

Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation

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November 2023 Newsletter



A View From Raquette Lake By Gail Morehouse

“If things start happening, don’t worry, don’t stew, just go right along and you’ll start happening too.” -Dr. Seuss (from “Oh the Places You’ll Go”)

Things really have started happening and I’m excited about the future of RLPF. What I want to accomplish more than anything else is to establish a sense of community in our organization. And it has started! We had record attendance at our annual meeting. In addition to the in person attendees, we had 10 members join via zoom. (I promise that option again next year with better technology!) We had 15 people attend the plant identification class with the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program. (APIPP) That’s 15 more sets of eyes on our lake. We had 19 volunteers helping us with the derelict dock days. What a great project. In total we removed 20 derelict docks from our shorelines. We had perfect weather on both days and what a great way to get to know people better. Glenn and I represented RLPF at the EcoArts festival at the View and had close to 100 young people come look at examples of invasive plants. Our first ever sold-out social cruise aboard the Durant was a huge success. We could not have requested better weather and I loved the opportunity to personally meet so many of our members. We plan to repeat the cruise next year. RLPF was represented at the 90-miler canoe race by Carl and Phyllis Bottenus manning a safety boat at the mouth of the Marion River.



Living on the north side of the lake, I often travel into Long Lake. The devastation Long Lake suffered from the flooding this summer is hard to describe. You had to see it to believe it. Homes, businesses and roads were destroyed. The beach was closed for over a week in the

height of the tourist season. And yet, the way people came together and helped each other was so heartwarming. The resilience of our little Adirondack towns was on full display. It brings to mind how when people come together in the face of adversity, the adversity doesn't seem as great.

The challenges we face with protecting our lake seem less daunting with so many of you getting involved and helping RLPF. Doesn't it feel great to get involved? Volunteers, I'd love to list you all right here, but I'm afraid that I'll leave someone out. "Success is like a snowball, you gotta get it moving and the more you roll it in the right direction the greater it gets." (Steve Ferrante)

Throughout the winter we are going to keep moving in the right direction and we look forward to increasing our volunteer opportunities and workforce even more. Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions, ideas, or suggestions.

Many of you have noticed the increase in blue-green algae blooms over the last few autumn seasons. Scientists speculate it is due to climate change. The Adirondack Watershed Institute, (AWI), at Paul Smith's college is requesting donations for the development of a Harmful Algae Bloom, HAB, lab to conduct scientific research on the threat HABs pose to Adirondack lakes. RLPF will be supporting this research with a donation and asking them to keep us in mind as a potential research site. We have always had a close relationship with AWI as they supply our boat stewards, have installed and maintain the lake level sensor in the village, and are on our Headwater's Steering Committee, helping to direct the messaging being proposed by the campaign to reach new audiences and promote our importance as the headwaters of the Raquette River. RLPF is happy to once again partner with AWI on this important research project. To learn more about the pending research, check out their website at

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

I mentioned earlier that the Headwater's Campaign is beginning to develop messaging around our lake associations. Who we are, the work that we do, and how important these volunteer organizations are to the health of the lake, and therefore the health of the economy. I have been working with my colleagues from Long Lake and Blue Mountain Lake and we have many more similarities than differences. In developing the narrative of who we are, we all recognize that we need to tell the story of who you are. Protecting the lake is one thing, but it's the people that we care about most. Do you have a story you'd like to share about your family history here? Most of our members have been coming to Raquette for well over 30 years. What is it that you love about the lake the most? I am looking for these stories to tell and to share, to help define like why things "clean, drain,



Blue Green Algae along the shore of Indian Point Photos Lynne Ballou-Gentry



dry” are so important. If you have a story you’d like to share, please send it directly to my inbox at: gmorehouse@frontier.com

Whoever recruited Lynne Ballou-Gentry to the board of directors of RLPF, did the organization a great service. Lynne has been the editor of this newsletter for I don’t even know how many years. The newsletter has evolved from a 4-page maximum photocopied and snail mailed activity calendar, to the information packed report that it is now. This is Lynne’s last newsletter as editor. She has said it’s time to pass the torch. Lynne, I can’t thank you enough for not only pulling this all together for so many years, but also for your sage advice and your dedication to RLPF and all its activities. Your term isn’t up for another year yet, so I look forward to at least another year of working with you.

Thank you for reading. I look forward to an even more productive year, more community building, and more new friendships to be made. Stay healthy, enjoy your holidays, and we will see you next year!

All the best,
Gail

*A View From Above the Water
Help Make a Difference: Get Involved!
By Pat Deyle*

Invasive animals, pest, and pathogens are creeping into the ADK. They degrade our important ecosystems, agricultural lands, and private properties and are costly, if not impossible, to control. They put at risk our scenic, natural, agricultural, and recreational resources -linchpins to the ADK's economic livelihood. You can help protect our valuable resources: learn how to identify invasive species and the signs and symptoms of invasion, spread the word about their negative impacts, and join our (RLPF) effort to put a stop to the growing threat invasive species pose to our Adirondacks and to Raquette Lake our shore line and our forest. Additional information can be found at <https://nyis.info/species-information/>

There are many of us who have beloved pets. Thinking about proper pet poop disposal isn’t at the top of anyone’s list, but if you are a pet owner please think about either burying your dog’s waste far away from the lake shore, or bagging it and disposing of it in your trash. It’s one more thing we can do to keep our lake pure and safe so we can use it for drinking water, swimming and other forms of recreation.

The following is an excerpt from <https://longhaultrekkers.com/dispose-of-dog-poop/>

“When wild animals eat and poop in the woods, they are consuming food that comes from that environment. When it’s time to make a dookie, they’re then returning those resources and nutrients back to the same ecosystem.

Most dogs, however, eat dog food. Kibble is enriched with nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorous, which can create an unstable ecosystem over time.

Consequences include algae blooms in lakes and rivers, which can lead to the growth of invasive weeds, which can affect native plant and fish species.

Moreover, just like human poop, dog poop contains bacteria and parasites. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, a single gram of pet waste contains an average of 23 million fecal coliform bacteria. This bacteria can spread diseases, pollute soil, and contaminate the water we drink.

Water Quality for Raquette Lake

By Kim Hoffman

The 2022 Adirondack Lake Assessment Program (ALAP) results follow. ALAP was established in 1998 to provide water quality data to shore owners and to develop a comprehensive, long-term database of water quality conditions in the Adirondack Park.

Raquette Lake

Trophic State Oligotrophic	Acidity Circumneutral	Acid Neutralizing Capacity Moderate	Road Salt Influence Low
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Water quality values for Raquette Lake during the 2022 sampling season. BDL=below detection limit.

Water Quality Indicator	6/22/2022	7/23/2022	8/15/2022	Average
Laboratory pH	6.6	6.8	6.8	6.7
Sp. Conductance ($\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}@25\text{ C}$)	34.7	35.2	35.3	35.1
Apparent Color (mg/L Pt-Co)	40.7	34.3	34.3	36.4
CDOM ($\mu\text{g}/\text{L QSE}$)	157.1	160.3	154.5	157.3
Chlorophyll-a ($\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$)	1.9	1.2	0.1	1.1
Transparency (m)	4.4	4.4	4.2	4.3
Alkalinity (mg/L as CaCO_3)	4.7	4.3	6.1	5.0
Chloride (mg/L)	3.2	4.9	4.9	4.4
Sulfate as SO_4 (mg/L)	2.4	2.3	2.5	2.4
Total Phosphorus ($\mu\text{g}/\text{L as P}$)	5.2	4.0	3.3	4.2
Nitrate-Nitrite ($\mu\text{g}/\text{L as N}$)	50.4	34.5	15.7	33.5
Ammonia ($\mu\text{g}/\text{L as NH}_3\text{-N}$)	21.4	BDL	BDL	12.3
Total Nitrogen ($\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$)	268.3	238.0	247.5	251.3
Dissolved Organic Carbon (NPOC mg/L)	5.9	5.7	5.7	5.8
Calcium (mg/L)	2.5	2.5	2.4	2.5

From May to October, Raquette Lake has 2 sample sites that are tested for pH, alkalinity, conductivity, color, chloride, calcium and sodium, nitrogen, phosphorous and chlorophyll-a. Here is a brief description of lab results:

pH- In chemistry, pH is used to communicate acidity. It is considered to be a master variable for its influence on chemical processes and aquatic life. The pH unit exists on a logarithmic scale from 0-14 with 7 being neutral.

Alkalinity or acid neutralizing ability is the capacity of a water body to neutralize acids and thereby resist changes in pH. It is a function of the amount of calcium carbonate in the water, which is derived mainly from the watershed.

Conductivity is a measurement of the ability of a water sample to conduct electricity. The ability of water to conduct electricity increases as the concentration of dissolved ions in the water increases. Thus, conductivity is a strong indicator of the number of dissolved ions in water.

Color of a lake is the optical property that results from light being scattered upwards after selective absorption by water molecules as well as dissolved and suspended materials. Analysis of color can provide us with information about the quantity of dissolved organic matter in the water.

Chloride and Sodium concentrations are influenced by the use of road salt. Recent research has highlighted that road salt application has elevated the concentrations of Sodium and Chloride.

Phosphorus is of major importance to structure and metabolism of all major organisms. It is typically the limiting nutrient for algal production in lakes.

Chlorophyll-a is the primary photosynthetic pigment found in all freshwater species of algae and cyanobacteria. It is a relatively inexpensive analysis that can provide a surrogate measurement of algal productivity.

Nitrogen which includes Nitrate and Ammonia are influenced by the application of fertilizers and farming activity.

Raquette Lake is also tested by Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation from May-October. Chemical and physical data is used to document the current limnologic condition of the lake to determine if any significant changes in water quality are occurring over time. Long-term trend analysis of water quality data allows county agencies and partners to manage lakes more efficiently, track changes and mitigate water quality concerns.

My next article will go over the HCSW data. If you have any questions or comments on the results please contact me at khoffman9867@icloud.com

Derelict Docks *By Dick Gentry*



Glenn Morehouse and Bruce Reed



Bruce Reynolds, Jim Kistler, Bob Rosborough

This spring RLPF did a survey and found over 30 derelict docks left on the shorelines of Raquette Lake. We put out a call for volunteers. Wow, what a productive two days removing derelict docks from various locations around the lake. We had a total of 19 people involved in moving 20 docks. Three were reclaimed by Carl Bottenus from Boulder Bay, three were claimed by the caretaker at Tioga Point after Kevin so nicely got them unstuck and pulled them off shore, and 12 went to Burke's Marina.

I can't thank everyone enough for coming out and making this happen. Michael Burke will remove them with his excavator, place them in a dumpster provided by the town and will break them up in the dumpster so we keep the debris out of the lake. Lynne and I never thought we would get this many taken care of this year. While this is a task we should never have had to do, it has been a productive and very popular project. Everyone should be very proud of getting this project initiated and what we accomplished. The only area we have left to deal with is Sucker Brook Bay mostly behind Hen and Chicks islands.



Will Van Osten, Bruce Reed, Gail Morehouse, Glenn Morehouse

We owe Michael Burke a huge thank you because the project would have never been as successful without his help. Thank you to all the volunteers on both days: Jim Kistler, Bruce Reynolds, Bruce Reed, Kip Pike, Ken Paley, Gary Burleigh, Gary Browne, Carl Bottenus, Melissa Joy, Will VanOsten, Sue Norris, Glenn Morehouse, Pat Deyle, Bob Rosborough, Lynne Ballou-Gentry, Gail Morehouse, Kevin Norris, Ken Hawks, and Dick Gentry:



It is irresponsible and illegal to abandon docks or any other materials in the lake. It is the dock owner's responsibility to remove and dispose of old docks, walkways, cribbing etc.

*APIPP Training
By Dick Gentry*



Fifteen people attended an Invasive Species Identification Workshop at the Raquette Lake School on August 28 that was given by Brian Greene of APIPP (Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program), and sponsored by RLPF. The purpose of the workshop was to have more people trained to be on the lookout for new invasive species.

*2023 Person of the Year
Ed (ETB) Meelan
By Lynne Ballou-Gentry*

A quiet night and from across the water came the haunting sound of a trumpet.

Ed Meelan...A Trumpeter... a special breed of musician.

He played the horn and reached into the depth of our souls, touching our hearts.

That is what Ed did for all of us here in Raquette Lake.

We remember him for this and so much more.



Meet Gary Miller, Forest Ranger
By Dick Gentry



Gary Miller is our Forest Ranger for the Raquette Lake area and well beyond. He grew up in Forestport and graduated from SUNY Morrisville with a degree in Fish and Wildlife. He has been a Forest Ranger for almost 19 years, the first seven of which he spent in Region 3 in Sullivan County and the Catskills. The last 12 years he has been in Region 5 covering Raquette Lake, Sargent's Pond, and parts of the Blue Ridge Wilderness, the Moose River Plains and the Pigeon Lake Wilderness. His district spans from Eagle Bay to North Creek.

