

A View From Raquette Lake By Gail Morehouse

"I love those connections that make this big old world feel like a little village" – Gina Bellman

This summer brought a profound reminder of how interconnected our community truly is. One of my closest friends experienced a routine medical procedure that turned into a serious ordeal, resulting in a critical condition and a ten-day hospital stay. During this difficult time, her husband kept me updated regularly. One day, he messaged me saying, "You'll never believe who (patient's) nurse has been the last 2 days. There's a Raquette Lake connection." I was not in the mood to play any guessing games, but I ran through everyone I know here at North Point and beyond and couldn't come up with a nurse, so I replied, "No idea". He pushed further and said, "I'll give you a clue, she's Asian." Now 2 of our 3 children were adopted from Korea and I knew it wasn't my daughter! Then it dawned on me. Lou Burke's daughter. Lou also has 2 children adopted from Korea around the same age as ours. Indeed, Lou's daughter was the nurse in question. I shared this story with Lou at the Labor Day picnic and expressed gratitude for his daughter's kindness and professionalism, which my friend appreciated even before realizing the connection. Now I'll give you another bit of trivia. My husband Glenn and Lou Burke were born in the same hospital on Long Island. (4 years apart). We discovered this connection one day when Lou was helping us with our boat. It really is a small world after all isn't it?

These instances reinforce a truth I often share: the world is smaller than we think, and recognizing our interconnectedness gives strength to our relationships and unity.

Every year at this time I reflect on what we have achieved together and the many people who made it possible. Our organization once again participated with a presentation table at the "Eco-fest" at the View in Old Forge and hosted informational tables at various local events. We completed our yearly harvesting of Variable Leaf Milfoil to help keep the village area clear, and we held what was likely our best attended annual general membership meeting at the new firehouse, featuring another outstanding speaker. We continued our tradition of sponsoring a safety boat for the 90-miler event.

Through collaboration with the Adirondack Council, we arranged a visit from NYS Senator Pete Harckham, which included a tour of Raquette Lake. Currently, we are applying for another grant through the DEC Environmental Protection Fund, with more details to come. Our sold-out social cruise returned on a beautiful evening, and we are now working to complete our annual reporting to the DEC and APA, as well as finalizing next year's budget before year's end. The momentum continues to grow!

I maintain strong relationships with the Presidents of the Blue Mountain and Long Lake Associations. Even though the "Headwater's Campaign" grant has concluded, the sense of connectedness remains. Our three lakes are linked, and actions in one can affect the others. Our 3 lakes are the headwaters of the Raquette River and our work impacts towns, villages, parks and homes all the way to the St. Lawerence River. Our focus remains on the sustainability of our work, and while we are still figuring out the path forward, I promise to keep you informed as plans develop.

I am deeply grateful to "my team"—a group of hardworking, dedicated individuals who feel more like family than colleagues. Their support, brilliance, and openness are invaluable, and I am proud of all we have accomplished together.

In our previous newsletter, we honored two retiring board members and welcomed two new ones. I extend my heartfelt thanks to all former and current board members. I also thank each member; participation is voluntary, and while I cannot understand why anyone would choose not to join, I recognize that not every resident is a member. Regardless, the work we do benefits everyone and serves the lake as a whole. Raquette Lake belongs to all of us.

It turns out that we welcomed one more new board member this fall. I asked Ellen Tourtelot to fill the remaining time of John Merriman's term, and I hope that she will opt to stay with us when his term expires next July. You will read about John Merriman at the end of this newsletter. John was a calm in the storm. There are times that our board doesn't agree, and it always seemed to be John's voice that gave us the path forward.

John resigned just a few weeks before he passed away after a long, strong and courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. Out of all my gratitude for so many, here and now, I want to express my deepest gratitude to John.

I wish everyone a healthy and joyful holiday season, and we will see you next year!

All the best,

Gail

"Express gratitude for the greatness of small things." - Richie Norton

A View from Below the Water By Pat Deyle

A few people have asked me "What is a Wake Boat"? There are a few on the lake, mostly at the camps. They have tanks in the bottom that can be filled with water to add weight to the boat so it can make a much larger wake for Wake Boarding. Boat US just released a study "Environmental Study Examines Wake Surfing Impact". The study shows a dramatic light on the damage that a wakeboard boat does to the lakebed and to water quality.

