



# LAKE PLEASANT-SACANDAGA ASSOCIATION



Volume 20-Issue 2

## NEWSLETTER Fall 2018



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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Mitzi Fox & Lyn Van Druff

*Editor's Note: This year marks the end of Mitzi Fox's two-year term as President of LPSA/LPSF and the start of Lyn Van Druff's two-year term. Hence, this Newsletter edition contains a message from each of them.*

#### From Mitzi Fox:

Dear LPSA Members,

It has been a joy and a privilege to have served as President of the Lake Pleasant-Sacandaga Association and Foundation for the past two years.

I am pleased to report that during my tenure our lakes remained free of non-native invasive weeds. LPSA has utilized a \$252,000 grant from the NYDEC to provide and operate a boat wash station that is located during the summers at the gateway to Speculator on Route 30, and to continue our program of having Lake Stewards inspecting boats before they enter the waters at Moffitt Beach, Speculator Pavilion, and Indian Lake boat launch sites. At each location the stewards successfully identified and removed many invasive weeds from boats before they were launched.

This past summer LPSA designed, funded, built and installed a new kiosk near the Speculator Pavilion to provide visitors information about our area. Our thanks to Larry Smith who was the master builder on this project. Our presence was also established through an exhibit and the dissemination of information on both terrestrial and aquatic invasives at the weekly Farmers' Market. Residents and visitors to the area were offered the opportunity to learn and ask questions, and to become aware of the role LPSA fills in protecting the environment in our area.

The long-awaited new member direc-

*(Continued on page 2)*

#### From Lyn Van Druff:

The Summer of 2018 was simply an unusual one: very low lake from June-July, higher heat for longer periods than we are used to, and a great deal of rain from August-October. You will be glad to hear that the lake is now at typical early June levels following all the fall rain, and the temps have finally announced fall is here!

The CSLAP (Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program) reports continue to show our lakes free from all invasives, except for the spiny water flea. And that invasive does not seem to have increased in severity.

The Aquatic Invasive Species Grant that LPSA partnered with the Town of Lake Pleasant to acquire has completed its 3-year cycle. This has proven to be a huge financial and ecological help to the town and lake. **Charlie Ascher, Dan Wilt and Bill Thielking** managed the grant and have provided a more detailed summary within this newsletter. **Camp of the Woods** contributed immensely with all their boat stewards checking every arriving boat. We simply would not have had the resources to fund our stewards and purchase our DECON equipment. A hearty THANK YOU to those three men for their diligence in procuring and managing the grant. In short, over 5300 boats entered our lakes, and approximately 76% of them were turned away to be cleaned at the DECON station. Eurasian Milfoil, Water Chestnuts, and Zebra Mussels

*(Continued on page 2)*

Editor: Tom Rippere

Design & Production by Belinda Germain

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Continued**

### **by Mitzi Fox & Lyn Van Druff**

*(Continued from page 1) FROM MITZI FOX*

tory was formulated, printed and distributed to the members this summer. Over 50 additional families were added to our membership through a personalized mailing during the spring and summer. Our informational brochure with a membership application attached was updated and printed, and is available to inform new neighbors and friends about LPSA.

Our social events during the past two years included our spring luncheons and annual meetings and picnics in August. At these events at Oak Mountain the food was delicious and the programs featured our Sheriff and K-9 dog, and talks and pictures by DEC experts on bear, moose, and loons, as well as an update on our "Adirondack Experience" museum. We also enjoyed several trips to points of interest in the central Adirondacks as well as to local historic locations.

We were delighted to learn that our semi-annual newsletter was recognized as the award-winning newsletter over more than 100 newsletters from similar organizations in the State of New York. This is a tribute to the dedication of our editor, Tom Rippere.

During the balance of my tenure on the LPSA Board of Directors, I will be working primarily with the Lake Pleasant- Sacandaga Foundation, overseeing its investments and promoting donations. A current goal is to grow the assets of the Foundation to a sufficient level that would allow funding of the Association's annual budget with income from the Foundation, while allowing the Foundation's assets to continue to grow. The primary objective of the Foundation is to have funds available for urgent or emergency issues that could affect our lakes at some time in the future. John Huber continues to graciously offer to match any donations to the Kathy Huber Fund. The Huber Fund is a fund within the structure of the Foundation, named in memory of Kathy Huber. Please consider donations to the Foundation, and particularly to the Huber Fund. The Foundation is vital to ensuring the continued health and vitality of our lakes and being able to maintain their recreational value into the future.