His duties include emergency response, search and rescue, fire prevention and response, trail and campground inspections, education and law enforcement. In the summer he patrols on the lakes and in the campgrounds. In the winter he breaks trails in the snow and patrols snowmobile trails.

The favorite part of his job is fire prevention and response. This summer he spent two weeks in Quebec along with other NY Forest rangers fighting the Canadian wildfires. The most frustrating thing about his job is the litter people leave at campsites, on trails and on roadways. There is really no excuse for it.

Gary's wife Jen Temple is also a Forest Ranger covering most of the Moose River Plains. In his off-time Gary likes fishing, hunting, bushwhacking through the woods and spending time with his family.

Gary takes pride in his job, his community and his family. He is available for any questions, problems or emergencies. He can be reached at Gary.Miller@dec.ny.gov or by phone at 315-825-1705.

Thank you Gary, Jen and every other Forest Rangers for all you do.

RL Transfer Station News

The Transfer Station will be closed on **Tuesday and Wednesdays** beginning after Veteran's Day and going through Memorial Day.

Loon Report
By John Merriman



Weather was a big factor affecting Loon reproduction this year. There was a significant and sudden rise in lake level at the end of June that we know flooded an active nest and assume other nests around the lake also failed. On the annual Loon census day in July our lake wide observers noted 17 adult Loons and 1 chick. The one chick hatched off one of the three floating nest platforms we have deployed around the lake. This chick has survived to the juvenile stage and will fly off to the east coast before the lake freezes. It was still seen on the lake November 3rd. In August a different Loon chick was recovered at Golden Beach with injuries most likely from a predator. Efforts to save it were not successful. For perspective, recall that we had 8 chicks hatched in 2022 with 5 making it to the juvenile stage and flying off before winter.

Once again Raquette Lake has been certified a Loon-Friendly Lake by the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation (ACLC). Thank you to all the volunteers who participated in the Loon Census, the derelict dock removal project and similar efforts.

Speaking of the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation (ACLC), they are offering a series of Zoom presentations. For more information: <https://www.adkloon.org/events>

WINTER LOON ZOOM SERIES

Nov. 9 - "Loons of the World" featuring Dr. Wayne Lynch

Dec. 14 - "Conservation through the Lives of Adirondack Loons" featuring Dr. Nina Schoch

Jan. 11 - "25 Years of Loon Conservation" featuring Lucas Savoy

Feb. 8 - "There and Back Again: A Loon's Tale" featuring Natasha Bartolotta

March 21 - "Loons of Alaska" featuring Tamara Zeller

April 11 - "Adirondack Loon Research & Conservation" featuring Griffin Archambau

*Canadian Watershed Mirroring
Adirondack Issues
By John Merriman*

An interesting Canadian study was recently released covering the Muskoka Watershed in Ontario. It is a report card on the condition of their watershed which contains many lakes and rivers vital to the environment and local economies, similar to the Adirondacks. The report notes several concerns such as frequent large storms, increasing algal blooms, rising chloride levels in water bodies from winter road deicing, degrading aquatic habitats, invasive species, warmer water temperatures, shorter periods of ice coverage and other issues. These trends have also been documented in the Adirondacks on an individual basis but not in relation to an entire watershed. To review the Muskoka report:

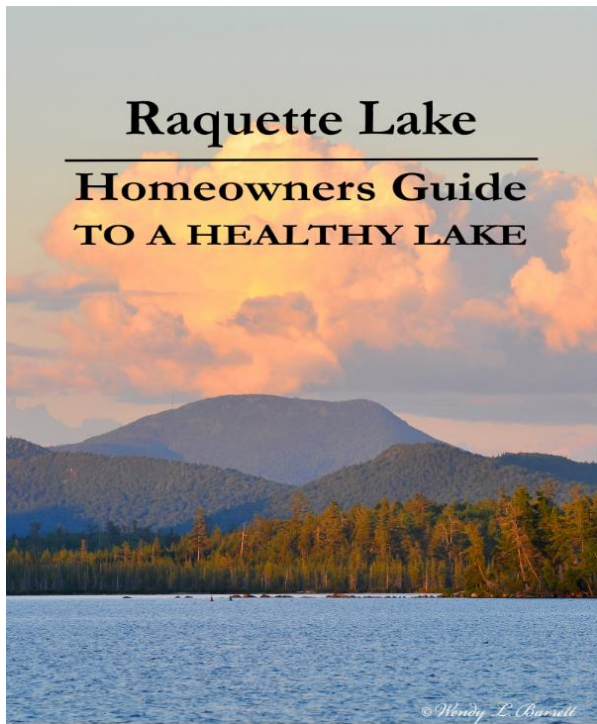
<https://www.muskokawatershed.org/2023reportcard/>

As discussed in Gail's article, RLPF is partnering with the Northern Forest Canoe Trail, the Adirondack Council and other lake associations in the Raquette Lake watershed to form a Headwaters Campaign to coordinate efforts at the watershed level. One goal is to create a watershed management plan to address current issues and protect our important water resources. For more information:

<https://www.northernforestcanoetrail.org/headwaterscampaign/>

Homeowners Guide for Raquette Lake

RLPF has created a Homeowners Guide pamphlet to be distributed to **all homeowners and renters**. We'd like to thank Gail Morehouse and Wendy Barrett for their work on this project.



Raquette Lake

Homeowners Guide TO A HEALTHY LAKE

©Wendy L. Barrell

A Message from The Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation (RLPF)

Raquette Lake is one of the most beautiful lakes in the Adirondack Mountains. From its clean lake waters and scenic wilderness tributaries to the lush woods and gentle mountains surrounding its shoreline, once you visit Raquette Lake, your heart never leaves. This treasure is clearly ours to enjoy – but it's also ours to preserve for future generations. RLPF is a not-for-profit public charity (IRS 501 (3)(c), dedicated to protecting, promoting and preserving Raquette Lake. We do our best to prevent the introduction of invasive and harmful aquatic plants and animals into our waters. We also strive to increase public awareness about invasive species and to facilitate research on prevention and control methods for invasive species.



We support water sampling in conjunction with the Adirondack Lake Assessment and Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District programs. Our volunteers have been collecting water samples since 2002. As a result, the water quality record for Raquette Lake has matured to the point that trends can now be detected with greater accuracy. Raquette Lake is certified as a "Loon Friendly Lake" by the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation. We coordinate volunteers for our lake's participation in the annual state-wide loon census. RLPF's purpose is to promote the cooperation and friendship among the inhabitants of the area and to unite its members in the material understanding of the lake, so that the entire membership will go forward in carrying out the preservation and conservation of Raquette Lake and its watershed through education, advocacy and broad-based community involvement.

We are happy to provide this homeowners guide to a healthy lake in conjunction with the Lake Champlain Lake George Regional Planning Board. We would love to have you join RLPF! Visit www.rlpf.org to learn more!

Shoreline Buffers & Lakescaping



Removing vegetation from shorelines will leave an open path for sediment and pollutants to enter into Raquette Lake. These pollutants have a negative impact on the plant and animal populations of the lake's system. Creating plant buffers along the shorelines will help keep soil in place and can absorb a substantial amount of phosphorus and other nutrients before they enter the lake. This will help keep our waters cleaner for swimming, boating, fishing, and drinking, and increase the natural beauty of the shorelines.



When planting a buffer, mimic nature by utilizing different levels of plants, decreasing the height as you move closer to the waters edge. This will be aesthetically pleasing, as well as create habitat for an array of wildlife.



INVASIVE SPECIES

Eurasian Watermilfoil & Variable-leaf Milfoil (Aquatic)

Variable-Leaf milfoil is a species of invasive milfoil that grows in water up to 6 feet deep, but can be found in deeper water, as well as in flowing conditions. The submerged plant has feather-like leaves that are arranged in whorls of four to six around the stem. Each leaf has five to 14 pairs of leaflets. The plant looks like a dense mat of bottle brushes. The plants flower in the spring and keep their flowers through the fall. Variable-Leaf milfoil also spreads through fragmentation, as it is incredibly easy to break off parts of the plant.

Other aquatic invasive species to keep and eye out for include:



Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) - Know it, Avoid it, Report it!

Raquette Lake has experienced algal blooms in the past, although none of them toxic, however there have been HABs reported in other Adirondack Lakes. It is important to be on the lookout and to avoid human or pet contact with any suspicious algal blooms.

Know it: Most algae are harmless and are an essential part of the aquatic ecosystem, however some algal species produce toxins that are harmful to humans and animals and are referred to as harmful algal blooms (HABs). The most common HABs in the Adirondacks are referred to as blue-green algal blooms or cyanobacteria which under certain environmental conditions can expand into a HAB. HABs are likely triggered by a combination of water and environmental conditions including excess nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen, an abundance of sunlight, low water or low flow conditions, calm water, and warm water temperatures.

Avoid it: People, pets and livestock should avoid contact with any floating mats, scums, or discolored water. Colors can include shades of green, blue-green, yellow, brown or red. Homeowners not on a public drinking supply should not drink or utilize surface water for preparing food during an algal bloom. Even if the water is treated, in-home treatment systems do not protect people from HABs toxins.

Report it: If you suspect you have seen a HAB, please contact the NYSDEC.



Image Courtesy of NYSDEC



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

Prevent the transport of nuisance species. Clean all recreational equipment. www.ProtectYourWaters.net

CLEAN

and remove all visible plants, animals, fish and mud from your boat, trailer, and other equipment and dispose of it in a suitable trash container. Clean any gear with hot water heated above 140°F.

DRAIN

water from bilge, live wells, ballast tanks and any other locations with water in them before leaving the launch. This includes scuba gear, waders and floats. Disinfect when possible.

DRY

your boat, trailer, equipment and anything that is not washable for a least 5 days before re-using it in another waterbody.

Do not dump bait, fish, other animals or plants into the water!

WATERCRAFT CHECK POINTS

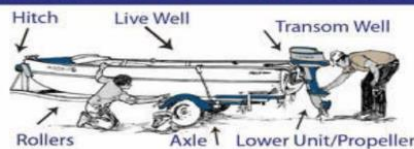


Figure provided by the Adirondack Lake Steward Program

WATER CONSERVATION

Water Efficient Landscaping

Gardens not only save water resources, but will save unneeded stress on your well system. You will also have less maintenance of your yard and fewer yard trimmings to dispose of. Here are a couple of tips for water efficient landscaping.

- Smaller lawns surrounded by landscaped areas decrease watering needs and increase the retention of stormwater runoff from your roof or driveway.
- Using native plants decreases the need for watering and replacing dead plants.
- Avoid using rock mulches in sunny areas as they promote evaporation.
- Careful placement of trees can reduce heating and cooling costs.



Landscaping the slope to the water's edge uses stormwater runoff to naturally water plants.

Home Usage

If you looked closely at your water usage at home, there will be some areas where you could cut back. That would help save the lake and the strain on your wallet.



- The average American uses 176 gallons of water per day.
- Leaky faucets can drip at the rate of one drip per second, which can waste more than 3,000 gallons of water each year.
- Washing a full load in the dishwasher uses less water than washing them all by hand.
- Filling up a bathtub uses almost 70 gallons of water, while taking a five minute shower uses around 15 gallons.
- Leaving the faucet running while brushing your teeth wastes 2 gallons of water a minute.
- A showerhead leaking 10 drips per minute wastes more than 500 gallons of water per year.

SEPTIC MAINTENANCE

As a homeowner that is not part of a municipal sewer system, your household waste is discharged into a septic system on your property. It is your responsibility to know the location of your septic system and maintain your system regularly, not only for the health of Raquette Lake, but for the health of all who live and recreate here.

Regularly inspect your system

You should have your septic system inspected every 2 - 3 years to make sure that there are not any underlying problems you aren't aware of.

Pump-out your system

Pump out your septic system every 3 - 5 years for year-round homes and every 5 - 7 years for seasonal homes to maintain the integrity of the system and minimize health and water quality impacts.

If you are looking to replace your septic system, contact the NYSDOH for information on alternative systems.



If you notice any of these signs of a failing septic system, it's time to call a professional....

- Pooling water or muddy soil around the tank or drainfield area or leaching into your basement.
- Bright green grass over your drainfield.
- Rotten egg smell around the area of your drainfield.
- Toilets or sinks back up when water is used.

Other maintenance measures you may not have thought of:

- Don't dispose of materials that may clog your septic system or cause harm to the system.
- Try to avoid using flushable wipes, as these products clog septic systems and filters and can cause costly repairs.
- Space out your water use by leaving time intervals between showers, loads of laundry, and washing dishes.
- Fix leaks and running toilets as soon as possible. All that extra water puts unneeded stress on your system.
- Using water efficiently will alleviate stress on your system and help it last longer.
- Plant only grass or plants with shallow roots over your drainfield. Plants with deep roots have the ability to cause damage to your system.
- Don't drive or park vehicles on your drainfield, as this could compact the soil and cause damage to your pipes.
- Keep all surface runoff flow directed away from your drainfield to avoid flooding your system.

