

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
By Tom Rippere

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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.

Our on-going programs include:

- 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.
- 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 300 individual & family memberships and 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.