



# LAKE PLEASANT-SACANDAGA ASSOCIATION



Volume 21-Issue 2

## NEWSLETTER FALL 2019



Email: [LPSA.ADK@gmail.com](mailto:LPSA.ADK@gmail.com)

Website: [www.lpsa-ny.org](http://www.lpsa-ny.org)

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Lyn Van Druff

Fall Greetings to All!

I hope this season finds you all in good health. Much has happened since we were last together at the annual meeting in August. In case you couldn't be in attendance, I will recap some of the summer happenings.

LPSA sponsored the Lake Pleasant School ecology projects for all students in grades 7-9 as well as taking the entire grades 7-9 to Lake George's Floating Classroom. The projects were thoroughly researched by students with the assistance of the teachers Ryan Marshall and Vanessa Saltis. You can read more regarding the winners of the contest as well as the Field Trip in the following articles.

APA Fresh Water expert, Leigh Walrath came to survey LP after Peter Tobiessen and I had a long conference with him regarding our concerns on the rapid growth of Pond Weed in our Lake. Several board Members accompanied Leigh on the lake survey. The good news is that our lake is in good shape.

Leigh came and along with Caitlin Stewart gave a presentation at the LP Library for all interested community members. We still remain concerned as we see a rapid growth of pond weed. There are things that we can do as a community to reduce the influx of nutrients into our lake that promote vegetation growth. More on that in the spring.

Our new website is almost fully functioning. [LPSA-NY.org](http://LPSA-NY.org). Please check it out. We are pleased that you may now:

Make Donations, Renew or Begin your Membership. Please use these functions. We are endeavoring to reduce our administrative costs for mailings and printing costs. By using the web site with the Pay Pal function you can use your credit cards with confidence. There is also a very secure MEMBERS ONLY, password protected, portion where you will be able to update your personal information and sign up for luncheons and activities. The web-site contains several very informative and educational items. Over the winter, take the opportunity to look at all the "drop down" pages on the site. You will learn so many interesting things. A great tool for your kids and grandkids too!

Lastly, we experienced the worst flooding in over 50 years in Speculator and Lake Pleasant! Much destruction to roads and property due to the "Halloween Storm". Our Mayor Jeannette Barrett and Supervisor Dan Wilt jumped right on seeing what help we might be able to receive from the Federal Government. At this writing, some are still evaluating their property damage and the Federal Government is evaluating where we stand. Please take pictures and keep all recorded data that you can regarding your needs. Contact the Town and Village to see where we stand with FEMA.

I wish you all a very Blessed and Healthy Thanksgiving and Christmas Season. May the New Year 2020 be full and prosperous.



Editor: Tom Rippere

Design & Production by Belinda Germain

## WINNERS OF CONTEST AT LAKE PLEASANT SCHOOL by Charlie Ascher

The winners of the eighth annual contest sponsored by the Lake Pleasant Sacandaga Association (LPSA) at the Lake Pleasant School were announced at the school's awards ceremony held the morning of June 25<sup>th</sup>. Each of the students in 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade worked on research projects concerning invasive weeds and the effects of their introduction into our lakes. The students worked either by themselves or in pairs. The student's projects were presented for review using computer techniques and smart board technology. Finalists were chosen by a panel of staff members. The finalists subsequently presented their projects to a review panel of LPSA representatives, who selected the rankings of the winners.

Each winner received a framed certificate from LPSA, along with a gift card as a reward for their accomplishments. Most importantly, all participants acquired a tremendous wealth of knowledge on a subject that affects all of us who love and utilize our lakes and waterways.

All finalists did an excellent job with their presentations, which made the job of the review panel very difficult. The contest winners as chosen from the finalists are as follows:

First Place - Isabella Greco

Second Place Tie - Chase Smith and Jennalee Smith, Carter Orr and Joshua Hughes

Third Place - Shannon Vogel and Helene Frick



Shown in the photo, left to right:

Charlie Ascher, Program Chair, Lyn Van Druff, LPSA President, Isabella Greco, Shannon Vogel, Helene Frick, Chase Smith, Jennalee Smith, Joshua Hughes and Carter Orr.

