

Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation

PO Box 210

Raquette Lake, NY 13436

www.RLPF.org

Email: rlpf13436@gmail.com

March 2026 Newsletter



A View From Raquette Lake By Gail Morehouse

"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant" – Anne Bradstreet

Spring has finally arrived. This year, it felt like it took longer than usual to get here. I'm glad for my winter-loving friends up North, as they've enjoyed back-to-back years of classic, snowy winters. While winter certainly has its own beauty, I think most people are eager for the return of sunlight and warmth after so many cold months.

Honestly, it was a tough winter for me personally. There were some serious medical problems in my family, not least of which involved my husband. But thanks to our own Dr. Russell Rider and his staff in Long Lake and their due diligence, regular screening and their Adirondack spirit, my husband's illness was caught very early and so his recovery has been nothing short of remarkable. That Adirondack spirit recognizes the humility of humanity. Doctors treat patients like friends. The oneness of where we live and who we are, I think, spills into the work of the RLPF and our many partners. We focus on the lake because its water quality affects not just our personal well-being, but also the economic health of our entire community. Before I start to get too philosophical, let me just say that RLPF is prepared to embrace both a new year and a fresh season.

I'd like to announce several key goals we've set for RLPF in 2026. One significant focus has been applying for a grant from the NYS DEC Environmental Protection Fund. As of the publication of this newsletter, we are still waiting to hear about the status of our proposal. If successful, the grant will support an extensive plant survey of the lake, (both native and invasive), create a database of all the plant surveys we have done thus far, note any changes/trends in the plant life of the lake, and use the results to prioritize the various action items from our Lake Management Plan.

If funded, the grant will also set the stage for research possibilities such as;

- Our members have noted the rapid expansion of Inflated Bladderwort in some bays, and in some cases, it appears to be displacing Variable Leaf Milfoil (VLM). It is native to the southern US and is not yet considered an invasive species in NYS. But we are curious about this plant and wonder if it raises ecological concerns or not. Bladderworts are carnivorous, feeding on plankton. Could the large number of these plants disrupt the food web supporting fish populations? Are VLM and Inflated Bladderwort creating a new kind of control on each other? Do their thick growths have any impact on fish passage, or are the fish adapting to it as a new type of habitat?
- As water warms due to climate change, we have questions about seasonal changes in dissolved oxygen at varying depths and how these patterns, alongside nutrient levels, weather events, and harmful algal blooms may affect water quality and trout habitat.
- Additional research might explore lake bathymetry (the contours of the lake bottom) and this could be used to help create a model of the movement of invasive plant beds around the lake due to wind and other factors.

We would love to hear from you about other questions you may have that we could add to our research agenda! (Thank you to Sunita Halasz (Adirondack Council Clean Water and Community Advocate), for her explanation of our research priorities!) Even if the grant doesn't materialize our survey and trend analysis will move forward.

We have been exploring a partnership with SUNY Oneonta's Lake Management graduate program. We have established a relationship with the program director and hope that there's a strong chance graduate students may opt to choose Raquette Lake for supported research projects. The RLPF has suggested the above topics but is open to any student interest.

More engaging Aquatic Invasive Species education is also a goal for us this year. It would be wonderful to develop and introduce an invasive species curriculum lesson that could be utilized by the local school district or the Raquette Lake camps. Many campers or local children who live on the lake are not aware of the threats posed by invasive species or activities that could impact our ecosystems. They are also our next generation of stewards for these beautiful lakes.

We're optimistic about these initiatives and look forward to announcing new events in our June newsletter. As usual, there is a lot of great information in this newsletter. Thank you for reading and thank you for your continued support and membership. Your support keeps these important efforts thriving. Together, we're making a positive impact on our lake community.

“Come with me into the woods. Where spring is advancing, as it does, no matter what, not being singular or particular, but one of the forever gifts, and certainly visible.” – Mary Oliver



Isn't it strange how folks you know "pop up" everywhere you may go!?!

Photo by Sonya Mancini, North Carolina

A View from the Bottom
By Pat Deyle

It's been several years since we first started talking about VLM (Variable Leaf Milfoil) in Raquette Lake. When we first started talking about it VLM was not even on the DEC's watch list. Now it has worked its way up to #2 on the most not wanted list.

VLM has been in Raquette Lake for many years, as it was in Otter Bay in the 1960's. Now it has spread to many areas: South Inlet, Marion River, Beaver Bay, Sucker Brook Bay, Lake Eldon, Beaver Bay, and many more places. We have also shared it with Long Lake and Blue Mountain Lake, just to mention a few. This generally happens when the VLM gets pulled from the bottom by wave action or by power boats cutting it up. The plant now begins to float to the surface and begins to form a root ball. When the root ball becomes heavy enough the floating plant sinks

and can start a new colony. This normally happens in shallow water (6-10 feet in depth). Since we started harvesting the VLM we have removed over 100 tons of VLM from the lake and the Marion River.

Will we ever win the battle? Probably not, but we plan to keep after it. How can you help?

1. If you see it floating you can pick it out of the water and put in on shore to dry out and die (This normally takes about 7 days of drying to kill it.) Now you have free mulch you can use on your plants or burn in your campfire.

2. Be a "water watcher" and report to us or to the boat launch steward at the Village Launch.

For the last 4 or 5 years we have been concentrating on the bay closest to the Village Launch. Why? There is heavy boat traffic and fishing in the bay between the launch and the school where boats break it up and the spread begins. So please when you see it floating on the surface, please remove it.



Variable Leaf Milfoil taken from Raquette Lake last year.

(Photo obtained by Pat Deyle)

*Save the Date:
RLPF Annual Membership Meeting
July 11, 2026
10:00 am - Location TBD*

*Loon Zoom: Looking Back, Looking
Forward – Year in Review and 2026
Preview
By Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation*

Loon Zoom: Looking Back, Looking Forward — Year in Review and 2026 Preview, hosted by the [Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation \(ACLC\)](#), takes place virtually on **April 16, from 7 to 8 pm** and serves as both a recap of recent conservation efforts and a preview of what's next for Adirondack loons.

This special program rounds out ACLC's Loon Zoom series, bringing together science, stewardship, and community in a single, forward-looking presentation. The presentation will be led by **Griffin Archambault**, ACLC Research Biologist, who will guide attendees through a year-in-review of loon monitoring, research, and conservation initiatives across the Adirondack Park.

From nesting success and chick survival to lake stewardship and public education, the talk will highlight key moments from the past year—what worked, what challenged conservation efforts, and what the data is telling us about the current state of Adirondack loon populations.

For those who have followed ACLC's work closely, this program provides valuable context. For newcomers, it offers an accessible entry point into understanding how loon conservation happens on the ground, season by season.



*DOT Update of South Inlet Bridge
Work
By Ken Hawks*

The State Department of Transportation bridge replacement project along State Route 28 at the south inlet of Raquette Lake in the town of Long Lake is progressing along, in what is expected to be the final year of construction. We anticipate the completion of the multi-use structure around the end of May. The remaining components such as the canoe launch, (which does remain open for public use), multi-use path, timber railing, and pavement work, are all expected to be complete by the end of June. Dates are approximate and weather dependent at this time, we will know more as the season progresses.

*Outdoor Lighting Tips
For Dark Sky Compliance
By Dick Gentry*

Updated from an article published in the November 2022 newsletter

One of the many things we enjoy about the Adirondacks is the beautiful dark night sky. We can see the stars and constellations, planets and the Milky Way better than most other places in the country. However, with the continued increase in nighttime lighting and very bright LED light fixtures, that great night view and the environment for plant and animal life is being threatened.

For billions of years, life has evolved with the earth's predictable rhythm of light and dark controlled by the length of the day. In fact, it is encoded in the DNA of all plants and animals. We humans have radically altered this cycle by lighting up the night.

It used to be that when the sun went down celestial sources like the moon, stars, planets, and the Milky Way lit the sky. Life learned to operate under the glow of these objects. For many animals, the natural night sky signals when to eat, sleep, hunt, migrate and reproduce. It is estimated that half of all species on Earth start their "daily" activities at sundown. Scientific evidence suggests that artificial light at night has negative and even deadly effects on many creatures including amphibians, birds, mammals, invertebrates, and plants.

Recently in an article published in the magazine *Cottage Life*, Andrea Kirkwood, an environmental biology professor at Ontario Tech University in Oshawa, Ontario Canada states that prolonged exposure to artificial light at night can promote or supplement the growth of blue-

green algae. While a select few dock lights used to improve visual safety would likely have minimal effect on algal growth, we should only have those lights on when necessary for safety and not on all the time. Duration of light exposure is directly related to growth rate.

Increasingly we are becoming aware of how important it is to be in dark sky compliance. You can do your part by following the recommendations of the International Dark Sky Association (IDA):

- Use only fully shielded IDA dark sky certified fixtures for all outdoor lighting, so light shines down not up and is a less harmful color spectrum.
- Use only the amount of light needed. Too much light is wasteful and harms wildlife.
- Only light the area that needs to be lit.
- Turn lights off when not in use. If you must have security lights, use motion sensors.
- Use only lighting with a color temperature of 3000 Kelvins and below to reduce the blue (cool) light that is more harmful to animal species. LED and metal halide lights contain large amounts of blue light in their spectrum.

Please note that RLPF is not suggesting we do away with all light at night on the lake. We recognize that a certain amount of shore lighting is beneficial and provides way points for navigating the lake at night. It's the type of lighting, the brightness and the direction that can make a big difference.

If each of us can do our part at our properties we will ensure that we can continue to have the beautiful nighttime views we enjoy so much, while maintaining safe navigation on the lake



