

Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation

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March 2023 Newsletter



A View From Raquette Lake By Gail Morehouse

“Spring is the time of plans and projects” – Leo Tolstoy

Raquette Lake is your lake. It's my lake too. We take care of things that are ours and that we love. If you're receiving this newsletter in print form and you are not a member of the Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation (RLPF), I hope that you will become one once you have read all about what is happening at your lake. This issue of our newsletter is jam packed with information on water quality monitoring, invasive species management, loon certification, fish stories and so much more.

I am the President of RLPF and I am very proud of the work, time and passion with which the Board of Directors makes decisions. Over the winter months, the board of directors has been going through a strategic planning process led by our secretary, Marion Goethals. The goal is to focus on what we can accomplish this year, and to position RLPF for the future. Consensus is not always easily reached with this board, but all our intentions are good, so this was an important process to complete. We started by looking at the big picture, that is, where we each see our perfect RLPF. I'll share mine....

A partnership with the Adirondack Experience where we totally clean up the Marion River of milfoil and start historic cruises by steamboat that begin in Blue Mountain Lake and end up in the village of Raquette Lake. The cruises are a hit at the museum, and they help the overall economics of Raquette. A couple of new businesses... OK, back to reality.

We looked at what we have been doing well and where we need improvement. We revisited the Lake Management Plan and what we have accomplished so far. We looked at our organizational partnerships, particularly the Adirondack Council. This week, we will look at our outreach and messaging, and who, exactly, we most want to reach. I'd like to quote Marion Goethals from an email she sent us for this session.

“We work from the belief that protecting the natural, ecological systems of the Raquette Lake watershed supports the human communities within. Raquette Lake year-round residents, renters and campers, second-home owners, friends and family, passersby all care about the lake’s fish, ice, snow, swimming, skiing, boating, paddling, sunsets and sunrises, stars, wind, fresh air, trees, blueberries, birds, bugs, and animals. Our vision is to support RL’s public communities by keeping watch over the local environment and adapting actions as threats evolve.”

We are all afraid of the introduction of new invasive species into Raquette Lake based on the invasives we know are present in nearby lakes. We know that the current water quality of Raquette is particularly good, and we want to keep it that way. We understand that the quality of the lake water is directly tied to a healthy economy. We love our community and are concerned for its future.

Like starting the garden in the spring, it’s time for projects and plans and we have both in the forefront of our minds. We’re planning another mini workshop on invasive plant identification on July 6th in the village near the boat launch. Last year, approximately 25 people stopped by over the 2 hours we were there. They saw examples of invasive plants to look out for and were awarded for their participation with a coupon for a free ice cream at the General store.

We are preparing the required work plan paperwork for our annual harvest of milfoil in the lake.

For the first time, we will be holding a social event for our membership aboard the WW Durant on September 5th – hold the date!

We are a 100% volunteer organization. We are looking for the volunteers of the future. We would like you to be one of them! We are tasked with a tremendous responsibility, to monitor and protect our lake and then send the water further along the watershed, all the way to the St. Lawrence. We are the headwaters.

If you are not a member of RLPF, you can read our past and future newsletters on our website at www.rlpf.org. You can also find current lake conditions right on our home page. Check out the lake level, air and water temperature before leaving for the weekend. You will not be receiving a future newsletter in print. In the spirit of conservation, 99% of our members receive a newsletter by email. They also receive other important current information by email. Please consider joining RLPF for only \$30 a year by going to our website and paying for your membership online. That \$30 is well spent on protecting one of the greatest gems of the Adirondacks, our lake. Thank you for reading my message and please enjoy the rest of the newsletter!

If you are a member, THANK YOU! It is my hope that this year, we will begin to engage you more personally. And as we are kind to our earth, may we always be kind to each other.

All the best,

Gail Morehouse

“A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in.”

A View From the Bottom

By Pat Deyle

How many of us missed National Invasives Awareness Week: Feb. 20-26, 2023? Why should we care?

