (posted on the website) indicates a stable trend for all three lakes regarding clarity and phosphorus – two indicators of *eutrophication* (lake aging). Normally, aging lakes like ours show a

worsening trend. The fact that our trends have stabilized is a good sign.

The CSLAP report advises that "Outreach and education should continue on water quality, watershed stewardship, and invasive plant identification."

Our Lake Management Consultant (Allied Biological) made similar recommendations. "Continued studies will help to gain a better understanding of the unique and complex ecological lake systems of the three lakes. Despite the proximity of the individual lakes, and their connections by channels, each lake has distinct characteristics, and a unique array of aquatic flora and fauna. Improved information on the status of fish in the three Lakes would help clarify the food web interactions. The fish population may be affecting the zooplankton communities, and therefore the amount of algae in our lakes."

And finally...a word of thanks

The Three Lakes Council is gratified by increasing membership. We hope this trend continues until every eligible homeowner is a member and following Best Homeowner Practices.

We are also grateful for the generous contributions to our dedicated BEEP fund which enabled us to remove Brazilian Elodea and follow up with continued monitoring.

Much of our work is carried out at no cost to the Council by a small group

of dedicated volunteers.

We view this increased participation as an indication of support for our ongoing efforts to protect and preserve our uniquely beautiful lakes.

Jean Lewis

BEEP Update



Our story thus far....

BEEP, or the Brazilian Elodea Eradication Project, began in 2008 when this noxious invasive plant was first found in the North Cove of Lake Waccabuc. In 2009, we hired a vendor to perform suction harvesting on 1.7 acres

of the cove, removing all of the plants growing in that area. Volunteers continued to monitor the site and removed many Brazilian elodea (or *Egeria densa*) plants and fragments in 2009. When the Three Lakes Council newsletter was published in 2010, we were delighted to say that we had not found any plants or fragments of Brazilian elodea in the lake, and we were encouraged about the possibility of eradication.

During the summer of 2010...

By July 9, the bottom of the cove had been examined completely by volunteers, and no Brazilian elodea was found after about 80 hours in the water. These searches were done by snorkeling and scuba diving. Between July 26 and August 12, volunteers completed a second sweep of the North Cove, and once again did not find any of the invasive *Egeria densa* plant.

A Tip of the Hat to the Updated List of Past Presidents

Last year, we celebrated the 40th year of the Three Lakes Council. But we must be getting old – we forgot a few past presidents. So let us say thank you again to all our past leaders (and let us know if we are missing more!) Past Three Lakes Council Presidents include Wayne Van Tassel, Gladys Wolkof, Dick Cirulli, Mary Wilson, Richard Dickens, Gene Tedaldi, Peter Beardsley, and Peter Treyz. Jack Sinnott took on the position in 2004 and continues at the helm. Thanks to all of our volunteers who have contributed so much over the years!

To supplement the volunteer monitoring, we hired Allied Biological to repeat their rake toss survey of the lake. While we had not seen *E. densa* elsewhere on the lake, it was possible that it had originated in another spot, or that fragments had escaped or been carried out on boats. The Waccabuc plant survey was performed on August 26, 2010. No *E. densa* was found in the cove where we had found, harvested, and collected it. However, one rake toss on the north side of the island brought up *E. densa*. This area was outside of the previous known infestation area, beyond where the containment curtain had been set up, and outside the scope of the prior intensive monitoring. The surveyors gave us the information about their finding and the location that evening as they came off the lake.



Figure 1 Returning from BEEP monitoring on the island

On August 27, the day after the plant survey, we moved monitoring and weed pulling activities to the island. While we could swim to the island, it wasn't practical to swim with our gear. In addition, now that we knew there were plants in the vicinity, we didn't want to swim any weeds back, in the event that a fragment might escape from our harvest bags. We ended up taking a canoe with an electric motor from Lake Oscaleta's boat launch. We would load up the canoe with our gear – wet suits, masks, fins, dive tanks, containment buckets and garbage cans, collection nets, guide ropes and anchors. That left room for one person, who motored the canoe to the island. The other borrowed a kayak on Lake Waccabuc and paddled out to the island, where we donned our gear and began searching and harvesting.

