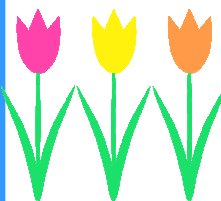




# LAKE PLEASANT-SACANDAGA ASSOCIATION



Volume 23-Issue 1

## NEWSLETTER SPRING/SUMMER 2021



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

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

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Tom Rippere

The mission of the Lake Pleasant-Sacandaga Association (LPSA) is to protect and preserve the health and beauty of the lakes within the Town of Lake Pleasant. LPSA utilizes a broad range of activities and initiatives to raise awareness of the threats of invasive species, and to take steps to stop the spread of invasive plants and animals.

Our By-Laws allow up to 18 members on our Board of Directors. Last summer, we added three new board members, enabling us to operate with a full Board. Eighteen sounds like a large number of Directors, but we have a variety of programs and projects to manage, and we are fortunate to have a large number of Board members who possess a diverse set of interests and expertise, thus helping the organization achieve its objectives. Those 18 directors include three members who are community liaisons, helping LPSA coordinate communication and actions with Camp-of-the-Woods, the Village of Speculator, and the Town of Lake Pleasant.

Coordination with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI) at Paul Smith's College to ensure that staff is available to inspect boats being launched at public boat ramps, to identify and remove invasive species before visiting boats are launched into our lakes. This program provides free boat washes, using high-pressure hot water.

Coordination with Camp-of-the-Woods and Lake Pleasant Marine to ensure that boats launched at their facilities receive the same level of inspection provided at State-operated public boat ramps

Scheduling LPSA volunteers to patrol our lake shorelines each summer to identify any new aquatic invasive plant species in our lakes before they spread.

Collecting lake water samples every two weeks through the summer to monitor

the health of our lakes. We track water temperature, clarity, chemistry, algae, and invasive species, to track trends throughout the summer and year-to-year.



Osborne Point

Our on-going programs include:

(Continued on page 2)

Editor: Tom Rippere

Design & Production by Belinda Germain

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Continued.

(Continued from page 1)

Sponsoring field trips and research projects at Lake Pleasant Central School to educate the next generation about the importance of protecting our environment. Students learn how the *economic* health of our community is linked to the *environmental* health of our lakes.

Presenting information at the Farmer's Market each week to educate residents and visitors about the threats of invasive species in our area.

Partnering with the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) and Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District to identify causes of weed growth in our lakes, and to inform property owners about steps they can take to reduce run-off of nutrients and other pollutants into waterways. We have learned that aging septic systems can be a significant source of pollution in our lakes. LPSA Board members are participating in conversations on this topic with government representatives at the Village of Speculator, the Town of Lake Pleasant, and Hamilton County.

Managing the Kathy Huber Memorial Fund, which was established to create a reserve of funds in case an invasive species infestation is discovered in the future which would require a quick response.

Our projects and programs receive funding from membership fees and other donations from individuals and local businesses. We have over 370 individual & family memberships including over 20 business members. We hope to continue to see these numbers grow each year. Please help us spread the word about all the good work being accomplished by LPSA. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to join. Their membership fees will help to fund our ongoing programs. More importantly, when a person joins, it tells us that they are interested in our mission and the work we are doing. We strive to continually provide information to our members about threats to our environment, and steps we can all take to fight those threats.

Thank you for your membership.  
Thank you for your interest. Thank you for your support.



## FARMERS MARKET by Jon Tobiessen

This summer LPSA will again have a table at the Farmer's Market offering information regarding invasive land and water plants. Also available will be information regarding the mission and activities of LPSA. We need volunteers to staff the table from 2:00 to 5:00 on Thursdays from early July un-

til at least mid-August. If enough members and friends volunteer, shifts can be split and do not require attending every week. To sign up or get more information, contact Jon Tobiessen at 518-399-1889 or [intoby3@yahoo.com](mailto:intoby3@yahoo.com).



