



# Newsletter 2013

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## President's Letter

Winds ripple the waters, birds sing, dragon-flies dart. Under the lake surface, fish glide through forests of water plants, and insects and clams find shelter and nourishment at the lake's bottom. Scientists and philosophers debate why we strive to conserve natural places and the critters that inhabit them. Some argue that we find instrumental value in nature – that is, that we preserve these resources because we may want to make use of these resources. Our use might be enjoying the challenge of fishing, a cooling swim, boating, identifying wildflowers, breathing the oxygen that plants create, or appreciating the aesthetics of the lakes. Others argue that the plants and animals in the lakes have an intrinsic right to their space on earth, and that as humans use the resources, we must take care not to eliminate these habitats by pollution or destruction.

Three Lake Council stewardship aims to maintain, and, if possible, improve the environmental condition of these lakes. Our motivation, whether intrinsic or instrumental, may not matter. What does matter is that we take actions that protect our lakes, and that our actions are based on scientific principles and supported by data.

As I take over the presidency of the Three Lakes Council from Jack Sinnott, he challenged me to articulate my vision of the Three

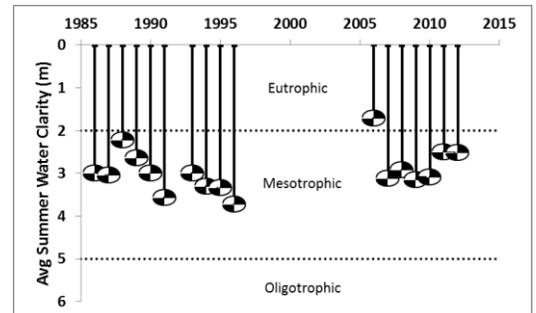
Lakes Council. Let me reassure all the members that I don't anticipate a change in direction. The mission of the Three Lakes Council remains to preserve these lakes through education, scientific study, and advocacy. Our organization has thrived under Jack, and we owe him both tribute and thanks. Under Jack, we emphasized our use of lake managers and scientific data, and that will continue. For each project that I've led for the Three Lakes, from BEEP (the Brazilian Elodea Eradication Program) to CSLAP (Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program) to "goop and zoop" assessments, scientific data and knowledgeable experts have guided our path. If anything, I hope to better articulate the beauty of our lakes through science, to reinforce the sense of wonder and delight in the environment, and create an even stronger sense of the importance of our stewardship actions.

This newsletter contains scientific assessments of water quality and highlights some important organisms in our lakes. We review the history of the Waccabuc Country Club, and acknowledge individuals who were instrumental at the start of the Three Lakes Council. We hope these stories will inspire you to take actions around our lakes. We hope you'll join us at our Picnic and Annual Meeting at the Waccabuc Country Club on July 27. See you there and around the lakes!

*Jan Andersen, President  
Three Lakes Council*

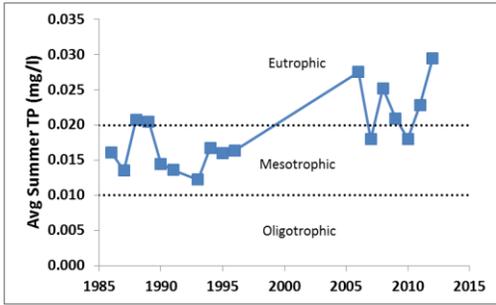
## Water Quality Highlight: Waccabuc Long Term Trends

The Three Lakes Council gets much of our water quality data through our participation in the NYS CSLAP program. We started sampling all three lakes as part of the CSLAP program in 2006. We have a longer term data base on Lake Waccabuc, thanks to Peter Beardsley, who sampled Lake Waccabuc from 1986 to 1996. Some Waccabuc data results are summarized in the charts that follow.



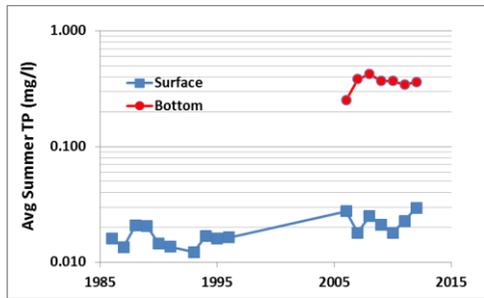
*Water Clarity. In this graph, deeper is better*

Our water clarity may have decreased slightly over time, but not as much as expected compared to our increase in phosphorus levels and algae blooms. Phosphorus is the nutrient that allows plants and algae to grow in our lakes. The surface waters have shown an upward trend. We must continue to work to reduce phosphorus inputs to our lakes.



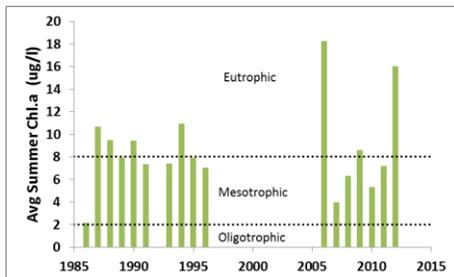
Phosphorus levels near the surface: higher is worse

The deep water phosphorus is highly elevated. While this may not feed plants and algae directly, this deep water phosphorus is likely to contribute to the surface phosphorus levels.



Shallow and deep water phosphorus: higher is worse

Some years we've had high levels of chlorophyll a – that is, elevated levels of algae that form algal blooms. Although this doesn't occur every year, we've had higher levels of algae in the past six years than we had in the first 11 years of sampling, which gives us more motivation to control nutrient and sediment inputs.



Chlorophyll levels. Higher indicates more algae

Jan Andersen

## Long Pond Preserve

Long Pond Preserve, at the west end of Lake Waccabuc, has 37 protected acres for hiking and birding. A wet meadow lies between Mead Street and Lake Waccabuc. Along Tarry-a-bit Road the preserve contains second growth forest and some intermittent streams. Waccabuc Creek runs from Waccabuc County Club through Long Pond Preserve to the lake. We have planted trees along Waccabuc Creek to help stabilize the stream banks. You may have seen the white tree tubes in the field that protect these small trees from deer browse and buck rub. Long Pond Preserve became a The Nature Conservancy property in 1981. Last year we prepared for the transfer of the the preserve to Westchester Land Trust, but as of this year the property will remain with The Nature Conservancy. The Three Lakes Council has agreed with the Nature Conservancy that we will continue its stewardship activities on the preserve.

Three Lakes Council is especially concerned about invasive species arriving at the lake by visitors carrying gear across Long Pond Preserve and accessing Lake Waccabuc. Invasive plants, animals, algae, and viruses are in nearby lakes and rivers. Aquatic invasive species hitchhike from one lake to another on boats, fishing gear, bait buckets, floats, water toys, coolers and more. We are also concerned about litter and unsafe, unsanitary conditions that arise from large groups carousing on the sand bar.

Visitors are **welcome** to Long Pond Preserve to:

- Walk the trails

- Observe nature and wildlife
- Participate in scientific research

The following activities are **restricted** on Long Pond Preserve:

- No lake access is allowed, including swimming, fishing, paddleboarding, or boating
- No picnicking, alcoholic consumption, or littering
- No boat storage or boat launching
- No dogs or other pets

A team of stewards led by John Lemke will remind preserve visitors of the rules and of the importance of keeping invasive species out of our lakes. Please contact John Lemke if you are interested in helping with this activity. And of course if you see dangerous or destructive behavior on the property, please call the town police.

Jan Andersen

## New Plant Found in Lake Waccabuc

A new plant has been found in Lake Waccabuc – but relax, it's a good one this time! Water-thread pondweed was found during an aquatic plant



survey undertaken to look for the invasive *Brazilian elodea* and to document the species of plants that are in our lakes. In July 2012, we found a

plant that is not only new to our three lakes, this is the first time it has been documented in Westchester County. Water-thread pondweed, or *Potamogeton diversifolius*, is a rare

plant. New York and Massachusetts classify it as endangered, and Connecticut lists it as a plant of special concern. New York has given *Potamogeton diversifolius* a state rank of S1, which means either no more than five locations of this plant exist, or very few remaining individual plants are found, or it is otherwise very vulnerable to extirpation from New York.

The plant has thin leaves underwater, and during the season develops additional small leaves that float on top of the water. The submerged leaves are alternate with three veins. The floating leaves are usually less than 2" in length, and have 7 to 11 distinct veins. Flowers can grow in spikes on short stalks or peduncles that rise just above the water surface. The discovery of this rare plant gives us one more reason to know that our lakes are a special place, and worthy of care and protection! In addition, greater native plant diversity generally correlates with more ecosystem resilience to deal with threats and perturbations.

*Jan Andersen*

## Your septic system is your home's digestive system!

Proper care of your septic systems can extend its life and protect your health and the health of the lakes. Here are some tips for care and maintenance of your septic system. Think of the septic system as your home's digestive system. Don't overload it or kill off the good bacteria. Avoid "cloggers" and "killers". Don't put things in your septic system that don't belong there.

- Do not use garbage disposals. The increased solids will require

you to pump the tank twice as often.

- Do not put cloggers like grease down the drain. Wipe off excessive amounts of latex paint from pans and brushes before cleaning in utility sinks. Avoid oil paint disposal in drains.
- Do not put toxic household chemicals that may kill the biological activity down the drain.
- Commercial additives are not necessary and may be harmful.
- Don't use your system as a trash can. Waste products such as dental floss, feminine hygiene products, and cigarette butts can clog septic systems.
- Flushing unwanted medications can destroy the biological treatment in the system, and might contaminate surface waters and groundwater. Take medications to disposal sites at police stations.

Maintain your system by having your septic tank cleaned regularly. It's the best and cheapest way to keep your septic system in good working order.

- Know where your septic system is located and don't pave over it or plant trees on the fields. An important part of the system is treatment of the waste by aerated soil.
- Westchester County now requires pumping every five years. That's a minimum: most tanks require pumping every two to three years. Keep records so you know when it was pumped.
- Ask if the baffles that limit solids from flowing into the fields are in place, and if not, have the pumper repair them.

- Try to spread out heavy flows into the septic system. A lot of water arriving at once will stir up the solids, and the suspended solids can flow into the fields and contribute to clogging. Unsaturated soil is a necessary component of the septic treatment.
- Fix leaking fixtures. A pinhole-sized leak can flood your septic system.
- Don't drain hot tubs, footing drains, sump pumps, or water softener backwash into the septic system.
- Stagger laundry loads over several days. If possible, defer laundry during heavy storms when septic fields may be saturated.
- Install low-flow fixtures and use water saving appliances.
- Divert surface flows away from the septic system fields.

Do septic systems treat phosphorus? Not directly. The phosphorus in septic effluent will bind with the soil. Soil particles reach capacity limits and phosphorus travels about 3 feet further each year. After a number of years, it's easy to see that the phosphorus plume can reach groundwater or lakes, where it can contribute to plant and algae growth. For more information about septic systems, see the Three Lakes Council's website.

