

# *Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation*

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*November 2024 Newsletter*



## *A View From Raquette Lake By Gail Morehouse*

*“Water is our most precious and interconnected natural resource. It sustains all ecosystems, communities, and economies from local watersheds to the seas. It's vital to sustaining our health, safety, and the environments in which we live and work. Simply put, water is life.”*

*-Alexandra Cousteau*

November 1, 2024. November already. I feel like it's the end of the year and we still have 2 more months of the year left. With the sun so low in the sky and the shadows long, it certainly is a time that I always find myself reflecting. For the Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation (RLPF), it is a time to look at our journey, celebrate our achievements, and look forward with optimism to the future.

Our mission of educational outreach continued this year with 27 campers from Golden Beach being taught about invasive species and the Variable Leaf Milfoil, VLM, in our lake. They each earned a free ice cream coupon from Raquette Lake supply. Glenn and I spent 4 hours at the Ecofest at the View in Old Forge with the same invasive species samples and saw close to 100 people. This was the second year we participated, and we both were very impressed with how many people were aware and knowledgeable about invasive species as compared to the previous year. The RLPF banner and display tables were present at many of the village celebrations as well. We had another very successful social cruise on the Durant. Harvesting of VLM in the lake continued with another 5,050 gallons being taken out from around the Brown's Tract area to the ranger house. We are trying to identify scientific research partners that may be interested in studying areas we've identified as our priorities. We are interested in why the VLM population

varies so greatly from year to year. We are interested in the noticeable increase in Algae/Algal blooms in the fall. As the climate warms the water and ice cover has lessened, RLPF needs and seeks a scientific partner to interpret and project ongoing changes in the lake waters to help us to understand and respond.

The Headwaters Campaign grant has ended. The Adirondack Council invited me and any other board members that were here to a closing celebration of the grant cycle at their executive retreat at Minnowbrook Conference Center in Blue Mountain Lake on October 26. The Headwaters Campaign was a collaboration of the lake associations of Raquette, Blue and Long Lake, the Northern Forest Canoe Trail, and the Adirondack Council. The purpose of the grant was to help identify barriers to the success of small lake associations considering the large tasks for which they are responsible. Additionally, it was to help us increase our capacity in terms of management, funding, volunteerism, communication, and potential influence at the state level.

I was asked to give a 3-minute presentation at the celebration on what the headwaters campaign had meant to RLPF. I began the presentation by telling a story about when I first became president. I came home from the meeting where I was “sworn in”, and one of our granddaughters, she was 6 at the time, asked me, “What exactly is the Raquette Lake Preser..., what exactly do you do?” I told her briefly about invasive plants, how there are bad plants and good plants, and just like weeds in a garden that can take over your beautiful flowers or crops, these plants can take over the plants the fish need. I told her about educational outreach, how important it is to test water quality, etc. She stopped me and said, “So it’s sort of like an animal rescue, only it’s for the lake.” I said, “Exactly sweetheart!” Now, 5 plus years later, I realize how spot on she was. Given a precious commodity, whatever it is, we take it and nurture it, bring it back to health, if necessary, all the while hoping that someone will come along and take care of it forever. The problem is, everybody wants to adopt a puppy, but very few people want to take on a lake!

At first, each of our lake associations was somewhat skeptical and more concerned about our own individual communities. What I found is that we very quickly realized a commonality of purpose. We shared ideas, successes and things that stress us out. We easily agreed on common barriers. Each of our lake associations has beautiful new promotional videos and signage. Ultimately, a document was developed by the Headwaters coordinator, Becky Sutter, that clearly and succinctly outlines a “job description” of sorts. One that we eventually hope will become a job description for a “watershed manager”, someone who could be paid and be accountable for the myriad of tasks that surround protecting our waters. Becky’s complete 15-page paper can be found on our website, [www.rlpf.com](http://www.rlpf.com), under news, Headwaters Campaign Lake Association Needs Assessment. I mentioned in a previous newsletter, the trip Glenn and I took following the Raquette River, and how we saw so many communities, hydroelectric plants, homes, all built around the river that starts right here. I believe that our voices about the importance of our communities’ health are beginning to take on importance and I do have hope for the future.

My experience as a “core team member” of the Headwaters Campaign bolstered my belief that there is strength in numbers when you have a commonality of purpose. I think it made our

collective voices louder, somehow stronger and larger than we were. It gave me hope that somewhere out there in the universe, because of our collective voices, someone or something is going to come along and take care of our lake forever. (You all know by now what an optimist I am!)

