Waterworks

Fall 1990 Volume 6 Number 4

Federation News

From the President

As a statewide, non-profit group, the Federation of Lake Associations has served as an umbrella organization for many of the lake associations throughout New York State. Since our founding in 1983, we have made many important accomplishments, and as we enter the nineties, we hope to develop additional educational and research projects to help our members. The Federation membership continues to grow and now includes lake associations, individual lake property owners, environmental organizations, and individuals at state and local government agencies. More than one hundred and seventy lake associations are actively involved, representing over 32,000 homeowners and lake users.

Over the years, the Federation has provided a focal point for all who are interested in the better management of New York's lakes and related water resources. Our educational efforts have included a quarterly newsletter, annual conferences, publication of a lake and watershed management book, and on-site visits to lake associations through the Citizens' Statewide Lake Assessment Program.

The Federations twelve-page newsletter, *Waterworks*, was originally compiled and designed under the direction of Tracey Clothier. Anne Saltman has served as editor for the past several years with the assistance of Holly Ioset who helps with the newsletter review and distribution. In addition to sending a newsletter to each FOLA member, many lake associations are also receiving extra copies for distribution to interested people within their lake communities.

A recent publication, Diet For A Small Lake: A New Yorker's Guide to Lake Management, was written and published as a joint effort between the Federation and the NYDEC. The book has been distributed throughout the state and adjoining regions and has been very well received. This project was the fulfillment of a dream for Italo Carcich, Dan Barolo, and Sal Pagano (from the NYDEC Division of Water), Langdon Marsh (NYDEC Executive Deputy Commissioner), and the Federation Board of Directors. Other joint educational publications and technical bulletins are anticipated this coming year in order to meet the needs of the Federation members.

The Federation of Lake Associations' "Information Management Service" is maintained at our Cazenovia office. Through this program, technical literature is distributed and a pool of professionals within the FOLA Scientific Advisory Board is available to advise and assist member associations and individuals on lake-related problems. Through this and other efforts on a statewide basis, the Federation is able to provide a connecting link between lake associations and government agencies.

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INSIDE

On The Local Scene...

Twitchell Lake

In December 1988, an article entitled "Twitchell Lake, a Success Story" appeared in *Waterworks*. The article was a report on a community self-help program designed to decrease or eliminate water pollution from existing sewage and grey water systems.

The 87 - 88 project at Twitchell Lake was such a success that inquiries were received from other interested lake organizations. As a result, John Miller, who oversaw the Twitchell Lake project, decided to write a Pollution Control Procedural Guide. He has also consulted with and held informational meetings with various lake groups including an appearance at the 1988 FOLA conference. Recently, I interviewed John and asked the following questions:

Q. Specifically John, what is the Pollution Control Program? What are it's objectives?

A. The Pollution Control Program is a community based project designed to locate and eliminate water pollution originating from septic systems. This type of non-point pollution is an obvious health threat to those who drink lake water or engage in water sports, including swimming. Furthermore, seepage of sewage into a waterbody can cause nutrient overloading which in turn, leads to unwanted weed growth.

Q. What type of information is contained in the material you have been distributing?

A. Basically there are two types of information. The "Procedural Guide" outlines how a lake group can organize and conduct a successful pollution survey based on community spirit and cooperation. The "Information Packet" contains data on various types of septic systems and their proper maintenance. Detailed information on alternate types of disposal systems is also included, along with names and addresses of suppliers.

Q. Have lake organizations shown much interest in this type of project?

A. Actually Anne, I was amazed at the strong interest expressed by lake associations. At first, I felt there would be just a few requests for the information from lake groups within the Adirondack Park; however to date I have mailed out about 125 sets of material to associations and government agencies across the State. In addition, inquiries have been received from associations in Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Q. Have you been able to determine why there is such widespread interest in the Pollution Control Program?

A. I believe the most significant factor that fuels an interest in pollution control is that people are more environmentally conscious today than they were say, 10 years ago.

Today our lakes and rivers suffer from the impact of a wide variety of pollutants. We have contamination from acid rain, the discharge of industrial wastes, herbicide spraying , nutrient loading from

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Waterworks is published four times a year. Individuals who wish to submit articles, calendar items, artwork, or photography to **Waterworks** are welcome to contact the editor, Anne B. Saltman, 2175 Ten Eyck Avenue, Cazenovia, New York 13035 (315) 655-2236. For additional copies of **Waterworks** and address changes, contact John Colgan, FOLA President, 273 Hollywood Avenue, Rochester, New York 14618 (716) 271-0372. Permission to reprint articles is granted with credit.

The Scientific Advisory Board of the Federation of Lake Associations

The Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) is composed of fifteen professionals who have an interest in surface water quality and watershed management. Under the chairmanship of Dr. John Peverly of Cornell University, the SAB provides scientific advice to the Federation of Lake Associations Board of Directors. The group takes a leading role in the evaluation of scientific documents and legislation, provides constructive insight in determining the theme and recruiting speakers for the central and regional Federation annual conferences, offers valuable assistance to Federation members through the Information Management Service, and provides technical advice in the annual review of the Citizens' Statewide Lake Assessment Program. Articles describing lake-related research by members of the Scientific Advisory Board are frequently printed in the Federation's newsletter, *Waterworks*.

Anyone interested in joining or learning more about the Scientific Advisory Board should write to Dr. John Peverly, Department of Agronomy, Bradfield Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14853, or call (607) 255-1739.

The Information Management Service

A network of communication between lake associations

As a citizen-based organization the Federation provides information clearinghouse services to its members. Information is distributed through our quarterly newsletter, *Waterworks*, and through the Information Management Service. These services are designed to enhance the level of communication between lake communities, to provide increased coordination between water resources organizations, and to provide a convenient opportunity for people to collect information about surface water issues.

In order to accomplish these objectives, we need your help. We need feedback from associations throughout the state on lake and watershed restoration projects, your opinions on products and services that you've tried, and funding opportunities. Please put us on your mailing list and send us any relevant water resources information from your area.

If FOLA members would like to request information through the Information Management Service or if you have information to provide, please write or call the Federation of Lake Associations, IMS Program Coordinator, 2175 Ten Eyck Avenue, Cazenovia, NY 13035 (315) 655-2236.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT: LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND CITIZENS CHANGE POLICY TOGETHER

Communities throughout New York State are developing innovative programs to manage their increasingly valuable water resources. For example, Canandaigua Lake watershed residents and local decision makers are participating in an education program in hopes of creating public policy changes to offset the damaging effects of land use and development.

Situated in a rapidly urbanizing area about 35 miles southeast of Rochester, Canandaigua Lake is a resource of great economic value. Much of the area's economy depends on the availability of high-quality Canandaigua Lake water. Nearly 50,000 residents of Ontario, Wayne, and Yates counties withdraw drinking water from the lake; that population is expected to increase dramatically in the near future. The lake also serves as a recreational and cultural resource and wildlife habitat. Tourism, a well established industry of the area, requires that the lake be clean, picturesque and accessible.

Ironically, recreation and development are degrading the lake and its watershed. The watershed has experienced tremendously increased development rate in the past four years. Development has resulted in pollution from septic systems, road runoff, soil sediments, construction site erosion, and other nonpoint sources. The quality of Canandaigua Lake's water is high, but nuisance weeds grow thick in some areas and litter collects along the shoreline. Sediment plumes are highly visible in the spring during heavy runoff from melting snow and rain. Pollution sometimes interferes with use of the lake for drinking water, fishing, boating, and bathing. As pollution has become more visible, local concern for the protection and preservation of Canandaigua Lake has escalated.

Watershed Consortium

In response to emerging community interest, the City of Canandaigua initiated a series of meetings at which local decision makers, water resource experts, and citizens interested in Canandaigua Lake identified common objectives for protecting the lake and watershed. The meetings led to a public policy education project to make homeowners, recreationists, the business community, and elected officials aware of watershed management issues. Cornell Cooperative Extension of Ontario County and the Ontario County Soil and Water Conservation District, in cooperation with the Community College of the Finger Lakes and the New York State Water Resources Institute designed the project, whose goal is to provide the community with an opportunity to understand the nature and importance of Canandaigua Lake and its watershed, the interrelationship of land use and water quality, the value of protecting the resource, and the methods necessary to accomplish the task.

Local Groups Join In

Municipalities, lake associations, and local civic organizations immediately seized the opportunity to take action and committed financial and professional resources to the project. In addition to the agencies which designed the project, county planning departments, the state departments of Environmental Conservation and Health, local decision makers, tourism and economic development associations, farmers, and developers joined to form the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Task Force.

The Task Force held community forums at which watershed residents and local government decision makers identified problems and issues facing the watershed. Task Force participants then began gathering data to verify the problems raised at the forums, to find the causes of those problems, and to assess the impacts of nonpoint source pollution on the watershed's groundwater and surface water quality. The Task Force will use the information gained from the investigations and public discussions to develop local ordinances and recommend actions to resolve the problems. A likely recommendation will be a thorough review and revision of the watershed rules and regulations by the municipalities.

