

Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation

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November 2022 Newsletter



A View From Raquette Lake By Gail Morehouse

"Times and conditions change so rapidly that we must keep our aim constantly focused on the future." – Walt Disney

Yet another season has passed, and another year is coming to an end. I'd like to talk a little bit about things that we did this summer and where we see ourselves going this coming year. RLPF is at somewhat of a crossroads. We are all very proud of what we have accomplished, but also very aware of how much there always is to do in the future.

We completed our annual harvesting of Variable Leaf Milfoil in the village area. Aqualogic removed a total of 1,290 gallons of VLM over a period of 6 ½ days. I have not received the final report on phase 2 yet, so cannot report on what those numbers were. When the board of directors took a little field trip in Dick Gentry's boat, we were very happy with the results of the harvesting. For about 2 years now, it's been difficult to find VLM around the village dock and boat launch area.

There is a lot of research on Eurasian Milfoil. There is not a lot of research on VLM. Therefore, a few of us were trained in the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program's (APIPP) Lake Management Tracker program. We identified 3 areas on the lake that we will track the progress – or lack thereof – of the growth of VLM. Basically, we will record data, return each year, and compare the results. APIPP developed a downloadable map of "way points" for those areas. With the assistance of an app called "Survey 123", you guide your boat to a way point. You survey that area and report in the app; the way point, if there was vegetation present, if the vegetation was native or invasive, what your method of survey was, (visual, rake toss or aquascope"), what the density of the plant life was, and any other notes you wish to add. You hit "send" and it's sent to APIPP. Your gps coordinates are automatically determined. APIPP then creates a map identifying the invasive growth in that area. Each year, you return to the same location and repeat. Over the period of a few years, you should be able to track the



amount and rate of growth of any invasive species in that area. This was our first year, so there were a few wrinkles to iron out, but I think it's going to be good!

If you were around the first week in July, you may have seen Lenny Schantz and Pat Deyle near the boat launch in the village. If you stopped by and looked at their display of invasive plants, you were awarded a free ice cream cone in the Raquette Lake general store. You can see the pictures later in this newsletter. My husband Glenn and I attended a great program in Inlet called "Waterfest" (photo on the left), put on by the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District (HCSWCD). The rain clouds held off enough that day that it was very well attended. We had close to 50 inquiring minds, both young and young at heart, stop by our table to look at the display of invasive and native plants and gain insight on how to distinguish each.

HCSWCD also started a "libraries love lakes" program with the Raquette Lake library. We hope to continue that and expand on it next year.

We completed all of the steps to become a "Loon Friendly Certified Lake". John Merriman will tell you more about that! John will also be sharing information on HAB's, or "Harmful algal blooms".

Our board members all recognized that there was a lot of algae throughout the water column this fall. Most did not constitute a "bloom". We were not alone in this phenomenon. Many Adirondack lakes have reported HAB's, many for the first time. It is believed that warmer temperatures and the calm, beautiful waters that we've been experiencing, contribute to the blooms. However, it is a very complex issue and the conditions that trigger the bloom and toxin production are not fully understood, particularly in lakes, like Raquette, that do not have elevated levels of nutrients. Remember that not all Algal blooms produce toxins. That's about all the science I understand around this issue, so I'll leave the rest of this subject to John.

It has been a year since Blake Neumann was hired by the Adirondack Council as the Clean Water Advocate for the Raquette Lake watershed. He has been such a great help to us. He has compiled a list of the most major accomplishments he has achieved, and helped us to achieve, later in this newsletter. But in addition to those, Blake is willing to roll up his sleeves and help in any task. That goes for Raquette Lake community tasks as well. He lives in the area year-round and understands some of the hardships that people who live here full-time face. I think he is instrumental in passing on to the Council, the needed tie between caring about the quality of our lake water and the economic realities that people here live with. He was instrumental in getting farm fresh food delivered to the village of Raquette Lake once a week starting immediately! You will see a flyer about that in this newsletter.

Two other members of the Council, and members of Blake's team, came for a site visit to Raquette in early November. I was fortunate that Bob Rosborough still had his boat in the water that we could use and that it was one of those rare, warm beautiful November days. They came to my camp on North Point and we took them from the North end of the lake on a meandering path to the village. We had lunch at the Tap Room and continued our tour around the lake. We wanted them to have firsthand visual exposure to the lake they were to support. It's one thing to talk about the number of boat access only camps and different ecosystems, but it's another to actually see them. One of the members commented about having driven by Raquette Lake on Route 28 for 10 years and having no idea whatsoever about how large and diverse it was. I think it was a very good visit and I think they gained the insight we sought for them.

Once again I have to thank you for taking the time to read this message. You probably won't hear from us again until the New Year! I wish each and every one of you a joyous and healthy holiday season!

All the best,
Gail

"I can't change the direction of the wind, but I can adjust my sails to always reach my destination." – Jimmy Dean



Plans, Plans, Plans
By Marion Goethals

Planning = Thinking + Talking + Deciding.

Your Board has been holding planning sessions once a month, and will continue to do so throughout the winter and spring. Our purpose is to both frame out next season's work, and to look further ahead. We'd like to position RLPF - Board, Membership, Volunteers, and Partners - to be effective in fostering the health of the lake and, importantly, its community. If you are reading this Newsletter, then you are involved! The Board welcomes all thoughts and ideas and observations to help make these planning sessions and decisions wiser and more achievable. Send to any Board member, or to mariongoethals@gmail.com .

