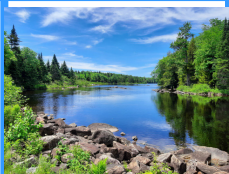




LAKE PLEASANT- SACANDAGA ASSOCIATION



Volume 25-Issue 1

NEWSLETTER SPRING/SUMMER 2023



Email: LPSA.ADK@gmail.com

Website: www.lpsa-ny.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Dan Wilt

As the 2023 summer season is on the horizon, I am looking forward to some warm days ahead and the return of many LPSA friends and others and as I write this message on 4/18/23, we still have some snowflakes falling but spring is on the horizon with warmer temperature forecasts in the near future. The larger lakes, Lake Pleasant and Sacandaga, are pretty much free of ice now, however some of the smaller lakes such as Spruce Lake are still frozen over.

Articles: Please take the time to read the following articles in the publication.

Lake Stewards: We are looking for candidates for Lake Stewards. This is a great way to make some money and help protect our lakes.

In the Works: This year I will be proposing to the LPSA Board the need for a Lake Management Plan. This is a requirement in many cases when applying for Grants and a great way to help monitor our lakes.

Membership: In my Fall message I mentioned recognition of other members, so today I would like to recognize Peter Tobiesen for his many years of service to LPSA. Peter's the guy who shows up to an LPSA Luncheon with weeds we don't want in our

lakes so we all know what they look like. Peter's true dedication has made a great difference to our lake quality.

Funding: LPSA has recently been notified from Town of Lake Pleasant Supervisor of a cut to our budget line which will make it even more challenging to protect our lakes. Though most of the cost of Lake Stewards is

covered by your dues and donations, additional funds are needed to fulfil this task. Please take the time to let your Town Board know how important it is to keep our lakes clean of invasives so we all can enjoy what we've been working to protect.

L P S A Luncheon Changes: This year we will be changing the traditional Luncheon meeting to a "Meet and Greet" get together at the Lemon Tree. The Spring meeting will be on June 25th from 4:30 – 6:30 pm. On August 27th

LPSA will have a Chicken Barbeque, also at the Lemon Tree and we are asking that you bring a friend and prospective member.

That's it for now folks. Looking forward to a good summer and hope to see you soon!



Fawn Lake

Editor: Tom Rippere

Design & Production by Belinda Germain



BUILDING OUR EMERGENCY FUND

by Tom Rippere

Did you know that LPSA has an Emergency Fund for the proverbial “rainy day”? Our Kathy Huber Fund holds funds in reserve to enable LPSA to provide a quick response if any invasive aquatic plant is found in our local lakes. If an invasive plant is discovered in our lakes, we plan to implement quick action to remove the infestation before the invasive species becomes well established. That is why we monitor our lakes closely to watch for any sign of a new invasive plant. If we fail to eradicate the plant quickly, we might find that we would need to spend significant amounts of money each year to fight the growth of the invasive plant. The Kathy Huber Fund would provide funds for either scenario.

The Lake Pleasant – Sacandaga Association (LPSA) has a sister organization, Lake Pleasant – Sacandaga **Foundation** (LPSF), which is a 501(c)(3) organization, allowing members to make tax-deductible donations. LPSF has a General Fund, which provides funding for on-going LPSA expenses. LPSF also holds the Kathy Huber Fund, which is our *Disaster Fund* reserve. When members make donations, they can designate whether they want their gift to be allocated to the General Fund or the Kathy Huber Fund.

LPSA member John Huber created the *Kathryn Coolidge Huber Memorial Fund* (the “Kathy Huber Fund”) with a substantial gift in 2011, in memory of his late wife, to help preserve the health and beauty of our local lakes forever. Since the creation of the fund, LPSA has encouraged members to make donations to this fund. Each year, John Huber has matched all the contributions from other members, to help keep this fund growing. The current balance of this fund is \$184,000. In recent years, contributions to the fund have diminished, so we want to revive interest in this fund and help keep it growing. This year we are launching a fund-raising campaign for the Kathy Huber Fund, with a goal of \$25,000 in member donations. John Huber has again offered to match all member contributions, and he has already pledged a \$2,000 personal donation, in addition to the matching funds that he will provide at the end of the year.

