

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE MEMBERS OF THE LAKE PARKER
ASSOCIATION

January 30, 1973

Dear Members,

A belated "Happy New Year" and a "hello" to each of you. Here we are in the middle of a January thaw in New York which makes my thoughts again turn to you and the Lake. Before you know it we will be returning! But since the welfare of the Lake knows no season, I thought that this would be a good time to share with you some of my thoughts about this coming summer's work.

First and foremost (and possibly primarily) we have to tackle the weed problem before it gets insuperable. (And aren't you glad that the major problem is not pollution?) We propose to get technical help from the state regarding when, what and how to handle it. Then we can make a start on trying to help ourselves. We will need four or five boats with motors and we will need either a Sears Roebuck water weed cutter and/or some homemade ones to serve on weed cutting duty in those spots where the tall weeds grow. We will most surely need technical aid (and perhaps money) to try to alleviate the shallow water weed condition. Presumably there is both state and federal funding to help save a lake and we propose to try to get some.

Meantime your good vice president Floyd Taylor suggests still another attack by way of a weed eating fish called an "amur" which seems to be sort of a vegetable piranha with a voracious appetite. Since Floyd tends to think in large terms when it comes to fish, the calculations at five amurs per acre leads us to some 1220 fish. Needless to say, we need to look into this as a secondary front on which to fight weeds.

Part of the cure of the weed problem lies, of course, in the dam at the sluice. It seems that this has gotten bogged down in the town councils of Glover, but we have their assurance that they would act, and I expect that they will. All we have to do is to try to hurry it up a little. Raising the water even a few inches would give some relief to the shallow water problems of the north end.

I think that we should try these several measures for a year or so before we consider going further with more drastic alternatives, which are both expensive and would require full lobbying at the state level.

While I think trying to arrest the onslaught of weed growth will be our central focus this year, we will, nonetheless, pay more attention to the application of safety rules on the Lake and keep an ever vigilant eye on the level of water pollution, so that we can report any significant changes to you as soon as they happen.

With many apologies for tardiness, we will have our map of the Lake this summer. I'm sure you know that it will not be 100% accurate even though we have tried very hard. There is great difficulty in trying to make maps correct, and I have come to admire cartographers. If nothing else, property changes hands, and there is plenty else. But we shall have our probably inaccurate map in any case. I hope you will like it.

This fall I have been thinking about just how I could convey a certain thought about the Association to you. It has come home to me very strongly that an association is nothing more than the combined spirit of its members. Its officers are not its spirit; they merely express it and they come and go. If the spirit isn't there, there is no association but only an empty name on a piece of paper. In other words our Association is US. We generated it; we shape it; we power it. Only with each of us cooperatively powering it can it live. There is no "they" to do it for us. If we want it, we have to support it. If we don't support it, it dies. The purpose of this Association is to save and preserve a lake. If we don't save it, it won't be saved.

I guess it is particularly important to me that we share this spirit because I think that we have a great chance to play a vigorous role in the Northeast Lake Association of which we are a member. Ultimately, this association will extend throughout Vermont and be able to put more than a little heft behind its demands for state aid to endangered lakes. This is no small undertaking and it demands our best efforts.

To this end and when I return in June I will host the Presidents of Caspian, Shadow, Willoughby, Seymour and Echo Lakes at my cottage (#7) for lunch. I will show them our Lake and explain our problems first hand, hoping to enlist their aid when we go to Montpelier in behalf of aid for Parker weeds. It may all be just a start and only a start, but it IS a start and a really substantial one, when one considers that no such start has ever before been made since Lake Parker was taken from the Indians.

I am looking forward to seeing you all again and to starting on another summer of activity.

Until we meet again,

Evelyn Buchler
Evelyn Buchler, President
Lake Parker Association

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