

WATERWORKS

A New York State Federation of Lake Associations Publication



July 1996

NYSFOLA Proposes PWC Regulations to Legislature

By Marg Schaefer

At the request of the NYSFOLA Board, Ralph DeFelice represented NYSFOLA before the state legislature asking them to consider laws that regulate personal watercraft in the following ways:

1. Move the unlimited speed zone farther from the shore (200-1500 feet).
2. Authorize and fund a state agency (DEC or Education Department) to form a structure to educate PWC users of present law, and their impact on other lake users and the environment. As with automobile operator education, this could be done through schools or by private vendors certified by New York State.
3. Require PWC operators to possess a valid certification of education.
4. Authorize local and state authorities to fine PWC operators who are not in possession of a valid operator's certificate.
5. Facilitate the ability of local governments to pass and enforce surface water zoning regulation.
6. Authorize and fund a series of pilot projects on lakes with interested lake organizations to determine the effects of new regulations and educational programs. The goal would be to use the best models for the new statewide solutions.
7. Mandate that PWC manufacturers create and install muffling devices which eliminate the problem of the "pitch" of the PWC, by a reasonable date.
8. Allow, in certain well-defined problem areas, the complete ban of PWC or other vessels.
9. Limit the certification of operators to individuals 16 years or older.♦

It May Not be My Lake, But It's My Neighborhood

By Ralph "Buzz" DeFelice

When considering what to do about the danger and disturbance caused by new trends in watercraft use, I think it is best to draw analogies to other areas where similar situations have resulted in rules and regulations, educational programs or customs and traditions which have been effective. We usually consider three elements when looking at the dynamics of most human interactions: courtesy, legality and safety. Imagine the lake as a park. Pretend that you're sitting on a bench, quietly reading a book, when a person sits down next to you with a boom box radio, blaring at high volume. This person's behavior is neither illegal nor unsafe, but you would courteously ask them if they would mind either turning it down or picking another park bench so that you could concentrate and enjoy a little peace and quiet. So why are we so hesitant to apply these same standards of safety and consideration to the operation of watercraft?

As shoreline property owners, we have a responsibility to pass and enforce more restrictive watercraft rules and regulations.

The Essential Character of the Neighborhood

As shoreline property owners, we have a responsibility to pass and enforce more restrictive watercraft rules and regulations. We also have a responsibility to inform people about what our neighbors consider "neighborly behavior". This doesn't make us spoilsports. It means we are acting as responsible adults who live in a community.

We zone land for use and area variances. This an excellent precedent that can be used to explain the need for regulations on lakes. The arguments, when considering variances when zoning land, often boil down to this key question: "Does this project or use threaten the essential character of the neighborhood?" We look at the existing code, traditional activities and atmosphere of our neighborhood. The Zoning Board also considers other rulings it

Inside Waterworks...

THE PERSONAL WATERCRAFT DEBATE
NYSFOLA PRESIDENT MARGARET SCHAEFER
ASK DR. LAKE
NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE
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PIZZA ON THE BBQ
ROWBOAT COP
AND MORE...

Letter from the President:

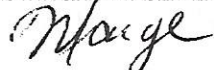
The 1996 NYSFOLA 13th Annual Conference had the highest attendance in several years. Our gratitude to the two capable women who handled the registration desk. Martha Keppel and Estelle Roessle greeted each of us with a smile and our packets. This year's conference opened with a panel discussion on the Personal Watercraft issues, where many opinions and ideas were voiced and legislative boundaries and constraints were discussed. Almost everyone agreed changes must be made in some aspect of PWC use. Minimum age and training requirements were two points raised. Other sessions included Resolving Watershed Conflict, Your Government—Your Lake and Watershed Partnerships.

The Saturday Evening banquet and award ceremony had some surprises. Scott Kishbaugh presented the Silver Secchi Certificates to recognize CSLAP volunteers. Gold Secchi Awards were presented to Melody Lake for the most CSLAP volunteers and to Don Keppel of Findley Lake recognizing 11 consecutive years of testing. NYSFOLA also presented a Gold Secchi Award to Jay Bloomfield, Chief of the Lake Services Section for his perseverance in making CSLAP a reality. He just wouldn't give up and we are grateful for his continued effort.

NYSFOLA also unveiled its 1996 Lake Tear of the Clouds Award at the banquet. The award will be given to Governor Pataki to recognize his personal commitment to the State's environment and particularly his personal interest in effective management of our lakes, ponds and reservoirs—particularly his participation in the developing the agreement to protect the reservoirs which supply high quality drinking water to New York City. I will be presenting the Governor with the award along with past president Elaine Hortsmyer and Treasurer Don Keppel later this month.

We will continue to shoot for the first weekend in May 1997 for our 14 Annual Conference. Mark your calendar now. We are looking ahead, not just to the next conference, but the next century. We will continue focus on watershed use and immediate shoreline practices as well as on water activities. We will take the concerns of our members wherever we can find solutions, or at least a sympathetic ear.

On a final note, I want to take this opportunity to thank Elaine Horstmyer for her three years as President. She has done an outstanding job.



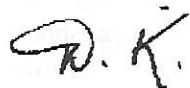
Margaret J. Schaefer

Letter from the Editor:

At the recent NYSFOLA Board of Director's Meeting, I was appointed Editor of *Waterworks*. This issue has increased in size to 12 pages. We hope to continue with this format, but if it becomes too costly, we will have to look at other ways of raising revenue or scale back to eight pages. In addition to paying for printing, postal charges pose additional expenses because we also intend to expand our circulation to reach more lake association members. As a state association newsletter it is unfortunate that many more copies can't be printed and circulated throughout the state. Presently we mail about 750 issues, but this is a small circulation compared to the information that is provided for everyone's use. We need to get the word out to more readers.

NYSFOLA will continue to bring important issues to you as they become newsworthy. As editor, I also ask that everyone please forward articles, letters to the editor suggestions and opinions to our NYSFOLA office so that I can share them with the rest of our membership through *Waterworks*.

Thank you,



Don Keppel

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Lawmakers Eye Safety of PWCs

A May 1996 article in the Schenectady, NY, *Daily Gazette* reports that the explosion in the popularity of personal water craft (PWC)—and in accidents involving them—has led lawmakers to consider mandatory boater education for users. New York requires a boating safety course for boaters under 18 years old. Unfortunately, not much of that course focuses on personal watercraft. According to Parks Commissioner Bernedette Castro, New York would be hard-pressed to require a boaters safety course unless the state does something to raise money, such as raising personal watercraft registration fees—currently \$9 for three years. The article quoted other legislators who said that not everybody likes the approach of requiring education. As such, the *Gazette* concluded that a mandatory education bill is unlikely to be considered this year. More likely to be passed is a bill that would require people who rent personal watercraft to demonstrate the proper operating techniques to potential renters and make sure they know how to use them. It would also require the current boater safety courses offered to those under 18 years to focus more on personal watercraft.

New York Proposes Bond Act

Governor Pataki announced that he is proposing a \$1.5 billion “Clean Water, Clean Air” bond act, which has been endorsed by virtually every major environmental organization in the State. To take effect, two sessions of the State Legislature must authorize the bond act and it must be approved by the voters through referendum. NYSFOLA members should be most interested in the Clean Water aspect of the bill. Although details are sketchy, the \$625 million will go towards municipal sewage treatment plant improvements, reducing agricultural and urban stormwater pollution, acquisition of new public lands, park improvements and implementing existing management plans for Long Island

Sound, Lake Champlain, the Finger Lakes, Onondaga Lake, the Hudson River and the Great Lakes. For more information on the proposed act, write or call your local DEC office or contact your State legislator.

Lake Champlain Plan Approved

After wrangling for over six months, Governor Pataki and Vermont Governor Dean reached agreement on the management plan for Lake Champlain. It was the phosphorus issue, the nutrient that causes blooms of nuisance algae in Lake Champlain, that was the sticking point between the two governors. More than half the phosphorus entering the Lake comes from sewage treatment plants and agricultural lands in Vermont, with smaller amounts from New York and Quebec. Pataki’s concern was that farmers, towns, villages and cities in New York would not be able to pay for the cleanup. The deadlock was broken, when Dean and Pataki agreed that the cleanup plan would be made contingent on a well-defined federal commitment to future funding. As a gesture of good faith, Governor Pataki included Lake Champlain explicitly in his recently proposed “Clean Water, Clear Air” bond act (see above).

DEC and UFI Sample the Finger Lakes

Scientists from DEC’s Lake Services Section and the Upstate Freshwater Institute (UFI) in Syracuse began the first detailed sampling of all eleven Finger Lakes, since the mid-1970s. According to Steve Effler of UFI, the 1996 data will be useful in determining what types of changes have occurred in each lake over the past twenty years. A number of the lakes serve as drinking water supplies for cities like Rochester, Syracuse and Auburn. The lakes also provide a tremendous amount of water-based recreation for the entire region. The sampling will continue until the winter and if funds are available through 1997.

Cossayuna & Moraine Treated with Sonar

The organization Coalition of Lakes Against Milfoil (COLAM) has fought hard to get the herbicide Sonar approved. This spring, Cossayuna Lake in Washington County and Lake Moraine in Madison County were treated. Waterworks will keep you posted on the outcome. ♦

LAKE MANAGER PROFILE

Dr. Bill Harman

The Babe Ruth of Glimmerglass

One of author James Fenimore Cooper's heroes was Natty Bumppo, who lived on "Glimmerglass," the famed Otsego Lake. Today, there resides another kind of local hero who has dedicated his life to protecting the chronicled lake in his own backyard.

Dr. Willard Harman—known by most as "Bill"—not only works along the shores of Otsego Lake running SUNY Oneonta's Biological Field Station, he also lives lakeside in the town of Springfield. For almost 30 years, Bill has dedicated his life to studying and documenting changes in Otsego Lake. He also focuses a lot of energy on educating local town officials, area residents and students of all ages about what they can do to protect the legendary lake.

