

Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation

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June 2024 Newsletter



A View From Raquette Lake *By Gail Morehouse*

“We didn’t realize we were making memories, we just knew we were having fun.” – Winnie the Pooh

Oh, “Those lazy-hazy-crazy days of summer” (Nat King Cole) are upon us! I hope that you all experience many wonderful days of making memories. And aren’t we all so lucky to be spending our summers on Raquette Lake?

I’m sure that you all know that Raquette Lake is the largest natural lake in the Adirondack Park. It is beautiful and pristine in many respects. The Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation exists to try and keep it that way, and to engage in research that will help us prepare for inevitable changes due to climate change. Our community and town depend on the health of Raquette Lake. It doesn’t matter how cute your town is in the Adirondacks if tourists can’t swim or fish in the lake. Stopping the introduction of new invasive species into Raquette Lake is our first priority.

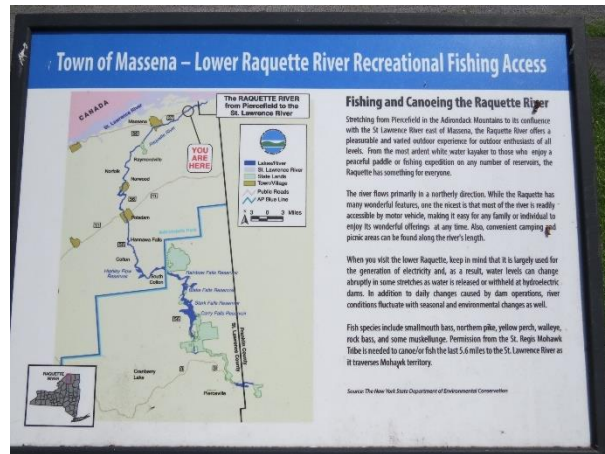


In 2023, my husband and I decided to follow the Raquette River from its head at the end of the outlet on North Point Road, to its mouth in Messina, NY where it empties into the St. Lawrence Seaway. Along the way we saw so many small communities, starting with Long Lake, whose existence depend on this long, beautiful river. We saw hydroelectric plants supplying power to who knows where. We saw countless children on boats, tubes, jumping from docks and playing on small beaches. We saw many “Raquette Points, Raquette Breweries, Raquette

Roads, Raquette General Stores”, and so many others, that I had to stop taking pictures.

I understood that RLPF has a huge responsibility to these other communities to send them the best water possible.

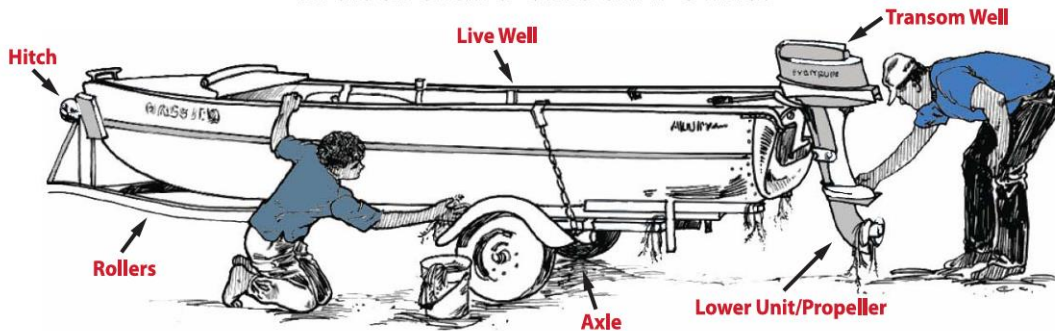
All of the places we saw are guarded by small volunteer organizations like RLPF. Recognizing how we are each a small, but integral, part of a larger picture helps to hopefully show the state of New York and the guests who visit here how important Clean, Drain and Dry is for all of us.



Once again, we will not have full coverage at the village boat launch, so I urge you, especially if you or your guests have been in other water bodies, to take advantage of the various free boat washes. Otherwise, carefully inspect your boat and your trailer before launching. That being said, I thank and appreciate our 2 Boat Stewards who will be working at least 4 days a week, including Saturday and Sunday throughout the season!

[Prevent Aquatic Invasive Species, Clean Drain Dry Sign \(ny.gov\)](https://www.nys.gov/prevent-aquatic-invasive-species-clean-drain-dry-sign)

Watercraft Check Points



Our annual membership meeting will be held on July 20, 2024 at the Raquette Lake School on Rte. 28 in Raquette Lake. This is a required meeting for our organization per the by-laws. We cover so much in these newsletters that we try to keep the meetings short and sweet! This year we are pleased to have Dr. Thomas Detmer, from the Adirondack Fisheries Research Program Field Station in Old Forge. He will talk about how climate trends appear to be impacting cold water fisheries in the Adirondacks and what that may mean for the future.



Dr. Detmer is a broadly trained aquatic ecologist. He earned his B.A. and Ph.D. at the University of Colorado at Boulder before working at the University of Illinois and ultimately landing at Cornell University, with the Adirondack Fishery Research Program. His current research is focused on assessing and addressing fisheries and freshwater challenges related to climate change, invasive species, and angler adaptation. He also enjoys working with young scientists to further expand their interests in fisheries and freshwater ecology.

I promise the entire meeting will not exceed 1 ½ hours, so please come and see us and have a delicious donut from Mary's bakery in Inlet!

For the last 2+ years, we have had the pleasure of working with Blake Neumann, an Adirondack Council Clean Water Advocate for the Raquette Lake watershed. Blake is leaving to pursue a PhD in Human Geography. In the beginning, we weren't sure why he was here or what to expect. And neither did he really. He was placed here to learn about "us", RLPF and the Raquette Lake Community. In turn, he was supposed to help the Council understand how they could help RLPF be successful.

What happened was he came here, he lived with us, and he tried to integrate himself into the community. He experienced firsthand the affordable housing situation. He learned from his experience, from us, and in turn, I think, educated the Council, that you have to care about the community as much if not more than you care about the environment.

He saw this area as a "food desert" and was successful in getting year-round farm fresh food at least as close as Inlet. During the season, fresh food is delivered directly to the village.

He stuffed envelopes and harvested ice; he became our ad hoc member who surveyed the village area for the Lake Management Tracker program. I do not know who is going to take his place.

We were talking about our need for new A/V equipment, and he was able to secure 75% more funding through community grants which benefited not only us, but the school, the fire department and St. Williams.

He helped us write press releases and announcements through the Council's media channels and networks. He wrote the headwaters grant. He is still working to ensure that it culminates in a

strong case that the state needs to support lake associations, at least administratively, to make it feasible to continue our good work. Through the head waters program, we also now have a promotional video!

These are a few things that Blake did for RLPF. He brought us to a higher level and made us larger than we are. On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to thank Blake. As he begins his next journey, we are thankful that we were a part of his life's journey, and we know that he will be very successful in all his future endeavors.

We have a couple of new faces joining our team. Bob Rosborough has been a member of RLPF since it began and was its first treasurer. Bob told me last year that this would be his final year. We found someone to replace him, Stephanie Deddish. I asked Stephanie to write up a little introduction of herself that appears later in this newsletter. However, Stephanie is getting married and will not be present at the lake very much this year. Bob has agreed to stay on for one more year while Stephanie "shadows" him, mostly virtually, so that we have a smooth transition of this very important position.

Laurie Rosborough stepped in when Lynne retired as newsletter editor and did such a fabulous job that the Board of Directors voted to make her a permanent editor. She will work with us as a non-member of the Board. Laurie also designs our posters, ice cream coupons and cruise tickets.

Speaking of cruise tickets...Our members social cruise aboard the W.W. Durant will return on September 3rd. Tickets will go on sale to members on July 1st at the reduced price of \$30. Unsold tickets will go on sale to the public on August 1st for \$45. It is an appetizer social cruise with a cash bar. Last year, we sold out well before tickets were open to the public. So, I urge you to contact a board member to reserve your tickets!

