



CLCS News

SPRING 2012

The Copake Lake Conservation Society endeavors to protect the quality of the Copake Lake watershed, preserve the ecological balance, and promote safe recreational use of the lake.

Box 37 ≈ Craryville, NY 12521 ≈ info@copakelakecs.org ≈ www.copakelakecs.org

President's Message

The winter that 'never was' is over and spring is here. It was disheartening not to be able to enjoy winter activities on our beautiful Copake Lake. I missed seeing the skaters, ice fishermen, cross-country skiers, and snowmobilers. The sights and sounds of families snow tubing and sleigh riding on the golf course, were replaced by golfers. Canoeists and kayakers got a winter reprieve.

We were fortunate not to have any significant power outages or storm damage, our shovels and snow blowers stayed idle. It was a challenging season for the local ski areas and some of our members, who depend upon snow for their livelihood.

Most important is that Copake Lake needs the snow and ice for runoff to fill the lake for our summer activities. Our Lake Management Committee made an early winter decision to close the dam and is closely monitoring the lake's refilling.

The bald eagles were regular visitors over the winter months. There were reports of 10-12 young and mature eagles circling the lake, catching that occasional fish. It was rare for a day to pass without seeing at least one of these majestic birds soaring over the lake.

Now that the warmer weather has arrived, the true beauty of our area comes alive. I look forward to every season at Copake Lake, and am hard pressed to think of anywhere else I would rather be.

Although the CLCS Board of Trustees did not meet during the winter, we continue to work all year long via phone calls and e-mails. Our busy season is upon us, and I invite you to join us at a Board meeting to see first-hand the workings of your organization (See Calendar

of Events.) If you have an interest or special skill, please consider joining a committee and use your talent for the benefit of our lake community.

There are many events planned for the summer starting with the NYS Safe Boating Course on Saturday, May 19th; a Tag Sale at the Dutch Treat on Saturday, May 27th, and Annual Shoreline Clean-up on Saturday, June 2. The Summer Bash on July 14th at The Greens will have some new surprises and promises to be the hottest ticket of the season. Our Annual Meeting is July 7 at the Lighthouse where expert speakers present important aspects of our lake and the effort necessary to conserve and preserve it. Please check the Calendar of Events for all upcoming activities, including the non-CLCS events such as Copake Clean-Up Day, July 4th Boat Parade and the August 18th Fireworks Display. There will also be new merchandise this year including our first ever Copake Lake calendar, thanks to Melissa Karchmer, celebrating 40 years of the CLCS.

I urge all of you to support all the businesses on or around the lake, particularly those who generously support CLCS with their ads and donations to our events.

Thanks to Theresa Westlake, we are keeping up with the electronic and social media with our Facebook page. Please become one of our friends.

If we have not yet met, please introduce yourself to me, if the opportunity arises. I am always happy to discuss the Copake Lake Conservation Society with you. I'm wishing everyone a wonderful spring/summer season and hoping to see you on, in or around our beautiful Copake Lake.

Denise Chickery, *President*

CLCS 2012 Committees

COMMUNICATIONS

(newsletter, signage, Web site)

Lindsay LeBrecht	Carol Powers
Jed Luchow	Barbara Rindler
Sharon Luchow	Karen Schutzer, <i>Chairperson</i>
Liz Nealon	Theresa Westlake

EDUCATION

Cherie Berk	Marilyn Goldman
Barbara Bunger	Liz Nealon
Joyce Craw, <i>Chairperson</i>	Edward Werfelman

FINANCE

Jackie Bernstein	Barbara Rindler
Denise Chickery	Nancy Schultz, <i>Chairperson</i>

FUNDRAISING

Jackie Bernstein	Melissa Karchmer, <i>Chairperson</i>
Annie Captain	Lindsay LeBrecht
Colleen Closson	Muriel Muldorf
Eileen Faranda	Rich Pawlikowski
Lynn Gelman	Debra Ruggieri
Lynne Hone	Karen Schutzer
Michael Hone	Theresa Westlake

