

Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation

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March 2024 Newsletter



A View From Raquette Lake *By Gail Morehouse*

Spring adds new life and new beauty to all that is. – Jessica Harrelson

Who doesn't love spring? (Well, my allergies don't love it very much...) Color returns to the landscape as tiny leaves pop up through the earth bringing joy as they morph into whatever gift of life they are to be.

Let's start this update with a new partnership announcement and pollinator plants for sale! Last fall, I met with Sawyer Bailey, the Executive Director of AdkAction. The mission statement of AdkAction is: "AdkAction creates projects that address unmet needs, promote vibrant communities, and preserve the natural beauty of the Adirondacks for all." AdkAction is one of the organizations that RLPF supports every year, but most of their projects are not in our area. Sawyer and I agreed that one of the smoothest pathways for us to start collaborating instead of just supporting each other was through the AdkAction pollinator project. They have written an article for our newsletter, so I will just say that now is the time that they are starting to take orders for natural pollinator plants for this area that will help protect and grow populations of local bees, butterflies, moths and hummingbirds. Instead of our members having to drive to Lake Placid to pick up their pre-ordered plants, RLPF will pick them up and deliver them to the village on June 1st. The link to the pollinator order form is in the AdkAction article. If you decide to order any plants, just identify yourself as an RLPF member.

Do you have children or grandchildren looking for summer work? *Please* have them consider applying for a position of boat steward of Raquette Lake. In addition to meeting great people, being part of the mission to protect our waterways, and making \$19 an hour through the Adirondack Watershed Institute, RLPF will be offering 3 scholarships of \$400 each to college aged students to be awarded at the completion of their employment. Scholarship awardees must work a minimum of 20 hours a week. Applications will be announced soon, but in the meantime, feel free to contact us!

Over the winter, the Board of Directors continued to meet and discuss plans for 2024. Dick Gentry will tell you later about our planned events. These events are meant to reach out to people, educate them and get them involved. The more people involved in the stewardship of the lake the better. We were very happy about the number of people that have stepped up to participate and we hope to build on this momentum and continue to create new volunteer opportunities. And, rest assured and hold the date, we will be supporting another members-only cocktail and hors d'oeuvres cruise on the Durant the day after Labor Day, September 3. The cruise was very successful last year and a way for us to thank you! It's also a great way to meet other members.

The board also talked about the importance of research activity, and we have set aside money in our budget this year specifically and exclusively for research. We continue to and will always collect data on water quality so that there can be early intervention should we ever need it. But there are other important areas of concern that we would like to facilitate research on. We decided to actively pursue research partners and prioritized three areas with the hope of finding a scientific partner in at least one. I'll briefly describe each:

1. Harmful Algal Blooms – We seem to discuss the increase in HAB's reported in every newsletter. Due to the undeveloped nature of Raquette Lake and water monitoring results there is no real explanation as to why this is happening. We are interested in supporting research to try and find out short- and long-term conditions that may be causing this phenomenon.
2. Aquatic Plant Ecology – We have been monitoring and managing Variable Leaf Milfoil for many years. Over the years, we have seen communities of VLM move from one area to another and change in abundance sometimes unpredictably. We have also seen the explosion of some "nuisance species" such as inflated bladderwort. We are interested in supporting research that might help us understand or better predict where future prevention resources should be targeted.
3. Fisheries – Raquette Lake is very important to the DEC fishery program. Each year in the fall, the DEC comes to the North end of the lake to harvest lake trout eggs to be raised in a protected environment. In the spring they return up to 5,000 trout to Raquette Lake, but also seed several other lakes in the park. How is climate change going to affect the native trout population or will it?

This winter was not a good one for winter sports and ice making. How does the local economy make up for that? What will climate change mean for the north country? Is there any way to adapt and prepare for it? I don't have the answers to any of that, but I do know that research is imperative in building knowledge, facilitating learning and will help to guide and inform action in the future.

All these questions without answers could be perceived as overwhelming, and they indeed may be. I must admit, I really had writer's block on this issue. That's usually when I know that I need to take a break and try to re-start.

