

15<sup>th</sup> annual Western Region NYS Federation of Lakes Associations  
Conference  
October 24, 2009

Approved on: \_\_\_\_\_  
Corrections (yes/no): \_\_\_\_\_

Region I FOLA President Don Cook of Honeoye Lake and Cuba Lake VP Bob Riggs welcomed approximately 40 guests representing several Region 1 water bodies/associations, researchers and government to the 15<sup>th</sup> annual Region 1 conference at Moonwinks in Cuba. Thanks to: Cuba Lake Assn. for hosting and to Mrs. Riggs of Cakes & Curios, 6 South Street, Cuba 14727 (585)968-2322, for providing breakfast scones, and to Bob, who made a 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary cake for us; Barb and Phil Utter for once again working with Moonwinks and organizing lunches for participants; Don Cook for a successful, informative conference. Special recognition was given to a table of representatives from Canandaigua and Seneca Lakes. It was the first Region 1 conference for Seneca Lake.

**Panel speakers:** FLCC Professor Dr. Bruce Gilman on phosphorus management; Region 8 DEC Regional Director Paul D'Amato; Cooperative Extension Agent Betsy Hite on Watershed Stewardship Through the Master Gardener Program; lake presenters on projects: Java Lake, Chatauqua Lake, Conesus Lake, Silver Lake

**Represented Lakes:** Canandaigua Lake, Chatauqua Lake, Conesus Lake, Cuba Lake, Findley Lake; Honeoye Lake; Java Lake; Lake Demmon, Lime Lake; Rushford Lake; Seneca Lake; Silver Lake, Smith Pond

**Announcements** – Shoreline Plantings program: Honeoye & DEC OK'd establishment of shoreline plantings garden at the lake's park. DEC looking at it as a demo of "softscaping" in lieu of cement walls. NYS FOLA's contest prize of \$500 for innovative environmental projects was awarded to Honeoye Valley Association. Contact Don for plans (donations welcome).

Fish Kill Cleanup Update: Chatauqua Lake fish kill and response led to the development of plans for such an event. Livingston County, Ontario County and Seneca County, Honeoye, Canandaigua, Hemlock, Conesus and Canadice Lakes were involved. If interested, contact Livingston County Planning Dept., Conesus Lake Association or Finger Lakes Institute to get help on one for your lake.

Substitutes for flares are the new thing. They can be bought on-line by Honeoye Valley Association or from PK Safety Supply at <http://store.pksafety.net/flare-alert-led-beacons.html>. The local marina, Trident Marine, is going to buy them and get together with other associations to buy in bulk (25 for \$15). They are battery-operated lights. Don has the website address for them.

Other: The Contest to Win the New Edition of "Diet for a Small Lake." Competing Projects – Honeoye Valley Association's 15<sup>th</sup> annual clean-up day; Java Lake's low-cost steps to prepare for a sewer grant application; Conesus Lake Association's laminated "Residential Best Practices," guide distributed with CLA's annual directory along with Livonia Eagle Scout's storm drain stenciling; Silver Lake Association's summer environmental day camp. (CLA/scout project won.)

## **15th Regional FOLA Minutes 2009-Draft**

### **Presentations:**

Introductory Info: Dr. Gilman on the Muller Field Station on Rt. 36, Ontario Co. He received the Lake Tear Award, NYSFOLA's highest honor. This was his third program for us and the topic was: Water Quality in New York Lakes (Phosphorus Management). He works at Canandaigua, Honeoye & Owasco Lakes, always looking at problems of overproductive weed beds, etc. In the past, he has tested Silver Lake. He also directs the Muller Field Station on Honeoye Lake and has taken students to Oneida Lake. Students provide free labor, which he recommends.

### **How do we determine lake health?**

Clarity, nutrients, productivity. You can summarize these indicators and index them to look at a lake's trophic state. Over time, lakes go from clear (oligotrophic) to less clear (mesotrophic) to very productive (eutrophic). Our lakes were formed by glaciers for the most part which makes them eutrophic because the nutrient supply is too large (symptoms: algae blooms, cyanobacteria, the toxic, blue-green algae).