The Task Force provides a committee structure for the study of the various issues. Committees on land use, lake levels, recreation, water quality, education, research, and rules, regulations, and ordinances have met regularly and have issued reports.

Community-Based Self-Help

Along with the community forums, the Task Force held a variety of workshops and training sessions for residents and users of the lake and watershed. Recent sessions included: watershed management for town planners; environmental lawn care for homeowners; erosion and sediment control for developers and builders; water resource management for private water system users; and soil conservation and nutrient management for farmers. Future sessions are planned to address highway maintenance for road superintendents and "lake etiquette" for recreationists. Task Force participants are also educating themselves; they recently took a tour of the lake and watershed by boat while hearing local experts give presentations on

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TWITCHELL LAKE *(continued from page 2)*

agricultural run-off, and highway salt entering our water bodies. The list goes on and on.

Many of our lake associations are hard at work in an effort to solve these problems. The solutions however, usually require third-party action from corporations, government agencies, or in the case of acid rain, federal legislation. Unfortunately these procedures take a long time.

Eliminating on-site pollution from septic systems however, can be accomplished directly by a well-organized citizens' program. It does not require third-party cooperation.

Q. Since you have been involved with this work, how many pollution surveys have been conducted by lake associations?

A. I have no way of knowing the exact total, but in the last two years I am aware of twelve lake groups that have completed or are currently conducting their initial pollution survey. I would assume there are several more.

Q. Did all these lakes use the same methods as those developed in the Twitchell Lake project?

A. Some lakes followed the prototype we developed at Twitchell very closely, while other associations added their own innovations. Each lake has its' own unique ecosystem and configuration of land ownership, so each association must tailor the project to its' special needs. The fundamental methods we used at Twitchell however, remained the same.

Q. If an association is interested in starting a pollution control project what is the biggest obstacle they must overcome?

A. That's a very good question. I have found the biggest concern that most lake leaders have is gaining community support for the program. Entering homes to dye-test and inspect disposal systems can lead to resistance from some lake-shore residents.

Basically, an association must give their membership acceptable reasons for such a program and also use a non-threatening approach in regard to the way the project is executed. A significant portion of the Procedural Guide is devoted to the question of community support.

Q. Twitchell Lake is a small lake within a close knit community. Can our larger lakes also conduct effective programs?

A. They most certainly can. An excellent example is the program run by the Fulton Chain of Lakes Improvement Association. They virtually eliminated sources of fecal contamination by inspecting and dye-testing disposal systems in well over 1000 private homes and businesses. Furthermore, as a preventative measure, they continue follow-up dye tests on 300 dwellings each year, and it's a good bet that their lake waters will continue to be among the purest in the state of New York.

I don't want to be too simplistic when it comes to the question of large lakes. Large lakes may be heavily developed and also have public campsites. Many times there are several associations on the same lake and to complicate the issue further, the lake could encompass several townships.

Looking at at all these variables is bewildering. The question of how to proceed with a pollution program is similar to the question, ''How do you eat an elephant?'' The answer of course, is, ''One bite at a time!''

One lake organization covering one section of a lake can start a pollution program and other groups may soon adapt the same activity. Positive community action is contagious!

Q. Finally, John, let me ask if you will continue to be available to assist lake associations? Also, what is the fee for the pollution material?

A. I feel that organized lake groups hold the key to the solution to many of our environmental problems. Therefore, I hope to continue to work with them within the constraints of my personal time.

I have never established a fee for the pollution control material, however, many associations have sent donations which help defray the costs of printing and postage.

John Miller is an outdoor sportsman who has been active in conservation work for many years. He is president of the Adirondack Association for Lake Conservation and past-president of the Twitchell Lake Fish and Game Society. For communications, his address is: 8 Crescent Street, Ilion NY, 13357 (315) 895-7502.

Citizen Water Quality Monitoring Studies at the University of New York at Purchase, NY

Project RiverWatch

Project RiverWatch is a community outreach, environmental science education and research organization based at SUNY-Purchase, a 4-year SUNY college located in Westchester County adjacent to the New York-Connecticut border. Begun in 1986, RiverWatch was established to help provide local student groups, conservation organizations and community volunteer programs with the basic supplies and scientific equipment necessary to monitor the water quality of freshwater systems and coastal embayments in Westchester County and the surrounding region. Over 10 active sampling groups are now monitoring aquatic systems in Westchester, Rockland and Putnam County, NY, and Fairfield County, CN. Expected funding this year will allow RiverWatch to begin work in several new tributary watersheds along the Hudson River and Long Island Sound. Measurements collected by RiverWatch groups include air and water temperature, salinity, conductivity, dissolved oxygen and pH. Many groups also measure nitrogen and phosphorus concentrations at several locations and record precipitation and weather data for their system.