I think about the spring, and I think about youth, and new beginnings and flowers and life. Spring always means optimism to me. I did not get to experience Raquette Lake as a child, however, my children and now my grandchildren and their children will always have Raquette Lake. Whenever I need some inspiration, I try to see the lake through their eyes. Gone are the thoughts of invasive species and water quality and instead I experience swimming and boating

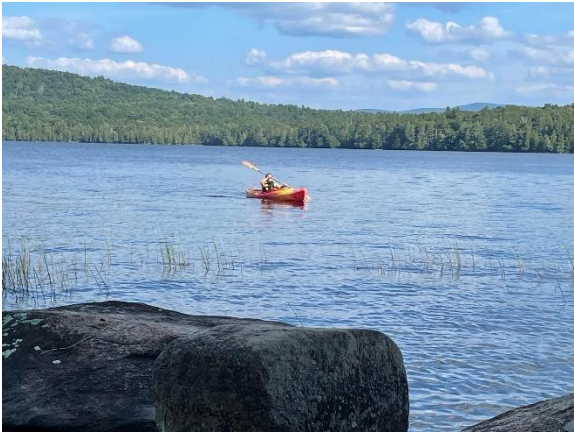
and fishing for the first time, camping, hiking and exploring and a world where people are trusted, and children can run and are taken care of by the community. I am awed by the lake's beauty and yet its silent power, I am awed by the sound of the loons, and I know for a fact that I am so fortunate.

That is why I am so passionate about the work of RLPF.

All the best,

Gail

Spring's greatest joy beyond a doubt is when it brings the children out – Edgar Guest



A View From Above the Water

By Pat Deyle

Boating News:

If you were born before 1978, you will need a safe boating certificate by the first time you operate a vessel in 2025! If you were born on or after Jan. 1, 1978, you will need a certificate the first time you operate a vessel in 2024. That's NY State's Safe Boating law.

Tick season:

Ticks, sometimes mistakenly called insects, are arthropods belonging to the class Arachnid, which also includes mites, spiders, and scorpions.

Ticks can be soft or hard-bodied. It is the varieties of hard ticks that concern hikers, campers, and pet owners. Hard ticks can bite people or pets, cause diseases, skin irritations, and allergic reactions in more sensitive people. Lyme disease is the most common tick-borne disease and is of most concern to people and their pets.



Ticks do not jump or fly and must literally come in contact with a host. Favorite sites for ticks include tall grass, shrubs, brush, leaf matter, and other vegetation, particularly along trails.

To reduce the chances of being bitten by a tick, conduct frequent tick checks while outdoors.

Examine yourself, children, and pets carefully. Wear light - colored clothing, long pants, long-sleeved shirts, socks and closed - toe shoes. Tuck pant legs into socks and tuck shirts into pants to slow crawling ticks. Consider insecticide sprays labeled for tick control and apply to leaf matter and the perimeter of your yard, shaded landscape beds, and stone walls.

Wearing tall rubber boots can reduce the number of ticks that can get on you as the smooth rubber surface makes it hard for ticks to grab onto. Always do a tick check after any outdoor activity.

Water Quality for Raquette Lake *By Kim Hoffman*

Located on the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District (HCSWCD) website under lake monitoring is a 25-year summary of Hamilton County lakes which includes Raquette Lake. The summary, which is from 1993-2017, is based on lab testing and observations. Unfortunately, the graph and charts from this report are difficult to reproduce in a reasonable size, so a link for the report is here:

[https://www.hamiltoncountyswcd.org/pdf-files/water-quality-and-monitoring/The State of Hamilton County Lakes a 25yr Perspective 2compressed.pdf](https://www.hamiltoncountyswcd.org/pdf-files/water-quality-and-monitoring/The%20State%20of%20Hamilton%20County%20Lakes%20a%2025yr%20Perspective%20compressed.pdf)

Overall, our lake has good water quality. Amendments to the Clean Air Act in 1990 have decreased acid rain and over this study an increase in alkalinity can be seen.

When Adirondack lakes were highly acidified, organic matter did not readily dissolve into the water column, resulting in many clear lakes. As pH levels increased so did the solubility of organic matter, and water clarity declined. The lake “browning” was a sign of recovery from acid rain but is now an emerging threat.

Warming air temperatures mean earlier ice breaks and later ice formation, lengthening lake stratification – the separation of a warm top layer from a cold bottom layer. Typically, mixing events in spring and fall replenish nutrients and oxygen throughout a lake’s water column. But as stratification lasts longer, dissolved oxygen by late summer is falling to levels that pose harm to fish and aquatic life.

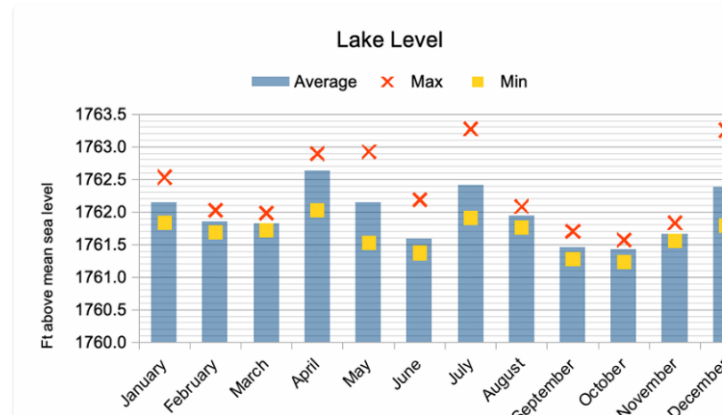
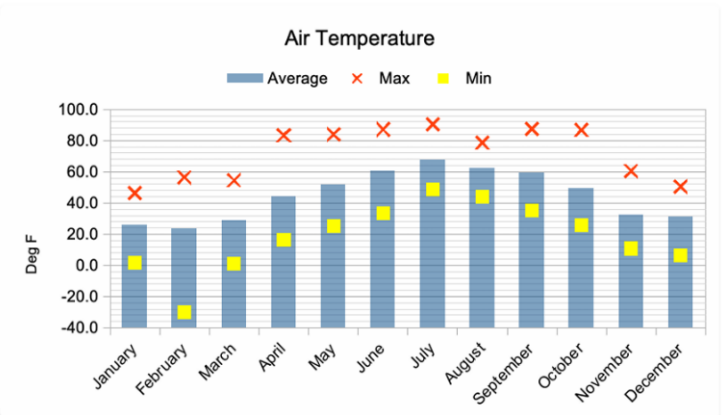
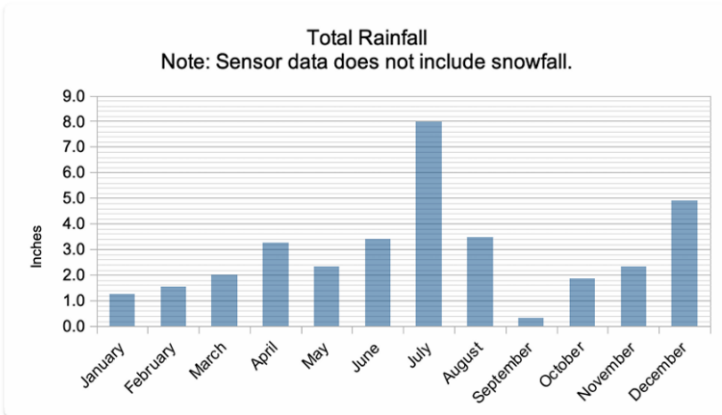
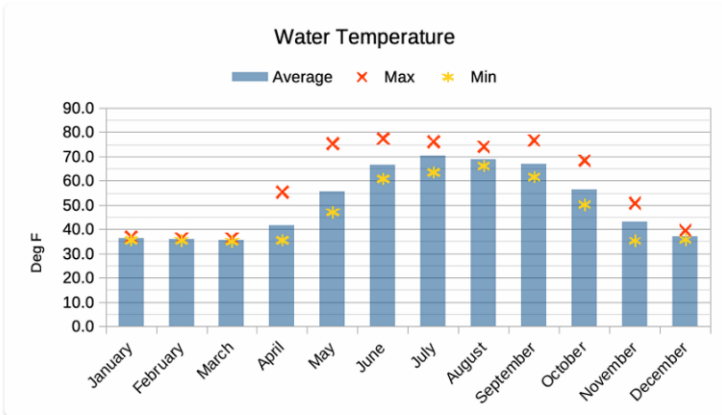
Other challenges which are shared by Adirondack lakes are road salt concentrations. Since Route 28 borders the lake, it is easy to see how road salt can runoff in the lake, especially during spring thaws and rain.

RLPF continues to partner with HCSWCD for testing and monitoring Raquette Lake water quality.



2023 Raquette Lake Sensor Data Compiled by Len Schantz

In 2022 the Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation hired the Adirondack Watershed Institute at Paul Smith's College to install a remote monitoring platform in the Village of Raquette Lake. The system records air and water temperatures, lake level, daily rainfall and total rainfall. Over time this system will help the scientists at AWI better understand the impacts of climate change on Adirondack Lakes, in particular Raquette Lake. Below is a summary of the 2023 data for the Village of Raquette Lake.



Public Outreach Committee Update

By Dick Gentry

Looking forward into 2024, the Public Outreach Committee will be working to communicate RLPF activities, educate the public about threats to our lake, expand volunteerism for RLPF projects and expand our membership. All our activities are geared toward protecting our lake and supporting our community.

We will hold another invasives ice cream workshop. This year we are considering having the workshop at Golden Beach Campground where we may have access to more kids to educate and to offer free ice cream for their participation.

We will again have a booth at the Eco Arts Festival in Old Forge where last year we had over 100 people stop at our booth.