The scuba diver found Brazilian elodea on the north side of the island, in about 6 to 8 feet of water, and growing among and cresting above Eurasian water milfoil, *Myriophyllum spicatum*. The diver cleared the area of all plants and fragments, circling outward. The mesh bags, when full, were carried onshore the island and dumped in the perforated garbage can to drain. The area where the *E. densa* was found was too deep to address by snorkeling, since we could not allow a fragment to go unpursued. However, the perimeter of the island and the shallow areas were

all monitored by snorkeling. The diver also circled the island searching in deeper areas. We also extended our search along nearby shores of the lake. During this period, the water temperature dropped, and the amount of time we could spend in the water before we got too cold to be effective was limited. We often hand pulled other plants to give us a better view for searching. At the end of the day of harvesting, the full garbage can was wrestled into the canoe, and then brought back to the launch at the Two Lake Club dock on Lake Oscaleta. The weeds were dumped on an off-lake compost pile.

2011 Activities

Because the aquatic plant growth has been abundant, snorkeling and scuba searches may not be as productive in 2011 as they were shortly after the suction harvesting. While we will perform in water searches around the island, the primary searching this year will be done with rake toss surveys. We have also hired Allied Biological to do another rake toss survey in July 2011, to allow us more warm water time to search any suspect areas that

they identify. You can help by watching for unfamiliar plants

Again, none of this could be done without the generosity of the Three Lakes community. And we rely more than ever on people to contact us with any suspicious plants. Please contact us if you see any unfamiliar plants in the lake. And thank you again for your support.

Jan Andersen

Pick up after your pets

It might not seem like a lot from any one animal, but consider daily deposits from all the dogs and cats every day, and pet waste contributes a significant amount of pollution and bacteria to our lakes. Please – pick up your pet's poop and deposit it in the trash. Your environment and your neighbors will thank you!



Only you can prevent the spread of invasive species

New invasives have been brought into the Three Lakes in the last few years.

Brazilian elodea, curly leaf pondweed, and brittle naiad are all recent arrivals. Curly leaf pondweed was found in Lakes Truesdale and Katonah long before arriving in our lakes, although we don't know how it got to our lakes.

Check and clean boats and trailers before you put a boat in the lake.

Are you using a shared trailer? Do you know where that trailer has been? If the trailer has been in other

lakes, make sure it was cleaned thoroughly. It's up to you to inspect it before it comes into our lakes – and make sure it leaves clean too!

Don't ask marinas to "check out" your motor in other lakes that can have invasives. Motors often hold water and spread invasives from one lake to another.

Only use native plants and animals in water features and small ponds.

Floods or heavy rains can allow species to escape into waterways.

Many invasive species have gotten their start this way, including water chestnut and Asian carp.

Never add any plants or animals to a lake.

Never move bait fish from one lake to another.

Don't put anything into the lake that didn't come from that lake.

Do not dump the content of an aquarium or fish bowl into a lake. Many potent invasives have been spread from aquariums, including Brazilian elodea.

Area waters have been infested with easily transported invasive pests.

Zebra and quagga mussels are in the Hudson River and Fairfield County lakes.

Water chestnut is in the Hudson River and in Mountain Lakes Park

Didymo ("rock snot") is in nearby trout fishing streams

Invasive snails are in Timber Lake in Goldens Bridge

Your decisions and actions make a difference in our lakes.

State of the Lakes: Results of Sampling in 2010

Three Lakes volunteers participated in various forms of lake monitoring in 2010, the most important of which is CSLAP – Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program, a program managed by NYSDEC and the NY Federation of Lake Associations. The results of these tests are provided to our lake association, and the scorecards were sent earlier this year to those on the 3Lakes google group. Our results are incorporated in state and national lake assessments. Although there are similarities among the three connected lakes, they can have quite different characteristics.

Lake Rippowam

Lake Rippowam is the smallest and shallowest of the Three Lakes, and has the greatest proportion of undeveloped shores. Lake Rippowam's trophic state is classified as *mesoeutrophic*, that is, between *mesotrophic* and *eutrophic*. The lake's bottom waters lack oxygen in the summer, but the lake is more weakly stratified than the other lakes, so the deep cold waters occasionally mix with the warmer surface waters, bringing nutrients to the surface waters. This may enable algae growth, and therefore the lake clarity is sometimes less on Rippowam than the other lakes. Plant surveys identified only 6 aquatic plant species on this lake, 1 of which was invasive. This is a less diverse plant population than the other lakes, and the invasive plant, Eurasian watermilfoil, is dominant. The DEC detected blue-green algae in Lake Rippowam in 2010. Based on the fish species, the lake is classified as a warmwater fishery. There is no information on *benthic* (bottom-dwelling) organisms. Perceptions of the water clarity and amount of algae in the water was slightly worse in 2010 than in prior years. Lake Rippowam is classified as a lake suitable for

recreational boating and swimming, although in 2010, the lack of water clarity meant that swimming was somewhat stressed. Aquatic life is stressed by the lack of deepwater oxygen and the presence of invasive species. The range of test results over the past five years are probably within the normal variability of the lake and the overall assessment is that lake conditions are stable.