*Jan Andersen*



*The ovens – Lake Waccabuc – Linda Broudy*

## Thanks, Jack!

Jack Sinnott stepped down as the Three Lakes Council president in the fall of 2012 after leading the organization for seven eventful and successful years. We owe him thanks not only for his leadership during that period, but for his lasting and sustainable changes to the Three Lakes Council, which will reach into the future. Jack brought energy, discipline, and results to the organization. His many accomplishments included improvements in operational efficiencies, such as lowering the Three Lakes Council property taxes and insurance costs, and establishing effective committees of volunteers. In a vote of confidence in the organization, Three Lakes Council membership grew from about 100 to over 200 during his presidency. A user survey in 2006 was the impetus for new initiatives in communication, including a revised website, google groups, and postcards. Survey complaints about geese also drove the start of the goose egg oiling project, which Jack adopted with glee. He also was a leader of the Trees 4 Tribes project to stabilize the stream bank of the major Waccabuc tributary.

Significant Lake Management activities occurred under Jack's leadership. The aerators, designed to increase the oxygen levels in the lake, were investigated and shown to be ineffective, and were turned off. That science-based decision freed up funds that had been paying sizable aerator electric bills for use in other stewardship activities. The Three Lakes became participants in the NYS volunteer lake assessment program, CSLAP, to give current year and trend data on our water quality. The Three Lakes Council hired a new lake manager, Allied Biological (ABI), to implement many of the activities recommended in the Cedar Eden Reports. ABI mapped aquatic plants

to quantify plant diversity and density and identify any invasive plants, and studied phytoplankton and zooplankton ("goop and zoop") to improve our understanding of the food web of our lakes.

The first ABI aquatic plant survey resulted in discovery of Brazilian elodea (*Egeria densa*) in 2008. Jack oversaw the rapid response BEEP efforts with the goal of eradicating this aggressive invasive plant. We are pleased to report that the last time we found the invasive Brazilian elodea was in 2010, although monitoring is continuing. Without Jack's leadership and personal fundraising, this project could not have happened. Success at eradication of an invasive plant is very rare, and this is a noteworthy achievement.

Most recently, Jack responded to the arrival of beaver on our shores by appointing a beaver committee and setting up clear and measurable criteria for action.

We are grateful that Jack has agreed to continue his support of the Three Lakes Council as a director at large, where his insights will continue to serve us well, and as the chair of the very important membership committee, where we expect him to help us hit new heights of participation. Thanks, Jack!

*Jan Andersen*

## Remembering Gladys Wolkof

Gladys Wolkof, a founder of the Three Lakes Council and a longtime resident of Waterview Court, died, surrounded by friends and her dog Lacy, at the age of 99 on February 12, 2013.

Gladys started her regular visits to the Three Lakes Community in the late nineteen forties, and while she

maintained an apartment in Manhattan, she was always most comfortable at home on Lake Waccabuc, where she could walk her dogs, tend to her peonies, and observe the comings and goings on the lake. Working with Wayne VanTassell, Gladys recognized the importance of lake preservation, and brought together members of the various lake associations, creating a group that has had a continuing and significant role in community environmental education, fisheries management, and water quality maintenance. Following Wayne Van Tassell, she was the second president of the Three Lakes Council. Those who worked with her were convinced that at some point, she had been in charge of all aspects of the work of the Three Lakes Council. She had files full of carbon copies of meeting minutes and correspondence, recruited new members and officers, scheduled meetings, paid the bills, produced the newsletters, monitored the functioning and maintenance of the aerators, and helped organize the annual picnic.

Those who visited Gladys prior to her death were impressed with her interest in her community, and her continued interest in life on the Lake Waccabuc. She was quick with a smile, always inquired about friends, tracked the movement of the swans on a daily basis, and still looked forward to the days she could sit on

her porch, or, on warm days, on her lakeside terrace, and watch nature unfold before her.

A woman of many accomplishments and a role model for all of us who are interested in the lakes, this Grand Lady of the

Lakes will be missed by all of us in the Three Lakes Community.

*Peter Beardsley*



Visit our website at [www.threelakescouncil.org](http://www.threelakescouncil.org)

## Remembering Past President Dick Cirulli

Dick Cirulli served as president of the Three Lakes Council during the Council's early years. He was also one of the early presidents of Lake Waccabuc's South Shore Association. Sadly, he passed away on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

During Dick's presidency he and his wife, Audrey, hosted all Three Lakes Council Board meetings at



their home on the South Shore of Lake Waccabuc. Annual Meetings were held at John Jay High School. They resembled "Town Hall meetings" and were well attended. Dick initiated the Council's lake water testing activities, which have continued to expand in scope as the science of limnology has grown. While he was President, Union Carbide approached the Three Lakes Council asking if Lake Waccabuc could be used as a testing site for a lake aerator they had developed. In 1973 the aerators were installed and served to improve the lake's water quality for over 3 decades – until 2005 when tests revealed that they were no longer effective and were turned off.

Dick's favorite project was the idea of a "council picnic" at the Waccabuc Country Club Beach, held one Saturday evening in July. Audrey remembers it well because she pre-cooked 585 pieces of chicken in the early afternoon! She says the first

helpers at the picnic were the Tedaldis and the Lounsburys.

We remember and are grateful for Dick's contributions to the Three Lakes Council, and we continue to follow the paths he blazed.

*Jean Lewis*

## Waccabuc Country Club Celebrates 100 years

The Waccabuc Country Club celebrated 100 years of existence in 2012. The history of the club is intertwined with the history of our three lakes region. It was the club's founders, the Mead family, that first settled the area when Enoch Mead and his new bride, Jemina Mead, built a log cabin in 1776 on the "east side of the highway" near Lake Waccabuc. The land had been purchased by his father from Stephanus Van Cortlandt. The "highway" was the old New York and Vermont Post Road, over which stagecoaches passed frequently and is now Mead Street. An original milestone in front of the Club is a relic from that era. Early on, Martin Mead and his wife Octavia built and operated Waccabuc House, a resort hotel on the shore of Lake Waccabuc until it burned in the late 1890's. Foundation remnants from the old ice house can still be found on the west end of the lake.



*The old WCC boathouse*

After purchasing a 445 acre estate called Indian Spring, the Meads sought to use the land and the idea of a country club came up. They formed the Waccabuc Inn Company and began renting houses to summer visitors in 1912. A nine-hole golf course, two grass tennis courts and a

putting green were built and the club was born. In 1926 the first aquatic committee was formed, but for years there was only a dirt path down to a boathouse at the edge of Waccabuc's nine-acre waterfront property. The first major renovation happened in 1966 and in 1970 the deck was created to provide an inviting and scenic place to gather at the waterfront. The family-oriented nature of Waccabuc Country Club is readily apparent in the summer time as the waterfront is transformed into a place for day-campers, kayakers, a club swim team known as "The Lakers" and informal barbecue dinners for members and their guests on Friday and Sunday evenings called "Fire and Ice".

Last September, the club held a Centennial Gala at the clubhouse, which celebrated its past, but also looked to the future. The club is proud to be a member and active participant in

the Three Lakes Council, helping protect the three lakes and their environs so their beauty can be cherished and sustained for generations to come.

*Doug Housman*

## Pick up after your pets



It might not seem like a lot from any one animal, but

consider 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!

## Snapping Turtles

Continuing our spotlight on some critters in our lakes, it is time to meet the snapping turtle. The common snapping turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*) was adopted as the State reptile of New York in 2006. The snapping turtle has a relatively small shell that does not cover its limbs or tail (snapping turtles cannot retract their heads under the shell). Color varies from light green and brown shades to very dark green and brown. Only the snapping turtle and the painted turtle are common across New York. Snappers are the largest New York freshwater turtle, and can reach a shell length of 19 inches and weight of 70 pounds.

Snapping turtles are the stuff of legends. Although snapping turtles seem intimidating because of their fierce, menacing appearance, the large snappers are docile in lakes, where they help provide a proper balance to our ecosystems. Largely nocturnal, the snapping turtle is omnivorous. About a third of its diet consists of plants, although snapping turtles are also successful predators, lying in wait to ambush prey. Snapping turtles have a hooked beak useful in capturing its prey (small aquatic invertebrates, crayfish, snails, fish, frogs, toads, snakes, bird eggs, small mammals, carrion, and water birds). They mostly eat dead plant and animal matter, and only rarely eat unsuspecting ducklings and water birds. Their impact on fishermen is often greatly exaggerated. Snapping



turtles tend to avoid humans and are not a threat to swimmers.

Snapping turtles can live up to 50 years. They live in lakes, ponds, marshes and slow-moving streams (any permanent body of fresh water is a potential home). Female

snapping turtles will journey up to 10 miles to reach their traditional nesting area. Many turtle hatchlings fall prey to raccoons, skunks,

snakes, bullfrogs, herons, and other large birds. Most people only see them when the females leave the water in early summer to locate nesting sites where they lay between 20 and 80 ping pong ball-shaped eggs. Unfortunately, many of the pregnant females get hit by cars when crossing roads to reach their nesting sites. Most species of turtles worldwide are in a state of decline due to overharvesting and habitat loss. New York State Law protects all NY native species of turtles, including the Common Snapping Turtle, from being taken from the wild, sold, or possessed.

*Ron Tetelman has been visited by the same snapping turtle with a brass "number 9" tag, on her shell, visiting his property on Oscaleta Road to lay eggs for the past 15 years.*

## Help prevent invasive species

Most invasive species are brought to our lakes by that most unpredictable of species – humans. Please don't

allow invasive species to get a free ride into our lakes.

- Don't take boats, trailers, and motors from one body of water to another – invasives can hitchhike!
- Don't take fishing gear, bait buckets, or other water toys from one lake to another without cleaning and drying them.
- Don't release aquarium plants, fish, and snails into waters that they can then infect. Don't dump bait buckets.
- Plant only native species in water features or koi ponds. Heavy rain and wind can carry plants and animals out of their containments. Many pests travel in the roots of non-native plants.
- Express concern about invasive species to elected officials or advocacy groups.

Invasive species are spread by people. Please help protect our lakes by ensuring any gear is clean and dry before bringing it into the three lakes.

## Goose Population Stabilization



We continued in our seventh year of goose egg oiling, and oiled 39 eggs in 11 nests. We aim to slow the explosive, unnatural growth

in geese population on our lakes. We hope you will notice the difference in fewer goose droppings and improved water clarity. Please don't feed the geese, it's not healthy for them or for the lakes, and will encourage them to stay. We like to see them fly by, not take up residence!