The blueprint for Bill's career was formed early, in the 1940s and 50s growing up on Seneca Lake. "My parents were both scientists who loved to hunt and fish," Bill recalls. On Seneca Lake, Bill grew to love the natural beauty of the water, literally plunging himself into what the lake offered. His childhood hobbies ranged from collecting and observing plants and animals to fishing and trapping. Later, he waterskied and raced hydroplanes. But his real passion was diving.

"As a kid, my friends and I used to try to figure out ways of getting underwater," explains Bill, remembering the days before scuba equipment was invented. It wasn't long after the gear was available that young Bill decided to pursue a career as a professional diver. He joined the navy where he spent five years as a SCUBA and deep sea diver and munitions specialist.

Returning to Seneca Lake after his navy hitch, Bill discovered that the lake had drastically changed because of the introduction of milfoil. "I guess that's what got me thinking—the lake I had loved as a child was so changed that I wanted to dedicate my life to protecting freshwater lakes." He went on to school at SUNY College of Forestry, in Syracuse, NY, where he majored in fisheries management. Courses in invertebrate zoology and marine ecology got him interested in pursuing a Ph.D. in limnology at Cornell University.

In 1968, SUNY Oneonta was looking for some-



Bill Harman and a trophy-sized trout he caught in Otsego Lake.

one to develop a field station on Otsego Lake. So Bill, with doctorate in hand, applied and got the job. "It was a perfect opportunity for me," he said. "I have always lived on the water and couldn't conceive of not being near a lake." At Oneonta, Bill taught classes in aquatic biology, eventually becoming the chair of the Biology Department.

As his career was evolving on campus, Bill presided over the explosive growth in both the physical size of the field station and the amount of activity that went on there. Originally about 350 acres, the field station today has expanded to about 2,000 acres. From the early years of having one or two outside student groups touring the lake, there are now more than 1,000 elementary and high school students participating in field work. And, the number of graduate students under Bill's supervision has grown threefold.

There's a burst of energy focused on student field trips at the beginning and end of the academic year. Virtually everything else comes to a halt when it's time to do field trips.

"I think that the combination of real outdoor experiences linked to relevant personal goals is the best way to get young people interested in the natural environment," states Bill, who also provides curriculum materials to teachers on lake-related topics. He recently developed an innovative board game called *Sink or Swim* so students can learn about food webs, trophic levels and the consequences their decisions have on the quality of the lake. Bill's passion for teaching has not only won him a New York State and United University Professors Excellence Award, he was also the recipient of the Chancellor's Award for excellence.

Bill and staff at the Field Station also work regularly with a number of neighborhood lake associations such as the Otsego County Conservation Association on a variety of educational projects. Their outputs range from booklets to a video all geared towards area residents. In addition, the field station produces shelves full of Annual Reports and Occasional Papers concerning many facets of the lake and watershed. Bill was awarded a USEPA Region II Quality Award in 1988 and Clean Lakes grant in 1990 to develop a report on the lake's water quality over the past 25 years along with a management plan for the lake and watershed. The report will be available this fall and the management plan early next year.

Bill involves himself in local decision-making as a member and former chair of the town of Springfield Planning Board. He meets regularly with local town officials at the lake-related meetings. "This area is very rich in legend and history, and in that

respect we are fortunate because people understand that the lake is an important part of this area's heritage," Bill explains. "However, just like any other area, I think that the best way to get local people interested in protecting the lake, is to get out there and explain why it's important and get them excited. I think this combination may explain why we have been so effective over the years in keeping the interest in Otsego Lake alive."

Bill and his wife Barbara have two children, sixth grader Jessie and fifth-grader Sam. Bill has two other children by a prior marriage; Becky, a Cornell-graduate who works in Pathology lab in Ithaca and Wade, an accountant, who lives in the nearby town of Laurens. ♦

Special thanks to Bill Harman and Dan Rosen for providing the information for this article.

"The best way to get local people interested in protecting the lake, is to get out there and explain why it's important and get them excited."

It's My Neighborhood (page 1)

As a constituency that lives on lakes we have a responsibility to help the enforcement community in any way we can.

has made in similar situation. In most cases where use variances are allowed, the Zoning Board of Appeals feels that the proposed use is consistent with all of these factors. Conversely, if the use is perceived to negatively affect the current uses of the neighborhood, it is rejected.

Legislation needs to be passed to allow localities to control these problems but some things, especially on large lakes, need to be addressed at the state level. As a

constituency that lives on lakes we have a responsibility to help the enforcement community in any way we can. We should help establish personal watercraft and boater operator certification courses which include courtesy and safety. We also need to increase the number of voluntary boat patrols.

Conflicts can be reduced through regulations. Teaching respect for local traditions in conjunction with laws also reduces conflicts. Here's an example: a fisherman's lines are cut off by a passing boat, this action, though legal, is usually not considered courteous or neighborly (like the boom box in the park).

Through regulations, such as by keeping fast crafts at a greater distance from shore (or other objects such as boats, piers or docks) this problem could be avoided. Also, if fishermen usually are on the lake early and off by noon, or if they tend to focus their efforts near dusk, everyone would benefit if the fast craft focus their use at midday.