One of the most successful RiverWatch groups is the Friends of Larchmont Reservoir. Spear-headed by citizen Jim Johnson, Larchmont Reservoir is now a 60 acre conservancy composed of upper Sheldrake Lake and lower Goodlife Pond. Originally used for the sale of ice (for refrigeration), Larchmont Reservoir has been maintained over the years for suburban flood control within the lower watershed. During severe drought, Larchmont Reservoir is classified as an alternative source for potable water in the county. RiverWatch was contacted to help organize a water testing program for volunteers in order to assess the present condition of the lake and pond and identify potential impacts resulting from continuing development in the watershed immediately upstream from the conservancy.

Over the past three years, volunteers have regularly monitored water quality at two locations. Additional testing has been conducted by local high school science students and, when needed, by the county Dept. of Health. Although water quality remains good in winter and spring, the water quality has begun to degrade in summer. We believe this is due to development occurring in the watershed directly above the reservoir. A technical report of these data will be available in January 1991.

On a happier note, several helpful changes have occurred at the Reservoir. In the past, water was drawn down in advance of a storm to control flooding in the lower watershed. Working with the local village and town governments, a computerized drawndown system was installed. Downstream conditions are monitored regularly, allowing a continual but regulated release from the reservoir. Larchmont Reservoir no longer is stagnant in summer or before a storm event. A small percentage of the water constantly flows through the system.

by Dr. Barbara Dexter, Project RiverWatch

Need A Speaker?

The Adirondack Council will provide landowners with information concerning protection of lakes and lakeshore in the Adirondack Park.

Discussions can include such topics as:

* threats and challenges faced by Adirondack shore and upland owners today
* what others have done to solve their lake problems
* what you can do to protect your lake

Implications of the Adirondack Commission report for lakeshore owners can also be presented on request.

If your lake association would like to schedule a speaker for one of your meetings in 1991, contact the Adirondack Council, PO Box D-2, Church Street, Elizabethtown, New York, 12932 (518) 873-2240.

Established in 1975, The Adirondack Council has a membership of 19,000 and is the leading citizen-advocacy organization working to preserve the Adirondack Park.

Three Local Ordinances for Watershed Protection

We all recognize the connection between what goes on in a watershed and the effects these actions can have on water quality in a lake, pond, or stream. Readers of *Waterworks* are among the concerned citizens who want to protect and preserve the quality of our water resources. Sometimes having the desire is not enough; what is needed are regulations that can effectively control the actions at a local level.

Summarized below are two ordinances and an inter-agency agreement that can be used as models by local governments. They are in use by municipalities in Ontario County and could be modified easily. The actual text of the documents is too long to include here so the key features of each will be described. Copies are available from the Federation of Lake Associations office and questions can be directed to the author's attention.

Two major threats to water quality are the effects of erosion/runoff from developing areas and the problems related to sewage disposal system installation, operation and maintenance. These three ordinances/agreements are aimed at treating these potential problems at the source, which is the effective way to control them.

City of Canandaigua-Ontario County Soil and Water Conservation District Memorandum of Understanding

This is an agreement which outlines the provision of technical assistance by the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to the City of Canandaigua regarding a large scale commercial and residential development project within the city. The city requested the SWCD's assistance in reviewing and inspecting the erosion and runoff control measures being utilized by the developers. Enforcement of the city ordinances rests with the city but the technical expertise and field inspections are provided by the Soil and Water Conservation District.

This is an example of a site-specific request for assistance but the same approach has been taken on a more general, ongoing basis by other municipalities. The SWCD can provide assistance only when asked to by a local government or individuals and the Memorandum of Understanding provides a mechanism which outlines the responsibilities of the two parties. In some cases such as this one in the City of Canandaigua, the SWCD is paid for its services but in other cases the service may be of a more informal advisory nature.

Town of Canandaigua Erosion Control Ordinance

The Town of Canandaigua adopted a townwide erosion control ordinance a year ago in recognition of the need to provide more effective controls on the numerous development projects going on. Many of these projects are sited in erosive, hillside areas overlooking Canandaigua Lake which is a natural reservoir serving as a drinking source for fifty thousand people.

The ordinance lays out the definitions, standards, and enforcement procedures applying to projects in the town. The same basic ordinance has also been adopted by the Town of South Bristol which adjoins the Town of Canandaigua on the west side of the lake. Canandaigua Lake Pure Waters Ltd. developed these ordinances with assistance from the Ontario County Soil and Water Conservation District and promoted them through meetings with the townships in the watershed. It is CLPW's intention to have the ordinance in place throughout the watershed in the near future.