We completed a Raquette Lake Homeowners Guide to a Healthy Lake. It contains helpful information about water quality, invasive plants and animals, shoreline buffering and landscaping, water conservation, and Septic system maintenance. It will be mailed to all homeowners in Raquette Lake next month.

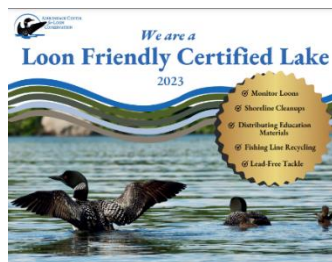
We will continue to have a table at various activities in and around Raquette Lake with a banner and brochures to promote RLPF activities and membership.

We plan to once again provide a safety boat for the 90-miler in September.

We will have another social event for RLPF on the WW Durant on the day after Labor Day! Last year's event was a huge success.

Save the Date!!!
Appetizer Cruise on the WW Durant
Tuesday
September 3, 2024

We will continue to maintain our "Loon Friendly Lake" certification with the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation.



BEFORE:



The derelict dock project was a huge success both for getting 20 docks off the shoreline and the positive public relations we received. We plan to coordinate another project in 2024 to get the docks left in Sucker Brook Bay.

AFTER:



Once again, a BIG thank you to Mike Burke and the town of Long Lake for allowing us to use the marina as a collection site and the donation of the use of the town dumpster.

Remember: 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.

*Pollinator Conservation and Native
Plant Sale
By AdkAction*

Are you passionate about protecting native pollinators and planting native plant species? Look no further than AdkAction's Adirondack Pollinator Project. The Adirondack Pollinator Project works to build our region's awareness of the threats facing pollinators, and to inspire coordinated local action to combat these threats and help pollinators thrive.

Pollinator conservation is a founding issue for AdkAction. In 2011, the organization began working to increase awareness of and create habitat for monarch butterflies by designing and distributing milkweed seeds and informational brochures, and by sponsoring lectures and film showings. Today, AdkAction distributes thousands of free seed packets each year and its annual online plant sale allows residents to create their own pollinator gardens with a variety of neonic-free pollinator plants to provide a diversity of nectar and pollen sources for local bees, butterflies, moths, and hummingbirds.

And now, we invite you to join us for a celebration of pollinators at our 7th Annual Pollinator Festival & Native Plant Sale!

 **Event Details:**

- Date: June 1st, 9AM – 3PM
- Location: Uihlein Farm Greenhouse, 281 Bear Cub Road, Lake Placid

This year, we're proud to offer 15 varieties of native flowering plants, meticulously selected to nourish and support our local pollinators. Grown right here in the Adirondacks, each plant is a testament to our commitment to sustainability. Plus, rest assured that all plants are free from neonicotinoids, ensuring the safety of our precious pollinators.

 **How to Participate:**

- Pre-ordering: Reserve your plants now through our website: [Order Now](#)
- On-site Sales: Can't decide in advance? No problem! We'll have plants available for purchase at the event.
- Payment: Cash, credit card, and check are all accepted.

 **Reminder to Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation Members:**

When placing your plant order, remember to select the Pollinator Festival as your pickup location. Additionally, in the "order comments" section, please indicate that you are a member of RLPF to streamline the pickup process. The plants will be picked up and delivered to Raquette Lake village by a RLPF member on that day.



Plant Varieties Available for Purchase Include:

Blue Moon Woodland Phlox, Cardinal Flower, Wild Bee Balm, ZigZag Goldenrod, Golden Alexanders, Eastern Red Columbine, Swamp Milkweed, Culvers Root, Oxeye Sunflower, Big Bluestem Grass, Pussytoes, New England Aster, Wild Geranium, Northern Blue Flag

Let's come together to celebrate the beauty of pollinator conservation and make a positive impact on our environment! 🦋

*Update from DOT
Submitted by Ken Hawks*

When weather permits, crews will be on site prepping for the second season of construction on the State Route 28 bridge replacement over the South Inlet of Raquette Lake in the Town of Arietta. High traffic volumes are expected to be larger than usual with the eclipse occurring on April 8. The State Department of Transportation and the contractor will have staff at the Raquette Lake site to facilitate safe and timely traffic flow through the work zone. The parking area on the southwest side of the project will remain open to support recreational access to the lake. Traffic will continue to utilize the existing bridge while the northern portion of the new bridge and alignment are constructed through the summer. Work at the Lake Durant wetland mitigation site has been substantially completed. (Written by Heather Tehan, Public Information Officer)

Community Pride Day '24

Our 24th Annual Community Pride Day is scheduled for Wednesday, May 1st, 2024.

On this day, many towns will be working together to clean up the streets and begin thinking about a prosperous summer. The area schools also participate by taking their students outdoors to help. All volunteers, students and teachers who show up on this day will receive a free t-shirt and a free lunch. If you wish to help clean, you can sign up in advance (this helps guarantee a shirt for you) or show up on the day of the cleanup.

Questions for Raquette and Long Lake please contact: Long Lake Parks & Rec. @ 518-624-3077, events@mylonglake.com.

*Tap Room News:
Looking for night Bar staff (5pm-midnight) for the
summer season. Possible living quarters on premise.
Contact Jessie at The Tap Room
315-354-4581, or stop in!*

*St. Patrick's Day
At Raquette Lake
By Lynn Ballou-Gentry*

A small town with Big Spirit !

One of Jim Dillon's annual jobs is to paint the green line for the Raquette Lake St. Patrick's Day parade held on the Saturday before March 17th. The Norris and Harrington families cook and serve a corned beef dinner as a fundraiser for the Raquette Lake Fire Department. After this yummy dinner at the Tap Room, the parade begins following the green line Jim has just painted!





We're Hiring!

Are you or someone you know looking for summer employment? Our Stewardship team is hiring 100+ full and part-time positions across the Adirondack Park to prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species. Help protect our waters by becoming a steward!



[Apply Now](#)

Treasurer's Report
By Bob Rosborough
As of March 1, 2024

RLPF Budget YTD Income & Expenditures		2023	2024	2024	
		Actual	YTD	Budget	
Income	Dues	\$7,796	\$2,620	\$4,500	
	Cruise Tickets	\$1,440	\$0	\$0	
	Donations	\$11,606	\$682	\$10,000	
	Dividends and Interest	\$2	\$0	\$10	
AIS Fund					
	Donations	\$585	\$250	\$8,000	
	TOLL funds	\$17,000	\$0	\$20,000	
	Total Income	\$36,989	\$3,552	\$42,510	
Expenses	Administrative Expense	\$162	\$0	\$250	
	Annual Meeting	\$85.20	\$0	\$200	
	Awards, POY, Recognition	\$336	\$0	\$300	
	Bank Expense	\$245	\$109	\$400	
	Community Outreach	\$5,925	\$0	\$1,500	
	Education and Research	\$11,955	\$2,646	\$10,000	
	Insurance	\$180	\$180	\$185	
	Lake Testing	\$736	\$0	\$750	
	Marketing	\$210	\$0	\$5,000	
	Newsletter	\$1,673	\$0	\$500	
	PO Box	\$98	\$0	\$100	
	Travel/Fees	\$0	\$0	\$200	
	Tax Prep	\$0	\$0	\$25	
	Website hosting	\$0	\$0	\$0	
	Equipment Investment	\$500	\$0	\$1,000	
	AIS Fund				
		Hand harvesting Aqualogic	\$19,250	\$0	\$20,000
	Extra compensation for boat stewards	\$0	\$750	\$1,000	
	Shed Maintenance	\$0	\$0	\$250	
	Total Expense	\$42,411	\$3,685	\$41,660	

	2023	2024	2024
Community Outreach	ACT	YTD	Budget
Adk Ctr Arts	\$100	\$0	\$100
ANCA	\$35	\$0	\$35
ADK Action	\$100	\$0	\$100
Central Adk Association	\$50	\$0	\$50
NYS FOLA	\$175	\$0	\$175
Adirondack Lake Assoc.	\$75	\$0	\$75
RLVFD	\$150	\$0	\$150
St. Williams	\$100	\$0	\$100
RL Library	\$50	\$0	\$50
TOLL Community Pride Day	\$100	\$0	\$100
TOLL Fire Dept.	\$75	\$0	\$75
TOLL Rescue Squad	\$75	\$0	\$75
NFCT	\$75	\$0	\$75
RL Rescue	\$75	\$0	\$75
Adirondack Council (includes Community Grant)	\$4,690	\$0	\$100
Total Community Outreach	\$5,925	\$0	\$1,335

If you haven't already done so, your membership dues are due. You can pay your dues on -line at RLPF.org, or mail a check to:

*RLPF
Box 210
Raquette Lake, NY 13436*

As you all know, Lynne Ballou-Gentry retired after many years as editor of the RLPF newsletter and I miss her very much! I volunteered to be the “guest editor” for this first newsletter without her. I need to send a HUGE thank you to Laurie Rosborough. She is actually the one who put this newsletter together and saved me hours of time! (*Better watch out Laurie!*)-Gail



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.mylonglake.com/>

Hobolink to check Current Lake Conditions:

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

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

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 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