Flush Responsibly

Whether your household wastewater goes to the local sewage treatment plant or a septic system, here are a few things that should never be flushed down the toilet or poured down the drain:

X Cloggers (these items can clog pipes and cause sewage backups)

X Disposable (disposable diapers, feminine hygiene products, and grass.)

X Household Hazardous Wastes (unless the treatment system is designed to handle these wastes, they can interfere with the treatment process and result in the release of pollutants into the environment)

Gasoline, oil, antifreeze, pesticides, fertilizers, and paint.

Clean Water for Home

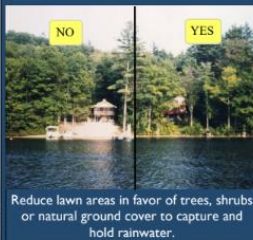
For more information, contact the US Environmental Protection Agency www.epa.gov

STORMWATER

Stormwater Runoff

Stormwater is water from rain or melting snow that does not soak into the ground. Instead, it runs over impervious surfaces, for example roofs, driveways, patios and sidewalks. As the water moves across these surfaces it picks up pollutants such as gas, oil, litter, fertilizers and pet waste. The stormwater then runs directly through shorefront properties and into Raquette Lake. These pollutants can harm the fish populations and promote the growth of algae and weeds.

There are several things you can do on your property to help reduce stormwater runoff into the lake:



- Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces and away from directly entering the Lake.
- Avoid using fertilizers and pesticides; at a minimum, switch to phosphorus free fertilizer.
- Pick up pet waste and dispose of it properly.
- Establish a natural plant buffer area along the lakefront. Low growing shrubs or natural, unfertilized gardens are good.
- Reduce impermeable ground surfaces by replacing them with natural walkways, gravel, or other permeable pavements.
- Never wash anything near or directly in the Lake. Soaps and cleaning agents contribute to pollutants in the water. Avoid washing boats or cars where the detergent can get into the Lake.
- When removing yard waste, do not rake leaves and debris into the Lake.

Zero Phosphorus Fertilizer

Phosphorus is an essential nutrient for plant growth, but too much in the lake can cause excess algae to grow and blanket the water with a green goo. What's more, the majority of lawns already contain the necessary amount of phosphorus for grass to grow. It's because of this that NYS enacted a law in 2012 that requires phosphorus-free fertilizer be used on all lawns unless you are establishing a new lawn or a soil test shows that your lawn doesn't have enough phosphorus. In addition, you may not apply fertilizer within 20 feet of a waterbody unless there is a 10-foot plant buffer. You may also not apply fertilizer from December 1 - April 1. For more information on the Dishwater Detergent and Nutrient Runoff Law, visit www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/67239.html.



When shopping for fertilizer, look for the bag with the "zero" in the middle.

Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation Protecting, Promoting, and Preserving Raquette Lake <http://www.rlpf.org>

Stormwater: NYS DEC	www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/8468.html
Rain Gardens: Lake George Association Native Plants Resources	www.lakegeorgeassociation.org www.waynecountynysoilandwater.org/rain-gardens/
Invasive Species: Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program Adirondack Watershed Institute	www.adkinvasives.com www.adkwatershed.org
Septic Maintenance: NYS DOH	www.health.ny.gov/publications/3208/



RLPF would like to thank all of our members, donors, volunteers, and partners for helping us protect, promote, and preserve Raquette Lake.

Guide designed by Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board, with funding assistance from NYS DEC through the Environmental Protection Fund.

© Marjorie L. Barrett

*Towing Skiers, Wakeboarders,
Surfers and Tubers Safely
By Ken Hawks*

My camp is located on the point West of Quaker Beach, and I get to watch numerous folks enjoying tow sports daily during my trips to Burke's and to the village. Many of the boats I observe are not following simple safety rules, and that includes the Boys and Girls Camp operators as well.

The rules are actually simple and the first rule of wearing a water sports safety life vest should be a 'no-brainer'.

Another fundamental of towing is that there has to be an *Observer* dedicated to watch the skier, tuber, wake surfer, etc., being towed by the boat. Their entire job is to tell the Operator what is going on behind the boat and that the individual/s being 'towed' is/are doing and especially if they are down. This not just a basic safety precaution, but the law. All observers and the "Tow Toy" participant MUST have an agreed to set of signals; speed up, slow down, drop me/us off, etc.

Speed is important! A basic speed of 8 – 10 MPH is enough for beginners and the youngsters. Wake surfing is usually best done around 10 -15 MPH. For older youth and adults, 15 to 20 MPH is more than fast enough. Even at these speeds a poorly executed "snap the whip" can result in speeds of near 50 MPH on the "Tow Toy" or water-skier, and hitting the water at 50 MPH is like falling out of a car going that speed. The water acts just like concrete, and very serious injury can result.

The boat Operator is just that! The Operator of the boat! They are responsible for watching out for other boats, keeping the tow boat under control and avoiding other boats, the shoreline, rocks, buoys, etc. 99% of the boats on Raquette have the driver's seat on the starboard (right) side of the boat and the passenger seat (Observer) on the port or left side of the boat.

When a rider is down the Operator should immediately slow down, and if there is room, turn to the starboard (right) so they **can visually acquire the swimmer in the water** and maneuver the boat for the pickup. If there is not room, e.g., the boat is near a shore or shoal or other boats, the Operator must communicate to the Observer that the Observer is now responsible to keep the swimmer in sight and has the task of directing the Operator to the pickup. Skiers and wakeboarders have the advantage in they can hold the tip of the ski or wakeboard up to make them more visible.

The Operator of the boat should always approach the swimmer from **Down Wind!** This gives the Operator the greatest control of the boat. It prevents a gust of wind from causing the boat to try to 'run over' the swimmer causing the Operator to start the engine and engage the boat in gear near the swimmer in an effort to avoid them. With "Tow Toys" the Operator can approach from downwind, giving the swimmer(s) plenty of room and then maneuver the Tow Toy to within reach of the swimmer(s). If the swimmer is not capable of

climbing on the “Tow Toy”, then the swimmer should be brought aboard the boat (with the engine off) and the “Tow Toy” retrieved by reeling it in and the riders allowed to climb aboard once again. Anytime the tow boat is within a boat length of the swimmer, the engine should be turned off, or if circumstances preclude that, confirmed to be in neutral.

When observing other boats around us as we traverse the lake, we need to be mindful to keep an eye out for youth and adults ‘running after a boat’ as my kids used to observe back in the day when water skiing was the main tow sport. It can be difficult at times to note that a boat in our path has someone lying on a tube in their wake. Note that navigation law does not consider water sports as constituting a ‘vessel under burden’ with a tow and thus having the right of way. Water tow sports are viewed as just a very long vessel. The bottom line here is we all need to be aware that boats may well have a Tow Toy behind them, and we need to pay attention.

All of this is common sense, but we need to keep it foremost in mind when we recreate and navigate with our boats.

*RLPF Member Recruitment and
Information Dissemination
By Dick Gentry*



Jay and Marg Cummings with Lynne Ballou-Gentry

On August 12, Raquette Lake’s busiest day of the year, the RLPF was granted bench space by Jim Dillon to set up a small display. Our goal was to make ourselves known to more people and gain some new members in the process. We loved chatting with so many people interested in RLPF and our goals.

*A Shout Out to the RL Fish and Game Club and ALL They Do!
Please consider joining them!*



RAQUETTE LAKE FISH & GAME CLUB 2023 NEWSLETTER

A BIG ADIRONDACK HELLO TO OUR MEMBERS!



We continued to strive toward bringing more educational and sports activities to our members. In 2022, we held a drawing of our junior membership.

One lucky winner won a NYS Lifetime Hunting & Fishing License. Our 2022 winner is Lucas Young.

Sign your Junior Anglers up today and they will be considered in our 2023 drawing planned for the Kids Derby, June 19th, 2023

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

23rd Annual Mike Norris Fishing Derby -
Saturday, January 28th, 2023

Lamphear Memorial Fishing Contest -
Friday, May 19th @ 5:00 PM thru
Saturday, May 20th, 2023 @ 1:00 PM

Kid's Fishing Derby - Saturday, June 19th, 2023

Happy New Year to you and your families.

2022 club activities continued as planned with great member participation. We love meeting our members through all local hunting and finishing activities, especially when our junior members join in. It's great to see them smile! In 2022, we had 188 adults and 27 junior club members. Please note our Adult Membership Fee has increased to \$10. For some time, the cost of printing and mailing has exceeded the \$5 fee.

The 2023 Big Buck Contest will have a new prize structure.
1st Place - Most Points
2nd Place - Highest Weight
3rd Place - Random Drawing of remaining entrants

We will be holding a \$500 raffle to be pulled at the end of the Kid's Fishing Derby in honor of Father's Day. 5 tickets are enclosed if you would like to purchase.

Look to our Facebook Page to learn more throughout the year. We currently have 699 members. If you have ideas and or questions you would like to share with us, please feel free to email us at RLFandGClub@gmail.com

Find us on Facebook @ 
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/370365493754400>



IN REMEMBRANCE OF OUR DECEASED MEMBERS

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CONTEST WINNERS

BIG BUCK CONTEST POINTS & WEIGHT -

Brian Lamphear
11 points - 145lbs.

SUMMER/FALL WINNERS

PERCH - SM Mouth Bass -
Gwen Smith Dave Rubin
14" - 1.25 lbs 17" - 2.6 lbs
CRAPPIE - LG Mouth Bass -
Wes Lamphear Dave Rubin
15 1/2" - 2.6 lbs 20 1/2" - 4.95 lbs
SALMON - Bull Head -
Doug Maxwell Julianna Riemerson
22" - 3.2 lbs 12" - 1.86 lbs
BROOK TROUT - Lake Trout
John Vivano Gary Miller
17 1/2" - 2.2 lbs 22 3/4" - 4.2 lbs

22nd ANNUAL MIKE NORRIS MEMORIAL ICE DERBY - 1st Prize Scoreboard 114 Adults & 11 Juniors Attended

Fish Type	Angler	Weight		Adult/		Rank	Display	Prize Awarded
		#'s	Length	Junior	Rank			
Brook Trout	Lamphear Austin	1.855	17	ADULT	1	Lamphear Justin - Brook Trout - 1.855 lbs - 17 inches	\$ 150	
Crappie	Fitzgerald Dave	1.09	11.25	ADULT	1	Fitzgerald Dave - Crappie - 1.09 lbs - 11.25 inches	\$ 150	
Lake Trout	Pebl Bill	4.23	23.5	ADULT	1	Pebl Bill - Lake Trout - 4.23 lbs - 23.5 inches	\$ 150	
Perch	Miller, Alexander	1.43	13.75	ADULT	1	Miller, Alexander - Perch - 1.43 lbs - 13.75 inches	\$ 150	
Crappie	Harrington, Jacob	0.585	9.5	JUNIOR	1	Harrington, Jacob - Crappie - 0.585 lbs - 9.5 inches	\$ 75	
Lake Trout	scott charlee	3.58	21.5	JUNIOR	1	scott charlee - Lake Trout - 3.58 lbs - 21.5 inches	\$ 75	
Perch	Miller, autum	0.845	11.5	JUNIOR	1	Miller, autum - Perch - 0.845 lbs - 11.5 inches	\$ 75	

Please indicate how many of each in your return mailing to PO Box 132, Raquette Lake, NY 13436

Adult Membership \$10.00 Qty _____
Name: _____
Address: _____

Junior Membership \$1.00 Qty _____
Name: _____
Address: _____

\$500 RLF&G Raffle \$1.00 Qty _____ Patches \$5.00 Qty _____ Stickers \$3.00 Qty _____
Email Address: _____ Total Included \$ _____

Appetizer Cruise on the WW Durant A Huge Success

On September 5th we held an Appetizer Cruise on the WW Durant for our members. We sold 60 out of the allotted 64 tickets. The weather cooperated 100 percent with glorious sunshine under clear blue skies. The 6 appetizers Jim Pohl made for the cruise were delicious. We had beef sliders, beef satay, smoked salmon, peel and eat shrimp, vegetable crudité, and a cheese and fruit platter. The purpose of the cruise was to give our members an opportunity to meet and interact with each other and that purpose was achieved. As we go forward with the important projects we are undertaking to preserve and protect Raquette Lake we think an activity such as this one will promote teamwork among our strong base of volunteers who are willing to give their time and resources, and will grow our membership base. Thank you to our Board Members, John Merriman, Pat Deyle, Lynne Ballou-Gentry, and Dick Gentry who donated door prizes they custom made for the cruise.





