

Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation

PO Box 210

Raquette Lake, NY 13436

www.rlpf.org

Email: rlpf13436@gmail.com

October 2020 Newsletter



"A View From Raquette Lake"

By Gail Morehouse

"Autumn is a second spring where every leaf is a flower" – Albert Camus

This autumn has been one of the most beautiful I remember in a long time. People flocked by the thousands to witness our colors, to seek refuge from COVID in a place of fresh air, open spaces and well-being, and to enjoy all of which, we who are lucky enough to live here, deem most precious.

I say this with certainty based on the survey we put out this summer seeking public input to our Lake Management Plan (LMP). The beauty and natural settings and the safe and off the grid experiences for our children and grandchildren ranked very high as factors as to why people own, rent or visit Raquette Lake year after year. The Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation (RLPF) exists to protect, preserve and promote Raquette Lake.

This newsletter is going out to as many people who live around the lake as possible, not just to our members. We want as many people as possible to know about our RLPF, who we are and what we do. We are a 100% volunteer organization. Our Board of Directors is united in our love of the lake, and our belief that the greatest threat to the lake and its ecosystems would be the introduction of new Invasive Species into our waters. Please read this newsletter and check out our website. We are all in this together.

First, I will update you on the progress of our Lake Management Plan (LMP).

In our last newsletter, I summarized for you the results of a major study of historical and current water quality data that was a key task completed in the development of the LMP. This quarter, one of our tasks was to complete a public survey of attitudes, opinions and input into the plan. The survey was completed by 114 participants which was a great return. Our secretary, Marion Goethals will summarize those results later in this newsletter. However, if you'd like to see the complete results and all comments, they are posted on our website under the section, "Lake Management Plan". www.rlpf.org

Our consulting firm, Northeast Aquatic Research (NEAR), also completed a very comprehensive survey of the lake, identifying not only Variable Leaf Milfoil (VLM) beds, but assessing the entire plant life community in the lake. The final Macrophyte (an aquatic plant growing in or near water) Map and

report are due in mid to late November, but I will share with you some key findings that we learned. First, the diversity of plant life in Raquette Lake is excellent. NEAR has identified at least 40 different species, a few of which are usually only found in pristine lakes. This is very good. A large diversity of plant life indicates a healthy ecosystem. The VLM has shown some areas of new infestations, particularly in Eldon Lake. The Marion River and South Bay Inlet are dominated by dense beds of VLM. It's becoming clear to the Board that it is impractical, both financially and technically, to completely eliminate VLM from these waterways, so we have decided to temporarily pause the harvest of VLM in the Marion until we receive NEAR's recommendations. Once the LMP is finalized, we will be able to apply for new State funding to help us pay for any VLM treatments the LMP might recommend.

Finally, in terms of the LMP, we held our first public meeting for information and input on August 25, 2020 via Zoom. In that meeting, there was the opportunity to meet our "point people" from NEAR and hear some of their findings in detail on our water quality and plant communities. If you missed it, the entire presentation, (minus some of my introduction), is also on our website under the LMP section. www.rlpf.org

Next, I need to tell you about a potentially important change to our by-laws. This organization was started in 1996. In the by-laws it was written that dues would be \$20 a year. A few years later, when VLM started to become our focus, we started asking for a \$10 donation toward our Invasive Species efforts, mainly for benthic mats placed on prolific beds of VLM. Our mats are not the main line of defense anymore, as a matter of fact only 1 was deployed this year. The Board would like to increase RLPF dues to \$30 a year, with the ability to raise them in the future. Obviously, \$20 does not go as far as it did 24 years ago! A change in dues, actually means that we have to change the wording of our by-laws, which requires a vote of the membership. In about 2 weeks in a separate mailing, you will be receiving a letter from me explaining why we would like to raise the dues and new wording to the by-laws that will need your approval/disapproval.