Uniform Watershed Ordinance

This ordinance was also developed by Canandaigua Lake Pure Waters Ltd. in an effort to deal with problems associated with septic systems and other sewage disposal systems. There have been watershed regulations in effect in the Canandaigua watershed for more than twenty years. These regulations spelled out what could and could not be done but the weakness was in the enforcement clauses.

If a violation of the ordinance was observed, such as a surface discharge from a septic system, the code enforcement officer (either town CEO or Watershed Inspector) brought the violation to the town's attention. This then required the Town Board to convene as a Town Board of Health which was often a slow process resulting in lengthy delays between the violation and the corrective action being taken.

The ordinance developed by CLPW updated the definitions and standards but the key feature is the revised enforcement clauses. When a violation is cited, the enforcement officer writes up a notice which is similar to a traffic ticket and the Town Justice, rather than the Town Board of Health, enforces the penalty in a much more timely fashion. CLPW has been promoting this ordinance for a number of years with the goal of implementing a uniform watershed ordinance.

by Scott D. Sherwood, Director of Geographic and Environmental Analysis, Center for Governmental Research Inc., 37 So. Washington Street, Rochester, New York 14608; (716)325-6360. Member of FOLA Scientific Advisory Board.

LAKE PROTECTION THROUGH WETLAND PRESERVATION

The 1975 Freshwater Wetlands Act of New York begins with the comments, "It is declared to be the public policy of the state to preserve, protect and conserve freshwater wetlands and the benefits derived therefrom, to prevent the despoliation and destruction of freshwater wetlands and to regulate use and development of such wetlands, consistent with the general welfare and beneficial economic, social, and agricultural development of the state." The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) Division of Regulatory Affairs, Division of Fish and Wildlife is the agency responsible for implementation of this Act.

Why are these seemingly unimportant land areas, including bogs, marshes, swamps, wet meadows or flats, of such critical importance to environmental regulatory bodies, lake associations, and those concerned with our environment? First, what are freshwater wetlands? Wetlands are transition areas between uplands and aquatic habitats. They may be identified by the presence of standing water but the Freshwater Wetlands Act identifies wetlands on the basis of vegetation that thrive in wet soils. The characteristic plants include wetland trees and shrubs, emergent vegetation (cattails and sedges), aquatic vegetation (water-lily and pondweeds), and bog vegetation. A wetland must be 12.4 acres or larger in size to fall under the Wetlands Act. Smaller wetland areas may be regulated if they have been determined by the NYSDEC to be of unusual local importance.

In times past; wetlands had the reputation of being undesirable lands, but increasingly we learn of their value to our environment. New York state has lost almost half its wetland areas to development. Environmental scientists now know that wetlands protect the lake and watershed ecosystem and improve lake water quality in the following ways:

Control of Flood and Storm Water Level
Wetlands absorb, store, and slowly release rain and melt water to minimize flooding and stabilize surface water flow. In this way wetlands can protect adjacent lakes from water level fluctuation during times of heavy precipitation or drought.

Erosion Control
Because wetlands slow water velocity, they protect reservoirs and navigational channels by reducing erosion. Wetlands also buffer shorelines and protect agricultural soils from water erosion.

Surface and Groundwater Protection
In some places, wetlands are important in recharging groundwater supplies.

Fish and Wildlife Habitat
Wetlands are one of the most productive habitats for feeding, nesting, spawning, resting, and cover for fish and wildlife, including many rare and endangered species. Since wetland plants are particularly efficient converters of solar energy, wetlands are among the most productive ecosystems in the world. The biomass created in wetlands serves as food for large populations of fish and wildlife.

Pollution Treatment and Water Quality Improvement
Wetlands can improve degraded waters or maintain water quality through removal of nutrients, chemical and organic pollutants and sediments. Wetlands serve as natural filters because they intercept runoff from land before it reaches the open water bodies. Wetlands remove nutrients and pollutants so effectively that artificial wetlands (man-made marsh areas) are being used to treat sewage.

Recreation, Open Spaces and Natural Beauty
Wetlands provide valuable open space for recreation, education, and research. Wetlands retain a natural beauty and openness, a prized asset in urban or highly developed lake and river front areas.

