



Newsletter 2015

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President's Letter

It's so wonderful to see summer swinging into gear, and the pace of activities picking up around our lakes.

Swimmers, kayakers, and fishermen are out on our beautiful lakes again, enjoying sun, water, and breezes. We are so fortunate to have this wonderful environment and community.

The Three Lakes Council remains busy with stewardship activities, and we continue to work to preserve and protect our watershed and the water quality of our lakes. As you know, for the past few years we've opposed a developer who wanted to build a house and a septic system in a wetland adjacent to Lake Waccabuc. In October 2014, the Planning Board turned down his wetland permit application. Many of the documents are posted on our website if you want to read more about the issues. We believe that the scientific evidence that we offered, backed by community awareness, contributed to this outcome that supports the environment.

We continue our regular water quality monitoring, and we now have the capability to send water to a lab to test for toxins if we spot suspicious algal blooms.

Visit our website at www.threelakescouncil.org



In 2014, our lake survey to monitor for Brazilian elodea, a continuation of our BEEP program, didn't find any of that invasive plant – but we did find some Water Chestnut. We need to

continue to work to prevent invasive species from entering our lakes, and to promptly detect any that arrive.

Continue reading to find an update on the results of our lake testing. Be sure to read about what you can do to help protect our lakes from invasive species. See the latest update on our beaver situation and the criteria that are in place. Learn about the town law that requires you to pump your septic tank.

We are grateful to the 200 families who provide continued support to the Three Lakes Council, and thank every single member. We couldn't do any of this without you.

*Jan Andersen, President
Three Lakes Council*

Fishers Return to Our Lakes

Fishers, forest denizens, are making a comeback in our area. These medium-sized members of the weasel family nearly disappeared in NY in the 1930's because of habitat loss and over-trapping for their fur.

With current restrictions on hunting and trapping, they are returning to many of the places where they were common.

Adult fisher (*Martes pennati*) are about three feet long, dark brown with some grey fur. They are comfortable on the forest floor, or climbing trees, where they are said to be the fastest animals in tree tops. Because of their style of movement, they also are called "fisher cats" or "tree fox".

Their common prey is birds, squirrels, mice, and porcupine. Beaver is a favorite as well, and DEC uses beaver as bait for wildlife cameras to document their expanding range. Fisher also eat large quantities of seeds, fruits, and berries. Fisher travel a circuit of 10 to 20 miles every few weeks as they search for food.

Fisher have an eerie call and are heard more than they are seen. Maybe you'll be lucky enough to hear one around our lakes community.

See the Conservationist issue of December 2014 for more information on these elusive animals.



Photo from DEC Conservationist

Vernal Pool Walk

The idea for leading a vernal pool walk hatched when Jean Emond posted a message to the Three Lakes Google Group: "Snow is finally melted on top of Mountain Lakes Park...found this joyful noise coming from a mossy pond along the way...The frogs are even happier than we are about the end of winter with a fresh supply of bugs on the water..."

I responded by inviting interested neighbors to join me on a hike to see and hear the vernal pool activity Jean described. The response was heartwarming! About 50 people wanted to learn about vernal pools and their importance to the animals that depend upon them for their survival. In fact, so many signed up that I led walks on both April 12th and 13th to accommodate everyone.



The "joyful noise" of wood frogs and spring peepers serenaded us as we approached two vernal pools that are hidden within Mt. Lakes Park.

Our timing was perfect! We were there during the brief period of time when thousands of frogs and salamanders arrive at vernal pools to mate and lay eggs. The pools are critical to their survival because there are no fish to eat their eggs. And there is urgency to their activity because the pools dry up in summer. Before then, the eggs must hatch, pollywogs must grow and develop legs and gills in order to hop or crawl into the surrounding woods where they live until the next spring, when they will return to the vernal pools to

mate and lay eggs - and the cycle will be repeated.

A few days after our walk, the pools were quiet. Most of the mating had taken place. I hope we can choose the perfect time to do this again next year!

- Paul Lewis

The pools were teeming with life!



Spring Peeper



Wood Frogs



Spotted Salamander



Red-Spotted newt

State of the Lakes – Water Quality Q&A

What was the condition of our lakes in 2014?

The condition of **Lake Waccabuc** was slightly more favorable than normal in 2014, with lower algae levels. There were also fewer and shorter duration shoreline algae blooms, although these were reported later in the summer than typically occurs here.

Recreational assessments for **Lake Oscaleta** in 2014 were slightly more favorable than usual, consistent with higher water clarity and despite slightly more weed growth. No shoreline blooms were reported.

Conditions in **Lake Rippowam** were similar to those measured in previous years. Surface and phosphorus readings were slightly higher than usual, and water quality assessments were slightly less favorable, but most other indicators were close to normal in 2014. Unfortunately, relatively high algae levels continue to be common.

Is there anything new that showed up in the testing in 2014?

The testing includes information about the types of algae found in the water samples. **Waccabuc's** results showed green algae dominance when algae levels are lower, and blue green algae when overall algae levels are higher, particularly in early summer. Shoreline algae blooms are at times dominated by blue green algae. Water chestnut was found and hand removed in 2014.

Oscaleta's algae results showed open water algae dominated by non-blue green algae. Shoreline blooms were not reported.

Rippowam's algae results showed algae with an increasing percentage of blue green algae later in the summer, although this does not

constitute bloom conditions. Some blooms are apparent along the shoreline, but these usually include a mix of algae species and do not appear as blue green algae blooms.

How does the condition of our lake in 2014 compare with other lakes in the area?

Lake Waccabuc had slightly higher water clarity, and slightly lower nutrient levels and algae levels, than other nearby lakes. Aquatic plant coverage is slightly higher than in many of these other lakes.

Lake Oscaleta had slightly higher water clarity, and slightly lower nutrient levels and algae levels, than other nearby lakes. Aquatic plant coverage is comparable to the plant coverage in most of these nearby lakes.

Lake Rippowam had slightly lower water clarity, and slightly higher nutrient levels and algae levels, than other nearby lakes. Aquatic plant coverage is slightly higher than in most of these nearby lakes, and at times impacts lake use.

Are there any trends in our lake’s condition?

Waccabuc’s phosphorus and pH

readings have been higher since the late 2000s, although phosphorus levels dropped in the last two years. The rise in phosphorus may have triggered a drop in water clarity over the same period, although this change was not statistically significant.

Long-term trends are generally not apparent for **Oscaleta**, although phosphorus readings rose slightly at the surface and lake bottom from 2010 to 2014, resulting in a slight increase in algae levels and drop in water clarity.

Long-term trends are generally not apparent for **Rippowam**, although phosphorus readings rose slightly at the surface and lake bottom from 2010 to 2014, resulting in a slight increase in algae levels and decrease in water clarity.

Should we be concerned about the condition of our lake? Are we close to a tipping point?

Waccabuc’s water quality conditions already indicated a moderate to high susceptibility to blooms and improved habitat for invasive species, although blooms are not regularly reported in some years. The rise in phosphorus may have exacerbated these conditions.

Water quality conditions already indicated a potential susceptibility to blooms on **Oscaleta**, but these may still occur. The rise in phosphorus may have exacerbated these conditions.

The recent rise in phosphorus readings in **Rippowam** may indicate a longer-term trend, although this has not yet triggered blue green algae levels high enough to constitute blooms along the shoreline or in the open water. Rippowam may be approaching this tipping point.

Are any actions indicated, based on the trends and this year’s results?

For **all three lakes**, individual stewardship activities such as pumping your septic system, growing a buffer of native plants next to the water bodies, and reducing erosion from shoreline properties and runoff into the lake will help to improve lake health by reducing nutrient and sediment loading to the lake. Visiting boats should be discouraged, and any new boats arriving to the lakes should be inspected to reduce the risk of new invasive species, since nearby lakes harbor several invasive plants not presently found in the lake. We should be vigilant about preventing water chestnut from becoming established in Lake Waccabuc.

2014 at a glance – as assessed by NYS DEC			
Lake Uses	Rippowam	Oscaleta	Waccabuc
Potable water	Not applicable	 algal levels	 algal levels, 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, & invasive plants	 high pH, deep water low oxygen, & invasive plants	 high pH, deep water low oxygen, high ammonia, & plants
Aesthetics	 algae levels	 algae levels	 algae levels
Key:	 Supported	 Threatened	 Stressed
			 Impaired

Update on beavers on our lakes

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

Community members have expressed all of these feelings – and more. The Three Lakes Council Beaver Task force shares this status update.

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 core idea remains that any decisions are based on facts. We have revisited and re-adopted the original criteria. We have recommended additional criteria to limit the local population of the beaver. We have asked a scientist from the Cary Institute to assess the number of beaver and the current or potential impacts on our lakes environment, and as this is written we are scheduling his visit.

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 culvert under Oscaleta Road. Beavers damaged trees by all three lakes.

In March 2012, a plan was formulated and adopted by board of directors of the Three Lakes Council. A common concern was that a beaver dam would change the environment and affect our lakes. 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 periods of higher water flows, when the beavers are most active dam building. Since trapping is a difficult and contentious decision, and because beaver are likely to return, 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 three years, the beaver crew that removes the dam-building debris has kept up with the beaverish activity. Experts had predicted that a team of volunteers would have difficulty removing debris at the beaver's building pace. 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.

Currently, the active beaver lodge is in the channel between Lakes Oscaleta and Waccabuc. Scent piles that mark territories are also in the channel. In the winter of 2014-2015, a sizable winter food cache was built in the channel adjacent to the lodge. Many trees along the channel have been felled, which has led to concerns of environmental damage in the wetlands area between Waccabuc and Oscaleta.

People who ask the Three Lakes Council to take action should understand that the landowner must give permission to set a beaver trap. Even if the criteria were met, the Three Lakes Council does not have any property that could be used for trapping, and we would have to petition the town to take action. Homeowners on the lake can contact a licensed trapper to trap on their property.

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

Harmful Algal Blooms

Most algae are harmless and are an important part of the food web. Algae, in fact, may produce a majority of the oxygen on earth. However, when conditions allow, algae can become overabundant.

Algal blooms are frequent occurrences on many lakes. When these algal blooms are just unsightly, they are considered nuisance blooms. However, some blooms contain blue green algae, or cyanobacteria, and when these algae produce toxins, they are considered **harmful algal blooms**, or **HABs**. Not all cyanobacteria blooms produce toxins, and a bloom with toxins and a bloom without toxins can't be distinguished by visual characteristics.

In other words, sometimes you might be able to tell a green algae bloom from a blue green algae bloom by its appearance, but you can't tell by observation whether a blue green algae bloom is producing toxins. That's why we send samples to a lab when we see a bloom that looks as if it could contain blue green algae.

In 2014, we measured the kinds of algae that exist in the open waters of our lakes. We found that Rippowam had the highest levels of algae overall towards the end of the season, although most of what was found was not blue green algae. Waccabuc had its highest levels of blue green

algae in mid-July, and Rippowam's highest was in mid-August. The charts below show blue-green algae as the solid bar, and the scales differ. We continue to monitor algae in 2015.

EPA Toxin Advisory Levels

In 2015, EPA issued advisory levels for drinking water for two cyanobacteria toxins. The drinking water advisory limits assume that exposure continues for ten days. The advisory values for drinking water are 1.6 µg/L (micrograms per liter) for microcystin and 3.0 µg/L for cylindrospermopsin. These are higher than the 1.0 µg/L levels used as guidance by the WHO. The EPA also issued a reduced level for children younger than school age. The EPA did not release levels for recreational contact such as boating and swimming. The WHO level for recreational contact is 20 µg/L.

Our measurements in 2014 were all below even the drinking water guidelines and much less than recreational guidelines.

Even if we see algal blooms, it's not always easy to tell if blue green algae is present. **If in doubt, stay out.** If infants or pets get in algal blooms, rinse them off in clean water so they don't ingest the algae.

Contact us if you see an algae bloom. If appropriate, we will collect a sample to send to a lab for analysis.

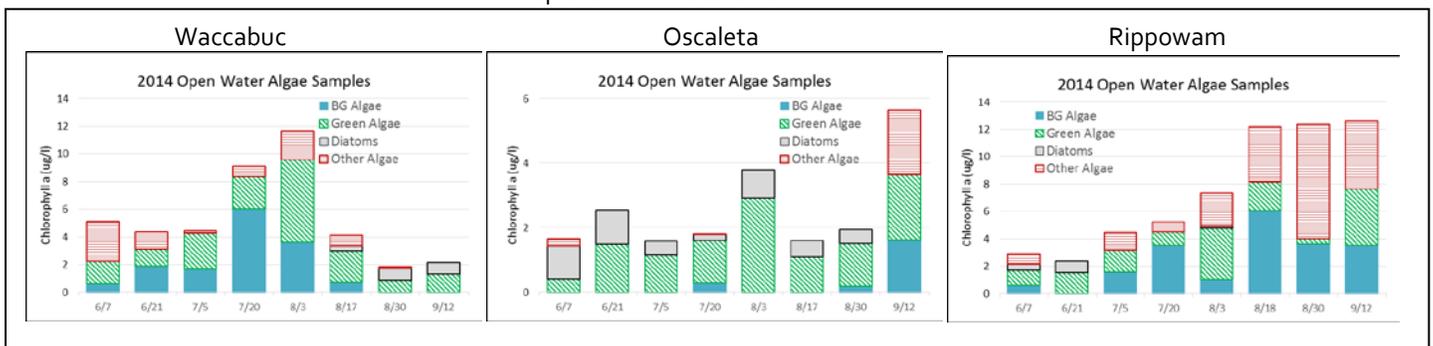
For more information on the samples collected last summer, see the CSLAP reports on our website.

Long Pond Preserve

Long Pond Preserve, at the west end of Lake Waccabuc, has 37 protected acres for hiking and birding. The preserve is currently the site of two important water protection activities. One involves **planting trees to stabilize the creek** that runs across one side of the preserve. The other is the installation of a **wetland basin** to handle runoff from Mead Street.

Waccabuc Creek runs across Waccabuc County Club and through Long Pond Preserve. The DEC program to add trees along tributaries is an effort to improve the water quality in the Hudson River and its tributary streams. The Three Lakes Council has assisted in this DEC **"Trees for Tribs"** program. Trees planted in this preserve aim to stabilize the meandering creek, cool the stream water, and provide improved habitat. Many of these trees have tree tubes or a darker tree grid to protect the young trees from deer browse and buck rub. As these trees continue to mature, the creek water that flows into the lake will be cooler in temperature and will carry less polluting sediment, improving both creek and lake habitats.

The area of the Long Pond Preserve next to Mead Street is the site of a new wetland basin for the treatment of storm water. Water from the catch basins along Mead Street previously dumped into the creek or the wet meadow without any removal of polluted contaminants.



The goal of the new **stormwater basin** on Long Pond Preserve is to reduce polluted runoff to Lake Waccabuc and to reduce erosion near Tarry-a-bit. The basin will treat stormwater runoff and reduce phosphorus pollution from 25 acres, or about 1% of the watershed around the entire three lakes. The project was funded by NYC DEP as part of their efforts to protect the NYC drinking water supply.

A shallow wetland basin on the Long Pond Preserve receives stormwater runoff from the storm drains along Mead Street and allows pollution to be removed before the water is discharged into the lake. The basin and stream restoration area will contain a variety of wetland and meadow plants.

This project will reduce about 3.5 kg of phosphorus load to the lake each year. We estimate that Lake Waccabuc gets an external load of about 308 kg of phosphorus annually, so this project will remove a little over 1% of the nutrient load.

The Town Lake Management plan projected that we should aim to reduce the external load by 28%, so we have a lot more to do. But every step helps. We anticipate that the Long Pond Preserve basin will become an attractive and effective protection for our lakes.

Chlorides: the scoop on salt

Chlorides are essential elements of life. Salts like table salt are composed of ions that are bonded together. When salt dissolves in water, its sodium and chloride ions separate.

Chloride concentrations of between 1 and 100 ppm (parts per million) are normal in freshwater. Elevated chloride levels are an indicator of pollution in a body of water and can be correlated with development.

Chlorides can enter a watershed through road salts, water softener discharge, or sewage contamination. Road salts are an important road de-icer and used to improve safety on winter roadways.

Water softeners remove magnesium and calcium ions that make water "hard" by exchanging those ions in a reaction with sodium chloride. Small amounts of sodium enter the softened water, and the chlorides are discharged into a drywell or septic system.

Chloride ions are completely soluble and will travel easily in water. There is no natural process by which chlorides are broken down, metabolized, taken up, or removed from the environment.

As salt intake increases in the American diet, more chlorides enter groundwater through human waste. Sodium chloride is added to many processed foods to delay spoilage and enhance flavor. Chlorides are not removed from waste by septic tank processes, so they enter septic fields. From there, chlorides can find their way into lakes, ponds, streams, and wetlands.

Another anthropogenic source of chlorides in groundwater is fertilizer. Like nitrogen and phosphorous, chloride can leach from fertilized soils into rivers and streams.

High chloride concentrations in freshwater can harm aquatic organisms ranging from zooplankton that eat algae, to macroinvertebrates, insects, amphibians, and fish. The EPA recommends chloride concentrations below 250 mg/L, the equivalent to one teaspoon of salt in five gallons of water.

Invasive Eurasian water milfoil is more tolerant of high chloride levels than native plants, so an increase in chloride levels could help this invasive out-compete native plants in our lakes.

We have a few chloride tests. In 2010 & 2011, our chloride readings were between 25 & 55 ppm. DEC measures in Waccabuc for 2013 were 20 to 26 ppm. Because these levels are so low, we did not continue our own testing. In 2015 chloride will be part of the statewide CSLAP tests.



Boating

A variety of NYS and town regulations as well as local customs apply to motor boats on the three lakes.

Town law – Chapter 89

Horsepower on Lake Waccabuc is limited to 25 hp, and on Lakes Oscaleta and Rippowam, the limit is 10 hp.

No motor boat shall be operated before 8:30 a.m. or after 1/2 hour after sunset.

No motor boat shall be used for towing a person on water skis, a surfboard or similar device before 10:00 a.m. or after 4:00 p.m.

A motor boat towing a person on skis, surfboard or similar device requires a second person onboard to observe the person being towed.

New York Law

NY requires mandatory boater education for all boaters born on or after May 1, 1996 who operate a motorboat. The New York boating safety certificate must be carried on board when the vessel is underway.

Right of Way – Swimmers have right of way over boats. Non-motorized boats have the right of way over motor boats.

Additional NY regulations apply to boat registration and operations.

Informal lake guidelines

Boats at speed should not come within 100' of a float or a dock.

The coves are slow speed areas and boats should not tow anyone in those areas.

Be careful with gas and oil.

Gasoline is a very hazardous substance near water. Just one gallon of gasoline can contaminate one million gallons of water.

Pesticide Study on Lake Waccabuc

In 2013, NYS DEC and Steve Pacenka, a staff member at Cornell University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, asked the Three Lakes Council to participate in a pesticide study. Much of the information in this article is provided by Steve. Four lakes across NYS were included in this study, and one was Lake Waccabuc. Four sites were tested in our lake, and we sampled four times throughout the summer.

Pesticides are designed to slow or stop living things, like pests, weeds, and pathogens. Most pesticides have side effects. Pesticides can travel to locations where non-targets (like people and fish) drink and swim.

Lake Waccabuc was selected because it's where the pesticides are. See the map. The map is darkest in zip codes where the pesticide use is highest, in terms of pounds of active ingredients per acre.

These pesticides are regulated and restricted chemicals. The maps do not include over-the-counter pesticides, for example, those in a bag of "weed and feed".

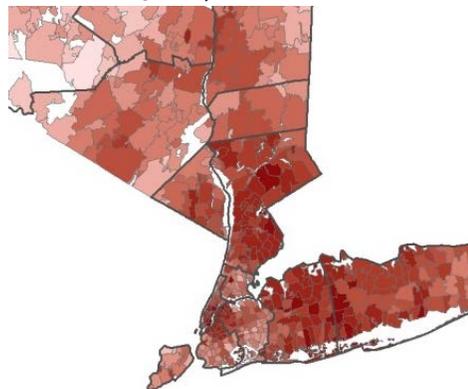
Pesticides are widely used, and while we might expect them to be mainly agricultural, the maps make it clear that high intensity pesticide uses can occur in urban and suburban areas such as our three lakes community.

Application near wells and waterbodies is prohibited, but pesticides can travel in runoff. Our study was to see if any pesticides make it into Lake Waccabuc, which some homes use as their water supply.

The lab at Cornell tested for 38 pesticides, and also for some metabolites created as the pesticides persist in the environment. The testing included both agricultural and urban compounds. While that was a lot of expensive testing, it's only a small portion of the number of possible pesticides.

The results showed that most of the pesticides were not detected in our lake samples, and none at a concentration known to be significant to human health. At Lake Waccabuc, the only pesticide found was a fungicide used on turf, Tebuconazole, and it was found at very low levels, between 0.01 ppb and 0.1 ppb. The low levels and single pesticide detected are good news.

We have told Steve we are willing to continue to participate in this study, and so we hope to do more sampling in 2015. Stay tuned!



You can help prevent invasives

We have more than enough invasives in our lakes already – let's not add to them. You can help.

- Don't dump aquarium plants, fish, frogs, or snails in our lakes or anywhere where it can run into our lakes. Many invasive species are popular for aquariums because they can thrive in a range of conditions. Dispose of unwanted aquarium material in the trash, not in lakes or catch basins.
- Don't add non-native plants or animals in water features or along the shore. Some of the worst invasives are garden "escapes". Even if you have a wet garden away from the shore, a big storm can wash problem plants into the lake.
- Don't dump bait into the lakes. Bait fish and crawfish can be invasive and can affect the fish food web in the lake.
- Keep your boats on the lake so that you don't transport seeds, weeds, or larval animals from elsewhere.
- Discourage people bringing items that have been on other water bodies to our lakes. If friends want to bring boats, coolers, or fishing gear to the lake, check to make sure they are clean and dry.

Check, clean and dry.

The basic steps are check, clean, and dry. Check all the equipment, gear, clothing, and footwear to ensure that there are no plant pieces, mussel larvae, eggs, algae, or mud. Then clean your boats and gear. Dry items completely for at least 5 days. Detailed information follows.

Check:

Inspect carefully and remove any plant parts, mud, juvenile mussels,

and algae from all water gear and equipment, and leave it all behind at the original site. Never carry water or wet gear or equipment from another lake into the Three Lakes. Don't bring bait buckets from other lakes to our lakes.