Invasives can outcompete native species for resources, preying on native species as well as acting as disease paths. Invasives can decrease agricultural crop yields, and clog our waterways. Many invasive species such as Giant Hogweed impact human health negatively. What can we do? Familiarize yourself with the invasive species in our area (plants, insects, fish and wild life). Early detection is critical. Visit New York State's website at <https://nyis.info/species-information/>

Two newer invasive insects we should be concerned about are the spotted lanternfly (SLF) and the hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA). I have written about HWA in a previous newsletter. The spotted lanternfly (pictured at right) will lay eggs (pictured below) on tree trunks and any hard surfaces such as stones and patio furniture. Be on the lookout for egg masses from September to May. For more information on what these egg masses look like and how to remove them, visit the NYSDEC website at dec.ny.gov/animals/113303.html.

For those of us born on or after Jan.1, 1983, you will need a boating license before the first time you operate a vessel in 2023. If you were born before 1978, you will need a license by the first time you operate a vessel in 2025. You can go to the NYSDEC website and learn how to get your boating license. You are able to have your boating license on your enhanced driving license, as well as your life time fishing license. All three licenses together on one! This certainly makes it easier to keep track of these licenses. Consider buying a grandchild a lifetime fishing license as a gift that keeps on giving.
Come on Spring!



Cold kills the fly but the eggs are not affected by the weather.

*New Invasive Species Work Plan
Requirements
By Lenny Schantz and Dick Gentry*

Beginning in 2023 the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will require an approved work plan for all invasive species management activities. The plan must be submitted and approved by both agencies prior to commencing any work. The Agencies will have thirty days to review the plan. Their review will then be followed by a fourteen-day public comment period before final approval. The plan requirements are shown below:

Standard Work Plan: A detailed description of work intended to cover the routine management of one or more invasive species control sites over a period of five years.

A Standard Work Plan must include the following:

1. An Environmental Assessment Form Part 1 that summarizes all sites, provided that any other documents required under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) are also submitted;
2. The GPS coordinates for all of the sites as well as other locational information for the sites such as DEC Region, State Land Unit, County, and Town;
3. An estimate of the size of the infestations and the year the sites were last surveyed;
4. Target species impacts and concerns;
5. A Natural Heritage review for nearby rare, threatened, or endangered species that may be impacted by treatment;
6. The timeframe for when the work will be undertaken and treatment priorities;
7. Proposed BMPs (Best Management Practices) and an assessment of treatment alternatives;
8. Monitoring provisions and reporting of treatment to iMapInvasives (to occur within one year of treatment); and
9. Any other information required by Agency or Department permits.

RLPF has formed a committee led by Lenny Schantz that includes Pat Deyle, Ken Hawks and Dick Gentry to develop our work plan for harvesting Variable Leaf Milfoil in the Village Bay. That plan will be submitted to our Board of Directors for approval and then submitted to the APA and DEC. We hope to get the work plan approved for our scheduled harvesting activities this summer.

*RLPF and Adirondack Council
Announce Community Grants
By Lynne Ballou-Gentry*

On February 17th the Raquette Lake Volunteer Fire Department, Raquette Lake School and St. Williams on Long Point each received grants as part of a joint program of the Adirondack Council and RLPF. The grants are meant to benefit year-round residents by increasing public engagement through technological upgrades.



The RLS received nearly \$9000 to upgrade audio and video technology to better facilitate classes, meetings and events and to “connect and engage on a global level”. The RLVFD was awarded almost \$5000 for the purchase of a Promethean smart board which will help with training volunteers, community CPR training, and events. SWLP received \$4500 for a portable sound system for the summer concert series which will be loaned to other community groups as needed.

Blake Neuman,,AC, Sue Norris, SWLP, Chris Widay RLS, Aris Bird RLS,
Mark Bird, RLVFD, Dick Gentry RLPF, Kevin Norris RLPF
Photo by Lynne Ballou-Gentry

*RLPF to Sponsor Derelict Dock Clean
Up on Raquette Lake
By Kevin Norris*

There are some abandoned and derelict docks around the lake. To make the lake nicer for everyone, RLPF has taken on the project of trying to remove these old docks from the lake. If you want to volunteer and help us, please let me know. I will keep a list of volunteers and let you know which dates we will be working on this project. This may take several years but we want to get started.

For everyone, all docks need to have the 911 number on them for emergencies and so that if the dock floats away in the spring or during a storm we know where it belongs on the lake. Contact Kevin at knrl57@frontiernet.net

*New Recycling Rules at the Transfer
Station Make It Easier to Recycle
By Lynne Ballou-Gentry*

We were happy to see the new changes at the Raquette Lake Transfer Station.

All Plastics 1-7 can be placed in any of the three bins and do not need sorting. The plastic caps are now recyclable.

Glass bottles and jars can be put in the glass bin.

All papers and clean cans are now put together in the paper dumpster.

Corrugated Cardboard is still separate and must be folded flat.

The library is still collecting returnable plastics, cans and glass that have a deposit on them. Those items must still be sorted as they were before with lids removed. Glass bottles with a deposit are still placed in the boxes under the glass bin.

We hope the new regulations will make recycling easier for all of us, including Wayne Kavanaugh. Be sure to thank Wayne and the other town workers for the great job they do.

*Ice Fishing on Raquette Lake
By Ken Hawks*

In winter, a collection of small buildings start to pop-up on the surface of the lake. As soon as the ice is thick enough, usually 4-6 inches, these small shanties spring forth from their summer hibernation, and take their places scattered around the lake.

Every shanty owner has their favorite location or locations, for catching the best fish.

The one thing every Ice Fishing 'house' has is provisions to drill a hole in the ice to lower some bait and tackle to tempt the fish. After that, it is up to the owner to decide the level of comfort and conviviality to be provided. Some come equipped with carpeting, heaters, comfortable seating, (TVs are not unknown), hot meal preparation equipment, liquid libation support, and other necessary accouterments to make a few hours or a full day fishing through the ice an enjoyable experience. Like with all fishing, bait choices, tackle and target species are at times closely guarded secrets.

Many year-round residents of Raquette Lake like to ice fish for two reasons. It is something to do during long winter days, and it gives them an opportunity to fill up their freezers with fish for the warm months when they are busy earning their living.

There are still die-hard ice fishermen out there who trudge out onto the ice with a 5 gallon pail filled with tackle and bait, (then use it to sit on), a small wooden box to put their feet on, and an ice auger. But for the most part these are a rare breed. Today sporting goods stores are filled with pop-up tent 'shanties' that are light weight and can at least provide shelter from the cold and wind. These can be put on a toboggan or sled and manually towed out to the best fishing spot. Many ice fishermen tow their wooden 'shanties' out on the ice via snowmobile



Photo by Kevin Norris

or atv's during the 'season' and later if the ice is thick enough, pick-up trucks can be seen on the ice. Raquette Lake is a big lake, and just walking from the village to North Bay even with snowshoes or cross country skis is a task, let alone towing a sled full of gear behind you, spending several hours there fishing, then breaking down your setup and then hiking back.

*2023 Report of Ice Fishing on Raquette Lake
By Forest Ranger Gary Miller*

Fishing was good this year even though we had a late start due to lack of ice early. We had 140 participants in the Mike Norris fishing tournament at the end of January. Some good fish were caught. I usually fish for trout, lake trout, salmon, and brook trout. My shanty is always located off Tioga Point. An old retired ranger told me he used fish off the point so that's where I set up. He passed away last year. I think of him every time I bring my shack out to Tioga. The big group of shanties off of Long Point are pretty much targeting crappies. They occasionally catch lakers but they're mainly jigging for crappie. Shanties have to be off the lake by the 15th of this month (March), but the Lamphears will drag their shacks out for the day and bring them back in town at the end of the day.

*A Recap and Summary of Raquette Lake and
New York State Lake News
By John Merriman*

Loon News-

Last year RLPF received two floating Loon nest platforms from the Center for Adirondack Loon Conservation. These platforms will be deployed this spring by volunteers with the hope Loons will occupy them during the nesting season to reduce issues that cause nest failures, including dramatic lake water level changes and egg predation. In addition, the platforms will be monitored during the nesting season by volunteers.

RLPF 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. For more information: <https://www.adkloon.org/>

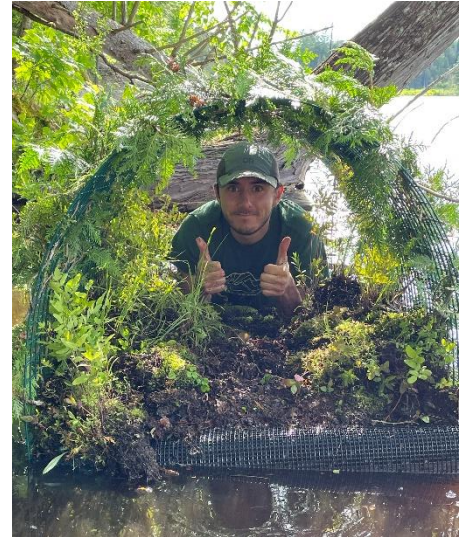
Mark your calendars. July 15, 2023, from 8:30 to 9:30 AM will be the Annual Loon Census across the Adirondack Park. You can volunteer to participate at Raquette Lake or one of the many other waterbodies in the Park. More information will be in the next RLPF newsletter and at: <https://www.adkloon.org/>

2022 was a good year for Loon reproduction. Three pairs and two individual Loon chicks were observed over the summer months. New this year, we had local volunteer observers working with the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation. At least once a week they would check on a Loon nest and hatched chicks until they were close to the juvenile stage. By November we think at least five of the juveniles survived and were going to fly off to warmer waters.

And don't forget to trade in the lead items in your tackle boxes and receive a coupon to buy new non-toxic weights and jigs. Lead poisoning is a major cause of mortality for Loons, Eagles, and other birds. Two local stores participating are Old Forge Hardware and Hoss's Country Corner.

Water News –

RLPF continues to monitor the water quality of Raquette Lake. We have participated for many years with the Adirondack Lake Assessment Program by taking water samples during the



Cody Sears ACLC and a new loon platform
Photo by Lynne Ballou-Gentry

summer months and having them analyzed at Paul Smith's College Adirondack Watershed Institute. The data is available here:

<https://www.adklakes.org/>

In addition, RLPF partners with the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District for additional seasonal sampling and deep-water sampling. Reports are available here:

<https://www.hamiltoncountyswcd.org/>

The past couple of years volunteers with RLPF have documented the occurrence of blue green algal blooms in Raquette Lake during the late fall months. This may be a new phenomenon, or at least more significant than previous years, and we are working to understand why it is occurring and what the dangers might be from these blooms, as cyanobacteria can be a health threat to pets and humans. Climate change comes to mind since these blooms are associated with warmer than normal lake water, a stretch of above average air temperatures and several calm days with no wind. This is happening across the Adirondacks and we are following the research of several agencies investigating these late fall algal blooms.

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

RLPF has partnered with the Adirondack Watershed Institute to install a sensor platform on Raquette Lake that provides real-time data on rainfall, lake level, water temperature, air temperature, and barometric pressure. The data are routinely uploaded to AWI's server via cell phone and summary charts of the data are available on the web. The unit is battery and solar powered and located near where the W. W. Durant docks. The cost to RLPF for the installation was \$5,000, plus there is an annual maintenance cost of \$500 (includes cell phone charges). RLPF believes that this is an important investment in Raquette Lake's future. Data from the platform's temperature, rainfall and level sensors will help researchers at AWI and other institutions better understand the impacts of looming threats like climate change. And you may find the data interesting to monitor Raquette Lake storm events in real-time.

<https://dashboard.hobolink.com/public/AWI-Raquette-Lake#/>

New York State requires all motorized boaters to take a safe boating course and earn their safe boating certificate by 2025. It is being phased in by age groups so check when you are due. Classes can be available locally and on-line. <https://parks.ny.gov/boating/education.aspx/>

New York State requires all operators of motorized watercraft to obtain certification they have cleaned, drained, and dried boats and equipment each time they launch into a new waterbody in the Adirondack Park to prevent the spread of invasive species. Watercraft operators can receive a boat inspection certificate by having a free watercraft inspection or decontamination at a nearby inspection station. Alternately, boaters may follow Clean, Drain, Dry steps on their own and fill out a self-issued certificate, available on DEC's website, before launching. https://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/lands_forests_pdf/selfissuedcertificate1.pdf

Broadband News –

If you would like an alternative to DSL or satellite service, wireless internet is available for most parts of the lake from Adirondack Internet. To sign up, or for more information, email Fred Engelmann (fengelmann@mac.com) or call Fred at 518-494-0123.

*RLPF Treasurer Report
By Robert Rosborough*

RAQUETTE LAKE PRESERVATION FOUNDATION, INC.
TREASURER'S REPORT AS OF March 1, 2023

PREPARED BY: R Rosborough

WORKING CAPITAL FUND	BEGINNING BALANCE (AS OF 2/1/2023)	<u>\$78,666.27</u>	
INCOME: DUES		\$180.00	
INCOME: DONATIONS			
INCOME: DIVIDENDS			
EXPENSES:			
Merch Service Fee CCD (8040501754) Website Credit Card Dues		\$51.55	
TOTAL EXPENSES		<u>\$51.55</u>	
TOTAL WORKING CAPITAL FUND		<u>\$78,794.72</u>	
AVIS FUND	BEGINNING BALANCE (AS OF 2/1/2023)	<u>\$22,483.46</u>	
INCOME: DONATIONS			
INCOME:			
EXPENSES:			
TOTAL EXPENSES		<u>\$0.00</u>	
TOTAL AVIS FUND		<u>\$0.00</u>	
		<u>\$22,483.46</u>	
TOTAL CHECKING ACCT			\$101,278.18
BUSINESS CERTIFICATE	BEGINNING BALANCE (AS OF 2/1/2023)	<u>\$3,764.44</u>	
INCOME: DIVIDENDS		<u>\$0.32</u>	
TOTAL CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT		<u>\$3,764.76</u>	\$3,764.76
TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS			<u><u>\$105,042.94</u></u>

*Working For the Water and the People
From the Adirondack Council Clean Water
Advocate
Blake Neumann*

Earlier this winter, I had the opportunity to present on the Adirondack Council's partnership with the Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation to the Northeast Aquatic Plant Management Society's Annual conference, detailing what we have accomplished in the past year and a half, as well as what is on the horizon for both organizations. In this article, I'll share with you a brief summary of the highlights from that presentation.

For those that are not familiar with the Adirondack Council, we are the largest advocacy non-profit working to advance the protection of clean air, water and wildlands in the Adirondack Park. In the VISION 2050 report, released two years ago, we promoted a more sweeping vision to elevate the importance of healthy communities into our work. Our partnership with the Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation underscores these aims, as we focus on messaging how RLPF's work in stewarding Raquette Lake is a sound investment in the local businesses and community – and is work that they desperately need more help in doing.



Getting Going

In this initial phase of our work in Raquette Lake, I have been gathering information that the Adirondack Council can use to build a case for additional support to help lake associations across the Park do the important lake management work with which they are tasked. However, this is a slow and gradual process – and an inherently messy one. Municipal, county and agency boundaries complicate where these resources are best deployed – including at what scale and under which jurisdiction(s). In the meantime, building support at the community scale will be the quickest and most effective way of advancing the important and urgent work that RLPF is trying to accomplish.

RLPF has been working diligently behind the scenes to collect information about water quality and ecological trends in the lake through monitoring, sampling and surveying. In addition to the water quality sampling conducted by Hamilton County and the long-term monitoring orchestrated by the Adirondack Watershed Institute, last year RLPF began participating in the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program’s “Lake Management Tracker” initiative. This effort will provide good long-term information on the success of efforts to control invasive Variable Leaf Milfoil growth in Raquette Lake. In the months ahead, RLPF may be looking to its membership to support some of this work, in order to share the load and educate a wider audience about the current status and health of Raquette Lake.



Blake Neumann, Gail Morehouse, Bob Rosborough, Jackie Bowen

Another of RLPF’s priorities has been to expand their messaging to reach a wider audience, but also to demonstrate that the work they are doing to protect the well-being of the lake directly translates to promoting the well-being of the local economy, the community, and even the larger region. Through our partnership, we were recently able to award over \$18,000 worth of funds to community-based organizations in Raquette Lake, recognizing that investing in public education is a sound investment in stewardship of Raquette Lake. We are hopeful that expanding these opportunities for education about the health of the lake and the important stewardship roles that RLPF and the Adirondack Council are playing in that work will create more opportunities for feedback from folks like you, dear reader, on what we are doing well, and where there may be room for improvement.

Staying Focused

You may be wondering, why does all this matter to the Adirondack Council?

Raquette Lake represents a unique geography as a first-order watershed of the Raquette River (and thereby the St. Lawrence Seaway). These so-called “headwaters” systems are vital and sensitive ecosystems – they are critical to protect because problems upstream can spell disaster for areas downstream, as many of these issues compound or “snowball” as they move downriver. The Adirondack Council is hopeful that by increasing the collaborative capacity in these headwater communities and

understanding how best to plan at the watershed scale, we will be able to address these pressures on water quality in a proactive and forward-looking way, and increase investments to make these communities more resilient to a range of challenges that will be presented by climate change.

Moving Forward

Fortunately, we are not alone in this work – we have identified stakeholders across the watershed (and the region) that see value in the work we are doing. Building collaboration between shoreline associations, municipal/county government, non-profits, community-based organizations, research institutions, and others will only serve to continue clarifying how we can collectively meet these challenges head-on – and how to rely on the unique skillsets of each group to best meet those needs.

One of the greatest challenges for shoreline associations in the region (and really across the country) is an existential question: how can these groups reach new audiences to ensure that they have a younger and more diverse membership that will sustain them long into the future? Unfortunately for groups in the Adirondack Park, this question is complicated by some of the realities that make this a special and unique place – such as the fact that over 80% of Raquette Lake’s shoreline is state-owned, a reality which greatly hampers the membership recruitment capacity from its shoreline residents.

This just means that RLPF and the Adirondack Council will be thinking more creatively about how to engage new audiences to meet these challenges. Within the context of recent 30x30 legislation, the historic Clean Water, Clean Air and Green Jobs Bond Act approval, a renewed SCALE (that’s “Survey of Climate Change in Adirondack Lake Ecosystems”) effort, and forthcoming funding to support a raft of invasive species management efforts, this is an exciting, opportune and urgent time to be undertaking this work. If you have read this far, thank you for your interest – and stay tuned, as we are hoping that we can count on you to join us in these efforts in the near future.

River-Runner Website/App Review By Dick Gentry

An easy way to follow the flow of the water from Raquette Lake to the St. Lawrence Seaway (or any other water body to its mouth) is to use the website <https://river-runner.samlearner.com/>

Using this you can click anywhere on any stream and it will highlight the water flow of that stream from where you click on it to its mouth.



