



Newsletter 2014

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President's Letter 2014

A day of blue skies, light breeze, sunshine glinting off the waves. Ah. Swimmers, boaters, and fishermen are out on our beautiful lakes again. No matter how often we've ventured out, something new is always waiting for us to explore, enjoy, and appreciate. How fortunate we are!

We are a community united by our lakes. We are here because we have an appreciation of nature and because we treasure these lakes. The Three Lakes Council is an umbrella organization which serves all the lakes, as we continue our mission of preserving and protecting our lakes and the entire 2,200 acre watershed through education, conservation, and prevention.

The Three Lakes Council has a devotion to research as a way of understanding each situation. We rely upon science and the advice of experts to guide us in our actions. Much of our continuing season to season activity includes research into the water quality. We look at each year's results and what that information might be telling us about any changes and trends on our lakes. When appropriate, we take actions to protect our lakes. We base our actions on a scientific appreciation of the complexity of ecosystems, and upon the connections that our lakes have to the overall environment.

We are fortunate to have about 200 members that provide financial support – thank you all. We hope all of you – even those who can't provide financial support – will support us with lake friendly behavior. Our actions can make a significant difference to the water quality of our lakes.

Continue reading to find an update on the results of our ongoing lake testing. Join us in celebrating the success of BEEP, our 3LC program to eradicate an invasive plant. Read about our beaver situation and the criteria we set for considering actions. Check to see if your home is on the Westchester County septic pump-out map. And find out about our actions to stop a developer from filling in a wetland in our watershed.

We hope you'll join us at our Picnic and Annual Meeting at the Waccabuc Country Club on July 26, to hear more about these topics and to discuss anything new.

See you there and around the lakes!

*Jan Andersen, President
Three Lakes Council*



Photo by Vic Wilson

BEEP is a success!



Let's celebrate! It has been three years since we last saw Brazilian elodea (*Egeria densa*) in our lakes. The Brazilian Elodea Eradication Program (BEEP) is now considered a success! We will continue to monitor for any reappearance of this aggressive and invasive pest.

A quick look back at BEEP and the lessons we learned.

2008 - The invasive plant Brazilian elodea (*Egeria Densa*) was found during a 3LC plant survey by our lake management consultant. The exotic plant was probably introduced by someone dumping an aquarium into the lake. We met with residents, state agencies, and water experts to devise an approach. We learned that to prevent invasives, we have to be aware that they can be carried into our lakes not just by boats and fishing gear that have been in other water bodies, and also from aquarium dumping and escapes from water gardens.

2009 - The Brazilian Elodea Eradication Program (BEEP) was born with the decision to attempt to

eradicate the invasive by suction harvesting. The spring was spent getting permits and fundraising. We installed a fragment barrier on June 8, and suction harvesting lasted until July 10. We learned that getting permits was difficult, grants were not available, and that residents stepped up when a threat to the lakes was identified and a tangible plan presented. We exceeded our fundraising goals – thank you again!

We also found that the suction harvesting took many of the plants out of the lake – but did not find all of the Brazilian elodea. Volunteer monitoring by scuba and snorkel began daily in August and lasted well into October. The last fragment of Brazilian elodea was found on October 6, but monitoring continued until October 22. We learned that even small fragments could re-grow roots and plants – and that the water gets really cold in October!



2010 – Intensive monitoring began in May. From June 8 to July 9, scuba and snorkel volunteers searched over 2 acres in the north cove where the invasive plant had been seen in 2009. No Brazilian elodea (*Egeria densa*) was found! Volunteers completed the second pass of monitoring from 7/26 to 8/12. Again after this search, no Brazilian elodea was found.

However, our guarded optimism was quashed when Brazilian elodea was found outside the original area on August 23, 2010. A fragment of Brazilian elodea was recovered on one rake toss on the north shore of the island, indicating the plant had

escaped our "containment area" of the north cove.

Volunteers began to scuba and snorkel around the island and shores outside the north cove. BE plants and fragments were harvested from a dense patch on one section on the north side of the island. An expanded area outside the original cove was searched through October with no other BE found. We learned that we had to continue to search the entire lake for invasives despite attempts at containment. And we didn't despair.

2011 – A lake-wide rake toss survey found no Brazilian elodea. Whew!!

2012 – A lake-wide rake toss survey found no Brazilian elodea. Yay!

2013 – A lake-wide rake toss survey found no Brazilian elodea. Yippie!

2014 - We will continue our monitoring to search for a reappearance of Brazilian elodea in our lakes. While it is possible that it is lurking somewhere, we have passed a milestone that allows us to consider Brazilian elodea eradicated from Lake Waccabuc. Not many invasive eradication efforts have come close to getting rid of an invasive. We should all be proud.

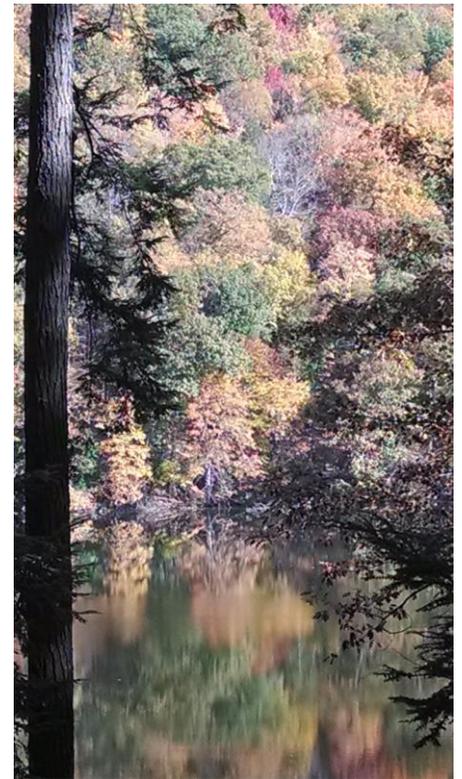
Thanks to everyone for your support and please join in celebrating this significant accomplishment.

Jan Andersen



Paul and Jake Llanos with Paul Lewis, on Lake Waccabuc.

Photo by Jean Lewis



Lake Rippowam

State of the Lakes – Results of Lake Sampling in 2013

Three Lakes volunteers performed lake monitoring again in 2013. We recorded physical attributes and sampled chemical attributes through CSLAP – Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program, a program managed by NYSDEC and the NYS FOLA. We also sampled lake algae for harmful algal blooms.

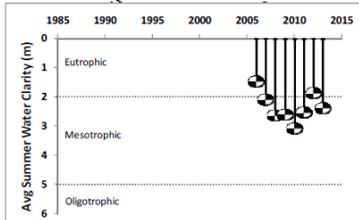
The **trophic state**, a measure of the level of nutrients in the lake water, can be a dominant factor in the overall health of the lake. Just like people, too much or too little in the way of nutrients is not healthy for our lakes. While our lakes are not the lake equivalent of morbidly obese, they are all overweight – they have too many nutrients, and that affects their health. Although the lakes are connected, they have unique characteristics.

Lake Rippowam

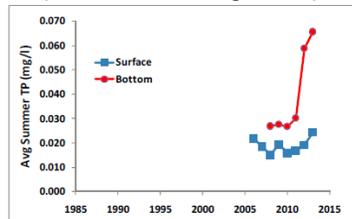
Lake Rippowam is the smallest and shallowest of the Three Lakes, and has the highest proportion of undeveloped shore. Lake Rippowam's trophic state is mesoeutrophic, that is, it has a medium high level of nutrients. The lake's deep waters that lack oxygen in the summer can mix with the warmer surface waters. This brings nutrients to the surface and can encourage algae growth. As a result, generally the amount of algae is higher, and lake clarity is lower, on Rippowam than the other lakes.

The plant population is less diverse in Rippowam than the other lakes, and the predominant plant is the invasive Eurasian watermilfoil. In 2013, blue-green algae dominated the algal mix, although it did not reach levels that NYS DEC classified as a bloom, and toxin levels were lower than in prior years. From fish species, the lake is a warm water fishery. Recreational use may be impaired by high algae levels.

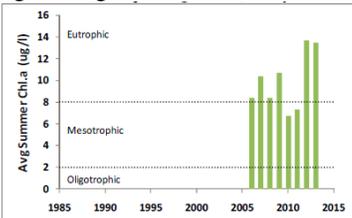
Water clarity – lower on chart is better



Phosphorus levels rising in deep water



Algae – higher since 2011



Lake Oscaleta

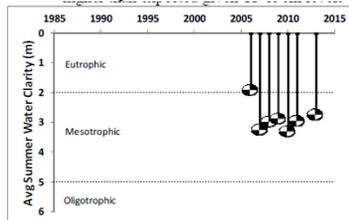
Lake Oscaleta is the middle lake, both in the chain of the three lakes, and in size and depth, although it has the largest individual watershed. Like the other lakes, the trophic state is mesoeutrophic, that is, medium high in nutrients, and the deep waters lose oxygen each year.

Plant surveys found 23 aquatic plant species, although plant diversity is threatened by four non-native plant species. Low levels of blue-green algae were found, with wide variation during the season. Based on fish species, the lake is primarily a warm water fishery.

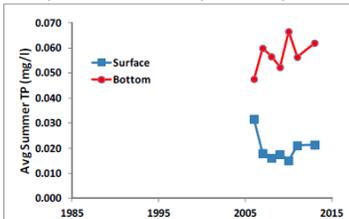
Recreational use may be stressed by high levels of algae and nutrients. Aquatic life may be stressed by low levels of oxygen, high pH, and non-native plants.

Oscaleta's trends vary within the normal range for the lake.

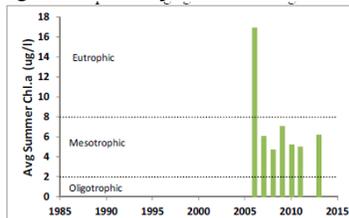
Water clarity – lower on chart is better



Phosphorus trend up in deep water



Algae – stable after 2006

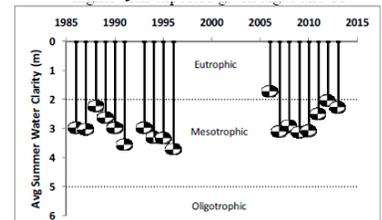


Lake Waccabuc

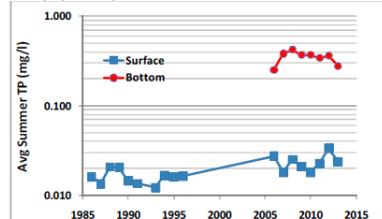
Lake Waccabuc, the largest of our lakes, is also mesoeutrophic, with medium-high levels of nutrients. Phosphorus levels were higher than normal in each of the last three years. This meant lower than normal water clarity and higher than normal algae levels. Small changes in phosphorus can have a big effect. Higher phosphorus levels early in the 2013 season led to shoreline algal blooms.

The deeper waters of Lake Waccabuc lack oxygen for much of the year. Plant diversity is threatened by the five invasive species. Lake Waccabuc had a high percentage of blue-green algae when algal levels were high. In 2013 the collected toxin levels did not exceed drinking water standards. Lake plants and algae can threaten recreational conditions in the lake. Invasive plants and the lack of deep water oxygen stress aquatic life. The upward trends in phosphorus are of concern, and pH levels exceeded state standards in 2013.

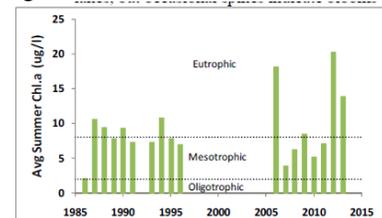
Water clarity – lower on chart is better



Deep phosphorus levels are a concern



Algae levels are variable



State of the Lakes: Q&A

Q. How are the lakes doing?

A. The general indicator used in assessing the overall health of the lakes is the amount of phosphorus in the water, which translates into the amount of algae that grows and the resulting water clarity. While water clarity and algae on the lakes can vary within the natural ranges for our lakes, we are concerned to see trends towards higher levels of phosphorus – which may mean less clarity, more algae blooms, and more plants in our future.

Although the measurements say what is happening, they don't tell us why it's happening, so we need to take care around the lakes. Also, while we haven't seen new invasive plants, we do see the spread and entrenchment of some plants in our lakes. So we need to exercise wise stewardship.

Q. Is there anything new happening, or anything we should be concerned about?

A. We are participating in a new bloom sampling program. When a lot of algae is in the water, some species of algae may release toxins into the lake's water, resulting in a harmful algal bloom, or HAB. We sample to see if toxins are found in our lakes. Our lakes have a lot of year to year variations. So far we have had fairly low toxin levels, but we need to be aware of the dangers of algal blooms.

Q. When the water's green ... is it an emergency? What should we do?

A. If in doubt, stay out. Avoid areas that have surface scums. Rinse off swimmers and pets when leaving the water. Anglers should not eat fish caught from areas that look like spilled paint or pea soup. Find bloom alerts by checking the DEC HAB page: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/83310.html>.

Q. What a winter! What will it mean for our lakes?

A. We don't always know the impact of weather on our lakes, but we keep sampling to find out more. In theory, colder temperatures and later ice out could mean less plant growth, but many of our lake plants grow all year under the ice. And storms or unusual summer weather can have a more direct impact. That said, let us know if you see an effect from our cold winter.

Q. Could our lakes be at a tipping point?

A. A very good question. Inherent in the concept of a tipping point is that we might not know that we're at a tipping point until after we go over the edge. Certainly, by some measures, we think it's more important to try to reduce pollution inputs rather than try to keep it from increasing. But are we at a tipping point? It's very hard to tell how close we are.

Jan Andersen

2013 at a glance – as assessed by NYS DEC			
Lake Uses	Rippowam	Oscalaeta	Waccabuc
Potable water	Not applicable	 algal levels	 algal levels and high deepwater metals
Contact recreation (Swimming)	 algal blooms	 algal levels	 algal blooms
Non-contact recreation (Boating & Fishing)	 invasive plants	 invasive plants	 invasive plants
Aquatic Life	 high pH, deep water low oxygen, and invasive plants	 high pH, deep water low oxygen, and invasive plants	 high pH, deep water low oxygen, high ammonia, and invasive plants
Aesthetics	 algae levels	 algae levels	 algal blooms
Key to symbols	 Threatened	 Stressed	 Impaired

Pump out your septic system!

It's a good idea to maintain your septic system regularly **and now it's also the law.**

To protect the quality of the area's drinking water, Lewisboro instituted a septic inspection requirement in 2011 that requires that each septic system be pumped at least once

during every 5 year period. Enforcement will start in May, 2016.

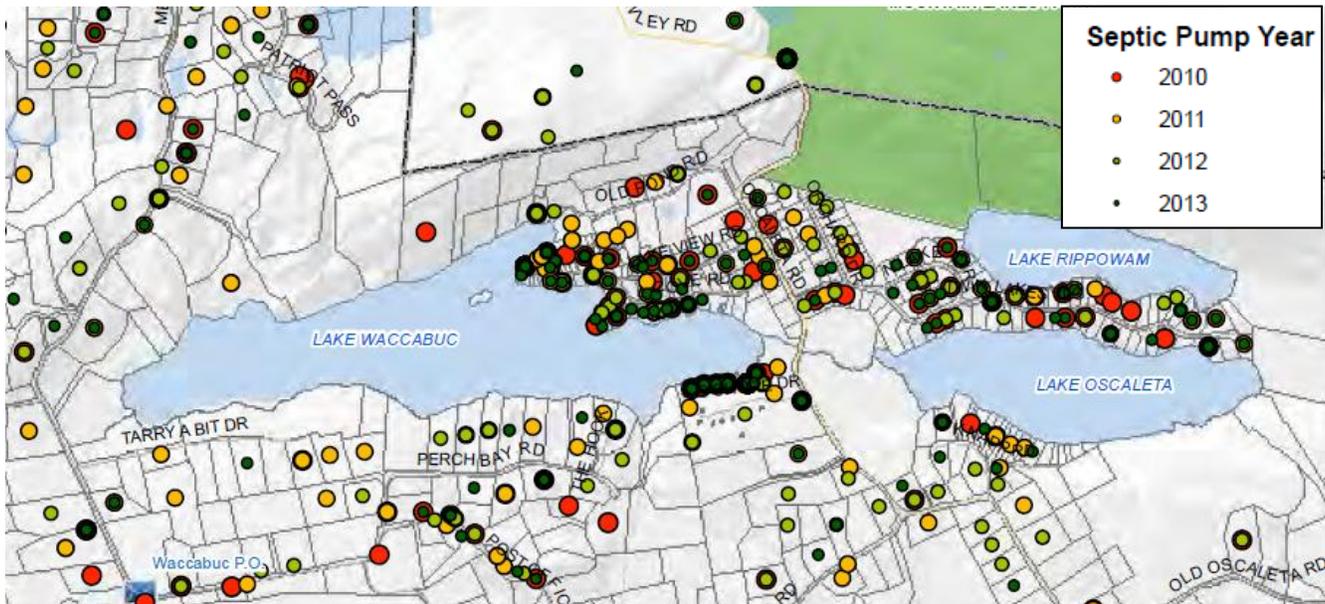
Failure to pump between May, 2011 and May, 2016 may result in significant fines.

Beat the rush! Have your septic system pumped out this season. If your septic is pumped by a Westchester County authorized septic hauler, your vendor will provide Westchester County with a record of that pumping. Keep your

copy of the septic system inspection report in case of a dispute.

Good for your wallet. Good for your health. Good for the environment.

Westchester County provided a map that shows where septic systems were pumped between the start of 2010 and September 30, 2013. Septic pumping after that date doesn't show up. But if you pumped before May, 2011, you need to pump again!



Map thanks to Westchester County GIS. Showing pump dates 1/1/2010 – 9/30/2013



Protect it – and inspect it!

Pumping septic tanks regularly should lengthen the life of your septic fields.

Think at the sink!

Don't put indigestibles down the drain or flush them down the toilet.

Shield the field!

Don't park or drive on the drainfield. Also, don't plant trees or shrubs close to the drainfield where roots can grow into the pipes and clog them.

Don't strain your drain!

Conserve water. Fix leaks. Space out the use of showers, dishwashers, and washing machines to avoid overloading the septic system.

Boating Update

A New York State law effective May 1, 2014, requires individuals born on or after 5/1/1996 to successfully complete an approved course in boater education to operate a motorboat. Individuals younger than ten years old may not take this course. Courses are offered by NYS Parks, US Power Squadron and more.



Our friend John Lemke

3LC opposes wetland development

Can a developer fill in a wetland to build a house? How far should a new septic system be from Lake Waccabuc's wetlands? Those are two of the questions that are currently before the Lewisboro Planning Board.

After the board of the Three Lakes Council reviewed a proposal to build a house on a wetland lot on Oscaleta Road, they agreed to oppose development on this unsuitable site. The parcel abuts land that the Town ruled was unfit for building in 1996.

The parcel with the proposed development contains both DEC and locally regulated wetlands, and the entire site is either wetland or wetland buffer. In order to develop this parcel, a portion of the wetland will be destroyed with up to 5 feet of fill, and the septic system will be placed exceptionally close to the wetlands that make up the shore of Lake Waccabuc. To grant the permit, the Planning Board will have to grant a permit that is far more permissive than any we could find since the Town's wetland ordinance was enacted.

This process has been lengthy, and it's not yet over. The Three Lakes Council has written 10 memos, and over 50 letters have been sent by residents opposed to the development. The Lakeside Association and the Lake Waccabuc Association also submitted letters asking the Planning Board to deny the application.

Our arguments are based on science. We agree with the applicant that the building decision should not be a popularity contest.

Unlike the applicant, however, we are relying on facts, not wishful assertions. Facts like: the wetland exists; it is not a transient figment of a neighboring sump pump's imagination. Septic systems produce phosphorus, phosphorus doesn't bind to sand or water-saturated soils, and while it's essential for life, too much phosphorus is pollution. When phosphorus gets to the lakes, it can cause algal blooms and eutrophication. Our studies show that Lake Waccabuc is already susceptible to phosphorus pollution.

Lake Waccabuc not only feeds the NYC drinking water supply, it is used as a water supply for many homes around the lake. But pollution to the lake can affect not just those who use it for drinking water. Beaches across the state and the nation have been closed when algae blooms are severe. Algae blooms can be toxic, but even when they are not, they can reduce recreation, alter ecosystems, and just plain look ugly.

Further, the proposed development could set a new precedent. If a new lower bar is established, it could lead to degradation of wetlands, streams, and lakes throughout our Town.

The executive committee and a few others have spent many hours representing the interests of the Three Lakes community over the past year. This has been the most

significant use of our time, pushing other projects to the side. 3LC has hired a lawyer and a wetlands expert. We have offered to purchase Mr. Petruccelli's land to stop its development. We have appealed a decision in front of the zoning board. We have left no stone unturned. We continue to fight for this noble environmental cause, but at the time this is written, we don't yet know the outcome. We will keep communicating through our email distribution list and on our website.

Thanks to so many of you who have made your voices heard or attended meetings on this project. Our lakes and wetlands thank you.

Jan Andersen

Native Plants to Improve Our Lakes

Native plants can help our lakes. They can be hardy. Since native plants are often less affected by pests and diseases than non-natives, they will require less fertilizer and pesticides. That means cleaner water for all of us. Native plants are also valuable because they can provide wildlife habitat and food for birds, butterflies, and pollinators. The native insects and birds co-evolved to depend on these plants, so let's provide them with food and housing!

Lewisboro Land Trust recently created a native plant garden by the Town House. You can find a pamphlet that lists deer-resistant plants that are appropriate for both sun and shade. Take a look and see if you can find a place in your landscape for some of these plants. Native plants should mean less work for you, better habitat for wildlife, and less pollution for our lakes.

Jan Andersen



Bald Eagle on Lake Oscaleta

Joe Tansey

HABs or HABs not?

Most waters contain algae, and most algae are harmless. Algae are a fundamental component of the food web, and they are also considered the primary generators of oxygen on our planet. So we need a certain amount of algae in our waters.

Water Looks Green? If in doubt, stay out!

In the right conditions, however, algae can become overabundant and form algae blooms. Some algae, especially blue green algae, or cyanobacteria, can produce toxins that can harm people and animals. These are **harmful algal blooms** (HABs). Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) are a rapidly growing concern in both freshwater and marine environments. While we aren't really sure of all the reasons that toxins appear, it seems that worse algae blooms may have more toxins.

It's not possible to tell if there are toxins in algae blooms just by looking at them. However, some blooms that have higher proportions of blue green algae can be differentiated by their appearance. The Department of Health (DOH) has taken a cautious stance and will sometimes close down beaches based merely on the appearance of blooms. And if you have concerns, this is a good guideline. If in doubt, stay out.

The Three Lakes Council has been part of New York's initiative to sample some lake waters for both the type of algae and for algal toxins. In 2013, despite the appearance of some blue green algal blooms, our samples showed low levels of toxins. Our participation is also helping the research on HABs, since we provide a lot of water chemistry and weather information along with the open water and shoreline bloom samples.

Visit our website at www.threelakescouncil.org

Until we know more, however, the same guidelines that we've used in the past apply. Do as much as possible to keep phosphorus pollution out of our lakes. Keep your septic systems in good working order, have shoreline plantings to keep sediment and erosion out of the lakes, and don't use fertilizer or pesticides on your lawns. Acting green will help us have blue lakes!

Jan Andersen

Lawn Care to Protect Our Lakes

Decisions that you make about your lawn can affect the health of our lakes.

Most lawn fertilizer sold in New York should not contain phosphorus. This reduces one of the potential sources of pollution to our lakes. However, nitrogen in fertilizer can also contribute to polluted lakes, so don't apply fertilizer when a rainstorm is in the forecast. Phosphorus is still found in compost and manure, so be careful as you amend your soil. Control sediment and erosion, since phosphorus can be carried into the lakes with any dirty runoff. Water that flows into a catch basin can also

carry pollution to the lakes.

Pesticides and herbicides applied to lawns can also affect our lakes and the plants and animals that live in them. The chemicals in pesticides often affect far more than the pest or weed that you are trying to banish. Try to reduce or eliminate their use. Over-seeding with grass seed in the spring and / or fall will help make the grass dense enough to out-compete the weeds. Mowing the grass tall will also shade out weeds.

Don't blow yard waste like leaves and grass clippings into the lake.

If you use a lawn care provider, ask them to follow these guidelines to help protect our lakes.

A lakeside buffer of plantings like shrubs and groundcover will help to minimize lawn runoff to the lakes, and may also discourage geese from coming on to your lawn to graze – and leave their droppings! These plantings will also help stabilize the shoreline and can keep the shallow waters shaded and cooler for the animals.

Jean Lewis



A foggy day on Lake Ossaleta

Update on beavers on our lakes

Beavers – an emblem of nature at our doorstep? A destructive outsized rodent? Cute when they started, but enough is enough?

Community members have expressed all of these feelings – and more. Here's an update from the Three Lakes Council Beaver Task force that was established in the spring of 2012.

Be assured that the task force members have studied the situation carefully, have consulted experts both in and out of government, and have taken into account the views and expertise of many in our community. We certainly reviewed a range of opinions and have been sensitive to the views expressed in person and by email. The idea remains to make sure our decisions remain based on facts. We have revisited and re-adopted the criteria that were established. We have recommended an additional criteria to limit the local population of the beaver. We have asked representatives from the USDA and DEC to assess the number of beaver and the current or potential impacts on the environment, and as this is written we are scheduling their visits.

Let's recap. In the fall of 2009, residents started reporting frequent beaver activity on our lakes. In 2011, beavers constructed a lodge on Lake Oscaleta across from the Two Lake Club. During that year, they also began damming the channel between Oscaleta and Waccabuc at the east entrance to the culvert under Oscaleta Road. Beavers damaged trees by all three lakes.

In March 2012, the task force reported to the board of directors of the Three Lakes Council, and a plan was formulated and adopted. A general concern was that a beaver

dam would change the environment and affect our lakes, and three specific issues were identified:

1. destruction of trees and bushes
2. flooding lakeside property
3. impeding boat traffic between the lakes

Experts agree that beaver are instinctive dam builders and that trapping the beaver is the only way to stop the damming activity, at least for a period of a few years before new beaver arrive. Trap and transport is not allowed, so trapping kills the beaver. Before we took that fatal step, we discussed continuing to dismantle the dam. Experts advised us that dam removal is likely to be a losing battle, especially during the fall when the beavers are most active dam building. Since trapping is a difficult and contentious decision, your representatives on the board agreed on a beaver plan.

The **beaver plan** will engage residents and resources:

1. Volunteers to clear the dam at the culvert and move sticks and debris to the side of the road
2. Town Highway department to remove dam debris from the roadside
3. The council to install a gate so that Highway can use a backhoe to remove dam material
4. 3LC website to post techniques to protect trees from beaver damage
5. Volunteers to monitor water levels on each of the three lakes

The beaver plan also set **criteria**. The criteria that trigger trapping the beaver are:

1. There aren't enough volunteers to keep the channels clear
2. A dam causes water levels in one lake to be more than 6" above the next lake
3. Damming activity blocks boat travel between the lakes on two consecutive weekends

4. Beavers begin damming at a location where dam removal is unworkable
5. A beaver causes unprovoked injury to a person
6. The board determines there are other changes that will cause significant long term negative effects on the lake environment
7. (proposed) More than 10 beavers are living on the lakes

Over the past two years, the beaver crew that removes the dam-building debris has kept up with the beaverish activity. The piles of debris along the road and channel testify to the amount of work that removing dams has entailed, and their efforts are appreciated by all of us.

Recently, the active beaver lodge is at the east end of Lake Oscaleta. Scent piles that mark territories have been built in the channel. In the winter of 2013-2014, the channel also had a sizable winter food cache, and this spring the remnants of that cache were cleared from the channel. Many trees along the channel have been felled, which has led to concerns of environmental damage in the wetlands area between Waccabuc and Oscaleta.

We're all getting quite an education about our busy beavers, whether we consider them neighbors or intruders. In sum, this remains a difficult situation. The decision to attempt to remove the dam comes from the sense that we should try to live in harmony with nature and not kill animals if the problems are manageable. The decision to set specific criteria and be prepared to trap comes from our concern about potential effects of beaver colonization of our lakes. Let's all remember that we all want the best for our lakes. Let's remain one community as we search for the best steps towards a solution.

Peter Gross

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!

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 any containment. Also, 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.

THREE LAKES COUNCIL 2013

President	Jan Andersen
Vice President	Peter Gross
Treasurer	John Lemke
Secretary	Jean Lewis
Board Representatives	
Lake Osceleta Association	Joe Tansey Kevin Karl (alternate)
Lake Waccabuc Association	Doug Housman John Lemke (alternate)
Lakeside Association	Beth Llanos Paul Llanos (alternate)
Perch Bay Association	Ellen Bailey John Bailey (alternate)
South Shore Association	Alayne Vlachos
Two Lake Club	Peter Gross Jan Andersen (alternate)
Waccabuc Country Club	Darryl Alfieri Peter Bysshe (alternate)
Waccabuc Landowners Council	John Tobin Seth Christian (alternate)
Committee Chairs	
Beaver:	Peter Gross
BEEP:	Jan Andersen
Boat Stickers:	Alayne Vlachos
Fishing:	Joe Tansey
Lake Preservation	Paul Lewis
Membership:	Doug Housman
Newsletter:	Stephanie Harding
Nominating:	Beth Llanos
Picnic / Annual Meeting:	Kelley & Doug Housman

Contact any of the above through ThreeLakesCouncil@gmail.com

Goose Population Stabilization



We continued in our eighth year of goose egg oiling, and oiled 41 eggs in 9 nests. Thanks to the geese team who put up with a lot of squawking and cold conditions – but what a difference it makes on our lakes! We aim to slow the explosive, unnatural growth in geese population on our lakes. We notice fewer goose droppings and improved water clarity. Please don’t feed the geese; it’s not healthy for them or for the lakes. Worse, feeding can encourage them to stick around. 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 and over the counter drugs can harm your septic fields and can get into the environment. You can drop off unwanted drugs at the Lewisboro Police office in Cross River.



Recycle Electronics

The Town of Lewisboro has an e-waste Recycling Center on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. The center is located behind the Town House, 11 Main Street, South Salem. Find more information at www.lewisborogov.com



Fishing Report

A shoulder injury has kept me off the water for the most part, so this report will be mostly second hand information. However, I do trust the sources and their reporting to be accurate. First and foremost the bass fishing remains excellent to say the least. Again this spring two fellow anglers (both do professional tournament fishing) have repeated that our three lakes are the best by far of any lakes they have fished for bass, both in average size and in quantity. Often their daily catches exceed 100 bass. They fish catch and release, of course. When they go fishing they do put in a lot of time and work the shore hard.

Over the last three years I have heard about a caught large mouth bass up to and in excess of 8 pounds and I hope we see it again this year. Usually we see fish like this in about one year out of ten but we are on a good run. I have not heard much about the small mouth catches and I have asked a number of guys how they were doing with the smallies as we call them. I'm sure the stocks are healthy but will be keeping an eye on them.



Joe Tansey and friend stocking fish
photo by Jean Lewis

Gene Tedaldi reported excellent catches of overly large crappie in Rippowam, so for you crappie buffs might want to check it out. Also good reports of crappie in Oscaleta at both ends as well as in Waccabuc in the east end.



Not a lot of reports of trout catches but I have not seen many out fishing for them either. When the thermocline in the lakes establish (which should be soon and the sawbelling start surface schooling I'm sure you will see more guys out fishing for the trout. These conditions seem to concentrate the trout and makes for some real good fishing. We stocked eleven inch brown trout on June 14th, putting in 350 in Waccabuc and 150 in Oscaleta. Also considered for stocking were walleye and hybrid bass but the committee decided to stick with the trout.

There is a perceived lack of sunfish and yellow perch in all three lakes. They seem to have been on the decline for a number of years now and I have a gut feeling it is tied in with the lack of aquatic insects. Sunfish and small yellow perch are prime food source for shore oriented fish like large mouth bass and pickerel. Which is probably why more and more large mouth's and pickerel are being caught over deep open water as they are probably

searching for sawbellies.

Joe Gillert reports that some of his friends had the best ice fishing on Waccabuc in years.

If anyone is interested in joining the fish committee or interested in learning how to fish please let me know.

Thanks, tight lines and get out on the water

Joe Tansey
914 763-3456

3LC Google Group

To join the Google group for Three Lakes Council and get lake stewardship information, contact ThreeLakesCouncil@gmail.com.

2013, Weather wise

What was 2013 like for weather? We all remember the colder than usual winter. But according to Victoria Kelly at the Cary Institute in Millbrook, 2013 wasn't all that remarkable. It was the 7th wettest and 12th coolest out of the last 30 years. The trends show that we haven't been getting record cold temperatures, but we haven't been breaking record heat temperatures either. The general trend has been for the winters to get warmer, but not the summers. The growing season is getting longer, not because the spring is warmer earlier, but because the fall freeze is coming later. We're tracking the temperatures of our waters to see how changing climate is reflected in our lakes.

THREE LAKES COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

PUBLISHER: THREE LAKES COUNCIL

EDITOR: STEPHANIE HARDING

CONTRIBUTORS: JAN ANDERSEN, PETER GROSS, DOUG HOUSMAN, JEAN LEWIS, JOHN LEMKE, JOE TANSEY

PHOTOS: JAN ANDERSEN, JEAN LEWIS, JOE TANSEY, VIC WILSON

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Via Mail: P.O. BOX 241, SOUTH SALEM, NY 10590

Via E-Mail

THREELAKESCOUNCIL@GMAIL.COM



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 Osaleta 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
P.O. Box 241
South Salem, NY 10590



Three Lakes Council

Treasurer's Report

2013 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) = 203
Total Contributions Received = \$35,988

We have enjoyed a membership rate about 200 since 2008. Total contributions have held relatively steady over the past four years, and enable us to fund our stewardship activities. Thank you to all that made donations in 2013. If your corporation has a matching grant program, please consider including the Three Lakes Council. 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 2013 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. We also had contingency which provided us with resources to respond to new issues like the Oscaleta Road development. Actual

expenditures for 2013 were \$22,716, well under budget. Some of this is because we didn't get billed until 2014 and some is because we lack volunteers to lead all of the budgeted projects. We are in excellent financial shape for 2014. We will be able to continue 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*

3LC 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.

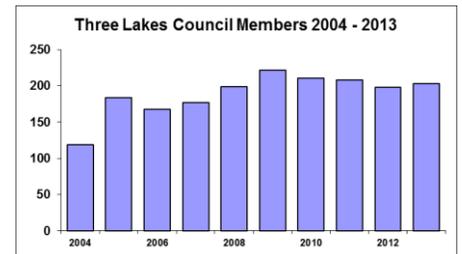
The Three Lakes Council is the only organization around the Three Lakes that can act on the environmental status of all three lakes and their surrounding watershed. Since our start in 1970, membership in the Three Lakes Council has always been voluntary. Your membership and contributions provide the 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 consider the many lakes activities that can only be done by the 3LC and encourage your neighbors to join.

Doug Housman





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!

Thank You to all of our 2013 Members

Stephen & Betty Ackilli
Ellen Adrian
Peter & Susanne Ainsworth
Martin & Joan Alger III
Mimi & Barry Alperin
Janet Andersen
Susan Annar
Robin Arita
Richard Attridge
Ellen & John Bailey
Deborah Baker
Armand & Loretta Bassi
Peter & Lyn Beardsley
Stephen & Patricia Beckwith
Ferne Bendel
Jennifer Fisher & David Berger
Susan Berk
Alan & Elaine Berman
Robert & Amy Bernstein
Janice Billingsley
Devera Black
Patrick Black
Lee Blum
Patricia Bobletz
Barry & Terry Bocklet
Charles & Connie Bocklet
CJ & Kimball Bocklet
Joseph & Charlene Bocklet
Jenette Barrow & William Bosshart
Curtis & Lynne Brockelman
Regina Anderson & Christian Brutzer
Brian Bunker
Susan Burkhardt
Ed Buroughs
Ed & Francesca Cantine
Barbara Capo & Jerry Therrien
David & Laura Caravella
Dominick & Agnes Catalano
Nancy Walsh & Jack Cedarholm
Audrey Cirulli
Linda Van Tassell Clark
Stephanie Steifel & Robert Cohen
Rick & Bobbie Cohan
Joan Colello
Eugene & Lois Colley
John & Ingrid Connolly
Eugene & Linda Conroy
Frederick & Christina Cowles
Melissa Cunniffe
Ann Goodson & Kevin Daley
Robert & Peggy Daley
Mary Dardani
Michael DeCandia
Gail & Edward Delaney
Lisa & Tim Delaney
Theresa Doherty
William & Jane Donaldson
Kenneth & Janet Donohue
Margery Schiffman & Chuck Dorris
Raymond Duffy, Jr.
J & Jody Durst
Jenny & John Eckerson
Linda Broudy & David Eggers
Jane Balanoff & Jean Emond
Mario Erlach
Lou Feeny
Senia Erlich Feiner
Paul & Katharine Fennelly

William Finke
Jeanne Donovan Fisher
Ronald & Georgia Frasch
Bart & Wendy Friedman
Lou & Lois Froelich
Liz & Larry Fryer
Dorothy Gale
Joe & Jennifer Garrity
Jeffrey & Paula Gaynor
Kelly & Eric Germa
Joseph Gillert
Renee Goldstein
Neil & Beth Gollogly
Majorie & Ellery Gordon
Chris Culler & Melissa Gordon
Mariana Canelo & Michael Gordon
Allan & Alice Gottlieb
Scott Mori & Carol Gracie
James & Elizabeth Grant
Peter & Elizabeth Gross
Carl & Merrill Grossman
Waldie & Barbara Gullen
June Gumbel
Robert & Karen Gureasko
Andy & Jennifer Hammerstein
David & Anne Hardy
Ethna Harris
Sara Hartley
Judy Hausman
Martin & Evette Hecht
Helen & Richard Henshaw III
Katherine Hersch
Charles & Susan Herzog
Thomas & Mary Herzog
Mary Horowitz
David Venarde & Sara Horowitz
Doug & Kelley Housman
Cheryl & Keith Hughes
Richard & Janet Karl
Karl Family Lake Oscaleta Trust
Argie & George Kazazis
Robert & Karen Kear
Sue & Ed Kelly
Bradford & Bonnie Klein
Jane Weiser & Daniel Kleinman
Christine Konetchy
Lucy Koteen
Victor & Gale Kuziak
Bill & Bernadette Langenstein
Morvin & Charlotte Leibowitz
John & Elizabeth Lemke
Nadine Netter Levy
Paul & Jean Lewis
Robert & Margaret Lieb
Denise Ferris & Chan-Li Lin
Paul & Beth Llanos
Stephanie Harding & Brian Loxley
Karen Ludwig
Ted & Nancy Lundberg
Matthew & Andrea Lustig
Jeannette Maiorino
Larry & Jill Mango
Randolph & Helen Marshall
Susan Martini
Alan Mason
Harriet Mayer
Robert & Carol McBride
Thomas & Eileen McGrath

James & Carol McMonagle
Ann McNamara
David Migden
Lauren Moss
Sondra & Austin O'Hanlon
Claudia Nerreau & Christopher Owen
Tara Owen
Elizabeth Palmer
Marianne Pei
Mary Jane Massie & William Pelton
Jane Peter
Dave & Judy Petro
Paul Phaneuf
Victor & Joanne Ponzio
Barbara Posner
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Shaaffer & Lindsay Reese
Ogden & Mary Louise Reid
Susan Wolf & Stephen Reynolds
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David & Shannon Robinette
Bonnie Robins
James Robinson
Harold & Edith Rosenbaum
Robby & Kathryn Rothfeld
Francis Rubin
James Ryan
Arthur Rauch & Lynn Saidenberg
Nick & Lisa Savastano
Howard & Anne Schneider
Michael Schwartz
Stephen & Wendy Shalen
Arthur & Miriam Shane
William & Diane Shannon
Michael & Vivien Shelanski
Denise Simon
Les & Susan Simon
Patricia Simpson
Jack & Betsy Sinnott
Brian & Didi Smith
Donald & Elina Smith
Patricia Brieschke & Charles Steinman
Margaret Stevens
R. Bailey & Gail Stewart
Michael & Susan Stillman
Ursula Strauss
Henry Strickrodt
Richard & Raina Stuart
Daniel & Kathryn Sullivan
Paul & Nancy Sutera
Joe & Susan Tansey
Eugene & Anne-Marie Tedaldi
Lewis & Barbara Terman
Ronald & Annmarie Tetelman
Robert & Tina Theurkauf
Peter & Betty Treyz
Lauren Van Kirk
Alayne Vlachos
Waccabuc Country Club
Marc Wachtell
Susan & Ken Wallach
Elizabeth Wattles
John Rudge & Sara Weale
Ross & Carol Weale
Daniel & Debbie Welsh
Philip & Susan Wick
Marie Williams
Victor & Sherri Wilson



THREE LAKES COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING & PICNIC

Saturday, July 26, 2014, 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

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

2014 Annual Newsletter of the



Three Lakes Council

Inside Find:

Water Quality Report
Beaver Update
Oscaleta Road Development Report
Fishing Report
Annual Meeting Picnic Reservations
And more!