Roads, trails and many waterbodies now have speed restrictions to protect the operator, the passenger and non-operator such as swimmers, divers and other boaters. Some restrictions are passed to reduce erosion and impacts on wildlife. Many lakes have no speed restriction, except in near-shore waters. This lack of comprehensive regulation, in combination with ignorance and recklessness, results in higher than necessary incidents of death, injury, annoyance and disturbance of wildlife.

Rules Need to Reflect Faster and Louder Boats

The present NYS rule concerning the unlimited speed zone mimics the US Coast Guard regulations. The unlimited speed zone begins at 100 feet from shore. Unless a special regulation has been passed, it is now legal for example to go 100 mph at a distance of 100 feet from shore at night. The death of two baseball players in Florida brought this issue to national attention

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nontechnical notes

Grilling Pizza on Your Barbecue

Get the great smoky flavor and chewy texture of brick-oven pizza using your backyard grill.

The idea of grilling pizza may seem difficult, but the actual technique is extremely easy once you get the hang of it. You just make a dough, make a topping, heat the grill and follow the method outlined below.

topping suggestions

REALLY EASY—olive oil, cracked pepper, Parmesan cheese; **REALLY LAZY**—tomatoes, basil, olive oil; **GET COOKING**—make your own recipe; how about pesto (store-bought, will do), **MARINATING MEATS AND VEGGIES** on the grill for your toppings adds a ton of flavor to your pizza.

Any dough will do.

You can use instant pizza yeast (see recipe next page), add herbs and seasonings if you like. OR you can just pick up a batch from your local pizza place or supermarket.

Toppings are up to you too—with

one caveat, don't go

crazy and pile two inches of toppings on the crust. It will be soggy and fall apart.

What You Need...

2 wooden pizza peels (wide flat paddles), which are the best kitchen tool ever invented. You can do your prep on it, transfer the dough with it and then use it as a chic rustic platter for the finished pizza—But, you can substitute cutting boards or baking sheets.

2 long spatulas

A grill (obviously!) The big gas model is great because it's easy-on, easy-off, but charcoal works well, too. The key to cooking pizza on any type of grill is to offset the heat, so that the dough isn't directly over the hottest part of the grill.

Cornmeal or flour

The Technique

OK! Now that you know that you can use any dough, any topping and almost any equipment, here's the basic technique:

Heat the grill. For a gas grill, turn on the heat in enough time to get the grill hot, with one burner on high, and the other (or others, depending on your model) as low as possible. For charcoal, get your coals white hot; then brush them into a ring around the perimeter of the grill.

Get the dough on the grill. Shape your dough, round or oval (whatever shape fits your grill best). Fold the dough in half, lift it, slap it on the cool part of the grill, then unfold it so the whole crust is on the cool part. (No, you don't need to grease the grill.)

Cook the first side. Close the lid and wait about three minutes. Lift the lid and look at the dough; it should start bubbling on top. Gingerly lift the edge with a

Lake Getaways

Elk Lake Lodge

A Wilderness Experience in the High Peaks of the Adirondacks

If you're looking for a long weekend away where you can fish, hike and experience wildlife in plenty, you may want to check out Elk Lake Lodge. Elk Lake is located on a 12,000 acre private forest preserve within the Adirondack Park and is dedicated to the preservation of wilderness and its associated values.

Two large lakes lie within the preserve: Elk Lake, a 600 acre waterbody called "the jewel of the Adirondack" by National Geographic Magazine and Clear Pond, a 2 acre, 95 foot deep fishing paradise, stocked with lake trout and landlocked salmon. Elk Lake is bounded on three sides by some of the most spectacular of the High Peaks, including McComb, Boreas, Nippletop, the Colvin Range and the impressive and challenging 4851 foot high Mt. Marcy. With this forested and mountainous backdrop, the Lake has the appearance of a miniature Lake Tahoe.

On the shores of the island-dotted Elk Lake is the Elk Lake Lodge, offering a quiet, comfortable and relaxing wilderness experience. Accommodations are available in the Main Lodge (six rooms, each with twin beds and a private bath) or in one of the seven cottages that ring the Lake. All cottages are heated and have complete bat-

spatula to look for light-brown grill marks (you don't want it looking too brown). If the bottom looks right, use the two spatulas to slide the dough onto the peel. Close the lid to preserve the heat.

By the way, you are guaranteed to burn the first pizza, so don't bother making a topping for it, just play with it, feel the fire, feed it to the dog. If you want to half-cook some pizzas ahead of time to feed a big crowd later, you can stop here and leave the half-cooked rounds of dough on the peels at room temperature for a few hours. Continue with the steps below when you are ready to eat.

Add the topping. Dust the second peel lightly with the cornmeal or flour. Invert the dough onto this peel so that the raw side is down. Add your toppings. You may be tempted to invert the dough directly back onto the grill and add toppings there, but to prevent a nasty arm singe, we recommend this method.

Finish the pizza. With the peel, slide the pizza back

onto the cool zone of the grill and close the lid. This time you'll cook the pizza for about 10 minutes, again until the bottom shows nice grill marks and is slightly crisp, but not burned. Slide the finished pizza off the grill, cut into manageable slices and eat up! ♦

MAKIN' THE DOUGH

(2 large or 3 medium size pizzas.)

1 lb. (3½ cups) all-purpose flour
1 package instant pizza yeast
1 Tbs. sugar
1 Tbs. salt
1 ¼ cups hot water
2 Tbs. olive oil

In a large bowl, whisk the flour, yeast, sugar and salt to mix. Add the water and olive oil, stir until partially mixed, and knead until smooth and silky (about 5 minutes with an electric mixer and dough hook or about 12 minutes by hand). Cover with plastic wrap and let rise in a warm spot until doubled in bulk about 1½ hours. Punch down lightly and refrigerate until ready to roll.

Some have fireplaces and kitchens. Meals are prepared by an experienced staff and served in the dining room overlooking the Lake. The meals are simple but tasty, in harmony with the entire wilderness setting.

Rowboats and canoes are provided for guests. A canoe trip up the West Inlet, combined with a day hike up the Wagon Wheel Trail to The Falls is an enjoyable experience either in August or during the autumn leaf season in September. The well-marked 40-mile trail system is dotted with wildflowers, strawberries and blackberries, depending on the time of year. The preserve is also home to a variety of wildlife, including the endangered loon, hawks, osprey, owls and deer. There are beaver lodges on many of the preserve's streams, much to the dismay of hikers, who have to avoid flooded spots on the trails. Guests may even catch a glimpse of the shy Adirondack Black Bear. In any event, bring your camera to permanently record the ever-changing wilderness. The Lodge can also serve as a staging area for those wishing to hike the high peaks, or visit Lake Placid, Lake George or such attractions as the Adirondack Museum in Blue Mountain Lake.

And then there's fishing. Fishing for brook trout, lake trout and landlocked salmon begins with "ice-out" in early May. A competent fishing guide can be secured, but not is essential.

Elk Lake is the centerpiece of a 12,000 acre forest preserve set in the heart of the High Peaks.



Elk Lake and Clear Pond are great for beginners and a challenge to the most experienced fisherman (or woman). You need a New York State fishing license and there are limits to your catch. The Lodge is often at capacity, so its best to plan your trip well in advance. July and August afford the most predictable weather, but the Lodge is located at an elevation of 2000 feet, so the nights can be brisk, especially in the Spring and Fall. Lake Lodge is not for everyone. Accommodations are in high demand and this is reflected in the lodging price. But in our opinion, its worth it. For reservations and more information, call (518) 532-7616 or fax your request at (518) 532-9262. ♦

Lake Getaways will be a regular feature in Waterworks.



For those MacGyvers' out there who like to try to build things themselves or for those of you with association members clamoring for Secchi disks here's step-by-step instructions for building your own.

Step 1—Mark your disk. On one side of the acrylic disk, divide masking paper into quarters and peel paper from opposing quadrants. You will need your straight edge to guide your knife.

Step 2—Painting. Rough up exposed quadrants with sandpaper and warm the disk under bright lights. While the disk is still warm, paint the exposed area with two coats of the black paint then peel off the remaining masking paper. The paint will take about two weeks to dry fully. Use great care if you plan to use the disk during this period or the paint will probably chip.

Step 3—Assemble the Secchi (see diagram). Place a nut and a washer on the top of the eye-bolt and then the Secchi disk. Next add the steel plate (which, by the way, should be painted to avoid rust). This will weight the disk. Fasten the plate to the disk with another washer, bolting it in place with the last nut.

Step 4 —Attach the nylon line to the disk through the eye of the bolt. Measuring from the face of the disk, mark the length of the line at meter and half meter (or foot and half foot) increments using an indelible pen. Note that the line should be calibrated periodically to ensure accurate measurements. ♦

What You Need...

White opaque acrylic disk

20-cm diameter, 1/4 inch thick with a 3/8 inch hole drilled through the center. You can order this from your local plastics supply house (check under *Plastics* in the Yellow Pages) (The disk will have paper masking on both sides). If possible, the plastic surface should have a flat, non-glossy finish.

Knife

Straight edge

Fine Sandpaper

Black enamel paint

Steel plate or metal weight 1/4 inch thick, 5 x 5 inch with 3/8 inch hole in the center