The Freshwater Wetlands Act required the NYSDEC to map all protected wetlands. Wetlands perform different functions and thus are ranked into four classes ranging from Class I which are the most valuable environmentally, to Class IV which provide fewer benefits. According to the Freshwater Wetlands Act, certain activities are exempt from regulation and do not require a permit; these include normal agricultural practices, recreation, maintaining existing structures, and harvesting fuelwood. Other potentially damaging activities require either a letter of permission or a wetlands permit. These activities vary from drilling an individual water well to draining, constructing dams, applying pesticides, and altering structures. The law allows local governments to assume jurisdiction for regulating wetlands, but where no local government has chosen to regulate wetlands under the Act, NYSDEC continues its authority.

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PRESIDENT *(continued from page 1)*

Three FOLA scientific conferences are held throughout the state each summer to inform the public about current topics relevant to surface water issues. The Federation is committed to taking a comprehensive approach to lake management by addressing causes as well as effects of water quality problems. We accomplish this through the establishment of sound management practices within the lake and throughout the watershed. Each spring a three-day conference is held, followed by two day-long regional conferences in other parts of the state. At these conferences, participants have an opportunity to hear excellent presentations and can share ideas or concerns with people from other lake communities. The Scientific Advisory Board, under the guidance and chairmanship of William Benaszewski, Bruce Gillman, R. Warren Flint, and John Peverly, has organized these popular annual events.

The Federation encourages research to improve and maintain water quality in New York State lakes. We are now in our fifth year with the Citizens' Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP). This grass roots water quality monitoring program was developed as a cooperative effort between FOLA and the NYDEC, with the assistance of James Sutherland, Scott Kishbaugh, and Jay Bloomfield. Seventy-two lake associations participated in the 1990 sampling season, and three regional field technicians were hired by FOLA to assist Anne Saltman (FOLA) and Scott Kishbaugh (NYDEC) with the on-site lake visits and quality assurance sampling. CSLAP has been designated by the U.S. EPA Office of Water as a prototype for lake monitoring programs throughout the county. Many components of the sampling protocol and organizational structure are highlighted in Developing a Volunteer Monitoring Program for Lakes: A Methods Manual and CSLAP was described in detail in Volunteer Water Monitoring: A Handbook for State Managers. Our admiration and gratitude go to the CSLAP volunteers for their dedication and reliability which has made this program such a success.

The Federation has made significant headway in the technical arena over the past year. The purchase of an IBM model 30-286 computer, a Hewlett Packard LaserJet II P, and a Sharp copier has allowed us to expand our horizons and sharpen our focus. This equipment, along with the WordPerfect and PageMaker software packages has allowed us to efficiently handle the overall design and page layout of Diet for a Small Lake, each issue of our newsletter, *Waterworks*, as well as educational and promotional material. The Federation has also been using an excellent information storage and retrieval program called askSam which has been used in the maintenance of the Information Management Service.

With these accomplishments in mind, we now look to the future with the hope of improving service to our members. The day-to-day activities of the Federation are now conducted in offices in Rochester and Cazenovia, with additional projects being handled by various Board members and volunteers throughout the state. This winter, we will be centralizing our efforts in one primary Federation office that will be located in Cazenovia. In addition to plans for the continuation of the projects mentioned above, we are developing other activities, such as a FOLA/DEC aquatic vegetation identification and mapping program, the distribution of additional educational material to our membership, and the development of watershed management plans for lakes participating in CSLAP.

Decisions regarding Federation activities are made by a Board of Directors which is made up of twelve members. The group meets twice a year, in mid-September and at the annual meeting in June. Any FOLA member interested in participating on the Board should contact the Cazenovia office (2175 Ten Eyck Avenue, Cazenovia, NY 13035). We are seeking specific expertise in the areas of grant writing, fund raising, land-use planning, and watershed management.

Revisions in the Federation By-Laws have recently been approved by the Board of Directors. Copies are available by contacting either the Rochester or Cazenovia Federation office. The Board of Directors has also voted to increase membership dues in order to assist in the continuation of our current projects and for the development new Federation activities.

We are looking for new faces and new ideas to help us expand and better serve the needs of our members. I would like to encourage all of our members to become more involved. Let us know how the Federation can help you and how our projects can better suit your needs.

John W. Colgan, President
Federation of Lake Associations, Inc.

Etcetera...

The 1989 Clean Lakes Program Annual Report has been published by the North American Lake Management Society for the Environmental Protection Agency. copies are available for $5.00 by writing to NALMS, P.O. Box 217, Merrifield, VA 22116.

The River Conservation Directory for 1990 lists over 1,000 public and private organizations dedicated to preserving America's rivers. To order, send $6.00 and request document #024-005-01058-1 from the US Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402-9325.