Finally, with each issue of this newsletter I invariably get at least one person writing to me to complement the newsletter. This year, I decided to enter Lynne Ballou-Gentry's final newsletter into the New York State Federation of Lakes Association (NYSFOLA) newsletter competition. I have submitted some before, but we never even came in 3rd place. This year, at the 2024 NYSFOLA our RLPF newsletter was awarded 1st place for medium size lake associations! Well-deserved Lynne!

Wishing you all the best,

Gail

*"Not every lake dreams to be an ocean. Blessed are the ones who are happy with who they are" –
Mahmet Murat iLdan*

*Pictures from our
Raquette River Trip
By Gail Morehouse*



A View from the Forest

By Pat Deyle

I did an article on Beech Leaf Disease (BLD) before but felt it is too important to not reiterate it!

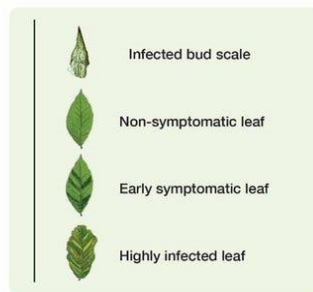
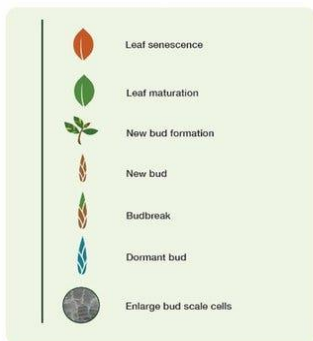
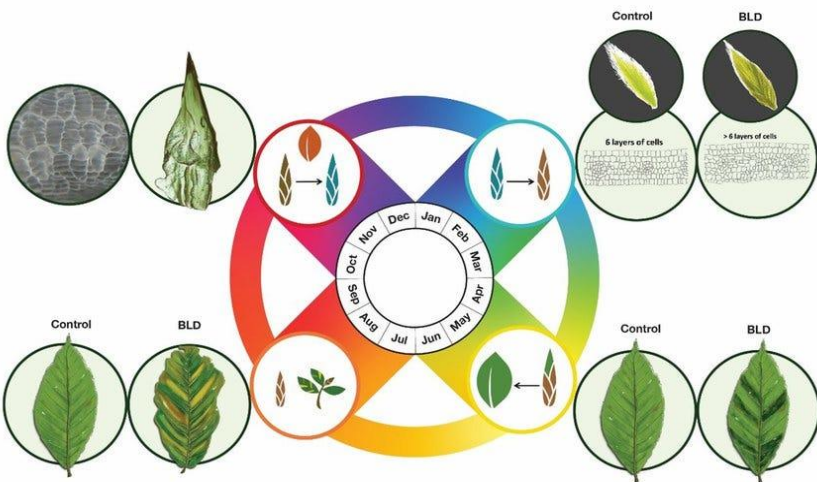
The beautiful American beech tree, with graceful limbs and smooth grey, stands out in any forest. It is native to North America and is important for birds, black bears, squirrels, and other wildlife. But the future for this important species is uncertain. It is at risk from climate change and forest pathogens, including BLD, which has recently been found in the Adirondack Park.

According to [Beech Leaf Disease \(psu.edu\)](http://psu.edu), BLD is associated with a nematode, a worm of the large phylum Nematoda, such as a roundworm or threadworm. It is unclear whether that nematode is the direct cause of the disease or whether it carries a virus, bacterium or fungus with it. The symptoms of BLD first appear in the tree canopy as dark bands between the leaf veins which then turn leathery or crinkled. The disease results in decreased leaf and bud production that can kill a tree in two to seven years.

Discovered in Ohio in 2012, BLD has since been documented in more than 30 counties in NY State, including Herkimer County in the Adirondacks, where it was officially confirmed 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 plan.

In the fall of 2022, the Nature Conservancy's Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) activated its **Forest Pest Hunters** program (adkinvasives.com/Get-Involved/Volunteer/Forest-Pest-Hunting) in response to the discovery of BLD. "The Adirondack region is huge, and it's impossible for us to be everywhere," says Becca Bernacki, APIPP terrestrial invasive species coordinator. "Having volunteers out there surveying means more eyes on the landscape and more occurrences of invasives being reported."

While you're in the woods around your property or taking a family hike please keep your eyes open for the silver/grey Beech trees and their leaves for brown leathery ones in the tree canopy. If you think you have spotted it, you can let me know @ 315 354-4070 or contact Becca at APIPP@518-576-2082.

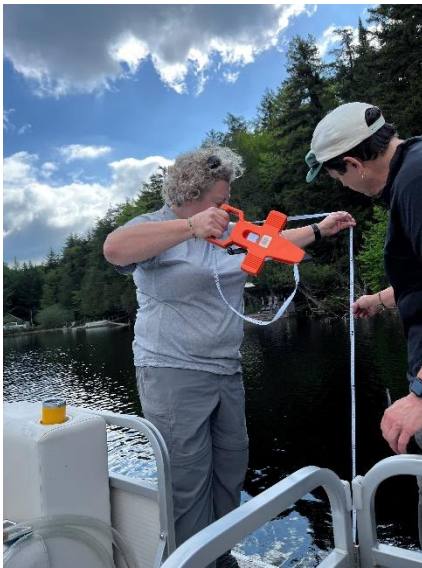


Water Quality for Raquette Lake

By Kim Hoffman

For many years, RLPF has participated in the Adirondack Lakes Assessment Program (ALAP) of water sampling that has provided us with a large existing water quality database. This year in addition to our regular water sampling, Brian Greene from the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) asked if we would be willing to be part of a research project that would involve taking two additional samples. The purpose of the research is to determine whether water quality is affected by the hand harvesting of variable leaf watermilfoil (VLM). Raquette is one of five lakes that will be participating. Brian joined APIPP in 2021 as their Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator.

The traditional open water monitoring location is at the deepest part of the lake which is near Sucker Brook Bay in the North Bay. The first additional sampling site that APIPP is requesting should be located where VLM is currently being managed by hand harvesting. The village area has been harvested for a couple of years in a row now, so that is the general area from which I will be sampling. The second location should be a shallow water area that has VLM present but has not been managed or harvested. There are several small bays with dense beds of VLM that have never been managed, so we decided on Lonesome Bay as the second location. RLPF is excited to partner with APIPP to enhance our water quality database for future lake management.



Derelict Dock Project

By Dick Gentry

While I wrote about our Derelict Dock project in the last newsletter, it is such an important project for Raquette Lake I wanted to highlight it again this time. We removed a total of 20 abandoned or broken docks from the shoreline of our lake. We had 19 volunteers involved in dislodging, pulling, and moving the docks. Ultimately, 6 were reclaimed for use or dismantling to make parts for other docks and 14 were moved to Burke's Marina where they were pulled from the lake, broken up and placed in a dumpster by Michael Burke.

This Project helped clean up our shoreline, reduce navigation hazards and reduce safety hazards. We still have more to do and plan to organize another dock removal day this summer. Thanks again to all involved including the Town of Long Lake and especially Michael Burke.



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

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.

Fisheries Report
Submitted by Gail Morehouse

Raquette Lake is especially 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. The following is a report from Neal McCarthy:

Raquette Lake Egg Take 2023

The 2023 Lake Trout egg take began October 14th and was completed on October 19th. During the five-day egg take a total of 797 Lake Trout were netted allowing staff to collect 119,438 eggs from 131 females. A total of six trap nets were used during the egg take, set at various locations that have historically proven to be the most productive sites (Figure B-1, sites 2, 5, 9, 14, 15, and 19).

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

In 34 net nights (net nights being the sum of the total number of nets fished each night of the egg collection) a total of 797 Lake Trout were trapped, for an average of 23.4 lake trout caught per net night. This year's catch per unit effort was 20 fish less than last year's egg take, and was 5.5 below the ten-year average. From the 131 females, staff collected 119,438 green eggs which were just shy of meeting the target goal of 120,000. The female Lake Trout provided 912 eggs each on average. After the eggs eyed up they were shocked, a process which turns any unfertilized eggs white. These white unfertilized eggs were then picked out, resulting in a total of

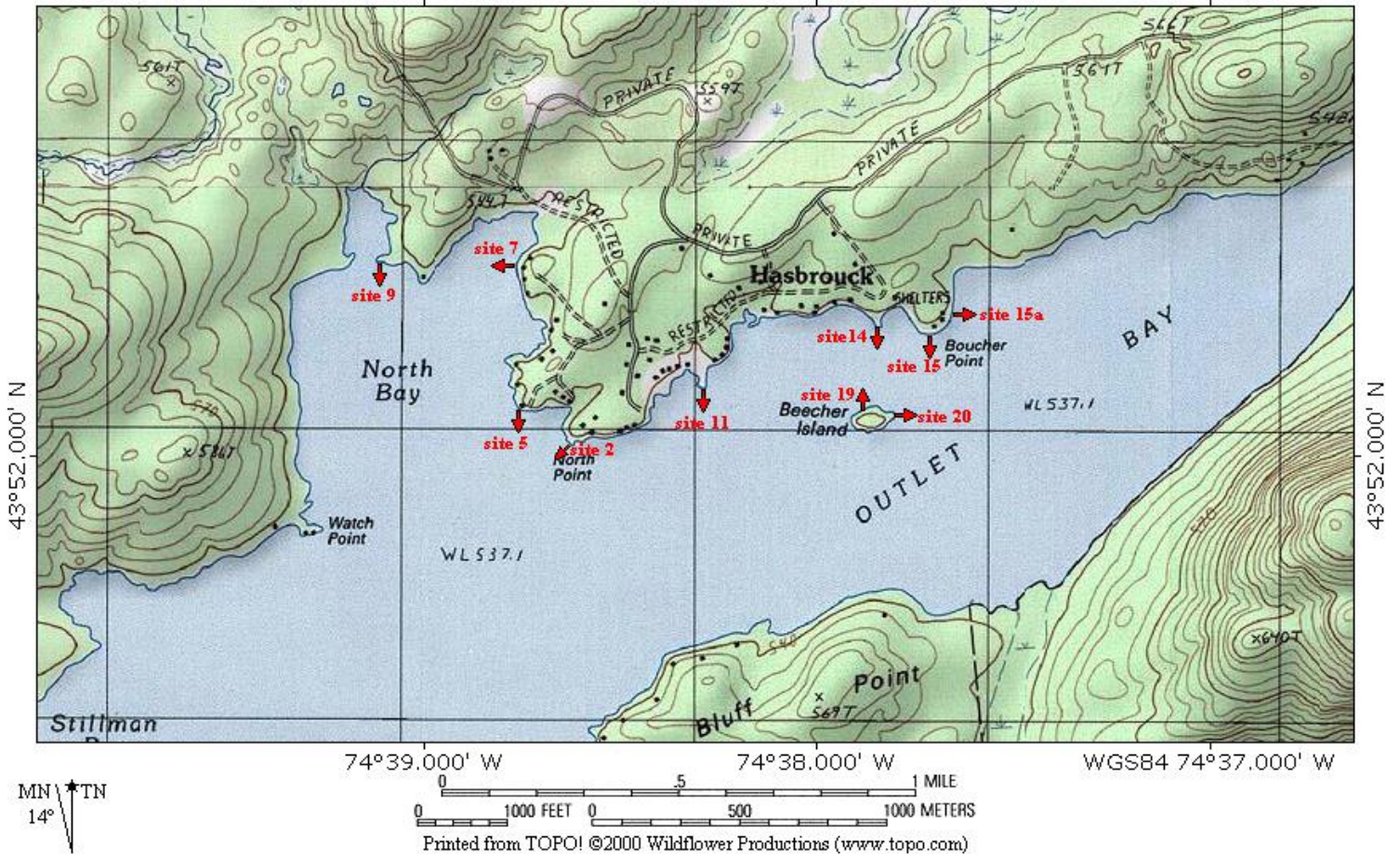
97,463 eyed eggs which is an eye-up rate of 81.6%. Out of these eyed-up eggs we had 92,941 healthy Lake Trout fry hatch, and on January 16th they were moved from their egg incubators into larger rearing tanks at the hatchery. These Lake Trout will be raised until the spring of 2025 at which time they will be released at a size averaging 6" to 7" in length.

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

Neal McCarthy

Figure B-1. North Point of Raquette Lake: map of sites used in Lake Trout egg take.

TOPO! map printed on 03/08/10 from "Raquette Lake 2009a.tpo" and "r12009.tpg"
 74°39.000' W 74°38.000' W WGS84 74°37.000' W





Reflections
By Blake Neumann

As some of you already know, I will be transitioning out of my role as Clean Water Advocate with the Adirondack Council this fall to return to school and pursue a PhD in human geography at the University of Georgia. While this marks a bittersweet (to say the least) move for me, it has been a lifelong dream of mine to pursue a PhD and I feel extremely fortunate to have the opportunity. Before I go, I wanted to spend some time reflecting on the last nearly three years working with the Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation – another chapter of my life that I feel extremely fortunate to have experienced.

When I arrived to Raquette Lake in the early fall of 2021, I was introduced to the board and subsequently given a handful of tours of the lake. Each person included their own flavor of the history of the lake (human and natural), connection to place, and some of the important people and places to know. What I appreciated most about this initial introduction was that RLPF didn't throw me into the deep end with organizational priorities, nor their concerns or anxieties; they told me their stories about the lake so that I could understand and contextualize their relationship to it for myself.

Some of you may remember that I then launched a “stakeholder analysis” in order to better understand the pressures facing the lake, barriers to addressing those pressures, and opportunities for where RLPF might focus time, attention, and energy moving ahead. I continued having conversations around these themes with many of the individuals I had met through the process and all of this input was the foundation of what eventually became the Headwaters Campaign in summer 2023.

For the Headwaters campaign, this gives us all hope that the groups involved can continue building collectively on the momentum we have gathered, translating this progress into policy outcomes and more support for the important work the associations are doing. For me personally, I will take some equally valuable recognitions on to my future endeavors in studying how rural communities respond to climate change. I wanted to briefly share these parting thoughts with you (none of which I claim to be novel, but are the product of collective wisdom I've gathered through my work.)

I saw incredible resilience in your communities last year as a result of the flooding in early July. The opportunity for building community resilience to most threats that come to mind is greatest when a group of diverse interests and stakeholders come together around a common cause. This was once explained to me as most akin to an ecosystem of actors, each with their own niche, which I think is an apt and beautiful metaphor for human communities working together.

The aim of resilience is not a fixed endpoint, but an ever-evolving and moving target. Resilience is not an outcome so much as it is a process. The skills, capacities, and relationships you

develop through organizing are highly transferable and the metaphor of a rising tide “raising all boats” applies. You do not arrive at resilience; you build resilience over time, which requires great care, patience, trust, empathy, and investment in a collective cause.

These insights will be critical to taking this next professional step, which will be focused on understanding how communities prepare for and respond to climate-related pressures in a variety of rural contexts. I am grateful to RLPF and its community of members for accepting, welcoming, and instructing me over the past few years. I look forward to applying this inspiration and wisdom to my continuing work in this field and hope that I’ll eventually be able to share back insights with you in the future.

*Accolades for
Lynne Ballou-Gentry*



The RLPF newsletter has been awarded the honor for being the best newsletter in the New York State Federation of Lakes Association (NYSFOLA) newsletter competition. RLPF’s newsletter was awarded 1st place for medium size lake associations! We owe this to its long-time editor, Lynne Ballou-Gentry. RLPF thanks her for her work as Newsletter editor.

Boating License Reminder

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 is NY State’s Safe Boating law.

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

RLPF Budget YTD Income & Expenditures		YTD 2023 Actual	2024 YTD	2024 Budget
Income	Dues	\$7,796	\$3,780	\$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	\$4,712	\$42,510
Expenses	Administrative Expense	\$162	\$50	\$250
	Annual Meeting	\$85.20	\$0	\$200
	Awards, POY, Recognition	\$336	\$0	\$300
	Bank Expense	\$245	\$180	\$400
	Community Outreach (includes Community Grant)	\$5,925	\$1,435	\$1,335
	Education and Research	\$11,955	\$2,646	\$10,000
	Insurance	\$180	\$180	\$185
	Lake Testing	\$736	\$0	\$750
	Marketing	\$210	\$1,294	\$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	\$8,000	\$20,000
	Extra compensation for boat stewards	\$0	\$750	\$1,000
	Shed Maintenance	\$0	\$0	\$250
	Total Expense	\$42,411	\$14,536	\$41,495

	2023	2024	2024
	ACT	YTD	Budget
Community Outreach			
Adk Ctr Arts	\$100	\$100	\$100
ANCA	\$35	\$35	\$35
ADK Action	\$100	\$100	\$100
Central Adk Association	\$50	\$50	\$50
NYS FOLA	\$175	\$175	\$175
Adirondack Lake Assoc.	\$75	\$75	\$75
Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation		\$100	\$100
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)	\$4,690	\$100	\$100
Total Community Outreach	\$5,925	\$1,435	\$1,435



Happy Fourth of July!

*Welcome to RLPF:
Stephanie Deddish: future Treasurer
Laurie Rosborough: Newsletter Editor*

Stephanie:



I've grown up and lived in the Chicago area my whole life. So, one might ask what is your connection to the Adirondacks, then?

My family originated from New York state, and my grandfather had a cabin that he built by hand in the Southern tier of the Adirondack State Park. I spent almost every summer of my youth in the thralls of nature in Upstate New York, and it has shaped me for my entire life.

I graduated from the University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign in 1998 with a degree in Animal Sciences. I have always wanted to work with animals, nature, and the conservation and protection of our planet for generations to come. I had the wonderful opportunity to meet my (soon to be) husband 14 years ago, and quickly bonded over the Adirondacks. No one in Chicago knows of this slice of Heaven unless you have been there. He introduced me to Raquette Lake and all of its glory. I also quickly discovered I have my own family connection to Raquette Lake, and that just sealed the deal even more. It was fate.

As fate would have it, I was introduced to RLPF by Gail Morehouse while fixing up the family cabin during the Pandemic. While spending more time on Raquette Lake, I discovered I really wanted to do more for nature causes that meant something to me personally.

I have been a property manager for the last several years, focusing on keeping our books in alignment, as well as handling maintenance calls. Keeping the books is the easiest part for me! That is when RLPF came along and offered me an opportunity to help. I get to use my skills as a property manager and bookkeeper to help with a cause close to my heart. This particular year is a busy year for me, as I am getting married to that special someone from 14 years ago in September. So, I am going to help with a year of assisting and shadowing, so I can do an even better job for you all next year! Thank you for such a wonderful opportunity to learn and make an impact.

Laurie:



My husband and I bought our Suckerbrook Bay camp in 1983. We had been coming up to Raquette Lake since we were married and wanted our own place! My husband spent many summers here since 1957! I spent summers in the Finger Lakes but loved the Adirondacks!!

I retired as a Math teacher in the Rochester area in 2016, after 32 years. In 2020 we decided to sell our house outside of Rochester, NY, where we both grew up, and make Raquette Lake our permanent residence. We live here from May through November, leaving for South Carolina for the Winter months!

I currently serve as the Executive Secretary of The Association of Mathematics Teachers of New York State. For that position, I manage the Executive Handbook of the Association, which lists job descriptions and procedures, and make sure our meetings follow Robert's Rules!

My hobbies are hiking, reading, sewing, and using my Cricut crafting machine! I am happy to take on the role of the RLPF Newsletter editor, although filling the BIG shoes of Lynne Ballou-Gentry will be a challenge!

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

<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

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Ken Hawks 2025	kbh13308@gmail.com	John Merriman 2026	jm345@yahoo.com
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