

Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation

PO Box 210

Raquette Lake, NY 13436

www.RLPF.org

Email: rlpf13436@gmail.com

June 2022 Newsletter



A View From Raquette Lake By Gail Morehouse

“I like gardening. It’s a place where I find myself when I need to lose myself.” – Alice Sebald

The other place I go to find myself is Raquette Lake. It used to be routine that I’d come back here from South Carolina and after a day or two, I’d feel my shoulders relax, even though I didn’t know that they were tense! When we arrive it is so still and quiet that you can’t help but take a deeper than usual breath. This year was a bit different as I had 3 meetings in the first 5 days I was back home. But it is that indescribable “feeling” about Raquette Lake that keeps me and the rest of the Board of Directors going.

We had an in-person board meeting on June 1st that lasted almost 3 hours. We were all on edge about AWI’s announcement that they could not find any boat stewards for Raquette Lake. It was occasionally keeping me awake at night. Almost 2,000 watercraft are launched into Raquette Lake every year. That’s a lot of opportunity for other invasive species to sneak into our lake. Luckily, Jim Dillon helped us find someone who will work almost full time. Blake Neumann has a full time college intern this summer and she also volunteered to be trained as a steward to cover a few of the historically peak times for boat launches. If you see either of these women at the boat steward shed this year, please take a minute to stop by and thank them. In my opinion, theirs is one of the most critical jobs that there is in our battle against invasives.

We also talked about becoming a “Loon Friendly Certified Lake”, and we will accomplish that this year. More about that later and at our annual meeting. We talked about our new research, volunteer and website committee updates. We had our budget and secretary’s reports, talked about our annual meeting and about the events that we are planning this year. Our first event this year will be on July 6, 2022, from 12:30-2:30 at the village boat launch area. Len Schantz and Pat Deyle will be there with samples of native plants, VLM and a few other

invasives that already are in close proximity to us. Little detectives can help them find clues as to which plants are which. If you spend those 5 minutes at the launch, all in attendance will receive a coupon for a free ice cream cone redeemable at the Raquette Lake General store. We all know how delicious that ice cream is!

I will also be attending the Town of Long Lake town board meeting, and an event called Waterfest in Inlet in August. The purpose of our attendance at these events is to try and broaden overall awareness of RLPF and of the threat of invasive species, not only to our lake, but to neighboring lakes. Our partners the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District, HCSWCD, are trying to establish “Libraries Love Lakes” program with the Raquette Lake Library. And we do hope to find some programs with either the camps or the schools that will engage more youth in our mission.

We will begin this year to enter into a program developed by the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program, APIPP, called the Lake Management Tracker program. This is a free program and will include training on a mobile monitoring tool that allows lake associations to assess how well their AIS management efforts are working. It has been recommended that for a lake as large as Raquette, that we start small. The program once again relies on volunteers so I’m happy to start small! We will have two areas of study; the village area where we have been focusing our efforts, and one other small bay to study the growth pattern of VLM.

The most important thing that we talked about is the future of RLPF. Through the process of developing the Lake Management Plan and then through the process of Blake Neumann (Adirondack Council Clean Water Advocate) outlining an Implementation Proposal for that, we constantly had to define goals and objectives. It made me realize that RLPF is at a crossroads. We are growing and evolving. We have very big goals and very few volunteers and we need to focus on what is essential. **We are essential.** A healthy lake is directly tied to tourism and economic stability. Over the next year or so, we are going to focus our strategic planning to determine the direction we are growing in and what our #1 message is. I hope that you will help us by attending meetings and events and by giving us your thoughts and input.

Our annual meeting is scheduled for July 16, 2022 at the Raquette Lake School from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. As usual, coffee, tea and yummy donuts will be available.

I come back home to the lake and I am never short on gratitude for everything that we have and I think of that quote; “Never let the things you want make you forget the things you have.”

Once again, this newsletter is packed with information. Thank you for reading my message and for your continued support.

All the best,
Gail

A View From Above the Water *By Pat Deyle*

Invasive “Jumping Worms” are spreading widely across NY. “While earth worms are usually a welcome sight in your garden, not all earth worms are alike”, according to the NYS DEC. “JUMPING” worms, sometimes known as “crazy worms” are an invasive species native to Asia that are being found increasingly in many parts of New York State. Unlike our common earth worms, jumping worms tend to live in the top few inches of soil and are ravenous consumers of organic material.

Jumping worms multiply like crazy, because in the spring they have so much energy to put towards reproducing but they do not need a mate to reproduce. It takes only one worm to create a new invasion. An invasion of jumping worms can reduce the leaf litter by 95% in one season, reducing over 14” of rich, decomposing, organic material to an altered, bare soil.

What do they look like? Jumping worms look similar to common earth worms, but with a few telltale signs. Jumping worms have a smooth, greyish brown body with a distinct band of white near their heads. Their most distinctive



behavior is how they thrash wildly when held. When thrashing they throw themselves an inch in the air.

July 6th at 12:30 pm we will be holding a “Kids Aquatic Plant ID Day” at the Village Boat Launch. Vouchers for free ice cream at the store will be given to all young participants along with some take home handouts.

Look for the Zero: Use Only Phosphorus-Free Lawn Fertilizer

DEC encourages homeowners to go phosphorus-free when using lawn fertilizer. Consumers should review bag labels for phosphorus content when shopping for fertilizer. Fertilizer labels have three numbers. The number in the middle is the percentage of phosphorus in the product.

Regardless of the lawn's location, excess phosphorus can wash off and pollute lakes and streams, harming fish and ruining boating and swimming.

For more information, visit DEC's [Lawn Fertilizer webpage](#).



*Raquette Lake's Aquatic Plant
Community
By Lenny Shantz*

Despite the fact that they are sometimes referred to as “weeds”, aquatic plants, or macrophytes, are a critical part of a lake’s ecosystem. Their benefits include providing habitat for aquatic organisms, shade to moderate water temperature, food for water fowl and oxygen to sustain life. Although excessive growth can have negative economic and environmental impacts, a healthy plant community is absolutely necessary for a lake ecosystem to thrive.

The work plan for RLPF’s Lake Management Plan (LMP) included a comprehensive survey of Raquette Lake’s macrophyte community. In 2020, our consultant for the LMP sampled roughly 1200 waypoints around Raquette Lake to document the species present and their relative density. The consultant found a total of 42 species (includes some wetland plants), which they describe in the LMP as “high species richness.” Generally, high species richness, or diversity, indicates a healthy and resilient macrophyte community.

A lake’s plant community is not static, but evolves over time. Waterfowl or animals moving between lakes are two ways new species are introduced. Increasingly, however, new introductions are happening at a faster rate because of boats and trailers carrying plant hitchhikers. To assess how Raquette Lake’s macrophyte community has changed, our consultant compared our 2020 survey results to a 1933 survey performed by a professor of botany at Cornell University. Note that because of different methodologies, it is not possible to assess differences in the distribution or density of species. It is, possible, however, to do a basic comparison of the species found to see how Raquette’s macrophyte community has changed over the last 87 years. The 1933 survey found 46 species compared to the 42 found in 2020. Twenty-nine of the species found in 2020 were also found in 1933. Therefore, since 1933, 13 new plant species have been introduced, and four lost from Raquette Lake.

Three of the new species found in Raquette are noteworthy: *Myriophyllum heterophyllum* (Variable Leaf Milfoil), *Utricularia inflata* (Inflated bladderwort) and *Juncus militaris* (Bayonet grass). As most readers know, NYS classified VLM as an invasive species in 2015. Based on local accounts, it was likely introduced into Raquette Lake in the fifties or sixties. The first published record of VLM came in 1983 when Dr. John Titus (SUNY Binghamton) surveyed a number of sites in Beaver Bay and Eldon Lake. At the time, VLM represented less than 1% of the plant community. Since then there have been several surveys of Beaver Bay by Dr. Titus and his students that show VLM’s density has increased, but not exploded. A 2016 survey of Beaver Bay found that VLM only represented about 8% of the plant’s present at one and two meter depths. Unfortunately, in other areas of the lake, like the Raquette Village Bay, VLM is abundant. RLPF has invested a significant amount of money to hand harvest VLM from the Village Bay to protect navigation, recreation and to prevent VLM’s spread to other waterbodies.

Some states in the U.S. list Inflated Bladderwort as an invasive species, but not New York. Dr. Titus was the first to record its presence in a 1999 survey of Beaver Bay. In 1983 it was not found in Beaver Bay, but by 1999 it was the most prevalent species in the bay. By 2016 its density had sharply decreased, but it still was one of the top three species present in Beaver Bay. Because Inflated Bladderwort normally grows near the bottom, the public may perceive it as less of a nuisance than VLM, which can form thick mats at the surface.

Juncus militaris or Bayonet Rush is native to the northeast, therefore, it is not considered an invasive species. It's unclear when it was first introduced into Raquette Lake, but it was after 1933. The 2020 survey found it to be abundant in the shallow water of bays. From a distance, it looks like a field of tall grass because of a single spike (leaf) that reaches a foot or more above the surface of the lake. Growth in some Adirondack lakes can be so prolific that homeowners use a rake to clear a path to open water.

This summer RLPF hopes to begin to study the population dynamics of VLM. The study has two objectives: 1) determine why the density of VLM seems to naturally vary from year to year; and, 2) is VLM still expanding in the lake, in particular, to the north end of the lake. The study is expected to last 5 years. This project will be a collaborative effort with the Adirondack Park Invasive Species Program, the Adirondack Council and RLPF.

Last but not least, members of RLPF's board will be at the Village boat launch the afternoon of July 6th to present "mini-workshops" (5 min) on invasive species and Raquette's macrophyte community. We plan to have a few examples of plants currently found in Raquette Lake, and examples of plants that we would like to keep out. Young participants will get a coupon good for one FREE ICE CREAM CONE at the Village store. We hope to see you there!!!!

*Website Development Ideas
Requested From Membership
By Marion Goethals*

We are requesting website development thoughts from you! (Please send ideas to the small group working to expand our presence online).

What should the RLPF website accomplish? We want the website to reflect RLPF's focus on the health of Raquette Lake and its Communities by: Paying attention to the lake and issues which affect it; Showing the work we are doing; Involving people in preserving and protecting Raquette Lake; Thinking of the future and planning for it. Do you use the site? Have you directed people to it? What would be useful to you and yours on the site? Take a look at rlpf.org and put your ideas into the development boat at mariongoethals@gmail.com, or our star volunteer Nancy Barnett. Nancy has been working with us to design our new website. nrosboro@gmail.com

Treasurer's Report
RLPF Budget YTD Income and Expenditures
By Bob Rosborough

RPLF Budget YTD Income & Expenditures		2021	YTD 2022	2022
		Actual	Actual	Budget
Income	Dues and other	\$5,437	\$1,190	\$3,500
	Donations	\$22,561	\$2,390	\$15,000
	Dividends & Interest	4	\$0	\$50
	Grant Payment		\$11,195	
	AIS Fund			
	Donations	\$10,500.00	\$0	\$8,000
	TOLL Funds	\$17,000	\$0	\$10,000
	Total Income	\$55,502.00	\$14,774.90	\$36,550
Expenses	Administrative Expense	\$46.60	\$0	\$250
	Annual Meeting	\$92.40	\$0	\$200
	Awards, POY, Recognition	\$217.60	\$0	\$250
	Bank Expense	\$0	\$0	\$50
	Community Outreach	\$1,335	\$0	\$1,500
	Education and Research		\$0	\$10,000
	Grant Support	\$6,645	\$3,395	\$5,000
	Insurance	\$180	\$180	\$185
	Lake Testing	\$675	\$313	\$1,250
	Marketing	\$1,561.12	\$0	\$1,000
	Newsletter	\$262.06	\$0	\$300
	PO Box	\$84	\$0	\$85
	Travel/Fees	\$0	\$0	\$200
	Tax Preparation	\$1,225	\$250	\$400
	Website Hosting	\$32.87	\$0	\$0
	Equipment Investment	\$5,000.00	\$0	\$750
	AIS Fund			
	Hand Harvesting			
	Aqualogic	\$22,750	\$5,000	\$16,500
	Kayak	\$0.00	\$0	\$0
	Raffle Tickets	\$0.00	\$0	\$0
	Frontier, Steward Wi-Fi	\$0.00	\$0	\$0
	Shed Maintenance	0	\$0	\$250
	Total Expenses	\$40,106.65	\$9,138	\$38,170

2021 YTD 2022 2022

	Actual	Actual	Budget
Community Outreach			
Adk Ctr Arts	\$100	\$100	\$100
ANCA	\$35	\$35	\$35
ADK Action	\$100	\$100	\$100
Central Adk Association	\$50	\$100	\$50
NYS			
FOLA	\$175	\$175	\$175
Adirondack Lake Association	\$75	\$75	\$75
RLVFD	\$150	\$150	\$150
St. Williams on Long Point	\$100	\$100	\$100
RL			
Library	\$50	\$50	\$50
TOLL Community Pride Day	\$100	\$100	\$100
TOLL			
Fire	\$75	\$75	\$75
TOLL Rescue	\$150	\$75	\$75
NFCT	\$75	\$75	\$75
RL Rescue	\$75	\$75	\$75
Adirondack Council	\$100	\$100	\$100
Total Community Outreach	\$1,335	\$1,385	\$1,335

*Internet Options on
Raquette Lake
By John Merriman*

Wireless internet is available for most parts of the lake. If you would like to sign up or need more information email Fred Engelmann (fengelmann@mac.com) or call Fred at 518 494-0123.

Also, fiber internet connection, from Adirondack Techs, is now available for North Point residents. Contact Nicole Batterson at (518) 545-4357, or Nicole@adirondacktechs.com

*Loon Rafts Deployed on
Raquette Lake
By Lynne Ballou-Gentry*



Cody Sears is a Wildlife Technician who works with the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation. He is running a program that monitors loon nests as a part of the ACLC. They offered a zoom seminar on becoming a loon nest monitor and a few Raquette Lakers participated. As a result of this Cody brought 2 loon platforms to Raquette Lake. They will be deployed in areas of the lake where natural loon nests have failed due to boat wake activity, human interference, predations and high water flooding the nest. If you see one of these artificial nest rafts over the next few years please be respectful of the loons.

This is a good time to remind all boaters that the small bays are where loon nests and loon babies are found. We have already lost one chick this year. Please be mindful of this and waterski, wakeboard and tube in the large bays of the lake. If you visit these small bays be aware that loon babies can't get out of your way like an adult loon is able to

do. Please refrain from venturing too close to the loons and use a zoom lens on your cameras for getting photos. If you are fishing please refrain from casting your lures near the rafts. We already had to pull one lure off a raft. If you see a loon "rearing up" on the water it is because you are too close and the loon is in distress. Last year we did not have any loon chicks make it to adults. Our hope is that this year we will all do our part to give those chicks a chance to make it. Thank you.

Photos are of Cody Sears and his artificial loon rafts. Notice the avian guard over the raft to prevent predation from above.

Photos by Lynne Ballou-Gentry



Adventure in Our Local Library *By Marion Goethals*



Thinking about the future

At the Raquette Lake Library, thanks to Carolyn's persistence and Jack Reagan's substantial ladder, we reached the very top shelf where NYS reports are housed. One of our discoveries was the thirty-year old peek into the future... which is now. *The Adirondack Park in the Twenty First Century* (pub. 1990) is now a history lesson, but could we do the same? What will Raquette Lake be in 2050? Will there be a strong year around community; a great lake for fishing; or sadly a zebra mussel or other invasive so pervasive that the character of the lake is drastically changed from the lake we know today? Find more Raquette relevant reading online or at the library and let your mind think ahead. Photo by Marion Goethals

DEC Launches New Aquatic Invasive Species Requirements for Motorized Boats in Adirondack Waters

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) announced measures to prevent the further spread of aquatic invasive species in the Adirondacks. Recent changes to [Environmental Conservation Law](#) became effective on Wednesday, June 8, 2022, and require motorized boat users to obtain certification that they have inspected and removed potentially harmful aquatic invasive species before launching in waters in, and immediately adjacent to, the Adirondack Forest Preserve. The new law requires all operators of motorized watercraft to obtain certification that they have cleaned, drained, and dried boats and equipment each time they launch into a new waterbody in the Adirondack Park and within [10 miles of the Blue Line \(PDF\)](#). When an aquatic invasive species inspection station adjacent to a public waterbody is open for operation, watercraft operators can receive a watercraft inspection certificate from a boat steward by accepting a free boat inspection or decontamination. More information is available at the NYSDEC website: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/NYSDEC/bulletins/31afbbe>

Organizing Our Volunteers *By Dick Gentry*

As I stated in our previous newsletter, a number of members have asked “how can I help?” Our volunteer committee met in May and are in the process of developing a volunteer form and waiver form that people can fill out online at our website (www.rlpf.org). There will be 6 categories people can sign up for to indicate the areas in which they would be interested in helping. The categories are:

- Events (meetings, workshops, programs, etc.)
- Invasives (surveys, plant identification, harvesting, etc.)
- Lake clean-up and maintenance
- Community outreach/communications
- Boat launch Steward.
- Where most needed.



You will be welcome to identify one category or multiple categories where you may be able to help. As with most non-profit organizations, volunteers will be required to sign a waiver form. As soon as the system is set up on the website, we will let everyone know.



Volunteers at work!
Photos by Lynne Ballou-Gentry

Loon Count *By John Merriman*

The annual census of Loons in the Adirondack Park is conducted the third Saturday in July. The number of adult loons, chicks, and immature loons observed in a one-hour period (from 8-9 A.M.) are recorded.

This information provides a database of the status of the breeding loon population in the Adirondack Park. Over time, the Annual Loon Census will enable us to understand loon population trends in the Adirondacks and the Northeast U.S.

The 2022 Loon Census on Raquette Lake will be Saturday, July 16 from 8:00-9:00 A.M. If you are interested in participating contact me (jm345@yahoo.com) so we can coordinate areas of the lake that need observers. More information is available at:

<https://www.adkloon.org/ny-loon-census>

The ACLC is also having the following presentations at various locations. Please see their website for more information.

Summer Loon-Friendly Lake Presentation Series

Natural History and Nesting Behavior: July 12

Natural History and Nesting Behavior: July 14

Threats to Loon Conservation: August 9

Threats to Loon Conservation: August 11

Migration and Wintering Areas: September 6

Migration and Wintering Areas: September 8

Get the Lead Out - for the Birds

Research has shown that lead poisoning is a major cause of death for Loons, Eagles, and other birds. If the birds ingest lead shot, sinkers, split-shot, jigs, etc. it is usually fatal. The Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation has started a program so we can trade in the lead items we may have in our tackle boxes and receive a coupon to buy new non-toxic weights and jigs. Two local stores participating are Old Forge Hardware and Hoss's Country Corner. For more information see the link below.

<https://www.adkloon.org/lead-tackle-buy-back-program>

Membership Information

Welcome. The **RLPF** is happy to have had a number of new members joining us. 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 at rlpf13436@gmail.com. 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 reading our newsletter and are not yet a member we hope you will consider joining us. **We are in the process of enabling our members to pay for their membership online at our website. Stay tuned!**

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	2024	gmorehouse@frontier.com
Vice President -	Pat Deyle	2024	cpat4parts@msn.com
Secretary -	Marion Goethals	2024	mariongoethals@gmail.com
Treasurer -	Bob Rosborough	2024	rrosboro@gmail.com

Board Members

Lynne Ballou-Gentry 2022	bal.gen1277@gmail.com	Dick Gentry 2024	dickgentry47@gmail.com
Ken Hawks 2022	kbh13308@gmail.com	John Merriman 2023	jm345@yahoo.com
Kevin Norris 2024	knrl57@frontiernet.net	Len Schantz 2023	lschantz7412@gmail.com

*Annual Meeting
July 16th 10am
Raquette Lake School
Everyone is Welcome
Coffee and Doughnuts*

Dear RLPF member,

Our annual meeting will be held on July 16, 2022 from 10:00-11:30 a.m. at the Raquette Lake School on Route 28.

Our membership stands at 140 members, so we need at least 35 members to either attend the meeting or send in a proxy. A proxy is attached and can be returned to any board member, via

Email at either RLPF13436@gmail.com or rrosboro@gmail.com,

Or by mail at

*RLPF
P.O. Box 210
Raquette Lake, NY 13436*

We are very much looking forward to seeing many of you at the meeting!

Our agenda will be filling you in on everything we've been up to and of course don't forget those freshly baked Adirondack donuts!

If you are not vaccinated, we ask that you socially distance from other members, and are encouraged to wear a mask.

*I hope that you are all well and we look forward to seeing you on July 16th at 10:00 a.m.
All the best,
Gail Morehouse, President
RLPF*



Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation, Inc
PO Box 210
Raquette Lake, New York 13436

Subject: Proxy.

Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation, Inc. Proxy Form

I _____

(Please print your name legibly above)

Do hereby grant to

_____ permission to cast my
votes for the Officers / Directors and all other matters discussed at the
Annual Meeting of the Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation on Saturday,
July 16, 2022

The following Director's positions terms are ending:

Lynne Ballou-Gentry 3 years

Ken Hawks: 3 years

Both have agreed to renew their 3 year terms if elected.

I vote for the following individuals for the positions of Directors for the Raquette Lake Preservation
Foundation;

_____ Lynne Ballou-Gentry

_____ Ken Hawks

I wish to nominate the following individual _____

for the position of _____:

(Please be sure if you nominate someone they are willing to serve.)

Signature _____