This is all part of looking ahead. In my first newsletter to you, I laid out some of my goals as a new president. So much has happened since then it feels to me like it's been 3 years instead of 1! Building a sense of community was one of my top priorities, and that certainly has been challenging in 2020! But Raquette Lake is already a very special community. I'd like to thank Rachel Pohl for allowing us to use her dock and property to stage all of the VLM that was harvested from the Marion this year. Being able to store it there saved the diving team hours of time that would have been spent driving to the village with each load. I'd like to thank our own Kevin Norris for taking care of pretty much everyone whether or not we are physically here. Kat Forsell recommended RLPF for a "Good Neighbor" award from Community Bank and we won! She submitted our organization because she figured we take care of the water in Raquette which eventually flows into Long Lake so the award would actually cover 2 communities. And where would any of us be without Jim Dillon? He deserves endless thanks.

Finally, RLPF has received a gift of \$50,000 from the John and Deanna Sammon Charitable Fund. John and Deanna are long time members of RLPF and longtime members of the community. Their passion to make a difference in the communities where they live is unparalleled. This gift has the potential to make an incredible difference in what RLPF will be able to accomplish in terms of protecting this place of fresh air, open spaces and well-being for many future generations. I cannot adequately find a way to thank them. John and Deanna, your gift may very well be the beginning of a new chapter for RLPF.

"The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members." – **Coretta Scott King**

*A View From The Bottom”
By Pat Deyle*

It was a strange summer for all of us at the Lake that’s for sure. At the Boat Launch in the village we had 2 Stewards on duty most days. Some days there were no Stewards on duty due to matters beyond our control. We have the early results of the numbers of boats inspected at the Village Launch.

Launching:

Motor Boats	Kayak	Canoe	PWC	Sup	Row	Sail	Push barge
459	261	107	62	2	2	2	1

Retrieving:

476	272	84	46	3	2	1	0
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Totals:

953	533	191	108	5	4	3	1
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We worked for 15 days at the upper end of the Marion River removing Variable Leaf Milfoil (VLM). We removed a little over 12 tons of VLM from the river bottom. This covered slightly over 1.25 acres of river bottom. This was from the first area where the river has trees close to the water to the east end of the river where motor boats must turn around. You can now see the bottom of the river at the upper end of the Marion!

Hemlock Woolley Adelgid

There is a new Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) initiative to mitigate the spread of the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid.

As always, early detection and rapid response are critical to protecting our natural resources. Signs of infestation are white woolly masses (ovisacs) about one-quarter the size of a cotton swab on the underside of branches at the base of needles. Gray-tinted foliage and needle loss are also signs of potential infestation. If you happen across a potential infestation, take pictures (including something for scale, like a coin). Note the location and contact DEC 866-640-0652, the New York State Hemlock Initiative, or report the infestation to www.nyimainvasives.org and slow the spread of HWA by cleaning equipment or gear after it has been near an infestation. Leave infested material where it was found.



Purple Loosestrife

Purple Loosestrife continues to be of concern in Raquette Lake. This year the sharp eyes of Peggy Deyle and Ellen Tourtelot found it in evidence once again. Peggy found it along the bridge over Browns Tract on the way into town, and Ellen found it on Osprey Island and along the southern shoreline of Beaver Bay where Camp Eagle Feather once was. The purple flowers are easy to recognize in August. It has a square stem and the leaves are directly opposed to each other. Purple Loosestrife needs to be harvested before the flowers go to seed and spread like wildfire. Pat Deyle, Dick Gentry, Ellen Tourtelot and Lynne Ballou-Gentry destroyed the plants, but we need to be ever watchful of this highly invasive plant. If you spot what you think is purple loosestrife, please contact Pat Deyle and he'll come and check it out for you. Thank you. Please wear your mask.



Ellen Tourtelot harvesting Purple Loosestrife

Update On How COVID 19 Affected Raquette Lake Folks By Kevin Norris

And the beat goes on...

Many people have expressed concerns over how all the businesses are doing through this time of COVID. Raquette Lake Camps and the WW Durant did not open. It was not a great year for Rachel and Jim Pohl to buy the business, but they stayed busy all summer with other work. In spite of that, most of the other businesses are doing fairly well and had a good summer. The not-for-profits still got their donations. For example, the Fire Department did very well. St. William's on Long Point really appreciated the people that showed in their own boats and enjoyed the concerts socially distanced on the lake. It seemed everyone had a great time. The Library Book Sale did very well. People who came to Raquette Lake were very good about social distancing and wearing masks. It's very nice that people were concerned about our well-being.

Living here we were not "trapped in our houses" and we did not have the unemployment everywhere else did. Keep wearing your mask and social distancing so we can all get through this, keep our jobs, and get back to normal.

*“A Tale of Two Lakes”
By Lenny Schantz*

Everyone can agree that it is a good idea to get to know the people and attractions in your neighborhood. Well, most of the time this is true. For one thing, the effort can help you understand the personalities and character of the region where you live. With that in mind, this article will introduce RLPF members to Raquette Lake’s upstream neighbor, Blue Mountain Lake. The article will primarily focus on factors that influence water quality. Subsequent newsletters will explore other lakes and ponds in our neighborhood.

It’s Downhill from Blue Mountain Lake to St. Lawrence River

Before we explore some details about our neighboring lake, let’s first take a step back and take a look at the larger watershed that Raquette Lake is a part of, the Raquette River. Raquette Lake and Blue Mountain Lake are two of several lakes and ponds that are located in the headwaters of the Raquette River. The Raquette River flows north about 170 miles until it empties into the St Lawrence River near Massena, NY. Blue Mountain Lake is the easternmost lake in the Raquette River’s watershed. Water from Blue Mountain Lake flows into Eagle Lake and then into Utowana Lake. Together, these three lakes are also known as the Eckford Chain of Lakes. Utowana Lake flows into the Marion River, which flows into Raquette Lake. The Raquette River’s journey to the St. Lawrence River starts at the outlet of Raquette Lake.

Water Quality vs a Lake’s Physical Characteristics

The best way to get to know a “lake’s neighborhood” is to look at some key water quality and watershed characteristics. A watershed’s physical characteristics (morphometry) plays a critical role in defining a lake’s water quality. The tables below lists some key water quality and morphometric characteristics for these two lakes.

Water Quality Characteristics*						
	<i>pH</i>	<i>Alkalinity (mg/L)</i>	<i>Total Phosphorous (ug/L)</i>	<i>Chlorophyll-a (ug/L)</i>	<i>Transparency (meters)</i>	<i>Dissolved Organic Carbon (mg/L)</i>
<i>Raquette Lake</i>	7.2	3.0	4.7	2.4	3.8	5.6
<i>Blue Mountain Lake</i>	7.7	6.2	5.0	1.7	6.6	3.3

* 2019 Average, Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District data

Morphometry**								
	Maximum Depth (meters)	Lake Volume (m ³ x 10 ⁶)	Retention Time (yrs.)	Watershed Area (ha)	Surface Water Area (%)	Forested Area (%)	Wetland Area (%)	Developed Area (%)
Raquette Lake	29	285	1.1	32,123	13	60	25	1.2
Blue Mountain Lake	33	76.6	3.5	2,803	23	69	5	3
** The State of Hamilton County Lakes: A 25-Year Perspective 1993-2017; Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District Report								

Let's start our comparison by discussing some morphometric characteristics that are similar for the two lakes. Although the size of Raquette's watershed is ten times larger than Blue's, both watersheds are fortunate to contain a high percentage of forested area and a low percentage of development. As a result, both lakes have low concentrations of the nutrient, phosphorous, which when elevated can cause algae bloom. Since algae growth is limited by a lake's phosphorous concentration, it is also no surprise that the chlorophyll-a concentrations for both lakes are also low.

The geology of Raquette's and Blue's watersheds is dominated by rocks with a moderate to limited ability to buffer acid inputs, like acid rain. As a result, the alkalinity for both lakes is also low, and their pH near neutral. Their low alkalinity levels indicate that they are moderately susceptible to acid inputs, like acid rain. As a result, a rollback of emission standards for coal-fired power plants would again put these lakes at risk.

A number of significant differences exist between these two lakes. The most obvious is size. Raquette's surface area is 6 times larger, while its total volume is 4 times larger than Blue Mountain Lake's.

Perhaps the most consequential difference between these lakes is the percent of wetlands found in each watershed. Raquette Lake has five times more wetlands, as a percentage of its watershed, than Blue Mountain Lake. One reason for this huge difference is the absence of any major stream or river draining into Blue Mountain Lake. The effect of more wetlands is a higher dissolved organic carbon (DOC) level. DOC is what gives Raquette its pale yellow color, which also results in Raquette's significantly lower transparency. Light is absorbed by DOC compounds, which reduces transparency.

Raquette Lake's transparency has been decreasing for the past 25 years (The State of Hamilton County Lakes: A 25-Year Perspective 1993-2017). Blue Mountain Lake data has not shown a similar decline. This decline seems to be tied to an increase in the DOC concentrations (color) measured in Raquette as well as in other Adirondack lakes with a similar percentage of wetlands. The Adirondack Watershed Institute indicates that there are two popular hypothesis for this decline. One suggest that as a result of a reduction in the impact of acid rain, wetlands have become healthier resulting in an increase in DOC. A second hypothesis suggests that a warmer, wetter climate has resulted

in an increase in wetland productivity. Whatever the cause, a reduction in transparency will ultimately equate to a reduction in Raquette Lake’s productivity.

The Hamilton County Soil and Water District provided the data for this article. For over 25 years, Hamilton County has invested in the long-term future of our lakes by routinely monitoring the water quality in several lakes in Hamilton County. If you happen to see one of their vehicles launching a boat at Raquette, please take the time to thank them for their work.

I hope this brief discussion has helped to introduce you to one of our more beautiful, upstream neighbors. If you have questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at lschantz7412@gmail.com

*Treasurer Report
By Bob Rosborough*

RAQUETTE LAKE PRESERVATION FOUNDATION, INC.
TREASURER'S REPORT AS OF October 1, 2020

PREPARED BY: R Rosborough

WORKING CAPITAL FUND BEGINNING BALANCE (AS OF 9/1/2020)		\$16,048.58
INCOME: DUES		\$220.00
INCOME: DONATIONS		\$1,250.00
INCOME: DIVIDENDS		
EXPENSES:		
Bank Expense	\$18.00	
CHK # 1038 - Raquette Lake Fire Department	\$150.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$168.00	-\$168.00
TOTAL WORKING CAPITAL FUND		\$17,350.58
AIS FUND BEGINNING BALANCE (AS OF 9/1/2020)		\$6,914.46
INCOME: DONATIONS		\$200.00
INCOME: Raffle Ticket Sales		
EXPENSES:		
CHK # 1040 - Northeast Aquatic Research	\$1,000.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$1,000.00	-\$1,000.00
TOTAL AIS FUND		\$6,114.46
TOTAL CHECKING ACCT		\$23,465.04
BUSINESS CERTIFICATE BEGINNING BALANCE (AS OF 9/1/2020)		\$3,755.03
INCOME: DIVIDENDS		\$0.95
TOTAL CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT		\$3,755.98

“Wireless Broadband for Raquette Lake”
By John Merriman

We are into our second year with the new wireless internet option available to boat-access properties. This year additional feeds were added to cover the south shore of Indian Point and from Tioga Pt to Big Island. There are currently about two dozen subscribers, with a similar number scheduled for installation next season. Additional feeds and relays may be added to fill out coverage of the lake. If you are interested in this service please see the section below for more information.

None of this would have been possible without the help of the RLPF Board members and the cooperation of Bruce Birrell, Robert Cooley, the Dwyers and the Ruszkiewiczs. The development of this system has certainly been a community effort.

Fred Engelmann is the Internet Service Provider (ISP) and has provided basic information below:

- What will be the cost?

Our starting package will be a solid (not 'up to') 8 Mb/s down and 800 Kb/s up, for \$59.95 / month. Or \$54.95 / month for year-round service. Also, no contracts and no data limits; no franchise fees, taxes or any other recurring charges.

- What equipment is needed for the service?

Subscribers will need to purchase a pre-configured receiver from us for \$130.00 including tax and shipping,

- How is it installed?

The small outdoor 8" radio antenna is typically self-installed with a special Ethernet cable that runs into the house to the router. For a reasonable fee local install assistance is available from Robert Cooley who lives on Indian Pt. and can be reached at rcooley@outpost40.com

How does someone get more information or sign up for the service?