The study was done by the research staff at the University of Minnesota. They identified three hydrodynamic phenomena produced by recreational power boats that impact the water column and the lakebed. Bow and stern pressure waves, transverse waves and propeller wash. These forces collectively stir up and suspend sediment, including phosphorous, a primary fuel for algae blooms, and can shear or uproot submerged aquatic vegetation.

Researchers used seven recreational power boats to conduct testing: two deck boats with outboard motors, three bowriders with stern drive engines, and two wake boats with inboard engines. The boats were driven over bottom-mounted acoustic-based velocity sensors at four water depths (9,14,16, and 27 feet). They filmed both above and below the water using arial drones and underwater video to highlight the hydrodynamic effect and its damaging impact, even hours after the boat had passed.

You can watch the videos on St. Anthony Falls Laboratory's You Tube channel (www.youtube.com/umnSAFL - YouTube).

While the study found traditional small power boats traveling at 10-12 mph churned lower density sediments up to 10 feet below, wake boats in surf mode agitated sediments up to 20 feet down.

The study concludes that traditional power boats should operate in 10 feet of water or greater when on plane to minimize impacts on the lakebed – but wake boats in surfing mode should operate in 20 feet or greater depth. Food for thought!

More food for thought about wakeboard boats

Wakeboard boats are motorboats with large ballast tanks and side boards that generate large, surfable waves. They are increasingly common on Adirondack Lakes, including Raquette Lake, and, as fun as they are, they may be creating serious challenges for water quality, plants, animals, and private property.

The strong wake uproots aquatic plants and damages fish and wildlife habitat, including fish egg nests and aquatic insects important to the food chain.

The large wakes produced by these boats can flood loon nests, kill chicks, and erode shorelines, as well as undermine docks and retaining walls.

Another growing concern is ballast water dumping. When wakeboard boats travel from one lake to another, or when they need to lift up in the water to travel through a channel, they release water out of the ballast tanks, potentially introducing aquatic invasive species or other harmful organisms, like the almost microscopic spiny waterflea, or zebra mussel larvae, from one lake to another.

Wakeboard boats also impede navigation and create safety hazards for smaller watercraft, paddlers, and swimmers. Yet, local boating laws, many written long before wakeboard boats became common, often lack the provisions needed to address these new impacts.

The Lake Kiwassa Shore Owners Association near Saranac Lake, after a great deal of damage to personal docks, retaining walls, boats, and other private property, passed "Good Neighbor Guidelines" to limit the use of wakeboard boats to only the deepest parts of the lake, that are at least 500 ft from the shoreline. While all shore owners follow these guidelines, they have no power to limit public use of wakeboard boats to the preferred areas, and damage continues.

Vermont passed statewide wakeboard boat legislation in 2024 that prohibits wakeboard boating in less than 20 ft depth and requires operation at least 500 ft from shore. This limits wake boating to only about 15-20 lakes in the state, but recent news articles in VTDigger suggest that people feel it should be limited even further, possibly to 1000 ft from the nearest shoreline.

As these boats become more prevalent, their ecological and safety consequences are becoming impossible to ignore. Understanding their effects is the first step toward protecting the health and character of Adirondack waters.

https://www.fox9.com/news/lake-minnetonka-wakesurfing-boat-impact-videos



Wakeboard boat wake



Water skiing boat wake

New York State Senator Pete Harckham Vísítz Raquette Lake By Gaíl Morehouse

On September 22, 2025, New York State Senator Pete Harckham, who represents the 40th Senate District and serves as Chairman of the Committee on Environmental Conservation, made a visit to Raquette Lake. This event was coordinated through a partnership between the Adirondack Council and the Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation (RLPF).

Senator Harckham, a regular visitor to the Adirondacks, specifically requested help to arrange a three-day itinerary focused on the latest Adirondack scientific research, culminating in his attendance at the Road Salt Summit in Lake George. The summit is a regional event focused on protecting water quality by addressing road salt contamination issues.

The RLPF and Adirondack Council used the Senator's visit to facilitate direct interactions between the Senator and local residents and scientists. The Senator was provided with a comprehensive tour of Raquette Lake by Dick Gentry (RLPF) and his wife Lynne Ballou-Gentry. The tour group also included Adirondack Council members Sunita Halasz and Andrew Williams, Town Councilman Mark Bird (owner of Bird's Marina and Raquette Lake Fire Chief), Scott Ireland of the Adirondack Lakes Alliance, and Chris Murphy from Trout Power.

Key stops on the itinerary featured Saint Williams, Huntington Camp, and the North End of Raquette Lake—an area significant for the Department of Environmental Conservation's fisheries operations each year. The Senator was struck by the level of volunteer stewardship that RLPF has undertaken for the lake, and he appreciated hearing the important link between water quality and community economic success. Senator Harckham engaged in meaningful conversations about several pressing topics during his boat tour. These included the management of aquatic invasive species, equitable internet access for rural communities, access to healthy food in the community and efforts such as the challenge of removing derelict docks from the lake. He was struck by the fact that NYS has ownership of over 80% of the shoreline of Raquette Lake and manages public access campgrounds, but the responsibility and expense of all these tasks fall solely to the lake association. These discussions highlighted the interconnectedness of environmental health and community livability in the Adirondacks.

Senator Harckham has a great interest in communities that are interested in helping residents and businesses upgrade septic systems. He said that the more data we have on where septic systems are in need of repair and the community interest in having them upgraded, the easier it would make his job to pass supporting legislation.

Senator Harckham expressed a strong appreciation for the Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation's work and the dedication of its volunteers. He commended the foundation's efforts in tackling water quality threats and its role in fostering community engagement. The Senator reaffirmed his commitment to supporting legislation that could help lake associations, recognizing their vital contribution to New York State's environmental stewardship.







Senator Harckham and his boat mates

An Interview with Bob Rosborough

By Marion Goethals

Bob Rosborough is RLPF's outgoing Treasurer; what you may not know is that Bob has been wrangling our finances and memberships and lake ideas since his uncle, Ray Rissler, recruited him in the 1980s. He even extended his decades long tour of duty so as to give a year of on-the-job training to incoming Stephanie Deddish.

When asked why people seem to stick to Raquette lake year after year and generation upon generation, he was ready with his answer. It is simply "the most beautiful of all the Adirondack lakes." Full stop. "And fishing."

Bob admires the "kindness and decency" that the year-rounder families show to second-home owners and visitors. He has an underlying worry about housing for residents, where will a teacher live? The fire fighters? The important younger generation? He points out that as true as housing problems are for rural America, they are especially so for Raquette Lake.

When asked what responsibilities second-home owners had to this lake and community, he didn't hesitate. It is *important to understand* the need to support local businesses: the boat yards, the store and Tap Room, the contractors, etc.

He feels pretty good about the water quality of the lake: "it is in tremendous shape, especially when you visit other upstate lakes which are damaged. Some of the Finger Lakes are destroyed."

Also," Adirondackers are getting pretty smart about road salt".

His positive feelings about the future of Raquette Lake have to do with the shoreline protections of the Forest Preserve, and the presence of family. He loves the good times with cousins, and the privilege of getting to know everyone's far-flung families.

In closing, Bob added that he is encouraged by the recent involvement of the Adirondack Council, which should "help us in the long run. They are serious about helping the Raquette Lake area".

We'd like to add our admiration for and thanks to Bob Rosborough for his good work around Raquette Lake and for the RLPF.

Loon Friendly Lake By Dick Gentry

I just received our 2025 Loon Friendly Lake certification from the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation. This certification is achieved through a combination of activities RLPF participants in regarding Loon protection and education. We have signage at the boat launches (3) and the general store, fish line collection stations at the boat launches, participate in clean ups such as Community Pride day and our derelict dock removal projects, monitor three floating loon nest platforms, provide educational materials at events such as Maintain the Chain and at our boat launch shed and participate in the annual loon census. I will frame the certificate and hang it in the boat steward shed in the spring.







Introducing: Sunita Halasz Adirondack Council



I am Sunita Halasz, the Adirondack Council's Clean Water Community Advocate, inheriting the excellent work of Blake Newman, and I am very excited and grateful to be working closely with RLPF. I'm not shy about proclaiming that RLPF is one of the most impressive volunteer lake associations in the Adirondacks. The opportunity to learn in-depth about the efforts of RLPF since I started in this position in July 2025 has been very helpful to my ability to help all the other lake associations with whom I come into contact.

While my work spans the entire Park, my outreach focuses on the Central and Western Adirondacks, areas that are often less included in Parkwide forums. I help connect communities with funding, advocacy, and technical support,

higher-ed student internships and research, workforce development pathways, and I bring people together to find shared goals around their lakes, rivers, and municipal infrastructure.

The issues for lake associations throughout the Adirondack Park are similar, but the methods for solving the problems are often different, and I find that success mostly depends on the strength of relationships between lake association members.