## ELECTION RESULTS

The result of the Nov 5, 2019 election for Lake Pleasant Town Supervisor ended in a tie between Dan Wilt and Betsy Bain. Per Town Law, the position is considered vacant beginning with the new term. The Town Board is charged to choose a qualified person to fill the vacancy until the next election cycle which will be Nov 2020.



## INCREASED PLANT GROWTH IN LAKE PLEASANT

by Tom Rippere

Does it seem to you that there is more plant growth in your lake recently than there was years ago? In 2018, a number of homeowners on Lake Pleasant noticed there seemed to be a lot more plant growth in the lake than there had been in previous years, and they asked LPSA about this concern. In the winter of 2018-2019, Lyn Van Druff and Peter Tobiessen contacted the Adirondack Park Agency (APA), and spoke with Mr. Leigh Walrath about this issue. He is a fresh-water lake specialist with APA, and visits dozens of lakes throughout the Adirondacks each year to monitor the health of the lakes and changes in lakes' health and chemistry. He agreed to visit Lake Pleasant to survey our situation. In August, he and another fresh-water lake specialist from APA joined seven LPSA Board members on a pontoon boat on Lake Pleasant to get a first-hand look at the plants in our lake.

There are a wide variety of plants that grow in Lake Pleasant, but the one that has really proliferated in the past two years is grass-leaved pondweed (GLP), which is a native plant (not an invasive species). This plant, GLP, tends to grow in patches, sometimes up to 100 feet across, in water up to six feet deep. The sudden significant increase in the quantity of this plant in our lake has caused concern for many people on the lake. During our lake survey, we found about 20 patches of this plant, in various locations around the shoreline. Leigh Walrath agreed to return to Speculator the following week, and give a presentation to present his findings. LPSA organized a public meeting, and invited the Town of Lake Pleasant Supervisor and Council members, the Trustees and Mayor of the Village of Speculator, and other members of the public to attend. Forty people attended the meeting.

Mr. Walrath explained that although we have noted a sharp increase in the presence of this plant in our lake, it is not something he would

be concerned about. Many local people however are concerned that if the exponential growth of this plant continues, it could become a severe nuisance in our lakes, impacting boating and swimming. Mr. Walrath provided information that man-made changes are impacting the health and chemistry of the lake. One hundred years ago, much of the land near the north shore of Lake Pleasant was wetlands, which served to filter runoff water coming into Lake Pleasant. Much of that land has been developed and is now occupied by houses. In many areas, woodlands have been removed and replaced with lawns and man-made beaches. The APA specialist reported that studies have shown that the rain run-off from one acre of lawn carries as much sediment (and nutrients) into a lake as 170 acres of forest or woodland. Hence, the increase in lawn and cleared woodland areas is placing a lot more sediment and nutrients in our lakes, which changes the chemistry of the lake. He explained that the native GLP helps to absorb nitrogen, phosphorus, and other chemicals which create a favorable environment for plants. If we did not have the GLP to absorb these chemicals, he warns that we might see an increase in algal blooms, which are much more obnoxious.

He provided some advice on steps that property owners can take to help reduce run-off and sediments entering the lake. These steps include landscape buffers near the shoreline, and improvements in aging septic systems. At the LPSA luncheon next June, our guest speaker will be Caitlin Stewart, the Director of the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District (HCSWCD). She will provide additional information on specific changes that property owners can make to reduce the flow of sediment and nutrients into our lake. I hope you will plan to attend this informative meeting, scheduled for Sunday, June 28, 2020.





## MEET YOUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

The LPSA Board includes three community liaison positions, to maintain close communication and coordination with other organizations in the area. These positions include the Town of Lake Pleasant Supervisor, Village of Speculator Mayor, and a representative from Camp-of-the-Woods. Jeannette Barrett was elected Mayor of Speculator this past year, and she then joined the LPSA Board. This summer, three additional Directors were elected at the LPSA Annual Meeting. Information from each of these new Directors is provided below.

### Jeannette Barrett

I have been coming to Speculator for over 15 years. I hold a PhD in physiology and did my postdoctoral work in neurophysiology at Colombia College of Physicians & Surgeons. Having spent 34 years as a pharmaceutical executive, I decided to make Speculator my full-time home in 2013 and become an independent consultant to Pharma, Biotech and Venture Capital firms. I am active in community service as a volunteer EMT with Speculator Volunteers Ambulance Corp, a member of the Speculator Lions Club, Friends of the Library and TWIGs. In 2018 I was elected Village Trustee and in 2019 I was elected Mayor. LPSA asked me to serve on this board, and I do it willingly because at the heart of a strong and thriving community are healthy and sound lakes.



### Rich Armstrong

I have been swimming, boating and skiing (water and snow) on Lake Pleasant since before I can remember...I love the lake and our special community! My wife Diana and I are the current owners and operators of Bearhurst Lake Cottages which has been in our family since the 1950's.

I am a mechanical engineer by education. In practice my career has



been more as a generalist in the Power Generation Industry with most notable leadership roles as the GE Energy Strategic Marketing Manager followed by General Manager roles with GE and DRS. My wife Diana and I have been living primarily in Speculator for the past 2 years while I am working part time in Ballston Spa.

I am concerned with the recent grassy leafed pond weed (GLP) expansion in our lakes and hope to help spread the word about what we as a community can do to best mitigate the situation.

### Kathy O'Connell

After graduating from Lafayette College, I realized that I really wanted to live in Lake Pleasant, where I had been a "summer kid" since birth. I worked at The Inn and substituted until an opening at the LPCSD [Lake Pleasant Central School District] that I was qualified for was available. I completed a MA in Reading at SUNY Albany. I have continued to work at LPCSD, with a variety of responsibilities and positions since the 1984-85 school year. Most recently I have been the 5th and 6th grade ELA and Social Studies teacher. George O'Connell and I married in 1993 and have two daughters. George, descended from two native families, worked for the Town of Lake Pleasant until retiring three years ago, and he now works seasonally for Vogel Construction. Our oldest daughter, Allison, is hoping to become a NYS Forest Ranger and is studying Criminal Justice, at FMCC since attending SUNY ESF's Ranger School in Wanakena. She will be finishing her BS in Emergency Management through Empire State College. Megan, our younger daughter has started attending MVCC with the current hope of becoming a police officer/canine handler.



### Jon Tobiesen

I am a Sacandaga Lake summer resident who served on the Board several years ago when the search for invasive plants was just beginning. I have rejoined to focus on recruiting new members from Sacandaga Lake. I also will be looking for volunteers to provide information to the public about the LPSA and invasive species at the Farmer's Market.



## ***SCHOOL TRIP TO LAKE GEORGE FLOATING CLASSROOM*** ***by Charlie Ascher***

This past summer, LPSA sponsored an educational field trip for students at Lake Pleasant Central School in grades 7, 8, and 9. The 15 students, their teachers, and representatives from LPSA traveled to Lake George on June 17<sup>th</sup> and spent the day on the Lake George Association's Floating Classroom. During the excursion, the students (and adults) learned about the history of Lake George, the problems that the lake is facing (especially concerning invasive species), available methods to combat invasive species, and how to analyze lake water through the use of various types of equipment like collection nets, microscopes and Secchi disks. A trained Lake George Association educator conducted the program on board the

floating classroom. This was a great educational opportunity for local students to be exposed to the work that scientists and environmental experts are doing to gather information on Lake George that will be helpful in protecting the health of that lake, and other lakes in the Adirondacks and elsewhere.



### ***CONTACT US***

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

Please send all membership payment checks, luncheon reservations and other similar correspondence to LPSA, P.O. Box 383, Wells, NY 12190-0383. You can contact us at [LPSA.ADK@gmail.com](mailto:LPSA.ADK@gmail.com)

To contact Lyn Van Druff, LPSA President, you can send email to [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 PLEAS-



## SAVE THE DATE

### Sunday, June 28 - Spring Brunch

Our guest speaker will be Caitlin Stewart, Director of Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District. She will have information on steps property owners can take to reduce run-off of surface water from their property into streams and lakes, which can change the chemistry and health of the lakes.

### Sunday, August 30 - Summer Picnic and Annual Meeting

At our annual meeting this year, we will not have an outside speaker, which will allow us more time to present information on the many programs and projects that are supported by your membership dues, your financial donations, and your volunteer hours.

### Wednesday, July 15 - Local Historic Tour & Luncheon

Peggy LaFontaine has organized a tour of a local historic site. Participants will meet at the Court House at 10 AM. Cost is \$20 per person, and half of that is a donation to the Lake Pleasant - Sacandaga Foundation. Lunch is included. Advance reservations are required. Contact Peggy at [pegspride@yahoo.com](mailto:pegspride@yahoo.com), or by phone at 908-813-1442 or 518-548-7751. (P.O. Box 593, Lake Pleasant, NY 12108-0593)



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Lyn Van Druff - President  
Tom Rippere - Vice President  
Mitzi Fox - Vice President - Gifting  
Mark Donecker - Treasurer  
Ron Uva - Secretary



Charlie Ascher  
Rich Armstrong  
Jeanette Barrett  
Jim Hammond

Kathy O'Connell  
James Olsen  
Chari Smith  
Bill Thielking

Jon Tobiessen  
Daniel Wilt  
Lake Ecologist:  
Peter Tobiessen

## **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: [lpas@frontiernet.net](mailto:lpas@frontiernet.net)*

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

South Shore Road, Lake Pleasant, NY 12108

**Your Adirondack Retreat**  
**Three comfortable guest rooms**  
**on the lake.**

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)

Visit: [www.charliejohns.com](http://www.charliejohns.com)

Housewares, Camping, Bakery, Outdoors,  
Groceries, Bookstore

### **Mountain Market**

Route 30, PO Box 27  
Speculator NY 12164  
518-548-4820

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

Gary & Darcy Foutch  
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

Fax: 518-548-7701

**A Family Owned & Operated Business**  
**Full Sales & Service, Authorized Dealer of:**  
**Artic Cat, Mercury, Starcraft, Shoremaster, Stihl**  
**Bait, Tackle, Licenses, Propane**

### **Kendal's Beauty Salon**

108 Fish Mountain Rd  
Lake Pleasant NY  
518-548-4078  
By Appointment Only

### **Vogel Excavation & Construction**

Don Vogel, President  
Route 8 PO Box 418  
Speculator, NY 12164  
Ph: 518-548-5995 Fax: 518-548-7819  
Email: [vogelexc@frontiernet.net](mailto:vogelexc@frontiernet.net)  
Home Building, Renovations, Septic Systems  
Sand & Gravel, Back Hoe, Bulldozing,  
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.lpsa-ny.org](http://www.lpsa-ny.org).**



### **Alpine Meadows Chalets**

**CHARI & CHUCK SMITH**

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

### **Lake Pleasant Lodge**

**Modern Lakefront Rooms  
In the Heart of Speculator  
Free Wi-Fi, Long Distance Calls & Cable TV  
Phone 518-548-LAKE (5253)  
Email: [info@lakepleasnatlodge.com](mailto:info@lakepleasnatlodge.com)  
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  
518-548-3606**

**Email: [info@oakmountainski.com](mailto:info@oakmountainski.com)  
Website: [www.oakmountainski.com](http://www.oakmountainski.com)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/oakmtn](http://www.facebook.com/oakmtn)**

**The Acorn Pub & Eatery- Casual Dining  
Weddings & Special Events  
22 Ski trails, 4 lanes of tubing, snowshoe & Hiking  
trails, 18 hole disc golf course**

### **Bearhurst**

**PO Box 526 Speculator, NY 12164  
Ph: 518-548-3051  
Lakeside Cottages  
An Adirondack experience  
in the tradition of the Great Camps!**

### **McComb's Oak Hill Farm**

**Adirondack Maple Syrup  
Elm Lake Road, Speculator, NY 12164  
Phone: 518-548-6105  
Maple syrup and gift baskets  
Shipping available  
Year round tour of sugar house**

### **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  
with bath, AC, heat, microwave, refrigerator, coffee  
maker, cable TV & Wi-Fi  
Snowmobilers welcome.  
Within walking distance of the public beach.***

### **Moonlight Bay RV Park**

**Susan Dodge  
Moffitt Beach Rd  
Lake Pleasant, NY**

**Business memberships are \$30.**

**Contact us at [LPSA.ADK@gmail.com](mailto:LPSA.ADK@gmail.com) 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**

\_\_\_\_\_ INDIVIDUAL \$15.00      \_\_\_\_\_ FAMILY \$20.00      \_\_\_\_\_ BUSINESS \$30.00



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

**MAIL TO:**