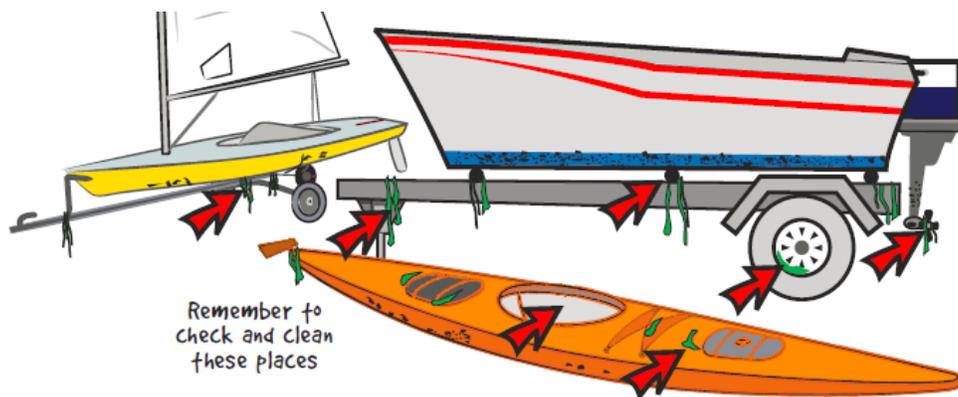
Clean:

Disinfection measures must be taken BEFORE moving boats, equipment and other gear from another water body to the Three Lakes. After cleaning, they still must be completely dried. Clean your boat, anchors, equipment, and gear. Make sure you check interior wells and motors.

- Clean at a car wash with soap and high pressure, or
- Steam clean by washing with ~212° F water, or
- Disinfect with 1 tablespoon per gallon of chlorine bleach for 10-minute contact time, or
- Spray from a bottle with Lysol solution or Formula 409 or Fantastic – give plenty of contact time.
- Small equipment and gear can also be placed in a freezer until all moisture is frozen solid.

Dry:

After cleaning, leave the equipment or boats in the open for at least 5 days without rain or heavy dew. The goal is to ensure that all the wet equipment dries out and remains completely dry for at least 2 days before contact or use in any other waterway.



Water Chestnut – an unwelcome visitor

We've seen a variety of invasive plants arrive in our lakes. Our unwelcome visitors include Eurasian water milfoil, curly-leaved pondweed, and brittle naiad. We've fought and appear to have won against a recent arrival - Brazilian elodea. Last year we found one more invasive – Water chestnut.



Water chestnut has floating leaves

Water chestnut has been in the vicinity for a while. It blankets the shores of the Hudson River, and it's been in several ponds in Mountain Lakes Camp. In 2014, we found five plants in Lake Waccabuc, and pulled them immediately. So now we've got another plant to add to our search and destroy list.

In this, we're fortunate. Water chestnut is easy to spot and, as long as it doesn't get established, it's easy to pull. This plant grows from the lake bottom, but it floats on top of

the water in a rosette. It should be pulled in July or early August before the seeds are dropped. Seeds can be carried from nearby spots by wildlife such as geese and swans.

As you go about the lakes this year, keep an eye out for this plant. If you see it, pull it. Reach below the surface, grab the root, and pull slowly and firmly to pull it up. Then carry the plant away, carefully capturing any seeds.

With your help, we can shut the door on this unwelcome guest.



Water chestnut seed (nutlet)

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

3LC Membership Supports the Environment

Maintaining the health and well-being of the lakes is a responsibility shared by us all, and the Three Lakes Council leads the effort. Your membership and support enables continued research, education, and stewardship activities.

The Three Lakes Council is the only organization around the Three Lakes that can act on the environmental status and concerns expressed by residents of all three lakes and their surrounding watershed. Since 1970, our members have enabled us to take actions to improve or safeguard the water quality of our three lakes. We do research and communicate the results of our scientific investigations. Beyond that, increased membership gives us a stronger voice as we advocate for lake issues.

We appreciate volunteers who can offer their time to help us accomplish our mission – and 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 the volunteers in this 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. We truly appreciate those of you who renew your membership annually.

If you are a member – thank you! If you haven't joined yet this year, please do so now. It's only with your help that the Three Lakes Council can fulfill its commitment to our lakes, our watershed, and our residents.

Doug Housman

Visit our website at www.threelakescouncil.org

Treasurer's Report

2014 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS:

The Three Lakes Council enjoyed another very successful year in 2014 with another high membership count, and generous contributions.

Contributors (Members & Associate Members): 207

Total Contributions Received :
\$45,610

Our income in 2014 reflected two special donations. We are very grateful to Gladys Wolkolf, who left a bequest to Three Lakes Council. As you may recall, she was one of the founders and a past president of this organization. We also received a special donation to support our efforts to fight the development on the Osceleta wetlands. Our revenue without those two special donations would have been about \$30,000, a bit less than prior years.

Our membership has remained steady at about 200 since 2008. Thank you to all that made donations in 2014. 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 for harmful algal blooms, 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 2014 expenses were \$28,453, which included the continue surveillance for invasive species which are funded with the BEEP reserve. We spent \$3840 in outreach and education, which covered elements like the newsletter, other publications, and our website. Our lake water quality studies cost \$5,580, and

stewardship activities totaled \$13,910. Overhead, including taxes and insurance, were \$1,420. We are in strong financial shape for 2015. We will be able to continue our stewardship activities, initiatives, and to fund some of 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*

Keep Wild Animals Wild!

Don't feed wild animals.



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.



Recycle CFL Bulbs

Both Home Depot and Lowe's offer free recycling of CFL bulbs (compact fluorescent lights)

Weather-wise

Three Lakes Council members participate in several "citizen science" activities. Precipitation and snowfall data is collected through the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, & Snow network, aka CoCoRaHS.