I am an ecologist with a strong background in science, but after 27 years of living and working in the Adirondacks, I've become equally fascinated by the human side of conservation - the team dynamics within the small organizations that keep our Park humming. Over the years, I've helped local nonprofits develop strategic plans and have served on many volunteer boards. I understand the realities of limited budgets, the challenge of sustaining volunteer energy, the art of engaging donors and piecing together grant funding, and the importance of helping members feel a true sense of ownership in an organization's success. I'm deeply interested in how people work together, and I believe that lasting water quality protection ultimately depends on the strength of the human relationships surrounding that water. As an all-volunteer organization, RLPF deals with the challenges quite well, and each board member clearly feels a powerful sense of personal responsibility to the lake and the wider community.

I have an undergraduate degree from Cornell in Plant Pathology, and I stayed at Cornell for my Masters, studying Whitney Park's fascinating intersection between forestry and the cultural history of the landscape, which is quite timely right now! This led me to a rewarding job at the Adirondack Park Agency working on EPA wetlands grants, geographic information systems analysis, local government outreach, and State Land Unit Management planning.

After my two sons were born, I decided to stay home with them, and this is what has made me so devoted to community-building because I saw the value of the Adirondacks through the eyes of a young person

growing up, discovering the world through multiple community mentors (it takes a village!), finding jobs and educational opportunities, and finding themselves. My kids are now 16 and 20 and I'm so thankful to the people and places of the Adirondacks that have shaped them.

Most recently, I coordinated the Adirondack Climate Outreach and Resilience Network (ACORN), hosting community listening sessions with diverse participants across Northern NY in partnership with Paul Smith's College, The Wild Center, and the Adirondack Research Consortium, with support from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) and the Adirondack Community Foundation. This work received recognition from the national Trust for Civic Life this spring, and I was given the Association of Nature Center Administrator's (ANCA) Community Inspirational Leader award this summer, and the Adirondack Wild's Wild Stewardship Award this fall.

I serve as a Regional Leader for NASA's Earth to Sky program, I volunteer with the Saranac Lake Climate Smart Communities Task Force, and for several years I was part of an improv comedy group that performed all around the Adirondacks, holding workshops in communities, recovery centers, and correctional facilities, so I hope there will be ample opportunities to laugh and find humor together with my new RLPF friends.

In March, I helped to organize the Adirondack Climate Conference, in October, the North Country Climate-Ready Workforce Roundtable, and coming on February 17, 2026, we will hold the Adirondack Applied Water Quality Conference: Science for Community Solutions at Paul Smith's College. You are all welcome!

At the heart of everything I do is a desire to build a sense of neighborliness and responsibility within each of us that fosters the knowledge that we can all make a difference - individually and in community. I love using clean water as the medium for this neighbor-building work because water is at the heart of every Adirondack town. It shapes our health, identity, economy, and our way of life, and it spurs us to action, inspires us to collaborate, and lifts our collective spirits. I feel very fortunate to be working with all of you for Raquette Lake.

September 2nd Cocktail Cruise On the W.W.Durant Pictures taken by Laurie Rosborough























Raquette Lake Bear, Jr. Goes to Space By Sue Norrís

Raquette Lake is a special place where unusual things can happen. In July 1999 our Raquette Lake School sent a small 4" bear, R.L. Bear Jr, into space. Our students learned about NASA and our Space Program as he went up on the Space Shuttle Columbia. Mr. Ernest Bouey, a summer Raquette Lake resident, lived next to the school and occasionally stopped in to talk to the students about stars and space. One time he suggested that we "think bigger". I was a bit surprised as we already had a stuffed bear, RL Bear, traveling around the world with his journal so students could learn about geography and culture. The larger bear traveled with folks from around the lake, Forsell family, Blanchard family, Pam and Les Mason (DeShaws), Ted and Phyllis Martin and Rick Bartow! He had been to all 7 continents, yes even Antarctica with Helen Quinby.

Mr. Bouey used to work for NASA along with his daughter, Diane, and they helped us with the applications. We were delighted when RL Bear Jr was accepted. On July 23, 1999, he went up on the Space Shuttle Columbia. Eileen Collins was the Commander, the first female commander of any space shuttle. When he came back, George Fuge built a shadow box so now RL Bear Jr. can be seen in Raquette Lake School.

Another interesting turn of events had to do with Ruth Dillon, aunt of Jim Dillon. When her son, Jeff, an Air Force pilot, died in a training accident out west, they set up a scholarship program for pilots who wanted to become astronauts. One of the astronauts on this Shuttle had used that scholarship and invited Ruth to attend the launch as a thank you. Ruth attended the launch of the very same shuttle that RL Bear Jr. was on! Small, amazing world!

