

Annual Conference 1999

The New York State Federation of Lake Associations 16th annual conference was held at the White Eagle Conference Center, Hamilton, NY. On Friday April 30th with a dinner and welcoming an open discussion followed. Questions were asked by attendees relative to Aquatic Plant control, Jet-skis and Legislation activities for the betterment of our lakes. This was followed by a presentation of **Options for Public Management of Private Septic Systems**. This was presented by Dr. David Allee of Cornell University.

Saturday started with breakfast, registration and visits to the exhibitors area at the Appley Center. An introduction and instructions on session locations put everyone in a mood for a full day of activities. Sessions included; **Watershed Management Planning Projects, Acid Rain, Agricultural BMPs, Local Planning, Basic Limnology, Aquatic Plant Management, Economic Value of Lakes, Exotic Introductions, and Plant & Property Management.**

Also during Saturday afternoon, Scott Kishbaugh and Betsy Hohenstein conducted a training session for the CSLAP attendees. This included a class session as well as a trip on Lake Moraine to learn about the in-water sampling. The training at our conference is generally the only training furnished to the

CSLAP program. If you intend to have your lake enter CSLAP be sure to plan on attending next years conference.

Our attendees enjoyed a short wine and cheese party before the Annual Banquet commenced. During this period the Silent Auction was finalized and the fortunate purchasers of the donated items was announced. Also this was a time for a Hydro-Lab instrument to be raffled. Joe Kowalski of Findley Lake was the lucky winner.



President-elect Lewis Stone presenting out-going President John Miller with a recognition crystal for his very active two years as President of the New York State Federation of Lake Associations, Inc.

NYSFOLA's mission is to protect the water resources of New York State by assisting local organizations and individuals through public dialogue, education, information exchange and collaborative efforts.

from the President

Dear members,

In 1975 Erma Bombeck dreamed "every volunteer in this country. . . had set sail for another country." As she fought to focus on the departing ship just one more time, she thought that "it was to be (her) last glimpse of civilization . . . as we were meant to be." It has also been said . . . "Subtract voluntary activity from any community and what's left? A place you wouldn't want to live in. That's how important volunteerism is to our society."

The Frenchman, Alexis De Toqueville, in the 19th Century, wrote: "These Americans are the most peculiar people in the world. You'll never believe it when I tell you how they behave. In a local community in their country a citizen may conceive of some need which is not being met. What does he (or she) do? They go across the street and discuss it with a neighbor. Then what happens? A Committee comes into being . . . and begins to function in behalf of the need. All of this is done without reference to the bureaucrat. All of this is done by private citizens on their own initiative."

Why do we volunteer? Simply because someone asks us. Human nature, overtly modest as it is, and covertly in need of recognition, reacts positively to being asked by someone in a leadership position in an organization. I'm sure all my readers are, or have been, volunteers at one time or another, for one or more organizations. It is rewarding, fulfilling and satisfying. It develops skills we never knew we had. It brings experiences, both good and bad, but mostly good, to our lives and enriches our daily activities. It is good to volunteer!

Having agreed that volunteering is good, we can discuss, define, inspect and dissect the meaning of volunteerism and the act of volunteering for hours if we so choose. Volumes of all kinds have been written on the subject by both professionals and by volunteers, in both the public and the private sectors. I, however, propose a simple definition -- Lake Associations. Lake associations embody volunteerism. They have all been started in response to a local need by local citizens. They have been started both with narrow concerns in mind and with broad concerns and objectives in mind. They have been started by those who wish to keep what they have for themselves and by those who recognize the need to share their lake with others and, more importantly, to preserve it for the generations that will come after them. All, however, have as their subject the lake for which they work. They know that man can either destroy or help nature maintain that precious body of water that gives us such pleasure, both physically and emotionally.