Photo provided by Dick Gentry

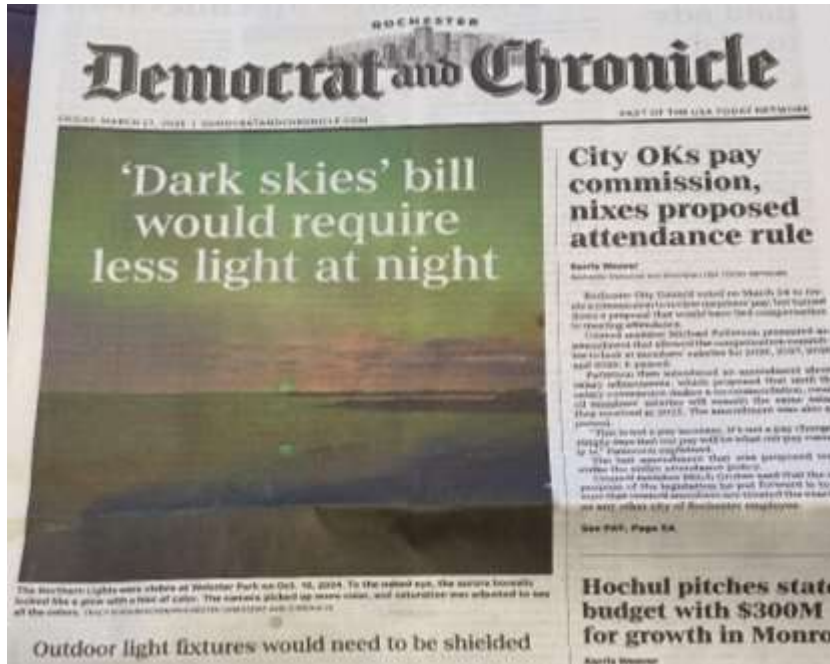
Boats at Night

By Ken Hawks

While it is very desirable to maintain a dark shoreline, due to the high volume of boat traffic on Raquette Lake, this presents some challenges. Over 250 summer homeowners on Raquette are water access only. Many boaters use the 'river' of light from shore camps and docks as a reference to navigate as they progress across the lake. In my 70 years of navigating Raquette Lake by night, I have encountered things like canoeists without any lights, logs, boards, brush, drifting boats that have come untied, docks in the spring, life jackets, any one of which can cause severe damage to our boats. These constitute severe safety hazards. Following the intent of the guidelines in Dick Gentry's excellent article for reasonable dock and camp security lighting can still provide references for navigation, while causing minimum environmental impact. A full moon at night is lake driving nirvana!

Boats crossing Raquette Lake at night can also cause an additional form of light pollution – that of hurting the night vision of other boaters. Some boaters like to drive with their 'docking' lights on at all times. When meeting another boat, this equates to driving a car at speed with oncoming traffic with their high beams on without yellow or white line references. There are a couple of stretches where, in the absence of any shore light reference, turning on 'docking lights' to make sure the water ahead is clear makes sense, **if** there are no other boaters around. Nights like July 4th and other fireworks nights create traffic jams at certain places. Using docking lights and spotlights to highlight the boat in front of you is usually not the safest approach, since there is a very real possibility of destroying the night vision of the driver in front of you. This is especially true of boats with windshields and enclosed tops where the lights from a stern reflect off the windshield or the top into the eyes of the driver, thus blinding them while they are trying to navigate the channel.

While I fully understand the opinion that it would be great to look at every shoreline around the lake and have it totally dark, some folks who are water access only, especially on the North End can view it differently. Late Fall and very early Spring when you go to bed and do not see any lights, it tells you that you are on your own, and there isn't any help nearby. As Summer approaches it is comforting to know you have neighbors. In the Summer it is also nice to sit outside with a fire and watch the almost constant boat traffic and see who's in camp by which camps have lights on.



The issue of “Dark Skies” is becoming a very current topic, as seen here on the front page of the Rochester, NY Democrat & Chronicle

March 27, 2026

Photo provided by Lynne Ballou-Gentry

Raquette Lake's New Town Garage
Submitted by Kevin Norris

Last fall Raquette Lake Supply tore down the building that most of you know as the town garage to replace it with a more useful building. This building started out as a barn for horse drawn wagons full of hay for the logging camps in the area. There were two apartments upstairs for workers who tended the horses and delivered the hay.

Later on, when trucks replaced the horses and wagons, the building was jacked up to compensate for the height difference of the new vehicles. Then it became a garage with gas pumps. Bing and Cleo Aldous ran this from about 1946 to the 1980's. They rented “ice boxes” to campers at Golden Beach and Brown's Tract Campgrounds. They also had a tow truck. In 1949 the labor to fix a car was 80 cents/hour and tires cost \$17.00.



From the 1980's until today it was used as the town garage, housing the highway equipment. The new building will better serve the town crew and be more energy efficient. The property will continue to be the Recycling Center.



"Due to the TSA shortage, flights are limited today!"

Garage and plane photos provided by Kevin Norris

Adirondack Paddling Symposium
June 12-15, 2026
Sponsored by Paul Smiths College

A comprehensive weekend of paddling instruction for paddlers offering beginner and intermediate course tracks for kayaks, pack boats, SUPs and canoes. The goal is simple: to build skills to further your paddling enjoyment. We focus on the beginner to intermediate paddler and, by choosing patient and caring instructors, create an environment of encouragement that is judgement free and truly furthers the enjoyment you get from paddling. This level of paddler has the most to gain from instruction. When you understand how the body and boat/ board work together, you get the most from your craft and the most from yourself. With so many amazing places to explore by paddle power, the more efficient you are, the more confident you are. By offering this educational resource to our community, it is our dream to see you, and many others get the most out of your adventure, go further and be bolder.

[ADIRONDACK PADDLING SYMPOSIUM - Home](#)

Community Pride Day '26

Our 26th Annual Community Pride Day is scheduled for Wednesday, May 6th, 2026.

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

Questions for Raquette Lake: contact Kat Forsell at katybug182@hotmail.com

Questions for Raquette and Long Lake please contact: Long Lake Parks & Rec.
@ 518-624-3077 or <https://www.mylonglake.com/>

*Treasurer's Report
By Stephanie Deddish
As of March 1, 2026*

RLPF Budget YTD Income & Expenditures		2025 Actual	2026 YTD	2026 Budget
Income	Dues	\$4,280)	\$1,770)	\$4,500
	(Cruise Tickets)	\$1,940)	\$0)	\$0
	Donations	\$12,780)	\$770)	\$10,000
	Dividends and Interest	\$25)	\$0)	\$10
	AIS Fund			
	Donations	\$100)	\$0)	\$8,000
	TOLL funds	\$17,000)	\$0)	\$17,000
	Total Income	\$36,125)	\$2,540)	\$39,510

Expenses	Administrative Expense	\$360)	\$0)	\$350
	Annual Meeting	\$194.00)	\$0)	\$200
	Awards, POY, Recognition	\$353)	\$0)	\$350
	RLPF Social Cruise Expense	\$3,240)	\$0)	\$3,500
	Bank Expense	\$514)	\$103)	\$450
	Community Outreach	\$1,360)	\$0)	\$2,335
	Education and Research	\$3,073)	\$0)	\$10,000
	Insurance	\$180)	\$0)	\$185
	Lake Testing	\$0)	\$0)	\$750
	Marketing	\$125)	\$0)	\$5,000
	Newsletter	\$0)	\$0)	\$500
	PO Box	\$100)	\$0)	\$110
	Travel/Fees	\$0)	\$0)	\$200
	Tax Prep	\$0)	\$0)	\$0
	Website hosting	\$0)	\$0)	\$450
	Equipment Investment	\$0)	\$0)	\$1,000
	AIS Fund			
	Hand harvesting Aqualogic	\$30,250)	\$8,000)	\$25,000
	Shed Maintenance	\$6,123)	\$0)	\$250
	Extra Compensation for Boat Stewards	\$0)	\$0)	\$1,000
	Total Expense	\$42,411)	\$8,103)	\$51,630

	2025	2026	2026
	ACT	YTD	Budget
Community Outreach			
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
Adirondack Lake Assoc.	\$75)	\$0)	\$75
Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation	\$100)	\$0)	\$500
RLVFD	\$150)	\$0)	\$200
St. Williams	\$100)	\$0)	\$200
RL Library	\$50)	\$0)	\$100
TOLL Community Pride Day	\$100)	\$0)	\$100
TOLL Fire Dept.	\$75)	\$0)	\$200
TOLL Rescue Squad	\$75)	\$0)	\$150
NFCT	\$75)	\$0)	\$100
RL Rescue	\$75)	\$0)	\$150
Adirondack Council	\$100)	\$0)	\$100
Total Community Outreach	\$1,435)	\$0)	\$2,335

Starting last October, the dues notices are sent out in October, to better align with our fiscal year. If you have not paid your 2026 dues yet, please do so! Dues can be paid super easily online at <https://rlpf.org/pay-dues/>.

Websites Of Interest

Raquette Lake Preservation Foundation <https://rlpf.org/>

Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation <https://www.adkloon.org/home>

Adirondack Watershed Institute www.adkwatershed.org

NYS DEC Algae Bloom Report <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/83310.html>

Town of Long Lake <https://www.mylonglake.com/>

Hobolink to check Current Lake Conditions:

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

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

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!*

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.

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
Kevin Norris 2027	knrl57@frontiernet.net	Kim Hoffman 2026	khoffman9867@icloud.com