

# The KLC News



kinderhooklakecorp.org

July 2013

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## KLC Fund-Raiser BBQ Saturday, July 27, 5:00 - 7:30 PM Kinderhook Elks Lodge on Rt. 9H

Enjoy a chicken BBQ with your KL family and friends

Drinks, music, and many raffle and door prizes

**Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$13 at the door**

Advance tickets can be purchased by contacting any Board Member  
or online at [kinderhooklakecorp.org](http://kinderhooklakecorp.org)

## Water Level Control *(by Bernie Kelleher)*

It's been an interesting spring controlling the water level at the dam with all the rain we have been experiencing. Luckily though we have been able to keep it below flood stage through daily monitoring, cleaning of debris from the debris rack and adjustments to the sluice gate.

One of the biggest problems in controlling the lake level is keeping the dam and debris rack clear of weeds, trees, leaves, plastic lawn chairs, deflated tubes and other lightweight items left on docks that get blown into the lake when a storm rolls in. It's surprising how rapidly the lake comes up when there is a deflated tube or kiddie pool blocking the flow to the sluice gate. Also please keep in mind when you remove a tree along the shoreline during drawdown, branches and leaves left on the lake bed when the water is raised in the spring will end up in the debris rack and have to be removed. This is a daily chore which could be avoided if we all policed our shoreline.

Thanks for your anticipated cooperation in keeping your shoreline and our lake clear of debris, which in turn will help us in controlling the lake level.

## Continued Launch Vandalism

The boat launch continues to be plagued by vandalism. Most recently a sign was ripped off the gate and found mangled in the brush. Other times the gate lock was jammed and made inoperable. New signs and locks are costly to replace.

The KLC may need to install costly video surveillance equipment if the vandalism continues, spending money that could be better used elsewhere maintaining our lake.

If you see someone tampering with anything at the Launch, please do not hesitate to call the County Sheriff's Office at 828-3344.

## Important Dates to Remember

### July 27

KLC Annual BBQ and Fund-Raiser, 5:00-7:30, Kinderhook Elks Lodge on Rt. 9H.

### August 24

KLC Annual Membership Meeting 10:00 AM, KLIA Hall.

### October 15

Approximate date water drawdown begins.



Our newest lake residents  
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**Invasive Aquatic Species 101** (by Fran Sindlinger)

In our last newsletter, we published Carl Heiner's Letter to the Editor regarding Lake George's experience in dealing with the issue of invasive aquatic species and the need for the KLC to be vigilant and proactive in its approach to a very real problem that many lakes and streams around the country are facing. Mr. Heiner gave a well-researched presentation on invasive species to the KLC Board, which in turn prompted a meeting with the DEC. We discussed our concerns and learned about the many vectors that may bring invasive species to our lake, and received some practical advice on how to prevent an invasive species from becoming permanent residents here on Kinderhook Lake.

According to the DEC, Kinderhook Lake has three identified invasive plants in our lake: water chestnuts, Eurasian milfoil, and brittle naiad, plus an overabundance of white perch. The KLC already uses an annual management plan to control some of these invasive species. We absolutely understand the need for vigilance and to prevent the introduction of new invasive species into our lake.

While many non-native species can be present in waterways, they are not considered to be invasive unless they cause "harm to the environment, the economy, or human health." Even if a non-native species makes it into a lake, it needs to have the right type of conditions to thrive and have an adverse impact on native environments.

To illustrate the point, Lake George has Asian clams. The Asian clam needs a sandy or gravel bottom to live in, and probably wouldn't do well in a mud bottom. The most likely cause of an Asian clam problem would come through a household aquarium dump into the lake.

Zebra mussels can live in a mud bottom, and can attach themselves to any surface under water. Mature mussels will attach themselves to the hull of a boat; juveniles can be transferred in bilge or ballast water from lakes infested by the species. Zebra mussels are known to attach to the shells of turtles,

crayfish, and other fish in infested waters. Fishermen need to be aware that the taking of fish from any other body of water and placing it in our waters to "grow" the species here is NOT a good thing. Even the dumping of bait buckets into our waters can have an impact.

Spiny water fleas can also be spread through standing water left in boats that have visited infested waterways. These extremely small crustaceans have a barbed tail that can catch on fishing lines, anchor and dock lines, and clothing. They hide just about anywhere on a boat and fishing gear. They generate what are called "resting" eggs that can live a very long time under some pretty nasty circumstances. One article I read says that the resting eggs can survive passage through fish digestive tracts. This is yet another reason not to release fish from other lakes into our lake.

One of the recommendations made by the DEC was to conduct a survey of our membership and riparian homeowners to ascertain other locations they boat and fish in, and to pay particular attention to the species identified in neighboring waterways. We need to look into nearby streams to find out what is in those waters as well, and to work collaboratively with the community and other lake associations nearby. We need to discourage people from bringing fish and plants from other lakes in order to "grow" the population here. We need to have discussions about aquatic ponds and other factors that may contribute to any potential problems. Above all, we must adopt and promote the "Clean, Drain and Dry" procedures to prevent the transfer of invasive species to our lake.

Every member and lake user should become aware of the vectors for the transfer of invasive species. We encourage our members to adopt the "Clean, Drain and Dry" procedures that will be posted at our boat ramp and on our website. Before draining your boat, ALWAYS move away from the shoreline and drain into an area that won't spill back into the lake. Remember to drain live wells and bait wells. Ski boat owners – don't forget those ballast tanks! Remove all visible weed from your boat and trailer and throw it out safely; don't put it back in the water.

Equipment for cleaning boats at the ramp is quite cost prohibitive, but there are measures you can take at home. The DEC recommends using a solution that contains ammonia for cleaning, and to allow your boat to dry in

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(Continued on Page 3)

## NYS Boater Safety Course

One June 15th, over 40 adults and children attended the NYS Boater Safety Course at the KLIA Hall at no cost, arranged by the KLC. The 8-hour course was run through the Columbia County Sheriff's Office. Many thanks to the instructors who volunteered their time:

- \* Lieutenant Rob Williams, NYS Park Police
- \* Deputy Marian Williams
- \* Deputy Chad Shufelt
- \* Investigator John Rivero, Columbia County Sheriff's Office

## Invasive Species

*(continued from Page 2)*

sunlight for five days before returning it to the lake. If you need to get your boat back in the water sooner than five dry, sunny days, use steam or hot water over 140 degrees to kill all those critters hidden on your boat after you clean it. Home steam cleaners work well. Always check your hull by running your hands across the bottom. If it feels like sandpaper, chances are you have zebra mussels attached, and you must clean and use the steam or hot water method to ensure non-transference.

Lake George has done a lot of research in providing management steps in dealing with invasives. Generally, the best method is to focus on prevention through education. If a non-native plant or animal does make it into the lake, early detection is critical so attempts can be made to eradicate it, and failing that, an annual management plan needs to be implemented.

The KLC has immediately adopted an education component for lake residents. In addition to information on our website and in our newsletters, a DEC presentation was made at our June 29<sup>th</sup> Informational Meeting to help our members learn about invasive species. We are also arranging for an information kiosk at our boat ramp, and in general want to create a plan that fosters prevention as we conduct further research on the issue. We will continue to publish our progress on our website and in future newsletters as our plan fleshes out.

For information about the "Clean, Drain and Dry" policy for the prevention of invasive species, please go to <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/48221.html>. As users of the lake, each and every one of us plays a part in keeping our lake free of invasive species. We hope you adopt this policy immediately, and help us spread the word to your family and friends.

Here is a link for aquatic invasive species, and where they are regionally found. <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/50272.html>

## Water Quality *(by Drew Nelson)*

On June 23rd, the first copper sulfate treatment for 2013 was completed by Drew Nelson. Thanks to Joe & Betty Collins for making and placing all of the required signage and again to Joe for doing a super job on prepping the pontoon boat. The motor and all electrical connections worked flawlessly.