This was part of NASA's way to promote education about space. Thanks to Mr. Bouey who worked on the Saturn IV rocket that took man to the moon, we are able to make Space real for our students. There are so many amazing people with connections to Raquette Lake, and we thank you all for sharing your talents and knowledge in many ways. Raquette Lake is a special place!





Treasurer's Report By Stephanie Deddish-Judd As of November 1, 2025

RLPF Budget YTD Income & Expenditures 2024		2025	2025
	Actual	YTD	Budget
Income Dues	\$5,400	\$4,130	\$4,500
Cruise Tickets	\$1,820	\$1,940	\$0
Donations	\$9,442	\$3,080	\$10,000
Dividends and Interest	\$0	\$0	\$10
AIS Fund	Ψ0	Ψ3	Ψ.0
Donations	\$390	\$100	\$8,000
TOLL funds	\$17,	•	
Total Income	\$34,052	\$26,250	\$39,510
Expenses Administrative Expense	\$312	\$360	\$300
Annual Meeting	\$175.60	\$194	\$200
Awards, POY, Recognition	\$425	\$353	\$300
RLPF Social Cruise Expense	\$3,467	\$3,240	\$3,500
Bank Expense	\$432	\$442	\$400
Community Outreach	\$1,435	\$375	\$1,335
Education and Research	\$2,646	\$3,073	\$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	\$30,250	\$22,000
Shed Maintenance	\$0	\$0	\$250
New Shed at Waterfront	\$0	\$6,123	\$0
Total Expense	\$42,411	\$44,815	\$46,070
	2024	2025	2025
Community Outreach	AOT	YTD	Budget
	ACT	לווט	buuget
Adk Ctr Arts	\$100	\$ 0	\$100

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

A BIG Thank You to our Boat Stewards: Let them know how much they are appreciated!







Bob Faulkner

Remembering John Merriman

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of John Merriman, a long-time board member and dedicated servant to our community. After a courageous and lengthy battle with cancer, John's warmth, wisdom, and unwavering commitment remain deeply felt by all who had the privilege of knowing him. He leaves behind an enduring legacy of service, leadership, and love for Raquette Lake and all who call it home.

John's contributions to our lake community are immeasurable. For many years, he was the sole water sampler for the Adirondack Lake Assessment Program (ALAP). He performed this vital role behind the scenes, providing information that will help safeguard the health of our waters for generations to come.

In addition to his water sampling efforts, John was the head organizer of our annual loon census count. Each year, he rallied volunteers, coordinated logistics, and inspired a shared commitment to protecting these iconic birds. He was also the leader in obtaining certification for Raquette Lake as a 'Loon Friendly Lake.' Under his guidance, our community achieved this important recognition, reflecting our collective dedication to preserving loon habitats and promoting responsible lake practices.

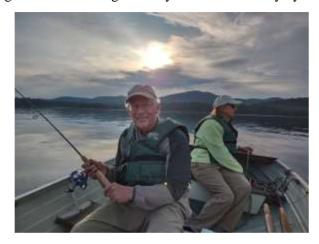
John also led the charge for improvement of rural internet access for lake camps. He spent countless hours researching, calling and eventually securing a contractor and worked persistently to bring these vital resources to our remote shorelines.

John will be remembered for his calm and thoughtful nature. His generosity was matched only by

his humility; John never sought recognition but always sought to better our shared home.

Above all, John cared deeply for people, especially his family, who were the center of his world.

John's passing leaves a legacy that endures in the lake community he helped build and protect. His dedication to service, his stewardship of the lake, and his compassion will continue to inspire us all. Our thoughts are with his family, to whom we extend our



deepest sympathies and gratitude for sharing John with us. Donations in John's memory may be made to:

Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation

Addison County Home Health and Hospice
Adirondack Council

"Strange, isn't it George, how each man's life touches so many others and when he isn't around it leaves an awful hole." – Clarence the Angel, "It's a Wonderful Life"

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://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.



Happy Fall! Happy Thanksgiving!



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 -	Stephanie Deddish	2027	s.deddish@gmail.com

Board Members

Anthony Bretscher 2027	apb5@cornell.edu_	Dick Gentry 2027	dickgentry47@gmail.com
Ken Hawks 2028	kbh13308@gmail.com	Ellen Tourtelot 2026	ellentourtelot@gmail.com
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