

# WATERWORKS

NEW YORK STATE FEDERATION OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS, Inc.

Summer 1994 Volume 10 Number 3

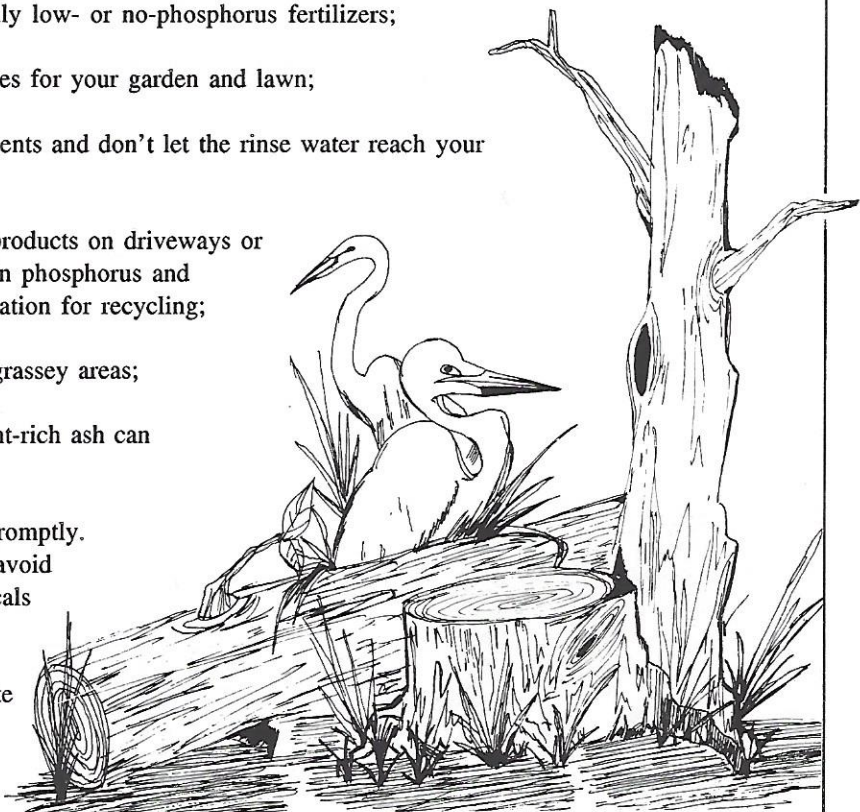
## *Building Responsibility:*

### ACTIONS TO PROTECT YOUR LAKE

What does a "healthy" lake mean to you? Some lake users may be striving for reduced algae and weed growth, or possibly higher oxygen levels in the bottom waters to enhance cold water fisheries. Nutrient and sediment runoff from the watershed is often a major focus of lake protection since they can increase the growth of algae and rooted aquatic plants. Abundant plants and algae often lead to decreased water clarity and recreational usage. Excess algae growth can lead to an unpleasant odor and taste of your lake water. When these plants die and fall to the bottom of the lake, decomposition can cause a depletion of the oxygen levels in the bottom of the lake. Low levels of oxygen can alter fish populations and may trigger the release of phosphorus from the bottom sediments.

Although natural occurrences can reduce the quality of our lakes, it is our land use activities and management of our natural resources that are having the greatest impact on water quality. Here are just a few actions you can do to protect your lake:

- \* Leave a natural, undisturbed, wooded "buffer strip" between your home and the lake shoreline. Trees and plants help retain the shoreline's scenic beauty while their roots grip shoreline soils tightly and absorb nutrients before they enter the lake;
- \* Are you planning a home improvement project? Encourage builders to mulch with hay or other material to reduce soil erosion;
- \* Use fertilizers only if a soil test indicates the need. Apply small amounts over a period of weeks and never apply a fertilizer before or right after a heavy rain. Use only low- or no-phosphorus fertilizers;
- \* Use natural alternatives to herbicides or pesticides for your garden and lawn;
- \* Use only non-phosphate laundry and dish detergents and don't let the rinse water reach your lake;
- \* Never dispose of motor oil or other petroleum products on driveways or roads. Most oils and petroleum products are high in phosphorus and contain other toxics. Take motor oil to a service station for recycling;
- \* Direct water from roof drains and gutters onto grassy areas;
- \* Don't burn leaves on a slope from which nutrient-rich ash can wash into the lake;
- \* Maintain septic systems and correct problems promptly. Pump septic systems every two to three years and avoid flushing strong cleaning agents, paints, and chemicals down the drain;
- \* Keep leaves, grass clippings and other yard waste away from the lake; use a compost pile instead.



Line drawing by Roderick Thurman

# Who's Doing What On New York State Lakes

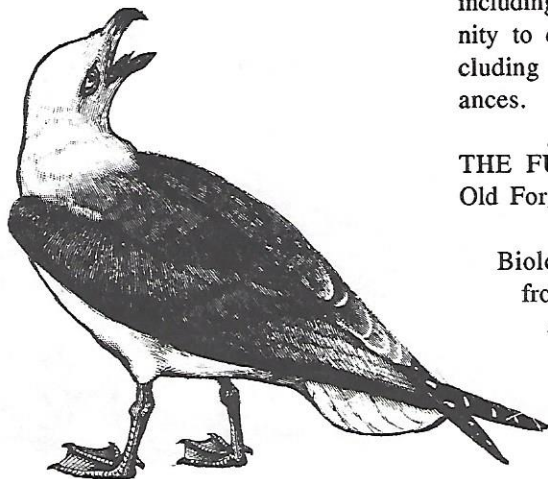
*A common theme in many of the spring newsletters was the harsh winter and a sense of relief that we all survived! Many associations are also working hard to boost (or maintain) membership levels. As stated in the Fulton Chain of Lakes Association newsletter, "The threat of pollution needs to be faced by a strong and active community-based alliance. Everyone must participate. 'Everyone' means property owners, business owners, seasonal residents and year-round residents - everyone!...Be a Strong Link in the Chain is more than a slogan; it's a battle cry."*

*Here's a brief glance at some of the activities on lakes around the state. Please continue to send me your association news and I will spotlight your activities in future issues of Waterworks.*

*A.B. Saltman, Editor*

## BUTTERFIELD LAKE, Redwood, NY

Like many other lake associations, Butterfield is considering the possibility of developing a local law to either limit the size of boats or one to limit the horsepower of boats launched at the public ramp. The association has distributed a survey to determine if the lake users consider this to be a priority management issue.



## LAKE PEEKSKILL, Lake Peekskill, NY

With some creative funding opportunities, Lake Peekskill is focusing on the following projects: plants are being purchased for a detention pond to improve its appearance and efficiency, a two year program is being initiated to monitor carp populations and growth rates, "Carp Fishing Prohibited" signs are being positioned around the lake, and data is being collected on the inlets that impact Lake Peekskill beaches. They are also working at their fifth year of lake monitoring (including oxygen and temperature profiles) through the Citizens State-wide Lake Assessment Program.

## MELODY LAKE, Willet, NY

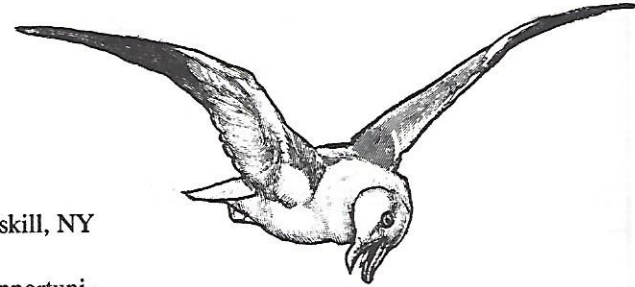
Melody Lake Association is exploring several methods to encourage more homeowners to pay association dues. One possibility is to form a park district whereby an assessment, based on property values, would be added to each family's property taxes. These taxes would be collected by the Town of Willet and the money would be available for improvements within the park district.