5/16 inch diameter

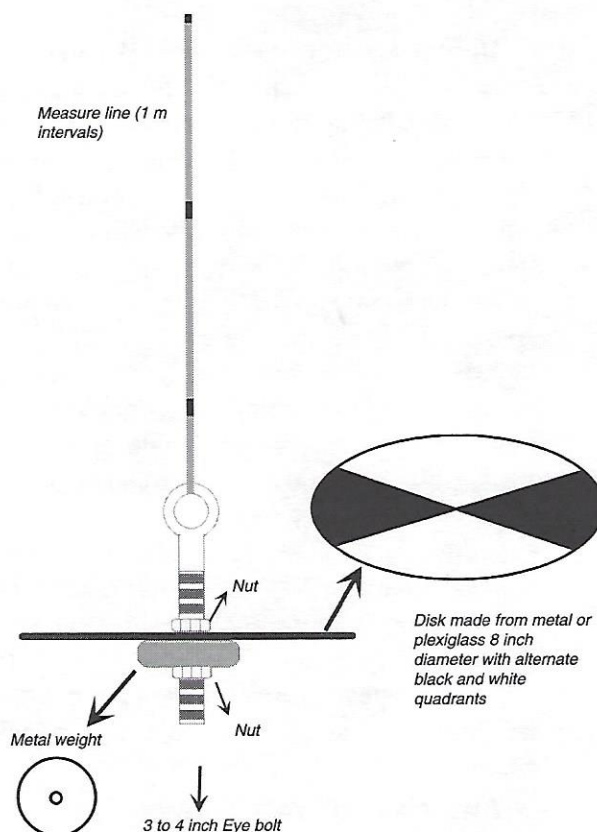
3-4 inch stainless steel eyebolt

2 5/16 inch nuts

2 flat washers

Nylon line (a little longer than the maximum depth of your lake)

Indelible pen



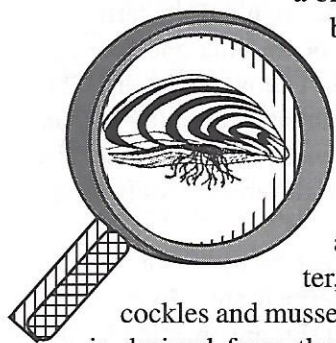
Ask Dr. Lake

DEC Lake Services staff tell all about zebra mussels.



Dr. Lake, I've heard a lot about zebra mussels. What can you tell me about them?

To understand zebra mussels, you first must understand the individual words. First, the zebra is a black and white striped member of the horse family. The zebra is not native to the United States, it eats large quantities of vegetation and is found in large packs. The word mussel is a fancy word for clam or oyster, as in the song "... selling



cockles and mussels alive, alive-oh." The word is derived from the Latin *musculus*, or "little mouse", which is a common name for the sea mussel. So, the zebra mussel is a black and white striped little clam. It is not native to the country (It's originally from the Ukraine, in Asia). It eats large quantities of vegetation and is found in big packs. Unlike its namesake, the zebra, the fingernail-sized mussel filters large quantities of microscopic plants (algae) out of the water. It doesn't run in packs, because it doesn't have any legs, but where there's one zebra mussel, you're likely to find thousands and sometimes millions.

Baby zebra mussels, or *veligers* are microscopic and swim around in the water. Ocean-going ships filled up their ballast tanks with Black Sea water and accidentally adopted the baby mussels. When the ships got to the Great Lakes, they flushed their ballast tanks. The baby mussels then swam to the nearest hard surface, plunked themselves down and started to grow.

If zebra mussels eat algae, why are they bad?

Because zebra mussels eat algae, they are eating someone else's food. Big fish eat the little fish and the little fish eat little animals and the little animals eat algae. Zebra mussels reduce the amount of food available to the fishes. More zebra mussels means less fish! Zebra mussels are also annoying because they clog water intakes and foul boat hulls. Power companies and water filtration plants spend a lot of money removing zebra mussels from their intakes. Zebra mussels can also cause pollution. A population

of mussels in the Seneca River at Jack's Reef, just west of Syracuse, is so vigorous that it uses up much of the oxygen in the river water. Dr. Steve Effler of the Upstate Freshwater Institute and Dr. Cliff Siegfried of the New York State Museum have been studying this population for several years and report that the growth of the zebra mussels is enough to violate New York State water quality standards for dissolved oxygen. The impact on the River is equivalent to a large discharge of untreated sewage! Of course, zebra mussels aren't all bad, since they do eat algae and as a result make the water a lot clearer.

Which lakes are likely to have zebra mussels?

Lakes that have more algae, more hard surfaces (rocks, docks, seawalls, etc.) and more calcium in the water ("hard water") are more likely to be infested. Lakes that have a direct connection to an infested lake will likely become infested. Isolated lakes, lakes with muddy or sandy bottoms, very clear lakes and softwater lakes (like those in the Adirondack Mountains) are not good candidates for zebra mussel invasions. There is a close relative of the zebra mussel, the Quagga mussel, which has been showing up in New York State and does not appear to be as finicky.

What can I do to protect my lake against zebra mussels?

If zebra mussels are already in your lake, there is not much that you can do except treat the symptoms of the invasion (scrape the mussels off of your boat hull, etc.). There are chemicals and other treatments that kill the mussels, but none is cost-effective on a large scale. Scientists are looking for a safe way of controlling zebra mussels, but so far no cure has been found. Education and prevention are both very important. All watercraft launched on your lake should be steam-cleaned and inspected. Pails of bait fish from other lakes should not be dumped in your lake, because the water could contain veligers. All hard surfaces should be inspected to see if any mussels are present. The Citizens' Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP) can provide you with a kit for collecting mussels and sending them to an expert for identification. ♦

For more information on zebra mussels, you should write or call Jennifer Pultz, New York State Sea Grant 21 South Grove Street, East Aurora, NY 14052-2398, (315) 652-7874 at To submit a question to Dr. Lake Contact Waterworks c/o NYSFOLA, 2698 Shadyside Dr., Findley Lake NY 14736 or the NYSFOLA web site at http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/nys_lakes

It's My Neighborhood *(from page 5)*

last year. I suggest that we take the position that the unlimited speed zone be moved farther from shore. On large lakes, which allow boats to reach speeds of 100 mph, I believe 1500 feet is reasonable. On smaller lakes with no speed limits, I suggest 200-500 feet. We already zone near-shore activities based on the notion that this littoral zone is the most fragile and dangerous. Now let's accept the idea that laws created in 1940s, when boat speeds topped out at 30 mph, are no longer appropriate.

Collisions between boaters and fixed objects would be reduced by moving fast boats farther from shore, but what about the other problems associated with high speeds? One suggestion is to zone by area, the other by time. Instead of limiting the distance from shore on a medium-size lake, we could get some relief by making one whole area open to unlimited speed, while the swimming, fishing, rowing or wildlife areas would have restricted speeds or even be motorless. If speed limits are in affect, they should vary with time of day. The idea here is that the darker it is, and the faster you go, the more room for error you need. 40 mph daytime with 20 mph nighttime is commonly used.

Zoning can also be done by prohibiting motorized craft, horsepower, type of craft or activity (waterskiing) on certain lakes entirely, while making others the

"party" lakes. This would mimic regulations on trails. Some trails are snowmobile only, some are no motor vehicles, some are both with speed restrictions.

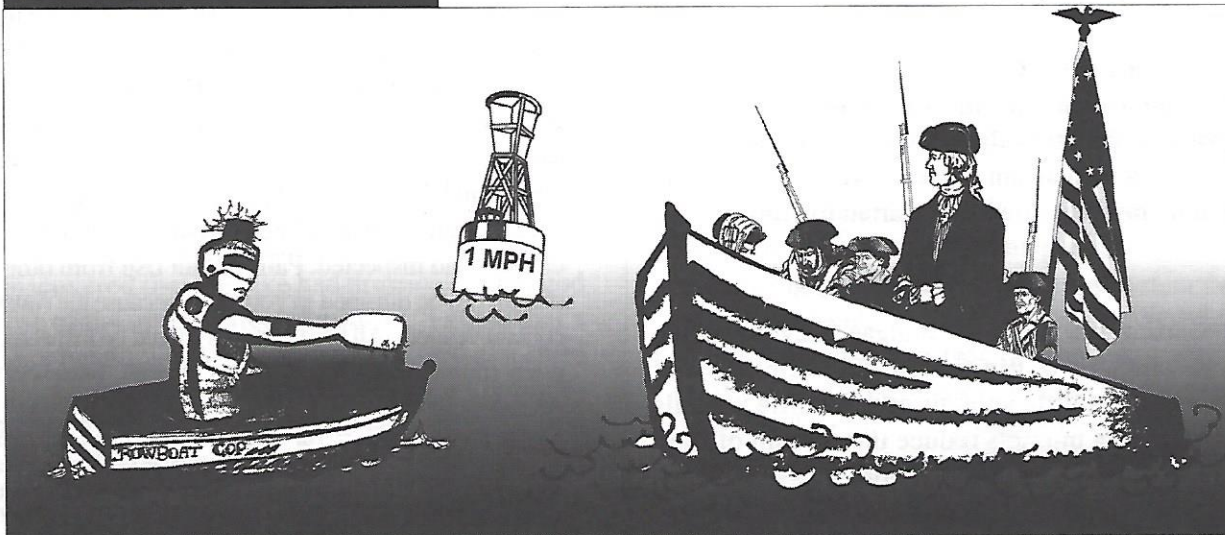
Are these suggestions a form of discrimination?

Yes, but it is common and even necessary for our laws to discriminate where there is adequate justification, based on noise, use pattern and accident rates. Accident rates vary in different areas of the country, but approximately 50 percent of the boating accidents involve PWC while they account for only three percent of the total watercraft. We don't allow farm tractors, lawn tractors, mopeds or formula one race cars on the NYS Thruway. We don't allow ATVs, dirt bikes or tractor trailers to roam suburban streets. It is responsible to recognize the difference in safety, noise, size and environmental impact of different vessels to discriminate accordingly.

The complaints that I keep hearing from cottage owners, swimmers and fishermen are, "Even on the rare occasions when those jet skis are operated legally, they ruin my sense of why I go to the lake." Most lakeside residents, fishermen and swimmers are intimidated and disturbed by jet skis to the degree that they feel the essential character of the neighborhood is changed. Would we allow someone to run a chain saw for eight hours straight just because they thought it was fun? Maybe a chain saw repair store would do that legitimately. That's why we zone that type of activity

ROWBOAT COP

by G.G. "Weedy" Rosenbloom



GENERAL WASHINGTON—YOU ARE IN A NO WAKE ZONE OF THE DELAWARE RIVER! PLEASE HAND OVER YOUR REGISTRATION, SURRENDER YOUR BAYONETS AND CEASE FROM THROWING THOSE SILVER DOLLARS. THEY ARE TOXIC TO THE SHAD, YOU KNOW.

away from quieter residential areas.

With snowmobiles, there is now less conflict because we have snowmobile trails which are now separate from cross country ski trails and hiking trails. Snowmobiles were originally as much trouble as jet skis are now. Zoning the trails has completely eliminated the snowmobile problem in some areas.

Most lake organizations were originally formed as the result of some perceived crisis. The most common areas of concern were: introduction of non-native species such as Eurasian watermilfoil, concerns about inappropriate development, water level, pollution, stormwater runoff and taxes. Recently, there has been a clamor for lake organizations to take on issues relating to

watercraft use. Instead of focusing only on the quality of the water itself, the demand to ban jet skis and high speed boats relates to the quality of the lake experience. In some cases, these craft may affect erosion and suspension of nutrients and pollutants, but usually the complaints are based on safety issues and issues related to the disturbance of other users and wildlife. All around the country are calls for speed limits, noise limits and outright bans on jet skis and high speed-high noise boats.

Some people say that the only problem is educational. They feel that if existing laws were enforced, that there would be no concern. However, I feel that you should consider support for changes in existing laws and expansion of zoning the waterbodies, in conjunction with educational and enforcement efforts.

In many lakes, for example, the water at 100 feet from shore is only knee deep. So everyone who swims out past 100 feet is in danger from watercraft traveling at high speeds. There is a built-in conflict which can be addressed in many non-confrontational ways. What members are asking is, "What is the point of paying high taxes, cleaning up the water and getting rid of the milfoil, only to be run over when I go swimming? Or why should I have to hover on shore, with ear plugs in, for fear of being run down if I go swimming?" ♦

Instead of focusing only on the quality of the water itself, the demand to ban jet skis and high speed boats relates to the quality of the lake experience.

Do you have Aliens On Board?

Make sure that you aren't giving zebra mussels and Eurasian watermilfoil a free ride.

Why the Fuss? It is very

difficult to know if you are transporting zebra mussels and milfoil. Zebra mussels can spread from microscopic free-swimming forms (*veligers*, see *Dr. Lake* page 9) and milfoil can spread from fragments. Zebra mussels attach to hulls and veligers can live in bilge and other standing water. Milfoil also wraps around props and snag on other hull parts. Using live bait also can spread zebra mussels from lake to lake. If bait fish have been taken from a water infested by zebra mussels, veligers could be in water. Do not pour bait fish water out into the lake. Also, if you pull plants, be careful where you dispose of them. If kept moist, fragments can remain viable for days and even weeks.

The Golden Rules— Know which lakes are infested with zebra mussels and milfoil, observe signs and ask locals. Contact your local DEC office for information. As a rule, it is safer to assume that the two organisms are present rather than absent. In the Adirondack Park, the incidence of zebra mussels and milfoil is lower, but it's increasing every year. Just recently zebra mussel veligers were detected in Lake George. **Always inspect** the hull after removing boat from lake and before launching.

Remove plant fragments from hull and prop. If you're not sure it's milfoil, assume it is. There are other nuisance plants, like curly-leaf pondweed and water chestnut that can also be spread by boats.

Dispose of the fragments properly, don't leave them on the shore, they may wash back into the lake.

Remove adult zebra mussels, although this may be unlikely, unless the boat has been in the water for an extended period.

Never drain bilge or any other standing water into a lake, a tributary or even near one.

Follow local laws and policies. If you are moving your boat from an infested water to another water, you may be required by local law or policy to have your boat steam-cleaned or treated with chlorine or other chemicals. Local law enforcement and/or parks officials can supply you with a list of marinas that can provide this service.

Spread the word! Post signs around your lake warning other boaters of the threat of zebra mussels and milfoil. ♦

CAUTION

**STOP THE SPREAD
OF EURASIAN MILFOIL**



Remove all plant fragments from boats before entering access area. Dispose of plants on dry ground a safe distance from shore area.

WATERWORKS Calendar

July 14-17 Watershed Restoration Management: Physical, Chemical and Biological Considerations, Hotel Syracuse, NY. Contact AWRA (703) 904 1225.

July 15-16 Statewide Water Quality Coordinating Committee Meeting on collecting water resources information and data. Syracuse, NY. Contact: Ron Kaplewicz, (315) 342-2810.

July 14-17 Aquatic Plant Management Society, Inc., 36 Annual Meeting, Radisson Hotel, Burlington, VT. Registration fee \$80. Contact: Aquatic Plant Management Society, Inc. PO Box 121086, Clermont, FL 34712-1086.

August 3-7 5th National Volunteer Environmental Monitoring Conference, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI. Contact: Celeste Moen, Wisconsin Self-Help Lake Monitoring Program (608) 264-8878.

August 11-13 7th National Conference on Drinking Water: Balancing Risks and Reason. Prince Edward Hotel, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada. Contact: T. Duncan Ellison, (613) 241-5692.

NYSFOLA



Stay Tuned for the next
WATERWORKS: *Alien Invaders*

Membership Application Form

- ☐ **Lake, Watershed and Other Associations**
- ☐ fewer than 75 members \$35
- ☐ 75-149 members \$75
- ☐ 150 or more members \$150
- ☐ **Individual** \$20
- ☐ **Individual**, who is member of NYSFOLA organization in good standing \$10
- Name or organization: _____
- ☐ **Corporation/Govt.** \$200
- ☐ **Student** \$10

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