Lake Oscaleta

Lake Oscaleta is the middle lake, both in the chain of the three lakes, and in size and depth, although it has the largest individual watershed. The trophic state remains mesoeutrophic, and the bottom waters continue to be depleted of oxygen each year. Macrophyte surveys have identified 23 aquatic plant species in this lake, but this includes 4 invasive species. DEC found evidence of blue-green algae in 2010. Based on the species distribution as provided by state fisheries, the lake appears to be primarily a warmwater fishery. Plant diversity is threatened by invasive species. There were no new benthic studies provided in 2010, but past studies were only moderately diverse. Lake Oscaleta is classified as useful for swimming and boating recreation. Over the years of testing, water clarity and weed growth sometimes made swimming and boating less enjoyable. The presence of invasive species and the lack of deepwater oxygen means aquatic life is stressed. Lake Oscaleta's results have been fairly stable results over the last 5 years of testing, with readings that appear to be within the normal variability of the lake.

Lake Waccabuc

Lake Waccabuc's trophic state continues to be classified as mesoeutrophic. The deeper, colder waters of the lake lack oxygen for much of the year. Surveys have identified 25 aquatic plants, including 5 invasive species – the additional one here is

Brazilian elodea, which the Three Lakes Council has been working to control since 2008. The DEC identified blue-green algae in lake samples in 2010. Based on the distribution of fish species, Lake Waccabuc has been classified as a warmwater fishery, although no information was available in 2010. Despite the number of plant species, diversity is threatened by the invasives. Past studies showed only moderate benthic organism diversity. Waccabuc is the only lake of the three that is classified as a drinking water lake, and there are indications that algae or lake chemistry may cause some taste and odor problems, so it is considered impaired for this use. Lake plants and the lack of water clarity can threaten conditions for swimming in the lake. The presence of invasive plants and the lack of deepwater oxygen means that conditions for aquatic life are stressed. The results appear to be within the normal variation of the lake, so the assessment is that lake conditions are stable.

Jan Andersen

3LC Participating in State Research into Harmful Algae Blooms

You may have heard about “red tides” in oceans, harmful algal blooms that keep people from eating mussels and clams harvested where blooms occur. Across the nation, there are now reports of freshwater harmful algal blooms as well. There is no clear answer why these freshwater blooms seem to be on the increase. In New York, the Department of Health (DOH) has begun a study to try to see if harmful algal blooms can be correlated with any major change in physical or chemical lake parameters. The DOH has teamed with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to perform this

study. As part of the CSLAP program run by the DEC, volunteers have collected temperature, clarity, and chemical data on the lakes. The DOH has asked volunteers on selected lakes to collect samples of the water at the same time and location as the CSLAP samples. In addition, they asked for samples of any algae blooms seen on the lakes.

The first thing the DOH is looking for is whether or not there are algae blooms. If there is an algae bloom, they will see if there is a preponderance of blue-green algae, or *cyanobacteria*. They are also trying to determine whether a blue-green algae bloom is harmful. Not all blue-green algae blooms are “harmful algae blooms”, or HABs. These are algae blooms where the blue-green algae produce toxins. Scientists don’t know what conditions make the algae “turn on” the production of toxins.

For the past two years, Three Lakes volunteers have participated in this study, and have collected samples that were sent to the DOH for algal toxin analysis. Unfortunately, the analysis takes time, and we don’t usually get the results of the studies until the year following the samples. As of this writing, we have not received a formal report on the samples taken in 2010. However, last year we received a report on the 2009 samples that were submitted, including samples in the areas of some really green scummy algae blooms. In some of those samples, the DOH found some blue-green algae toxins. These were generally found at low to medium levels. There are no numerical guidance values in New York State, or for the US as a whole. This is partially because cell counts and toxicity can change rapidly.

In addition to the DOH sampling, the DEC is doing a simple test for the presence or absence of blue-green algae in all of the CSLAP samples, because this can be done on all CSLAP lakes, and the results are available on a more timely basis. The DEC hopes to be able to test the amount, not just the presence or absence, of algal toxins for all CSLAP lakes in 2011. We do not yet know if we will continue to be part of the DOH testing in 2011.