## WHITE BIRCH LAKE, Windsor, NY

The Town of Windsor held a spring refuse collection day at the highway garage. This gave the entire community, including lake homeowners, an opportunity to dispose of unwanted items, including furniture, old tires and appliances.

## THE FULTON CHAIN OF LAKES, Old Forge, NY

Biology students (grades 10 - 12) from the Town of Webb School, are participating in a four-season study of the tributaries and some lake sites around the Fulton Chain. "The budding



scientists will investigate levels of coliform and E. coli bacteria, pH, alkalinity, phosphorus, nitrogen and other relevant ingredients of the aquatic environment. Besides the water, many other aspects of the surroundings will be examined. This is a very positive way to involve a broad spectrum of the community in understanding the nature and importance of the local environment."

## TUSCARORA RESERVOIR, Erieville, NY

Revised and updated land use regulations were approved by the Nelson Town Board last winter. The Tuscarora Lake Association participated in this two-and-a-half year project by submitting a lake and watershed management plan to the Nelson Town Board when the land use regulations were being written. Much of the plan was incorporated into the final product, including a request for a lake overlay district.

## CONESUS LAKE, Lakeville, NY

Conesus Lake Association has been busy with a long term project to determine the general health of the lake's major feeder streams. Dr. Joseph Makarewicz and students from SUNY Brockport are surveying the watershed this summer looking for possible sources of nutrients and other conditions that could cause harm to the lake. Identifying these problem areas will lay the groundwork for future watershed inspections and regulations. The lake association also participated in writing a new set of Conesus Lake watershed rules and regulations.

## FEDERATION NEWS

*From the President*

This year's conference was planned to be different from years past, but no amount of planning would have seen a "real life" harvester attending the conference. United Marine International, one of the exhibitors, paraded their harvester on the lawn by the auditorium for the duration of the conference.

Besides the harvester, there were many new faces among the familiar. Those attending learned about wetland regulations, protecting critical environmental areas, innovative wastewater disposal methods, biological control of macrophytes, limnology, watershed mapping, and tributary sampling. Those who attended will be receiving a list of attendees and a short summary of conference proceedings.

The Interactive Workshops were extremely productive. The ideas and suggestions will make a big difference in the future of *your* Federation.

At the annual meeting, it was voted to become the New York State Federation of Lake Associations. Members also adopted the mission statement proposed by the Board of Directors. Three awards were given to winning newsletters in the Newsletter Contest (see names on page 7.)

I thank all of you who attended, the exhibitors and advertisers, the conference planning committee, Wells College, and the two charming ladies at the conference registration desk.



Elaine Horstmyer, President

## A Warm Welcome to New Members of the FOLA Board of Directors

### Mr. Chris Rant, Berlin, NY

Chris is a landscaper and carpenter in Berlin, New York. He and his wife are participating in their fourth season as CSLAP volunteers on Round Lake. Chris is currently serving as president of the Rensselaer County Federation of Lake Associations and is an active member of the Rensselaer County Water Quality Committee.

### Mr. John Miller, Illion, NY

John has served as president of the Twitchell Lake Society for nine years. During this time he has worked on developing programs for citizens' pollution control and watercraft control. Additional projects have included eliminating chemical spraying near the lake, and the construction of a garbage disposal center three miles from the lake shore.

John wrote the Citizens' Procedural Guide for Pollution Control

and has disseminated this information on request to 150 lake organizations and government agencies in NY, MA and PA. He has contributed to several FOLA projects and has also provided assistance to many lake groups with their pollution control efforts.

### Dr. John Peverly, Ithaca, NY

John is a professor of Soils at Cornell University where he has been involved in teaching, research and extension work since 1971. His current research emphasis is on sludge and compost use in crop production. He also has a strong background in watershed management, primarily in terms of wastes applied to cropland, metals and nutrients. John has a special interest in aquatic plant biology, management and control. He has used these talents over the past five years in his position as Chairman of the Federation of Lake Associations' Scientific Advisory Board.

## Have You Paid Your 1994 FOLA Dues?

We wish to thank all associations and individuals that have paid their '94 dues. As we all know, our Federation can only survive with this dues contribution. To date, we have only received approximately 55% of our budgeted income from this source of revenue. If, in the hustle-bustle of the summer activities, this has passed you by, please forward your dues on to Don Keppel, FOLA Treasurer, 2698 Shadyside Road, Findley Lake, NY 14736. If you know of other associations that do not belong to the NYSFOLA, explain our mission and have them join our fine group. Thank you.

*The NYSFOLA Board of Directors*

### Our Thanks to *Multiflow Wastewater Treatment Systems* Who Sponsored This Issue of Waterworks

For problem situations such as failed septic systems, sites with poor soils, limited space or environmentally sensitive areas, the Multiflow Wastewater Treatment Systems are a viable solution to pollution. Contact A. Clark Pieper, your New York State representative at (716) 473-3300.

## PSST...BUDDY!

"Psst...buddy...wanna buy a Secchi disk? Only used by a little old lady on weekends...

..That's right... a genuine, standard black and white disk to measure water clarity...

..What's that? ... you say you can get a new one for free? That's impossible!... these things will cost you at least fifty big ones at most places. I think someone is takin' you for a chimp...

So you're tryin' to tell me that the State, this State, will give you a Secchi disk, for free, with instructions and no strings attached...well, except for a measured line...?

And all they want you to do is pass along a copy of the data to them at the end of the year...that's it? What's in it for them....?

OK, so they'll get frequent, accurate water quality data on more lakes around the state, particularly at lakes with no other data. And it will cost them a whole lot less than to do it on their own, especially since CSLAP shows that normal people can collect most data just as accurately as those point-headed scientists. ...yeah, I already know the Secchi disk is still the best tool for measuring long-term changes in the lake... remember, I tried to sell you one...and I already know that you'll get accurate data that is directly related to what your kids and your neighbors think about the lake... but tell me this, smart guy... who's gonna interpret the numbers for you?

Oh...the State will? As long as you return the data form at the end of the year? So does this program have a name? CSLAP - Light?... Oh, that's *real* cute!

And all you need to join this program is to be a FOLA member?... so I guess you think you don't need me anymore, eh buddy?"

Psst...buddy...wanna know more about CSLAP - Light? Contact Scott Kishbaugh of the NYSDEC at the following address: NYSDEC - Lake Services Section, Room 301, 50 Wolf Road, Albany, NY 12233-3502.

## Statewide Lake Management Strategy Update

The annual FOLA Conference held on June 14, 1994 at Wells College provided an opportunity to "kick-off" the planning process for developing the Statewide Lake Management Strategy which was initially conceived by FOLA in 1993. Developing the Statewide Lake Management Strategy is a major initiative which ultimately will influence the quality of all lakes and their surrounding environments in the State. Subsequently, it is essential that all FOLA members keep well informed of this planning initiative ... your input during various phases of the planning process will be critical.

It was concluded at the annual FOLA Conference that the planning process must involve consensus building among lake users, lake associations, public agencies and various other groups. This will be achieved mainly through public participation. Public participation will be an essential component of the following phases of the planning process:

1. identification of lake problems;
2. development of goals and objectives;
3. evaluation of existing programs at all levels of government for their effectiveness;
4. identification of options for overcoming deficiencies in existing programs;
5. selection of options for strategy development.

FOLA members will be encouraged to speak out at public meetings or to express in writing their ideas, concerns and suggestions. Scheduled public meetings across the State will be announced and draft documents prepared as part of the planning process will be made available for review and comment.

The significance of this initiative lies in its potential for changing peoples' views on how to manage and use lakes. Additionally, the initiative will affect the way public agencies, from the federal to local level, administer programs that affect lakes across the State.

The Executive Branch and State Legislature will be kept abreast of all progress made toward developing the Statewide plan. Their support of this planning initiative and its eventual outcome will be indispensable. The greater the participation by FOLA members in the planning process, the greater the influence members can expect to have on the Executive Branch and State Legislature.

Again, we cannot stress enough how important it is for FOLA members to participate and be heard. We will keep you informed. Please continue to read "Waterworks" and look for specific dates and locations of public meetings and workshops.

## Please Help FOLA To Help You!

The following information is requested in order to strengthen the Federation's clearinghouse service and to improve the exchange of ideas between lake associations. Please take a moment to answer the following questions and return this sheet to the Federation of Lake Associations, 2175 Ten Eyck Avenue, Cazenovia, NY 13035.

Lake Name:

County:

Name and Address of Primary Lake Contact:

Lake size (acres):

Watershed size (acres):

### STATEWIDE LAKE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

FOLA is working on a statewide lake management planning process that will involve many lake associations, public agencies and other organizations. Would you or your lake association be interested in participating by:

\* sponsoring and assisting with a regional planning workshop? yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_;

\* by attending a workshop? yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_;

\* by reviewing and commenting on draft material that is written as part of the process? yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_;

### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Associations are often looking for ways to effectively boost membership and encourage additional member participation. What works for your association? How do you inspire new members to support your efforts and encourage current members to become more actively involved?

### WATER QUALITY MONITORING

Please list any local, statewide or national water quality monitoring programs (CSLAP, Save Our Streams, etc.) that have been used by adults or school-age children in your area. What have been the primary benefits of these programs?

### WATERSHED MONITORING

Some communities have initiated watershed sampling programs to identify the source and type of water pollution and to supplement in-lake chemistry data. Would you be interested in having the Federation develop a stream sampling program for water chemistry? yes \_\_\_\_\_ no \_\_\_\_\_ Please describe your area of interest:

### WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

Please describe any watershed management techniques used on your area to prevent sedimentation and nutrient runoff to the lake (i.e. sediment basins, shoreline landscaping and stormwater management programs):

### LOCAL LEGISLATORS

Local political support is necessary for the implementation of lake and watershed projects. How have you effectively dealt with your local decision-makers (Town Board, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Highway Superintendent, etc.)? What's involved in keeping them well-informed and supportive of your lake programs?

OVER

*SURVEY, continued***LOCAL LAWS**

Please list all local laws (dock and mooring, septic maintenance, noise, speed, etc.) that have been developed for the purpose of lake and watershed protection. How are these local laws enforced?

**DISTRICTS**

Special districts are occasionally created for the purpose of raising money for lake-related projects. If your community has developed a special district, please indicate what type of district you have, why it was formed, and how the funding is used.

**MONEY**

Please describe any methods (grant-writing, fund raisers, etc.) that have been used by your community to generate additional funds for lake and watershed projects.

**SEPTIC SYSTEMS**

Is your water quality affected by septic tank runoff? If so, what measures have been taken by the lake association or town to address this problem? Has voluntary participation and compliance been effective or have legal measures been necessary? Is community assistance available to a homeowner if a failing tank is located?

**ZEBRA MUSSELS**

What has your lake community done (signs at boat launch areas, steam cleaning, public notices, etc.) to inform lake users about the threat of zebra mussels? If zebra mussels have already been introduced to your lake, what affect have they had on recreational usage and water quality?

**GEESE**

What type of programs have been developed to control geese populations on your lake?

*If your association has participated in any in-lake restoration programs, please describe them below*

<u>Management Program</u>	<u>How Effective Was This Technique?</u>	<u>Consultant or Contractor</u>	<u>Year Initiated and Duration</u>
Harvesting			
Dredging (size of area dredged)			
Aeration			
Drawdown			
Chemicals			
Bottom matting			
Additional in-lake projects:			
Additional comments:			

## Congratulations to the 1994 Newsletter Contest Winners

### Award of Excellence

*Melody Lake News*, Bob Rosati, President,  
Melody Lake Association, P.O. Box 95,  
Willet, New York

### Award of Excellence for Best Visual Appeal

*Laker News*, Jack Baldwin, President,  
Conesus Lake Association, P.O. Box 637,  
Lakeville, New York

### Award of Merit

*Cassadaga Lakes Association Annual  
Newsletter*, Brad Blizzard, President,  
Cassadaga Lakes Association, 8020 Frisbee  
Road, Cassadaga, New York

## NEWS, VIEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES

**WETLAND REGULATION:** Current Implementation and Policy In Transition; a conference sponsored by the NYS Wetland Forum, Inc. P.O. Box 128 Slingerlands, NY 12159-0128. September 28, 1994. Farm and Home Center, 482 N. Main Street, Canandaigua, NY. For information, call Sally Daly at (518) 456-5170 or Betty Ann Hughes at (518) 457-0591.

A NEW PUBLICATION was recently released by the Terrene Institute. "Clean Water in Your Watershed: A Citizens Guide to Watershed Protection" focuses on easy and affordable citizens activities that can help local, state, and federal agencies design and complete a watershed protection or restoration project tailored to specific lake communities. Send your request and \$19.95 to Terrene Institute, 1717 K Street, NW, Suite 801, Washington, DC 20006-1504 or call (202) 833-8317.

### INTERESTED IN WATER QUALITY MONITORING?

The *Volunteer Monitor* newsletter facilitates the exchange of ideas, monitoring methods, and practical advice among volunteer environmental monitoring groups across the nation. The newsletter is published twice yearly. Subscriptions are free. To be added to the mailing list, write to Eleanor Ely, Editor, 1318 Masonic Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94117 or call (415) 255-8049.

## The New York State Federation of Lake Associations

A State Chapter of the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS)

*To protect water resources by assisting local organizations and individuals  
through public dialogue, education, and collaborative actions*

### FOLA Membership Services

Four issues per year of FOLA's newsletter, *Waterworks*; access to the information clearinghouse on lake and watershed topics; advice and technical assistance from the Federation's Scientific Advisory Board; invitations to annual and regional conferences on lake and watershed management; participation in the Citizens' Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP); videos, books and other educational material; access to FOLA's Speakers' Bureau; networking with other lake organizations.

### Membership Categories

Associations with 99 members or less.....\$100.00 Associations with 100 members or more.....\$200.00  
Corporate members.....\$200.00  
Individuals.....\$20.00 Students.....\$10.00

Type of membership: \_\_\_\_\_ Dues: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

County: \_\_\_\_\_ President or primary contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your check payable to the New York State Federation of Lake Associations and send it to Donald Keppel, FOLA Treasurer, 2698 Shadyside Road, Findley Lake, NY 14736.

FEDERATION of LAKE  
ASSOCIATIONS, Inc.

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Waterworks is published four time a year. Individuals who wish to submit articles, calendar items, art work, or photography to Waterworks are welcome to contact the editor, Anne Saltman at 2175 Ten Eyck Avenue, Cazenovia, NY 13035 (315)655-4760. Points of view expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Federation of Lake Associations, nor does any mention of trade names and commercial products constitute endorsement of their use.

*NEW FOLA VIDEO!*

**WATERSHED MONITORING:  
WATER QUALITY SAMPLING OF  
OUR LAKES AND TRIBUTARIES**

This video discusses the how's and why's of lake and tributary monitoring. The procedures are based on New York's Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP) and can be applied to any volunteer monitoring project.

- \* the benefits of setting up a water sampling program;
- \* the role of the volunteer in terms of time and experience;
- \* how to choose your sampling sites;
- \* what equipment will be needed and how to use it;
- \* sampling collection techniques for your lake surface, hypolimnion and streams;
- \* how to collect dissolved oxygen and temperature profiles;
- \* how to measure stream velocity;
- \* recording characteristics of the environmental setting;
- \* how to process the samples and prepare them for shipment;
- \* once the samples are tested, what then? ... the importance of long-term monitoring;

approximately 20 minutes long

*A "must see" for all communities interested in  
the better management of their lakes*

The video will be available this Fall. Order you copy now by sending your request along with \$15.00 to the NYS Federation of Lake Associations, 2175 Ten Eyck Avenue, Cazenovia, NY 13035

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Cazenovia, New York 13035

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