If you have made donations to LPSA in past years, I encourage you to consider making a donation to the Kathy Huber Fund this year, in place of your regular donation to LPSF, or in addition to your regular donation. If you have not made gift donations in past years, please consider becoming a donor this year, to help us raise funds and raise awareness for this *Disaster Fund*. By making a donation of any size, you can help build this fund, and be a part of our legacy to provide protection for our beloved lakes. Donations of any size can be made at any time on our website (LPSA-NY.org) or by mailing a check to LPSF, PO Box 383, Wells, NY 12190. Please indicate “Kathy Huber Fund” on the memo line on your check.

We hope we never have to use this fund, but it is important to have the funds readily available if we do find any invasive plants in our lakes in the future.



NOW HIRING SUMMER LAKE STEWARDS

by Tom Rippere

Each summer, the Town of Lake Pleasant and LPSA work together to hire part-time Lake Stewards to inspect boats being launched at local boat ramps to ensure the boats are not bringing invasive plants or animals into our lakes. We are currently looking for candidates to fill open positions for two days per week (Tuesday and Wednesday) at Moffitt Beach and two days per week (Saturday and Sunday) at Lake Pleasant Marine. Interested candidates should contact LPSA President Dan Wilt, at Dan@wiltindustries.com. These two part-time positions could be filled by two people or by one person. Paid training is provided.

The Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI), at Paul Smith's College, uses funding from New York State to hire Lake Stewards at boat ramps and boat wash decontamination stations throughout the Adirondacks. AWI is looking for candidates to fill open positions, some of which are in the Speculator-Lake Pleasant area. Please help us find candidates to fill these important jobs. Candidates can contact Brett Wimsatt at bwimsatt@paulsmiths.edu

Additional information is available at this website: www.adkwatershed.org/employment

"MOWING "THE LAKE *by John Huber*

Editor's Note: I asked John Huber to tell us about what inspired him to create the Kathy Huber Fund, our association's emergency fund, or Disaster Fund. Here is his story.

The inspiration for the Kathy Fund came from a lady I met at Lake Saint Catherine Vermont in the summer of 1968. Kathy and I had gone to Vermont as part of my trip to meet her family since we were getting serious, and I was about to go into the Army. After meeting Kath's sister Pat at Camp Catherine Capers we drove over to meet Madeline Munson, her aunt on her father's side of the Coolidge family.

The camp, which had a Texaco gas pump in the driveway and a pool table in the great hall, was right next to the lake. After we sat down on the porch on that beautiful afternoon, I asked about the gas pump in the driveway which I had never seen in anyone's driveway before. I learned that Madeline and her daughter Hortense had driven a gas truck during the Depression after her husband, who was the Texaco distributor in Vermont, had passed away.

Madeline had met and overcome many challenges in her life. My questions were minimal in comparison to Madeline's. Little did I know that I was there to undergo an interview to see whether this Catholic Democrat was worthy of being a possible marriage partner for her lovely niece. "Young man, I understand you are a Democrat" was her first point of discussion. That was when I first heard the term "that man Mr. Roosevelt" which was used in a less than complimentary way.

The next subject was introduced with "Young man I understand you are a Catholic." After explaining that my father had immigrated from Germany in 1928, I took the opportunity to try to change the subject. I saw something on the water that I had never seen before. I'm from the Midwest and it looked like a McCormick threshing machine, but there was no wheat around to cut. So I asked what that was on her lake. For the first time that afternoon, a feeling of resignation came over the face of that strong, independently minded Vermonter. "Oh, that's the lawn mower." she said with a sigh. Turns out, Lake Saint Catherine was infected with some kind of weed, and the "lawn

mower" was in constant use all summer every year.

Aunt Madeline held out no hope that the lake she loved and grew up next to would ever return to the condition it was in when she was a little girl. That afternoon I grew to admire and respect Aunt Madeline, the first true Vermonter that I had ever met. Luckily, I passed her test and went on to court and propose marriage to her niece, Kathryn Coolidge.

Aunt Madeline's lake had become a field of lake grass that needed periodic cutting just to continue looking like a lake, but below the surface it was forever changed. The forlorn discussion about what the lake was before and what it had become with the constant presence of the lawn mower showed me what can happen to a beautiful lake.

Years later, I learned about acid rain from John Hampton Andrews, whose camp was near ours. I also learned that the Forever Wild condition of the Adirondacks, which is not far from Lake Saint Catherine, was not necessarily forever. Article 14, Section 1 of the New York State Constitution, which everyone cites as "forever wild," only applies to "wild forest lands" and not to the water in the lakes, streams and rivers that run through the forests of the Adirondacks.

Aunt Madeline was my inspiration never to have a lawn mower on Lake Sacandaga. Kathy, who passed away in 2010, loved her lake, like Aunt Madeline loved hers. In Kathy's memory, I implemented the idea that began that afternoon in Vermont: to create a fund that would be ready to use whenever those awful things that Peter Tobiessen and Jim Olsen tell us about threaten to take over the lakes we love so much.

Thus the Kathy Fund is intended to be used at the early stages of an emergency to prevent those awful things from getting established in our lakes.

Editor's Note: The mission of Lake Pleasant – Sacandaga Association is to preserve and protect the health and beauty of all lakes in the Town of Lake Pleasant. This includes Lake Sacandaga, Lake Pleasant, Oxbow Lake, Whitaker Lake, Echo Lake, Gilman Lake, and others. The funds in the Kathy Huber Fund are available to fight infestations of invasive plants in any of these lakes.



CORRESPONDENCE TO BOARD MEMBERS

Lake Pleasant-Sacandaga Association
PO Box 164

Speculator NY 12164-0164

Dan Wilt, LPSA President, dan@wiltindustries.com

ALL MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS, CHECKS & LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS:

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COST OF CLEANING A LAKE

by Tom Rippere

How much does it cost to clean a lake? The Kathy Huber Fund was created to provide an emergency fund to pay for efforts to remove any invasive aquatic plants that we might discover in our lakes in the future. If that happens, how much would it cost to implement remedial action?

Nearby Lake Algonquin, in Wells, just ten miles away, is heavily infested with Eurasian milfoil and other weeds. Recently, property owners in Wells formed a new lake association, Friends of Lake Algonquin, to address this problem. Last August, the Hamilton County Express printed a front-page article about the efforts to clean up Lake Algonquin. Before any action could be taken in the lake, the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) required a survey to assess the current condition of the lake. That survey cost \$3,000. Next, the Friends of Lake Algonquin paid \$7,000 for a company to bring in a barge with a large water vacuum and scuba divers to start the process of hand-pulling and sucking up some of the weed growth in the lake. After spending \$10,000 last year on this project for four days of remedial action, they have only begun to remove a small portion of the weeds in their lake. This coming summer, they hope to raise more funding, so that they can expand this program to cover more of their lake.

The chart below provides additional information on the amount of money that was spent last year to remove a portion of the weeds in other Adirondack Lakes:

LAKE NAME	QUANTITY OF MILFOIL REMOVED	DAYS OF WORK	COST	LAKE SIZE
Lake George	64 tons	70	\$360,000	28,000 acres
Lake Luzerne	5 tons	26	\$53,000	100 acres
Loon Lake	1,700 pounds	60	\$61,000	539 acres
Schroon Lake	1,031 pounds	20	\$30,000	4,107 acres
Brant Lake	6,400 pounds	70	\$60,000	1,376 acres

For comparison, here are the sizes of some of our local lakes:

Sacandaga Lake	1,607 acres
Lake Pleasant	1,475 acres
Oxbow Lake	312 acres
Lake Algonquin (Wells, NY)	259 acres

We hope we never have any invasive species of weeds in our local lakes. However, if we do, we hope to discover their presence before the invasive species becomes well established, so that we can work quickly to remove the infestation. Having funds available in our *Disaster Fund* (the Kathy Huber Fund) will ensure that we have the assets needed to address the problem quickly. We hope we do not end up in a situation where we have to “mow” the lakes to trim the weed growth on an annual basis. If that situation does occur, that would require large amounts of money, as shown in the examples above.



SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, June 25 --- 4:30 to 6:30 PM LPSA “Meet and Greet”

gathering for LPSA members and prospective new members.

Lemon Tree Brewery 2849 State Route 30, Speculator

(A short distance “up the street” from the public beach).

No advance fee or reservations required.

We will have appetizers at a cost of \$11.00/person. For those who may be interested: The Lemon Tree’s menu and additional information are available online: LemonTreeBrewery.com

INVASIVE SPECIES: EURASIAN MILFOIL

by Tom Rippere

There are many species of invasive aquatic plants that threaten the health of Adirondack lakes. The one species that poses the greatest threat is Eurasian milfoil. This has become a major aquatic invader across much of North America. Plants are rooted at the lake bottom and grow rapidly, creating dense beds. Milfoil typically grows in water 3 to 13 feet deep.



Eurasian milfoil forms dense canopies at the water surface thereby reducing light penetration and causing a reduction in native plants and native fish species. The negative impacts on wildlife and fish populations and the difficulty of motorboating and swimming in infested areas result in recreation-oriented financial losses and the depreciation of shoreline property values (accompanied by a loss of real estate taxes to local economies). Annual costs to control this plant in New York state exceed half a million dollars. Saratoga Lake has become infested with a dense mat of milfoil that extends 30 to 50 feet from the shore and is one to two feet thick. Thousands of dollars are spent each year to “harvest” a portion of the growth, in an attempt to keep part of this lake’s surface clear.

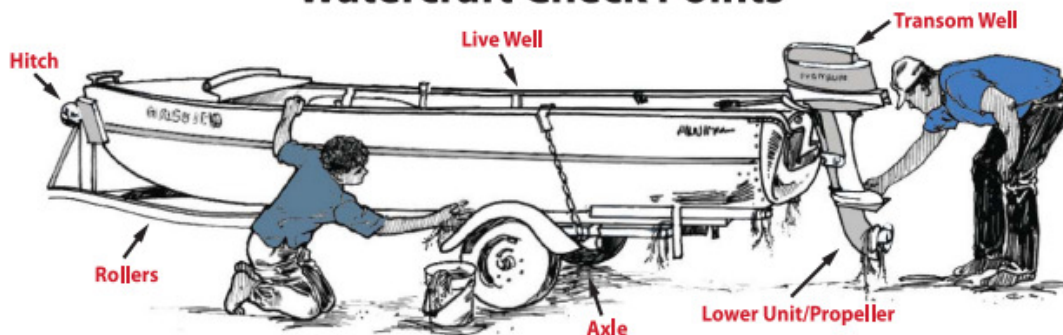
Aquatic Invasive Species are often transported by boaters who move their boats from one lake to another. Invasive species can also hitchhike on fishing equipment and other water-sports equipment. The best way to help prevent introducing an aquatic invasive species is to clean and dry all equipment before putting it into a new lake or waterway.

After an invasive species becomes established in a new environment, it can be very difficult to eradicate the invader. Hence, prevention is the best defense against invasive species, to keep them from being introduced to areas where they do not belong. Eurasian milfoil has already been found in many lakes in the Adirondacks. However, this invasive pest has not yet been found in any lakes in the Town of Lake Pleasant, and we want to keep it that way.

You can help prevent transportation of invasive species from one lake to another by following the practice of **CLEAN – DRAIN – DRY** to remove plant fragments from boats and equipment. Remember that this applies to canoes and kayaks, as well as power boats and personal watercraft (PWCs, or jet skis).

Each summer, LPSA volunteers patrol the shorelines of local lakes, watching for invasive species such as this one. If we find an invasive, we hope to be able to eradicate it before it becomes well established. In the past five years, we have noticed an increase in growth of the native plant grass-leaved pondweed (GLP) in many areas in Lake Pleasant. A professional survey of the lake in 2019 revealed that warmer lake temperatures and added nutrients (from lawns and septic systems) are creating ideal conditions for lake plants to grow rapidly, including both native and invasive species. Hence, it is now even more important to be vigilant about potential new invading species in our lakes.

Watercraft Check Points



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A LAKE STEWARD

by Bob Hogan

One of the most frequently asked questions I get while on duty as a Lake Steward at the Lake Pleasant/Kunjamuk River boat launch is: “Don’t you get bored hanging out here checking boats all day”? Rather than simply answering with an emphatic and perhaps abrupt, NO!, I try to look at this question as an opportunity to educate the person by explaining the reasoning behind what we’re doing and why we’re doing it. This question is really an opportunity for Lake Stewards to invite the boater to review our on-site signage and pull out our LPSA/DEC brochures and tie-in the importance of doing what we can to proactively avoid a zebra mussel, Eurasian milfoil or other invasive species infestation in our lakes and rivers.

As part of our important work, yes, we collect and report data and review metrics regarding numbers & types of boats, motors, registrations and whether they’re clean etc. However, the work we do with LPSA and in conjunction with DEC is also a fantastic opportunity to:

1. Develop stronger ties between LPSA and our community here in Speculator and Lake Pleasant.
2. It’s an opportunity to educate the public regarding the incredible destruction and negative impact that could happen with an invasive infestation.
3. It’s also an opportunity to emphasize and demonstrate the purpose & goals of LPSA and the importance of membership in our organization.

Finally, Boat Ramp Stewards get a strong sense of gratitude from current LPSA members when they come to the



Boat Launch—Speculator

boat launch for a leisurely canoe adventure (as many locals have done many, many times!) and are greeted with a friendly, yet thorough boat check to ensure their boat is clean, drained and dry.

So, when asked: “Isn’t it boring checking boats all day”? I guess it’s really your perspective about the work we’re doing.... I suppose it could be, until you realize the incredible opportunity we have to not only report our boat ramp metrics, but also to educate the public on the work we do through LPSA and the importance of protecting our lakes and rivers here locally and throughout our magnificent Adirondack Park.



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2023 LAKE PLEASANT SCHOOL PROGRAM by Charlie Ascher

We are very excited to announce that the LPSA sponsored program at the Lake Pleasant School for grades 7 and 8 will center on Aquatic Invasive species. We are now on a two-year 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. In addition to the program for grades 7 and 8, grades 4, 5 & 6 will all be participating in their own program in conjunction with Hamilton County Soil and Water. The introduction of these programs to the sixth graders was initiated last year and we look forward to even expanding it further.

The students will be 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 has been tremendous in his support of the presentation program.

As in previous years, each 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.

We are pleased to announce that we were successful in scheduling a trip for grades 7 & 8 to Lake George on May 25. The trip will include a session on the Lake George Association Floating Classroom during which they will conduct various water experiments. After lunch, they will then proceed to a stream for further experimentation and collection of specimens. They will be accompanied by several representatives of the school staff as well as several LPSA Board members. LPSA sponsored the same trip four years ago which turned out to be a tremendous experience for the school kids.

The program topics and activities for the lower grades are being formulated through the cooperation of personnel from Hamilton County Soil and Water, Lake Pleasant School and LPSA. More information will follow.

All of 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 Lake Pleasant Central School (LPCS) administration and staff as well as from Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District.



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

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thumann27@msn.com

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Think Globally, Act Locally

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

SAVE THE DATE

Sunday, August 27th, CHICKEN BARBEQUE & ANNUAL MEETING

and member gathering at The Lemon Tree More info will follow.

Please plan to bring a friend and prospective member with you to help us enroll new LPSA members.





**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

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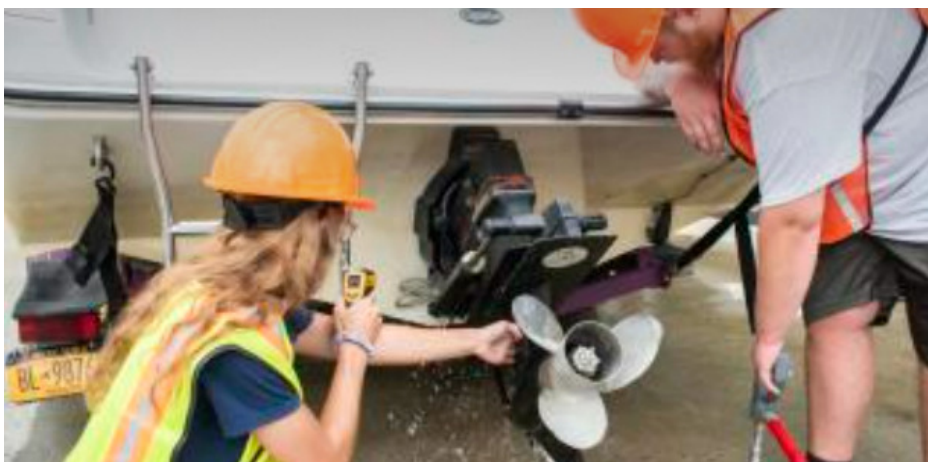
_____ DONOR \$500.00 _____ FRIEND \$1,000

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



Lake Pleasant-Sacandaga Association
PO Box 164
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Lake Stewards hard at work

MAIL TO: