Waterworks

Fall 1992 Volume 8 Number 3

# LAKE MOHEGAN

## *A Discussion of Several Management Techniques*

*This article describes the management efforts which have been utilized at Lake Mohegan, New York. In 1988, the local Lake District became invigorated, and began to apply a host of different management approaches. At that time, as is so often the case, a major development issue led to community groups becoming more active and involved; the byproduct was a more active and aware Lake District. This is an abridged version of the author's original document. The article in its entirety is available at the Federation of Lake Associations office.*

### *Background and History of Lake Mohegan*

Lake Mohegan is 105 acres, glacially formed during the Wisconsin ice age. It is 45 miles north of New York City, and has an average depth of only about 8.5 feet. It has a very slow flushing rate, about 1.7 years. This means that the lake has all of the warning signs for hypereutrofica- tion. It is shallow (generally a characteristic of eutrophic lakes) and it has little turnover, meaning that it does not cleanse itself. The result is as expected -- a severely eutrophic lake with poor water quality and excessive weed growth.

The lake is the center of what was formerly a summer bungalow community, which has now largely been converted to year round, full-time residential use. The lake provides a variety of recreation for the community, including swimming, fishing, sailboating, and ice skating. The bass fishing is excellent, and contests routinely produce trophy sized fish. Much of the zoning in the area is for small, quarter-acre lots, with septic systems. Many of the owners boast that their septics work fine, since they "haven't looked at them in 20 years." The watershed is large and supports some 600 single family homes and 500 condominiums, which are sewered. The Town had originally approved the condominium housing to be built without sewers, simply using two large septic tanks to be placed near the already stressed lake. Local residents organized and sued the Town, and won, resulting in the sewering of the multifamily housing.

By 1988, the water quality was so bad that the sight depth was from 18 to 36 inches. Given that many states close their swimming areas when sight depth falls below 48 inches, this condition concerned the residents.

### *Management Approaches*

From the 1930's to the present, the lake's residents had used copper sulfate almost exclusively as their management tool. The copper sulfate treatments had significant short-term impact, but over the long term did nothing to slow down the lake's deterioration.

In 1988, the Lake District reached out to available sources of information -- principally the North American Lake Management Society and the Federation of Lake Associations, Inc. -- and began to explore a series of new management approaches for Lake Mohegan. The following

*(continued on page 6)*

### *INSIDE THIS ISSUE*

## *On The Local Scene*

# Little Fresh Pond

## *Cooperation with Local Officials Pays Off*

Many lake associations are frustrated and disappointed in their efforts to marshall assistance from local officials and appropriate agencies. How can they initiate remedial action that reduces or prevents pollutants from entering their lakes and ponds, and correct the damage that has already occurred? First, you must determine which official would be the most receptive to matters concerning environmental issues. Does that person have an open door policy and a reputation for being fair in evaluating problems with constituents? Is that individual known as a "doer" and not just a talker?

Now stop a moment and review what your project objectives are. You should have all the vital statistics in place. Do you know the lake size and depth and the type and density of vegetation? Do you know the watershed area, road runoff problem areas and pollution sources, such as agricultural runoff and overuse of fertilizers, herbicides and insecticides?

A lake association should collect every possible bit of information relative to the lake. Be fully prepared to estimate the approximate cost for the town or county and indicate how you arrived at that figure. Collect any available records or statistics with respect to the damage or potential damage from pollutants entering your lake. Try to determine the economic effects that summer or seasonal families bring into the community. Know the reasons why action should be taken and stress that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure. If obtaining funding for aquatic weed control is your objective, collect brochures featuring weed harvesters that include purchase cost, annual operation and maintenance costs, and the cost to remove the weeds.

When you've done all of your homework, call your local official and set a meeting date. A one-on-one meeting is often more relaxed and productive. I would not encourage a committee from your association to meet with just one official. That individual may feel intimidated by three or four people facing him and the meeting may result with the opposite of what you had hoped to achieve.

That old cliche, "it's the squeaky wheel that gets the oil" may hold true for machinery, but not too often when dealing with people. Certainly no one likes to hear a veiled threat of "I'm going to the next higher supervisor if you fail to respond to my request in a positive manner". You could alienate one, and possibly two officials that may be essential for the support of your proposal.

John F. Kennedy once said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but rather what you can do for your country." Each lake association volunteer can give something to the local government to promote clean, clear, unpolluted lakes and ponds. Our town officials are often faced with budgetary constraints and higher priorities. Much like a debating team, the best solution to a problem doesn't always win, but many times the team with the best presentation gets the prize.

The Little Fresh Pond Association has established a good level of cooperation from Southampton town officials in spite of our towns budget problems. Our association was founded six years ago and now boasts of 53 family members. Little Fresh Pond is 20 acres in size, 23' at the deepest point and is located a couple of miles from the Atlantic Ocean to the south and even less to Peconic Bay on the north. The Town of Southampton has a fairly typical small town political structure. Our unwritten policy is to invite local officials to every meeting. This includes the Town Supervisor, Board Members, Environmentalists and Conservation Department members.

At our meetings we discuss our goals and accomplishments. As an example, our members have reduced, and in most cases, eliminated the use of fertilizers on their lawns and shrubs, and have worked to curb chemical spraying for gypsy moth. Our Town Environmentalist was very impressed with our use of duct tape, encircled on our trees (sticky side out) that disrupt the daily migration of the gypsy moth caterpillar. "That's a lot safer than the use of a chemical spray that will ultimately seep into Little Fresh Pond," he said as he breakfasted on juice, coffee, and doughnuts with our members. He and other town conservationists are pleased when we pass along the results of coliform testing that the lake association finances each year. We also send a seasonal copy of the Federation's newsletter,"Waterworks" to all interested town officials. Some of us have volunteered to pick up discarded trash along the highway and nature trails. We have responded to the town's request for volunteers to hand out recycling information and answer related queries at the Town Land Fill. Perhaps in some small way these contributions by our members have been instrumental in the decision by town officials to take that second look at Little Fresh Pond. The decisions by these officials speak for themselves, such as one which authorized the installations of dry wells at key locations where road runoff was going directly into our pond.

We will continue to offer our help to the Town when needed, which we hope will continue to foster a good working liaison. Isn't this the goal we are all striving for?

*by Bob Roessle, President, Little Fresh Pond*

## *Federation News*

### Paxon Nominates Jack Colgan For White House Conservation Award

Jack Colgan, past president of FOLA and current Board member, was one of 55 conservationists from throughout the country to receive the second biannual Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Award at a White House ceremony on October 1st. Dr. Colgan was nominated by Representative Bill Paxon (R-NY-31st) to receive the Award.

The Award is given every two years to individuals and organizations who have made a significant contribution to conservation efforts in keeping with the spirit of President Theodore Roosevelt. One Awardee is selected for each Congressional District.

Dr. Colgan's award was signed by the President and Representative Paxon. It was presented in the Indian Treaty Room of the Old Executive Office Building by Bill Reilly, administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and Michael Deland, Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). Afterwards, Dr. Colgan and the other Awardees were honored at a luncheon at Capitol Hill.

Dr. Colgan is past President of the Canandaigua Pure Waters Association and serves on the Monroe County Water Quality Management Committee. Along with his wife Betty, he has given nine years of dedicated service to FOLA. He accepted the nomination on the specific condition that the award be given to him on behalf of the Federation of Lake Associations.

Dr. Colgan, who is semi-retired, teaches Diagnostic Radiology part-time at the University of Rochester. In addition to his conservation activities, he is President of the New York State Radiological Society, and serves as a Fellow of the American College of Radiology and as a Fellow of the American College of Gastroenterology. He and Betty have two children and four grandchildren.

Congratulations and three cheers to Jack from Federation members and friends around the state for a job well done!

### Volunteers With The Citizens Statewide Lake Assesment Program Complete Another Successful Sampling Season

Many thanks to all the volunteers who participated in the Citizens Statewide Lake Assesment Program (CSLAP) during the summer of 1992. The Program was enhanced this year by the addition of five FOLA Field Technicians who worked with Scott Kishbaugh (Department of Environmental Conservation) and Anne Saltman (Federation of Lake Associations) at conducting training sessions, distributing supplies and equipment, performing quality assurance tests and assisting lake communities with sampling protocols and lake management questions. Over one hundred lakes participated in CSLAP at various different levels and many have benefited from laboratory testing of water samples, identification of aquatic plants, and, through the volunteer contributions of Field Technicians Chris Coulon and Bruce Cady, zooplankton and phytoplankton identification.

During the upcoming winter months we will be reviewing your laboratory results and will provide each lake association with an interpretive summery in early June. If a report is needed by your association prior to this time, send us a note or give us a call.

What's planned for 1993? In addition to user surveys, zebra mussel samples and surveys were distributed to each community this summer in anticipation of a potential zebra mussel monitoring program to be offered on CSLAP lakes during the 1993 sampling season. Members of the Federation of Lake Associations' Scientific Advisory Board are also discussing the posibility of providing guidelines and equipment for a tributary monitoring program.

The real vitality of New York's unique monitoring program comes from the dedication of consciencious volunteers at each lake community. Many thanks to each one of you for providing the time and enthusiasm to keep this program running for another successful year.

We welcome your comments. Please let us know of any concerns or problems with CSLAP during the past summer or provide suggestions for ways to improve the program in 1993.

*Anne B. Saltman, Federation of Lake Associations, 2175 Ten Eyck Avenue, Cazenovia, NY 13035 (315) 655-4760 and*

*Scott A. Kishbaugh, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Bureau of Technical Service and Research, 50 Wolf Road, Albany, NY 12233-3502 (518) 457-7470.*

# The Federation of Lake Associations
## *1992 Project Summary*

**MEMBERSHIP**
The Federation saw a 7% increase in overall membership during the past year, including increases in both individual and lake association categories.

**BOOK SALES**
Over 2,000 copies of "Diet for a Small Lake" have been sold to agencies and lake enthusiasts in thirty-two states, as well as Canada.

**VIDEO**
The Federation received an EPA grant in 1992 to produce an instructional video that will be based on "Diet for a Small Lake". This project is well underway and is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

**INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SERVICES**
Requests for information through the Federation's Information Management Service have doubled over the past year. Topics have ranged from tax district formation to dredging contractors. As an extension of this service, FOLA has started compiling information for a Lake and Watershed Products and Services Catalog.

**FOLA CONFERENCES**
A successful scientific conference was held at the State University of New York at New Paltz in June with close to one hundred people in attendance. This three-day annual event was enhanced by concurrent sessions to address various management topics, and a keynote address by Frank Lapenzee, Chief of the EPA Clean Lakes Program.

**ADDITIONAL EDUCATIONAL EFFORTS**
The Federation's 12-page newsletter, *Waterworks*, continues to be distributed four times a year to FOLA members and CSLAP volunteers. This has been an effective way of supporting our educational efforts and encourages networking between lake associations throughout the state.

**CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS**
Proceedings from the Federation's 1992 scientific conference were compiled, printed and distributed to each FOLA member. Additional copies are now available for sale. This publication, titled "Integrating Watershed Planning Activities" was made possible through the support of an EPA grant.

**CITIZENS STATEWIDE LAKE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (CSLAP)**
Another productive sampling season has been completed (see CSLAP Update article in this newsletter issue). Funding was available to increase the total number of participating lake associations. The Federation and DEC staff worked with several qualified Field Technicians who helped to expand and strengthen the monitoring services to lake volunteers.

**NETWORKING**
FOLA representatives have attended several conferences and meetings throughout the northeast. These events have reinforce our ties with many other local, state and federal organizations and have strengthened our overall effectiveness and productivity. An attractive FOLA table-top display was set up at various conferences to strengthen our image as an educational and research organization, and a FOLA slide presentation was compiled for use at association meetings.

**ADDITIONAL RESEARCH PROJECTS**
Information on aquatic plant distribution in the Finger Lakes region is currently being compiled by Bruce Gilman, Professor of Environmental Conservation at the Community College of the Finger Lakes. This EPA-funded project is being conducted in cooperation with the Federation of Lake Associations and the Water Resources Board.

**LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS**
The Federation worked to support the reauthorization of Clean Lakes Program funding and has been involved in additional legislative efforts such as the Canal Corporation hearings.

**ADMINISTRATIVE**
Bookkeeping and mailing list responsibilities have shifted from the Rochester office (the job previously held by Jack and Betty Colgan) to the Cazenovia office. This shift has freed up the Colgan's time, while allowing for greater efficiency by the Federation consultants.

# The Federation of Lake Associations
## *Annual Plan of Operations for 1993*

**MEMBERSHIP**
The Board will continue to develop plans to increase the number of members involved with the Federation of Lake Associations.

**CLEARINGHOUSE FUNCTION**
The Federation Board will strengthen and expand the clearinghouse functions relating to environmental information and expertise in all matters pertaining to lake and watershed management.

**VIDEO**
The Federation will complete the production and marketing of the instructional video which is based on "Diet for a Small Lake". A follow-up video on water quality monitoring techniques will be initiated during the summer of 1993 if funding opportunities can be secured.

**INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SERVICES**
The Federation will continue to strengthen the Information Management Service through the following projects: (a) a Products and Services Catalog will be compiled, printed and distributed to FOLA members; (b) a bibliography of available technologies offered by all levels of government and educational facilities in New York State will be generated; and (c) the Scientific Advisory Board has been requested to prepare reports on lake and watershed management issues.

**FOLA CONFERENCES**
The Federation will continue to promote the wise use and management of the lakes, rivers and watersheds in New York State through annual and regional conferences. Planning is already underway for the June, 1993 conference in Hamilton, New York that will mark the 10th anniversary of the Federation of Lake Associations.

**STATEWIDE PLAN**
In response to requests by FOLA members, the Board will establish a committee of the membership to address the need for a statewide lake management program. The committee will review ideas for working with the executive and legislative branches of government on this program.

**EDUCATION**
The Board will establish a FOLA speakers bureau for the promotion of lake and watershed management topics.

A committee of the Board of Directors and others will be chosen to develop an educational program titled, "Young Persons Water Resource Program", for use in schools, youth groups, and independent research.

FOLA will research the need for the publication of an aquatic plant identification book and will proceed with the project if funding is secured.

**CITIZENS STATEWIDE LAKE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (CSLAP)**
The FOLA Board will continue to work with the Department of Environmental Conservation to strengthen CSLAP and plans to research opportunities which ensure the financial security and longevity of the program.

**TRIBUTARY SAMPLING PROGRAM**
Members of the Board of Directors and the Scientific Advisory Board will develop a tributary sampling program for potential implementation in the spring.

*Are we on the right track? Please send your comments and suggestions to David Pendergast, Chairman of the Long Range Planning Committee, 2175 Ten Eyck Avenue, Cazenovia, New York 13035*

**LAKE MOHEGAN** *(continued from page 1)*

presents a summary of our analysis and experience to date:

### *Dredging*

The first approach which was explored, and continues to be explored, is dredging of the lake. The lake was much deeper, as recently as 50 years ago, and the bottom is filled with soft muck and sediments, primarily from the deposit of dead algae and weeds. This has filled in much of the lake -- areas the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has declared to be wetlands -- and some 15% of the lake is in danger of similar treatment. A natural response to such a shallow lake is to dredge it. However, the problems with dredging are many and varied.

The first problem is that a complete dredging job will likely cost a million dollars or more, which includes obtaining a permit, the rental of a dredging platform and disposal costs.

Some members of our lake district feel we can embark upon a smaller scale project to dredge a few hundred or a few thousand yards per year, at a lower cost. Some felt we could buy and/or construct a smaller volume unit to handle the task over several years. With a small lake, and no particular timetable to accomplish the task, we may be able to acquire such equipment and do the work ourselves over ten years. The problem, we expect, will be in securing the necessary permits.

The next problem is in assuring ourselves that the dredged materials are not "hazardous materials," within the meaning of the Superfund toxic waste disposal law and equivalent state law.

The lists of chemicals include copper, as well as other materials which are common by-products of life in the 20th century, such as DDT formerly used for mosquito control. The lists can be found in the Code of Federal Regulations, available in most major public libraries and in law libraries.

One necessary expense is an analysis of the sediments. To save money, we rented equipment to do the actual sampling ourselves. For about $3,000.00, we were able to take six samples from around the lake, and have them analyzed by a lab with a spectrometer, to ascertain whether we might have a Superfund problem. Given the long-term use of copper over the years, and the presence of lead from road runoff and DDT from mosquito control, we were concerned. Fortunately, the result was a clean bill of health, though there were detectable quantities of some of these materials.

It is strongly recommended that any lake district or association which is considering dredging should first go through this exercise; if your sediments are found to contain the listed chemicals in sufficient concentration, the pricetag of disposal may render this option prohibitive.

The final problem with dredging is the lack of any place where we can put the dredged materials to drain before taking it away from the lake. One idea is to construct a few small detention areas, with walls 6 feet high, into which the dredged materials would be pumped. As it drains, it can then be carted away to the Town compost station or used as fill.

The lake district continues to look at full scale dredging as an option. An alternative to "whole lake" dredging is simply dredging selected "hot spots" which are in imminent danger of filling in. We have also considered dredging a few very deep areas of the lake -- even though they are not in danger of filling in -- in hopes of opening up deep cold springs which used to feed the lake. If we accomplish that, we can improve the lake's flushing rate. These matters, however, are beyond current knowledge and time constraints.

### *Copper Sulfate*

The lake district has attempted to reduce its reliance on copper sulfate as a management tool. Although it appears to be safe for humans, and there has been no measurable build-up in the bottom sediments, we have learned that copper sulfate is somewhat toxic to zooplankton. We have a shortage of large-bodied zooplankton, and we believe this may be in part the result of years of continuous copper sulfate treatments. While the copper sulfate may be temporarily killing the algae, it is also killing the zooplankton which would naturally graze on the algae. We continue to apply for copper sulfate permits, for five applications per year, but solely on a back-up basis.

### *Aluminum Sulfate*

A popular management technique has been the use of aluminum sulfate. While copper sulfate is an herbicide which kills the algae directly through its toxicity, the alum operates indirectly. It bonds with phosphorus under certain conditions, and precipitates it out of the water column. Phosphorus is needed for algae growth and is generally considered to be a limiting factor.

There are two types of alum application. One is the widely known "sealing dose." which utilizes tons of alum to seal the botom of the lake, thereby inhibiting the release of phosphorus.

The second approach, almost unknown, is "low dosage" application. By low dosage we mean about 3 ppm, or about 500 pounds on our 105 acre lake. Our intent was to try to use this as a total or partial substitute for copper sulfate treatments. The reason we were so interested in this largely untested approach was that (a) aluminum would be a less toxic chemical to accumulate in the sediments than copper, (b) aluminum is less toxic to zooplankton, and (c) we didn't want to use sealing dosage, which would have meant dumping many tons of alum into the lake.

Combined with other management approaches, alum treatment might be sufficient to maintain acceptable water quality. We began applying it in 1990, using it as a substitute for two scheduled copper treatments. We did not ascertain any significant impact on water quality.

We were not convinced, and again tried alum in low dosages in 1991, with a different applicator, who used a different application technique. We did observe some improvement in water quality, and flocculation of at least some of the alum application. During the first half of the summer, we did not apply any copper, and used only the alum treatments. Later in the summer, in late July, we finally had to use copper for the first time.

In 1992, we started off the same as for 1991. We used only alum, but after Memorial Day began to fight a losing battle. The water quality for most of the summer was horrible, due to the intense rainfall washing nutrients into the lake, and a new DEC ruling effectively prevented us from using copper sulfate.

We have attempted unsuccessfully to find scientific literature on the low dosage use of alum in other lakes. We feel our own experience neither proves nor disproves its usefulness. Since the system is dynamic, we can never know how good or bad the water quality would have been had we not used alum. However, our feeling is that it does have a small impact, and we intend to continue to use it, experimenting with different dosages and application techniques.

### *Harvesting*

After two years of struggle, we now feel that we are ahead of the weeds. We have overhauled our ancient weed harvester and have saved the $25,000 cost of a new machine. We now take out up to five tons of weeds per week, using two summer workers and an assortment of volunteers. The weeds are picked up by the Town and taken to the local compost station, where they are mixed with leaves, grass clippings and other organic matter, and sold by the Town.

We saw impressive results from lake drawdown in several lakes in neighboring Putnam County, and will explore whether, through some technical means, we can still utilize this approach. However, for now, drawdown is impractical due to our outflow construction and the slow flushing rate of the lake.