LAKE MANAGEMENT

Rick Aluisio	Lindsay LeBrecht
Barbara Bunger	Jed Luchow
Fred Bunger, <i>Chairperson</i>	Keith Schaefer
David Craw	Jack Schultz
Joyce Craw	Buddy Sinisi
Ernie Cutler	Jon Urban
Russ Funk	

MEMBERSHIP

Dan Cohen	Debra Ruggieri, <i>Chairperson</i>
Barbara Rindler	All Board of Trustees

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Joyce Craw, <i>Chairperson</i>	Jed Luchow
Ernie Cutler	

Get involved with CLCS. Join any of the many committees listed above or consider applying to join the Board of Trustees. It's a great way to meet new people and help your lake community. Let anyone of us know of your interest. GET INVOLVED!

CLCS 2012 Board Of Trustees

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CLCS Newsletter Staff

Lindsay LeBrecht	Carol Powers
Jed Luchow, <i>Editor-in-Chief</i>	Barbara Rindler
Sharon Luchow, <i>Managing Editor</i>	Theresa Westlake

Treasurer's Report

January 1, 2011 through December 31, 2011

Income:

Fundraising Activities	10,138.39
Contributions	61,622.43
Interest	655.34
Total Income	72,416.16

Expenses:

Operating Expenses	12,744.51
Lake Management	43,158.20
Total Expense	55,902.71

Special Thanks To Our 2011 Contributors!

Every effort is made to keep the list of contributors up to date. We apologize for any errors. If you have contributed in 2011 and your name is not on this list, please contact us through our Web site at www.copakelakecs.org

LAKE ANGELS \$1000 PLUS

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Draining And Filling Copake Lake (Really)

This past winter of 2011-2012 has been unique in recent memory. The last time that the lake was only partly frozen was in the 1930s. The lake depends on a snow pack resting on frozen ground to easily refill for the spring. We had neither. For this reason, it was decided to close the Copake Lake drain valve early. The closing occurred on February 3, 2012. This was the earliest closing that has occurred in recent times. Once the water flow stopped, the lake rose to within 18 and one-half inches from the spillway and then it stopped.

How rapidly the lake fills and where the water comes from is a very complex problem. Without knowing exactly how much it will snow and/or rain during the fall and winter months, it is nearly impossible to predict when to close the drain valve and how much the lake will rise. Coupled with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's (NYSDEC) required weed treatment holding period, during which the lake cannot be drained, we will always have some seasons with lower water levels and some seasons with higher water levels. The bottom line is that the lake is a natural system, over which we have minimal control. We all need to

understand this fact of Nature when we plan for the location of docks and swimming areas alongside Copake Lake.

Some examples of these extremes include 1999 when the lake never reached the spillway and 2000 when the lake refilled in about 30 days and was at a normal level all spring and summer. In both years, the drain valve was closed in late February and not opened until the fall down draw. Last spring, during the weed treatment holding period, we received about six inches of rain as opposed to the normal one and one-half inches. This was the main reason for the excessive water levels.

To give you an idea of the amount of water involved in maintaining Copake Lake, the average year round daily flow of water through the lake is approximately equal to one semi-trailer tanker truck arriving at Copake Lake every five minutes, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Can you imagine the traffic jam that would cause? And just think, we get all that water for free and without the inconvenience. That's Nature for you!

Keith Schaefer, *Lake Management Committee*



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Copake Lake News

TOWN OF COPAKE REPAIRS LOCAL CULVERTS

On an ongoing effort to keep sediment out of the lake, the Lake Management Committee at their October meeting authorized Buddy Sinisi to contact the Town of Copake Highway Department to clean out and greatly improve the culverts on some of the Bird Roads. I wanted to write to all of you to inform you that they have performed some of the work this past fall. I was happy to attend the year-end Town of Copake Meeting on Thursday, December 29 to give them a check from CLCS for the amount of \$5593.60. I want to extend our thanks to Buddy for handling this agreement. He did an excellent job. I also wanted all of you to know what was happening between us and the Town. We are very fortunate to have a great working relationship with them. They will continue this work in the spring when the weather permits.