*Bloom Time - the fall return of
Cyanobacteria
By John Merriman*

In late fall 2019 RLPF documented a widespread blue green algal bloom in Raquette Lake. This year a more significant lake-wide bloom was noted towards the end of October. We believe it is the same species of algae but not much else is known about these blooms. In previous newsletters we have discussed algal blooms and the cyanobacteria involved. Typical algal blooms during the warm summer months are often associated with eutrophic lakes that have excessive nutrients, usually from external sources such as ineffective wastewater treatment plants, failing septic systems and agricultural runoff. However there now appears to be something triggering late fall algal blooms on oligotrophic lakes with normal or low nutrient levels. The Adirondack Explorer, in a recent article (linked below), noted that over a dozen lakes in the Adirondacks, including Raquette, experienced a bloom this fall. The conditions that seem associated with bloom production are a stretch of above average temperatures and several calm days with no wind. There is some speculation that climate change and warmer lake water temperatures are involved. A multi-year study is underway by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) that will hopefully provide a better understanding of these particular blooms (link below).

In the meantime, the impact of these late fall blooms on lake residents is uncertain. The typical summer algal blooms can produce cyanotoxins that definitely should be avoided by humans and pets. When a bloom is reported to NYS DEC (DEC) it is labeled a Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) and people are advised not to swim or use the lake water. The HAB label is one size fits all. Other states, such as Vermont, determine levels of concern and have specific toxin level standards (links below).

Samples in New York are not always tested for toxicity and if they are, the results might not be known until after the bloom has dissipated. The 2019 bloom on Raquette was labeled a HAB and DEC and the Health Department issued their usual "Know it, avoid it, report it," advisory not to contact or use the water. Eventual testing found no toxins from that bloom. Unfortunately, the current DEC HAB system leaves lake property owners with great uncertainty, particularly for these fall algal blooms. Are they producing cyanotoxins? If so, are the levels of toxins harmful to people and pets? If there are no toxins, to what extent is the bloom potentially harmful? Are there particular health issues associated with the specific blue green algae involved with these blooms? How can we know the bloom is over and the water is safe to use if there is no follow up testing and reporting? While cyanotoxins can be difficult to filter out, are certain household water filters more effective than others for toxins or cyanobacteria?

It is likely the recent late fall algal blooms will continue to occur. It will be important for DEC and the Health Department to recognize the need for more resources and research to address the above issues and lake resident concerns. RLPF will be working with the Adirondack Council, Adirondack Lakes Alliance, NYS Federation of Lake Associations, USGS and others on this important topic.

<https://www.adirondackexplorer.org/stories/warm-fall-produces-habs>

<https://www.usgs.gov/centers/new-york-water-science-center/science/cyanobacterial-occurrence-and-bloom-development>

<https://www.healthvermont.gov/health-environment/recreational-water/cyanobacteria-blue-green-algae>

<https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds/learn-more/cyanobacteria>

<https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/77118.html>

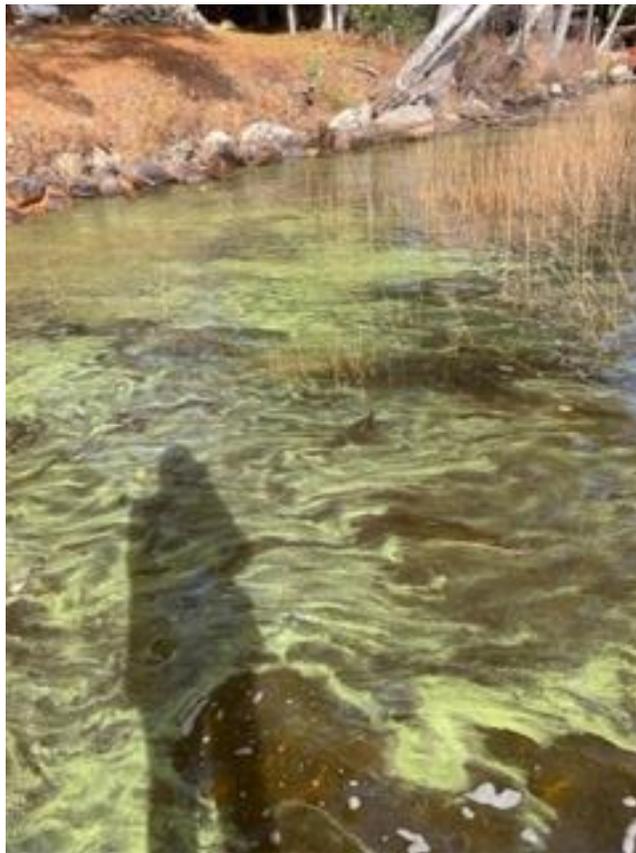


Photo of a Blue Green Algal Bloom by Lynne Ballou-Gentry October 30, 2022 1:40PM

Taken along the south shore of Indian Point

*A Year In Review From the Clean Water
Advocate
By Blake Neumann*

Around this time last year, I had just moved back to the Adirondacks from halfway across the country (Green Bay, Wisconsin) to begin helping build a new partnership between the Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation and the Adirondack Council. Since that time, RLPF finalized their long-awaited Lake Management Plan and had a busy and productive summer complete with plenty of invasive species harvesting, outreach, trash cleanups and most recently, becoming a loon friendly certified lake!

In addition, I wanted to share some other accomplishments over the past year:

Implementation Strategy

A 40-page report based on conversations with ~30 stakeholders from the Raquette Lake Watershed and beyond to catalogue pressures to water quality, social and economic impacts of those pressures and opportunities for outreach and planning to begin addressing these concerns, which will hopefully be of assistance to RLPF's internal strategic planning process.

Maintain the Chain Cleanup

Over the summer, 15 or so individuals participated in a clean-up of trash from roadside pull-offs on Route 28 between the Eighth Lake boat launch and the Raquette Lake South Inlet, to demonstrate the importance of working together across watershed divides to steward the well-being of lakes from the Fulton Chain to the Eckford Chain for the benefit of all in this region.