Almost every one of our member associations are staffed only by volunteers. But we can always use more -- people that serve on committees, stuff envelopes, answer phones, attend local governmental meetings, present their association's position, help educate and advocate and provide a wide array of other services. Our lakes need and deserve our help. Let's make our associations even stronger organizations than they are. Please volunteer for more jobs yourself and get others to join you and thus strengthen our organizations so that we can truly be said to be "people preserving our lakes." Remember, volunteering is the rent we pay for the world we live in.

I look forward to working with many of you over the coming months.

Lew Stone, President

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WATERWORKS-

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LAKE MAHOPAC: A STUDY IN EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL CONTROL

Lake Mahopac is a 593.4 acre lake located in the Town of Carmel, Putnam County approximately 55 miles north of New York City. About 12 years ago the impact of watermilfoil was strongly felt. Individual residents tried to control it by hand harvesting and were having very little success. It was frustrating and annoying. It negatively impacted recreation and property values. Boaters had to unscrew the weeds from their propellers, once they got into water deeper than 15 feet, which was the maximum depth that the light penetrated to support milfoil growth. In effect it was an unwanted, aquatic extension of their lawn. Infested areas around the shoreline made swimming impossible. Shallow bays and coves were unusable.

Lake Mahopac supplies water for domestic use to three water districts, so chemicals / herbicides were ruled out. Chemical control, for large areas, is very expensive and has to be re-applied. In short we said, "no, to drugs," Biological control, at the time, was not available. Mechanical control was our only choice. A large capacity aquatic weed harvester was purchased. Harvesting can be quite acceptable if you don't ask it to do a larger area than it can effectively handle. There was no way to manage 171 vegetated acres with one machine, two was out of the question. The Harvester, in 1990 dollars, cost \$80,000, \$10,000 for a truck to haul the weeds away, and about \$10,000 for two operators for the season. Maintenance expenses varied due to the care and skill of the operators. All this on a budget of about \$28,000 average. Nobody was satisfied, everybody wanted the harvester behind their house prior to their weekend party. What we needed, what we had to have, was a whole new strategy.

In October of 1994, after approval of the residents of the park district and acceptance of our Environmental Impact Statement by the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation, 2,565 Triploid (Sterile) Grass Carp were introduced to Lake Mahopac. To date, according to Region III NYSDEC, Lake Mahopac is still the largest and best studied lake in New York State to have utilized Grass Carp to control aquatic nuisance vegetation.

We stocked fish that were 12 inches in length to prevent them from being eaten by our extensive large-mouth bass population. We anticipate, conservatively, a ten year useful life span. We are in the fifth year of this control program and do not plan any restocking for at least another three years. All this is dependent on our Biomass and water chemistry studies. We were mandated by NYSDEC to do these studies for three years after the introduction of Grass Carp. We continue to do this annually and share the results with NYSDEC Region III, for their input and to provide other lake associations with information about this technology.

NYSDEC studied the fish population of Lake Mahopac prior to the Grass Carp and in the succeeding years after their introduction. Their studies indicate no negative impact. The species and the volume of each remain consistent with results prior to the stocking.

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Travel the Internet with us!!! For all the computer buffs it is now possible to contact the NYS-FOLA Office by E-Mail. We try to check the mail box every evening for messages or questions that you have. We can be reached at ;-

**fola@cecomet.net
http://www.nysfola.org**

or check-out the NYSFOLA homepage at ;-

The key to this program is that Triploid Grass Carp aren't able to reproduce, so they cannot present a permanent threat to the lake's ecology. A stocking rate of 10 to 15 Grass Carp per vegetative acre is allowed by Region III depending on the characteristics of the body of water and the quantity and species of weeds and other relevant factors. Consider the stocking rate as a dose of medication. The proper amount will give the degree of control desired. Grass Carp are strictly vegetarians and do not compete with the existing fish population for food. They need no supervision and have no user serviceable parts. They are shy and do not prefer the company of people.

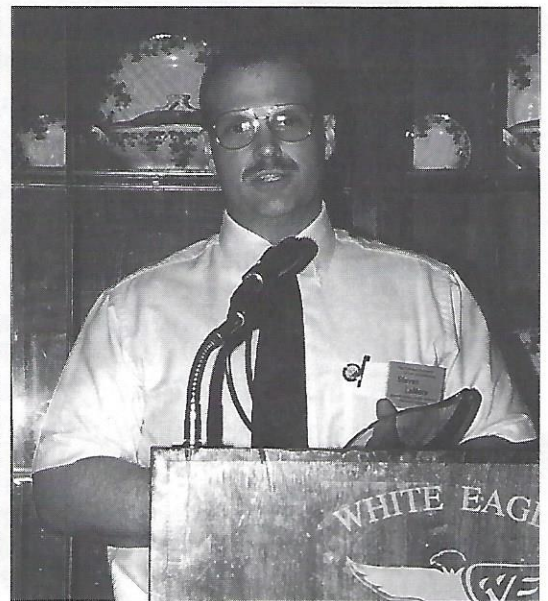
A barrier was devised that allows the leaves and other small debris to pass out of the lake while retaining the fish. A grate was put over the spillway to prevent any unwanted migration.

The main impact has been on the Eurasian Milfoil infestation. 19" will be the second year that we have not run the harvester, it is for sale, (If there are any lake associations that have use for an aquatic harvester, call 914-628-1500 for information.) The entire program, including the fish cost about \$30,000 in 1994 dollars.

Remember, all lakes are different. This strategy might not be appropriate for certain bodies of water and the services of a qualified aquatic manager should be consulted.

The water clarity of Lake Mahopac has improved up to 16 feet of visibility, tested with the use of a Secchi Disk. There has been no increase in algae blooms nor are they a problem. Long time lake residents have made remarks that, " this is like the lake was twenty-five years ago." For Lake Mahopac, the results to date have been quite spectacular.

Edward Barnett / Chairman
Lake Mahopac Park District Advisory Board
Town of Carmel / 914-628-1500



On left; Ms. Connie Hill, President of the first New York Federation of Lakes and Lyle Raymond.
On Right; Steven LaMere on receiving the LAKE TEAR OF CLOUDS Award.

Annual Conference

Continued from page one

After a wonderful meal presented by the staff of the White Eagle Conference Center, awards were presented. The **Best newsletter of the year** was awarded to **Butterfield Lake Association** and again with a good newsletter **Melody Lake Association** received **Honorary award**. **Joe Kowalski** of the Findley Lake Property Owners was presented the **Steward of the Year** for his efforts with the Watershed Management Planning Project.

Steven LaMere was presented with the **Lake Tear of the Clouds** award for recognition of his activities in the Adirondack area and also continuing his education to maintain his status as a Certified Lake Manager.

In attendance for the evenings activities was Ms. Connie Hill, President of the New York Federation of Lakes founded in 1970. That organization was only active for a year or two, and became inactive primarily for lack of dedicated volunteers.

The festivities of the banquet finalized with entertainment presented by the **Hilltown Ramblers**.



A small gathering of the attendees at the banquet held in the Chandelier Room of the Appley Center. Plan to be a part of this group next year.



Martha Frey and Dean Long enjoying a break from the activities of this year's Conference and already planning next year's Annual Conference to be convened at the White Eagle Conference Center on May 5, 2000.

"WATERWORKS" would appreciate information on your Lake Association. I plan to have a page set aside each issue for a different Association. Let's make yours next! Forward your write-up to the office by mail, fax, E-mail or pony express, but start now.



Ask Dr. Lake

Dear Dr. Lake:

I just heard over the radio about a "Secky Dippin'" contest that is going on in lakes and rivers throughout America. If it's supposed to be skinny-dippin', then count me in! If it isn't, then can you tell me what it's all about while I find my towel?

Buck Naked, Lake Godiva, NY

Dear Mr. Naked-

Sorry to disappoint you- while there may very well be such contests streaked throughout the country, what you've heard about is the "Great American Secchi Dip-In", a national volunteer monitoring effort created in 1994 by Dr. Bob Carlson from Kent State University in Ohio. The Dip-In promotes volunteer lake monitoring by asking fully clothed sampling volunteers to measure the water clarity of their lakes with the use of a Secchi Disk sometime between June 25 and July 11. Nearly 100 NYS lakes and 2600 waterbodies worldwide were sampled by volunteers during the 1998 Dip-In, and volunteers for the 1999 Dip-In have been solicited by mail and through some press releases and even some radio spots.

..sorry to interrupt, but what's a Secchi Disk...?

The Secchi Disk is an 8 inch round disk painted in alternating black and white quarters. It was developed originally as an all-white disk by Pietro Angelo Secchi, hence the name, in 1865 to conduct oceanographic studies on a papal expedition. The Secchi disk transparency is the depth at which the disk disappears from sight when lowered from the lake surface (some limnologists, including this lake doctor, considers the Secchi depth to be the average of the depths of disappearance from and re-appearance into sight, respectively). With all the fancy, pointed-headed equipment available to lake scientists, the humble Secchi disk remains one of the best tools for evaluating water quality conditions and for linking lake indicators to lake perception.

You said that some NYS lakes were sampled...?

There were 75 lakes from the NY Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP) that were sampled through the Dip-In, and as many as 25 other lakes in the state, including many through the NYC DEP and multiple sites on Lake George. In addition, many of the CSLAP volunteers double and triple dipped into their lakes and in many different parts of their lake. The number of NYS lakes doin' the Dip grows each year.

So what did you learn from the Dip-In in 1998?

Much of what we learned confirmed what we thought we already knew. The lakes which are classified (best use) as a surface drinking water supply with limited treatment (Class AA lakes) had a higher water clarity than drinking water lakes (Class A) requiring more treatment- 4.7 meters (15 feet) versus 3.6 meters

continued next page

(12 feet). Both had a greater water transparency than lakes classified for swimming (Class B), which had an average clarity of just under 11 feet, and Class B lakes had a higher clarity than Class C lakes, classified for fishing and other non-contact recreation (average clarity = 2.6 meters, or nearly 9 feet).

The Dip-In also confirmed that the typical water clarity in the Adirondacks (= 3.9 meters, or 13 feet) is greater than that from any other large geographic region, despite the higher natural water color in those lakes. Of course, that doesn't mean that any single lake with the Finger Lakes region (average clarity = 3.7 meters, or 12 feet), Central New York (average transparency = 3.2 meters or 10 feet), Lower Hudson/Long Island or Western NY (both average 2.9 meters, or just under 10 feet) isn't clearer than some Adirondack lakes, but that, in general, clearer lakes were found during the Dip-In in that region.

Deeper lakes (> 10 meters) had a higher average water clarity (4.2 meters) than shallow lakes (< 5 meters- average clarity = 2.1 meters), even though none of these lakes had clarity high enough to see the disk resting on the lake bottom. And larger lakes (>500 acres) had a higher clarity (4.1 meters) than did smaller lakes (<100 acres, average clarity = 2.8 meters), although this may have simply been summarizing the depth results in a different way...

...WOW- Stop the Presses! Did you find anything that I didn't already know...?

Well, if you've put your smarty pants back on, I'll continue...I doubt we found anything that could be considered highly irregular. However, when we looked at lakes under 250 acres, and compared lakes with some boating restrictions (either not allowing any motorized boats, only trolling motors, or horse limits) to those with no restrictions, we found that the "restricted" lakes had an average clarity of 3.6 meters, while those with no restrictions having an average clarity of 3.1 meters. Perhaps not a significant difference, but perhaps something to think about...

We also found that most of the lakes that have been sampled for three or more years have not shown any appreciable change in water clarity over this period, even though one (well, me anyway) might expect that single measurements spaced a year apart might be quite variable. More than 50% of all sampled lakes showed not statistically significant changes over this period (even using a pretty tepid definition of "significant"), and those that did show this loosely defined change were equally divided among lakes "improving" and "degrading".

So are you telling me that lakes don't change...?

Not at all. What I am saying is that most of the changes, particularly over such a short period, are often random, or are due to short-term phenomena, such as an unusually rainy day or significant lake usage, that itself does not demonstrate any long-term pattern. Some of my Lake Doctor colleagues believe that it takes many years, perhaps even eight or more, to separate sampling "noise" (the daily, weekly, monthly, or annual variability resulting from the ebb and flow of lake life) from real trends, if such trends exist, although there are certainly some exceptions, such as very shallow lakes nearly drying up in the dog days of summer. That is one of the reasons why data trends can be difficult to ascertain even in long-term monitoring programs such as CSLAP, but at the same time one of the most important reasons for conducting long-term monitoring.

The ecologically destructive path we are on is as if all of humanity is in a giant car heading at a brick wall at 100 miles an hour and everyone in it is arguing about where to sit. There are a few screaming to put on the brakes and turn the wheel, but they are locked in the trunk.
-Dr. David Suzuki

COTTAGE ETIQUETTE

-Stephen Lewandowski

Everybody knows lakeshore cottages are places to have fun. There's a lot of expense to buying and maintaining a cottage. Most cottages are only used for a few weeks or months of the year.

All of these statements sound familiar, don't they? Undoubtedly they are generally true, but we can't lose sight of the fact that though cottages are expensive and rarely used fun, there is a whole set of special rights and responsibilities that come with lakeshore cottage ownership.

Let's focus first on the rights that come with cottage ownership. A major source of the fun in a cottage is that it provides access to a large body of publicly owned water. All kinds of quiet and noisy recreation at all times of the day and night are possible on the lake, subject only to a few noise, speed, and boating regulations and some common-sense safety considerations.

Also, the cottage is usually located in a pleasant place far from our usual home and work places and routines, so some of our stresses and strains can be left behind. A cottage isn't even in our usual neighborhood, so we leave behind that pattern of responsibility and association. In short, a cottage is a place to "get away from it all."

On the other hand, one man's cottage is another man's home, and increasingly, cottages are being converted to year-round residences, which puts a whole new strain on structures and systems that were designed for seasonal use. Some of the tensions between neighbor and neighbor may be as simple as the difference in attitudes between the year-round homeowner and the occasional, fun-seeking visitor.

At the cottage, you have a whole new neighborhood filled with new neighbors. Just as at home, we don't choose our neighbors, but we do have to decide on how to get along with them. Much of what's thought of as normal, considerate behavior has to be worked out all over again with a new set of neighbors. Sometimes, during a season, we'll see several sets of neighbors in a rental, and each time a new understanding has to be reached. Sometimes, our new neighbors may be coming from a background quite unlike our normal acquaintance, and increased communication and understanding are essential.

Some of the responsibilities that come with a cottage may be new to you, like who has right-of-way, a sail boat or a canoe? How much noise is acceptable, how late? Just where is the boundary line of the property, and how much can you trim a tree that's probably on your property but hangs over his/hers. In other words, there is an etiquette to cottage use and ownership that helps to define the relationship of mutually agreed upon rights and responsibilities for the whole community.

Behind the etiquette, there is also a legal framework of rights and responsibilities, but wise neighbors will try to solve their problems with courtesy rather than courts. Common conflicts arise over issues

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All photos in this issue of WATERWORKS were taken by Andy Baugnet of Cooperstown at our Annual Conference held at White Eagle Conference Center. We thank Andy for his contribution to this issue.

CSLAPPENINGS

If the sight of a few people peering intently over the side of their boats in the middle of the lake in the middle of the morning seems curious, then you may not be aware that your lake is being sampled as part of the Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP). Scores of trained volunteers are busily collecting samples, observing lake conditions, and otherwise monitoring the health and well-being of about one hundred lakes throughout the State, and will continue to do so until the leaves reflect the brilliant colors of a New York fall.

If you happen upon one of these hard-working volunteers, ask him about your lake, and he can tell you about the clarity of the water, how the lake may look different from last year (especially if he is among the lucky ones to have received his 1998 CSLAP reports slowly trickling in from CSLAP Central), and maybe something about the aquatic plant communities in the lake. She may tell you that she recently participated in the All-American Secchi Dip-In, a national volunteer monitoring effort that is the subject of this week's Ask Dr. Lake column. He may tell you that he has been sampling the lake for the last two, or five, or fourteen years, through rains wet enough to fill the lake, winds windy enough to cap the water, or skies brilliant enough to shame a blueberry. She can show you how to trip a Kemmerer bottle, or roll a filter, or tell you why one kind of milfoil is bad for your lake while a similar looking plant is quite lake friendly. And maybe, just maybe, they can both get you interested enough in your lake that you too will get involved in lake sampling, sacrificing a mere hour or so every two weeks with hundreds of other budding lake scientists to help protect your lake-side sanctuary, recreational mecca, legacy for your grandchildren, real estate investment, and ecological treasure all at the same time. For such a small investment, while you may also have to suffer through occasional reminders from CSLAP staff that replacement cooler boxes and thermometers are on the way, that volunteers should remember to complete all paperwork, including the Field Observations Form, and that any requests for more filters or MgCO_3 should come directly to CSLAP staff (clever how we stuck all that in...?), but in return you'll get the satisfaction and benefits of knowing more about your lake.

So if you've ever wondered about those solitary samplers, braving the elements to perform their mysterious alchemy... well, now you know..

E-Mail

WATERWORKS requests that as many as possible send in your e-mail addresses and your lake association homepage URL's. We will place your homepage on the membership list as a connection and we will only use the e-mail when we have important legislation or other requests of that nature. Thank you

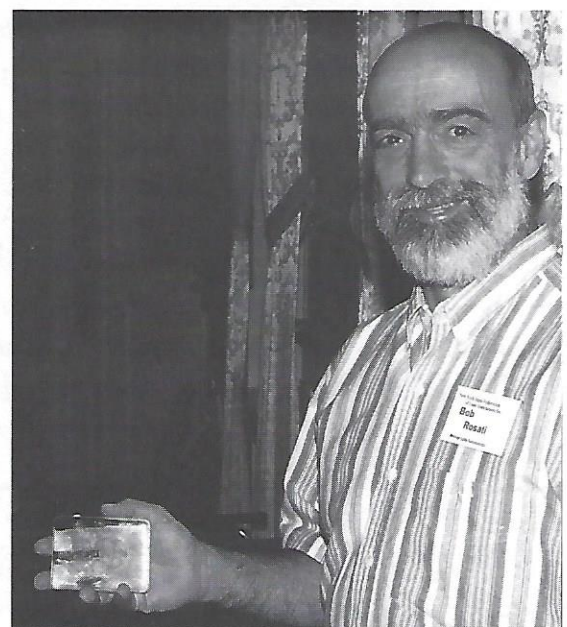
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such as "improvements" on one property that inadvertently damage another. Lakefront property lines often coincide with streams, which may pull neighbors into confrontations over the management of runoff flows. No one should presume a right to damage a neighbor's property.

Unfortunately, there is an attitude that has marred many of our community- and publicly-owned properties such as lakes: if everyone owns it, then no one's responsible. While none of us would admit to having such an attitude or to damaging community property, we know that it happens. Sometimes, it happens because our pleasure in "getting away from it all" and having fun clouds our sense of being a responsible member of the community. On the other hand, if we do take our responsibilities to the lakeshore community and the lake seriously, we'll have some work to do at the cottage.

