



Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation

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June 2025 Newsletter

A View From Raquette Lake
By Gail Morehouse

“I love how summer just wraps its arms around you like a warm blanket” – Kellie Elmore

Summer – it’s here! Who doesn’t really look forward to summer? My favorite time of the year is fall, but I still always look forward to summer. Summer is the time that our families come together. It’s also the time neighbors and friends that we see year after year share their lives again. Most of us feel a unique connection with the lake that grows deeper with each visit. It’s the time of year that we utilize the lake the most, making it also the time that the lake can be misused the most and we all must keep that in mind. With every right that you have to use the lake, comes a responsibility to take care of it. So please, a gentle reminder, have your families and friends take “clean, drain, dry” seriously. Remind them while boating or jet skiing to stay out of quiet coves where loons could be nesting. Never take Raquette Lake for granted. It’s simple.

Our annual meeting this year is on July 19, 2025, from 10:00 – 11:30 at the new Raquette Lake firehouse. For those of you who missed the grand opening in the fall, it is a great opportunity to tour this beautiful, modernly equipped firehouse that was made possible by countless donations.

Our guest speaker this year will be Dr. Curt Stager. He is a professor of Natural Sciences at Paul Smith’s College and the author of many publications, including *Still Waters: The Secret World of Lakes*. His presentation will be focused on Climate change in the Adirondacks. From Dr. Stager;

“The Adirondacks are warming faster than the global average, and 2024 was our warmest year on record here thus far. What has it meant for people and ecosystems in the North Country thus far? And what might the future hold as our fossil fuel emissions continue to warm the planet?”



His presentation will begin around 10:45 and end at 11:15, leaving time for questions.

As usual, we will start with the annual business reports required by our by-laws. One of the actions required is the election of new or returning board members. This year, we will be welcoming 2 new board members, Stephanie Deddish (Judd) as treasurer, and Anthony Bretscher, a board member. We are very excited that, if elected, they will be joining our team. They both bring fresh perspectives and valuable resources to our journey.

Gaining new board members means losing old ones. Bob Rosborough was the original treasurer of the Raquette Lake Property Owners Association out of which RLPF grew. After 20 years he left as treasurer but remained an active member. When I became President in 2019, I asked him to come back as the previous treasurer retired. He agreed to stay no more than 4 years. Although he was supposed to retire last year, he agreed to stay on for one more year until Stephanie Deddish (Judd) could fully commit to the position. Thank you, Bob!

Lynne Ballou-Gentry joined the Board of Directors when the association was still the Raquette Lake Property Owners association. For almost 20 years, and through many transitions, she never left the board. Lynne recruited most of our current board members – including myself. She has served as a board member, as the secretary, and as the newsletter editor for most of her years on the board. She is deeply passionate about the health of Raquette Lake and its community and has given countless volunteer hours toward accomplishing positive outcomes for both. Many of her ideas have manifested into action including the “derelict dock” project. She and her husband Dick Gentry recently just totally managed and decorated our new “office” at the village waterfront for our stewards, including donating a couple of her beautiful wildlife prints. She has nominated many of our “persons of the year”. Lynne has served as sort of an “Advisory Council” person to me. Her ideas are creative and contagious. I am going to miss Lynne on the board very much, but I know that she is only a phone call away. I also know that she will continue to show up to volunteer, for her dedication and commitment to our lake is timeless. Thank you, Lynne.

Some of you may have already seen our divers from Aqualogic, continuing our quest to keep the entire village area free from Variable Leaf Milfoil. We will allocate additional funds for their return in the fall to re-survey the designated area and remove any new growth that has emerged. This is a practice that is highly recommended in our Lake Management Plan.

The Adirondack Council is also completely committed to finding another “Clean Water Advocate” for Raquette Lake and its watershed. Their original hire, Blake Neumann was very helpful to us and I really hope they are successful in replacing him!