These folks, like other meteorologists, consider the "weather year" to run from October to September, because snow pack is so important to the water cycle, especially in the west. This weather year enables all the snow from a winter season to be combined. So that is how the table shows precipitation for recent years.

The 2014 – 2015 data are through May. The 30 year annual average precipitation for this area is 49.92 inches. The water content of the snow is included in all precipitation amounts.

Did you need this to tell you that we had a lot of snow last winter? We had more total snow in 2010-2011, but

last winter it snowed more often and stayed on the ground longer!

The graph shows how the precipitation in our water year through May, 2015 compares with the 30 year average for our location.

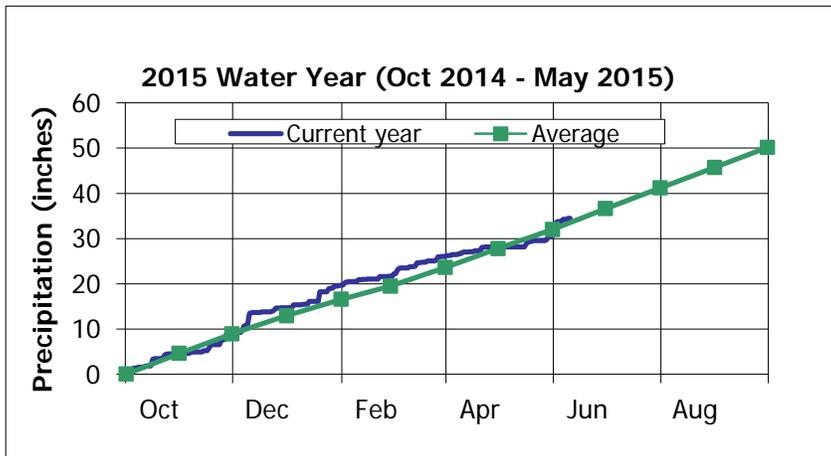
Google Groups

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

A separate group serves as a community bulletin board for discussion of issues in the community. Join this group by contacting Tara Owen at 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

Weather year * = partial year	Total precip. (in)	Days with precip.	Total snowfall (in)	Days with snowfall	Days with snow on ground
2010 – 2011	63.68	136	56.2	22	65
2011 – 2012	46.63	136	16.3	5	9
2012 – 2013	55.23	139	40.0	21	55
2013 – 2014	43.33	141	43.8	31	73
2014 – 2015 *	30.51	116	49.2	39	77



THREE LAKES COUNCIL 2015

President Jan Andersen
Vice President Peter Gross
Treasurer John Lemke
Secretary Jean Lewis

Board Representatives
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
 Ellen Bailey
 John Bailey (alternate)

South Shore Association
 Alayne Vlachos

Two Lake Club
 Peter Gross
 Jan Andersen (alternate)

Waccabuc Country Club
 Darrell Alfieri
 Peter Bysshe (alternate)

Waccabuc Landowners Council
 John Tobin
 Seth Christian (alternate)

At Large
 Fred Cowles

Committee Chairs

Beaver: Peter Gross
BEEP: Jan Andersen
Boat Stickers: Alayne Vlachos
Fishing: Joe Tansey
Investment: John Lemke
Lake Preservation: Paul Lewis
Membership: Doug Housman
Newsletter: Stephanie Harding
Nominating: Beth Llanos
Picnic / Annual Meeting: Doug Housman

Contact any of the above through ThreeLakesCouncil@gmail.com

Pump out your Septic!

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. Have your septic system pumped out this season.

Many lakeside systems are likely to require more frequent attention than the law requires. 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.

THREE LAKES COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

PUBLISHER: THREE LAKES COUNCIL EDITOR: STEPHANIE HARDING
CONTRIBUTORS: JAN ANDERSEN, PETER GROSS, DOUG HOUSMAN, PAUL LEWIS, JOHN LEMKE, JOE TANSEY
PHOTOS: JAN ANDERSEN, JEAN LEWIS
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR Via Mail: P.O. BOX 241, SOUTH SALEM, NY 10590
Via E-Mail: THREELAKESCOUNCIL@GMAIL.COM

Protect it – and inspect it!

Pump septic tanks regularly to help 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.

Plastics Recycling

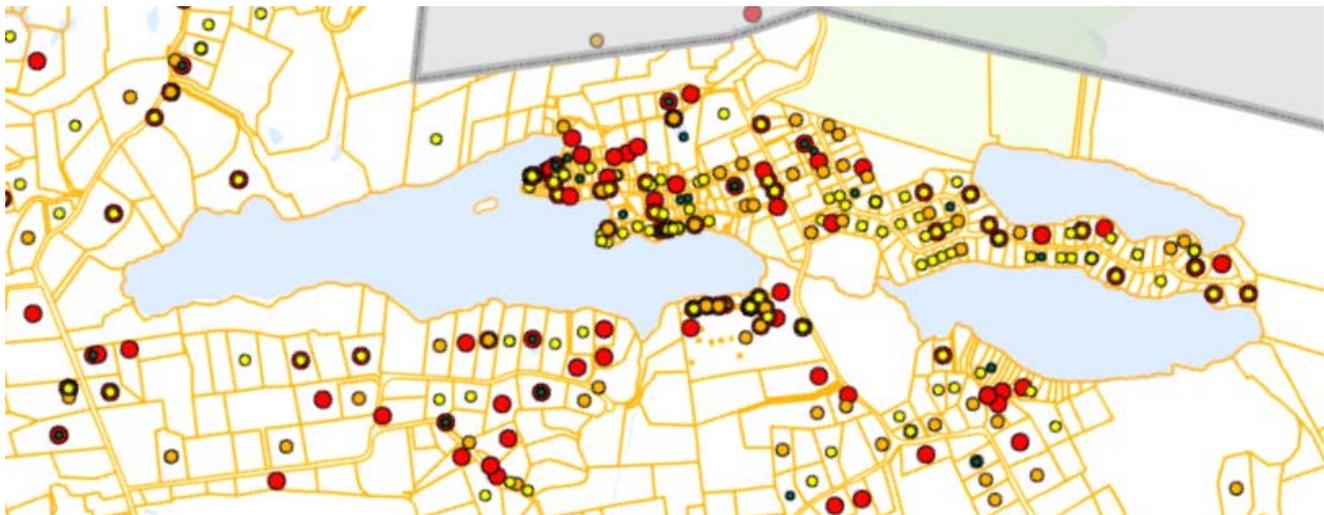
In Westchester, all garbage haulers must now accept and recycle plastics labeled 1 through 7. Recycling helps reduce landfill requirements and reduces the demand for oil.

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.

Our environment and your neighbors will thank you!



Septic Pump Year

- 2011
- 2012
- 2013
- 2014

The map shows the septics pumped between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2014. Septic pumping after that date has not yet been mapped.

The map is provided by the very helpful map wizards at Westchester County GIS.



Three Lakes Council

Join as a member 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). Matching Grant forms are gratefully accepted.

Name(s): _____

Phone: ____ - ____ - _____

Email address: _____

Local Address:

Mailing Address (if different):

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

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

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

Thank you for your support!

Membership: \$ 55.00

Additional contribution: \$ _____

Total: \$ _____

Please note that membership in the Three Lakes Council does not convey lake rights.

Boat Registration Form and Request for Three Lakes Council Boat Sticker

Boat stickers help us keep non-resident boats and invasive species off the lake, and help find lost boats.

Three Lakes Council PO Box 241 South Salem, NY 10590

Name(s): _____

Phone: ____ - ____ - _____

Email address: _____

Local Address:

Mailing Address (if different):

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

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

Affiliated Organization:

Lake Oscaleta Assoc.

Perch Bay Assoc.

South Shore Assoc.

Lake Waccabuc Assoc.

Two Lakes Club

Waccabuc Landowners Council

Lakeside Assoc.

Waccabuc Country Club

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, PO Box 241, South Salem, NY 10590 or to ThreeLakesCouncil@gmail.com

Fishing Report

This year the fishing seems to have gotten off to a slow start over all and it is probably because of the late ice out. By this time of year I usually have heard of some bass in the 6 or 7 pound class being caught and released. To date I've had only one report of a 5 pound fish.

I've received reports that some trout have been caught in Waccabuc over the last couple of weeks and those fish were from prior year's stocking. That is a good sign. The most productive bass fishing on Waccabuc has been at the east end and some crappies are mixed in there as well.

Oscaleta seems to be the most popular so far with the spring bass fisherman.

Oscaleta has had good bass fish all around the lake, no trout reports yet, and very good crappie fishing at the east end of the lake. Pickerel are strong at both ends of the lake and seem to be larger this year than last.

I do not have any reports from Rippowam---sorry.

We have a wonderful fishery here in our 3 lakes and I would like to share a little history to prove my point. How many waters of our size can claim 4 state records and 2 world records, not many for sure and here they are in date order:

NYS and world record: Black Bullhead 8 lbs, Kani Evans, Lake Waccabuc, 8/1/1951. Because it was considered a historical record, NYS replaced it with the current record of 7 lb 7 oz caught in 1993.

NYS and world record: White Perch, 3 lb 1 oz, Lake Oscaleta 9/21/1991, caught by Joe Tansey



NYS Record: Hybrid Stripped bass, 11 lb 2oz, Lake Waccabuc 8/26/2000, caught by George Harris

NYS Record: Hybrid Stripped bass, 15 lb 5 oz, Lake Waccabuc, 7/30/2004, caught by Brian Colley

Now that is indeed impressive in my book. Now who will catch the next record fish here?

Also 2 years ago a 12lb brown trout was taken in Lake Oscaleta, not a record but indeed a large fish. Many years back I caught a few eels while fishing for bullheads that were



between 45-50 inches in length, by far larger than any I've caught in any other waters.

Here is a picture of a fish I have not seen in our lakes in the last 15-20 years and it was caught last month, can you guess what it is??? See page 14 of the newsletter for the answer!

Joe Tansey

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



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. Still better - bring your own reusable bags!

Goose Population Stabilization

We continued in our seventh year of goose egg oiling, and oiled 26 eggs in 6 nests. We

aim to slow the explosive, unnatural growth in geese population on our lakes. Many have noticed fewer geese on the lakes, the reduction in goose droppings, and improved water clarity. Please don't feed the geese, it's not healthy for them or for the lakes, and feeding 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.



Thank you to all of our 2014 Members

Sophie Molholm & Adil Abdulali
 Ellen Adrian
 Peter & Susanne Ainsworth
 Fred & Kathy Albano
 Darrell Alfieri
 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
 Ferne Bendel
 Jennifer Fisher & David Berger
 Susan Berk
 Alan & Elaine Berman
 Robert & Amy Bernstein
 Janice Billingsley
 Patrick Black
 Lee Blum
 Patricia Bobletz
 Barry & Terry Bocklet
 CJ & Kimball Bocklet
 Jenette Barrow & William Bosshart
 Curtis & Lynne Brockelman
 Regina Anderson & Christian Brutzer
 Brian Bunker
 Susan Burkhardt
 Ed Burroughs
 John & Patti Burr
 Ed & Francesca Cantine
 Barbara Capo
 David & Laura Caravella
 Dominick & Agnes Catalano
 Nancy Walsh & Jack Cedarholm
 Audrey Cirulli
 Linda Van Tassell Clark
 Stephanie Steifel & Robert Cohen
 Eugene & Lois Colley
 John & Ingrid Connolly
 Eugene & Linda Conroy
 Frederick & Christina Cowles
 Nan Dale
 Ann Goodson & Kevin Daley
 Robert & Peggy Daley
 Michael DeCandia
 Gail & Edward Delaney
 Lisa & Tim Delaney
 Margaret & Al DeLuca
 Richard Dickens
 Bill & Jane Donaldson
 Kenneth & Janet Donohue
 Ellen Dougherty
 Raymond Duffy, Jr.
 J & Jody Durst
 Jenny & John Eckerson
 Linda Broudy & David Eggers
 Jeanne Elliott
 George Fedoriw
 Lou Feeney
 Senia Erlich Feiner
 Paul & Katharine Fennelly
 Richard & Christine Ferrarone
 William Finke
 Jeanne Donovan Fisher
 Karen Foley
 Ronald & Georgia Frasca

Bart & Wendy Friedman
 Lou & Lois Froelich
 Liz & Larry Fryer
 Dorothy Gale
 Joe & Jennifer Garrity
 Jeffrey & Paula Gaynor
 Kelly & Eric Germa
 Neil & Beth Gollogly
 Chris Culler & Melissa Gordon
 Mariana Canelo & Michael Gordon
 Allan & Alice Gottlieb
 Scott Mori & Carol Gracie
 James & Elizabeth Grant
 Michael & Mary Greenblatt
 Elizabeth Meyer & Peter Gross
 Carl & Merrill Grossman
 Waldie & Barbara Gullen
 June Gumbel
 Robert & Karen Gureasko
 Richard & Martha Handler
 David & Anne Hardy
 Ethna Harris
 Susan Harris
 Sara Hartley
 Judy Hausman
 Martin & Evette Hecht
 Susan & James Henry
 Helen & Richard Henshaw III
 Katherine Hersch
 Theresa Doherty & Scott Hershman
 Charles & Susan Herzog
 Thomas & Mary Herzog
 Cameron & Jennifer Hillyer
 Mary Horowitz
 David Venarde & Sara Horowitz
 Doug & Kelley Housman
 Sandra Huntington
 Richard & Janet Karl
 Kevin Karl/Lake Oscaleta Trust
 Argie & George Kazazis
 Sue & Ed Kelly
 Kathleen & Frank Kelly
 Bradford & Bonnie Klein
 Jane Weiser & Daniel Kleinman
 Christine Konetchy
 Gail Kuziak
 Bill & Bernadette Langenstein
 Elizabeth Lanza
 Morvin & Charlotte Leibowitz
 John & Liz Lemke
 Gus Levy
 Nadine Netter Levy
 Paul & Jean Lewis
 Robert & Margaret Lieb
 Denise Ferris & Chan-Li Lin
 Jane & Daniel Lindau
 Paul & Beth Llanos
 Andrew & Alison Llewellyn
 Shirley Lobenthal
 Stephanie Harding & Brian Loxley
 Ted & Nancy Lundberg
 Matthew & Andrea Lustig
 Jeannette Maiorino
 Larry & Jill Mango
 Randolph & Helen Marshall
 Harriet Mayer
 John & Carlyn McCaffrey
 Thomas & Eileen McGrath
 James & Carol McMonagle
 David Migden
 Mike Miller

Steve Miller
 Magen & Raul Miranda
 Katherine Moreau
 Jeffrey & Ann-Marie Morris
 Lauren Moss
 Sondra & Austin O'Hanlon
 Christopher Owen
 Tara Owen
 Jen McQuaid & Jorge Pedraza
 Marianne Pei
 Mary Jane Massie & William Pelton
 Christopher & Fatima Peters
 Dave & Judy Petro
 Paul Phaneuf
 Victor & Joanne Ponzio
 Barbara Posner
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 Sheaffer & Lindsay Reese
 Ogden & Mary Louise Reid
 Susan Wolf & Stephen Reynolds
 Peter & Audrey Rinaldi
 George Roberts
 Bonnie Robins
 Harold & Edie Rosenbaum
 Allan & Marion Ross
 Jeffrey & Jennifer Roth
 Robby & Kathryn Rothfeld
 Fran Rubin
 James Ryan
 Arthur Rauch & Lynn Saidenberg
 Mitchell & Lynn Samberg
 Nick & Lisa Savastano
 Melissa Benzuli & Jonathan Schaffin
 Howard & Anne Schneider
 Michael Schwartz
 Stephen & Wendy Shalen
 Arthur & Miriam Shane
 William & Diane Shannon
 Denise Simon
 James Slocum
 Donald & Elina Smith
 R. Bailey & Gail Stewart
 Michael & Susan Stillman
 Sara Strang
 Ursula Strauss
 Henry Strickrodt
 Richard & Raina Stuart
 Daniel & Kathryn Sullivan
 Paul & Nancy Sutera
 Daniel Sweeney
 Joe & Susan Tansey
 Eugene & Anne-Marie Tedaldi
 Lewis & Barbara Terman
 Ronald & Ann Marie Tetelman
 Robert & Tina Theurkauf
 Peter & Betty Treyz
 Alayne Vlachos
 Waccabuc Country Club
 Marc Wachtell
 Susan & Ken Wallach
 Elizabeth Wattles
 John Rudge & Sara Weale
 Daniel & Debbie Welsh
 Philip & Susan Wick
 Marie Williams
 Victor & Sherri Wilson
 Gladys Wolkof (Bequest)
 Lucy Koteen & Allan Young

Fish answer: white perch



THREE LAKES COUNCIL ANNUAL MEETING & PICNIC

Saturday, August 1, 2015, 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

2015 Annual Newsletter of the



Three Lakes Council

Inside Find:

Water Quality Report
Beaver Update
Reports on Vernal Pools and other Critters
Fishing Report
Annual Meeting Picnic Reservations
And more!