

Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation

PO Box 210

Raquette Lake, NY 13436

www.RLPF.org

Email: rlpf13436@gmail.com

June 2023 Newsletter



A View From Raquette Lake By Gail Morehouse

“A true community is not just about being geographically close to someone or part of the same social web network. It's about feeling connected and responsible for what happens. Humanity is our ultimate community, and everyone plays a crucial role.”

– Yehuda Berg

We have an awesome community at North Point. Once you drive all the way down North Point road, you'd better like your neighbors! One of the reasons I got involved with RLPF, is because I wanted to be part of something larger, I wanted to do something for the whole lake. I never had any idea or any aspirations to be president. But now that I am and I've learned about all of the good work that RLPF does, what I'd really like to accomplish is to build a better sense of community within our membership.

I think that everyone has been impressed by the way the Raquette Lake community has come together over the lithium battery farm debate. Most of us have never seen this type of civic engagement in this village before. I heard from many of you wanting RLPF to join in the opposition to the project. I also heard from a couple of people who could see the real value in an electrical grid backup and are not concerned. Most of us on the board were not at all familiar with what was happening, and as is a rule for us, we try to react on fact rather than fear. Four of our board members attended the meeting on May 23rd, and at our board meeting at the end of May, we decided that our questions were not adequately answered. We are opposed to the project as it was presented at the public meeting. The letter that we sent to the Board of Directors of the Town of Long Lake appears after this message.

Our annual meeting will be held on July 22, 2023 at the Raquette Lake School from 10:00 – 11:30 a.m. We will keep the business part short as much of our work is covered in these newsletters. Someone from the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) will be our guest speaker. They will talk about the invasives that are in our neighboring lakes as well as information on the Woolly Hemlock Adelgid. They will also share what we can all do to help

“stop the spread”. For the first time, a zoom link will be available for our annual meeting. We will email the link to you as we get closer to the meeting date. Of course, if you attend in person, you can experience the delicious Adirondack donuts from Mary’s bakery in Inlet.

RLPF wants you to “Adopt a Shoreline”. If you are on the lake, and have shoreline, we want you to survey it annually for aquatic invasive species. If you don’t own shoreline, but spend a lot of time on a certain area of the lake, say fishing, we want you to adopt that shoreline as yours and take a few minutes to survey it annually. If we can get 10 people to commit to this, APIPP will run a professional surveying workshop for us in the village. If we get less than 10, we will be happy to show you what to look for to the best of our abilities. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if for the first time ever, we could cover the entire lake’s shoreline with people watching for aquatic invasive species? If you are interested in taking part in this program, please contact me directly at gmorehouse@frontier.com. We want to be able to put together a map outlining areas that are covered, so that our regular volunteer surveyors can cover unattended areas.

Going back to a sense of community, one of the greatest rewards I have received in this position, is getting to know so many people from areas of the lake I never would have known. And many of these people have become friends. Here, it doesn’t matter what your background is, or what your income is, or what your religion is. We are all the same in our love for Raquette Lake. RLPF is subsidizing a social event aboard the Durant on September 5th. This is purely a social event to meet other people all who are members or interested in RLPF’s cause. It will be a 2 hour cruise with no formal seating and 6 passed appetizers. It will be a cash bar. The cruise is limited to the size of the boat, so only 64 tickets will be sold. Members only tickets will be sold through July at \$30 a piece. If there are any left, tickets will be available to non-members beginning August 1st at \$45 a piece. Please come meet us and your fellow members and let’s start to build that community!

Finally, one of our board members has decided to retire for the second time in his life. Our own Bill Nye the science guy, Len Schantz, added knowledge, experience and value to our board. He has provided some awesome articles for this newsletter and has taught everyone on the board something. (Not being a scientist at all myself, he has taught some of us more than others!) Thank you Lenny, I wish you the very best!

“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.” Elizabeth Andrew



Lenny Schantz
Photo by Lynne Ballou-Gentry



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

Clay Arsenault
Supervisor
Town of Long Lake Board
1204 Main Street
Long Lake, NY 12847

June 6, 2023

Dear Clay,

The Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation is a non-profit organization with a mission to Preserve, Protect and Promote Raquette Lake. In accordance with this mission, we are evaluating the Central Adirondack Micro Grid Project as presented in the public meeting on May 23, 2023. While the goal of a reliable backup system for the power grid is noble and the technology as presented appears to be safe and reliable, the Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation cannot support the project as presented. RLPF believes that National Grid and Rev Renewables have not provided enough information on the project's actual impacts on the environment, the community, and the first responders.

- Has there been a full environmental impact study done for this site? Has the State Environmental Quality Review Act been complied with? If not, what is the plan for conducting such a study? If so, how will this information be made available to the public?
- If an application is filed, what approvals and permits are needed for this project? What criteria needs to be met in order for a town permit to be granted?
- How will storm water or any other runoff from this site be treated before going into the lake, both during the construction and operation phases of the project?
- Will all lighting on this site be "dark sky compliant"? As an elevated site, will the light be shielded from lower elevations (i.e. the lake and neighboring properties)?
- Has a noise study been completed by the applicants, on this site or other similar sites, to determine how the sound will carry off site and across the open lake water?
- Has a traffic study been completed by the applicants to determine whether there will be changes to the amount of vehicle traffic on county and town roads associated with the construction phase of this project?
- Per the presentation, the only emergency response plan developed so far is for protection of first responders. Is there a plan to provide resources and training for the local fire, EMS, law enforcement and County emergency management actions?
- As this site is on the only road with access and egress for the southwestern part of the lake and inland properties, will there be any opportunity for exploring alternative sites of the project?

In order to make a fair and informed evaluation of the CAMP, we as an organization need more information and detail about the above listed items and other aspects of the project.

We do commend the Town of Long Lake board for the 2 resolutions passed at the March board meeting, and the resolution passed in May's meeting, all protecting the interests of the taxpayers of our joint communities.

Sincerely,

Gail Morehouse
President, Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation

*Fish Stocking at North Point
By Gail Morehouse*

As you heard in our last newsletter, the DEC comes to Raquette Lake every fall to net our lake trout. They strip the eggs from the females and the sperm from the males, mix them all together and bring them to a fish hatchery in Rome, NY where the trout grow in a protected environment. Their target number of eggs varies from year to year, but the number is in the tens of thousands. In the spring, they then repopulate many Adirondack lakes with those



potential “keepers”. Of course, they bring back many to Raquette. All of this is done on the northern end of the lake, and those of us that are here late in the fall and then early in the spring, get to witness the entire operation. The DEC used to drop the fish into the lake by helicopter. The helicopter photograph was taken on May 16, 2017. It was decided that it was cruel to the fish to drop them by helicopter, so now they bring in

a big tank truck with a large hose, and pour them into the water. The second photograph was taken May 16, 2023. That is the side of the boat launch at North Point. This year, they pumped 5,000 Lakers back into the lake.

Fishermen, don't get too excited. The picture doesn't show the number of ducks surrounding the dock area!

Photos By Pete Nuss



A View From Above the Water By Pat Deyle

Welcome to the lake. The Black Flies have been in full force some days although some hikes have been bug free. Our divers are busy and will be finished when you read this. We concentrated on the Village area again this year. It is really amazing how fast the re-growth has taken place from the Village dock to Brown's Tract Inlet. The divers were harvesting around 110 gallons per day of VLM.

Stop by the Village Boat Launch and say hello to Sharyn Tracy our Launch Steward. She is there three days a week. She is a summer local and helped us out last summer. We (Paul Smiths College) are still looking for another Steward to work 3-4 days a week. The contact info is on the front of the Steward Shed.



As most of you know the Beech tree is a very important tree to our ADK forest of trees. It is now under attack by Beech Leaf Disease. This disease has recently just been discovered in the Adirondacks and we are very concerned. Beech is a native tree and is important for birds, black bears, squirrels and other wild life that depend on the beech nuts for food. Discovered in Ohio in 2012, BLD has since been documented in more than 30 counties in New York State, including Herkimer County (our neighbor to the south) in the Adirondacks. It was officially confirmed in Herkimer County in 2022. Since so much is unknown about BLD, including the full cause, how it spreads and how to control or manage it, tracking BLD's occurrence is essential to developing a management strategy. The attached picture shows what to look for on our (your) Beech Trees. Symptoms of this disease are seen in the leaves and include striping, curling, and/or leathery texture.



These symptoms may be visible from leaf out in May until leaves fall off in October and are most easily noticed by looking up into the forest canopy. In early infestations, only a few leaves may be affected. Eventually, affected leaves wither, dry, and yellow. If you see this PLEASE let me or the RLPF know as soon as possible: cpat4parts@msn.com 315 354 4070

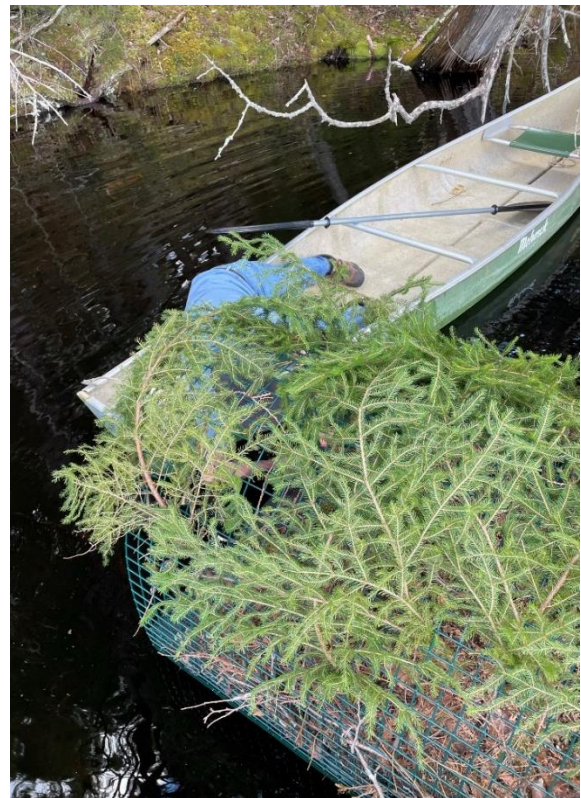
RLPF hopes to begin to study the population dynamics of VLM. We have two objectives in particular: 1. to determine why the density of VLM seems to naturally vary from year to year; and, 2. is VLM still expanding in the lake, in particular, to the north end of the lake. This will be a multiyear research project and will require a dedicated research partner, as well as funds to sustain the study. We are reaching out to the various educational institutions that RLPF has partnered with in the past, as well as identifying new connections to try and find the best fit. More to come!

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!!!!



Intrepid Board Members
Pat Deyle and Dick Gentry
Getting the Boat Shed opened up and
set for the season. Thanks to those
behind the scenes workers who give
of their time, tools and know how to
get things done.

Photos by Lynne Ballou-Gentry



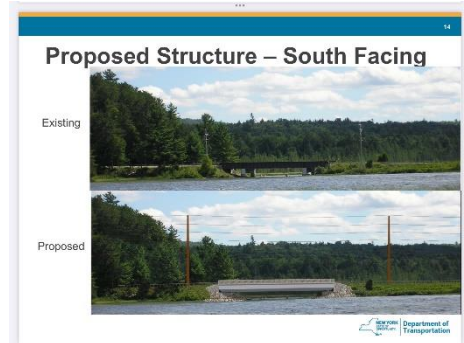
What is happening here?
Inquiring minds want to know!
See Page 9

*Report on the Project at the
South Inlet Bridge
By Dick Gentry*

The NYSDOT has started work on replacing the bridge on R.t 28 over South Inlet. The project will be ongoing through 2025 and will be done in phases. This will allow the road to stay open with single lane traffic and three color stop lights in order to avoid a 90 mile detour.

The objectives of the project are to eliminate structural deficiencies, improve highway geometrics, support existing and proposed recreational use and to protect sensitive environmental resources.

The proposed improvements include a new structurally redundant bridge 34' wide with 11' travel lanes and 6' shoulders, curve improvements approaching the bridge and a separate 12' bridge for pedestrian and recreational use. The project cost is \$16.2 million. Tioga Construction will do the project. The project will be substantially completed by late 2025 with both lanes open to traffic and the stoplights removed. Final paving and landscaping will be finished in the summer of 2026.



*Kim Hoffman
Has Agreed to Run for the RLPF Board
By Dick Gentry*



Kim Hoffman is very excited to be running for a position on the board of RLPF.

Kim is the Assistant Project Manager of the Hinkley Water Treatment Plant.

She has a property on Raquette Lake and has a deep love of the lake. Here she is volunteering to do water sampling with Len Schantz and Dick Gentry.

Kim is very experienced in all facets of water testing and sampling and in lake water quality. We are so happy to have her running for a board position. The voting will be during the Annual Meeting on July 22.

Photo by Lynne Ballou-Gentry

*Treasurer's Report
By Bob Rosborough
- As of June 1, 2023*

RLPF Budget YTD Income & Expenditures		YTD	2023	2023
		2022	YTD	Budget
		Actual	YTD	Budget
Income	Dues	\$1,830	\$2,810	\$2,500
	Donations	\$9,923	\$0	\$10,000
	Dividends and Interest	\$4	\$2	\$10
	Grant Reimbursement	\$11,195	\$0	\$0
	AIS Fund			
	Donations	\$7,000	\$400	\$8,000
	TOLL funds	\$17,000	\$0	\$17,000
	Total Income	<u>\$46,952</u>	<u>\$3,212</u>	<u>\$37,510</u>
Expenses	Administrative Expense	\$0	\$0	\$250
	Annual Meeting	\$105.55	\$0	\$200
	Awards, POY, Recognition	\$1,406	\$0	\$300
	Bank Expense	\$77	\$233	\$400
	Community Outreach (includes Community Grant)	\$1,385	\$5,215	\$1,500
	Education and Research	\$100	\$0	\$10,000
	Grant Support	\$3,395	\$0	\$0
	Insurance	\$180	\$180	\$185
	Lake Testing	\$530	\$250	\$750
	Marketing	\$0	\$0	\$1,000
	Newsletter	\$0	\$1,673	\$500
	PO Box	\$90	\$0	\$90
	Travel/Fees	\$0	\$0	\$200
	Tax Prep	\$275	\$0	\$25
	Website hosting	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Equipment Investment	\$0	\$500	\$5,000
	AIS Fund			
	Hand harvesting Aqualogic	\$16,600	\$5,000	\$18,000
	Kayak	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Raffle Tickets	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Frontier, steward wi-fi	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Extra compensation for boat stewards	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000
	Shed Maintenance	\$0	\$0	\$250
	Total Expense	<u>\$25,144</u>	<u>\$13,052</u>	<u>\$39,650</u>

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

The Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation now has 3 loon platforms on Raquette Lake. They were 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 previously lost chicks in these small bays due to water-skiers, jet skis, tubing and wakeboarding. Please be mindful of this and do these fun-filled activities 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 have 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. Our hope is that this year we will all do our part to give those chicks a chance to make it. Thank you.



Photo is of Dick Gentry redeploying one of the artificial loon rafts on April 17th . The raft is taken out of the lake each autumn.

Photo 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 8-9A.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 enables us to understand loon population trends in the Adirondacks and the Northeast U.S.

The 2023 Loon Census on Raquette Lake will be Saturday, July 15 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>

Last year was a success for Loon reproduction. Three pairs and two individual Loon chicks were observed over the summer months. We believe at least five of the juveniles survived to fly out before the lake froze.

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>

Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation

Uh oh, you're too close!

This is what we call the "hangover" position. Loons will do this bent-over position on their nest with their head down if they feel threatened and stressed. If you see a loon doing this, make sure to back up and give them space. Otherwise, they might get scared and knock an egg off the nest or abandon the nest!



Photo and Article by ACLC

Social Event to be Held September 5 On the Durant!

*Please support RLPF and have some fun.
There are only 64 tickets available for this wonderful
opportunity to join together and enjoy some of Chef Jim's
fine appetizers and a cruise on our beloved lake.
Tickets are available from board members.
Please take note that this event is a cash bar and we
will be embarking promptly at 4 pm.
We anticipate the tickets will be selling quickly.*

Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation

Appetizer Cruise on the Durant
September 5 from 4-6pm
Boarding 3:30-4pm



\$30 for RLPF Members
\$45 for Non-Members
Cash Bar



*New Partnership Strengthens
Environmental Stewardship of
Raquette River Headwaters
By Adirondack Council and Northern Forest
Canoe Trail*

Headwaters Campaign to work with lake associations to support volunteer efforts

The Headwaters Campaign is an effort to address the unique challenges faced by lake associations in the headwaters of the St. Lawrence River, which includes the Raquette River watershed, as they strive to stop the spread of invasive species and meet other critical stewardship needs. The partnership is led by the Adirondack Council (The Council) and the Northern Forest Canoe Trail (NFCT), and includes the Long Lake Association, the Blue Mountain Lake Association and the **Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation (RLPF)**. NFCT has received support for this project from the New York Great Lakes Basin Small Grants Program. The Council has matched those funds with contributions from private donors supporting a Clean Water Advocate in the Raquette River Headwaters.

“The Adirondack Park has abundant fresh water resources,” said Blake Neumann, Clean Water Advocate with The Council. “Five major river systems find their headwaters here. The Park boasts more than 2,800 lakes and ponds, and more than 1,500 miles of rivers, fed by nearly 30,000 miles of streams. But these resources are facing threats, some of which will likely be exacerbated by a changing climate. Moreover, lake associations charged with managing these varied stressors frequently operate on shoestring budgets with all-volunteer capacity that is stretched thin for all they need to accomplish. The Headwaters Campaign is a significant step toward providing much needed support to the organizations operating on the frontlines of environmental stewardship.”

“As stewards of waterways from New York to Maine, we understand the Herculean effort it takes to take care of the environment while also ensuring access for users,” said NFCT Executive Director Karrie Thomas. “Whether it’s maintaining access points and campsites or protecting water quality by preventing erosion and the spread of invasive species, it takes time, money and constant vigilance to preserve these wild places. Our goal with the Headwaters Campaign is to increase the capacity of the boots-on-the-ground lake associations in the Adirondacks.”

The Adirondack Council began working in the Raquette Lake Watershed in 2021 through a partnership with the **Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation**. That partnership helped illuminate some of the specific support gaps that RLPF and other lake associations across the

region were facing in performing critical stewardship work. The Northern Forest Canoe Trail, including the 90-Miler race route, passes through three St. Lawrence watershed headwaters communities: Raquette Lake, Blue Mountain Lake and Long Lake. Through this project, the Council, the NFCT and the three communities will work together to advance coordinated lake association communications, events and public education. In addition, the partnership will benefit from the expertise of the Adirondack Watershed Institute and Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program. The unique partnership between these entities will allow for promoting responsible recreation, economic development and conservation outcomes in a place-based, community-focused setting.

A new position has been created to conduct the work of the Headwaters Campaign. NFCT will be hiring a Headwaters Coordinator, a first of its kind position based in the Raquette Lake Watershed. With guidance from the Council, this coordinator will serve as an ambassador for the lake associations in the region, identifying new and creative ways to engage and communicate with the public. They will help build the capacity of lake associations to share critical information about invasive species prevention, Leave No Trace, responsible recreation and tourism, and other key stewardship messaging. This collaborative effort will result in a unified communications strategy helping the environment, local businesses, governments and other partners to improve conservation and community outcomes.

The Headwaters Campaign is currently hiring for the Headwaters Coordinator. To learn more about the campaign, the position and find out how to apply visit northernforestcanoetrail.org/headwaterscampaign.

About the Adirondack Council

Established in 1975, the Adirondack Council is a privately funded not-for-profit organization whose mission is to ensure the ecological integrity and wild character of the Adirondack Park. It is the largest environmental organization whose sole focus is the Adirondacks. The Council carries out its mission through research, education, advocacy and legal action. It envisions a Park with clean water and clean air, core wilderness areas, farms and working forests and vibrant, diverse, welcoming safe communities. Adirondack Council advocates live in all 50 United States. To learn more, visit www.adirondackcouncil.org.

About the Northern Forest Canoe Trail

The Northern Forest Canoe Trail is a nonprofit organization that maintains and promotes the 740-mile water trail that runs from Old Forge, NY, to Fort Kent, Maine, and connects New York, Vermont, Quebec, New Hampshire and Maine. The trail showcases the mix of landscapes and communities currently lining the traditional routes used by indigenous peoples, settlers and guides. It is the longest in-land water trail in the nation and consists of 23 rivers and streams, 56 lakes and ponds, 45 communities and 75 portages. To learn more, visit northernforestcanoetrail.org.

*Annual Meeting
July 22nd 10am
Raquette Lake School*

Dear RLPF member,

Our annual meeting will be held on July 22nd, 2023 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 in person or by zoom, 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!

I hope that you are all well and we look forward to seeing you on July 22nd 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 22, 2023

Two Director's positions terms are up for election

John Merriman 3 years

John Merriman has agreed to renew his 3 year terms if elected.

Kim Hoffman 3 years

I vote for the following individuals for the positions of Directors for the Raquette Lake Preservation
Foundation; Please vote for 2.

_____ John Merriman

_____ Kim Hoffman

I wish to nominate the following individual _____

for the position of _____:

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

Signature _____

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 .A membership is \$30 and you may join us at <https://rlpf.org/new-membership-form/>

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.

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

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		Newsletter: Lynne Ballou-Gentry