## LAKE SHORE MONITORING By Tom Rippere

Each summer, dozens of LPSA members volunteer their time to help patrol our shoreline in their canoes and kayaks, looking for invasive aquatic plant species. If you are willing to help with this important project, please send an email to Jim Olsen at [jamesrolsen@msn.com](mailto:jamesrolsen@msn.com). Jim conducts a training session at the start of each summer, to train volunteers for this activity. (This summer, the training may be conducted via an on-line Zoom webinar.)



## SEPTIC SYSTEM INSPECTIONS

by Rich Armstrong & Kathy O'Connell

The Town of Lake Pleasant and the Village of Speculator along with other nearby Adirondack communities (e.g., Piseco, Inlet...) are considering and implementing changes to ensure that septic systems are not feeding excessive nutrients into our water bodies. Our lakes are clean and continue to be monitored for active pollutants that could come from direct sewage; however, despite historic town laws allowing for County testing and inspection of systems, only new systems are currently being inspected to ensure that they are up to code. This leaves a potential gap where existing systems may be partially functioning but letting significant nutrient additions into the lake and potentially "feeding our weeds". All parties understand the importance that our lake quality has on recreation, ecology and our economy and therefore want to do the right thing. Previous attempts to extend the existing Village sewer system have not been successful, essentially due to cost distribution and are not in active consideration. The focus locally is on how to fund and how to prioritize testing and inspections on legacy sys-



View from Route 8 bridge

tems. While the timing and impacts of potential changes remains unclear, residents can always express concerns to the NYS DEC, APA or Department of Health or purchase a self-administered dye test kit from Hamilton County Soil and Water for \$5. (A limited number of free test kits are available from LPSA upon request). It should be noted that dye tests, while useful, only check for significant system problems and therefore do not fully address the nutrient concerns.

LPSA Board members are communicating with officials at Village, Town, and County levels to participate in any discussions on this topic. Failing septic systems have the potential to add nutrients to our lakes, thus supporting the growth of more weeds in our lakes, and potentially creating harmful algal blooms (HABs). HABs are an overgrowth of algae in a water body that could affect water quality, aquatic life, and human use. HABs occur more often under certain conditions, including slow moving water, sunlight, and the abundance of nutrients.



## 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 Tom Rippere, LPSA President, you can send email to [TomLPSA@yahoo.com](mailto:TomLPSA@yahoo.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.



## LAKE STEWARDS

By Tom Rippere

Our “front-line” defenders against new invasive species entering our lakes are the Lake Stewards who monitor boat ramps in the Adirondacks. Each summer, they inspect boats being launched into our lakes. If there is evidence that the boat or trailer may be carrying an invasive plant or animal, the boater is asked to get their boat cleaned before it is launched. New York State provides funding to operate free boat wash stations throughout the Adirondacks, including the station on Route 30 just south of Speculator.

These Lake Stewards are on the job five days a week, throughout the summer. Last year, Lake Pleasant – Sacandaga Association (LPSA) and the Town of Lake Pleasant provided additional funding to hire a part-time Lake Steward to monitor the ramp at the Speculator Pavilion on days when the state-funded employee was off duty. This year, we are expanding that program to include the ramp at Moffitt Beach, so both ramps will be monitored seven days per week.

Camp-of-the-Woods has partnered with

LPSA to have their staff members inspect all boats being launched from their facilities. Lake Pleasant Marine has also been very cooperative, working with LPSA to inspect boats being launched at their ramp. Unfortunately, the marina personnel are so busy on summer weekends that they have found it difficult to properly inspect all boats launched at their ramp on Saturdays and Sundays. Hence, LPSA is providing funding to hire a Lake Steward to monitor that ramp on weekends, to supplement the inspection work done by marina personnel. These added Lake Stewards will further help to reduce the possibility of dangerous invasive species finding their way into our healthy lakes.



***Pond on Gilmantown Road***

We are grateful to all of our partners who are working with us to protect our beautiful lakes. If you have visitors launching boats from your property – even small canoes or kayaks – please ask them to take advantage of the free boat wash on Route 30 before they put their boat in our waters, to remove any invasive plants and animals that may be on their boats.



## SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

In prior years, LPSA has scheduled two luncheon events and a local Historic Tour for our members each year. Last summer, those events did not happen, but we hope to continue this tradition this summer. In past years, we have also hosted a variety of “Social Outings” to visit a local waterfall, an artist’s studio, or a scenic boat ride, while enjoying the company of other LPSA members. We are seeking volunteers who would be interested in planning and organizing any outings. Please contact Tom Rippere at [TomLPSA@yahoo.com](mailto:TomLPSA@yahoo.com) if you would like to help with this. The following events have been scheduled for this summer (subject to COVID restrictions):

### **June picnic: Sunday, June 27, at Oak Mountain**

Our guest speaker will be Caitlin Stewart, District Manager of the Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District.

### **August luncheon & Annual Meeting: Sunday, August 29, at Oak Mountain**

Details and registration information will be provided later.



## **LPSA WEBSITE & ON-LINE PAYMENTS**

If you would prefer the convenience of making payments to LPSA on-line, instead of mailing a check, you can now use the "PayPal buttons" on our website to pay for luncheons, annual membership renewals, and donations to the LPSF general fund or the LPSF Kathy Huber Memorial Fund. With the PayPal buttons, you can make payments to LPSA and LPSF using a credit card or your PayPal account. You do not need to have a PayPal account to use the credit card payment option.



### **Board of Directors**

**Tom Rippere - President**  
**Dan Wilt - 1st Vice President**  
**Rich Armstrong - 2nd Vice President**  
**Mitzi Fox -Vice President - Gifting**  
**Mark Donecker - Treasurer**  
**Kathy O'Connell - Secretary**

**Charlie Ascher**  
**Betsy Bain**  
**Jeanette Barrett**  
**Jim Hammond**  
**Bob Hogan**  
**Kim Lewis**  
**James Olsen**  
**Chari Smith**  
**Jon Tobiessen**  
**Ron Uva**  
**Lyn Van Druff**  
**Lake Ecologist: Peter Tobiessen**

### **Library Hours:**

Because of concerns about COVID-19, we suggest you call your library to see if the hours have changed or if you can make an appointment or just request items for pick up only.

**Lake Pleasant Public Library:** 518-548-4411

**Virginia Hosley Free Library in Wells:** 518-924-2220

**Piseco Library:** 518-548-7555

## 2021 LAKE PLEASANT SCHOOL PROGRAM

by Charlie Ascher

After a one-year hiatus, we are pleased to announce that the LPSA sponsored program at the Lake Pleasant School for grades 7-8 is being conducted again. We have been utilizing a yearly rotating schedule so that all students will have the opportunity to experience each of the LPSA school trips as well as to conduct different independent research projects on topics that relate directly to LPSA's stated goals. The schedule will obviously have to be adjusted since the ninth-grade class is no longer at the Lake Pleasant School. In addition, due to the COVID virus, there will be no school trip this year.

For 2021, the students have been working on computerized presentations on aquatic invasive species. The projects are geared to identify various types of aquatic invasives, the damage that they cause, methods of prevention and eradication, and finally the economic effects of an uncontrolled invasion. Ryan Marshal, Vanessa Saltis and Johnathan Swift have been tremendous in their support of the presentation program. Each and every student is required as part of the school curriculum to conduct research either individually or in pairs which is then used to formulate a computerized presentation. The students present their projects to the school staff members who then identify the five or six best ones. The students with the most outstanding projects which meet the stated requirements then

present them to a panel of representatives from LPSA. The LPSA panel then chooses the winners of the contest. Prizes in the form of debit cards are given to each of the winners for First, Second, and Third place as well as Honorable Mention, along with framed certificates.

Unfortunately, there will be no school trip this year due to the COVID virus restrictions. We are certainly hopeful that next year, we can conduct the full LPSA program to include the re-

search projects, presentations, awards as well as a trip that is sponsored by LPSA. However, we certainly didn't want to cancel the entire program this year. If that was done, then the eighth-grade class would have missed participating in our program completely for two years. That's why we are proceeding with the presentation part of the program.