Community Engagement

Attended a variety of in-person events including the Raquette Lake Ice Harvest, Mike Norris Fishing Tournament, Community Pride Day, etc. to build relationships with stakeholders toward an eventual goal of watershed-level planning, including not only stakeholders in Raquette Lake, but those from neighboring areas including the Inlet Area Business Association and Blue Mountain Lake Association.

Lake Sampling and Surveying

Assisted the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District in collecting water samples, once in the winter and once in the spring, as well as completing a variable leaf milfoil survey of Village Bay as part of AIPPP's Lake Management Tracker program that RLPF is now participating in.

Community Grants

The Adirondack Council and RLPF are offering community grants to a handful of community-based organizations that serve in a public education or enrichment capacity, which were identified as having support needs that could benefit from a community grant to upgrade technology or other uses that enable these community support functions.

RLPF and the Adirondack Council are now looking ahead to 2023 to begin planning for more public education, outreach, new partnerships and a number of additional projects for the coming year. Keep an eye out for volunteer opportunities in the coming months to support RLPF's important work!

Dark Sky Compliant Lighting
By Dick Gentry

One of the many things we enjoy about the Adirondacks is the beautiful dark night sky. We can see the stars and constellations, planets and the Milky Way better than most other places in the country. However with the continued increase in nighttime lighting and very bright LED light fixtures, that great night view and the environment for plant and animal life is being threatened.



Photo on Raquette Lake by Dick Gentry

For billions of years, life has evolved with the earth's predictable rhythm of light and dark controlled by the length of the day. In fact, it is encoded in the DNA of all plants and animals. We humans have radically altered this cycle by lighting up the night.

It used to be that when the sun went down celestial sources like the moon, stars, planets, and the Milky Way lit the sky. Life learned to operate under the glow of these objects. For many animals, the natural night sky signals when to eat, sleep, hunt, migrate and reproduce. It is estimated that half of all species on Earth start their "daily" activities at sundown. Scientific evidence suggests that artificial light at night has negative and even deadly effects on many creatures including amphibians, birds, mammals, invertebrates, and plants.

More and more we are becoming aware of how important it is to be in dark sky compliance. You can do your part by following the recommendations of the International Dark Sky association to keep the skies of Raquette Lake dark for all:

- Use only fully shielded IDA dark sky certified fixtures for all outdoor lighting, so light shines down not up and is a less harmful color spectrum.
- Use only the amount of light needed. Too much light is wasteful and harms wildlife.
- Only light the area that needs to be lit.
- Turn lights off when not in use. If you must have security lights, use motion sensors.
- Use only lighting with a color temperature of 3000 Kelvins and below to reduce the blue (cool) light that is more harmful to animal species. LED and metal halide lights contain large amounts of blue light in their spectrum.

If each of us can do our part at our properties we will ensure that we can continue to have the beautiful nighttime views we enjoy so much.

RLPF Invasive Workshop and Free Ice Cream Held in the Village

Board Members Lenny Schantz and Pat Deyle held a Workshop in the Village on July 6 to help lovers of Raquette Lake learn to identify Invasive Species. It was well received and 24 free ice cream cones were given away to participants. The more we all learn about invasives the better we can protect the lake. Thanks Lenny and Pat!



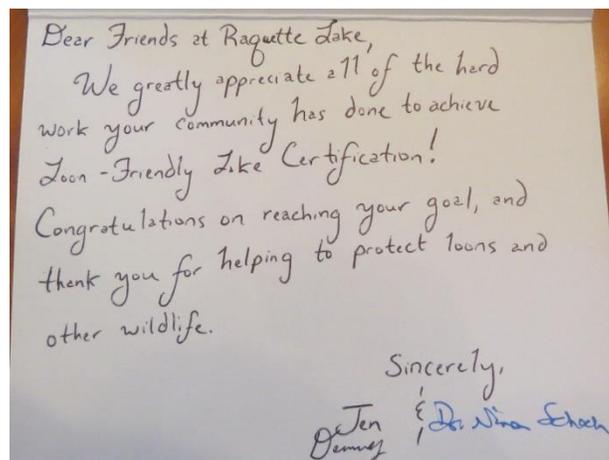
Pat Deyle and Lenny Schantz

Raquette Lake: A Loon Certified Lake
By John Merriman



RLPF recently received a certificate on behalf of Raquette Lake from the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation stating Raquette Lake has qualified as a Loon Friendly Lake. This is a new program from the Loon Center that encourages Adirondack lake communities to undertake measures to help protect Loons and improve the lake environment in general. Such activities include: trash and lake cleanups, maintaining Loon awareness signs, emptying fishing line collection tubes, distributing Loon literature, monitoring Loon nests, participating in the Annual Loon Census and encouraging the trading in of lead fishing tackle. Congratulations and thank you to all who have contributed to making Raquette Lake – Loon Friendly.

<https://www.adkloon.org/adk-loon-friendly-lake-certification-program>



AED
Automated External
Defibrillator
By Lynne Ballou-Gentry

Ten neighbors on Indian Point banded together this summer under the leadership of Jen Ernenwein to purchase an AED to have on hand on Indian Point. Jen is one of Raquette Lake's EMTs. She worked closely with Corky Risley EMT. The Fire Department agreed to order the device, train the neighbors, and assume liability and servicing for the device.

Each neighbor contributed \$200 towards the \$2000 purchase price. The device will be placed in a central location on Lynne Ballou's property at 1277 Indian Point on the outside of her Lean To and available for anyone to use. There will be



clear signage denoting the AED. The only holdup we had is that the AED was on backorder and we are still waiting for it to arrive. It will be installed after ice out.

This is not the first AED available for use. Gail and Glen Morehouse also have one on their North Point property at 3 Hemlock Way. Please consider talking with your neighbors and working with our local EMTs to purchase an AED. We hope to never need to use one but they may just save a life.

Volunteer Sign-Up
By Dick Gentry

We certainly appreciate all our volunteers who help us with projects such as invasive species monitoring, loon counts, clean-up projects, community outreach, etc. In order to get a better system to keep track of people who want to volunteer and their areas of interest we have created an online process that will give us a ready data base of names to call on as opportunities arise. If you are a new volunteer wanting to help with our projects or an existing volunteer, we ask that you go to our website and fill out the volunteer form. Just go to www.RLPF.org, then click on "join us". A dropdown box will appear, and you can click on Volunteer. This will bring up the form for you to fill out. By doing this you will enable us to have an active and current list of people willing to volunteer and the areas you have interest in helping. Thank you on behalf of the RLPF Board.

*Wayne Kavanaugh RLPF Person of the
Year For 2022
By Lynne Ballou-Gentry*

Wayne Kavanaugh is one of those hardworking people who make our lives better.



Photo by Lynne Ballou-Gentry

The Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation chose Wayne this year to be our "Person of the Year".

He has worked at the Transfer Station in Raquette Lake for 5 years. He keeps that place running and in tip top shape.

Wayne has over the years volunteered and provided services for Raquette Lake.

Wayne was an Assistant Fire Chief for 20 years.

He was the Fire Chief for 5 years.

He is a lifetime member of the Raquette Lake Fire Department.

He was the Treasurer of the Raquette Lake Fish and Game Club for many years.

He has been working for the Town of Long Lake on Snowmobile trails since 1995.

The RLPF is grateful to Wayne for all he has done and continues to do for our Raquette Lake Community.

Banks Farm Weekly Deliveries In Inlet



Weekly Delivery Options

HALF BOX \$25

Protein Component
1 pound of ground beef or a half chicken

Half Dozen Eggs

1/2 Gallon Whole Milk

Seasonal Produce
A selection of 3 different seasonal vegetables

FULL BOX \$40

Protein Component
2 pounds of ground beef or a full chicken

One Dozen Eggs

Full Gallon Whole Milk

Seasonal Produce
A selection of 4 different seasonal vegetables

DOUBLE BOX

\$75

Protein Component
2 pounds of ground beef and a whole chicken

Two Dozen Eggs

Full Gallon Whole Milk

8oz Butter

8oz Cheese Curd

Seasonal Produce
A selection of 6 different seasonal vegetables

EXTRAS

Raw Honey

12oz

\$7

16oz

\$9

24oz

\$14

Hummus

\$4

Classic

Red on Red

Black and Blue

Tzatziki

\$4

Broasters Coffee

Brazil Dark Roast

\$12.50

Nicaraguan Dark Roast

\$12.50

Nicaraguan Medium Roast.

\$12.50

Bali Vienna Roast

\$15.00

Guatamala Light Roast

\$15.00

Ethiopia Light Roast

\$15.50

Columian Decaf

\$12.50

PLEASE EMAIL OR CALL/TEXT HANNAH BANKS BY FRIDAY
FOR DELIVERY ON THE FOLLOWING TUESDAY

banksfarmny@gmail.com or 315-335-3524

Pick up points are:

115 NY-28, Raquette Lake from 1:45-2:15pm

Inlet Common School from 3-6pm

The great news is that your order may be picked up at the
Raquette Lake School from 1:45-2:15 on Tuesday.

A View From the Bottom

By Pat Deyle

Hope this finds you all getting into the Holiday Season. As the Spiny Water flea is established in Indian Lake and Pecks Lake, I thought I would talk about this little critter so we are all aware of it. The Spiny Water flea (sometimes called the fish hook water flea) are tiny crustaceans less than ½” long with a long sharp, barbed hook shaped tail. They collect in gelatinous globs on fishing gear, fish lines, and anchor lines. They are voracious predators of small zooplankton, like Daphnia, an important food for young native fishes. They reproduce rapidly and eggs are capable of lying around dormant all winter, resisting drying, and freezing. As a result of their sharp spines, small fish cannot readily consume them, adding to their explosive populations. The sharp spines perforate the stomach and intestines of small fish in turn killing them.

No control methods exist. Prevention is the key! Since fishing and boating equipment is the most likely means of spread, anglers and water users must take precautions. Boats and gear should be thoroughly checked, cleaned, and dried before entering new waterways.

“ Cleaned-Drained & Dried.”



Boating Certification Note: If you were born on or after Jan. 1, 1978, you will need a certificate by the first time you operate a vessel in 2023 in NY State.

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 or sign up to volunteer on our website. 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 2025	bal.gen1277@gmail.com	Dick Gentry 2024	dickgentry47@gmail.com
Ken Hawks 2025	kbh13308@gmail.com	John Merriman 2023	jm345@yahoo.com
Kevin Norris 2024	knrl57@frontiernet.net	Len Schantz 2023	lschantz7412@gmail.com

A History of Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation (RLPF)
Genesis to 2020
By Kenneth B. Hawks, 2022

The Genesis

In 1994, my sister Carolyn and her husband Joseph Gerdin started building an all-electric camp on a parcel of land as a part of Watch Point on the north shore of Raquette Lake. We paid Niagara-Mohawk \$33,000 in June of 1994 for the installation of electricity to both Carolyn's and my camps. We were assured that since we had complied with all the necessary permit processes all would be well. In 1995, correspondence with the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) revealed that since there were property title issues associated with our property, the electricity might be denied. Since the title issue was raised, a large number of persons were interested and a public meeting was held. At that meeting an informal working group was formed to explore the issue and keep folks informed. For our property, the DEC backed off on title.

Without Raquette Lakers' knowledge, the State Attorney General was asked for a ruling on the legality of underwater cables on state land. His Formal Opinion (96-F2) was rendered on February 22, 1996, stating (in essence) that the laying of cables on state land was the same as leasing the land which is prohibited under Article 14 of the Constitution.

To keep folks informed, the Gerdins and Hawks held a public meeting to announce our intent to sue the state and void the AG's ruling on several grounds, one of which was that at the time the State didn't own the lake bottom. The consensus at the meeting was Raquette Lake needed an organization to represent Raquette Lake and keep people informed of the doings in Albany. A working group was formed.

In May of that year, 1996, Richard 'Dick' Bird and several camp owners on Woods Point incorporated an organization they titled the "Raquette Lake Property Owners Association, Inc." At the same time, during May and June of 1996, the working group held several meetings and formulated a community wide organization. One of the decisions of the working group was to reimburse Dick for the formation of their organization and adopt that name for our new organization. On July 6th 1996, at a meeting held in the Fire House, the Raquette Lake Property Owners Association Inc. (RLPOA) became an official organization supporting all of Raquette Lake and Township 40 with the adoption of the By-Laws, and the subsequent election of Officers. The officers were President - Ray Rissler, Vice President - Jim Blanchard, Secretary - Jill Gracey, Treasurer - Robert Rosborough, Board Members - Ken Hawks, Dick Bird, and 'Steamer' Walke.

On September 17, 1997, Judge Joseph C. Teresi, State Superior Court Justice, signed a "Stipulation of Settlement and Discontinuance of the Action", granting grandfathering of the right to have cables run from Green Point to Watch Point. The others on Woods Point and Pine Point that were affected were subsequently granted permits to obtain power as well.

The Raquette Lake Property Owners Association, Inc. Era

On August 31, 1996 the first RLPOA meeting was held with Assemblyman Mark Butler as our first speaker.

The principal focus early in the course of RLPOA was to work with the state government, the environmental organizations and other interested parties, e.g., Niagara Mohawk (now National Grid), to convince folks that underground and under water cables posed no threat to the environment. The Association also spent time to get a bank account, establish dues and accept donations, form committees, start a membership list, and create a newsletter - "A View of the Lake" was the winning title. Much of the real work effort was aimed at obtaining the title records of the DEC, and corresponding with our elected representatives in Albany and Hamilton County. The position of the DEC was that they would ONLY discuss property title issues one case at a time.

Important conclusions at that first meeting were:

1. RLPOA would not seek to become an "Authority Organization" with 'police' powers, but would be an information provider, an advocate for Raquette Lake with government, and would support the entire Raquette Lake community.
2. We would join the Adirondack North Country Association (ANCA) for their actions to promote economic and tourism in The Park.
3. We needed to push the DEC toward getting proper buoys on Raquette Lake!
4. Pursue possible actions to clear up titles in Raquette Lake.

In 1998, RLPOA changed the number of Directors from 3 to 6; conducted a survey of our members and village residents of Raquette Lake issues; started a web page; started to investigate what it would take to do

blackfly control as in Inlet and Old Forge (the answer was cost and labor prohibitive even for just the village). Also, the size and space limitations of the Town Dock were discussed and brought to the Town Supervisor; the discussion of newsletter distribution to everyone and/or put on the website was discussed and the Board was split.

In 1999, RLPOA invited the Town of Long Lake supervisor to our meeting and he agreed to expand the size of the town dock. The need for improvements to the municipal water supply was discussed at the annual meeting as was the quality of the lake water. The DEC Region 5 Director briefed us that the lake water quality of Raquette Lake was better than most lakes in Region 5. He was very supportive of lake water testing. The Director specifically said that 100' riparian rights were being recognized by the State so docks (and dock pipes, etc.) were OK to be on the lake bottom. The Village Historian, Jim Kammer, was made the Chairman of the Historical Committee. RLPOA committed to sponsoring several flower baskets on the light poles around the village.

In 2000, RLPOA partnered with the Fire Department to sell strobe lights for water access properties so the Fire and Emergency Medical Service responders could determine who needed EMS or fire support at night, while hiking, or any time help is needed at night. The local Sheriff's department was looking at implementing a dock numbering system for emergency response as well. Water level of the lake was discussed per the court ruling that the Raquette Lake Transportation [NAVIGATION?] Company (RLTC) had the legal right to maintain the lake level at 1762' ASL. The RLTC has delegated that right to the Raquette Lake Supply Company (RLSC). The approval of the dam design is still to this day (2022) mired in bureaucratic process. The Town Board was not interested in funding blackfly control. The issue of public bathrooms in the village was raised; the RLSC was willing to build the restrooms, if the Town of Long Lake would maintain them. The Town Board was not supportive of taking on that obligation. It was noted at the time of our September 2000 Annual Meeting that Raquette Lake contributed 39-40% of the Town income, but only 10% was returned in the form of services.

In 2000 RLPOA reached a watershed. Ray Rissler, as President, introduced the following concerns to the Board:

1. Declining membership.
2. Conflict in some of our goals:
 - a. Land title was a concern for summer residents but fulltime residents felt it was best left alone.
 - b. The project to detail map the lake for rocks, etc., was seen a helpful only to short term vacationers.
 - c. Regulation of water craft e.g., jet skis, was potentially an economic impact to the marinas.
3. The genesis of the organization was the issue of underwater cables. This became low level interest when the pending permits were all approved.
4. Do the vast majority of land owners want an association or would it be better if the various 'associations' around the lake e.g., Antlers, Sunset, North Point, pursued their own interest?
5. In 2000 the Long Lake Association (LLA) was formed with two goals: Water quality and the control of jet skis. Should RLPOA follow their guidelines?

In 2001, the DEC issued a number of Unit Management Plan (UMP) drafts affecting Raquette Lake. Two outlawed motorized craft on the Marion River and South Inlet and contained some other controversial provisions such as land title. A survey was conducted of the membership, and the vast majority wanted to continue motorized traffic on the river and inlet. A study by both Cortland and Cornell revealed that motorized traffic in both streams was very beneficial to their ecology. It was decided that the association determine a consensus position and communicate to the DEC on the various UMPs. The issue of noise from the RL Camps was brought up, the folks from Inman Island agreed to contact the Camps. Members were also concerned with the number of boats, especially canoes, navigating the lake at night without lights. Corky Risley (Hamilton County Deputy Sheriff) said to get the registration number and report it. The Town Board voiced their opposition to BTI blackfly control. Ray Rissler did not run for reelection and the steady hand that guided the formation of the association replaced by yours truly, Ken Hawks.

In 2002, there was a very poor turnout at the annual meeting which turned into a Board meeting with the Town of Long Lake Supervisor in attendance. A great deal of discussion ensued on BTI blackfly treatment; and a trial program for just the village and south shore was proposed. The bottom line is the Town Board was not in favor of spending money on black fly treatment but is studying the issue. A discussion of the Raquette Lake drinking water system problems revealed that the Adirondack Council (AC) is insisting on a Constitutional

Amendment for permission to replace the current reservoir with drilled wells. The Personal Water Craft (PWC) (aka jet skis) discussion revealed that the vast majority of Raquette Lakers wanted them. Also, it was decided that we should recognize people in Raquette Lake who make significant contributions to the quality of life in the area. Thus the "Person of the Year" award was started.

In 2003, our efforts to expand the garbage Transfer Station resulted in extended hours. There was more discussion on the draft UMPs as they are evolving; there was much frustration with no action by the Town Board on BTI application; Burke's Marina expressed concerns about the 55 MPH speed limit on RT28 and the association will obtain support for, and request the State Department of Transportation (DOT) survey the speed limit; [Note: DOT concurred that the speed limit should be lowered, but the State Police rejected the change]. The Sierra Club's proposal to the Governor to create "The Great OZ" phrase here please was presented. This proposal includes among other things, making 7th, 8th, Raquette and Blue Mountain Lakes motor free (as well as prohibiting all combustion engines). This drew a bit of emotional discussion and also some concrete suggestions. With respect to the village drinking water issues, the DEC and Department of Health (DOH) approved the drilling of test wells funded by a grant; the Adirondack Council (AC) announced plans to sue the State. If a Constitutional Amendment were passed, the AC would be happy. Public restrooms in the Village were again discussed but there is no commitment from the Town Board for upkeep; Aquatic Invasive Plants and Animals (AIS) were discussed but no one on the Board is up to speed on what threat or impact they might have to Raquette Lake.

In 2004, RLPOA hosted the Central Adirondack Search and Rescue Team for a presentation on their mission. The Constitutional Amendment on our drinking water issues has been introduced in the Legislature. The Town of Long Lake Supervisor has gone above and beyond to get our needs noticed and met. Next hurdle is the Adirondack Park Agency. There was much discussion on AIS, especially milfoil in the lake. Several approaches were looked at. An Invasives Committee was formed and Pat Deyle was appointed Chairman. The committee was tasked to set up an education program, lake shore survey system, and determine an approach to prevention of AIS in Raquette Lake. There still are some noise issues on the Lake. The Hamilton County noise ordinance was published on our web site.

In 2005, AIS was one of the top meeting issues. The Town Supervisor reported that the village drinking water system is now up and running despite the opposition. Loon surveys were commenced by some of our members. Some property title issues were raised but we were asked to keep a low profile while the water system occupied the focus of the Legislature and the administration in Albany.

In 2006, the Constitutional Amendment for our drinking water advanced by passing both the Assembly and the Senate; the E-911 system was brought on line; work continued to convince the Town Board for increased hours at the Transfer Station to include Sundays; the DEC is still in a quandary as to what to do with milfoil correction (versus prevention); we sent our first shoreline surveys to the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP). They were extremely well received! RLPOA sponsored Paul Smith's College to conduct a class in boat inspection for AIS; APIPP assisted RLPOA in conducting a significant survey of the Lake for AIS; at a Thursday Night program at St William's on Long Point the DEC Region 5 Biologist Richard Preall briefed that Raquette Lake need not fear VLM because it didn't grow in sand or among rocks, thus Raquette would never have a VLM problem. [In his defense the DEC regulations and the content of his briefing were based on extensive research of Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) not Variable Leaf Milfoil (VLM) and they are vastly different]. The Town provided \$3,000 and RLPOA raised the rest of the money to hire a Boat Launch Steward for the village launch ramp during the summer. The Association decided that prevention was critical but the key concern was 'what authority would an inspector have to reject a boat?' Discussions with RLSC determined that since they own the ramp, the steward had the authority to deny launches.

In 2007, the big news was that the Constitutional Amendment on the Raquette Lake community water supply will be on the November ballot, and the wells' pumping system was completed. The Town Supervisor was able to open the Transfer Station 7 days a week during the summer season. RLPOA conducted another donation drive to fund a Boat Launch Steward in the village. The Town of Long Lake originated and hosted a large working forum that attracted representatives from 148 federal, state, and local governments; along with numerous special interest groups (including RLPOA) with the goal of seeking "A Common Ground". The "Common Ground Alliance Forum" (CGAF) is still an important influencing force in the Adirondacks. RLPOA got permission and published a handout on AIS. The APA visited Raquette and made some suggestions as to 'better' wording on our AIS control measures permit. We do have a DEC permit in place. Concern was voiced on who and how the DEC Lean-tos around the lake were being maintained. Current DEC policy was if the Lean-to needed much repair, burn it. Our

membership discussed if we could step up and take care of them. On a more general level a comprehensive study of the concerns of our membership was distributed and a very good response was received.

In 2008, RLPOA hired a Paul Smith's College student as our Boat Launch Steward, and the Burke family became trained in boat inspections and covered their marina. The APA continued dragging their feet on our AIS control permit approval and we continued under the DEC permit. RLPOA wrote letters to the Legislature and Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) asking that AIS brochures be included with boater registrations, but there was no interest in the DMV. The Town of Long Lake Board is spending \$35,000 a year for their community restroom and is not supportive of anything permanent in Raquette, so the decision was made to lease 'port-a-potties' for Raquette. At the July Annual Meeting RLPOA voted to support the Township 40 property title clearing working group effort!

In 2009, based on negotiations with the Town of Long Lake and the Long Lake Association, the Town would pay each association \$4,000 and the associations would raise money to pay the remainder of the Stewards' hours for a 40 hour week; and also provide volunteers for the additional 8 hours per week to have 7 days a week coverage. Our new Adopt A Natural Resource (AANR) permit with the DEC was been approved and matting of VLM commenced. RLPOA joined with LLA and Blue Mountain Water Watch (BMWV) to inspect the vessels doing the 90 Miler race. Boats stored at Burke's and Bird's were included in our inspection scope. At our Annual meeting the Department of Transportation (DOT) briefed us on their plans to resurface Route 28 from the village intersection to Otter Bay, widen and improve the road from Otter Bay to Golden Beach, and replace the South Inlet Bridge. The latter is a 5-7 year 'long term' project. The campaign to get the DEC to assume responsibility for VLM control in Raquette Lake continues. The VLM in the Marion River flowered and scientists from all over came to see it and take pictures and samples. The motion was passed that RLPOA become an IRS 501 (c) (3) Charity and NYS Not-For-Profit.

In 2010, we had actively working and fully trained, 15 Boat Launch Stewards and 20 shoreline surveyors. Benthic mats were purchased and installed. Paul Smith's College (PSC) was pursuing grants from the St. Lawrence watershed for Stewards, and we would be included. Numerous changes needed to our Corporate Charter and By-Laws to ensure our 501(c)(3) approval were revealed. Several of the required policy documents were passed by the Board. The idea of a special tax district for AIS prevention and remediation was advanced to the Town.

In 2011, the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) asked if RLPOA would like to receive a grant for the installation of a system just coming into being that remotely monitored, via the internet, the village launch ramp. I-LIDS (Internet-Landing Installed Device Sensor) was described to the Board by the APIPP. The Board voted to proceed with the system, and it was installed with RLPOA volunteer help in the village. PSC's grant covered two Boat Launch Stewards for Raquette. The special tax district has appeal to the Town Board and those who feel that everyone on Raquette should pay their fair share. An attorney familiar with the IRS and 501(c)(3) applications is being sought. To support I-LIDS and the Stewards, we established a Wi-Fi drop in the village.

In 2012, to further the acceptance by the IRS of our 501(c)(3) application RLPOA became the Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation (RLPF)! Several By-Laws changes were made to specifically include the Hamlet of Raquette Lake; allow businesses to become members; clarify the constraints of an "Associate Member"; allow any officer to receive and submit proxies; and change our Fiscal year to the calendar year. [The August 10, 2012 meeting minutes contain a complete discussion of the rationale for the changes.] The Township 40 working group has progressed with actual pending legislation and a settlement proposal coordinated in Albany. The special tax district became the Aquatic Plant Improvement District and would cost about \$13.90 / \$100,000 assessed evaluation. Long term parking at the village dock was discussed but the Sheriff's Department has received no complaints. Some of the residents have taken on the role of repairing a few of the Lean-tos around the Lake.

Officers for RLPOA:

Presidents:	Ray Rissler Kenneth Hawks	Mildred Gregory Lynne Ballou
Vice Presidents:	Jim Blanchard Stephen Walke Pat Deyle	Treasurers: Bob Rosborough Stephen Walke Millie Gregory
Secretaries:	Jill Gracey Carolyn Gerdin	

Directors

Dick Bird
Ken Hawks
Steamer Walke
Pat Deyle
Jeffery Sellon
Steve Gauthier
Tom Smedley
John Pointer

Jim Kammer
Richard Wormak
Tom Gregory
John Merriman
Allen Bennett
Bob LeFebvre
Jim Colligan
Karen Rogers

Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation, Inc. Era

In our first year as RLPF, 2012, we worked with Paul Smith's College (PSC) to obtain Boat Launch Stewards for the village and Burke's; continued our lake water sampling; attended the New York State Federation of Lake Associations (NYSFOLA) annual conference, briefed our lessons learned with I-LIDS, and coordinated with APIPP for AIS identification training and with PSC for Launch Steward Training for our members. In addition, our members built a shelter for our Stewards in the village next to the boat launch ramp. The Adirondack Park Launch Ramp Stewards coordinator declared it the best Stewards facility in The Park. We formally submitted our IRS Form 1023 for official certification as a 501(c)(3) public charity. The 2013 Form states that average time to fill it out was 40 hours. Ours took a lot longer than that to fill in the multi-page form and gather and submit the supporting documentation. We also filed at a time when the IRS was under severe criticism for their handling of the Form 2013s. The big event for Raquette Lake was the appearance of "PROP 4" on the ballot in the November NYS election to resolve land title issues around Raquette Lake. The entire community came together to promote the passage of the Amendment! It passed with the second highest % rate of any Amendment to date!

In 2014, we presented a framed photograph of an aerial view of Raquette and a plaque to each of the five key members of the Township 40 Working Group for their successful work. We opened our Wi-Fi 'hot spot' in the village to everyone to use. Approval was finally received from the APA for AIS control in the Lake. We contributed to the Intra-Park transportation working group of the Common Ground Alliance Forum (CGAF). RLPF continued our VLM matting and hand harvesting efforts. RLPF, Inc. was slated to appear in the next release of IRS Publication 78 as we are officially a 501(c)(3)! The WeWork concerts started, and have definitely gotten folks' attention. The music volume, the obscene lyrics, etc., have most members very upset. The concept of a Constitutional Amendment on underwater utilities being exempt from Article 14 has been advanced with Raquette as the poster child. Since we have 250+ properties that are water *access* only, 4 businesses, a major NYS educational facility, and numerous climatic and environmental benefits that require or accrue from under water cables, our example is a unique and obvious one.

In 2015, we joined the newly formed Adirondack Lakes Association (ALA) and attended their annual conference and district conferences. RLPF participated in a meeting held on the Durant with the Executive Director of the Adirondack Council. The APA approved our General Permit for VLM remediation for the lake. SUNY Cortland's Biology Department started a multi-year effort restudying areas of the lake that had been inventoried by Dr. Titus of SUNY Binghamton. RLPF gave them a grant for \$1,000 for a graduate student to collect all the lake data Cortland had accumulated over the years and put it into a single database. A major effort was started to have WeWork act like a good neighbor. It was noted that the State Police ranking officers nearby were all 'out of town' that weekend. WeWork's website provided a great deal of examples of foul language not just by the entertainers all day long, but their seminar presenters as well. RLPF provided a rest/water stop and information on Raquette Lake to the Cycle the Adirondacks bicycle tour. The organizers of the tour made a \$500 donation to the Foundation in return.

In 2016, survey results by SUNY Cortland scientists revealed that VLM was not increasing, but bladderwort (*U. Inflata*) is increasing. The DEC surveyed the RL lean-tos and published a remediation plan. RLPF applied for a Volunteer Stewardship Agreement to maintain RL lean-tos. The APA submitted a plan eliminating lean-to 'clusters', and RLPF submitted a rebuttal. The APA proposal was withdrawn. The DEC revised their plan and now plan to move the lean-tos back in the woods where they can't be seen in accordance with the revised NYS Lake Management Master Plan. The DEC released a new AIS Control permit required for the control of AIS in The Park. It was extremely onerous and fundamentally banned matting of AIS! After numerous organizations, Lake Associations and Legislators raised concerns, it was determined by the Region 5 Director it did not apply to us (and a lot of other lakes).

In 2017, we surveyed our membership on the RL Camps WeWork events and continued to work in getting them changed. RLPF wrote a grant request for the AIS hand harvesting efforts in 2017, and 2018, but the Town Board did not meet that month and the required matching funds were lost. We had to raise \$7,500 from our own funds to match the same amount provided by the Town. RLPF published the book "Knowing Raquette Lake" in memory of Mary Gentry. SUNY Cortland continued their aquatic plant surveys with basically the same results as prior years. With RLPF funding of the mats, SUNY placed 8 2mx6m biodegradable mats in Pug Bay to study their effectiveness. We formed a committee to investigate the setting up of a Special Tax District for the long-term funding of our AIS efforts. One of the benefits was perceived to be that NYS would be paying a large share of the funding. The Ranger's house at the corner of County Road #2 (the road to the village) and Route 28 was condemned and is now vacant. The Board felt that this would make an ideal location for a Welcome Center and Public Rest room and that use would be pursued.

In 2018, RLPF discovered that WeWork was applying for a use permit to use the RL Camps as a concert venue pre and post season for the Camps. A letter writing campaign was established to the APA expressing our concerns. The Town of Long Lake Supervisor asked RLPF if we would join a Long Lake effort to get Broadband service to RL. A working group was formed and while the Long Lake approach would not work for Raquette, there were other options that might. RLPF hosted the retired SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry expert on Lake Trout, to spend a day on the water of Raquette to review the Lake Trout habitat. A full study of Raquette's Lake Trout ecology would cost in the neighborhood of \$6,000. The Board decided we couldn't afford it at that time. SUNY Cortland recommended expanded water sampling in multiple sites around the lake and a separate study of bladderwort (especially *U. inflata*) as it continues to expand at their sample sites. SUNY Cortland also entered into discussions with Cornell University to investigate plant restoration in matted areas and other areas that have lost native plants during the last few years. The decision to start a Citizens' Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP) water sampling program was made since they produce 'certified' results. Initial discussions with the NYS Department of State (DOS) were held on obtaining a grant for writing a Watershed Management Plan (WMP). One benefit of a WMP is that no matching funds are required for their Environmental Protection Funds (EPF).

In 2019, at the ALA's symposium the 'take-aways' were the Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI) Lake Stewards were now funded through 2022; there were towns and villages setting up special tax districts for AIS control that have little or no state lands; Assemblyman Jones is leading a campaign to force Frontier Communications to provide better service; in Albany the question was officially asked, "Who is responsible for AIS on State land?" the answer is "Us!"; there are 17 watershed coalitions in NYS, RL is in the St Lawrence one. RLPF negotiated the first successful stream AIS harvesting permit given out by the APA and RLPF started harvesting the Marion River; continued our support of SUNY Cortland's research; and applied for and received a grant from the DEC to develop Lake Management Plan (LMP). At the annual meeting in 2019, Gail Morehouse was elected and installed as President. Officers of RLPF:

President:	Ken Hawks	Board Members:	Bob Lefebvre
Vice President:	Pat Deyle		Lynne Ballou
Secretary:	Lynne Ballou		Dick Gentry
	Gail Morehouse		Harvey York
Treasurer:	Dr Alan Bennett		Jim Colligan
	Karen Rogers		John Merriman
	Bets Miller		Marion Goethals
	Bob Rosborough		Len Schantz
			Kevin Norris

Ken's excellent history is available on our website

www.rlpf.org