Gilman watches for 4 types of aquatic plants in concentrations: (Annie, Fannie, Mike and Ozzie). Anabaena is a coiled, filamentous algae; aphanisomenon looks like a transparent sandwich bag full of dots because it is so colonial in its sheath; osolitoria is a long, green filamentous algae found at deeper depths of water. Chlorophyll is the dominant pigment in algae. A 5<sup>th</sup> one has showed up in the last few years—gliotrichia, a little green floating balls that can clump together and double in population in 24 hours. It may be a sign of global warming.

Water clarity is important because it tells the thickness of productivity. Underwater light environment = water clarity. Other factors: length of growing season; suitable lake bottom substrates (for rooting of plants); absence of inhibitory conditions (not good because you want some plants). 16 essential nutrients are needed for plants to grow. Most critical is phosphorus and typically it is in the least supply.

Phosphorus management – Biggest modifiers of past are sewer systems and biomass removal but today, watershed management is the trend because it is relatively inexpensive. Phosphorus in the lake is ultimately derived from the watershed. Once there, it has a cycle(s) stored in the lake bottom and accumulated over hundreds of years, which gives you a “legacy load.” It may stay in the bottom or come back to haunt you. Most whole lake N. American studies on phosphorus were done by Dr. David Schindler. He saw where phosphorus added plants, stimulation and growth.

Formula: more phosphorus, more chlorophyll, more algae.

Recipe: A pound of phosphorus can yield 1,100 macrophytes.

Response: You can develop a phosphorus budget for a lake.

How: Most soils in WNY have adequate levels of phosphorus so N P K fertilizer at 20-20-20 ratio not good/necessary. You want the P (middle number) to be 0.

How: Figure out where in the watershed's tributaries these nutrients accumulate.

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In Ontario County, Gilman has developed a precise Land Use Management Plan.

Steps: On Honeoye Lake, he worked with aerial photographs and matched the photos with actual use by on-foot fieldwork walking the properties to document uses and land covers.

The aerial photos were transformed into a land use-land cover map to know where to focus best management practices.

This has been done for Honeoye Lake, Hemlock Lake, Canandaigua and Canadice lakes. Seneca lake is underway. The plan is very detailed down to the types of trees and other growth.

Agricultural use was not an issue on Honeoye Lake because the ground where farming is practiced is for pasture and not plowed. That is not the case on Conesus and Silver lakes.

#### **Water Quality Challenges:**

Balance – between lake protection as a drinking water resource; recreational uses; watershed development activities; tourism and habitat management for wildlife. Phosphorus management can indirectly affect wildlife.

Stormwater runoff is a source for phosphorus. In runoff, we'll find suspended nutrients such as animal waste so we want to keep sediment in its place. Increases in nutrient and sediment loading caused by watershed development are a significant threat to the long-term water quality of a lake.

Gilman presented data that looked at total phosphorus levels in Canandaigua Lake over a span of 15 years. In 1996 the mean total phosphorus was less than 5 micrograms per liter and by 2008, it increased 60 percent to 8 micrograms per liter. A 2001 zebra mussel die-off showed, decomposition of dead mussels increased nutrients enough so that for 2 years the phosphorus levels were 10 micrograms per liter in addition to significant foaming events. Some foam blankets were 2 miles long and 60 feet across and 14 inches thick!

To control phosphorus, think about your watershed and the streams in it. Streams collect water from their sub-basin. They convey varying amounts of water so should be sampled/studied in storm events to pinpoint parts that need management.

Solutions: establish a setback along riparian quarters (the floodplain zone along streams). Stream remediation strategies; debris removal; relocate ag. Development; plant native species; build infiltration basins; install gablans, rip rap, rock armoring of drainage ditches; create sediment traps in channels; help stabilize banks and protect riparian vegetation; gabian baskets protect streambanks where high-stream velocities occur. They are easy to assemble from preformed wire (aluminized, galvanized steel) panels, easy to fill and can last long. They can be made to put lids on them once filled with stone.

Gilman created a detention/retention basin with a standpipe and gate valve (guillotine valve) that was an effective trap and temporary water holder.

Bank stabilization: reduced bank slope, applied organic mulch; seeded with native plants, incorporated series of small stone check dams (excavated with a small backhoe, underlined with sediment fabric, keyed into position with stone rip rap).

Other sustainable changes: permeable paving stones (driveways), artificial wetland creation, fish passage considerations, log cribbing and wing (side) collection step pools, digger dams, log drop structures, rock cross vanes, boulder revetments.

### **15th Regional FOLA Minutes 2009-Draft**

**DEC Region 9 Director Paul D'Amato, 585-226-5370, pjdamoto@gw.dec.state.ny.us:**

He gave an 15th Regional FOLA Minutes 2009-Draft update on the State's fiscal crisis, the Marcellus Shale study, the Hemlock-Canadice watershed acquisition. D'Amato is Region 8's former attorney and has been with DEC since 1983.

**Budget: By March 1, 2010, 500 positions will be cut including 17 from Region 8.** Lake supporters will need to do work that field personnel may have done in the past. DEC will look to partner more with lake associations.

**Acquisition:** NYS is in negotiations with City of Rochester on taking over the lakes and negotiations are going well. It remains the #1 acquisition statewide in DEC's Open Space Planning. Once obtained they will be maintained as they have been. Commissioner Grannis was sold on ownership after touring Hemlock by boat. NYS DEC owns 572 lakes in NYS. There are about 7,500 water bodies in NYS.

**Marcellus Shale** – the negative potential of the shale exploration and gas drilling is huge to water resources (from chemicals used, sediment, etc.). There is a Draft Environmental Impact Study out for public review now with a lengthy public comment period ongoing. It is on the DEC website, downloadable and researchable. Main concerns: what's in refracking materials. DEC requiring full disclosure; there are wells in the area; Susquehanna River Valley Commission will have some control; traffic impact analyses to be done; where water is to be contained documented; it must be in double-lined lagoons. Comment period ends Nov. 30 and DEC has received requests to extend it. This is either the greatest economic news to hit Southern Tier or the worst environmentally.

**Funding:** DEC on the threshold of trying to get \$400-475 million for Great Lakes States with New York State projected to receive \$60-80 million. RFPs should be advertised soon. DEC won't be the grantor as it does not have the personnel so it is partnering with NGOs and local municipalities. It is trying to figure out how far south it can get the money because our lakes feed the Great Lakes. DEC feels it has a handle on point-source polluters such as sewer treatment plants so more concerned now with watersheds' "chocolate rivers" in rain events. DEC pledged \$13,000 to SUNY Brockport for habitat-wetland vegetation on Braddock's Bay. One of the problems to get at non-point source pollution outside CAFO & SPDES; i.e., folks who plow next to a stream, will take more effort to track and implement with cooperation of landowners.

### **Questions & Answers**

**Q: Who is the point person to lobby for more DEC staffing?**

*Answer:* Governor and NYS Legislature

**Q: Fishing license fees go up from \$19 to \$29/year. Does that go to DEC or General Fund?**

*Answer:* It goes to the Conservation Fund. He noted that sportsmen are critical of increasing fees with decreasing return.

**Q: Are budget cuts across the board and their effect on the DEC?**

*Answer:* Most recent was a cut of 11% of the agency's non-personnel costs, essentially an across-the-board reduction, that other state agencies were subject to as well.

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**Q: What is the impact to be on CSLAP (Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program), now in its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary?**

*Answer:* D'Amato has not heard anything specific to that.

**Q: What about PRISM (which deals with invasives)?**

*Answer:* probably the biggest single focus; don't know if it is terrestrial more so than aquatic. Steve Sanford, Albany, (GLRI-funded) is trying to keep PRISM going.

**Q: NYS cut by half the Finger Lakes Watershed Protection funds, is it dead?**

*Answer:* On paper, the appropriation is okay.

**Q: On Marcellus Shale, is it going to be zero funding and are development fees going to pay for it or is oversight not going to be done due staff reductions?**

*Answer:* The one place where everyone recognizes that more staff is needed is for that program. There's supposed to be DEC oversight of drilling. We're optimistic resources will be made available. Mining fees, however, all go to the General Fund, which may be a bridge until mechanisms are in place. Currently we cover gas drilling in Regions 6,7 and 8 with 5 staff.

**Time Out-Happy 15<sup>th</sup> Birthday Region 1:** NYSFOLA President Helen Sick thanked Don Cook for organizing Region 1 and his work over the past 15 years and to Elaine Cook for supporting his work. Barb Utter recalled that 15 years ago at a FOLA meeting in Cooperstown, the board decided lakers should meet as regions. Don's is the only one still going! Many thanks to Bob Riggs for making the anniversary cake and to Eric Lane, CEO of Cutco, Inc. (a Cuba Lake landowner) for donating cutlery for the Region 1 meeting participants. Don, in turn, thanked Barb for her wonderful work organizing the meal and hall for our use.

**Java Lake Colony Inc. Presentation:** Betsy Moll and Bob Thill, co-chairs of Java Lake Water Quality Committee. Background: Java Lake in Wyoming County spans 50 acres. Water quality has degraded over the years out. JLWQC cost-effectively done the planning process (mapped on a handout they distributed) that included \$ figures. Key: being members of NYSFOLA, then CSLAP and using "surveygizmo" to ask lakers what they found important about Java Lake. JLWQC networked with Wyoming County Soil and Water Conservation District, which was incredibly helpful, doing dissolved oxygen studies at no charge. Java Lake has done one and doing a second plant survey with help from Cooperative Extension. A fisherman did a survey of fish. The committee networked publicly and privately as it had less than \$1,000 annually in its budget. JLWQC knows the issues now and is poised if money becomes available or an academic takes interest in it or a windfall comes its way.

**Chautauqua Lake Presentation:** Virginia Anderson reported. The public relations woman the association hired created an educational/informational brochure with 2,000 distributed. CLA established a website. It is in its 8<sup>th</sup> year of an aquatics study through Cornell U and the lower basin of the lake is almost eradicated of milfoil. It is in its 3<sup>rd</sup> year with the Chautauqua Lake Management Commission for which the president and

vice-president of CLA serve. It purchased a hydromate to dredge. It is going green through two foundations so cutting emissions from a nearby power plant. CLA has been in CSLAP 20 years. It has cut and removed tons of weeds caused by man using fertilizer.

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**Betsy Hite, Watershed Steward, Cooperative Extension Agent (Chautauqua Lake),** Watershed Stewardship Through the Master Gardener Program, [emh9@cornell.edu](mailto:emh9@cornell.edu)/716-664-9502, x204: Success in education came with partnerships of Chautauqua Lake Management Commission, Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy with Cooperative Extension of Chautauqua County, Cornell U. Their missions complement each other. Hit has given 44 watershed stewardship presentations to more than 2,500 people. She developed a video and does hands-on technical assistance in landscaping. Steps of Stewardship: awareness (ex. Storm drains go to lakes) + appreciation = taking responsibility for our actions & doing what we can to protect gifts we've been given.

The Master Gardeners Program: 1) is used by Extension to meet an enormous increase in requests from home gardeners for horticultural information; 2) is an agreement to volunteer in return for research-based learning (50 hrs.); 3) promotes ecologically-sound practices.

Program Requirements: complete a 12-hour core training, pass a final exam, complete at least 50 hours of voluntary service/yr. Those activities can be: community and youth education, support services (helplines, hotlines, neighbors teaching neighbors—all roles are educational in nature.)

Core Curriculum: soils, insects, diseases, botany, organics, pruning, woody plant materials, houseplants, bedding, wildlife, ecological lawn care, veggies, herbs, perennials and annuals.

Waterford Press.com will create any type of field pocket guide and has a Great Lakes series already. It is a good fundraiser (you pick and choose animals, plants to incorporate for your association, county, etc.).

A June 20 storm led to a workshop on making rain barrels. The Village offered to pay for materials for residents for them to have them to keep stormwater out of municipal storm drains. Volunteer Master Gardeners decorated them, which led to making kits to sell. In April, the program is having a rain barrel distribution day with Norsemen Plastics (the company will invest in advertising and promotions and distribution at \$45/barrel).

Master Gardeners did shoreline best management practices and streambank plantings. You can plant natives that attract desired birds and bugs without blocking lake views. You can hold landscaping workshops for Master Gardeners and homeowners. Future: Master Gardener Specialist programs (rain harvesting, watershed stewardship, etc.)

### **Silver Lake Association President Dick Swanson Project:**

Two members posed the idea of an environmental day camp there through a successful grant application to Captain Planet. 24 campers participated of which only 11 were related to Silver Lake landowners. Each day had a guest speaker. Cost

\$75/child/week to offset all expenses especially before grant actually received. Program actually profited \$20. Summary projects showed kids thinking outside the box.

Input: Betsy Hite noted that Project WET, Water Education for Teachers program via the DEC gives free stuff to its trained teacher participants.

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**Cuba Lake Sewer Project:** 196-194 was the recent ballot count so the sewer project passed. Project now under construction along Route 446 near the Wastewater Treatment. Blue Heron Construction is the contractor.

**Conesus Lake Assn. Project:** CLA handed out copies of a laminated two-sided "Residents' Best Practices" piece that was distributed with its annual members' directory. Livingston County mailed the same piece to watershed residents who are not CLA members. The eagle scout worked with the Village of Livonia highway department to obtain vests and equipment to spray paint stenciled signs on almost 400 storm drains informing people that what drains into it will ultimately reach the lake. Door hangar-versions were also distributed by scouts.

FOLA NEWS: Helen Sick is new president. Board members include: Robert Thill, Jack Baldwin, Don Cook, and treasurer Don Keppel on FOLA Board.

NEXT REGION 1 MEETING; OCT. 16, 2010 AT MOONWINKS, CUBA.

NEXT FOLA MEETING: April 30-May 2, 2010. FOLA WILL BE CELEBRATING CSLAP AND MAY HAVE DEC COMMISSIONER SPEAKER.

**Submitted, Lorraine Sturm, Recorder, Silver Lake Assn., 585-237-6310, [rsturm@frontiernet.net](mailto:rsturm@frontiernet.net)**

ls: 11/18-21/09

### **15th Regional FOLA Minutes 2009 Attendees:**

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**Guests:** Bruce Gilman, Betsy Hite\*, Paul D'Amato\* (\*contact info in presentations)

**Alison Clarke**, Canandaigua Lake, 585-244-2711, [accompost@gmail.com](mailto:accompost@gmail.com)

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**Patricia Gronquist**, Chautauqua Association, 716-763-8602,

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**John Jablonski**, Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy, 716-664-2166,

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**Nancy and Jack Baldwin**, Conesus Lake Assn., 5498 E. Lake Rd., Conesus, NY 14435, [jbaldwi4@rochester.rr.com](mailto:jbaldwi4@rochester.rr.com), [nancyb5498@rochester.rr.com](mailto:nancyb5498@rochester.rr.com), 585-346-5882

**Gene Bolster**, Conesus Lake Assn.

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**George Coolbaugh**, Conesus Lake Assn., 5599 W. Lake Rd., Conesus, NY 14435, 585-243-9005, ghcoolbaugh@yahoo.com

**15<sup>th</sup> Regional FOLA 2009 attendees – draft**

**15th Regional FOLA Minutes 2009 Attendees**

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**Barbara C. & Phil Utter**, Cuba Lake, 5086 Willowbrook Dr., Clarence, NY 14031, [queenmum1@roadrunner.com](mailto:queenmum1@roadrunner.com), [CLOCA@roadrunner.com](mailto:CLOCA@roadrunner.com), 716-741-3208

**Bob Riggs**, Cuba Lake Cottage Owners Assn., 373B North Shore Rd., Cuba, NY 14727, (585) 968-2879, carolbelly@aol.com

**Scott Barrey**, Cuba Lake District, 585-968-3960, [sbarney@cubalake.org](mailto:sbarney@cubalake.org).

**Barbara Johnston**, Cuba Lk.COAssn., 585-968-0203, 96 South Shore, Cuba, NY 14727

**Jamie Pierotti**, Cuba Lake District

**David Shemeld**, Cuba Lake Cottage Owners Assn., 716-968-3928,

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**Don & Marty Keppel**, Findley Lake Watershed Foundation, 716-769-7231

**Terry & Dorothy Gronwall**, Honeoye Lake, 5853 Joe Bear Dr., Honeoye, NY 14471, (585) 367-3000, [tervlg@yahoo.com](mailto:tervlg@yahoo.com)

**Robert P. Thill**, Java Lake Colony Inc. , Wyoming Co., 5329 Broadway, Lancaster, NY 14086, (716)684-8269, [robertp.thill@hotmail.com](mailto:robertp.thill@hotmail.com).

**Betsy Moll**, Java Lake Colony Inc., 5329 Broadway, Lancaster, 14086, 716-684-8269, robertpthill@hotmail.com.

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