Mason Lake

These activities further LPSA's program for public education and involvement of the local community. Involving the local school children and educating them on the threat from aquatic invasive species is a major component of LPSA's efforts. It has also created a very positive opinion of LPSA with the local community. We couldn't have accomplished this program without the initial and continued support of the LPCS administration and staff.



### Think Globally; Act Locally

"Although conservation requires a long-term commitment and a large-scale vision, the work itself is local." – Scott Russell Sanders



## **DONATIONS TO LPSF**

**By Mitzi Fox and Tom Rippere**

Your annual membership fees support all of our programs, but those payments cover only half of our expenses. The balance of our income comes from tax-deductible donations to the Lake Pleasant Sacandaga Foundation (LPSF). This year, please consider making an extra contribution to LPSF to help our organization achieve all of its goals.

When you make a contribution to LPSF, you may designate whether you want your funds

to go to the General Fund or the Kathryn C. Huber Memorial Fund. The General Fund is used each year to cover part of our regular expenses. Contributions to the Kathy Huber Memorial fund are held in reserve, to provide funding in the future if we discover an invasive species problem in our lakes which requires a quick response. John Huber matches all contributions to this Memorial Fund, which he created in honor of his late wife.



## **NEW YORK STATE BUDGET UPDATE**

**Reprinted from Adirondack Council Newsletter, 16 April 2021**

The New York State budget this year is one of the strongest environmental budgets on record. The Legislature and Governor approved a budget that takes meaningful steps toward protecting clean water, combating the overuse of Wilderness lands, and fostering vibrant communities in the Adirondacks. This year we celebrate:

**A \$300 million Environmental Protection Fund, with**

\$1.55 million in funding for Adirondack and Catskill Visitor Safety and Wilderness Protection.  
\$250,000 for the Adirondack Diversity Initiative.

**A \$3-billion Restore Mother Nature Bond Act** will be authorized to be placed on the Nov. 2022 ballot. If approved by voters, this would pay for capital costs for:

Open space land conservation and recreation, fish hatcheries, and farmland protection.

Climate change mitigation and green buildings.

Habitat restoration and flood risk reduction, a voluntary (flood zone) buyout program, shoreline protection, and local waterfront revitalization.

Water quality improvement and resilient infrastructure projects, including funding for water infrastructure and municipal stormwater projects.

**\$500 million in water infrastructure grant funding** including grants that help Adirondack communities to afford multi-million-dollar clean water projects.

**\$1 million for the Comprehensive Broadband Connectivity Act** approved in the budget, which tasks the Public Service Commission with creating a map of the availability, affordability, and reliability of broadband internet service in New York State



**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!**

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

### **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)

### **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, Stil**  
**Bait, Tackle, Licenses, Propane**

### **Bearhurst**

PO Box 526 Speculator, NY 12164

Ph: 518-548-3051

**Lakeside Cottages**

**An Adirondack experience**  
**in the tradition of the Great Camps!**

### **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**

### **Moonlight Bay RV Park**

**Susan Dodge**

**Moffitt Beach Rd**

**Lake Pleasant, NY**

### **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**

### **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.

### **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

### **Alpine Meadows Chalets**

**CHARI & CHUCK SMITH**

Po Box 14  
Speculator NY 12164  
518-548-5615  
[chariks@frontiernet.net](mailto:chariks@frontiernet.net)

### **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

### **Adirondack Custom Carpentry**

Cathy and Michael Visscher

2527 STATE RTE 8  
LAKE PLEASANT NY 12108  
518-548-3355

### **Speculator Spirits**

Route 30, Speculator NY 12164  
Ph 518-548-7361

### **Oxbow Lake Motel**

2105 State Route 8  
Lake Pleasant NY 12108  
518-548-8603

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).  
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**



*View from Wakely Mountain Fire Tower*

**MAIL TO:**