What do we do with the knowledge that there have been some samples that contained HABs when there are no standards about levels? The DOH has provided general guidance about when to avoid the water. It’s really common sense. When the water looks like green paint, don’t go in. If you or your pets get covered with algae scum, wipe or wash it off as soon as possible. That’s the simple message. Just avoid contact with any highly colored waters or scums.

Blue-green algae and harmful algal blooms are topics that will receive more publicity and research in the future. The Three Lakes Council, where possible, will participate in research to help better understand this emerging issue.

Jan Andersen

THREE LAKES COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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Update on Local Regulations Affecting our Environment

Phosphorus Regulations – Fertilizer and Dishwasher Detergent Laws.

New York, like many other states, reduced phosphorus in most household products in the 1970's by eliminating phosphorus in hand dish soap and laundry detergents. At that time, automatic dishwasher detergent was not very common, and so it was not regulated. Also, over the past two decades, the results of many lawn tests reveal that a sufficient amount of phosphorus to foster lawn growth occurs naturally or exists because of years of over-fertilization. Phosphorus from dishwasher detergents and lawn fertilizer can significantly degrade New York State's water resources. The East of Hudson watershed, which includes the watershed of our three lakes, is classified as "impaired" because of phosphorus pollution.



Fertilizer Laws – Westchester and New York State

Westchester was the first county in the state to implement restrictions on the use of phosphorus-containing lawn fertilizers and impose restrictions on fertilizer application, including fertilizer which does not contain phosphorus. A New York State law will become effective in 2012 and will enact similar regulations statewide. These restrictions apply to homeowners, home-improvement contractors, and lawn-service companies.

Fertilizer containing phosphorus cannot be applied to lawn areas

unless soil tests confirm the need for additional phosphorus application.

Fertilizer cannot be applied between December 1 and April 1, when the ground is frozen and more likely to produce polluted runoff.

Fertilizer cannot be applied on impervious surfaces such as driveways, parking lots, roadways or sidewalks. If spilled, it should be swept up.

Fertilizer cannot be applied to lawn areas that are within 20 feet of any surface water, unless a natural vegetative buffer at least 10 feet wide separates the lawn area and the surface water.

Contractors must complete an approved turf management course.

NYS Dishwasher Detergent Law
The sale of phosphorus-containing dishwasher detergents for household use is already prohibited (as of fall 2010).

Lewisboro's Septic System Inspection Law

In 2011, the Town of Lewisboro adopted a law that requires residents to pump out their septic systems every five years, with the pumping including a system inspection. This regulation is required by the state and the county because the water that flows into the streams, lakes, wetlands, and reservoirs in the town is polluted with too much phosphorus, and faulty septic systems are one of the sources of phosphorus. This problem is shared with many of the towns in northern Westchester.

Q. What if I don't think my septic system needs to be pumped every 5 years?

A. The law still requires that you have it pumped and inspected. Most septic systems are sized so that they need to be pumped every 2 to 3 years. Controlling the amount of sludge on the bottom of the tank, and fats, oils, and grease on the top, is necessary to have only treated effluent exit into the fields. If people have oversized systems or very low usage, the solids and oils may not accumulate, but it is still important to have the baffles and other components of the septic system inspected. Using a garbage disposal will cut in half the amount of time that the system can go between pumpings.

Q. Is this necessary - do septic systems really fail?

A. Septic systems fail more than we might expect. At nearby Peach Lake, among people who volunteered to have their septic system tested, 28% of the systems failed a dye test and 71% failed a percolation test. In addition, if a missing baffle is found in time, the septic fields can be protected, avoiding expensive repairs.

Q. How will the Town know if my system has been pumped?

A. The septic pumping contractor will create an inspection record and will give one copy to you and one to the county. The county will enter the record into a database, and this will be used to notify people when the five year deadline is approaching. If you don't pump within 5 years, you can be fined.

Q. How will this be implemented – will some homes have to pump in the first year?

A. The five year clock starts in 2011, so no one will be required to pump until 2016. But just because the law doesn't need you to pump, it doesn't mean that your septic system doesn't need pumping. Don't delay too long.

Q. I've heard that there are additives that eliminate the requirement for pumping – can I do that instead?

A. No. There's no scientific evidence that septic system additives do anything for the system, although the additives do chew up your money. In any case, the physical inspection of the system is still required.

Plastic Recycling, CFL Bulb Recycling, and Old Drug Disposal Plastics recycling.