## Medication drop-off

Do not flush unwanted drugs down the toilet! Improper disposal of prescription drugs, over the counter drugs, or pet medications can harm your septic fields and can get into the environment. You can drop off unwanted drugs, or those beyond their use-by date, at several local police stations. The Lewisboro Police office in Cross River will accept unwanted drugs when the station is open. Disposal boxes at the Ridgefield, CT Police Station at 76 East Ridge Road, and at the Bedford Police Station at 307 Bedford Road are both open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



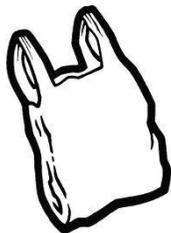
## Plastics recycling

In Westchester, all garbage haulers must now accept and recycle plastics labeled 1 through 7. 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. Less than 1% of the 100 billion plastic bags used annually are recycled. Recycling these bags reduces litter, helps to protect



### THREE LAKES COUNCIL 2013

President	Jan Andersen
Vice President	Peter Gross
Treasurer	John Lemke
Secretary	Jean Lewis
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Lake Oscaleta Association	Joe Tansey Kevin Karl (alternate)
Lake Waccabuc Association	Doug Housman John Lemke (alternate)
Lakeside Association	Beth Llanos Paul Llanos
Perch Bay Association	David Eggers
South Shore Association	Alayne Vlachos Jane Peter (alternate)
Two Lake Club	Peter Gross Jan Andersen (alternate)
Waccabuc Country Club	Peter Bysshe Tizzie Mantione (alternate)
Waccabuc Landowners Council	Seth Christian John Scott (alternate)
At Large	Jack Sinnott
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Beaver:	Peter Gross
BEEP:	Jan Andersen
Boat Stickers:	Alayne Vlachos
Fishing:	Joe Tansey
Lake Preservation Committee:	Paul Lewis
Membership:	Jack Sinnott
Newsletter:	Stephanie Harding
Nominating:	Beth Llanos
Picnic / Annual Meeting:	Doug Housman

Contact any of the above through [ThreeLakesCouncil@gmail.com](mailto:ThreeLakesCouncil@gmail.com)

wildlife, and lessens the material in landfills. In addition, recycled plastic bags can be reused in plastic lumber, plastic bags and other products, therefore lowering the demand for oil. Bag recycle containers can be found locally at DeCicco's.

## Electronics Recycling

The Town of Lewisboro has opened an e-waste Recycling Center, open on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. The center is located behind the Town House, 11 Main Street, South Salem.



Almost all electronic devices are accepted. All hard drives are either sanitized or destroyed. Find more information at [www.lewisborogov.com](http://www.lewisborogov.com)

## Google Groups for Communication

Google groups allow us to provide news and information in a timely fashion. To join the Google group for Three Lakes Council and get lake stewardship information, contact [ThreeLakesCouncil@gmail.com](mailto:ThreeLakesCouncil@gmail.com).

A separate group serves as a community bulletin board for discussion of issues in the community ranging from yard sales to heating oil prices. Join this group by contacting Tara Owen at [tara@taocommunications.com](mailto:tara@taocommunications.com)

The anglers of the Three Lakes also have a Google group. To join this "fish net", contact Joe Tansey at [JoeTansey@msn.com](mailto:JoeTansey@msn.com)

## Keep wild animals wild!

### Don't feed wild animals.

Waterfowl and wild animals should not be fed.

People food generally isn't good for animals. In particular, feeding bread to swans and geese can cause a deformity called "angel wing". Wild animals who are fed may lose their natural fear of people, and they can then be harmed easily. Feedings may make animals aggressive around people or spread diseases between animals, such as chronic wasting disease in deer and Aspergillosis in waterfowl. Young animals who get handouts may not develop foraging skills and may be unable to thrive on their own.

If you want to help wild animals, plant native habitat or their natural food sources. And, as the exception that proves the rule, most experts agree that feeding wild birds in winter is fine.



## Fishing Report

So far this season I'm hearing mixed reports about the fishing in general. Bass fishing continues to be great, however the big fish (5-7 pounds) have not been as plentiful as in the past two to three years. I also had a report that the estimated ratio of small bass (12-14 inches) are almost 20 to 1 to bass in the 2-3 pound class in lake Rippowam but not Oscaleta or Waccabuc. Perhaps some culling might be in order, if that is indeed the case. Pickerel fishing is as good as it has ever been but producing very few fish over 24 inches which might be due to the lack of sunfish and small perch. Rock bass are making a strong comeback in Oscaleta over the past two years. Trout on the other hand seem to be scarce so far. A number of people have told me that they have had trouble finding trout especially in Waccabuc. Some trout have been taken in Oscaleta but again not the numbers we have seen in the past. Last summer was indeed a warm summer and I hope we did not lose them due to high water temps with low dissolved oxygen levels. It has happened in the past on occasion.

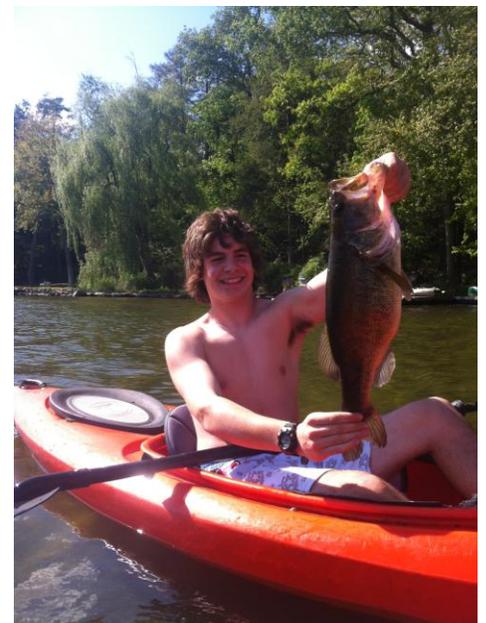
Ron Tetelman caught a 17 inch crappie in Waccabuc while returning from fishing for trout. Nick Stelluti caught a bass that I guess would have been well over 5 pounds while fishing with Teddy Laguidara on Lake Oscaleta.