Denise Chickery, CLCS president

Fireworks Light Up August Sky On Copake Lake

This will be the 10th year for a fireworks display at Copake Lake. Last year the fireworks display was exceptional. It was a beautiful night and Legion Fireworks did an amazing job. We encourage everyone to support this fun community event to be held at The Greens/Copake Country Club on Saturday, August 18, 2012 at 9:30pm. If everyone contributes, we can make this year's display bigger and better than ever. If you would like to show your support, please contact Denise Chickery, Colleen Closson, and Lindsay LeBrecht. Thank you to everyone who made a financial contribution last year. Let's keep this tradition alive.



Editor's Note: The summer fireworks is NOT a Copake Lake Conservation Society (CLCS) event. However, CLCS supports all activities that seek to enhance the quality of life around our lake community.



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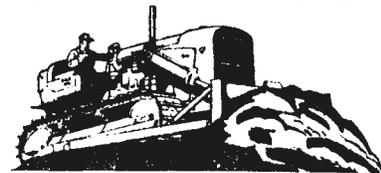
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Town Of Copake Clean-Up Day & Copake Lake Shoreline Clean-Up Day

Although these two events are similar in nature, there are important differences to note.

Town of Copake Clean-Up Day is being held on May 19, 2012 (Saturday) from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon at the Copake Town Garage, 44 School Road (off Route 22 by the old Roe Jan School). You can bring your broken lawn chairs, old lamps, old mattresses, tires, and pretty much everything other than household garbage and hazardous waste. Go to www.copake.org for exact information.

Copake Lake Shoreline Clean-Up Day is scheduled for June 2, 2012 (Saturday) from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. This event is sponsored by the Copake Lake Conservation Society for the express purpose of removing debris from Copake Lake and from the shoreline that accumulated over the winter. Copake Lake neighbors are asked to remove debris from the lake and shoreline and place all debris along the lakeside of the road. Jon Urban of The Greens/Copake Country Club will donate the services of a pick-up truck and maintenance workers who will drive along the shoreline beginning at 10:00am, pick up the debris, and dispose of the debris in the dumpster at the triangle at County Route 7 and Lakeview Road (where we also have the CLCS Community bulletin board). Carmen Barbato, Inc. donates the dumpster for the three hours and the Town of Copake pays the tipping fee. Please respect these donations and do not bring any household rubbish to this dumpster. CLCS Board members Jed Luchow will be at the dumpster from 9:00am - 10:00am, Danny Cohen from 10:00am - 11:00am, and Dave Craw from 11:00am - 12:00 noon. CLCS began Clean-Up Day nearly two decades ago and we have removed tons of debris from Copake Lake and its shoreline in that time.

Jed Luchow, *Lake Management Committee*

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Membership 2012

It felt like springtime throughout much of this past winter in New York, but finally the actual 2012 spring/summer season is truly here once again! Throughout all of the seasons, we need to do our part in maintaining the beauty of Copake Lake and its surroundings. It is a lifelong investment, whether we have owned our homes for two weeks, two years or two or more generations. Keeping our watershed healthy is the main focus that each of us plays a part in and makes a difference in by using non-phosphorous fertilizers, keeping our septic systems clean and functioning properly, and looking for non-native (invasive) plants and properly removing them from the lake. Each of us knowingly or perhaps unknowingly plays a huge part in the preservation of our heritage at this great lake. We are grateful for all that each of you do, and what the Copake Lake Conservation Society accomplishes each year, such as assisting with shoreline clean up, minimizing shoreline erosion, water quality testing, and weed treatments and removal, when needed.

It is your individual effort and your ongoing membership in CLCS that helps to maintain our spectacular lake and its surroundings. I would like to encourage each of you, if you have not already done so, to join the Copake Lake Conservation Society. There is a membership fund drive envelope enclosed in this newsletter for your convenience. We always welcome new members, and we are very appreciative of all our supporting members. We also encourage you to recognize the many local businesses whose advertisements support CLCS and the CLCS Newsletter. We look forward to seeing you at our annual meeting on July 7, 2012 at 10:00am at The Lighthouse (Dancer's marine) on Copake Lake.

