



The Chocorua Lake Association Newsletter

Summer 2007

BOX 105, CHOCORUA, N.H. 03817

Substitute Editor: Toby Page

Calendar

- July 21 Co-Hosting GMCG's Lake Celebration
- Aug 19 CLA Annual Meeting, Runnells Hall, 2-4
- Aug 25 Family Day, Wheelers Field, 11:30-2pm
- Sept 2 Festival of Lights, Grove, 6-7pm start

Upcoming Vote

At the 7/7/07 CLA directors meeting, we voted unanimously to offer the Voting Members at the **Annual Meeting** to vote on changing the bylaws as follows. The current bylaws say that "Directors shall be voting members of the corporation." Our proposed amendment is to eliminate this requirement (by striking out the above sentence). Our reason for this proposed change is to provide for Directors to be from outside the Basin and to provide the opportunity for town officers and others as Directors without requiring them to be CLA members. This proposed amendment is broader than the one proposed in the Spring Newsletter. The Annual Meeting is August 19, from 2-4pm.

Co-Hosting GMCG's Celebration

Are you curious about the Green Mountain Conservation Group? For example: It seems like a recent thing – when was it founded? How big is it? What's it done, besides its current effort to conserve the Wonalancet field? Answers: It started in 1997; it's purview is the Ossipee Watershed (which includes the Chocorua Watershed), it sends out 3000 Newsletters per issue, it has 600 active members, and a paid (full time equivalent) staff of one and three-quarters, and its annual budget is about \$100,000 (significantly more this year). It's done lots, including its purchase of easements to preserve Mt Katherine and its current campaign to preserve the Wonalancet field and Chapel view.

Still curious? This year the GMCG invited the CLA to co-host its 2007 Lake Celebration. I was delighted to accept, because this is a chance to learn more about the GMCG and its secrets of success. The duties of co-hosting are not onerous: I am supposed to advertise the event and urge a respectable number of CLA members to come and learn and have some fun. The date is July 21.

Activities for kids and adults

- 12:00-1:30 BBQ lunch on a beach of Lake Ossipee
- 1:00-2:00 Boat trip as an introduction to lake monitoring
- 2:00-3:00 Boat trip as an introduction to the special features of the Ossipee Lake Natural Area
- 2:00-4:30 Project WET kids' activities for children (adult staffed)

Presentations

- 1:30-2:00 "A History of NH Lakes" (Jody Connor, NH DES Limnology Center Director)
- 2:00-3:00 "Low Impact Development & Shoreline Protection" (Bob Craycraft, UNH Lakes Lay Monitoring); also "Involving Youth in Lake Stewardship" (Linda Schier, President Acton Wakefield Watersheds Alliance Staff)
- 3:00-4:00 "Managing Lakes for Milfoil & Other Invasive Species" (Amy Smagula, NH DES Exotic Species Program Director); also "NH Lakes Association & the Lake Host Program" (Andrea LaMoreaux, NHLA Education Director)
- 4:00-4:30 Lake Forum on lake issues

If it is raining, what is a better way of spending a rainy day, under the tent or in a sheltered auditorium, learning about lake conservation and about GMCG? It's only 6 miles away.

Directions: Go south on Rt 16 to West Ossipee; turn left onto Rt 41 (there is a Pizza place on the corner, and the Whittier House Restaurant across the St.). Go ½ mile and turn right onto Ossipee Lake Rd. Go 2.7 miles to the Calumet Conference Center on the left. Contact phone 539-4773.

Genesis of a Joint Meeting

At the CLA and CLCF board meetings in May, the two organizations agreed to a joint meeting on July 7 to discuss and vote on a proposed procedure for making disbursements from the Fund for Chocorua Lake. Of course we already had a procedure and we have already spend money, but after 8 years it was clear that we needed to streamline and clarify the procedure, while maintaining consistency with the representations we made to donors in the original fund raising.

Happily we were able to do the final wordsmithing and achieve agreement by majority vote in both boards by email weeks before July 7. We agreed to keep the joint meeting and

now had the opportunity to talk about “matters of substance” rather than “matters of procedure.” The quotes are because lawyers and political scientists know that “procedure is substance.”

The Joint CLA-CLCF Meeting

Pat Miller very ably moderated the meeting. Present were Toby Page, Jim Bowditch, Tish McIlwraith, Donna Veilleux, Bob Griffin, and Ellen Keith from the CLA and Neely Lanou, Peg Wheeler, Steve Weld, Dwight Baldwin, Don Johnson, Crosby Kennett, Pat Miller, Sandy Rubel, John Watkins, and Betsy Watt from the CLCF.

