

RAINBOW LAKE ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

JULY 13, 2024

There were 34 people in attendance representing 22 camps.

President Susan Whitehurst welcomed everyone.

After introductions, there was a moment of silence for Anne Joyce and Dan Stiedl who passed since last year.

The minutes from August 2023 were sent out to the membership. Tom Sansone made a motion to accept the minutes with a second from Jon Allen. All approved.

Peter Geertz reported as of June 30,2024 there were 133 memberships sent in. There was \$18,235.02 in the General Fund and \$117,559.58 in the Reserve Fund. Jon Allen made a motion to accept the treasurer's report with a second from Tom Sansone. All approved.

Jon Allen presented the slate of officers and directors to be voted on at the August meeting. Officers are for a 2 year term and the Director is a 3 year position.

President – David Haury

Vice President – Jon Allen

Secretary – Ilene Geertz

Treasurer – Peter Geertz

Board of Director – John Whitehurst

All the nominees spoke briefly about themselves and their qualifications to serve.

Jon Allen is hoping more people will volunteer for different positions in the RLA. Besides officers and Board of Directors positions there are many other ways to volunteer. If you or anyone you know is interested in serving, please let Jon know. (Jon.Allen@hotmail.com)

Susan Whitehurst spoke about the Buck Pond Stewards. She informed us that there were more paid positions available than there were people to fill them throughout the Adirondack Park.

Volunteers are needed to be at the Buck Pond Boat site to help monitor the boats coming in and out of the lake on Fridays from 4 – 6pm. There will be training if needed. Please contact Susan Whitehurst if you are able to help out. (susanwhitehurst@hotmail.com)

Nora Teter has been the organizer of the Buck Pond Volunteer Steward for many years. She has now resigned and we are looking for someone to take her place. Thank you, Nora, for all those years of service!

Susan also informed us that Tom Collins, an expert on invasive prevention education, is available to set up a workshop or join us at a meeting on protecting our waters from aquatic invasive species.

Mike Brickman spoke about our volunteer invasive species monitoring. More volunteers are welcome. He is available for training. It's basically going out on your boat, canoe or kayak and look for the Eurasian Watermilfoil. If you are not sure if a plant is invasive, take a sample and Mike can get it tested at Paul Smiths College. There is education training online through APIPP (Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program).

He read part of an article in the Adirondack Explorer that highlighted the devastation Eurasian Watermilfoil has had on Lake Chateaugay. Once a thriving lake it now is infested with Eurasian Watermilfoil. You can no longer boat or swim in the lake. The cost for treating a test area of the lake with an herbicide to combat this aquatic invasive is about \$60,000 and to try to eradicate it can cost over \$600,000.

Peter Geertz gave the Rainbow Lake Water Protection District Board of Commissioners report. He informed us that the Dam is in fine shape. They do semi-annual inspections and periodically engage a professional engineer. The DEC granted them a permit to cut down trees that would damage the berm if they uprooted. They received 3 bids for the tree cutting and accepted the lowest bid.

Joe Deignan reported that the water quality of our lake is slightly above average. Professionals go out June, July and August and take samples at the deepest parts of the lake which includes Rainbow Lake Proper, Clear Pond and Kushaqua.

Peter gave the Professional Water Quality/Invasive Species Monitoring report. At this time there are no aquatic invasive species in Rainbow Lake. The RLA just signed a new 3-year contract with Ezra Schwartzberg for the professional survey of the lake.

This year a partial survey was done that includes the high-risk areas. With the new contract next year will also be a partial survey of the lake and a survey of the entire lake will be done in 2026.

The RLA picnic will be held on Saturday August 10th at 1 o'clock at the Tebbutt camp. Thank you again Bob and Martha for providing the perfect spot for the picnic. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Water will be provided. If you want other beverages, you can bring your own.

Stephanie Ratcliff showed us the completion of the Rainbow Lake map project suited for framing, designed by Ezra Schwartzberg and input from various RLA members. You can order a map through Green Goat Maps.

New Business – Financial Update and Dues for 2025

Everyone received a copy of the mission statement of the Rainbow Lake Association with its primary activities to protect the lake from aquatic invasive species. The costs of these activities have been funded by the annual membership dues.

The cost of the water quality and professional invasive species surveys have doubled over the past 3 years and our current dues are no longer sufficient to cover these costs. At the August membership meeting we intend to ask the membership to continue to support the organization's efforts and approve a dues increase to \$75 per member, up from the current \$50, effective in 2025, so that we can continue in our mission of stewardship and conservation.

Marilyn Leitsch is our new Loon Conservation representative, taking over from Linda Gorham. There is a concern for the safety of the loons due to speeding boats and jet skis. Marilyn is meeting with members of the Loon Conservancy to find out what can be done to protect the loons. She also informed us that a family of loons (2 adults & 2 newly hatched chicks) were hit by two jet skiers in the "no wake" side of the island in the narrows on June 20th. The family recovered from the initial impact but a few days later only one chick was alive. The second chick was never found. Also, in the narrows on July 1st, near the rope swing, paddlers noticed the decapitated body of the adult loon. The DEC was notified and Marilyn assisted the officer in collecting it and it is awaiting a necropsy to try and identify the cause of death. There was an abundance of boat and jet ski traffic that day in that area of the narrows traveling at high speeds, so we could assume the loon was killed by either a boat or jet ski.

Loon count and Lake Clean-up Day is Saturday July 20th. Information will be sent out so those who are available can participate.

Joe Deignan made a motion to adjourn with a second from Tom Sansone.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ilene Geertz

RLA Secretary