Raquette Lake Egg Take

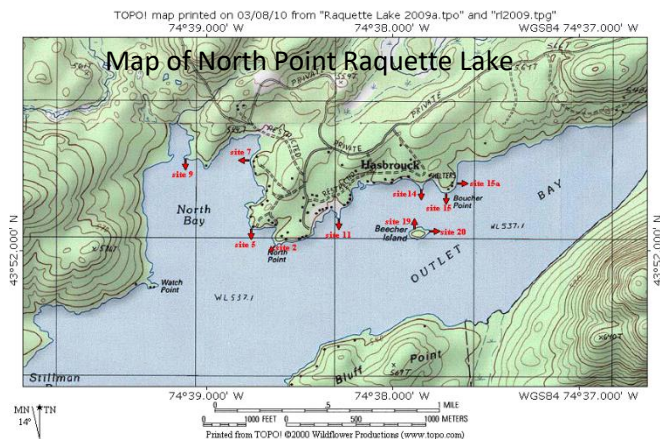
By Neil McCarthy DEC
Fish Culturist

The 2022 Lake Trout egg take began October 15 and was completed on October 16. During the two day egg take, a total of 521 Lake Trout were netted allowing staff to collect 94,000 eggs from 99 females. A total of six trap nets were used during the egg take, set at various locations that have historically proven to be the most productive sites (Figure B-1, sites 2, 5, 9, 14, 15, and 19).

All Lake Trout caught and handled were given a caudal punch for population estimates and any fin clips already present were noted. The biological data such as length and weight as well as fin clip data for the first 200 of the Lake Trout caught was also recorded by fish culture staff for fisheries management data. The Lake Trout were sorted into separate tubs according to sex, selecting only females ready to produce eggs and all males for additional handling. All male lake trout are held to ensure that enough milt will be available to fertilize the eggs as some males we collect may not supply adequate milt. Once sorted, the eggs from the females were stripped into a plastic bowl and fertilized by stripping milt directly onto the eggs. The same number of males and females are stripped into the bowl, giving us a 1:1 male to female ratio, which allows for greater fertilization success should any of the males prove to be infertile.

In 12 net nights (net nights being the sum of the total number of nets fished each night of the egg collection) a total of 521 Lake Trout were trapped, for an average of 43.4 late trout caught per net night. This year's catch per unit effort was 13.5 fish higher than last year's egg take, and exceeded the ten year average by 14.1. From the 99 females, staff collected 94,000 green eggs which exceeded the target goal of 75,000. The female Lake Trout provided 950 eggs each on average. After the eggs eyed up they were shocked, a process which turns any unfertilized eggs white. These white unfertilized eggs were then picked out, resulting in a total of 75,191 eyed eggs which is an eye-up rate of 80.0%. Out of these eyed up eggs we had 60,000 healthy Lake Trout fry hatch, and on January 16 they were moved from their egg incubators into larger rearing tanks at the hatchery. These Lake Trout will be raised until the spring of 2024 at which time they will be released at a size averaging 6" to 7" in length.

In summary, this year's egg take ran smoothly and the eggs we collected had a good eye-up percentage. The weather cooperated with us, and aside from some occasional gusts of wind we couldn't have asked for better conditions for an egg take.



Raquette Lake 2022 Report

*By Brian Greene Aquatic Invasive Species
Coordinator for Adirondack Park Invasive Plant
Program*

Created on Jan. 6, 2023

Background

The Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) helps organizations and communities manage invasive species. The Lake Management Tracker (LMT) program is designed to collect data so informed decisions can be made to track the progress and effectiveness of invasive species management on lakes. This can be part of an adaptive management plan (see diagram below) to help you reach your goals for AIS management. Across the Adirondack Park 10 different lakes have been monitored by different lake associations since the program started in 2018. Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation (RLPF) joined the program in 2022. This is the only lake in the program monitoring for variable leaf milfoil (*Myriophyllum heterophyllum*, abbreviated VLM) as the other participants monitor Eurasian watermilfoil (*M. spicatum*, abbreviated EWM). The purpose of this monitoring was to track the locations and abundance of VLM in areas of concern on the western side of Raquette Lake. This will allow for the RLPF to track the effectiveness of harvesting VLM and compare it to reference sites where no management occurs. This will allow for comparisons to the natural variability of plant growth from year to year.

Monitoring Locations

In 2022 we established monitoring locations in four bays to track the abundance and locations of VLM. APIPP used a 1-acre grid to create a total of 233 monitoring locations. They are located in:

- Sucker Brook Bay – 56 monitoring locations
- Beaver Bay – 43 monitoring locations
- Lonesome Bay – 49 monitoring locations
- Village Bay – 85 monitoring location.

Data

In 2022 a new group of volunteers were trained and they started monitoring the locations. They assigned different areas to different teams to monitor. In total 143 observations were submitted in 2022. After cleaning up duplicates and mislabeled points there were 133 monitoring locations used for analysis. They were:

- Sucker Brook Bay – 35 sites reported out of 56 monitoring locations
- Beaver Bay – 0 sites reported 43 monitoring locations
- Lonesome Bay – 13 sites reported out of 49 monitoring locations
- Village Bay – 85 sites reported out of 85 monitoring locations

For all sites	Count	Percent
Sites with vegetation	101	75.9%
Sites without vegetation	32	24.1%

	Count	Percent
Sites with VLM	25	18.8%
Sites without VLM	108	81.2%

VLM Abundance	Count	Percent
None	108	81.2%
Few Plants Widely Scattered	6	4.5%
Trace to Sparse	10	7.5%
Moderate to Dense	9	6.8%

The Village Bay was the site with the most monitoring locations so we can look at this data just for this location.

	Count	Percent
Sites with VLM	19	22.4%
Sites without VLM	66	77.6%

VLM Abundance	Count	Percent
None	66	77.6%
Few Plants Widely Scattered	5	5.9%
Trace to Sparse	8	9.4%
Moderate to Dense	6	7.1%
Native Plant Abundance	Count	Percent
None	32	24.1%
Few Plants Widely Scattered	16	12.0%
Trace to Sparse	26	19.5%
Moderate to Dense	59	44.4%

Comparing areas within the Village Bay. We compared the sites 101-144 which were harvested in 2022 to sites 145-185 that were harvested in 2021. There was only one site in the 145-185 monitoring locations that had VLM present.

VLM Abundance	101-144 Harvested in 2021	145-185 harvested in 2022
None	97.6%	59.1%
Few plants widely scattered	0.0%	11.4%
Trace to sparse	0.0%	18.2%
Moderate to dense	2.4%	11.4%

Past VLM Management Activities

The RLPF has been diligently working to manage VLM. Below is a table of a summary of work done in 2021 and 2022.

Summary of RLPF's hand harvest of variable leaf milfoil in Raquette Village Bay						
Dates	Location*	VLM (gal)	VLM (lbs)	Dive hrs	Total cost	cost/lb
6/15-7/2/21	Village Bay 1	4255	9361	132	\$18150**	\$1.76
10/2-10/14/21	Village Bay 2	502	1104	60	\$6500	\$5.89
6/27-7/9/22	Village Bay 3	1290	2838	120	\$16500	\$5.81

* Locations are: Village Bay 1 is roughly area from Durant dock to Brown's Tract Outlet; Village Bay 2 is a re-harvest of Village Bay 1 area; and, Village Bay 3 is area from BTO to opposite shoreline.

**Actual amount paid to Aqualogic is \$16,500 because of credit from previous year.

Key Points Variable leaf milfoil has been in Raquette Lake for many years and RLPF is working hard to manage it. It is critical to evaluate the management to see if they are reaching their goals.

- 2022 was a good start to train volunteers and get Raquette Lake set up monitoring VLM as part of LMT.
- It will be important for volunteers to continue monitoring the locations so we can track changes over time. Getting more of the monitoring locations covered outside of the Village Bay will help create a more thorough picture.
- It is important for the lake association and community to review this data and their AIS goals as part of an adaptive management plan.
- Volunteers are key to monitoring the lakes! It is because of their hard work and dedication that we have quality data to inform management.

*Reminder to Renew Your Membership
if You Haven't Already Done So
Invitation to Join RLPF*

Renewal notices have been sent out via email. If you haven't already done so please take time to renew. If you go to our website or click here you can now renew or join online!

<https://rlpf.org/new-membership-form/>

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. ***If you are reading our newsletter and are not yet a member we hope you will consider joining us.*** 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

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