Photos by Lynne Ballou-Gentry

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

RLPF Budget YTD Income & Expenditures		YTD 2022 Actual	2023 YTD	2023 Budget
Income	Dues & Cruise Tickets	\$1,830	\$7,546	\$2,500
	Donations	\$9,923	\$6	\$10,000
	Dividends and Interest	\$4	\$2	\$10
	Grant Reimbursement	\$11,195	\$0	\$0
	AIS Fund			
	Donations	\$7,000	\$585	\$8,000
	TOLL funds	\$17,000	\$17,000	\$17,000
	Total Income	\$46,952	\$25,139	\$37,510
Expenses	Administrative Expense	\$0	\$162	\$250
	Annual Meeting	\$105.55	\$85	\$200
	Awards, POY, Recognition	\$1,406	\$1,392	\$300
	Bank Expense	\$77	\$320	\$400
	Community Outreach (includes Community Grant)	\$1,385	\$5,925	\$1,500
	Education and Research	\$100	\$5,677	\$10,000
	Grant Support	\$3,395	\$0	\$0
	Insurance	\$180	\$180	\$185
	Lake Testing	\$530	\$736	\$750
	Marketing	\$0	\$210	\$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	\$19,250	\$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	\$25,144	\$36,109	\$39,650

	YTD 2022	2023	2023
Community Outreach	Actual	YTD	Budget
Adk Ctr Arts	\$100	\$100	\$100
ANCA	\$35	\$35	\$35
ADK Action	\$100	\$100	\$100
Central Adk Association	\$100	\$50	\$50
NYS FOLA	\$175	\$175	\$175
Adirondack Lake Assoc.	\$75	\$75	\$75
RLVFD	\$150	\$150	\$150
St. Williams	\$100	\$100	\$100
RL Library	\$50	\$50	\$50
TOLL Community Pride Day	\$100	\$100	\$100
TOLL Fire Dept.	\$75	\$75	\$75
TOLL Rescue Squad	\$75	\$75	\$75
NFCT	\$75	\$75	\$75
RL Rescue	\$75	\$75	\$75
Adirondack Council (includes Community Grant)	\$100	\$4,690	\$100
Total Community Outreach	\$1,385	\$5,925	\$1,335

*Websites
Of Interest*

Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation <https://rlpf.org/>

Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation <https://www.adkloon.org/home>

Adirondack Watershed Institute www.adkwatershed.org

NYS DEC Algae Bloom Report <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/83310.html>

Town of Long Lake <https://www.hamiltoncounty.com/municipalities/long-lake>

Hobolink to check Current Lake Conditions RLPF has partnered with the Adirondack Watershed Institute to install a sensor platform in Raquette Lake that provides real-time data on Raquette Lake rainfall, lake level, water and air temperatures, and barometric pressure

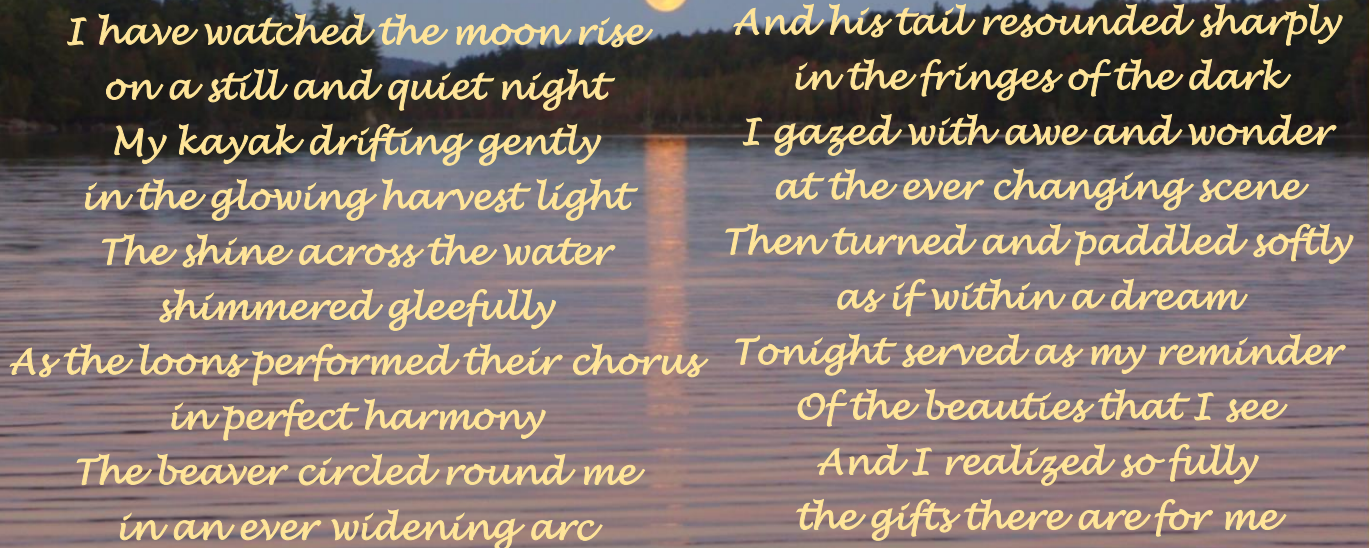
<https://dashboard.hobolink.com/public/AWI-Raquette-Lake#/New York State>