Some of you may have noticed that our Hobolink to current lake conditions including air and water temperatures, daily rainfall and water level, is not working. Pat Deyle has been working diligently to find out why through the Adirondack Watershed Institute. They have finally determined that it is a software problem that is not easy to solve. Due to their own turnover and workload, we are sorry to say that it will not be functional again until the fall. But we are aware of it and working on it!

Finally, more fun! Our 3rd annual members appetizer cruise on the W.W. Durant is booked for September 2, 2025. This is a beautiful cruise at an unbeatable price. Tickets are available from any board member at a member price of \$35. After August 10th, any unsold tickets will be available to the general public for \$45. The ship boards at 3:30 and sails from 4:00-6:00. Delicious appetizers are provided and there is a cash bar. Please come and join me, my husband, our board and your neighbors and friends on this purely social cruise. There will be some great door prizes too! (If you are interested in donating a door prize, please contact me directly!)

Our lake is many things to many people. For some, the lake is a place of adventure, where man versus fish or the push of your physical abilities in terms of paddling or swimming are always on display. For others, it is a sanctuary, offering calm mornings filled with birdsong, a sunrise and a warm cup of tea. For all of us, the lake is a canvas on which countless memories are painted.

We hope to see you on July 19th at our annual meeting and/or on our social cruise. As summer wraps its arms around you, enjoy it and stay well!

All the best,

Gail

“Rest is not idleness, and to lie sometimes on the grass on a summer day listening to the murmur of water, or watching the clouds float across the sky, is hardly a waste of time.” – *John Subbock*

Lynne Ballou-Gentry came across this article over the winter. Many of us are anxious about what seems to be an increase in the number of blooms we see each year. Here are some simple tests that anyone can perform.

*Simple No-Cost Tests for
Blue-Green Algae Blooms
Adapted from
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency*

Simple, no-cost tests for blue-green algae

Use a jar or stick to check for blue-green algae in your lake or pond.

A couple simple and free tests can help to determine if a lake has a blue-green algae community. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) does not routinely monitor for algal toxins. If your test results indicate you have a blue-green bloom, please refer to the [Blue-green algae and harmful algal blooms](#) page on the MPCA website for tips to reduce the risk of exposure to your family and pets.

The jar test

If your lake or pond water appears very green, the jar test can help determine if the color is from blue-green algae, or just an overabundance of more beneficial types of planktonic algae.

Materials

- Clear jar (pint to quart size) with a screw top lid, such as a canning jar or pickle jar with label removed
- Rubber or latex gloves

Procedure

1. With the gloves on, collect a sample just below the surface of the water (avoid



collecting Just the top layer of scum).

2. Fill the jar about three-quarters full. Do not fill the jar completely; algae give off gases that may cause pressure buildup in the jar that could break it.
3. Wipe any scum off the outside of the jar and screw the lid on.
4. Put the jar in the refrigerator and leave it undisturbed overnight.
5. Carefully remove the jar from the refrigerator and see where the algae have accumulated. Do not shake or agitate the jar at all or the algae will mix into the water again and negate your test results.

6. If the algae are settled out near the bottom of the jar, It is likely that your lake does not have a lot of blue-green algae.



7. If the algae have formed a green ring at the top of the water, there is a strong possibility that your lake does have a blue-green algae community



The stick test

If your lake or pond has a mat of green material floating on the surface, the stick test can help determine what it is.

Materials

- Sturdy stick, long enough to reach into the water without getting algae on your hands
- Rubber or latex gloves



Procedure

With the gloves on, push the stick into the surface mat and slowly lift it out the water. If the stick comes out looking like it has been dipped into a can of paint, the material is likely blue-green algae. If the stick comes out with green strands like hair or threads, the material is probably filamentous green algae, which may be a nuisance but is not a health hazard.

Note:

The stick test can fail when a type of blue-green algae called *Lyngbya wollei* is present. This species can form tough filamentous mats that float to the surface, similar to mats formed by harmless filamentous algae. But *Lyngbya wollei* algae differentiate themselves with a putrid sewage-like odor and by sometimes releasing purple pigment in the water around them.