After the meeting, Pat sent me his thoughts on the meeting and the past and future as follows:

Both the CLA and CLCF were incorporated in 1968. Nearly forty years have gone by and much has occurred since our founding organizers began the task of protecting this special place. There are more than 700 acres under CLCF direct ownership and nearly 3,000 total acres under easement or covenant. The berms and swales project on the Rt 16 side of the lake has reduced phosphorus loading. A design for the replacement of the Narrows bridge is under way. CLA membership has grown. The vision our founders had is being realized but there is still much to do.

On July 7, 2007, both the CLA and the CLCF boards met to discuss the future of the Chocorua Lake Watershed. In the second meeting of the two boards in nearly a decade, the two groups agreed to develop a joint, strategic plan for the watershed. Increasing economic pressures to develop land north of the lake are elevating the threats to the watershed's water quality. Additionally, over the past few decades there has been a demographic shift whereby our core volunteer base is spending less time in Chocorua -- many people who used to spend whole summers here no longer do so. Both boards agreed that there is a need to use our limited resources more efficiently to ensure that future generations can experience Chocorua the way we have been able to do so. There is also interest to provide more public access to our owned lands, beyond the Grove and the east side of the Lake.

The meeting opened with each person present being asked to recall a favorite or earliest memory of Chocorua. It reminded me of a Quaker meeting whereby people say something as the spirit moves them. The stories that unfolded were very personal and very similar -- they were about the lake, the mountain, the trails, the peace and solitude, the special people of our past, the blessing of the place we all know and love, and a hope that the future of Chocorua can be protected for future generations.

There is much to do. We need to increase our volunteer base. We need to consider hiring full time staff. We need to increase our outreach to partnering organizations and the larger community we are a part of. We need to ensure adequate financial resources.

All of these items, and more, will be part of the strategic plan to be developed later this year and into 2008. We will be

seeking input and comment from each of you during this process. Meanwhile, take a deep breath, enjoy what Chocorua and our community has to offer, and get ready to roll up your sleeves!

The CLA July Picnic



The evening before the picnic, Jim Bowditch heard the “severe thunderstorm watch for tomorrow afternoon” warning and suggested that we move the picnic from the Wheelers’ field to the Bowditchs back garden.

We did. Many thanks to the cooks, John and Rachel Tzelepis and Bruce Bowditch, who did the setup and cooking with a skilled sense of space and efficiency. (Photo by Theo) The picnickers enjoyed GIII potato salad (best in the neighborhood), Schartner strawberries (height of the season) and Costco premium hamburgers, vegetable burgers, various German and Polish sausages, and surprisingly good cookies



(for Costco), chips and salsa and the usual condiments and sodas. We sat at two picnic tables and enough chairs and walked by the granite rocks, from the sun light to the shade of the nearby white pines. As we began to leave and clean up a gentle rain began to fall.

And a special thanks to Ken Smith for the loan of his family grill, which made the cooking twice as fast.

7/7/07 was a busy day – formalizing and making more transparent the procedure to disburse funds from the FCL, beginning a process of strategic planning jointly, the CLA with the CLCF, modifying the proposed change to the CLA bylaws, and not all business, a splendid picnic at the Bowditchs. And on the same day activities around the world, Live Earth Day. The health of the world is of course a much bigger thing than the health of the lake, but the health of both is worth the effort. Some think that 7/7/07 is a lucky day.

Wildlife Notes

by Harriet Hofheinz

We are blessed once again. Mrs. Loon (Lucinda) found herself a new mate and together on July 5th produced one chick. By this writing, the Family should be in the big lake. Please take care not to disturb their domesticity, as the new Mr. Loon is quite shy. [editor's comment: a little after Harriet's report came in Bill Fripp told me he saw two chicks, and shortly after that Nelly reported the same thing.]

Other news includes a number of deer and fawn sightings, along with a bear and a moose mid-June on our Thrush survey, and a red fox up near the Welds. Toby saw two Horned Pike (catfish) caught by night fishermen on the Sandy Beach. Watch for our Great Blue Heron, usually near the inlet area, try to swallow one of those! Always head first so the "horns" don't catch in his long, slender throat. Otherwise, he'd have a pretty sore throat!

The Thrush survey went well this year; no rain and the weather was not too hot. More on the survey at the annual meeting. Many thanks go to David Farley, Jim Bowditch, John Watkins, and Bob Bradford for their help.

Throughout the summer and fall, please let me know of other sightings you might see. Come August, keep an eye out for Bald Eagles and Ospreys. I can be reached at 323-8673 and always by email: Hhofheinz@erols.com

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FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED