



CRANBERRY LAKE BOAT CLUB

FEBRUARY 2014 NEWSLETTER

Officers

Commodore – Fred Guevara
Vice Commodore – Ian Ward
Treasurer - Anne Loganbuhl
Secretary - Pat Farnsworth

Board of Directors

John Englert
Clint Farnsworth
Bill Gleason
Fred Guevara
Randy Hayes
Nick Hunter
Anne Loganbuhl
Suzanne Liberty
Derek Lough
Catherine McCann
Karla Marsh
Joan Mayer
Susan Sweeney-Smith
Kass Thompson
Ian Ward

Team Leaders

Annual Reception – P. Cook
Boat Parade – open
Cardboard Boat Race - B. Raymo
Community Projects – C. Farnsworth
Directory – F. Guevara
Dock and Navigation - E. Kipp
Fish & Game - R. Hayes
Historian - B. Gleason
Membership - P. Farnsworth
Merchandise – D. Lough
Nominations- K. Thompson
Picnic – Joan Mayer
Poker Paddle –Catherine McCann
Publicity – S. Liberty
Race/Walk – I. Ward
Water Quality – J. and D. Adami
Web Site – Nick Hunter

Address:

Box 656, Cranberry Lake, NY 12927

E-mail address:

cranberrylakeboatclub@yahoo.com

Website:

www.cranberrylakeboatclub.org

Facebook:

Cranberry Lake Boat Club

From the Commodore:

We have A Season of Challenges Ahead: I have received word from Scott Pickens that there is still considerable uncertainty regarding the Cranberry Lake Lodge. In his words:

"As you know, the Lodge closed for the winter 2013-14 season, with the hope to reopen for the Summer 2014 season. With the start of the new year, we have begun to review the options for reopening the Lodge for the summer 2014 season and the extent of Lodge operations. Unfortunately our two best options for moving forward with new Lodge management have fallen through, and we are now starting from scratch to find new management and fill key positions. At present, the key factor is finding competent, experienced, trustworthy leadership who can manage Lodge operations. If we cannot, there is a significant probability that the Lodge will not reopen for the summer, or that operations could be very limited. If you or other CLBC members have good leads, we would welcome them. I highly recommend that you explore alternative venues for the Boat Club dock for the 2014 season. As I explained to you last year, if the Lodge does not reopen for the summer 2014 season, the Lodge will not be leasing a dock to the boat club....Also, as I told you last year, the Lodge will not be hosting the Boat Club's annual banquet/members meeting & reception in 2014. The availability of the Lodge for other Boat Club events is uncertain for the reasons discussed above. At this time, I have no further information to share with you and the CLBC leadership".

With the possible closing of the lodge and marina, we are facing some unprecedented challenges. The absence of a marina facility in the village would represent a great loss to the economic welfare of Cranberry Lake, the village and the community. Concerns include loss of dockside availability of gasoline for boats, propane and water taxi service for outlying camps, and the loss of our Boat Club dock and rental dockage for community boaters.

Cranberry Lake Boat Club is an organization that has the welfare of the communities surrounding the lake as a core value. We all need to consider what we can do to create contingency plans for these valuable services, as well as for our Boat Club events.

Our officers, directors and team leaders will be actively addressing those issues that we can control. Please let me know if you have ideas and would like to help. My email address is: fredguev@gmail.com. My phone number is (740) 975-1629 until the end of May. My number at the Lake is 848-2261 (June through September). I look forward to hearing from you!

Wanakena Bridge News: The Wanakena Footbridge was severely damaged in an ice release from the Oswegatchie River on January 13, 2014. Planning for repair of the bridge is underway.



On February 5, Mark Hall, Fine Town Supervisor, issued the following report:

DONATIONS / FUNDRAISING (Allen Ditch)

The Wanakena Historical Association has developed a logo, fundraising campaign slogan, a PayPal account for online donations and candy bars with Wanakena Footbridge wrapping for sale. The WHA Facebook page has 105 "likes" to date. Please visit the WHA homepage at <http://wanakena.webs.com/>. Those wishing to contribute can mail donations to: Wanakena Historical Association; Attn: Footbridge Fund; PO Box 73; Wanakena, NY 13695

Wanakena Historical Association is a non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible.

GRANT IDENTIFICATION (Sue Westbrook)

Sue Westbrook met with St. Lawrence County grant writer Heidi Ames on 2/4/14 to formulate a plan to identify grant opportunities.

REGULATORY AFFAIRS (Sherman Craig)

The NYS DEC has been contacted about the bridge issues. They have no concerns at this point, but we will need permits if we do any foundation work along the River's edge.

SALVAGE, DESIGN, & CONSTRUCTION (Tom Sauter)

A structural engineer inspected the bridge on 1/24/14. We focused on identifying appropriate, affordable, safe solutions to remove the bridge from the ice, temporally brace and stabilize. This is a complicated operation with portions of the bridge encapsulated in the ice. There are worker safety issues dealing with chopping the ice away. There is the danger of pulling the south tower down when lifting the bridge. Tom Sauter and Mark Hall are setting up a site visit with potential contractor to get more ideas on how to secure the bridge at a reasonable cost. As a construction worksite and pedestrian transportation suspension bridge, current codes and standards must be adhered to for everyone's safety.

DEED RESEARCH (Brian Donovan)

The footbridge was deeded to the Town of Fine in September 1924 along with a (10) ten foot wide strip of land from Front Street to South Shore Road.

The CLBC Community Improvement Projects (CIP) team is considering ways to help. If you wish to make a designated gift to the footbridge project via Cranberry Lake Boat Club/CIP, you are encouraged to do so.

Stone Manor/Pine Cone Grill News:

Suzy Thaller reports that the Stone Manor is for sale, but operations will continue as usual for the time being. Suzy states: "We are selling because we currently own another restaurant and two is just too hectic!" For information, Contact Jeff or Suzie at 315-212-6069 or 315-848-2127, email cranberrystonemanor@gmail.com

The Pine Cone Grill is open and doing well. We wish Suzy and Jeff the very best going forward. They are excellent business people and very good friends of the Cranberry Lake Boat Club! They are open to supporting us in hosting events at the Pine Cone Grill that would normally have been held at the Lodge.

Winter Activities:

The Cranberry Lake Fire and Rescue Fishing Derby on January 25 was a great success, according to Bill White. He reports that 614 adults and 15 kids participated and \$10,000 in prizes were received by participants. 75 fish were weighed in, the largest at 20.5 lb, length 43 in! The total amount raised for the Department was not available at the time of publication, but it will surely be helpful to our excellent volunteers!

Winterfest: (From an article in the Watertown Times): For hotelier and restaurant owner Susan E. Thaller, one of the busiest weeks during the winter is Presidents Day weekend in February. This year, she and several other business owners and civic leaders in Cranberry Lake, Wanakena and Star Lake are hoping it will be a much bigger weekend, as they all have donated "as much money and time as possible" to reviving the annual Winterfest and changing it to Adirondack Whiteout Weekend.

The wintry outdoor festival dates back to the 1980s, according to Janice L. Lutz, co-owner of Fun Unlimited, a Polaris dealer in Gouverneur who is on the reviving committee. "In more recent years, there hasn't been a lot of interest in Winterfest," Mrs. Lutz said. Over the years, the February festival that once was a variety of winter activities became a snowmobiling weekend.

"It turned into just snowmobiling because that became so popular," said Richard F. Kovacs, owner of Wanakena General Store, "But we're trying to get back to some of the other winter activities to go along with the snowmobiles." The Feb. 15 and 16 event will feature cross-country skiing, dog-sled rides, sledding at the Clifton-Fine Municipal Golf Course, snow sculpting with local students and a water and ice rescue demonstration by the Star Lake Fire Department, as well as snowmobiling.

Organizers also have asked the Ranger School in Wanakena to help with exhibits and demonstrations about winter camping, snow shelter building and ice fishing. The community centers in Star Lake and Cranberry Lake will be open, as will a central warming tent.

The idea to revive Winterfest began as Ms. Thaller's idea. "Last year customers at the hotel asked me what was going on that weekend, but there weren't really any big events," she said. "We have a great area, but it's just kind of quiet." Ms. Thaller owns the Stone Manor Motel and Diner, Cranberry Lake, and the Pine Cone Grill and Motel, Wanakena. When she set up a meeting to present her idea to other business owners in the area and town supervisors, all were enthusiastic, she said.

"We're trying to get people to come celebrate winter with us in an area that is somewhat economically depressed this time of year," he said. Ms. Thaller said the weekend is just as much for the community as it is for out-of-towners on vacation. "It's about bringing the families outside during the winter," she said.

Environmental Studies on Cranberry:

Eric Holmlund, Ph.D. Professor and Coordinator, Environmental Studies at Paul Smith's College and Director, Watershed Stewardship Program has completed a detailed report entitled: Watershed Stewardship Program Summary of Programs and Research 2013.. The purposes of the study are monitoring and education. It includes a section on Cranberry Lake Here is a summary of the Cranberry Lake section:

Boats inspected: 1423

% of visitors taking spread prevention measures: 77%

AIS intercepted: 26 %

Inspected boats with organisms: 10%

visitors: 3259

of previously visited waterways: 76

Dr. Holmlund is seeking to employ an additional steward for 2014. If you have an interest in environmental science and would like to work in this capacity at Cranberry Lake, please contact him at 518-327-6341. His email is: eholmlund@paulsmiths.edu

Get the full report at:

<http://www.adkinvasives.com/Aquatic/Resources/documents/WSPProgramSummary2013.pdf>