What kind of work? Gardening/landscaping, waste disposal, maintenance activities, and recreation. If your cottage suffers from erosion problems, proper landscaping using either vegetation or structures may be the answer. Lawn care and gardening which require extensive use of pesticides should be avoided, especially so close to water. Proper waste disposal, whether through maintenance of a septic system or removal of unused household cleaners and pesticides, will protect the lake for you and your neighbors. Sometimes, in routine maintenance activities, we have the choice between substances of great and little toxicity. Around water, it's always important to choose the latter- whether you are sealing a deck, painting the house, weatherizing the plumbing, or cleaning your boat. Some of the lake fun we enjoy most doesn't require engines: swimming, sailing, and fishing are clean and quiet pleasures. Some of the engines we use on the water have the disadvantage of being both dirty and noisy: even properly maintained two-stroke engines spill a lot of their fuel mixture into the lake. Luckily, cleaner and better muffled engines are on the way. Look for them.

Even at the cottage, it's important to be a good citizen and a good neighbor. As usual, the way to have a good neighbor is to be one. Many of the actions which will make us known as good neighbors will also benefit our largest neighbor, the lake itself.



Shirley Carpenter of Butterfield Lake and Bob Rosati of Melody Lake displaying their newsletter awards.

Available at the office of NYSFOLA!!!

"DIET for a Small Lake"; Joint Publication of NYSFOLA and NYSDEC relative to watersheds and lakes.

Detailed instructions for preparing a Lake Management Plan; complete descriptions of Lake Restoration and Watershed Management Techniques; Comprehensive discussion of Lake Ecology.

Presently out of stock— reprint will be available late August

"Managing Lakes Through Community Participation"; 25 minute video, Why Associations are formed, how they get started, tackling priority issues, case study, ties with local government and lake community.

Cost:- \$15.00, plus \$2.00 s & h

"Water Quality Monitoring in Lakes and Tributaries"; video; demonstrates the techniques used for water quality monitoring, based on procedures used for CSLAP. Useful for starting a monitoring program.

Cost:- \$15.00, plus \$2.00 s & h

"Through the Looking Glass"; A Wisconsin Lakes Partnership publication containing information on nearly all aquatic plants. For information contact the office.

*Are your dues paid? Services can only be maintained with your help.
Please stay current!*

1999 Membership Dues-

(computed on calendar year)

Lake, Watershed and other Associations;

Small Association, 10-74 members	\$35.00
Medium Association, 75-149 members	\$75.00
Large Association, 150 or more members	\$150.00
Park Districts (Town, County etc.)	\$200.00
Individual Membership	\$20.00
Member of Lake Assn. in good standing	\$10.00
Corporate Membership	\$200.00
Student	\$10.00

Member Information:-

Lake Association _____
 Contact Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Telephone _____

Fee\$ _____
 Donation \$ _____
 Enclosed \$ _____

Lake location (county) _____

Send payment to NYSFOLA office ;
 Phone/fax- 1-800-796-fola
 E-mail— fola@cecomet.net

NYSFOLA
 2701 Shadyside Rd. PO Box 342
 Findley Lake, NY 14736

Calendar of Events

Aquatic Nuisance Species: Charleston, S.C. ,
October 12-14,1999. See <http://www.dnr.state.sc.us/water/envaff/aquatic/ansconference>.

NALMS Symposium: Reno, Nevada December 1-4, 1999. Contact; www.nalms.org or phone 608-233-2836.

NYSFOLA ANNUAL CONFERENCE: May 5-7, 2000 at White Eagle Conference Center, Hamilton, NY. For information contact 1-800-796-fola. Mark your calendar now for this great event.

"DIET for a Small Lake"

Presently we are out of stock but will have reprints available. This is worth waiting for and should be available late August, 1999. Increased printing costs will necessitate a higher price.

WATERWORKS

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Conference Exhibitors

The Board of Directors and the Scientific Advisory Board wish to thank all the exhibitors at this years conference and with out this fine group the Conference would not be the same. If you or your lake association have need for any of these sponsors and need a phone number or address, please contact the office.

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