Currently the fish committee is looking into stocking crayfish in all three lakes to augment the native population but more study is needed. The current plan is to stock trout again this year in both Waccabuc and Oscaleta sometime in the month of June. No date has been set yet but when we do a notice will go asking if anyone wishes to help out - they are more than welcome. Last year we had about 10 helpers getting the fish from the truck into the lakes.

If anyone who is not currently on the fishing committee would like to take part, please let me know and I'll add you to our mail list. If you're interested in giving fishing a try and/or you have a child that might be interested, please give me a call.

Thanks and get out fishing.

*Joe Tansey*  
763-3456



### THREE LAKES COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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# Three Lakes Council

## 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"/> Waccabuc Country Club       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Waccabuc Assoc. | <input type="checkbox"/> Two Lakes Club     | <input type="checkbox"/> Waccabuc Landowners Council |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lakeside Assoc.      | <input type="checkbox"/> Perch Bay Assoc.   | <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 Three Lakes Council or to [ThreeLakesCouncil@gmail.com](mailto:ThreeLakesCouncil@gmail.com)  
P.O. Box 241  
South Salem, NY 10590

# 50 WAYS TO LOVE YOUR LAKE!

## **Planting & Landscaping**

1. **Practice natural yard care.** Use the right plants for your site. Make a compost pile and use compost to build healthy soil.
2. **Go native.** Native plants are adapted to our climate and thrive with little maintenance, fertilizer and water.
3. **Plant a buffer** between your lawn and your lake. It will help decrease run-off from your property, and geese will be less likely to visit!
4. **Landscape** to slow rainwater runoff between your house and the lake, making it easier for water to soak into the ground. Place small swales where water naturally drains off your property, create twists in your paths or driveways, or plant a rain garden using water tolerant plants that absorb rainfall.
5. **Plant trees and shrubs** on your property in places that allow them to frame your view of the water, so that they can grow to mature size.
6. **Plant extra shoreline plants** for critters. Beavers, otters and muskrats find willows and dogwoods tasty treats and good for building.
7. **Garden to benefit nature.** Create a wildlife sanctuary in your backyard. Place native emergent plants on part of your beach. Avoid vertical walls and curbs which are barriers to turtles and salamanders.
8. **Reduce or eliminate pesticides and herbicides.** Gardening chemicals end up in the lake in measurable amounts. Pesticides also kill good bugs; can poison birds and fish; and must be used sparingly around children and pets.
9. **Use organic, slow-release fertilizers** on your lawn– or none at all! Conventional fertilizers and weed-and-feed type products are released all at once and end up mostly in the lake. If you must fertilize, use phosphorus-free or slow-release natural fertilizers.
10. **Shrink your lawn.** Less lawn = less maintenance, mowing, watering, fertilizing, money and more rain soaking

into the ground instead of running off into the lake. Geese love large lawns. Reduce your lawn, reduce your fowl visitors.

11. **Replace concrete and asphalt** with permeable alternatives. Rather than letting water flow off your driveway, walkways and outdoor living spaces, check out alternatives that let rain soak in like “grasscrete,” gravel, pavers, or other surfaces.
12. **Leave large trees and shrubs** on your property to create wildlife habitat and shade, especially over the water.
13. **Keep your shoreline natural.** Bulkheads and artificially sandy beaches can destroy critical habitat for fish, cause erosion and add toxins to the lake.

## **Weeds & Troubleshooting**

14. **Learn to identify** the invasive weeds in your lake. Check for noxious weeds, such as Eurasian milfoil, Brazilian elodea, hydrilla, curlyleaf pondweed, purple loosestrife and yellow flag iris. If you see a new unusual plant in the three lakes, contact [threelakescouncil@gmail.com](mailto:threelakescouncil@gmail.com)
15. **Hand pull lake weeds** that are at nuisance densities, and collect plant fragments so they don't spread and resprout.
16. **Check boat trailers for weeds** and mud that might be carrying invasives. Boats can carry zebra mussels and aquatic weed fragments from lake to lake, creating infestations. Wash boats and trailers thoroughly between use at different lakes.
17. **Don't dump aquarium contents,** fish or amphibious pets in the lake. These plants and animals can create serious negative impacts to lake ecology.

## **Wildlife & Habitat**

18. **Discourage geese.** Goose poop, in excess, can negatively affect water quality. Reduce the wide open spaces geese love by replacing grass with taller plants.
19. **Leave fallen trees** in the lake and on the shoreline where possible. Woody

- brush provides food and shelter for native fish, amphibians and birds.
20. **Don't feed the ducks,** geese, or swans. Bread isn't good for waterfowl. When they gather in large flocks near a consistent food source they can transmit diseases to each other and to humans.
  21. **Leave beaver lodges alone.** Monitor lake levels to see if beavers are altering your lake level.
  22. **Put up wood duck boxes.** They can substitute for the nests ducks make in large trees. Where safe, leave dead trees for use by nesting birds.
  23. **Let the birds have some fish.** Enjoy the seasonal visits from loons and mergansers. Cormorants are a sign that plenty of bait fish are living in your lake.
  24. **Put up bat boxes.** Bats eat pounds of insects every night – that's serious relief from mosquitoes!
  25. **Love the fact that your lake is not a bathtub** or swimming pool. Abundant and varied native plants are fun to explore and good for the wildlife that share this ecosystem with you.

## **Community Involvement**

26. **Join your lake association** and the Three Lakes Council. Research local and statewide organizations. Visit other lake groups to see what they do.
27. **Attend public meetings.** Stay informed about what's happening in your area. Ask questions about how projects and development will impact you and the lake.
28. **Talk to your neighbors.** Caring and sharing about your lake is something you probably have in common. Take a new neighbor on a lake tour.
29. **Create a “Welcome Packet”** for new neighbors. Many newcomers to lakeside living would welcome information about how to protect water quality and the environment.
30. **Organize a public meeting.** Invite experts to your lake group meetings to discuss topics of interest. You'll learn what is happening in your watershed and how it affects you.

31. **Keep hazardous waste out** of the lakes. Check your car for oil leaks. Don't dump anything down storm drains or ditches.

32. **Create wildlife corridors.** Work with your neighbors and the community to organize and plan landscaping projects together to create "wildlife corridors" between properties, the lake and forested areas away from the water. This gives critters somewhere to go besides your yard or patio.

33. **Be a zebra mussel monitor.** Volunteer to be part of the early warning system for these tiny Asian invaders that damage native ecosystems.

34. **Communicate** with your elected officials. Let them know what you love about your lake, what issues residents face and be sure to vote!

35. **Research** the history of your lake. From facts and photos to legends and lore, you'll be amazed at what you find.

#### **Maintenance**

36. **Pick up trash** around the lake. Organize a community clean up day to remove litter. Always carry your trash out after a day on the lake or shore.

37. **Clean up after your pets.** Pick up after your pets and dispose of their poop in the trash. Pet waste can contribute

significant fecal contamination to your lake.

38. **Maintain your septic system.** Failed septic systems can cause significant water quality problems for lakes. Get regular inspections every three months or three years, depending on the type of system.

39. **Clean up your yard.** Old equipment, machinery or debris lying around can leach contaminants into the soil, impacting lake water quality.

40. **Keep a lid on it.** Secure your trashcan lid to prevent litter from accidentally being blown into the lake on windy days, and to deter wildlife.

41. **Monitor public access points.** Report vandalism, destruction or maintenance needs to the organization responsible for the right of way.

42. **Don't spill gas or oil.** Be careful when filling gas cans for motors, lawn mowers, or generators. One gallon of gas can pollute 1,000,000 gallons of water.

#### **Around the House**

43. **Use non-toxic deck and dock preservative.** Avoid harming water and the critters in it. Research and choose environmentally-friendly maintenance materials before treating lumber.

44. **Wash your car at a car wash.**

Washing your car in your driveway sends harmful car oil and residue right into your lake and yard.

45. **Install a rain barrel.** Collecting water from your rain gutters is a great source for watering your yard and slows runoff into the lake.

46. **Take the canoe, kayak, or row boat.** Good exercise, and you're quiet and closer to the water, so you might see more critters up close.

47. **Don't drive golf balls** (or cars!) into the lake. Golf balls in a lake are trash and can harm fish and other critters.

48. **Don't blow leaves into the lake.** The lake has plenty of nutrients without more leaves. Make a compost pile or mow leaves into the lawn.

49. **Go for a quiet, moonlight paddle** in a canoe. You'll see a whole new side of your lake.

50. **Enjoy the beauty.** It's what makes the other 49 things worth doing!

**Thanks to the King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks.**



*Fog over Lake Waccabuc - Linda Clark*



# Three Lakes Council

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

*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)*

### Local Address

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

### Mailing Address (if different)

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to  
Three Lakes Council & mail to:  
**Three Lakes Council**  
**PO Box 241**  
**South Salem, NY 10590**

Membership: ..... \$ 55.00  
Additional contribution: ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Total: ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Matching Grant forms are gratefully accepted. Thank you for your support!



# Three Lakes Council

## Treasurer's Report

### 2012 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS:

The Three Lakes Council enjoyed another very successful year in 2012 with another high membership count, and generous contributions.

Contributors (Members & Associate Members) = 198  
Total Contributions Received = \$32,060

We receive funds from corporate matching grant programs. If your corporation has a matching grant program, please consider including the Three Lakes Council.

We have enjoyed a membership rate about 200 since 2008. Total contributions have held relatively steady over the past three years, and enable us to fund our stewardship activities. Thank you to all that made donations in 2012. Your generous contributions fund our ongoing lake management, water testing, sampling of algae and zooplankton, fish stocking, website, insurance, taxes, seminars, newsletter, mailings, and the annual meeting and picnic. Please talk up the good things being done by 3LC and encourage your neighbors to join.

The 3LC 2012 budget planned for \$34,700 in expenses including \$7,500 for continued surveillance of the Brazilian Elodea and an additional \$23,000 in reserve for any serious recurrence. Actual expenditures for 2012 were \$17,880 or 48.5% under

budget. Some of this is because we didn't get invoices until 2013 and some is because we lack volunteers to lead all of the budgeted projects. We are in excellent financial shape for 2013. We will be able to continue all of our stewardship activities, initiatives and to fund the projects that did not complete last year.

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*

## Three Lakes Council Membership Supports Environmental Actions

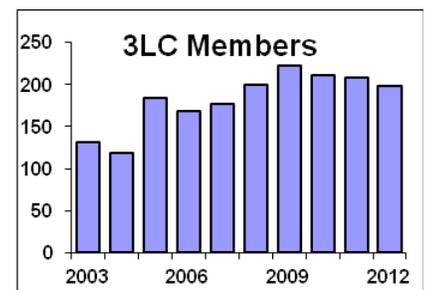
We have made expanding our membership base one of the primary goals of the Three Lakes Council. We set this goal since all of those with lake access receive value from our accomplishments, but just over half of those, about 200 families, support our work financially. Increased membership will enable us to continue our research, education, and stewardship activities. The Three Lakes Council is the only organization around the Three Lakes that can act on the environmental status of all three lakes and their surrounding watershed. Since our start in 1970, membership in the Three Lakes Council has always been voluntary. Your membership and contributions provide the financial support for our actions. Beyond that,

increased membership gives us a stronger voice as we advocate for lake issues.

The responsibility is in your hands to join. We appreciate volunteers who can offer their time to help us accomplish our mission – we have many projects awaiting more volunteer hands. We realize that not everyone can prioritize the limited time to this organization. By becoming a member, you can actively support the varied and good work being done by this volunteer organization.

Membership is just \$55. We keep this fee low so all can afford to join, and we are grateful for the many generous donors who contribute much more. Our average gift is about \$175. We appreciate those of you who renew membership annually. Many of you are occasional contributors and we hope you will become an annual member of the Three Lakes Council. If you are a member – thank you! If you haven't joined yet this year, please do so now. Please talk up the many three lakes activities that can only be done by the 3LC and encourage your neighbors to join.

*Jack Sinnott*



## Thank you to all 2012 Three Lakes Council Members

Sophie Molholm & Adil Abdulali  
Stephen & Betty Ackilli  
Ellen Adrian  
Peter & Susanne Ainsworth  
Alfred & Kathleen Albano  
Martin & Hoan Alger III  
Mimi & Barry Alperin  
Janet Andersen  
Susan Annar  
Robin Arita  
Richard Attridge  
Ellen & John Bailey  
Deborah Baker  
Armand & Loretta Bassi  
Peter & Lyn Beardsley  
Ferne Bendel  
Jennifer Fisher & David Berger  
Susan Berk  
Nancy Berry  
Devera Black  
Lee Blum  
Patricia Bobletz  
Terry Bocklet  
Charles & Connie Bocklet  
CJ & Kimball Bocklet  
Curtis & Lynne Brockelman  
Barbara Hickox & Stephen Brodie  
Regina Anderson & Christian Brutzer  
Brian Bunker  
Ed Burrows  
John & Patti Burr  
Ed & Francesca Cantine  
Barbara Capo  
David & Laura Caravella  
Dominick & Agnes Catalano  
Nancy Walsh & Jack Cedarholm  
Linda Van Tassell Clark  
Stephanie Steifel & Robert Cohen  
Rick & Bobbie Cohan  
Bryan Colley  
Eugene & Lois Colley  
John & Ingrid Connolly  
Eugene & Linda Conroy  
Frederick & Christina Cowles  
Virginia Crucy  
Melissa Cunniffe  
Nan Dale  
Michael DeCandia  
Gail & Edward Delaney  
Lisa & Tim Delaney  
Margaret & Al DeLuca  
Richard Dickens  
William & Jane Donaldson  
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Jenny & John Eckerson  
Linda Broudy & David Eggers  
Vincent & Clotilde Farrell  
Lou Feeney  
Senia Erlich Feiner  
Paul & Katharine Fennelly  
Richard & Christine Ferrarone

William Finke  
Jeanne Donovan Fisher  
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Cheryl & Keith Hughes  
Richard & Janet Karl  
Karl Family Lake Oscaleta Trust  
Argie & George Kazazis  
Sue & Ed Kelly  
Jane Weiser & Daniel Kleinman  
Christine Konetchy  
Lucy Koteen  
Victor & Gale Kuziak  
Jaymie Lanera  
Bill & Bernadette Langenstein  
Elizabeth Lanza  
John & Elizabeth Lemke  
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Claudia Nerreau & Christopher Owen  
Tara Owen  
Marianne Pei  
Mary Jane Massie & William Pelton  
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Holly Maggio & George Roberts  
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James Robinson  
Robby & Kathryn Rothfeld  
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Nick & Lisa Savastano  
Howard & Anne Schneider  
Mario & Tina Sclafani  
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Ronald & Annmarie Tetelman  
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Peter & Betty Treyz  
Alayne Vlachos  
Waccabuc Country Club  
Marc Wachtell  
Susan & Ken Wallach  
Elizabeth Wattles  
John Rudge & Sara Weale  
Ross & Carol Weale  
Daniel & Debbie Welsh  
Marie Williams  
Victor & Sherri Wilson  
Gladys Wolkof  
John Zappia



# THREE LAKES COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING & PICNIC

Saturday, July 27, 2013, 6 PM to 9 PM

Location: Waccabuc Country Club Beach

If it rains, we will meet at the Waccabuc Country Club Carriage House  
(on Mead St)

Menu: Filet mignon, chicken, hamburgers, hot dogs, beer, wine, soda  
with "pot luck" salads and dessert

Admission:

Free for families who have paid the \$55 annual membership.  
Guests and non-members are welcome at \$25 per person.

*Reservations are critical to our planning process.*

*If you will attend, please fill out the response form and mail it to:*

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

*or send an email with the information to [ThreeLakesCouncil@gmail.com](mailto:ThreeLakesCouncil@gmail.com)*

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## Response Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Local address \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address if different \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

phone \_\_\_\_\_

I will bring: salad for 8 \_\_\_\_\_ or dessert for 8 \_\_\_\_\_

Number of members attending picnic: \_\_\_\_\_

Family membership (if not already paid) @ \$55 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Adult guests # \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$25 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_



Waccabuc – Oscalaeta – Rippowam  
P.O.Box 241  
South Salem, NY 10590

*2013 Annual Newsletter of the*



**Three Lakes Council**

*Inside Find:*

Water Quality Report  
Long Pond Preserve  
Fishing Report  
And more!