In Westchester, garbage haulers must now accept and recycle plastics labeled 1 through 7. This means you can now recycle many food and shampoo containers that were not accepted in the past. Recycling helps reduce landfill requirements and reduces the demand for oil.



Plastic bag recycling. In NYS, large stores that offer plastic bags to their customers must accept and recycle plastic bags. This was implemented because less than 1% of the 100 billion plastic bags used annually are recycled. Recycling these bags reduces litter, helps to protect wildlife, and lessens the material in landfills. In addition, recycled plastic bags can be reused in plastic lumber, plastic bags and other products, reducing the demand for oil.



CFL Recycling. Compact florescent light bulbs (CFLs) can reduce energy use and



therefore electric bills. Some people have been concerned about how to properly dispose of CFLs to limit contamination from the mercury that they contain. CFL bulbs can be dropped off for recycling at Home Depot or Lowes stores.

Prescription drug drop-off. Do not flush prescription drugs down the toilet! Improper disposal of prescription drugs can harm your septic fields and the environment. You can drop off unwanted drugs, or those beyond their use-by date, in the lobby of the Ridgefield, CT Police Station at 76 East Ridge Road. The drugs can be dropped off anonymously 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Questions? Call 203-431-2798.



Fishing Report

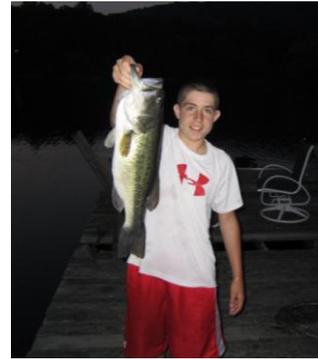


After a reminder that it was again time to write my annual fishing report, I realized I had spent hardly any time on the water. Since then, I've heard more about what's happening out there and I have been out most every day. I spent about two hours on Rippowam, plugging for bass, and caught fifteen, most in the one to three pound range. One larger bass spit out the hook; he may have pushed the four pound mark. Most of the fish were caught on the mountain side with rattle traps.

When I went to Waccabuc and drifted sawbellies off the island for about an hour and a half, I caught four healthy trout from last fall's stocking at twelve feet below the surface using a slip bobber set-up, but no three-to-four year olds were to be had. We had stocked late this season because the water was too warm in the spring.

When I tried the same technique on Oscaleta, I caught three trout from last fall's stocking and again all at twelve feet. The east end of Oscaleta yielded six bass and five nice-sized crappie in two hours, all taken on small plastic baits (jig and grub) over the weed beds. One eighteen-inch pickerel bit off the line too.

Ted Laquidara and his fishing buddy Alex Novak have been plugging bass in Oscaleta. Among their catch were two well-bellied bass that measured twenty-two inches. Both fish were probably pushing seven pounds. As you can see from the picture, these were nice fish and both were released unharmed but a little wiser. The boys have been doing very well plugging bass so far this year.



If you know the length of your bass and want to calculate its weight, the basic formula for calculating the weight of a large-mouth bass or smallmouth bass is: *length x length x length divided by 1600* – or you can use the following for a guide:

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

If you are going to keep some fish for table fare, I would encourage you to keep the fourteen to eighteen-inch fish and release those twenty inches or larger. Big fish are too precious to be caught only once---each one is the source of fond memories and many great stories.

Joe Tansey



Treasurer's Report

Thank you to all who contributed to the Three Lakes Council. In 2010 we received contributions of \$34,000 from 212 donors. These contributions funded our ongoing lake management, water testing, sampling of algae and zooplankton, fish stocking, website, insurance and taxes, May seminar, newsletter, and annual meeting and picnic. At the end of 2010, we are pleased to report that we had \$59,000 in our general fund account, which provides us with some flexibility in responding to lake issues. In 2011, we have budgeted to continue our lake stewardship activities at about the same level of expenditures that we had in 2010. Our goal is to raise the needed funds from this year's membership dues and contributions.

In 2010, we also continued expenditures on our Brazilian elodea eradication program, BEEP. We hired ABI to repeat their 2008 plant survey of Lake Waccabuc as one component of the BEEP monitoring process. To supplement our volunteer in-lake monitoring, we also hired a professional scuba diver for several days to monitor for Brazilian elodea in the north cove. These costs were charged against the separate BEEP funds that were raised in 2009. We are grateful for the generous donations that allow us to continue to take actions against this invasive plant. At the end of 2010, we had \$37,000 in our BEEP account. In 2011, we will continue our BEEP

activities. ABI will do a more intense plant survey of Lake Waccabuc, and will also provide us with a report on their 2010 survey. We also have budgeted funds for a scuba diver to assist if necessary, and we are considering a supplemental plant survey in Lake Oscaleta. We are grateful for the donations which allow us to continue to work on BEEP without having to reduce our spending on our stewardship actions around the Three Lakes.