The last thing I want to note is how much our membership volunteer rate has risen. I want to personally thank each and every one of our members for getting involved. You are the RLPF. Your support is so appreciated.

“Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.” – Helen Keller

Thank you for reading. Stay healthy, enjoy your holidays, and we will see you next year!

All the best,

Gail

*Adirondack Council  
Headwaters Campaign  
Conclusion Celebration  
By Laurie Rosborough*

A lovely evening was spent at the Minnowbrook Conference Center in Blue Mountain Lake on Saturday, October 26, 2024. Presidents from the 3 lake associations (Raquette, Long, and Blue) were invited to bring along 2 board members and their spouses to talk with the Adirondack Council Board of Directors. Comments were made by each lake association president as to what the Headwaters Campaign meant to them and their organization.

Our own Gail Morehouse spoke from the heart and was well received. Treasurer, Bob Rosborough and Board member, Kevin Norris attended with their spouses. All were able to chat with several Adirondack Council board members.





*Jackie Bowen, Director of Conservation.  
Sarah Hatfield, Executive Chair of the Board of  
Directors, Adirondack Council*



*Gail Morehouse, RLPF President*



*Chatting with Adirondack Council Board members*



*Mingling and sharing stories!*

**From left to right:** Heather Vecchio, President Long Lake Association, Michelle Curry, President Water Watch, Blue Mountain Lake, Gail Morehouse, President RLPF, Becky Sutter, Headwaters Campaign Coordinator, Jackie Bowen, Director of Conservation, Adirondack Council, Karrie Fischer, Executive Director Northern Forest Canoe Trail



## *A View from Above the Water*

*By Pat Deyle*

For several years now, members of the RLPF board, have been removing Purple Loosestrife in South Inlet, on the road to the Village from Rt. 28, on several private properties around the lake, in the Village, and along Route 28. This is a very aggressive plant as the flowers produce up to a million seeds per stem. It can destroy the native plants around it by choking them out. The main threat is that Purple Loosestrife invades both natural and disturbed wetlands and alters their ecological structure and function. Thanks to RLPF volunteers, we have it under control for now. Please let us know if you see the plant in and around our wetlands in late August and September. We cut and bag the flowers and spray the rest to kill the roots.



## *Annual Meeting: Guest Speaker*

*Dr. Thomas Dettmer, Cornell University,  
Adirondack Fishery Research Program.*



"Tommy" Dettmer gave a very spirited and informative presentation at our annual meeting held in July. In studying the Adirondack fisheries over time, Dr. Dettmer's team has found that our waters are both warming and browning; anglers, in response, are changing their habits. These three points he demonstrated with extensive and sophisticated in-depth research slides. Since the 1970s, warmer temperatures and big rain events have affected Adirondack lakes. Higher concentrations of organic material

have leached from surrounding watersheds, producing dissolved organic carbons (DOC). Microorganisms eating the DOC use up the oxygen. The clarity of the water is reduced, the oxygen is reduced, and surface temperature of the water rises. Trout, for instance, need both cold water and oxygen. With these changes, fish are experiencing habitat compression; the cold water at the bottom lacks oxygen and the water at the top is too warm. Therefore, the fish are compressed in the middle waters for a longer period of time. This yearly compression is starting earlier and lasting longer. This causes the fish stress, and when they are stressed, they don't eat. Therefore, anglers are catching fewer fish in shallow lakes. Deeper lakes like Tupper, Raquette, and Lake George see an increase in fishing. Dr. Dettmer and his team are studying ways, if possible, for protecting the Adirondack's unique trout population from the inevitable adverse effects of climate change. Minutes from our annual meeting and RLPF's slide show, can be found on our website, [rlpf.org](http://rlpf.org).

*Derelict Dock Project*  
*By Dick Gentry*

On Thursday 8/8 we had a crew of seven people get three docks from behind Hen and Chicks islands. One large "U" shaped dock was behind big rocks, so it took a group effort to cut it up with a chain saw, break it apart with pry bars and pile the pieces on two other docks to tow it all to Burke's Marina. A big thank you to Glenn Morehouse, David Casper, Carl Bottenus, Kevin Hawks, Rieley Hawks and Evan Hawks. We have removed five docks this year.



**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.**

# *Loon Census Report*

## *By Dick Gentry*

Here is the compiled report of all the loon census watchers on Raquette Lake. We had a total of 19 people stationed around the lake to get as much coverage as we could. Each person is supposed to send in the loon census form, but some people had trouble accessing the form and could not find a way to fill it in online.

The results are that we had 19 adult loons and 1 chick spotted. One of the nesting rafts had a nest early but the nest failed. The other two nesting rafts did not get used. The census breakdown is as follow:

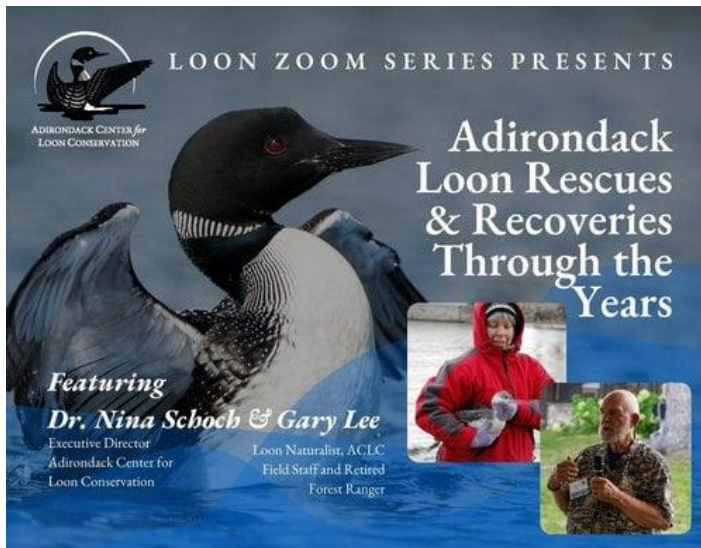
Deyle	2 adults	Village area
Campbell/Schantz	2 adults	outside Eldon Lake
Garland/Joy	3 adults	Center of Beaver Bay
Gentry/Ballou-Gentry	2 adults	South of Long Point and Silver Beach
Hoffman	2 adults	Lonesome Bay
Kistler	1 adult	Sucker Brook Bay
Merriman (2)	1 adult	Birch Bay
Seufert	2 adults + 1 chick	Outlet Bay
Gearhart	2 adults	Off Tioga Point
Hedges	1 adult	North Bay
Loriot	1 adult	north side of Big Island
Geisdorf	0	west end Sucker Brook Bay
Hawks	0	North bay south of North point
York	0	Hen and Chicks Islands
Evans	0	Duck bay to Long Point

I want to thank all the volunteers for participating in this important conservation program for the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation (ACLC).

From **Griffin Archambault** [garchambault@adkloon.org](mailto:garchambault@adkloon.org)

Across New York State, we had over 400 sign-ups for a little under 400 waterbodies. We've received well over 100 census forms so far, and constantly have more coming in. If you'd like to view previous years' results by lake, we've got annual reports for 2001-2022 on our website [here](#). Our database is undergoing an overhaul, and once that is complete we'll have 2023 and 2024 results up.





Visit with loon conservationists from across North America on the 2nd Thursday of each month, November to April, to learn more about loons and the exciting work of these dedicated people.

1. Nov 14, 7-8pm: *Adirondack Loon Rescues & Recoveries Through the Years* with Dr. Nina Schoch and Gary Lee, [ACLC](#)
2. Dec 12, 7-8pm: *Common Loon Monitoring in the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem Through Bioacoustics*, with Carl Brown, [BRI](#)
3. Jan 9, 2025, 7-8pm: *Loon Rehabilitation: the Ticking Time Bomb*, with Andrea Howey-Newcomb, [Tri-State Bird Rescue and Research](#)
4. Feb, 13, 7-8pm: *Our Favorite Loon Stories: Tales from 30 Years Researching Washington's Loons*, Dan & Ginger Poleschook, [BRI](#)
5. March 13, 7-8pm: *Luring Anglers with Lead-Free Tackle*, Margie Manthey, [Wolfe Lake Association](#), Ontario, Canada
6. April 10, 7-8pm: *Preview and Review: A Look Back at 2024 and Ahead at 2025*, Griffin Archambault, [ACLC](#)

\$10 Each, or All 6 Zooms for \$50

*Not able to attend all 6? Links to all the recordings will be sent to you if you register for the package of 6.*

Loon Zooms are FREE for our Donors!

**Click to Register for our Loon Zooms!**



*Mike Burke  
Person of the Year  
Presented by Dick Gentry*



Michael and Nora Burke have always been strong supporters of Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation. Their attitude is always: whatever you need and how can we help. This past year, Michael went well above and beyond when he volunteered to remove the derelict docks we collected. We towed 16 docks in various states of disrepair to the shore at Burkes Marina. Michael used his excavator to pull the docks from the lake, broke them up and placed them in a dumpster provided by the town. Michael did all this on his own time when he was extremely busy with the operation of the marina.

This project would have been almost impossible for us to accomplish without Michael’s time, work and equipment. For 2024, we honor Michael Burke as our RLPF person of the year.

As a thank you, Mike received a plaque and a dinner cruise aboard the W.W.Durant.

*Boating License Reminder*



**Everyone** will need a safe boating certificate by the first time you operate a vessel in 2025!

That is NY State’s Safe Boating law.

*September 3<sup>rd</sup> Cocktail Cruise  
On the  
W.W.Durant*

RLPF held its 2nd members cocktail cruise on the W. W. Durant on Sept. 3, 2024. We were once again blessed with beautiful weather. The crew of the Durant was once again gracious and hospitable, and the food was fantastic. This has proven to be our most popular event, and tickets were again sold out. This is a great opportunity to engage directly with fellow members and RLPF board members. Make sure to book your tickets early next year!



*Raquette Lake New Fire Hall  
Celebration  
By Laurie Rosborough*

Raquette Lake is proud to have a new Fire Hall, generously funded 50% by residents, summer residents, and local people. The opening event took place on October 12, 2024. Mark Bird, Fire Chief, and the hard-working efforts of the fire dept members and the Ladies Auxiliary helped to make this happen!

Pictures below are of the ribbon cutting and the celebration. Coffee and doughnuts started the morning off, with speeches after the ribbon cutting, and a wonderful lunch after that, provided by the Ladies Auxiliary.



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

RLPF Budget YTD Income & Expenditures		YTD 2023 Actual	2024 YTD	2024 Budget	
<b>Income</b>	Dues	\$7,796	\$5,250	\$4,500	
	Cruise Tickets	\$1,440	\$1,820	\$0	
	Donations	\$11,606	\$1,302	\$10,000	
	Dividends and Interest	\$2	\$0	\$10	
<b>AIS Fund</b>					
	Donations	\$585	\$390	\$8,000	
	TOLL funds	\$17,000	\$17,000	\$20,000	
	<b>Total Income</b>	<u>\$36,989</u>	<u>\$25,762</u>	<u>\$42,510</u>	
<b>Expenses</b>	Administrative Expense	\$162	\$312	\$250	
	Annual Meeting	\$85.20	\$176	\$200	
	Awards, POY, Recognition	\$336	\$425	\$300	
	RLPF Social Cruise Expense		\$3,467		
	Bank Expense	\$245	\$360	\$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	\$425	\$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	
	<b>AIS Fund</b>				
		Hand harvesting Aqualogic	\$19,250	\$21,250	\$20,000
		Extra compensation for boat stewards	\$0	\$750	\$1,000
		Shed Maintenance	\$0	\$0	\$250
	<b>Total Expense</b>	<u>\$42,411</u>	<u>\$32,720</u>	<u>\$41,495</u>	

## *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](http://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

*(This Hobolink is possible through RLPF's investment in a lake platform sensor that is continually monitored through our partnership with the Adirondack Watershed Institute.)*

<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!*



Happy Fall!  
Happy Thanksgiving!



### RLPF Officers

President -	Gail Morehouse	2026	<a href="mailto:gmorehouse@frontier.com">gmorehouse@frontier.com</a>
Vice President -	Pat Deyle	2025	<a href="mailto:cpat4parts@msn.com">cpat4parts@msn.com</a>
Secretary -	Marion Goethals	2026	<a href="mailto:mariongoethals@gmail.com">mariongoethals@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer -	Bob Rosborough	2025	<a href="mailto:rrosboro@gmail.com">rrosboro@gmail.com</a>

### Board Members

Lynne Ballou-Gentry 2025	<a href="mailto:bal.gen1277@gmail.com">bal.gen1277@gmail.com</a>	Dick Gentry 2027	<a href="mailto:dickgentry47@gmail.com">dickgentry47@gmail.com</a>
Ken Hawks 2025	<a href="mailto:kbh13308@gmail.com">kbh13308@gmail.com</a>	John Merriman 2026	<a href="mailto:jm345@yahoo.com">jm345@yahoo.com</a>
Kevin Norris 2026	<a href="mailto:knrl57@frontiernet.net">knrl57@frontiernet.net</a>	Kim Hoffman 2026	<a href="mailto:khoffman9867@icloud.com">khoffman9867@icloud.com</a>