Thank you for your consideration and continued support.

Debra Ruggieri, Membership Chair

Lifesaving Drills On Copake Lake

While we hope that their skills will never have to be used, it's good to know that the Columbia County Sheriff's Special Operations Unit is prepared for a winter water emergency. On Friday, February 24th, Sergeant Lopez, Sergeant Zincio, Deputy Anderson, Deputy Benansky and Deputy Fieser performed rescue practices at Copake Lake, from the waterfront at the Lighthouse Marina. It was impressive to see them with their diving gear, in the frigid waters of Copake Lake. We are very fortunate that we have highly trained dedicated professionals ready in case an emergency occurs.

Buddy Sinisi



Eaglets on the ice at Copake Lake, Photo by Denise Chickery.

Bill Jennings,
President



Jim Vandenburg,
Vice-President

COLUMBIA COUNTY SNO-DRIFTERS

PO Box 79, Craryville, NY 12521
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N.Y.S. Snowmobile Club #302
www.columbiacountysno-drifters.net



Photo by Buddy Sinisi

Early Spring Safety Concerns On Copake Lake

Spring-like weather has arrived quite early this year, and many Copake Lake boaters will be anxious to get out on the lake and enjoy the beautiful warm weather. Although air temperatures may be in the 70's, the water temperature remains extremely cold. *Please be aware of the dangers of cold water and sudden unexpected immersion, which can significantly impair one's ability to swim.* Please remember:

1. Life jackets are required to be worn on any vessel less than 21 feet in length from November 1 through May 1.
2. Carry safety gear, including a signaling device or whistle.
3. Always let someone know where you are going and when you will return.



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Come Join The Annual July 4th Boat Parade!

This longstanding Copake Lake tradition is an event not to be missed. Celebrating our country's birthday from water or shore, the sounding of horns, clapping of hands, cheering the RED, WHITE AND BLUE, the lake comes alive.

All types of vessels --- pontoons, motor, sailboats, personal watercrafts, kayaks, canoes, and rowboats -- are entered to win prizes and the coveted 1st place trophy.

Our 2011 trophy winners, Captain Kevin Costello Sr., 1st mate Bonnie Costello, Kevin Costello Jr., Isabela Costello, Victoria Costello and Kevin Costello, III on board the U.S. Navy Seals vessel, will be our 2012 boat parade judges.

July 4th falls on a Wednesday this year. The parade will depart from Southwest Colony promptly at 1:00 p.m. The procession will go completely around the lake, following the shoreline, and will end at The Lighthouse Marine, where the judges will make their decisions.

Join in the festivities and see the entries. Be there to see who will be this year's winners.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY USA!

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Housing Our Birds At Copake Lake (Part II)

Copake Country Club is thinking “outside the box.” And also “inside the box.” Thank goodness for both.

We’ve just begun Year Two of a great campaign to install dozens of new bird nesting boxes all around the gorgeous Copake Country Club golf course property. The hope is that we are strongly upgrading the diversity and size of the neighborhood bird population by giving cavity-nesting birds many more places to breed.

In the world of real estate, houses built alongside golf courses are prized possessions – and we’re providing the same kind of prime home-buying opportunity for our birds, in miniature.

Year One of the campaign was a major success: With the tremendous support of key local residents (see list below), the golf course is now hosting 16 new birdhouses, to go with eight older ones from different eras. Of those 24 houses, 16 had confirmed nesting activity in 2011. That’s an outstanding batting average for a rookie year.

So as this project begins its second spring, it’s helpful to look back before we look ahead. Whenever I roam that spectacular piece of land -- on foot or in a supply cart, carrying a bag of clubs or hauling a 20-foot ladder – I always let loose internal dialogues between me and myself about what we’re doing and why it’s great. Like this:



Birdhouse on Copake Country Club golf course. Photos by Chase Booth.



A. White Throated Sparrow

B. Downy Woodpecker

Photos gathered by Carol Powers and Sue Scheck.

What are the biggest hopes for this project in 2012?

First, more bird variety: As expected, the most common tenants in the birdhouses so far have been Eastern Bluebirds and Tree Swallows. And that’s great – they’re among the prettiest birds we’ve got, they’re abundant here in spring and summer, and they readily go for manmade nest boxes like these.

But?

Yes, but, it will be even better when we start seeing a little more species diversity among the cavity nesters in our up-scale golf neighborhood.

Such as: American Kestrels (our smallest falcon, a beauty of a raptor), Eastern Screech Owls (that will be an event for birders in the evenings), any number of woodpeckers (Downy, Red-bellied, Northern Flicker, Red-headed), Titmice, Chickadees, Nuthatches, Wrens . . . and as long as we’re fantasizing, how about a Great Crested Flycatcher or a Prothonotary Warbler? (Let’s not get crazy.) For these hoped-for species, I’ve put out some welcome mats (meaning nest boxes of different sizes and shapes, in appropriate locations) to attract that wider mix.

Apart from the number of bird species, other hopes?

Getting help from true birders would be great. I’m a weekender in Copake (mea culpa), and my schedule is erratic. So as spring heats up and the nesters start moving in, regular monitoring and sheriff duties are really important. (Monitoring means, at a minimum, keeping track of what birds are using the boxes, and “sheriff” means doing the dirty work: keeping out the undesirables, which are House Sparrows and Starlings, the poachers that don’t hesitate to take over occupied birdhouses by killing, injuring or evicting the legit residents. This is the not-fun part. I can provide details.)

How many birdhouses will you put up?

Great question. I’ve sent up a flare to two Columbia County birding organizations for some input on questions like that. I know a few things about this great hobby, but it should be a collaborative pastime too, and consultation with other experienced birdbrains will be much help.

Why do birds like golf courses so much?

Here’s that word again, “diversity.” The habitats at golf courses are so rich and variable: huge assortments of trees and shrubs, open fields, thick woods, tall evergreens, ponds, streams, on and on. For birds, they’re a natural (pun intended), whether they “rent” or “buy” their homes.



C. Eastern Bluebird

D. White Breasted Nuthatch

Photos gathered by Carol Powers and Sue Scheck.



Birdhouse on Copake Country Club golf course. Photos by Chase Booth.

What else is going on out there on the golf course?

I've heard the "Eagle buzz," and I've seen them for myself: There are Bald Eagles in the Copake Lake vicinity. I'm really interested in investigating their status with locals. I was watching a couple of them (Eagles, not locals) soar over the golf course recently – imagine what it would be like if Eagles used nesting boxes. It would be the best show in town. (That same day, a golfer told me he'd heard that there have also been local sightings of "Golden Eagles." Uh-huh -- and I had an Ivory-billed Woodpecker on the hood of my car. But who knows, anything's possible.)

Anyway, my first and best birding mentor (a Ph.D., no less) once told me that every scientific project brings more questions than answers. Cheers to that – we've got so much more to learn, and our laboratory (Copake Country Club) is a total knockout. So I'm really looking forward to the next chapter. As we move ahead, I'm very thankful to Jon Urban, club co-owner and the main birdhouse benefactor; Steve and Denise Chickery, who've pointed the way and kept me moving toward it; Chase Booth, a great supporter from a front-row seat; Mary Maguire in marketing; Mark Anderson, the course super; John Recchia and the staff at the golf shop; my 11-year-old birding-golfer son, Jack; and all the Copake Country Club people who are fascinated by this campaign and want to know more. Like I do.

Tom Walsh, Copake Resident

Editor's note: additional information available at <http://www.alandevobirdclub.org/AboutCalendar.htm>.

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Free Safe Boating Course Offered In Copake In 2012



The CLCS has arranged for a New York State Safe Boating Course to be offered on Saturday, May 19, 2012, from 8AM to 4 PM at the Copake Town Hall. This 8 hour course will allow participants to obtain a safety certificate if they successfully complete the course. According to New York State Law you must hold a safety certificate if:

- You operate a personal watercraft and are at least 14 years of age. **EVERYONE ABOVE AGE 14 MUST HAVE A NYS APPROVED CERTIFICATE IN ORDER TO OPERATE A PERSONAL WATERCRAFT.**
- You wish to operate a motorboat (other than a personal watercraft) and you are at least 10 years old and less than 18 years old.
- If you are less than 10 years old you may operate a motorboat (non-PWC) only if someone over 18 is on board with you. Anyone may operate a personal watercraft if someone at least 18 years old is riding on the craft and they hold a safety certificate

The course is designed as a comprehensive boating course, teaching the fundamentals of safe boating operation. The instructor plans to continue instruction through lunch so please plan on bringing a bag lunch. There is no fee for the class. To register please call or leave a message for Joyce Craw at 845-724-3359. Register early as there is a limit to the number of participants.

Joyce Craw, Chairperson
Education Committee

Congratulations

**to Muriel and Ray Muldorf
on their 40th Wedding Anniversary**

We hope you enjoyed it
and we wish you 40 more!!!

Denise and Steven Chickery

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Proposed 2012 Schedule Of Meetings And Events

Wednesday, May 9, 2012	Treatment of lake with Reward herbicide scheduled for this date. There is a 14-day swimming restriction will end on Thursday, May 24, 2012, in time for Memorial Day weekend.
Saturday, May 12, 2012	9:00 am Board of Trustees Meeting at The Greens Restaurant
Saturday, May 19, 2012	9:00 am-noon Town of Copake Clean-Up Day Town Garage, 44 School Road (off Route 22 by the old Roe-Jan School)
Saturday, May 19, 2012	8:00 am - 4:00 pm Copake Town Hall — New York State Safe Boating Course for boating and personal watercrafts. Certificate upon successful completion of course.
Saturday, May 26, 2012	9:00 am-4:00 pm Tag Sale Dutch Treat Restaurant. Rain date Sunday, May 27, 2012
Saturday, June 2, 2012	9:00 am –12 noon Copake Lake Annual Shoreline Clean-up Day at corner of Route 7 and Lakeview Road
Saturday, June 9, 2012	9:00 am Board of Trustees Meeting at The Greens Restaurant
Saturday, June 16, 2012	8:30 am Copake Community Day at Town of Copake Park — Vendors, races, parade, live music, and lots of family fun throughout the day with a spectacular fireworks finale.
Go to www.copake.org for more information and events schedule.	
Wednesday, June 27, 2012	Possible Copper Sulfate Algaecide treatment if required. Restricted use of the lake for 24 hours.
Wednesday, July 4, 2012	1:00 pm Annual 4th of July Boat Parade begins at Southwest Colony with festivities immediately following at the Lighthouse at Dancers Marina
Saturday, July 7, 2012	10:00 am Annual Meeting/Open House at The Lighthouse
Saturday, July 14, 2012	9th Annual Summer Bash at The Greens Restaurant
Wednesday, July 25, 2012	2nd Copper Sulfate Algaecide treatment if required. Restricted use of the lake for 24 hours.
Saturday, August 4, 2012	9:00 am Board of Trustees Meeting at The Greens Restaurant
Saturday, August 18, 2012	9:00-9:30 pm Fireworks at Copake Country Club/The Greens. Made possible by community donations. (Not a CLCS event)
Saturday, August 18, 2012	7:00 am - 4:00 pm Copake Falls Day — 5 & 10 K races in the wilderness, Farmers' Market, family fun. For more info contact Sarah Becker at sbecker81076@hotmail.com
Sunday, September 2, 2012	11 am CLCS Labor Day Weekend Raffle Drawing at The Lighthouse
Saturday, September 8, 2012	9:00 am Board of Trustees Meeting at The Greens Restaurant

* Lake Management meeting early October 2012. Time, date, and place to be announced.

Finance Committee meeting early November. Time, date, and place to be announced.

** Columbia County Household Hazardous Waste Collection, date to be announced. Refer to their website for more info: www.columbiacountyny.com and click on solid waste division.

*** All CLCS meetings are open to the public. Meeting times and locations may change. Please check our website frequently for updates, changes and news regarding our lake. www.copakelakecs.org



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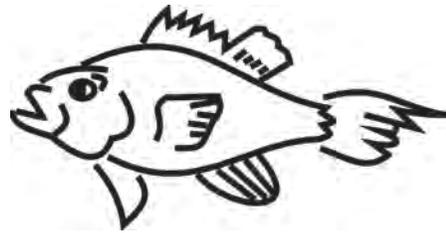
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“Post Spawning Mortality” On Copake Lake



The term that is used for dead fish along the shoreline of Copake Lake during the spring is Post Spawning Mortality. It is common to lakes and is for the most part, unpreventable.

Fish die at this time of year because as they try to spawn in the shallow water that same water experiences extreme shifts in temperature, oxygen, pH, and ammonia between day and night. Because the spawning fish need to stay at their nest, they must endure these shifting conditions. Fish can go into the spawning period stressed from winter conditions so that they are unable to cope with the additional stress of spawning combined with the environmental fluctuations.

It is my understanding that fisheries biologists at the state level don't get concerned by up to several hundred dead fish in lakes the size of Copake Lake, especially if the fish are mixed species such as perch, crappie, sunfish, bluegills, pumpkinseeds and even a few bass. These kills are an example of natural selection by which the weaker fish are removed from the population. The time to be concerned is when all the dead fish are the same species and when the numbers are in the thousands.

It is very likely that Copake Lake contains tens of thousands, if not several hundred thousand, fish. Questions can be directed to CLCS's Lake Management Committee.

Lake Management Committee

(partially reprinted from spring 2010 issue)

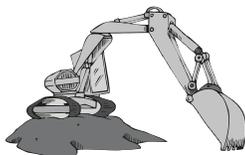


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CLCS Fundraising Activities For 2012

Exciting News: The Fundraising Committee is mixing it up this summer with new product and events. Here's a preview, so you don't miss out.

TAG SALE

CLCS will be having a Tag Sale at Dutch Treat on Route 23 in Craryville on May 26, Saturday, from 9:00am-4:00pm (rain date, May 27).

T-SHIRTS AND MERCHANDISE

A "must have" for Copake Lakers. Be sure to check out the new design AND new merchandise, which should be making its debut at Shoreline Clean-up on June 2 from 9:00am-12:00noon at CLCS Community Board (triangle at the intersection of Lakeview Road and County Route 7).

SUMMER BASH 2012

Save the Date for the best party of Summer 2012! The 9th annual Summer Bash will be held on Saturday, July 14th at The Greens Restaurant. The CLCS Summer Bash is always a sell-out and always a remarkable night of great food, drinks and dancing with your friends and neighbors.

LABOR DAY RAFFLE

Will anyone ever sell more tickets than Rick Alluisio? Personally, I don't think so, but the challenge is on! The CLCS Labor Day Raffle Always a success with fantastic prizes and the \$1,000 grand prize.

So, how do YOU keep current on all the CLCS activities? It's as easy as 1-2-3 and 4:

- Go to our website at www.copakelakecs.org. There you can pay your dues, purchase your Summer Bash tickets and email us with your questions or requests.
- While you're on the website, sign up to receive CLCS "Blasts" – current information about lake events and occurrences.
- The Copake Lake Conservation Society is now on Facebook.
- Look for our signs around the lake.

Colleen Closson, Fundraising Committee Chairperson

Editors note: Colleen is the new Fundraising Chairperson. We all wish her well.

the lighthouse marina

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Hidden Heroes



Several years ago, the Hidden Heroes series was started in order to get to know our neighbors a little better, highlight their passions and their lives away from the Lake. This issue we introduce you to The Toby Project, a favorite of Alicia Flaum's (Copake Lake resident).

The Toby Project was inspired by veterinarian Dr. Andrew Kaplan's chance encounter and subsequent adoption of a mixed-breed dog name Toby. Clearly mislabeled by the shelter as unadoptable and hours away from being euthanized, Dr. Kaplan rescued Toby and made him a "poster child" for the pet overpopulation crisis. Euthanasia due to overpopulation is the #1 killer of dogs and cats in this country.

To date, The Toby Project has spayed or neutered over 10,000 dogs and cats in New York City's five boroughs. If these animals were left to breed and multiply, there could be an additional 160,000 animals in a one-year period and over 670,000,000 in six years. WOW.

With its' mobile surgical vans and stationary clinics, they deliver free and low-cost spay/neuter service to low-income neighborhoods, where residents would not otherwise be able to afford it. They also work with the feral rescue community to help reduce populations of neighborhood cat colonies by providing free spay/neuter services to TNR (Trap, Neuter, Return) groups.

As a client of Dr. Kaplan's veterinary practice, Alicia learned of Dr. Kaplan's plans for the nonprofit and agreed to join the mission. She serves as VP on the Toby Project board of directors and also handles the website and communications for the organization.

Lindsay LeBrecht, CLCS Board of Trustees



Photo by Denise Chickery



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2012 Copake Lake Boating Rules And Regulations

BOATING HOURS: Watercraft must not exceed 6 mph between 8 pm and 9 am (Town Ordinance).

NOISE: All watercraft must have effective mufflers (Town Ordinance). Watercraft noise must not exceed 75 decibels (NYS Law).

SPEED: All watercraft must slow down to 5 mph when less than 100 ft from shore, dock, or other vessel, or in “no wake” zones (NYS Law).

RIGHT OF WAY: Motorized watercraft must yield to swimmers and non-motorized watercraft (NYS Law).

AGE: Motorized boat operators must be 18 or over. Or, between the ages of 10 and 18 must have completed certified boating safety (NYS Law).

AGE: As of 1/1/04 ALL PWC operators 14 years and older must complete the NYS Safe Boating Course. Go to www.nyparks.com/boats/yb for more informations and to find a course closest to you.

SAFETY:

- a. Personal Flotation Devices: Children under the age of 12 must wear approved PFD while in a watercraft. Approved flotation devices are required for each person on board (NYS Law).
- b. Water Skiing: Water skiers must have a “look-out” over the age of 9 (NYS Law).
- c. BWI: Boating while impaired or intoxicated subject to fines or imprisonment (NYS Law).
- d. Fire extinguisher, distress signal and anchor are required on ALL motorized watercraft.

PERSONAL WATER CRAFT (NYS Law):

- a. Operators must wear an approved PFD.
- b. Operator must be attached with a cut-off device.
- c. Can only be operated between sunrise and sundown and the town ordinance speed limit on the lake is less than 6 mph between 8:00 pm and 9:00 am for any motorized vessel.
- d. May not be operated within 500 ft of a designated swimming area.
- e. Reckless operation prohibited (wake jumping, weaving through traffic, or other maneuvers that jeopardize safety).

REGISTRATION: All motorized watercraft must be registered and display the registration numbers (NYS Law).

ENVIRONMENT:

- a. Help keep unwanted aquatic plants and zebra mussels out of the lake. Thoroughly wash your vessel and flush the cooling system at a location away from the shoreline.
- b. Avoid spilling gasoline or oil. Repair leaks immediately.
- c. Dispose or litter properly in bins on shore.
- d. Do not use soaps or cleansers in or near the lake.



Common sense and respect for others are the way to ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone using the lake. CLCS is not a law-enforcement agency and leaves such duties to the Columbia County Sheriff's Department. The CLCS has posted rules and regulations and distributes these excerpts to encourage lake users to know the rules and observe them.

**Concerns about speed, noise, or safe handling of any motorized watercraft on the lake should be directed to:
COLUMBIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT 518-828-3344.**



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CLCS Members' Photos

Send your photos of beautiful Copake Lake and Copake Lake community events to Jed Luchow, Editor-in-Chief, at profluchow@aol.com. Please include: date of photo, event (if relevant), location of photo, names of individuals in photo, and name of person taking the photo.



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Photo by Joyce Crow