They can email (fengelmann@mac.com) or call Fred Engelmann at 518 494-0123.

*Results of Public Survey Show Strong
Commitment to Raquette Lake Waters
By Marion Goethals*

Results of the public survey conducted this summer (2020) show a strong commitment to the ecosystem of Raquette Lake and highlighted the Boat Launch Stewards program as an essential piece of protection. Results showed less understanding about the changing specifics of water conditions and a wide variety of opinions about which of many factors most threaten the lake.

As RLPF members are aware, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation awarded a grant to develop a lake management plan (LMP) to guide RLPF in its efforts to combat invasive aquatic species. One hundred and fourteen (114) people responded to the “Raquette Lake Management Plan Survey” online; they were generous with their time and pushed through all 35 questions adding helpful comments when asked. The survey results are one of many elements guiding the development of the plan.

Interestingly, ALL of the 114 respondents have been coming to RL for at least five years; most, 49%, have been Raquette Lakers for OVER fifty years. Nine percent (9%) are year-rounders; thirteen percent (13%) identified as visitors. When thinking about the results of the survey, it is helpful to realize that these are the opinions of people with long history at the lake. Largely because of the COVID-19 restrictions, we missed input from campers and other occasional visitors.

The health of the lake concerned almost everyone without reservations. However, only between half and two-thirds identified the particular elements: water clarity, water quality, aquatic plant growth, and hand harvesting aquatic invasives. The list of eight threats produced no clear consensus as to which are the worst, but invasive species, aquatic plant growth and climate change were top contenders with road salt and ground water contamination running behind somewhat. Comments were thoughtful, including: “You’ll never get rid of it, spending lots of \$\$\$ for nothing”; “I’ll be interested in research showing effective methods of milfoil reduction”; “with crazy boaters...breaking up the invasives,... especially with warmer conditions, perfect conditions for growing invasives”.

How respondents and households interact with and impact the lake are important data points in developing the LMP. For instance, 39% of respondents have lake access only; 56% fish; a large majority have either traditional or upgraded septic systems, but a few have none; herbicides, insecticides, pesticides, fertilizers and chemical deicers are used either not at all or only occasionally. Residential water supply of respondents continues to vary: 11% receive water from the town; 39% from a well; and 31% from the lake. Fewer people wrote comments on this section but, “some residences and businesses are out of compliance!” and listing antifreeze use as a chemical for winterizing.

Respondents felt strongly, over 90%, that the following were important to their life at the lake: boat stewards; elimination of invasives; fishing; water recreation; and water sampling. Each factor elicited useful commentary. “People won’t be responsible unless there is someone telling them...Problem is there are numerous unattended launch sites”; The elimination and control of invasive species not only allows best support of enjoyment, best support of real estate values, and best ecological environment in the lake, but allows the Raquette Lake community to be good stewards of

other lakes by not being a source of contaminants”; “Healthy fish is a sign of a healthy lake. And, it is fun to do”; “it is hard to know the health of the lake without data”.

The comments on water recreation were more complicated. But, everyone felt as this respondent wrote: “I can’t imagine not being able to swim or boat. The lake IS the destination”. The problems mentioned time and time again are the dangerous behavior, massive wakes, and excessive noise of many motor boats. This writer summed up the anger of many: “What I’ve seen is an increase in tubing. Using big wave boats with rarely a safety spotter. Dangerous jet skiers. Disregard or not knowledgeable of boater safety. Even the RL kids camps! Loons get killed by tangles of lines left lying on the water or in trees. Boaters run them over too. Loons are federally protected but these folks are clueless”. Enforcement of existing laws and regulations for safety, noise, speed, distance from shore, etc. was called for as recreational pressure on the lake increases. Our respondents want quiet, safety and shoreline protection.

My hopes and vision for Raquette Lake in the next ten years... over and over again people answered this last question sincerely about caring for the lake and its natural surroundings: “it stays quiet and friendly to wildlife”; “it stays the same”; “the Lake remains healthy and the area remains a peaceful oasis for all to enjoy the natural world, including being hospitable to fish and wildlife”; “I’m not a fan of government regulation, having said that we need to keep the water safe and clean”. There were specifics too: fewer black flies thru abatement, more perch, white fish, and small mouth bass. One requested boat stewards at Golden Beach. Several people talked about the generations of their family continuing. Concern for the village was raised: “that current commercial and marine businesses continue to be successful on the lake”; with a growth of year-round residents, “I’d like to see a sufficient number of children living in Raquette Lake to support the reopening of the Raquette Lake school.”

The responses to the survey are a treasure trove of observations about the state of the lake from people with long history on it. They value and fear for the lake, and are genuinely supportive, grateful and smart about the efforts to protect its waters. They want the natural world to thrive.



*Collecting and Processing
CSLAP Water Samples
By Dick Gentry*

As a lot of you know from our annual meeting and from newsletters, in 2019 we started participating in the Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP) to have our lake water tested. The program is sponsored by the New York Federation of Lake Associations (NYFOLA) and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC). Samples are tested at a New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) certified laboratory. I thought you might like to know some of the processes and procedures we do in order to collect the samples and have the data accepted by the DEC. We collect samples in June, July, August and September.

Samples must be collected by people trained and certified by NYFOLA. We currently have four RLPF members certified to do the water sampling. They are Len Schantz, Ken Hawks, Lynne Ballou-Gentry and Dick Gentry. In addition, we have been helped by Patti Schantz, John Sammon, Pat Deyle, Glenn Morehouse, and Gail Morehouse.

Samples are collected at the deepest part of the lake in North Bay. A deep-water sample is collected 1 ½ meters off the bottom (about 85’ deep) and a shallow sample is collected 1 ½ meters (about 5’) from the surface. These samples are collected in a device called a Kemmerer that allows us to collect the water sample at the proper depth. As we are taking samples, we also record air temperature, wind and sky conditions and look for any visually apparent algae conditions. We measure water clarity using a Secchi disk by lowering it into the water and measuring the depth where it can no longer be seen from the surface.



Collecting water samples with the Kemmerer



Filtering the water samples

Once the sample are collected, they are processed before sending them to the lab for testing. We record temperature, fill a 1 liter bottle with water from both deep and shallow samples, fill a bottle with shallow water for pH testing, fill a bottle with shallow water for nutrient testing, filter a 100 ml sample of shallow water and bottle it for color testing, and filter a 100 ml sample through a filter treated with magnesium carbonate and package the filter for testing of chlorophyll-a. All the information we collect is entered on-line and recorded on paper.

Some samples are frozen and some are refrigerated overnight. The next day all the samples are packed with ice in a foam cooler along with the recorded information and a chain of custody document. The cooler is then sent to the lab in Syracuse for processing. CSLAP keeps all the data from over 200 lakes and issues a report each February on the previous year's data. Being part of this program will improve our ability to get grant funding for lake water quality projects and over the years will provide trend data to show changes in our lake water quality.



The 2020 annual northeast Loon Census was conducted Saturday morning July 18 from 8 am to 9 am. On Raquette Lake our volunteer observers noted 17 adult Loons and 3 chicks which is close to past numbers. Subsequent sightings over the next month indicated there may have been as many as 7 Loon chicks on Raquette Lake. At this point, only two chicks are still being reported.

Loon reproduction is a tough business. Weather and changing lake levels can impact nesting success. And there are many natural predators of young Loon chicks. But humans can also have a negative effect. Getting too close to Loon nests can scare off the sitting adults and cause the eggs to cool or be taken by a predator. Boat wakes can wash over Loon nests, which are close to the water's edge. Please be mindful of this, especially during the nesting period between the end of May and the beginning of July. Loon chicks immediately take to the water once hatched and need to be protected by the adults. Loons usually use coves and bays to raise their chicks but are still vulnerable to natural predators and human activities. It is best if high speed boating, skiing, tubing, etc. is done in the open parts of the lake, away from shore, to avoid potential harm to Loon parents or young chicks. Thanks for your consideration.

And a BIG thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the Loon census this year.

For more information on Loons in the Adirondacks check out the Adirondack Loon Center in Saranac Lake and at: <https://www.adkloon.org/adklooncenter>

September Discovery
By Lynne Ballou-Gentry

On September 28, I was surprised to find this little snapping turtle making his way across my front yard toward the lake. He was the only one I found. I picked him up and carried him down to the lake. He swam on the top of the water over to some reeds and hid there.

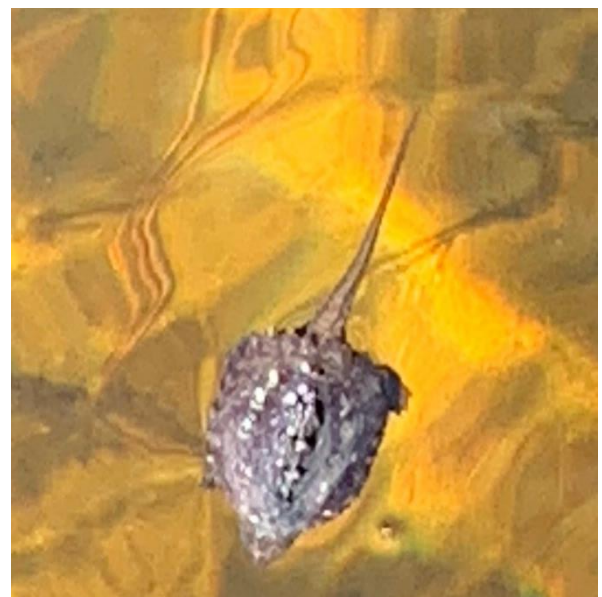
I did a little research on the hatching of snapping turtles. The nest is usually within 80' of the lake made in a sandy area in spring. (My yard is not sandy and I never saw any evidence of a nest). Very few of the eggs survive to hatch. Most are eaten by racoons, but otters, fox, crow, raven and even turkeys are quick to make a meal of the eggs. The eggs hatch in August and September. The hatchlings will sometimes remain in the relative safety of the nest over winter, but most attempt to make the water. The probability of an embryo surviving to sexual maturity (15-20 years) is less than one tenth of a percent.

Although snapping turtles can be aggressive and bite when on land they are very shy in the water and will quickly turn away from any perceived threat.

You can identify a snapping turtle by its long tail and triangular head.



Now I can I say I held a snapping turtle, and the next time I see a large snapper as I'm paddling I will think of the incredible odds it took for it to survive and perhaps find a bit of forgiveness for eating the baby ducks .



Welcome to New Members

Welcome. The RLPF is happy to have had a number of new members join. By becoming a member you've helped us to ensure that we are able to do as much as possible to preserve and protect Raquette Lake. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer for any of our projects please email us.

Please consider making a gift of a membership to RLPF for friends and family who love Raquette Lake. The application is on our website: www.rlpf.org. If you are not yet a member we hope you will consider joining us by going to our website. Thank you.

As always we thank you for your support and your membership. We also want to deeply thank all those people who have so generously given donations to the RLPF. Your donations are put to use helping to keep our organization up and running and being involved in issues relating to protecting and preserving the Raquette Lake.

The purpose of the RLPF is to promote the cooperation and friendship among the inhabitants of the area and to unite its members in the material understanding of Raquette Lake, New York, so that the entire membership will go forward carrying out the preservation and conservation of Raquette Lake and its watershed through education, advocacy and broad based community involvement. *Please join us! Thank you!*

RLPF Officers

President -	Gail Morehouse	2022	gmorehouse@frontier.com
Vice President -	Pat Deyle	2022	cpat4parts@msn.com
Secretary -	Marion Goethals	2022	mariongoethals@gmail.com
Treasurer -	Bob Rosborough	2022	rrosboro@gmail.com

Board Members

Lynne Ballou-Gentry	2022	bal.gen1277@gmail.com	Dick Gentry	2021	dickgentry47@gmail.com
Ken Hawks	2022	kbh13308@gmail.com	John Merriman	2020	jm345@yahoo.com
Kevin Norris	2021	knrl57@frontiernet.net	Len Schantz	2020	lschantz7412@gmail.com