Have a great winter, and see you all at the Lake! Mitzi Fox



*(Continued from page 1) FROM LYN VAN DRUFF*

were found on some of these boats!

This year Sacandaga Lake received the CSLAP monitoring. It found water clarity, water temperature, and visual plant matter to be, good to beautiful, in all areas. Additionally, there were no significant changes from previous years. This once again is a testament to the proactive approach that we have been taking regarding our lakes.

Lastly, we would encourage all lake shore owners to help reduce the plant matter and other organic matter from entering the lakes. The introduction of additional organic matter poses a problem for the clarity, health and usability of the lakes. Raking leaves off lawns, skimming decaying leaves from water, hand pulling weeds and plant matter adjacent to your property, and refraining from using weed killers and fertilizers will aid in keeping the lake free as we can from native but annoying plants and algae build up.

Until we see each other again, may you have a healthy and happy winter! Please encourage all residents of Lake Pleasant to join LPSA. We bring a vital service to the entire town through our efforts to keep the Adirondack Beauty and Lake Purity a primary goal.

Sincerely,  
Lyn Van Druff, President



### **Library Hours:**

**Lake Pleasant Public Library:** Open - Mon, Wed, Fri, 1-4 & 7-9. Tue, Thu, Sat, 10-2 518-548-4411  
During July and August also open Tue, 7-9 & Thurs. 7-9

**Wells Library:** Mah Jongg Game Night, every Tues 6 to 8 pm.

Open: Tues 6 to 8 pm Sat 10 am to Noon, April to October also Thursday 6 to 8 pm 518-924-2220

**Piseco Library:** Piseco School, Rte 8, Open Mon-Fri 8 am-4pm, whenever the school is open.

## WATER QUALITY AND SECCHI DISK

*By Jim Olsen*

The clarity of our lakes can be affected by the color of the water, algae abundance, and suspended sediments. As these three increase, the clarity decreases. Color sources in our lakes often come from the tannin that flows in from tributaries like Cherry Creek. Tannin is a naturally occurring polyphenol found in plants, seeds, bark, wood, and leaves. True to its name, Cherry Creek takes on the color of strong tea, due to the abundance of tannin from decaying plant matter.

Light conditions and water temperature directly affect the growth of algae. Algae abundance is also related to the amount of nutrients, especially phosphorus and nitrogen. Hence, water clarity is affected by the amount of nutrients coming into the lake from sources like septic tanks and lawn fertilizer. Suspended sediments can include sources such as pine pollen (during the late spring,) algae growth (during the peak summer

months,) and surface runoff (from storms.) Water clarity can indicate the impact of human activity on land surrounding the lake.

We measure water clarity with a Secchi disc. It was invented 150 years ago by Angelo Secchi. LPSA uses a modified 20 cm diameter design, with alternating black and white quadrants. The depth at which the disc disappears is noted, then the disc is lowered further and raised again. The depth that it reappears is also noted, and these two depths are averaged to determine the "Secchi depth." For comparison, the Secchi Depth in Lake George averages 11m, and Crater Lake averages over 40m. LPSA's records show the clarity of Sacandaga Lake and Lake Pleasant has remained fairly consistent at 4-5 m during the last 30 years, with Sacandaga's readings last summer even deeper than 5m.



## SOCIAL OUTINGS

*by Tom Rippere*

This past summer, LPSA planned a variety of social events to provide opportunities for members to meet and spend time together. At the Spring Brunch, members enjoyed a great meal at Oak Mountain, and learned a lot about bear and moose in the area with a presentation from Jim Stickles, with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

At the Annual Meeting and Summer Picnic at Oak Mountain, we had a record number of 72 people attending. The meeting included a presentation about loons from Gary Lee, a retired DEC forest ranger.

A planned boat tour in Old Forge was cancelled as an LPSA event due to rain, but six LPSA members did go on the tour that day, and nine more the following week, and enjoyed the boat tour. About 30 members enjoyed an interesting LPSA outing to visit John Van Alstine's Sculpture Studio in Wells. Also, the summer activities included an historic tour of the Oxbow Inn, with lots of information on this local landmark. More events will be planned for next summer.



**We value your input! Please contact any member of the Board of Directors with suggestions to help make our organization and this newsletter a better one!**

## **AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES GRANT PROGRAM**

### **by Charlie Ascher, Dan Wilt & Bill Thielking**

This year represents the third and final year of the initial Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) grant program through NYSDEC. The Town of Lake Pleasant (TOLP) through its partnership with Lake Pleasant Sacandaga Association (LPSA) was the recipient of \$252,570 over the three-year program to fund the purchase of a self-contained decontamination (DECON) boat washing station as well as the funding for a full complement of trained boat stewards who were supervised by the Adirondack Watershed Institute of Paul Smith's College.

The original guidelines of the DEC grant programs required a 25% local match for these grants. This requirement would have necessitated a cash outlay of \$63,140 from the Town of Lake Pleasant and/or LPSA. However, we were successful in convincing DEC to accept In-Kind Contributions as part of this requirement. By keeping track of the time invested in monitoring, protecting and testing our lakes by LPSA and TOLP and Camp-of-the-Woods (COTW) we were able to justify more than enough investment of time and personnel to offset most of the required contribution on a local level. The result was that the total cash contribution from the TOLP and LPSA was reduced to approximately \$15,500. The dedication to the AIS program by LPSA, TOLP and COTW personnel saved us almost \$50,000!

The final data collected as part of the program provided the following findings.

- 1) For the year 2018, through September 30<sup>th</sup>, there were 10,187 visitors to the various boat launch and DECON sites located throughout the Town of Lake Pleasant which represents a 32% increase compared to 2017.
- 2) All the visitors were educated concerning the importance of Drain, Clean and Dry in the effort to control the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). In addition, visitors were provided with various reading and reference materials on AIS.
- 3) For the year 2018 through September 30<sup>th</sup>, there were 5,355 boats that were inspected at the various boat launch and DECON sites in the Town of Lake Pleasant which represents a 41% increase compared to 2017.
- 4) Camp-of-the-Woods saw a 30% increase in the number of boats launched into Lake Pleasant during 2018 compared to 2017. These boats came from at least nine different states from as far away as Ohio and Mississippi. All these boats were inspected by COTW stewards trained by LPSA and approximately 76% were sent to the DECON station for decontamination.
- 5) Although the number of visitors and launchings increased tremendously this year, the number of boats that were identified as being "dirty" was about the same as last year. The number and types of invasive species that were identified and removed from these "dirty" boats was alarming. The presence of Water Chestnut, Zebra mussel and Eurasian Milfoil on these boats reinforces the importance of this entire program.

In summary, the Town of Lake Pleasant experienced a tremendous increase in the number of visitors and boat launchings in 2018 as compared to 2017. This increase reinforces the need for continued diligence at all launch and DECON sites which requires an adequate complement of trained boat stewards backed by continued education of the public going forward.



### **SAVE THE DATE**

**June 23rd - Spring Brunch - Oak Mountain — Noon**

**August 18th - Annual Meeting & Picnic at Oak Mountain — Noon**

## LAKE ECOLOGY COMMITTEE REPORT—FALL 2018

by Peter Tobiessen & Jim Olsen

This summer we completed our second year of CSLAP (Citizen's Statewide Lake Assessment Program) sampling on Sacandaga Lake in a blustery, cold late September day—overcast with whitecaps. The surface water had cooled significantly since our last sample in mid September, and was very close to the temperature of the bottom water. When this temperature difference disappears, the wind can mix the entire water column, a process called "turnover." Often a lot of floating debris appears on the lake surface at this time. Turnovers occur on all northern lakes, one in the spring and one in the fall, and they are of critical importance to the distribution of lake nutrient and oxygen levels.

We won't get the results for this year's water chemical analyses, done by the state labs, until the spring, but last year's data show that the water chemistry in Sacandaga has not changed much since our first CSLAP samples in the mid 1980's. This is good news. The one change we noted this year was that water clar-

ity was greater than it has been in recent years. (See Jim Olsen's article in this newsletter). This is also good news.

This summer we had our Certified Lake Manager survey Lake Pleasant for invasive weeds and he found none. Nor did our own lake monitors on the other lakes - more good news.

The native pondweed in Lake Pleasant continued its expansion last summer. We are in discussion with the APA (Adirondack Park Agency) about our options, but since this plant is native and not officially "invasive", our options are limited. However, next summer we plan to map the plant's distribution and condition, as well as measure some parameters describing its habitat so we will have a handle on what it's actually doing in the lake. Often native plants have natural controls that arise from their ecosystems, and we want to understand whether this is the case in Lake Pleasant.

## LAKE SHORE MONITORING

by Tom Rippere

The Lake Pleasant – Sacandaga Association Board members want to thank each individual who donated their time this summer to the important project of monitoring our lake shores for invasive species. Each summer, LPSA volunteers survey over 30 miles of shoreline on lakes in our area to watch for invasive species. At the beginning of each summer season, Jim Olsen and Peter Tobiessen host a training session for the volunteers, to train them how to identify various poten-

tial invasive species. The volunteers patrol the shorelines by boat to watch for these invasive plants. If any suspicious plants are found, the plant's location is reported and a specimen is collected for further analysis and confirmation. If the plant is an invasive that we do not want in our lakes, LPSA will work with county and state organizations to work on eradicating the invader before it becomes too firmly established in our lakes.

This summer, our 36 lake

shore monitors logged over 100 hours on this activity. Fortunately, no suspicious plants were found this summer. THANK YOU to all the volunteers who participate in this important program. If you would like to join this team next year, please send an email to Jim Olsen at [JAMESrOLSEN@msn.com](mailto:JAMESrOLSEN@msn.com)



Lake Pleasant-Sacandaga Association  
PO Box 164  
Speculator NY 12164-0164



## NEW KIOSK WILL PROVIDE HELPFUL INFORMATION by Charlie Ascher

A new kiosk has been installed at the foot of the pedestrian walkway into the Village of Speculator pavilion parking lot. The required materials were provided with funding from LPSA, as well as donations by Larry Smith, Chairman of the LPSA Community Enhancement Committee, who built it. All the labor for this project was donated and a special thank you goes out to the Village of Speculator Mayor Cheryl Paestella as well as Roger Blanchard, Village DPW Superinten-



dent and his crew. In addition, the project would not have reached completion without the contribution of volunteers including: Dave and Karen Anderson, Art Brown, Eric, Claire and David Craven.

The kiosk will provide useful information about points of interest, restaurants, activities and services available in the area and serve as a gateway to our community.



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lyn Van Druff - President  
Tom Rippere - Vice President  
Mitzi Fox - Vice President - Gifting  
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Bill Thielking - Secretary

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Daniel Wilt  
Lake Ecologist:  
Peter Tobiessen

## NEW LPSA DIRECTOR

My name is Ron Uva. I am a retired obstetrician/gynecologist having practiced in Oswego for almost 40 years. I have been coming to Speculator since getting married to my wife Sarah in 1971. Her family had built a camp on South Shore Road in 1967. I instantly fell in love with the Adirondacks. After a camp renovation in 2006 we decided to make Speculator our principle residence upon retirement in 2013. We split our time between Speculator and St Croix in the United States Virgin Islands. I majored in biology at the University at Buffalo with a heavy concentration in chemistry and limnology (lake ecology) before entering medical school. I

spent two summers working for a professor doing the lake studies for the environmental impact of the three nuclear power plants



located in Oswego and feel comfortable discussing and analyzing data. I believe that I can help with ecological matters concerning our lakes. I sit on the New York State Board for Medicine and am a director for the office of Professional Medical Conduct. This experience has proved invaluable in making decisions that affect New Yorkers. I consider my strongpoint to be reliability with an attitude to "get it done". Thus said I look forward to being a director for LPSA.



## CONTACT US

Additional information about LPSA is available on our website [LPSA-ny.org](http://LPSA-ny.org)

You can send mail to LPSA, P.O. Box 164, Speculator, NY 12164-0164.

You can get in touch with Lyn Van Druff, LPSA President, via email at [LynLPSA@gmail.com](mailto:LynLPSA@gmail.com) if you have any questions or concerns.

Like and Follow us on Face Book @ LPSA2016. You can see pictures of various seasons, add your own pictures, or read about upcoming events and projects in the LAKE PLEASANT / SACANDAGA area

## LPSA HAS A NEW PO BOX NUMBER

LPSA has a new mailing address for all future membership renewals, dues payment checks, and luncheon and picnic reservations and payments. This will be noted on the forms and notices.

LPSA, P.O. Box 383, Wells, NY 12190-0383.

Our Speculator post office box number remains active and correspondence for board members can still be mailed to Box 164 Speculator NY 12164-0164.



## **Support Area Businesses:**

*The businesses below are those business members who have chosen to display their logo or business card with info. If you are interested, please contact us - email: [lpasa@frontiernet.net](mailto:lpasa@frontiernet.net)*

### **Red Pines B&B**

South Shore Road, Lake Pleasant, NY 12108

**Your Adirondack Retreat**  
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Phone: 518-548-5382

Website: [www.redpinesbb.com](http://www.redpinesbb.com)

Email: [diane@redpinesbb.com](mailto:diane@redpinesbb.com)

### **Charlie Johns Store**

The Four Corners  
Speculator NY 12164

Phone: 518-548-7451

Or 888-548-7455

Fax 518-548-6392

Email: [info@charliejohns.com](mailto:info@charliejohns.com)

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Housewares, Camping, Bakery, Outdoors,  
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### **Mountain Market**

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Speculator NY 12164  
518-548-4820

### **GLF Electric, Plumbing, Heating**

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396 Gilmantown Rd  
PO Box 565  
Wells NY 12190  
518-924-4492

### **Tanner's Outdoor Sports, Inc.**

Route 8, PO Box 186 Speculator, NY 12164

[tannersoutdoorsports@yahoo.com](mailto:tannersoutdoorsports@yahoo.com)

Phone: 518-548-7705

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Route 8 PO Box 418  
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Ph: 518-548-5995 Fax: 518-548-7819  
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Home Building, Renovations, Septic Systems  
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Tree Service

**Your business information could  
appear in our newsletter. Member  
businesses are included here for  
free. They are also listed on our  
website at [www.lpasa-ny.org](http://www.lpasa-ny.org).**



### **Alpine Meadows Chalets**

**CHARI & CHUCK SMITH**

Po Box 14  
Speculator NY 12164  
518-548-5615  
chariks@frontiernet.net

### **Lake Pleasant Lodge**

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Website: [www.lakepleasantlodge.com](http://www.lakepleasantlodge.com)**

***"Rest on the Lake. Play in the Adirondacks"***

### **Oak Mountain**

**A Lifetime of Memories**

**141 Novosel Way Speculator, NY 12164  
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**[info@oakmountainski.com](mailto:info@oakmountainski.com)  
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### **Lawrence & Smith, PLLC**

**Strawberry Lane, PO Box 156  
Speculator NY 12164  
Phone: 518-548-2771 Fax: 518-548-2447  
Website: [www.speculatorlawyers.com](http://www.speculatorlawyers.com)  
Katie Smith, Esq  
Email: [katie@speculatorlawyers.com](mailto:katie@speculatorlawyers.com)**

### **Cedarhurst Motor Lodge**

**Route 30, Speculator NY 12164 518-548-6064  
Email us at: [cedarhurstlodge@frontiernet.net](mailto:cedarhurstlodge@frontiernet.net)**

**Year Around, Family Owned, All Rooms equipped  
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Snowmobilers welcome.  
Within walking distance of the public beach.**

### **Moonlight Bay RV Park**

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**Business memberships are \$30.**

**Contact us at [lpas@frontiernet.net](mailto:lpas@frontiernet.net) for  
more information**

**IF YOU KNOW OF SOMEONE WHO WANTS TO JOIN, PLEASE GIVE  
THEM THIS APPLICATION FOR NEW MEMBERS ONLY**

Name(s)\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address\_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_ State\_\_\_\_\_ Zip\_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Email\_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

Hamilton County Location Address\_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_ State\_\_\_\_\_ Zip\_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

**CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP:** Make checks payable to: LPSA

Mail checks to: LPSA c/o Belinda Germain, Administrator, PO Box 383, Wells, NY 12190-0383

**GIFTING MEMBERSHIPS**

\_\_\_\_\_ SPONSOR \$30.00      \_\_\_\_\_ PATRON \$50.00      \_\_\_\_\_ BENEFACTOR \$100.00

\_\_\_\_\_ DONOR \$500.00      \_\_\_\_\_ FRIEND \$1,000

**BASIC MEMBERSHIPS**

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