Invasive Species Information <https://nyis.info/species-information/>

*Thank You
Lynne*

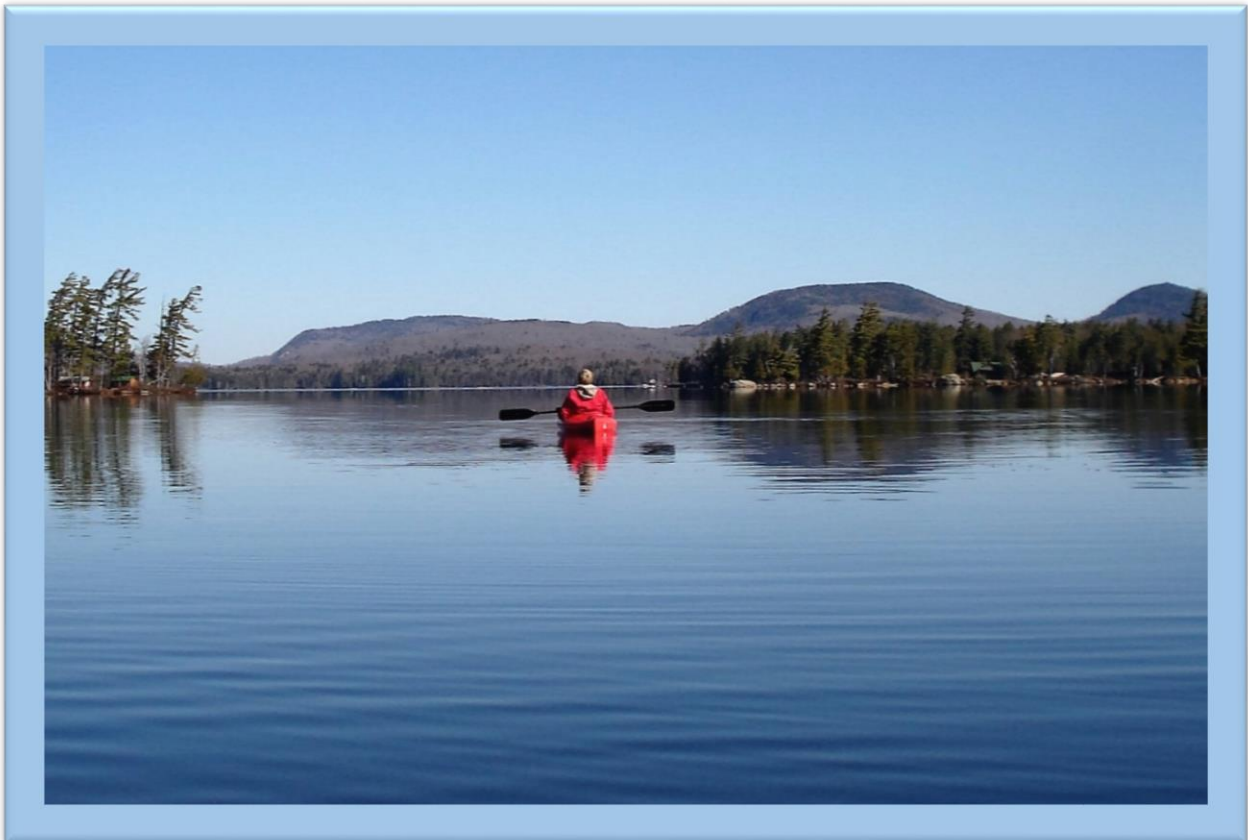
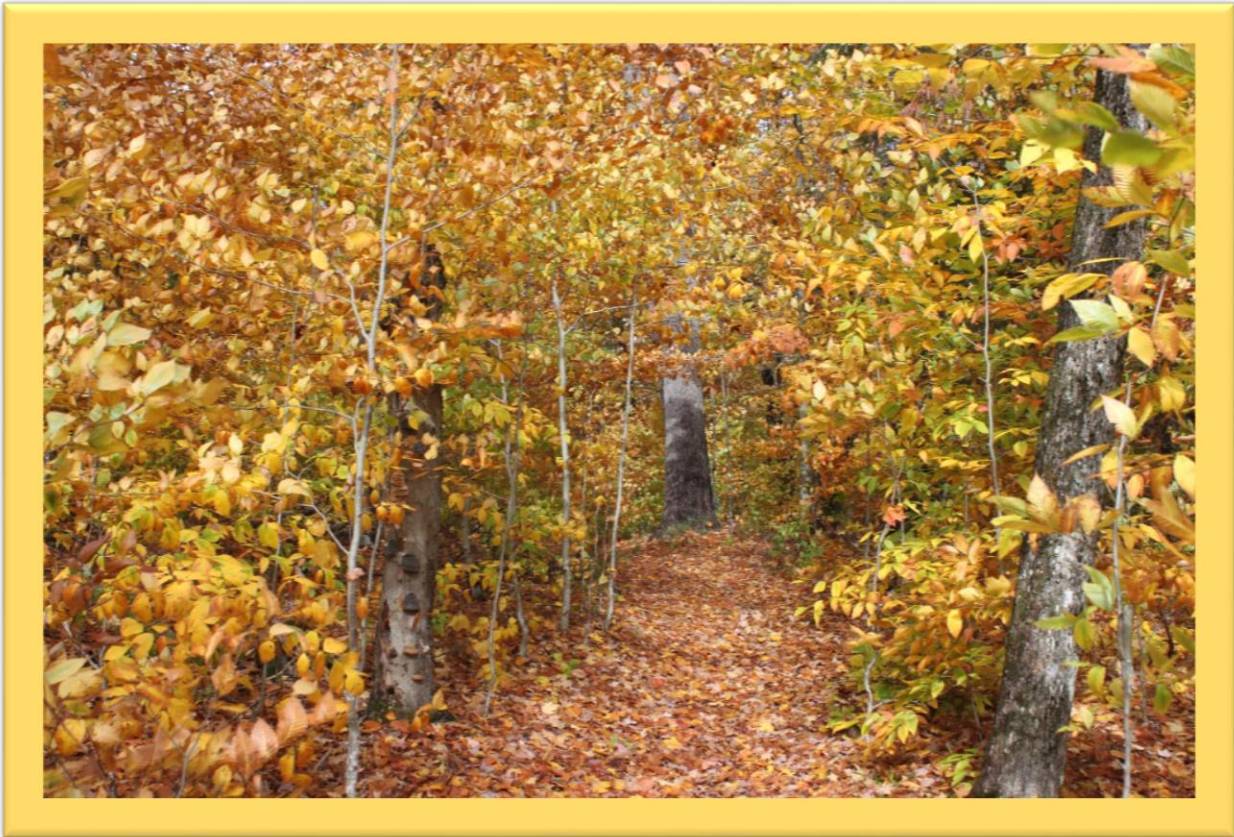
The people who have written articles for this newsletter over the years have made it worth reading. There are those who faithfully wrote articles for each edition and those who may have written one topical article. I thank each and every one of you for your hard work on behalf of RLPF. This is an organization that is truly making a difference for the Raquette Lake we know now and for the future Raquette Lake we hope will be preserved and protected for generations to come. The gifts we enjoy from this beautiful lake are endless so I end this tenure as Newsletter Editor with my favorite poem..

*My Reminder
Lynne Ballou*



*I have watched the moon rise
on a still and quiet night
My kayak drifting gently
in the glowing harvest light
The shine across the water
shimmered gleefully
As the loons performed their chorus
in perfect harmony
The beaver circled round me
in an ever widening arc*

*And his tail resounded sharply
in the fringes of the dark
I gazed with awe and wonder
at the ever changing scene
Then turned and paddled softly
as if within a dream
Tonight served as my reminder
Of the beauties that I see
And I realized so fully
the gifts there are for me*



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/>. Please consider giving members of your family the gift of a membership in RLPF. 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 2026	jm345@yahoo.com
Kevin Norris 2024	knrl57@frontiernet.net	Kim Hoffman 2026	khoffman9867@icloud.com