

WATERWORKS



New York State Federation of Lake Associations, Inc.

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January 2000

Water, 21st Century Gold!!!

December 1-4, 1999 my wife and I along with John Miller, Steve LaMere, Mary Arthur Beebe, Jim Sutherland (DEC) and possibly others represented New York State at the NALMS Symposium at Reno, Nevada. The Theme this year was water and the possible lack of it in the future. Also many sessions involved watersheds, aquatic plants and their control, nutrient loading, in lake restoration and a multitude of related subjects.

The real meaning of "Water, 21st Century Gold" is important to the west and southwest regions of our country. The water shortages in Southern California are very real and becoming worse. The concept of water in heavily developed arid regions including water quality, water supply, and the political and environmental aspects of this vital but scarce item that has been taken for granted too long was an important topic of this symposium.

There are times when the Colorado River dries up during the summer months as well as other important water supplies. Many of the western cities are multiplying their population by many fold each year. The development of more buildings, larger parking lots, less trees and a general trend in our climate to be warmer, all play an important hand in this problem. In the New England area of our country we see no problem with water supply, but as time moves on will this arid western region be transporting **our water** to grow **our lettuce**, etc. As noted elsewhere in this issue the Arctic ice cap has melted about 40 percent in recent years. If this trend continues we may find our water supply will also dwindle.

What do we do? All of us must pay more attention to our present usage of this "gold" and sorry to say we cannot hoard this commodity like its namesake. More education is always needed to protect our lakes and keep them as clean as possible, overuse may become one of the hazards of a strong economy. Do we zone lakes for time usage? Restrict watercraft to horsepower? Number of watercraft per property owner? Thoughts for all of us as we proceed into this new millenium.

Entertainment at Reno was superb, slots, stage show, slots, and good food. We all came home a little lighter than when we went out. Darn slots!

by Don Keppel

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.

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from the President

Dear members,

I am writing this the day after my home lake, Lake George, froze over before my eyes. Of course, temperatures that exceeded -10 F. helped to make this possible. Observing this phenomenon, I can't help but think that we volunteers don't get to rest the way our lakes do. We must be ever vigilant, ever watchful of activities that might bring harm to the waters we all love. We must continue to protect New York's lakes and ponds both for ourselves and for future generations. We need to insure that our waterbodies continue to provide both pleasure and economic benefit for ourselves, the general public and community businesses.

As I have stated in previous letters, volunteers are a chief element in the ongoing fight to protect our lakes. The more knowledge we have, the better we can be an advocate in the battle. Therefore, let me entice you and/or others in your lake association to spend the first weekend in May 2000 in beautiful Hamilton, New York. Why the weekend of May 5, 6 and May 7? Your organization, the New York State Federation of Lake Associations (NYSFOLA), will be holding its annual conference at the White Eagle Conference Center then. We invite you to take this opportunity to meet people, both volunteer and professional, dedicated to maintaining New York State lakes. You will meet and exchange ideas with people who care, people who work hard to get all citizens concerned with lake management. Solutions can come from anywhere. The conference will provide you an opportunity to find them from others who share the same problems you do.

Please put the **dates -- May 5, 6 and 7--** on your calendar and send in your application as soon as you receive it. Space is always limited and you do not want to miss out on this opportunity.

I look forward to seeing and talking to you at the Conference.

Lewis N. Stone, President.

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WATERWORKS-

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Keeping Your Lake Healthy

BMPs for Waterfronts

Recreational activities can adversely affect both water quality and the shoreline, particularly when they focus on the waterfront. You can minimize these adverse impacts by developing and practicing a stewardship attitude as you enjoy your shoreland property and participate in outdoor activities. Recreational opportunities are a primary reason people choose to live by or visit lakes and rivers, and the demand on our water resources is always increasing. That increasing demand also increases the potential for damage to water quality and shorelines.

Assessing and improving leisure-time activities will help preserve water quality for fish and wildlife habitat as well as for our own recreational purposes. Poor water quality can affect recreation in and on the water, degrade fish and wildlife habitat, pose a health risk for water-contact recreation, and threaten the safety of your drinking water supply.

Over time, the waterfront environment has developed a natural balance based on linkages between water, land, vegetation, and wildlife. This delicate equilibrium can be easily disrupted when humans move in and rearrange the shoreland area or when any of the components are destroyed.

When using the waterfront for recreation, make sure your activities do not cause lasting damage to the shoreline or water. As a property owner, you should consider existing characteristics of the property to determine whether development is suitable. If you decide to alter your waterfront, develop a site plan that uses existing natural features of your shoreline instead of requiring major alteration.

Plan for both passive enjoyment of water resources and active pastimes. If a view of the water is important, consider strategic removal of vegetation to create a line-of-sight rather than clear-cutting and establishing an open lawn. Before removing vegetation in the shore impact zone, check with your local watershed association and town planning or zoning officials for guidelines. Remember to include appropriate aquatic and terrestrial wildlife habitat in your plans to enhance your shoreland enjoyment.

Soil and rock in the shoreland area have characteristics that influence the type and amount of natural aquatic and upland vegetation and ground water in your area. Vegetation physically slows runoff, enhances infiltration of runoff, and takes up nutrients dissolved in runoff and ground water. Fish, ducks, and other life depend on vegetation for food, spawning, and shelter. In addition, aquatic vegetation protects your shoreline by damping wave action.

Editors note: this page is from LAKE SHORE MANAGEMENT, A Citizen Guide for Jefferson County Lakes Federation

Director Steve LaMere honored at NALMS Symposium

At the Reno NALMS Symposium, Director Steven LaMere received a Technical Merit Award for his continuing work as a Certified Lake Manager, activities with NYSFOLA, continuing work on Schroon Lake, and other environmental activities. It is personnel like this that we have in New York that makes NYSFOLA one of the outstanding Chapters in NALMS.

Just because the river is quiet, don't think that the alligators have left!!

Travel the Internet with us!!! For all the computer buffs it is now possible to contact the NYSFOLA Office by E-Mail. We try to check the mail box every day for messages or questions that you have. We can be reached at :- fola@nysfola.org or fola@cecomet.net
or check-out the NYSFOLA homepage at:- <http://www.nysfola.org>
NALMS can be reached at:- <http://www.nalms.org>

Newsletter Contest

Did your association newsletter win last year? Each year we have 20-25 newsletters entered into this contest. A single page newsletter has as much chance as a large associations 16 pages. Don't feel that you have to have the biggest to win.

The judges pick the winning newsletters on content, layout, pertinent information relative to your lake or association. Black and white does just as good as colors.

Now, how do we enter? Just mail a recent copy of a current (1999-2000) newsletter to the office and on the envelope please mark "Newsletter Contest". Also please send it to us so that we have it before departing for White Eagle.

Texas reservoirs are at their lowest level in 22 years, lack of rainfall has devastated the farming. Selling cattle and possibly not planting this springs crops. Dustbowl again??

Silent Auction!!

What can be more fun than trying to outbid a friend for a plant for the garden? Again this year at our conference we will be holding a silent auction. It is with your cooperation that we can raise a few dollars for our treasury. The more items we have available the more fun for everyone.

Please contact local businesses and request an item to be donated to NYS-FOLA to place in the auction. The name of the donator will be displayed along with the item. Crafters and artists are always welcome to donate.

In the interest of the Federation you can purchase items and bring to the conference. If necessary send the items to the office but make sure they arrive in Findley Lake before May 1st.

Let's make this the best Auction ever.

319 – 314 Federal Funding

The copy of the letter that appears on page five (5) is for your information. The NALMS Government Committee has spent many days in Washington attempting to renew the funding that was available in the 314 program in previous years. The results of this activity has been the inclusion of some funding to the 314 program. Asking for \$20,000,000.00 dollars to be placed in this fund but the best that was resolved was the directive that the States use at least 5 percent of the 319 funds that are allocated to them as 314 projects.

This letter also has other attachments but they primarily are long descriptions about how this is supposed to be done. If anyone has need for the rest of this, please contact the office and we will forward the email letter or copy it to you in some form. Naturally the email is the cheapest.

***Whiskey is for Drinking, Water is for fighting!
which will you be doing by the year 2025?***

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

Office of Water

December 22, 1999

Note to State Lake Contacts, Re: Final Supplemental Guidance for the Award of
Section 319 NPS Grants in FY 2000

I am pleased to send you a copy of the final Supplemental Guidance for the Award of Section 319 NPS Grants in FY 2000. This guidance includes some significant new language regarding funding Clean Lakes activities under the Clean Water Act Section 319 Nonpoint Source Grant Program. The Clean Lakes portion of the enclosed guidance is on pages 5 - 7 and also in Attachment B on pages 13-15. A few highlights of the Clean Lakes portion of the guidance include:

The guidance refers to the following Senate Appropriations Committee language included in Senate Report 106-161, accompanying the Senate's FY 2000 appropriations bill (S. 1596):

"Clean Lakes program activities are to be funded through the sec 319 nonpoint source grant program. The Committee suggests that 5 percent of the section 319 funds be allocated to clean lakes, and that EPA better integrate the Clean Lakes and section 319 programs by incorporating the section 314 guidance into the 319 guidance."

The guidance suggests "that each State use at least 5 percent of its section 319 funds for Clean Lakes activities to address the restoration and protection needs of priority lakes, ponds and reservoirs."

The guidance specifically calls for States to give priority to funding the following Clean Lakes activities: Lake Water Quality Assessment (LWQA) projects, Phase I Diagnostic/Feasibility Studies, Phase 2 Restoration/Implementation Projects, and Phase 3 Post-Restoration Monitoring Studies.

The guidance includes new data elements for Clean Lakes activities for the Grants Reporting and Tracking System (ORTS) to enable EPA and States to track our progress in responding to the Senate Appropriation Committee's suggestion that 5 percent of Section 319 funds be allocated to clean lakes.

The enclosed guidance also addresses some other issues including an increase in funding for tribal nonpoint source programs, the recent publication of the USDA/EPA animal feeding operations strategy, and other issues. For more overall background on the Section 319 Nonpoint Source Program, please the web site at: <http://ww.w.epa.gov/owow/nps/>

We encourage you to meet with your State Nonpoint Source Program contacts as soon as possible to discuss how you will address the Clean Lakes component of the guidance in FY 2000.

If you have any questions or comments about this guidance, please contact Robert Wayland III at 202-260-7166 or wayland.Robert@epa.gov, Dov Weitman, Chief of the Nonpoint Source Control Branch, at 202-260-7088 or weitman.dov@epa.gov. Also, please feel free to contact me as well at 202-260-7107 or weinberg.anne@epa.gov

Sincerely,

Anne Weinberg

EPA HQ Contact for Clean Lakes

Watershed Branch (4503F)

Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds



Ask Dr. Lake

Dear Dr. Lake:

That Hurricane Floyd was a real doozie! I got a little scared that, between the high water and concerns about whether lakes are Y2K compliant, my lake wouldn't work. But it looks okay to me. What was the effect of all that rain on lakes in New York?

Lou Dite, Lake Yuna, NY

Dear Mr. Dite,

You're correct- that was quite a storm, particularly in the midst of an extensive drought. During each of the previous five months, precipitation levels ranged from 5% to 50% below normal, yet the rainfall during Floyd resulted in more rain falling during a single 24 hour period in Albany (=5.6 inches on September 16) than on any single day since at least 1874. The Stormville NOAA station in Dutchess County recorded more than 11 inches of rain, and 33 stations in 16 counties reported more than 5 inches of rain during the storm. That's a lotta rain.

Like all large storms, Floyd didn't hit everywhere equally hard. In general, western NY and the northwestern Adirondacks were relatively high and dry, while southeastern NY was most heavily inundated. But except for some flooded basements, soggy potato plants, and a life-guard vacation, how did this affect most lake areas?

Well, there are probably many small ways that significant rain storms affect lakes that are not regularly assessed, such as shifts in spawning or breeding seasons, habitat disruption, changing micronutrient concentrations, and so on. Among the most common water quality indicators, three of the most susceptible are water clarity, phosphorus levels, and conductivity. Of more than fifty lakes throughout New York State studied during and after the mid-September deluge, nearly 70% showed a drop in water clarity after the storm, and nearly 60% still had lower water clarity three to four weeks later. This was clearly related to an increase in nutrient concentrations, for more than 70% of the studied lakes also demonstrated an increase in

continued next page

phosphorus concentrations. There was also a decided difference between lakes with relative large watersheds (short retention time) and small watersheds (long retention time) in that more than 80% of lakes with long retention time (most of the lake input from direct rainfall rather than entering through runoff) showed a decrease in clarity and increase in phosphorus levels, while less than 60% of the short-retention time lakes showed these changes. Perhaps my statistician colleagues can determine if these changes were truly significant, but while a mid-September increase in lake productivity is always as predictable as the drop in water temperature, it does seem as if the storms made these lakes somewhat more productive.

Equally interesting (at least to us limnonerds) is the noted drop in conductivity in many of the lakes studied during the storm- those in the western and northwestern parts of the state were relatively unchanged (about 55% showed a decrease in conductivity), but in the umbrella belt, nearly 80% showed a drop. Together these findings may suggest that this stormwater brought either runoff disproportionately high in phosphorus, or (more likely) caused an increase in lake turbidity that promoted the mixing of nutrient-enriched bottom (hypolimnetic) waters, perhaps even triggering an early or at least temporary or partial turnover, or stirred near shore bottom sediments into the water. In either case, nutrient concentrations began to drop again in many of these lakes in the second round of samples after the storm.

Well, that's interesting and all, I suppose, but what will it mean for swimming and my daughter's use of the lake?

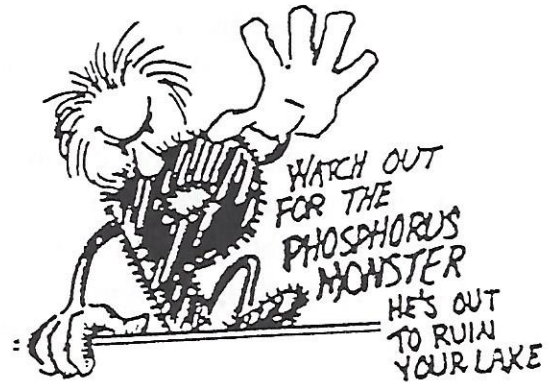
We don't yet know. Obviously, such a storm could have had significant ramifications for lake use and recreational perception if it occurred on July 1st, but by mid-September, most of the swimmers have moved to more chlorinated (and warmer) waters, and the lake surface is dominated by leaf peepers and fishers more interested in the reflections and ripples on the water, not the refraction through the water. As for whether the lake will feel the ill effects of the sheets of sleets by next spring, we've learned that lakes are pretty resilient, and have a far shallower memory than their stewards. Perhaps we all will be surprised by clouds in the water, but for now I wouldn't start stopping your distant dreaming of a lazy nap on a faintly drifting inner tube, at least on account of a lot of rain.

40 % of the Arctic ice cap has melted in the last 20 – 40 years, the climate seems warmer!!

Are we headed in the right direction?

FOR YOUR **Lake's Sake...**

Phosphorous: Just a Little is Too Much for our Lakes



Sources of phosphorous include the weathering of geologic phosphate material, atmospheric deposition, groundwater, agricultural runoff, urban runoff, domestic and industrial sewage, septic systems and waterfowl waste.

The importance of phosphorous to lakes stems from this element being "the limiting nutrient" Phosphorous is the substance that limits biological growth due to its short supply with respect to other substances necessary for the growth of an organism. It only takes a minute quantity of phosphorus to increase the growth rate of those primitive plants, known as algae.

This production of organic matter from light, energy and inorganic materials is primary production. In general, an increase of phosphorous to a lake initiates a series of events that can lead to deteriorating lake quality. The increase of phosphorous and an adequate supply of sunlight to an aquatic system result in increased productivity. A decrease in water clarity corresponds to an increase of algal cells. As these cells slowly settle into the deeper, darker waters of the lake, the cells die and collect on the bottom. Bacterial decomposition of large quantities of these cells robs the bottom water of oxygen. Anoxic (devoid of oxygen) water and sediments promote conditions that encourage the recycling of phosphorous back into the water column.

Phosphorous is the Enemy

The use of phosphorous in our household products, and particularly in our lawn fertilizers, is very damaging to our lakes. Phosphorous fertilizes your lawn as well as the weeds and algae in your lake. **When one-tenth of a pound of fertilizers containing 5% phosphorous washes into your lake, it can result in the growth of approximately 2.5 pounds of algae.**

For this reason, several towns have adopted ordinances prohibiting the use of phosphorous fertilizers. For the sake of your lake, we encourage you to do the same, or at least discourage your members from using phosphorous products. Some local garden centers carry these products.

CSLAPpenings

We have moved into the new millenium with no bumps in the road to indicate much of a change. But it still provides good reason to reflect on the past, and exercise optimism for the future. We can even do this exercise with that old steady program, CSLAP, which has been working with volunteers to monitor lakes since the last century!! So where has CSLAP taken us since its legislative inception in 1986? CSLAP is the original state lake volunteer monitoring program, begun with 26 lakes, and now includes over 170 lakes located all over the state. From tiny Round Pond, to Seneca Lake, to Lake Placid; from heavily urbanized to heavily forested Adirondack watersheds, the CSLAP volunteers have been doing their jobs. Over these fourteen years, this volunteer program has helped in a variety of perhaps unknown and beneficial ways.

First lets look at the individual lake level. CSLAP data provides needed factual information to lake managers. Maybe your lake has just received the confirmation, after five years of CSLAP sampling, that the lake is beautiful and pristine, and you are doing a great job of water stewardship. Great! However, some lake associations have been able to use the CSLAP data base for other purposes, such as to monitor before and after a specific management activity, such as copper sulfate treatments, herbicide applications, or biocontrol techniques (grass carp or weevils). Some associations have decided to add more specific tributary monitoring to help track a suspected problem. Some associations have been able to "verify" a water quality problem, when stating their case to local officials. For other lake associations, CSLAP data has provided an excellent basis for developing and adopting a locally-supported watershed management plan that addresses long term solutions for their watershed. Having credible long term data at times has provided a strong case when requesting state or federal grants for other studies or activities

For those of us pushing government mouses, CSLAP data has provided a base to which guidance standards for phosphorus have been established for New York. These guidance standards begin to quantify a recommended maximum ambient limit for this distinctive nutrient. CSLAP has created a large reliable data source to determine which waters in New York may be in need of the special consideration by designation on the State Priority Waterbody List for waters that may have damaged environmental integrity. It is also a source for the similar type of Clean Water Act (Sections 303 (d) List and 305(b)) report. Also, CSLAP data helps all of us expand our knowledge by providing information on a "statewide" basis, to look at such topics as the effect on our lakes of rainfall (or lack of), hurricanes, temperature changes, and so on.

On a more anecdotal basis, your CSLAP information helps us b'crats wonder about other management options; for instance, the observation that many CSLAP lakes having no motorized boats seem to have better clarity than the motorized lakes?.....or seem to have less weed problems, as observed by our CSLAP volunteers (to be explored further.....). In sum, CSLAP may be helpful for all of us at state and grass roots levels, who would like to make decisions based on actual reliable water quality data.

So this is the big thanks to you volunteers for your work through CSLAP. This is a little of what CSLAP has done, and if you have other ideas for us to improve the program, please give us a buzz via your favorite media. And commend yourselves, CSLAP volunteers, for the inestimable work you do for your lake and toward the lakes in New York State. Keep up the good work!

To participate in CSLAP your lake association must be a member in good standing with FOLA, and submit the CSLAP application, including names of committed volunteers to FOLA. Questions, comments, request for application, or suggestions, please call DEC's Betsy or Scott at 518-457-3345, or -0734, or the FOLA toll free number 1- (800)-796-3652. DEC, 50 Wolf Road, Room 305, Albany, NY 12233-3508.

Email: bxhohens@gw.dec.state.ny.us

sakishba@gw.dec.state.ny.us

fola@nysfola.org

Tentative Annual Conference Agenda

Agenda is subject to change depending on availability of speakers and other circumstances. A mailing will be sent to all members in the near future with correct information. This conference will be a full schedule and please send in your reservations early. Further information will also be on the web page as available.

Friday evening:

Welcoming remarks, supper meal and open discussion.

Bring your lakes problems for potential answers.

Saturday all day and Sunday morning:

Watershed Management Planning Projects

Discussion by lakes in project

Introduction to Basic Limnology

Aquatic Vegetation and control

Biological

Chemical

Mechanical and others

New or upcoming regulations

Total maximum daily load

State Pollution discharge elimination systems

Permits for large agricultural operations

CSLAP Training

Lakefront Home Owners Guide to Property Stewardship

Stand by Your Stream

Home-a-syst Program

Lakefront Storm Water Management

Septic Systems

What is new

How to repair a failing system

what is happening in New York State

Integrated Pest Management in lakes

open discussion/ Panel

What do we need to know?

Can it be done?

Also Saturday evening will host the Hospitality Hour, NYSFOLA Annual Meeting, Silent Auction, Banquet, Awards and entertainment.

Available at the office of NYSFOLA!!!

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

Detailed instructions for preparing a Lake Management Plan; complete descriptions of Lake Restoration and Watershed Management Techniques; Comprehensive discussion of Lake Ecology. 281 pages

Cost:- \$20.00, includes S & H

"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. 248 pages. Cost: \$24.95 plus \$2.50 S & H

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

2000 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-fofa
 E-mail— fola@nysfola.org

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

Calendar of Events

Lake Management: Cook College Continuing Professional Education Programs. February 4 & 5, 2000 New Brunswick, NJ for information contact phone 732-932-9271, fax 732-932-8726

New York State Wetlands Forum: Holiday Inn Binghamton, March 30 – 31. For information contact 518-783-1322

NALMS Spring Conference; Ramada Congress Hotel, Chicago, Illinois. April 25-28, 2000. Contact NYSFOLA for information. Or Bob Kirschner phone 847-835-6837.

Ohio Lake Management Society Symposium: April 29, 2000, Hilton Cleveland South. For more information, contact Don Fulmer, 330-607-7010

NYSFOLA Annual Conference: White Eagle Conference Center, Hamilton NY. May 5 – 7, 2000 contact the office at 800-796-3652

WEB PAGE

Have you checked the FOLA homepage lately? A different format has been designed for our page and now you as a member of NYSFOLA can show a picture of your lake or other association activity. Presently you will find a picture of Findley Lake, but this is just the beginning.

What I need from you to show your lake is a picture and a one page or so write-up about the lake or picture so that we can place it in this location.

How? If possible please send the picture as an attachment in the gif format and I can work from that. Of course that requires e-mail capability. If necessary send down your regular photo and it can be scanned into the computer. The write-up can be in rtf format and that is easy to convert.

Lets see whose picture is next! Generally, I'll change the picture bi-weekly unless it becomes necessary to do it oftener.

WATERWORKS

NYS Federation of Lake Associations, Inc.

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E-mail- fola@nysfola.org or fola@cecomet.net

Bulk Rate

U.S. Postage

PAID

Findley Lake NY 14736

Permit No. 1

"Diet for a Small Lake"

\$20.00 includes S & H

Loon Lake Assoc.

Jane Lawson, Pres.

10266 County Rd. #92

Wayland, NY 14572

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Water, "21st Century Gold"

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CSLAPpenings