Note: No test for blue-green algae is perfect, including these. The jar test relies on the buoyancy of most free-floating blue-green algae. In some lakes, most bloom complaints are the result of the buoyant forms. But there's a small possibility that the algae in your test may be a non-buoyant species, resulting in a false negative. Likewise, some swimming forms of non-blue-green algae (such as euglenoids) may form a surface layer during a jar test, resulting in a false positive. Euglena blooms are often reddish, rather than green.

The presence of blue-green **algae** does not mean your lake is hazardous; they are a natural part of the algae communities in many lakes. Although the jar test can confirm blue-green algae, it does not indicate the algae species or if the bloom is toxic.

Hazardous conditions occur when there is a large amount of blue-green algae composed of species capable of generating toxins. A chemical test for toxins would be required to confirm hazardous conditions.



A View From the Bottom *By Pat Deyle*

Threat Alert, Invasives on the move! I wrote about BLD (Beech Leaf Disease) last summer and since then we have learned that BLD is now thought to be associated with an invasive worm. The disease was first found in southwestern ADK in 2022, and in the Town of Bolton in 2023.

According to the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP), beech leaf disease can kill mature Beech trees in a 6–10-year period and younger trees in 2–3 years. The beech tree is a food source for many birds and many of our furry friends in the ADK and beyond.

Symptoms include dark striping between the veins, curling leaves and a leathery leaf texture. So far it has not been found in Hamilton County, but it has been found in northern Herkimer county, our southern neighbor. You can learn more at www.adkinvasives.com

APPIP also is reporting some good news for once! There may be a parasitic wasp that kills the eggs laid by the Emerald Ash Borer (EMB), which has been found in every ADK county with the exception of Hamilton and Lewis Counties. The EMB has already destroyed thousands of our native ash trees in New York State. My son's tree company recently removed 485 ash trees from a park in Onondaga County (Syracuse area) to help stop the spread of the EMB. This tree disease is the reason we have a statewide ban on moving firewood more than 50 miles.



On Thursday June 19th, our milfoil divers from Aqualogic were busy again removing our invasive milfoil, VLM, from the Village area.

Water Sampling in Raquette Lake

By Kim Hoffman

While summer at Raquette Lake means sun and fun on the water there is another activity going on and it is water sampling! Water sampling is the process of collecting representative water samples from different sources to check water quality. This involves planning, specific sampling methods and appropriate equipment to prevent contamination and ensure accurate results. The collected samples are then analyzed in a laboratory to determine parameters like physical, chemical and biologic characteristics. Monitoring water quality helps identify and address trends.

The Adirondack Lake Assessment Program (ALAP) is our partner in lake monitoring. ALAP was established in 1998. It is the largest volunteer-driven water quality monitoring program in the Adirondack Park and is a partnership between Protect the Adirondacks (PROTECT) and the Paul Smith's College Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI). Starting in 2024, there are three sites on Raquette lake that are sampled and monitored monthly: Sucker Brook Bay, Lonesome Bay and where Brown's Tract enters Raquette lake by town. During sampling, transparency is measured with a secchi disk, a bottle of water is collected to be analyzed for chemical components and water is filtered for chlorophyll determination. The samples are kept frozen until they are transported to the AWI laboratory at Paul Smith's College. Samples are then analyzed for pH, alkalinity, conductivity, color, nitrogen, total phosphorus, chlorophyll-a, transparency, chloride, sodium and calcium. The results of the analyses are available at ALAP's website at <https://www.adklakes.org>.



New building for our Boat Stewards

By Dick Gentry

Our Boat Stewards are our number one line of defense in preventing the spread of invasive species into or out of Raquette Lake. They monitor our boat launch and inspect boats and trailers entering and exiting the lake. They are there through cold, heat, sunshine, rain, wind, black flies, and mosquitoes, etc. Last year there were more days without Steward coverage than with coverage. Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation (RLPF) determined that a better structure was needed to give them a place to work and to help protect them from the elements.

Thanks to Jim Dillon and Raquette Lake Supply, with their constant support of RLPF and with some of the generous donations our members have provided, we purchased a new building that is fully enclosed with windows for ventilation and a small porch. We are sure this will give our Boat Stewards a comfortable place to conduct their business, promote responsible boating practices, educate people about “Clean, Drain and Dry”, and encourage washing and self-inspection of boats by their owners.

Pictured below are our old boat shed and the new building with Boat Steward Bob Faulkner.



Many thanks to those who made this new shed possible!

One of our members, Russ Walthers, came across this article and forwarded it to Gail. It was extensive with a lot of information. Laurie Rosborough condensed it into this information for our newsletter.

Family Forest Carbon Program
Submitted by Russ Walthers

The Family Forest Carbon Program is a pathway for landowners to improve forest health and help mitigate climate change while earning an income to cover the cost of taking care of their land. We help landowners implement improved forestry practices in their woodlands that result in greater amounts of carbon stored in their trees. Companies and other organizations can purchase verified carbon credits generated from the additional carbon sequestered on woodlands enrolled in the program.

When you enroll, you'll receive payments for implementing forest management practices that increase the carbon sequestered and stored on your land. You'll also receive an expert consultation from a forester and a forest management plan uniquely designed for your property and your goals. Basic eligibility requires you have forested property in a region currently covered by the Family Forest Carbon Program, own 30 or more acres of non-planted, naturally regenerating trees on your property, have the legal right to harvest on your land and be able to commit to a 20-year agreement.

Our program's main goal is to connect landowners with forestry professionals to assist in the stewardship of their woodlands. The Family Forest Carbon Program is perfect for landowners who are trying to preserve the woodlands by promoting the growth of native species, older and more mature forests, and increasing wildlife habitat.

For more information about two Northeast Forest programs, Grow Older Forests and Enhance Your Woodland, check out their website at: <https://familyforestcarbon.org/>

Boating License Reminder

ALL BOATERS regardless of age now must have a safe boating certificate by the first time you operate a vessel in 2025! That is NY State's Safe Boating law.

*An Interview with:
Lynne Ballou-Gentry
By Marion Goethals*

Not many, maybe several hundred currently, have lived at Raquette year around as you have. The rest of us miss the rhythm of the year. Could you share a short memory or anticipation of each season here.

Raquette Lake in all her seasons:

the growing warmth of springtime days when birds return with splashes of color, spring flowers show themselves, ice eases its winter's grip to melt away,

the busy summer days filled with the laughter and love of family and friends, the raging of thunderstorms, peaceful swims along the shoreline,

the brilliant autumn days with foggy mornings, the cold and damp chilling you to your core when the lake belongs to those who relish times alone,

the winter days when once more the grip of ice slowly quiets the lake and one skis for miles and miles in the brilliant sparkle of a sunshine day, or snuggles in front of the wood stove while the blizzard rages and the temperatures plummet.

What skills did you need to learn when you first became a year-rounder, that is, to become self-reliant?

I'm not certain how much "skill" is involved on my part but I'm a self-taught carpenter, plumber etc. —all of the do-it-yourself endless projects. Learning to live with the truth that what I did or built or made would not be perfect but it would be the best I could do and that would be okay. Living year round gave me the opportunity for resourcefulness. A favorite story I tell is how the deck benches were made from some

lumber that came floating along as the ice was going out. I paddled out, rescued the pieces and built the benches. A far cry from heading off to Lowes with a shopping list from the plans you made.

From your three books, both written and illustrated by you, you have been Sharing Raquette Lake for quite a while. These days, what especially would you like people to experience as they live and visit here?

I would like them to learn to truly appreciate and know the lake and themselves: to find their inner strength and true happiness.

Since you arrived, times at the Lake have changed for the community and for the natural world. Could you talk about what losses you have witnessed, and what might be better now?

It's so very easy to be pessimistic at this time in our political climate. The environmental chaos is overwhelming. Grassroots organizations such as Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation, working to make as much of a positive impact on our natural world as we can, is one of the positives making our lake better now.

What responsibilities would you like second homeowners to undertake on behalf of the Lake, the community, and its natural ecosystems? From your point of view, how can seasonal residents and visitors best contribute?

Join www.rlpf.org and volunteer with us.

Do your part to keep the lake water clean and pure.

Respect our night sky views by using only "dark sky compliant" lighting.

Maintain natural shoreline on your property.

Ensure your septic system is in compliance and well maintained.

Pick up litter when you see itplease.

Do you see good trends for the next few years?

No. Funding for vital environmental programs is either gone now or being cut.

And finally, if you would, for you, what is it about Raquette Lake that makes it home?

I wrote this poem a number of years ago, but it embodies why Raquette Lake is my home.

My Reminder By 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

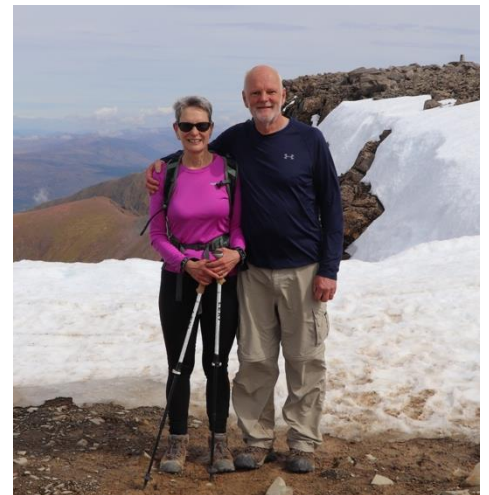
Then turned and paddled softly
as if within a dream

Tonight served as my reminder
Of the beauties that I see

And I realized so fully the
gifts there are for me

*Welcome to RLPF:
Anthony Bretscher*

In 1981 I moved to Ithaca, NY to teach and do basic research in cell biology at Cornell University, from which I fully retired in 2023. Almost as soon as I arrived in Ithaca, I met a wonderful person, Janice, and we were married in 1983. In 1992 we and our two young daughters, Heidi and Erika, made our first visit to the Adirondacks and Raquette Lake when we rented a cabin on Pine Island. We fell in love with the area and decided to look for a cabin of our own. After looking at places on Fourth Lake, Big Moose Lake and Long Lake we couldn't make a decision. Then suddenly, a year-round camp on Raquette Lake became available – that we had noticed from Pine Island – which we bought and named for our daughters, Camp Heideka. Since then, we have been coming to Raquette Lake every summer, and for shorter periods during the winter. We are incredibly grateful to Kevin and Sue Norris and others who have helped us in every possible way over all these years. We love to hike and kayak throughout the Adirondacks and elsewhere (picture is of us on Ben Nevis in Scotland this spring). Janice and I had hoped to be 46ers, but so far, we have only been up 24 high peaks – but if we cheat and add in the number of times we have been up the almost 4,000 ft Blue Mountain, that comes to more than 50! I also love woodworking (I built that kayak!), gardening, having a beer with friends, and photography. After having the privilege of enjoying Raquette Lake for over 30 years, it would be a great pleasure to contribute to the RLPF to help preserve the lake for future generations.