Aquatic Plant Management videotapes may be ordered for $10.60 each from the Center For Aquatic Plants, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, 7922 N.W. 71st Street, Gainesville, Florida 32606, (904) 392-1799.

The Directory of Great Lakes Educational Material contains over 60 pages listing books, audiovisual and instructional materials, special reports, newsletters, and magazines that deal with the Great Lakes Basin. To place an order, contact the International Joint Commission, Great Lakes Regional Office, P.O. Box 32869, Detroit, Mich. 48232, (313) 226-2170.

A new, 11-page publication, "Aquifers", has been written by Lyle S. Raymond, Jr. of the Center for Environmental Research at Cornell University. This information is intended to help citizens and local officials make decisions regarding the protection of aquifers. "Aquifers" is available for $1.00 per copy from the Cornell University Resource Center, 8 Business and Technology Park, Ithaca, NY 14850.

Calendar of Events

Nature, Gender and Science, by Margaret Shannon, Department of Forestry, SUNY ESF. December 4, 1990, Great Lakes Research Consortium lecture series. For more information, call B. Knuth at 607-255-2822.

Global Climatic Change: The Economic Costs of Mitigation and Adaptation. December 4-5, 1990, Washington Plaza Hotel, Washington D.C. Seventh Annual Conference of the Air Resources Information Clearinghouse, a project of the Center for Environmental Information, Inc. For more information write to CEI, Inc., P.O. Box 41207, Rochester, NY 14604

Problems Estimating the Loading of Organochlorine Compounds to the Niagara River. December 7, 1990; University at Buffalo; Great Lakes Research Consortium lecture series. Contact S. Weber at 716-636-2783 for more information.

Call for Papers: Integrating Research and Management of the Great Lakes. The 34th Annual Conference on Great Lakes Research and the Annual Meeting of the International Association of Great Lakes Research will be held on June 2-6, 1991 on the North campus of the University at Buffalo. The Conference is being hosted by the Great lakes Program of SUNY Buffalo and the New York Great Lakes Research Consortium. For more information, contact the Great Lakes Research Consortium at 315-470-6816 or the Great Lakes Program at SUNY Buffalo at 716-636-2088.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT *(continued from page 4)*

municipal water systems, land use and development, fisheries management, and natural history and other topics.

A Model for Other Watersheds

Watershed management will ultimately be carried out on a statewide scale in New York as watershed protection and nonpoint source pollution prevention become increasingly important. The Canandaigua Lake Watershed Task Force project will serve as a statewide pilot project demonstrating cooperative, community-based planning, assessment, and action to preserve and protect water resources from nonpoint source pollution.

by Martin N. Culik

(Excerpts from article in August, 1990 issue of Water Bulletin, Number 53)

For more information about public policy education and watershed management in the Canandaigua Lake watershed, contact the author at Cornell Cooperative Extension, 480 North Main Street, Canandaigua, NY 14424 716-394-4110.

FEDERATION OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Term Expires 1991

John E. Blyth,
Harter, Secrest and Emery
700 Midtown Tower
Rochester, NY 14604
Philip J. Sanzone,
509 N. Washington Street
Rome, NY 13440
Robert Canfield
9941 Keuka Hill Road
Dundee, NY 14837-9603
Margaret Schaefer
RD #1 Box 56 Hammond, NY 13646

Term Expires - 1992

Tracey M. Clothier
RR #2, Lake George
NY 12845

John W. Colgan
273 Hollywood Avenue
Rochester, NY 14618

Elaine Cook
57 Greenway Blvd.
Churchville, NY 14428

Term Expires - 1993

Jaya Bhattacharyya, 22 Shore Road
New City, NY 10956
Mark S. Randall, 9 Charles Street,
Hamilton, NY 13346
Donald S. Mazzullo, Harter, Secrest
and Emery, 700 Midtown Tower
Rochester, NY 14604
James W. Sutherland, NYSDEC
50 Wolf Road, Albany, NY 12233-0001
R. Warren Flint, Great Lakes Program
229 Jarvis Hall, SUNY Center
Buffalo, NY 14260

The Federation of Lake Associations

We are a coalition of organizations dedicated to the preservation and restoration of all lakes, ponds and rivers throughout New York State. We welcome and encourage the memberships of lake associations, property owner groups, fish and game clubs, corporations and individuals. The Federation is incorporated under two mirror organizations with the same officers and board of directors.

The Federation of Lake Associations, Inc. purposes are:

* to provide a clearinghouse of environmental information and expertise in all matters pertaining to lake management.
* to promote by education the wise use and appreciation of the lakes in New York State.
* to provide a pool of technical knowledge and expertise to advise and assist member associations and individuals.
* to establish liaison with other environmental groups and agencies.
* to provide a coordinating structure for lake-related research projects.

The Federation of Lakes, Inc. purposes are:

* to monitor and report to members on legislation and administrative actions affecting the waters of New York State.
* to support and lobby for legislation and admistrative actions which promote the sound management of the waters of New York State.

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

NEW!

Lake associations with less than 50 members.....$30.00/year
Lake associations with 50 to 99 members.....$50.00/year
Lake associations with 100 to 199 members $75.00/year
Lake associations with more than 200 members....$150.00/year
Individuals.....$20.00/year Corporations.....$100.00/year
Additional copies of *Waterworks*.....$.50 each

Membership dues over $5.00 are tax deductible contributions to the Federation of Lake Associations, and will be used for educational, scientific, and public information activities of the Federation.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

THE FEDERATION OF LAKE ASSOCIATIONS, INC., 273 HOLLYWOOD AVE., ROCHESTER, NY 14618

Type of Membership (please check) ☐ Association ☐ Individual ☐ Corporate

Association Name: _____

Assoc. Address: Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ County _____

President/Contact Person: _____

Summer Address _____ Winter Address _____

Summer Phone ( ) _____ Winter Phone ( ) _____

Total number of newsletters requested of each issue: _____

WETLANDS *continued from page 8*

Currently state wetlands over 12.4 acres in size are protected under the 1975 Freshwater Wetlands Act, but NYSDEC has indicated that over 40% of the state's wetlands are still unregulated. According to the Environmental Planning Lobby, a New York Senate bill to protect all wetlands over one acre was not passed last summer due to opposition from developers and farmers. The Freshwater Wetlands Advisory Committee (FWAC), established by the DEC to review the efficacy of the Freshwater Wetlands Act, recommended in July of 1989 that the minimum size of regulated wetlands be reduced to one acre. FWAC recommended this change to meet the goal of "no overall net loss of wetlands" in New York state. However, an opposing Senate bill was also introduced early this year to increase the regulatory threshold from 12.4 acres to 29.8 acres. Although this bill was not passed, the bill received strong support from builders and developers, and from the Farm Bureau which argues that the 12.4 acre minimum overly restricts farming activities. This promises to be a recurring issue that will affect the scope of the Freshwater Wetlands Act.

Lake associations are becoming increasingly aware of the role of wetlands in lake management and water quality protection. In the Cazenovia Lake community this year, the lake association has contracted with a consulting firm for a one year comprehensive study to assess in-lake and baseline tributary water quality conditions. A thorough quantification of sediment and nutrient loads and analysis of watershed sources of these specific loads will involve study of the adjacent wetlands, land use and development patterns, and the lake's nutrient budget. Volunteers from the lake association will participate in the field efforts by collecting water level data for tributaries, including those connecting the wetlands to the lake. The final report will result in a feasibility analysis of potential restoration and management techniques. Restoration alternatives will be discussed in relation to potential water quality improvements, user benefits, and technical and financial feasibility.

According to Elaine Horstmyer, Cazenovia Lake Association President, the group chose to fund this research to provide a clear, long range lake management plan, and also to give the association an authoritative reference to use when interacting with local and state agencies. The lake association participated with other local interest groups in determining Critical Environmental Areas (CEA's) for the Town of Cazenovia. The State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQR) provides special protection for lands designated as CEA's through automatic requirement of an Environmental Impact Statement before any proposed action in those locations. Cazenovia designated all wetlands previously mapped under the Freshwater Wetlands Act as CEA's. In addition, two wetlands previously unmapped under the Wetlands Act were included as CEA's to provide SEQR regulation. Horstmyer pointed out that these regulations do not assure forever-wild status for these identified lands, but they do provide for an effective review process.

Wetlands protection through the Freshwater Wetlands Act, SEQR, and other state and local laws is of vital importance to lake associations, land owners, and environmental groups. For more information or to ask questions regarding the regulation of wetlands, check with your local regulating agency or contact the nearest NYSDEC office.

by Holly Ioset, FOLA

Federation of Lake Associations, Inc.
273 Hollywood Avenue
Rochester, New York 14618

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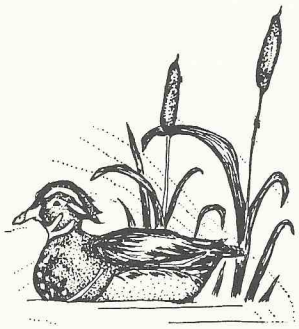

line drawing by Janet Rith-Najarian