*Drew Nelson and family operate the KLC pontoon boat to distribute copper sulfate*

## Board Notes

*Issues discussed at recent Bd. Meetings:*

- Review of financial reports
- Membership and sponsors update
- Water quality / water level issues
- DEC agreement for Rt. 28 Boat Launch
- Future dam repairs and DEC update
- New launch site signage
- Newsletter assignments
- Dam Insurance
- Invasive aquatic species education
- August Membership Meeting agenda
- Summer BBQ / fund-raiser
- Merchandise

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**Weeds — 2013** (by Joe Collins)

This year has been one of the “worst” in terms of aquatic weeds. They are terrific for the fish because they provide protection and escape from sunlight, but they make it difficult to swim and operate boats in some areas. Low water temperature and high water clarity has favored growth this year.

*Curly-leaf Pondweed*, with long leaves and curly edges, is an annual which begins growing before ice-out and reaches the surface early in June; it seeds and dies in July. *Eurasian Milfoil* is a perennial which reaches the surface in June and spreads to shorelines from cuttings in the summer. For a number of years the Milfoil Weevil, a small aquatic insect that feeds on the growing tips, has caused the Milfoil to die back in July. Hopefully, it will provide control this year.

Five other weeds are prevalent in the lake. *Bushy Pondweed* and *Long-leaf Pondweed* are annuals which often become thick along muddy shorelines. Copper Sulfate treatments tend to stunt the

growth, but the primary reason for treatments is to control blue-green algae, not weeds. *Sago Pondweed* also grows in shallow areas and is spreading in the lake. It has broad leaves at the top like a Christmas tree. It is a nuisance to boats, but fish love it because it provides shade with plenty of room below for swimming. *Water Lilies* and *Water Chestnuts* also grow in shallow water. Lilies are beautiful and stay in particular locations, but Chestnuts spread rapidly by annual seeding. Cutting, clipping and pulling have confined them primarily to the north end of the lake, but in the 1970’s they occupied about half of the shallow areas. Thanks to Charlie Zielman, who operates the cutter boat, and those who clip the Chestnut leaflets whenever they see them, most of the lake is free of them. Hopefully, residents will continue to assist in providing control.

**Our New Launch Sign**

Thanks to the following volunteers who helped design, build and install our new Launch sign: Bernie Kelleher, Russ Camadine, Chris Akers (CP Ackers), Pete Walkes, Dan Langer, Rick Theriault, and Jack ‘the Mayor’ Warner.



*Don't forget...*

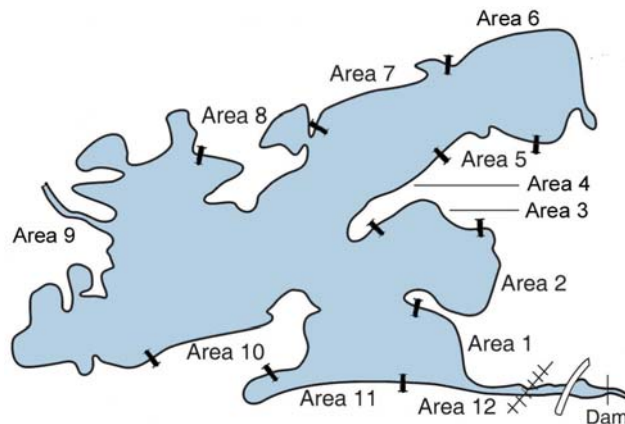
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Contact Ken Bosen at 456-1542. Photos of available merchandise can be found on our website.

- ◆ KL History Books
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- ◆ Mugs
- ◆ Flares
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- ◆ Key Floats
- ◆ First Aid Kits

**Area Directors**

KLC Directors are responsible for certain programs and for representing residents in shoreline areas indicated on the map. If you have concerns, please contact your Area Director.



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Area 2	Mike Weldon	518-784-3651
Area 3	Dan Langer	518-221-8689
Area 4	Bill Cleary	518-784-3914
Area 5	Ken Bosen	518-456-1542
Area 6	Rick Theriault	518-573-5088
Area 7	Paul Winslow	518-784-3361
Area 8	Drew Nelson	347-721-6930
Area 9	Sharon Grubin	518-392-3427
Area 10	Bernie Kelleher	518-784-4717
Area 11	Russ Camadine	518-784-2087
Area 12	Mike Franceour	518-784-2651

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