### *Biomanipulation*

In our desire to use more natural approaches to lake management, we explored biomanipulation. Specifically, we examined whether we could use fish stocking to improve water quality. Since we have a depleted stock of zooplankton, and a large supply of small pan fish, such as sunnies and blue gills, we felt the addition of walleye or other predator fish might help restore a balance to the food chain. By introducing walleye, we hoped to reduce the small panfish, and allow the zooplankton to grow. At the same time, we stocked the zooplankton throughout the lake.

In 1990 and 1991, we stocked walleye and zooplankton. We were told that walleye might not survive, since they like deep cold water, and we have a shallow lake. They also prefer a rocky bottom, and will not reproduce in a soft bottom. Our recent fish survey, taken in August 1992, indicated the walleye are growing well. The zooplankton stocking, however, was not repeated during 1992 and there is an almost complete depletion of large bodied zooplankton.

Our biologist, Ken Wagner of Baystate Environmental, advises that the presence of alewife (sawbellies) will frustrate both the walleye stocking, as well as the zooplankton stocking. Since we now appear to have alewife, we are putting the biomanipulation program on hold pending a full report from Ken.

### *Power Boating*

The lake district has also sought local laws designed to protect the lake. The Town of Yorktown has been very receptive and responsive. The Town has adopted a law banning the use of fertilizers within 100 feet of the lake, outlawing the subdivision of small lakefront dock plots, and banning power boats over 5 horse power.

### *Aeration*

The lake district also operates a low-level aeration system consisting of two 10 hp electric compressors connected to about 2 miles of submerged plastic tubing, anchored in the bottom. Nozzles are attached approximately every 50 feet to inject air at the bottom of the lake and gently aerate the water. The object is to destratify the lake and bring oxygen to the bottom to inhibit anoxic phosphorus release. The results appear to be modestly successful. Paul Roland helped design the system, which is entirely maintained by the lake district at nominal expense.

### *Results*

In 1991, the results of the first year of the lake district's plan were impressive. For the first time in years, people could see their feet while swimming. Articles appeared in the local newspapers, and all hoped the lake would be saved. In 1992, with horrible water quality, residents wonder if the lake will survive. The answer will hinge on aggressive use of every management approach available, and education of regulatory authorities.

*by David Wright, Director*
*Mohegan Lake Improvement District*

# COLAM Seeks Statewide Weed Program

***Milfoil tops the list of most wanted felons being hunted by a newly formed coalition of lake associations***

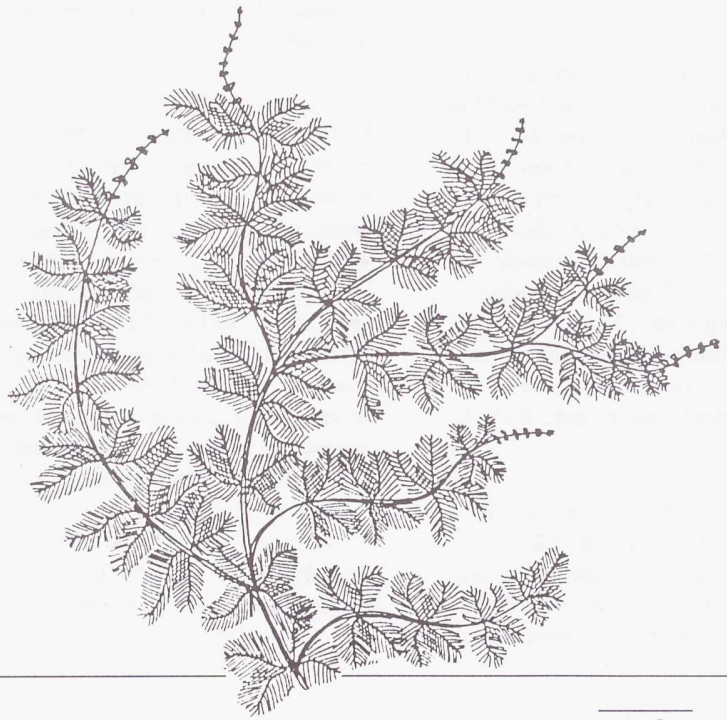
*by: a joint effort by members of COLAM*

Erasion watermilfoil (milfoil) is an aggressive, noxious aquatic weed that is alien to North America. It robs lake users of recreational and scenic enjoyment of lakes and rivers. It displaces wildlife by destroying natural habitats. It destroys entire lake ecosystems. And it pushes property values downward until lakeside homes are virtually unsellable. Because it has no natural predators powerful enough to keep it in check, milfoil raises havoc nearly everywhere it takes root - unless someone intervenes to stop it.

The Coalition of Lakes Against Milfoil (COLAM), a group of lake associations, lake property owners and lake users, is concerned with the spreading despoilment of New York's lakes and waterways by milfoil.

Milfoil is no small problem in New York State. More than 40 of the state's 62 counties are now infested by milfoil, according to information obtained by COLAM. An estimated $20 million is spent annually on weed control projects paid for by local assistance grants approved by the state legislature. The cost of privately-sponsored control projects is not readily available.

COLAM members see an urgent need for a coordinated plan to deal with the milfoil problem. Specifically COLAM is calling for adoption of a statewide aquatic weed management program. To be drafted by lake representatives themselves, such a program would likely include:
--facilitated funding from state sources for weed control projects to be designed and implemented locally or regionally;
--simplified permitting for projects to control milfoil and other nuisance weeds;
--expedited approval of new control methods, especially those already approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and including new aquatic herbicides and biological control options.