Treasurer's Report
By Bob Rosborough
As of June 1, 2025

RLPF Budget YTD Income & Expenditures		2024 Actual	2025 YTD	2025 Budget
Income	Dues	\$5,400	\$3,530	\$4,500
	Cruise Tickets	\$1,820	\$0	\$0
	Donations	\$9,442	\$1,500	\$10,000
	Dividends and Interest	\$0	\$0	\$10
AIS Fund				
	Donations	\$390	\$100	\$8,000
	TOLL funds	\$17,000	\$0	\$17,000
Total Income		\$34,052	\$5,130	\$39,510
Expenses				
	Administrative Expense	\$312	\$160	\$300
	Annual Meeting	\$175.60	\$0	\$200
	Awards, POY, Recognition	\$425	\$0	\$300
	RLPF Social Cruise Expense	\$3,467	\$0	\$3,500
	Bank Expense	\$432	\$218	\$400
	Community Outreach	\$1,435	\$375	\$1,335
	Education and Research	\$2,646	\$0	\$10,000
	Insurance	\$180	\$180	\$185
	Lake Testing	\$425	\$0	\$750
	Marketing	\$1,414	\$125	\$5,000
	Newsletter	\$0	\$0	\$500
	PO Box	\$0	\$100	\$100
	Travel/Fees	\$0	\$0	\$200
	Tax Prep	\$0	\$0	\$50
	Website hosting	\$0	\$0	\$0
	Equipment Investment	\$0	\$0	\$1,000
AIS Fund				
	Hand harvesting Aqualogic	\$21,250	\$8,000	\$22,000
	Extra compensation for boat stewards	\$900	\$0	\$1,000
	Shed Maintenance	\$0	\$0	\$250
	New Shed at Waterfront	\$0	\$5,631	\$0
Total Expense		\$42,411	\$14,789	\$47,070

	2024	2025	2025
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	\$175	\$175
Adirondack Lake Assoc.	\$75	\$0	\$75
Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation	\$100	\$100	\$100
RLVFD	\$150	\$0	\$150
St. Williams	\$100	\$0	\$100
RL Library	\$50	\$0	\$50
TOLL Community Pride Day	\$100	\$100	\$100
TOLL Fire Dept.	\$75	\$0	\$75
TOLL Rescue Squad	\$75	\$0	\$75
NFCT	\$75	\$0	\$75
RL Rescue	\$75	\$0	\$75
Adirondack Council	\$100	\$0	\$100
Total Community Outreach	\$1,435	\$375	\$1,435

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!

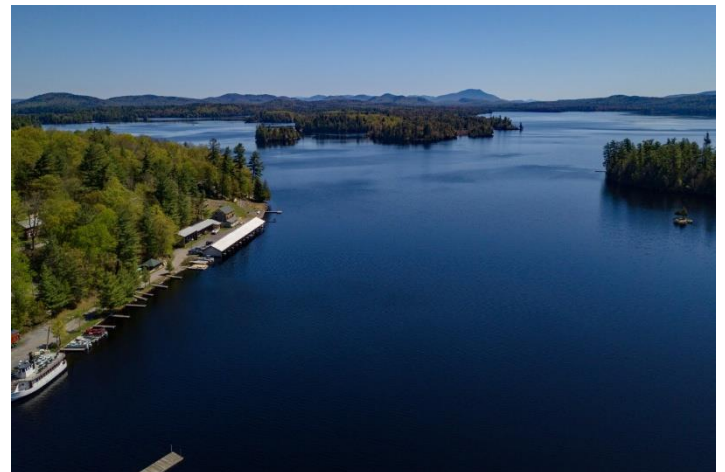
RLPF Officers

President -	Gail Morehouse	2026	gmorehouse@frontier.com
Vice President -	Pat Deyle	2026	cpat4parts@msn.com
Secretary -	Marion Goethals	2026	mariongoethals@gmail.com
Treasurer -	Bob Rosborough	2025	rrosboro@gmail.com

Board Members

Lynne Ballou-Gentry 2025	bal.gen1277@gmail.com	Dick Gentry 2027	dickgentry47@gmail.com
Ken Hawks 2025	kbh13308@gmail.com	John Merriman 2026	jm345@yahoo.com
Kevin Norris 2026	knrl57@frontiernet.net	Kim Hoffman 2026	khoffman9867@icloud.com

Happy Fourth of July!



[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