Thank you for all your financial support, which makes our work to maintain the beautiful lake environment possible.

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

Critter Update

Look who's in the neighborhood! This year we've had a number of unusual critter sightings.

- Beaver stopped by in Oscaleta over the winter, attempted to build a dam at the Rippowam culvert, and succeeded in building a dam in the culvert between Oscaleta and Waccabuc.

THREE LAKES COUNCIL 2011

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| Vice President | Jan Andersen | fablesx2@optonline.net |
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| Fishing: | Joe Tansey | joetansey@msn.com |
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| Membership: | Regina Anderson | laurelregina@gmail.com |
| | John Lemke | blockisland44@ATT.net |
| Newsletter: | Stephanie Harding | scharding@optonline.net |
| | Judy Hausman | hauswriter@gmail.com |
| Picnic / Annual Meeting: | Barbara Posner | btposner@aol.com |
| | Joe Tansey | joetansey@msn.com |

- Bears visited bird feeders and compost piles. Keep your bird feeders and garbage indoors at night to keep bears from becoming regular and dangerous visitors.

- Fisher have been heard calling at night around our lakes.

- Bald eagles, loons, mergansers, and osprey were seasonal visitors.

And of course we've gotten used to seeing coyote, deer, fox, turtles, and owls. Keep an eye out and let us know what you see!

Thank you to all the 2010 Three Lakes Council Members

Stephen & Betty Ackilli
Ellen Adrian
Harry & Susanne Ainsworth
Alfred & Kathleen Albano
Martin & Joan Alger III
Mimi & Barry Alperin
Janet Andersen
Kevin & Christen Andros
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Waccabuc Country Club
Daniel & Debbie Welsh
Philip & Susan Wick
Robert & Marie Williams
Victor & Sherri Wilson
Stuart & Renee Purse Zweibel
Anonymous

*Please join in 2011.
Send your membership
contribution of \$55 to :*

Three Lakes Council
P.O. Box 241
South Salem, NY 10590

THREE LAKES COUNCIL
ANNUAL PICNIC

Saturday, August 6, 2011, 6PM to 9PM

Location: Waccabuc Country Club, Beach Facility
In case of rain, the picnic will be held at the Waccabuc Country Club Carriage House.

Menu: filet mignon, chicken, hamburgers, hot dogs, salads, beer, wine, soda and dessert.

Admission: Free for families who have paid their \$55 yearly dues. Guests and non-members are welcome at \$25 per person. The fee for each guest under age 18 is \$10.

Special Appearance by that sensational singing group, The Earth Tones!

Your reservations are critical to our planning process. If you are attending, please fill out the response form and mail it to: **Three Lakes Council, P.O. Box 241, South Salem, NY 10590**

RESPONSE FORM

Name _____
Local address _____
Mailing address if different _____
e-mail address _____
Phone number _____

I will bring either Salad for Eight _____, or Dessert for Eight _____

of members attending picnic _____

\$55 Family Membership enclosed (if not already a member this year) _____

of adult guests _____ @ \$25 each _____

of guests under 18 years _____ @ \$10 each _____

WACCARBUC - OSCALFTA - RIPPOWAM
P.O. BOX 241
SOUTH SALEM, NY 10590



Three Lakes Council

Join and be an important part of the Three Lakes Community. Unite for an effective environmental voice. Your contributions fund our research, fish stocking, and stewardship efforts.
Three Lakes Council is a 501(c)(3) organization (EIN: 13-2873769)

Your Name & Spouse Name: _____

Phone: ____ - ____ - _____ Email address: _____

Local Address: _____ Mailing Address (if different): _____

_____/____/____
(City) (State) (Zip)

_____/____/____
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Make checks payable to
Three Lakes Council & mail to:
**Three Lakes Council, PO Box 241,
South Salem, NY 10590**
Thank you for your support!

Membership: \$ 55.00
Additional contribution: \$ _____
Total: \$ _____

Boat stickers can be requested with the form on www.threelakescouncil.org
or by email to ThreeLakesCouncil@gmail.com

Visit our website at www.threelakescouncil.org