**Statewide Program Needed**

"Milfoil is such a huge threat to lake ecosystems and lake economics that it is absolutely critical that New York face up to its responsibility to assist solutions", says COLAM president Wendy Davis. "Creating a coordinated, statewide aquatic weed control program similar to those in place in other states seems the best place to start."

For instance, COLAM members think the state could begin by providing a top-notch clearinghouse for information about aquatic weeds and all possible control techniques. Available resources should include: funding; lists of weed control professionals; managers; scientists; a complete selection of educational materials and publications; and technical assistance should be available upon request.

**Funding is Important**

"The funding issue is very important but it should not be a stumbling block," Davis says. "We have learned that other states do a lot more with a lot less money than we do here in New York. And we have learned that New York could do a lot more with the money it is presently spending without a well-planned, well-coordinated program. For instance, the state of Florida sponsors a statewide program designed to assist effective action occurring at the local level. The state spends approximately $10 million on weed control projects coordinated and implemented by the counties. Florida's program effectively managers many more lakes and waterways and much bigger weed problems than New York would ever expect to experience."

**Permitting is a Problem**

"Another big problem is permitting," Davis said. COLAM has collected information from each of DEC's nine regions and from the Adirondack Park Agency which indicates a total lack of consistency. Some regions require very little information while others require volumes, all for the same type of control. The APA requires so

much information that it is nearly impossible to get a permit before the information is outdated. COLAM recommends that the statewide program include a revised permitting process that is uniform throughout the state. This process must be efficient as well as user-friendly.

"We have also learned that it is good business to protect the value of our lakes from despoliation by milfoil," Davis says. A recent government study undertaken in the Okanagan Lake region in British Columbia, Canada, assessed the economic impact of Eurasian Watermilfoil on the areas $200 million-a-year tourism economy. The study revealed that the decline of recreational use of lakes contaminated by milfoil is costing the area a staggering $85 million a year in lost tourism revenues. This does not include the millions of dollars more in devalued property values which have resulted from the milfoil infestation. According to Canadian officials the study convincingly justifies its eight year program to control the weed.

"In New York, as in Canada, the question is not whether we can afford a coordinated, statewide control program," Davis said, "but whether we can afford not to have one."

To get the need for aquatic weed control program across to state officials, COLAM members have already hand-carried facts about milfoil and recommendations for a statewide program to the Governor's office, to legislators serving on the environmental conservation committees on both the Assembly and Senate, and to other appropriate agencies of the state. A similar effort is expected again this session.

COLAM was also successful in getting the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to hold public hearings on the advisability of the regis- tration of fluridone (SONAR) for use in New York State. COLAM members testified at the hearings and encouraged written comments from concerned governments, chambers of commerce, business & lake users.

COLAM is now encouraging letters to DEC requesting a decision before January, 1993. They should be addressed to Commissioner Thomas Jorling, Department of Environmental Conservation, 50 Wolf Road, Albany, NY, 12233.

Since passing the Environmental Protection Agency's tests for environmental and human safety in 1986, SONAR has been registered in all mainland states except New York and California. The state of California, however, uses SONAR to combat hydrilla, an invasive weed that threatens agriculture by clogging irrigation ditches, streams and rivers. SONAR has earned a reputation around many experienced aquatic plant managers and lake scientists for eradication or control of Eurasian Milfoil.

COLAM is also keeping an eye on the possibilities of milfoil eating weevils, caterpillars and moths. At a conference and workshop in Vermont this Spring, COLAM learned that this control option for the future may be a long way off. While hopeful, the research is only in the very early stages and the outcome is still unpredictable.

**COLAM is Growing Quickly**

Since its formation a year ago, COLAM's membership has grown to include representatives from 24 lake associations located in the Adirondack Region, the Southern Tier/ Finger Lakes area and in the Capital District Region. Lake associations concerned about milfoil are welcome to join and association memberships are available for individual supporters. For additional information please contact: Wendy Davis, COLAM, P.O. Box 70, Lake George, NY, 12845.

*(Note: The Editorial Committee encourages individuals and groups to submit articles to Waterworks but printing these opinions does not necessarily reflect an endorsement by the Federation of Lake Associations)*



*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 Saltman at 2175 Ten Eyck Avenue, Cazenovia, NY 13035 (315) 655-4760. Points of view expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Federation of Lake Associations, nor does any mention of trade names and commercial products constitute endorsements of their use.

# Statewide Progress with the County Water Quality Strategies

The presentation of 55 county water quality strategies made "Congratulations" and "Great Job" the tidings of the day at the New York State Soil and Water Conservation Committee meeting held on September 13, 1992 in Albany, New York.

David H. Pendergast, Executive Director to the Committee, and Phil DeGaetano, of the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Bureau of Water Quality Management presented the completed strategies to Chairman Phil Griffin and the full Committee.

County water quality strategies were undertaken for statewide local direction to water quality initiatives. The 57 counties formed County Water Quality Coordinating Committees, of which 55 filed prepared strategies for their counties. This process was facilitated by a core group of county agencies including soil and water conservation districts, Cooperative Extension, county planning departments, county health departments, and public interest groups.

Chairman Griffin, in accepting the strategies, said "the Committee is astounded by the results of the initiative of the County Coordinating Committees, and especially the staff of the State Committee in accomplishing the task." It was noted in the presentation from Mr. Pendergast that many skeptics in state government said the project could never be done. "The original suggestion was to try ten, but the regional staff and Assistant Executive Director, Jim McCardell assured me that this process would work and so we went full steam ahead."

Phil DeGaetano emphasized that he was "in awe" of the effort put forth by everyone in the process, but singled out the "tireless efforts" of Jim McCardell, Ron Kaplewicz, John Wildeman, and Steve Lanthier of the Committee staff in assisting counties to reach their goal.

The county water quality strategies include the following:
- List of County Water Quality Coordinating Committee members;
- Statement on who the Committee reports to (if anyone);
- The Committee's mission/purpose statement;
- Description of the Committee's function(s);
- Summary of individual agency and organization roles, and authorities & existing programs or activities to protect and improve water quality in the county;
- List of prioritized water quality problems:
  - watershed specific;
  - county-wide issues;
- List of coordinating committee goals and objectives for:
  - informing the public;
  - ongoing problem assessment and verification;
  - addressing watershed specific and county-wide issues
  - overall program evaluation;
- List of work tasks for achieving each objective, including:
  - who is responsible for carrying out each task;
  - estimated time frame for completing each task
  - potential sources of funding;
  - estimated costs determined (where possible) for tasks to be implemented over the next two years;
  - Any special water quality initiatives presently underway in the county was also included;
- Description of the coordinating committee's role in implementing the strategy.

"The original concept of county water quality strategies was proposed and authored by Rich Lewis (an SCS employee on detail to the State Committee as a Water Quality Liaison Specialist) and my staff for inclusion as part of the State's overall effort to address nonpoint source pollution in New York State," said Pendergast. The State Committee and DEC formed a core group of inter-agency people who designed "Guidelines for County Water Quality Strategies." Rich then authored that text, as well as a follow up booklet "Procedure for Preparing and Implementing County Water Quality Strategies." "We did not want this effort to appear as, or in actuality to be, a mandated effort. We knew we would lose the attention of the local governments. Rich Lewis and the Regional Coordinators did a super job in the development and delivery of our guidelines," Pendergast said.

## DEC SUPPORT

"At the same time, DEC became aware of the growing support for the concept. They wanted to strengthen their commitment to the program, especially the County Water Quality Coordinating Committees," said Phil DeGaetano. "At the Committee's suggestion, DEC prepared and submitted to EPA a funding proposal which awards a sum of $4,750 to each Coordinating Committee, to be distributed through the State Committee. This begins the implementation of their strategies." "The Department of Environmental Conservation, especially Al Tedrow and Robin Warrender, who worked on the concept, have been there from the beginning of the strategy process. We wanted to demonstrate to the

counties that we recognize the importance of local coordination and jump start the process of implementation," explained DeGaetano.

Further indication of the value of county water quality strategies in guiding funding decisions was demonstrated by the awarding of $300,000 called for in local county water quality strategies.

"We owe a great deal to the 1,500+ people who joined us at the County Water Quality Coordinating Committees for the time they volunteered to the effort," commented Pendergast. "All in all, this is a very historic moment, akin to our New York City Watershed effort!"

# A REAL HERO

Mark S. Randall, member of FOLA's Board of Directors and long-time supporter of management issues on Lake Moraine, was honored with the Maxwell House Coffee Co. "Real Heroes" Award October 26, 1992. Mr. Randall began the Chenango Water Exercise Program for senior citizens at Colgate University 11 years ago. This program helps people recover from heart attacks, strokes, arthritis, and injured muscles or joints by exercising in the water. This lessens the weight participants have to bear and allows them to move without stress. Other awards Mark Randall has received for his program include the Jefferson Award, sponsored by WTVH Channel 5 in Syracuse, in 1988, and the DeWitt Clinton Award given by Masonic Lodge No. 120 in Hamilton in June 1992. Congratulations, Mark!

# THE OLD SWIMMING HOLE IS BACK

## *A Victory For Homeowner Associations!*

Two years ago the Lake Association of Kent formed an ad hoc committee, Lake Associations of Putnam. Its purpose was to utilize public and political pressure to seek relief from the lifeguard requirement dictated by the State Sanitary Code.

The Committee met with County Executive Bob Bondi, members of the County Legislature, State Assemblyman Vincent Leibell and State Public Health officials. Letters were mailed by the Committee and individual lake associations to the Governor's office, State and local Departments of Health and the Bathing Facilities Advisory Committee. Plus, they initiated a massive letter writing campaign to Governor Cuomo. The Committee represented: area groups, clubs, lake associations and private citizens all reporting back to their respective organizations. Due to their input, motivation, and persistence, the goal they sought was achieved.

October 7, 1992, publication of the revised rules was published in the NYS Register. It stated: "...The amendment will exempt residential property owner association beaches used exclusively by residents (family and friends) from regulation. Swimming pools, used exclusively by the residential property owner associations (family and friends) will be exempt from supervision requirements." If anyone has questions with respect to the revised rule or definition of "homeowner association" they should contact their local or state Health Department. You can also write to the Lake Association of Kent, P.O. Box 1181, Carmel, New York 10512 or call Frank Tanzosch at (914) 628-6535.

*by Frank Tanzosch, Ossi Sport Club*

## The Federation of Lake Associations, Inc.

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***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.***

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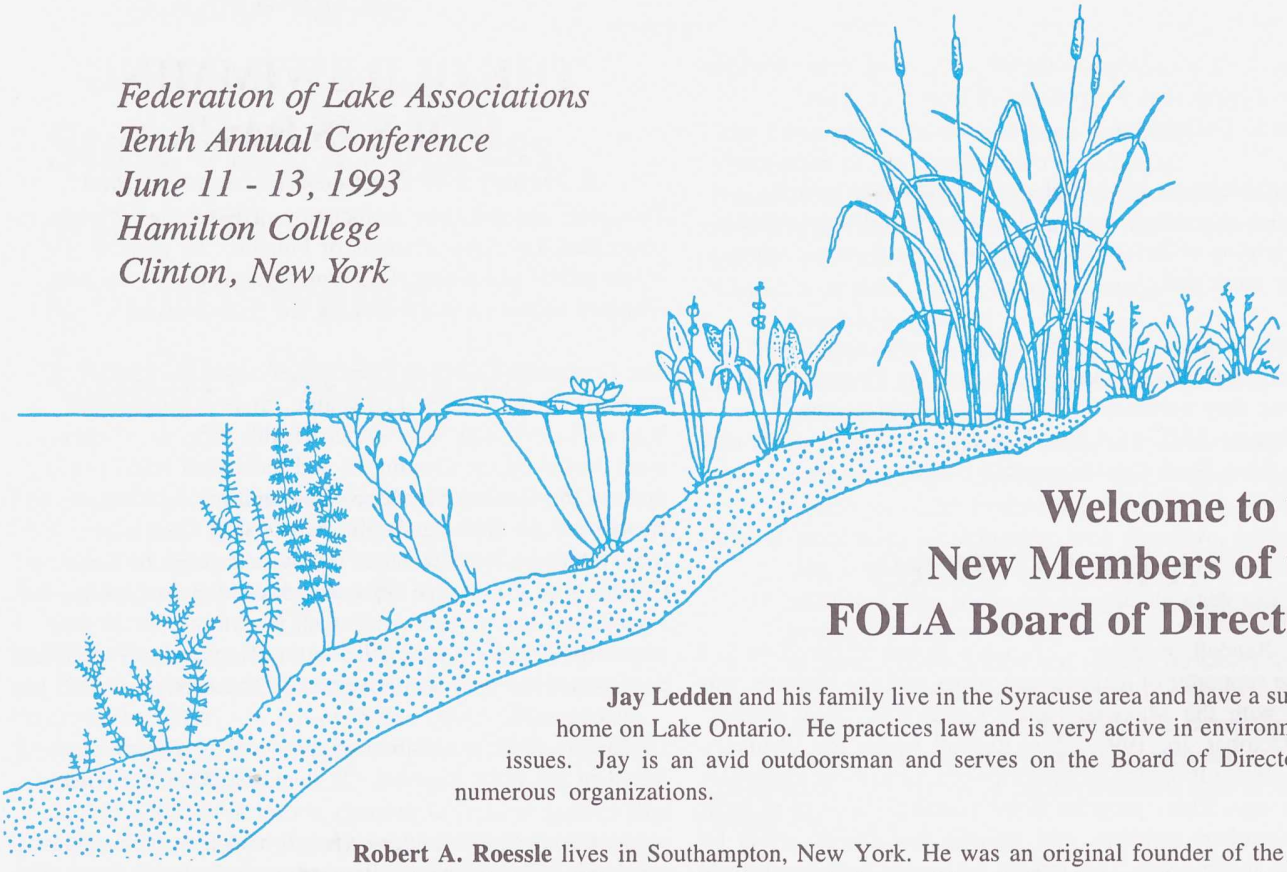

# Welcome to the New Members of the FOLA Board of Directors

**Jay Ledden** and his family live in the Syracuse area and have a summer home on Lake Ontario. He practices law and is very active in environmental issues. Jay is an avid outdoorsman and serves on the Board of Directors of numerous organizations.

**Robert A. Roessle** lives in Southampton, New York. He was an original founder of the Little Fresh Pond Association and has served as the association president during the past six years. It is here that he has devoted most of his time and enthusiasm since retiring from a career with the New York City Police Department. Bob has been instrumental in enlisting local community support for many lake and watershed projects (see "On the Local Scene" on page two of this issue), and has served as an enthusiastic water monitoring volunteer with the Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program.

**Robert K. Williams** is a Sodus Point resident who currently works as Program Coordinator for the Wayne County Soil and Water Conservation District. He has been active in many water quality projects over the past few years. Rob has served as Program Assistant for the New York Sea Grant Extension office in Brockfort, and has been very active with the Water Resources Board of the Finger Lakes Association. In addition to other committments, Rob is a member of the US EPA Technical Review Committee for the Lake Ontario Toxics Management Plan.

**Donald Keppel** lives in Findley Lake, New York and has served as president or vice president of the Findley Lake Property Owners Association since 1979. He has been a strong supporter of Federation activities (including CSLAP) over the past ten years. Since his retirement as a construction engineer, Don has devoted much of his time to Findley Lake projects and is currently working on plans for a town park on the Findley Lake shoreline. He is often an active participant at water resources education opportunities at the local, state, and federal levels.

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