



LAKE PLEASANT-SACANDAGA ASSOCIATION



Volume 22-Issue 2

NEWSLETTER FALL 2020



Email: LPSA.ADK@gmail.com

Website: www.lpsa-ny.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

OUTGOING PRESIDENT
by Lyn Van Druff

INCOMING PRESIDENT
by Tom Rippere

Whew! 2020 is almost behind us. A year we hope never to repeat in our lifetime! We have gone from the highest of spirits to the lowest of fear and anxiety in our nation, from the strongest economy to a collapsing one in need of rebuilding. Through it all, LPSA has continued with its mission to protect our lakes and support the natural beauty of the Adirondacks. We were so blessed that with the concerted efforts of the Village, Town, and Businesses we here in Lake Pleasant were relatively safe from the ravages of COVID-19. With that in mind, let us do all we can to support all the businesses here with our patronage throughout the winter, and next year.

I have enjoyed my two years as President. As I was typing this it occurred to me that we are like the geese flying to their next destination. We form a great 'V' and follow each other, support each other, and head determinedly forward. At intervals we, like the geese, change out the leader who has all the head wind during their leadership. By doing so, we continue with a strong path forward.

I am so pleased that we now have a process in place to ensure the strong flow of leadership by adding the 2nd vice president to the executive board: That we revisited our goals and committees, and refined

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I am very proud to be a part of the Lake Pleasant – Sacandaga Association, and I would like each member to share that proud feeling, based on all the exceptional work that your organization does to protect the health of the lakes in our community.

Our primary line of defense is the Lake Steward program, which provides boat inspections and free boat washes, to prevent the introduction of invasive plants and animals into our lakes. Our monitoring efforts include the lake shore monitor volunteers, who patrol our lake shorelines each year in canoes, kayaks, and rowboats to watch for invasive plants; CSLAP monitoring of lake chemistry and clarity; and an annual inspection by a fresh-water lake specialist to search for any invasive plant species.

Our information booth at the weekly Farmer's Market and educational programs at Lake Pleasant School help to raise awareness of the threats of invasive species, and the importance of lake ecology to the economic health of our community.

In order to achieve our goals, LPSA partners with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), the Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI) at Paul Smith's College, and Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District.

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Editor: Tom Rippere

Design & Production by Belinda Germain

OUTGOING PRESIDENT
by Lyn Van Druff

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them to accurately reflect today's mission: And that we were successful in lobbying the DEC to give us a lake steward for Lake Pleasant Pavilion Ramp. (or the Kunjamuk River Ramp, as they call it): We have a new and highly informative website: and have added online payment ability for donations, dues, and signups. Additionally, the "Don't Feed the Weeds" campaign spearheaded by Rich Armstrong and Kathy O'Connell, was a huge success in educating our neighbors. With so many residents missing this year, that will continue to completion next summer. Lastly, we have a full compliment of highly effective Board Members.

I would like to thank all the members of LPSA who actively share in the work of our mission. So many either participate in the 'Lake Monitor' program by kayaking around the shore looking for possible invasive weeds, write articles for the newspaper, take pictures to put up on our Facebook page, help with the school education program, staff the informational table at the Farmers' Market, plant and care for flower beds in commons areas in town, serve on committees, help plan luncheons, or contribute financially through donations! Each one of those jobs is critically important to the successful mission of LPSA.

I would encourage many more to participate in areas you already love doing or are able. You do not have to be a Board Member to participate on any of the committees! Just share your willingness in the areas you already enjoy doing and make your interest known to Tom Rippere at TomLPSA@yahoo.com. He will gladly help you connect with the others.

So, as we form our Very Large "V" and head toward our goals, let us rejoice in the successes and keep determinedly focused on the purity of our beloved Adirondacks and our Lakes.



**ALL MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS, CHECKS
& LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS:**

Lake Pleasant-Sacandaga Association
PO Box 383
WELLS NY 12190-0383

INCOMING PRESIDENT
by Tom Rippere

(Continued from page 1)

This past summer our "Don't Feed the Weeds" information campaign launched a program to share information with each lake shore property owner on Lake Pleasant, Sacandaga Lake, and Oxbow Lake with steps they can take to reduce run-off of pollutants from their property into the lakes. This program also provided an opportunity to talk with people about our organization and programs. Several new members joined LPSA as a direct result of this information campaign, and we hope that continues next year. Please talk with your friends and neighbors, and encourage them to join LPSA if they are not already members. When new members join the organization and read our newsletters, they may be happily surprised to see how many ways LPSA works to protect the health and beauty of our lakes.

Your dues support all of our programs, but dues cover only half of our expenses. The balance of our income comes from tax-deductible donations to the Lake Pleasant Sacandaga **Foundation** (LPSF). We have kept our annual dues low, to encourage new members to join, but when you renew your membership, please consider donating extra money to help us fund all of our important ongoing projects.



2020 Lake Stewards

By Lyn Van Druff

The Lake Steward Program is our biggest and most effective way of protecting our lakes from invasive aquatic plants. This cannot be overstated!

DEC, through the Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI), was lobbied heavily last winter to supply us with a Lake Steward for Lake Pleasant. Prior to that the only lake steward we had was supplied by the Town and LPSA. I believe this to be an extraordinary accomplishment for us. With the economic constraints put upon the state with the COVID pandemic we certainly hope that will continue for next year as well. DEC/AWI have maintained a Steward at Moffitt Beach on Sacandaga Lake for many years as well as staffing the DECON station on Route 30/8 just South of Speculator. We certainly hope that all three of the positions will be filled next year.

This year the Town and LPSA contracted with Bob Hogan to fill the 2 days at the Kunjamuk when the AWI steward was not there. We hope to be able to fill and expand that to Moffitt Beach next year.

We have boats of all sizes entering our lakes through visitors on both a daily and weekly basis. Of course it is the Visitor boats and fisherman coming from other lakes that cause the biggest concern.

Every lake front owner, everyone with either a private or public access to launch watercraft from their property Needs to inspect Every Craft Launching from Their Property. We owe it to every town member and business to carefully inspect each craft. It is our duty to protect not only our lakes, but the entire economic health of the Town. We owe a Huge debt of Thanks to Camp-of-the-Woods for their incredible care in inspecting every boat launched from their property!

One only need see what is happening to the Towns where this practice has not been followed. The Towns are drowning in excess costs in the form of Taxes to try to keep their lake, and therefore, their Towns viable through remediation. It is extremely costly! LPSA has been very Proactive for many years in this endeavor and have thus far avoided this horrible fate for our Town. Let's not become complacent. One Boat could be the difference.



LAKE ECOLOGY REPORT

By Peter Tobiessen

Members of the Lake Ecology Committee collect water samples every two weeks during the summer and send them to a DEC lab for analysis. One of the most important results from these analyses is the level of phosphorus (P) in the lake. Phosphorus is quite rare in most natural environments and is typically measured at the part per BILLION (ppb) concentrations in lakes. One ppb P is equivalent to the weight of one half of a nickel coin (2.5 g) of P in an Olympic-sized swimming pool. It is important in lake ecology since it is a fertilizer for algal growth. Too much P (>25 ppb) turns a lake into a pea soup mess, and just a little too much (12 to 24 ppb) reduces water clarity and may produce algal scums on the surface. The major source for P in a lake is human

activity—waste water, leaking septic tanks, lawns and other sources of pollution -- so we want to make sure we control these sources in our lakes' watersheds. Sacandaga Lake and Lake Pleasant usually contain about 5 to 10 ppb, which puts these lakes into DEC's classification of AA, one of DEC's highest lake water quality rankings. We have been sampling Sacandaga since 1985, and its P levels have remained virtually unchanged in the last 35 years! That's really good news. We must remain vigilant to control these human sources of P to maintain the excellent water quality of our lakes well into the future.



MEET YOUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Betsy Bain

I currently serve as Town of Lake Pleasant Supervisor and formally served on the Town of Lake Pleasant Board for 8 years. On County level, I sit on the Public Health Committee, the Human Services Committee, Internal Management Committee, Office of the Aging Advisory Council and the Inter-County Legislative Committee. As a small business owner on Oxbow Lake it has been a priority for me and my husband to help keep our lakes protected. I was honored to be asked to serve as a liaison between the town of Lake Pleasant and LPSA.



Kim Lewis

I have been a member of LPSA for many years to support the environmental efforts to preserve our lakes and I was happy to have been encouraged to join the LPSA board this year. This season marked the 50th year that my family has owned a camp on Lake Pleasant and it is here that I developed my deep love for the Adirondacks. I have a BA in Biology from Wittenberg University, MA in Zoology from University of New Hampshire where I worked on hormonal changes in Atlantic Salmon and Lamprey under various conditions, and a MS in Environmental Education from Antioch New England University. I taught high school Biology for 13 years and middle school General Science for the last 17 years and am recently retired. I coached the Science Olympiad team which made it to the national competition representing NH the last three years. In my college days, I did water testing for Hamilton County, sampling lakes in our area and processing the samples in the lab at the Speculator Sewage Treatment Plant. I love science, love these lakes which have been such a profound part of my life, and am happy LPSA is taking such an active role in maintaining the ecology of our watershed. I look forward to being a part of the water monitoring efforts and also using my education background to help with the programs within Lake Pleasant Central School.



Bob Hogan

In 2015 my wife, Audrey, and I bought a cabin on Oxbow Road in the town of Lake Pleasant. Since then our cabin has been put to very good use - primarily in the summer - by our family and extended family and friends. All of whom have enjoyed the beauty of our woods, lakes and mountains.

Upon retiring this year after 40+ years in Human Resources, I wanted to spend more time in the Adirondacks... Sure enough, this summer, I had the opportunity to serve as a Lake Steward at the Lake Pleasant boat launch - and what an enjoyable experience and great summer - in spite of COVID - it was! Checking boats, greeting the public and discussing the importance of protecting our waterways has been a very educational and rewarding experience.

For years our family has enjoyed the serenity of the Adirondacks and now our three grandchildren are enjoying the mountains at their family's place on Piseco Lake for much of the summer.

As a new board member, I would like to be involved with the local schools and businesses and continue to learn about the important work we do through our invasive species protection programs. I'm looking forward to getting to know the board and participating in the important work being done through LPSA.



LAKE MONITORS

By Jim Olsen

The summer of 2020 presented challenges for the LPSA Lake Monitoring program, due to COVID-19. Our annual training brunch was cancelled, when we normally conduct a refresher class on invasive aquatic plants. In lieu of that, LPSA's Lake Monitors were given the option to watch an online class offered by the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program. As summer residents began to arrive, it was clear that many were not coming at all, depleting our normal team by 30%. Despite these vacancies, LPSA Lake Monitors took on extra shoreline sections to complete the necessary surveys. Although a few suspicious aquatic plants were reported to the Ecology Committee, none were confirmed to be invasive species.



LPSF AND THE HUBER FUND

By Mitzi Fox

As a bit of background, The Lake Pleasant-Sacandaga Association was formed in 1953 to, among other objectives, protect the lakes. In early 1994, in response to the enactment of Federal legislation establishing the 501 (c)(3) tax exempt entity, the Lake Pleasant-Sacandaga Foundation was formed as a qualifying non-profit organization. The original stated purpose of LPSF was "To protect and enhance Lake Pleasant and Sacandaga Lake, and the tributaries thereto and watersheds thereof, and to promote the protection and enhancement of Lake Pleasant and Sacandaga Lake." LPSA and LPSF continue to take these responsibilities very seriously. The financial base of the Foundation has continued to grow over the ensuing years, while supporting the expenditures of the Association directly related to the protection of the health and vitality of our Lakes and being able to maintain their recreational and enjoyment value into the future. A goal at this time is to grow the assets of the Foundation to a sufficient level that would allow funding of LPSA and LPSF environmental expenditures with income from the Foundation, while allowing the Foundation's assets to continue to grow. In 2011, John Huber and his family established the Kathryn Coolidge Huber Memorial Fund in memory of his wife, Kathy. The Kathy Huber Fund is dedicated to having funds available for any potential need to mitigate any intrusion of invasive species to our lakes. John Huber continues to match any donations made to this Fund. The Fund represents a portion of the total assets of the Lake Pleasant-Sacandaga Foundation and is invested with Morgan Stanley.

We thank the many members and friends of LPSA who have sent memorial gifts to LPSF celebrating the lives of friends who also loved and cared for our Lakes. Please consider investing in the future health of our lakes now by donating to the Lake Pleasant-Sacandaga Foundation. The growth of Foundation Funds ensures that our Association has monies available to monitor the Lakes for invasive weeds before they enter our Lakes, continue to keep the Lake waters pure, and to have funds available when emergency issues arise threatening our lakes. Contributions to the Foundation and to the Huber Fund, which continue to be doubled, can be mailed to P.O. Box 383, Wells, NY 12190-0383. Thank you all for working with us and supporting our work in this most important area.



LPSA CONTINUES WATER QUALITY TESTING PROGRAM

By Charlie Ascher

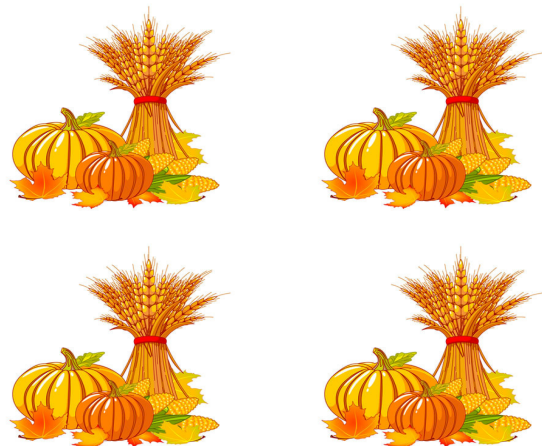
In spite of the restrictions imposed by the COVID pandemic, LPSA has continued the annual program of monitoring water quality in our lakes. The dedicated team of Mark Donecker, Jim Olsen, Kim Lewis and Chris Wang collect water samples and conduct visibility tests every two weeks during July and August.

The samples are sent to DEC's labs under the CSLAP program (Citizen Statewide Lake Assessment Program) where they are analyzed for nutrient and chemical levels. It is reassuring that the calcium levels in the lakes throughout the Town of Lake Pleasant continue to be too low to support the growth of zebra mussels which protects us from an infestation. The CSLAP reports also identify the types of algae that are present in our lakes. In fact, the DEC's Annual Report classifies the lakes in the Town of Lake Pleasant with a rating of "AA" which is one of the highest levels of water quality awarded.

LPSA will continue the monitoring of our lakes in an effort to ensure that they maintain their present excellent level of water quality.



Jim Lewis holds a black and white Secchi disk, used to visually assess water clarity. Chris Wang holds a water sampling device, used to capture water samples at different depths, for lab analysis. Jim Olsen holds a Secchi disk and a clipboard.



LPSA NOW ACCEPTS PAYMENTS ON-LINE

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.

FARMERS' MARKET

By Jon Tobiessen

During the Summer of 2020 the LPSA table at the Farmers' Market offered information regarding invasive aquatic and terrestrial plants. Also available was information for boaters and lakefront owners about how to avoid the spread of invasive species and how to minimize native weed growth. Unfortunately, masks and social distancing limited contact between shoppers and LPSA members manning the table. We hope that 2021 will be a more "sociable" summer at the Farmers' Mar-

ket. To be prepared for a normal amount of interaction with the public we need volunteers willing to spend one and a half to three hours on a few Thursdays to share information about the health of the lakes and the benefits of LPSA membership. To sign up or get more information contact Jon Tobiessen at 518-399-1889 or jntoby3@yahoo.com.



SOCIAL EVENTS

Typically, LPSA schedules two luncheon events and a local Historic Tour for our members each year. This summer, those events did not happen, but we hope to continue this tradition next 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 for next year. Please contact Tom Rippere at TomLPSA@yahoo.com



ANNUAL MEETING PRESENTATION

This year, LPSA conducted our Annual Meeting via an on-line video conference. You can view the meeting presentation on our website, in the "Members Only" section. To access the information, click on the "Member's Area" box in the upper right corner of the Home page. If you have not already set up a password for yourself, you will be prompted to do this. Your password will be linked to your email address in the LPSA records. If you have provided more than one email address to LPSA, and you have trouble logging in, try again with your other email address. The log-in will work with only one of your email addresses. After you have logged in, click on "Membership" in the menu bar at the top of the screen. A drop-down menu will display all the web pages you can view in the Members Only area, including the Annual Meeting presentation.



“GENERATIONS” STORIES ***By Lyn Van Druff***

In recent communication with John Huber, I learned of the death of dearly loved Laurie Andrews from Sacandaga Lake and the history of her family and those surrounding family properties. The discussion prompted further ideas on how to keep like stories alive in the memory of the LPSA membership. As a result, ‘**GENERATIONS**’, was born as a vehicle to keep wonderful stories alive. The plan is to acquire stories from the various multigenerational properties on each of our lakes regarding the purchase, development, and provenance of the properties and any anecdotal stories that might be of interest, and to then compile the stories and place on the “Members Only” section of our website under the same title. Only LPSA members would, after logging on with their password and going to the drop down menu with the title “Generations”, be able to read the stories.

Please feel free to share this with anyone who might be interested in contributing. I am asking that you follow the brief form below so that we have accurate information regarding the contributor, property, and permission to include in this project. **Only those with the below information will be included, as we believe privacy an important aspect of any history.**

- Date submitted
- Contributors Name {s}
- Property Description and Location
- Provenance and Development
- Anecdotal Stories
- Permission to include on private section of website as part of LPSA ‘GENERATIONS’.

If you can also provide a photo of your camp, that would be a nice addition to your article on our website. I have asked Jon and Nancy Tobiessen to assist in the compilation of this material. Please send any questions and all contributions to the project to me, Lyn Van Druff at LynLPSA@gmail.com We hope to have this compiled over the winter and up on the LPSA Members Only portion of the website by next summer.



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
Bob Hogan

Kim Lewis
James Olsen
Chari Smith
Jon Tobiessen

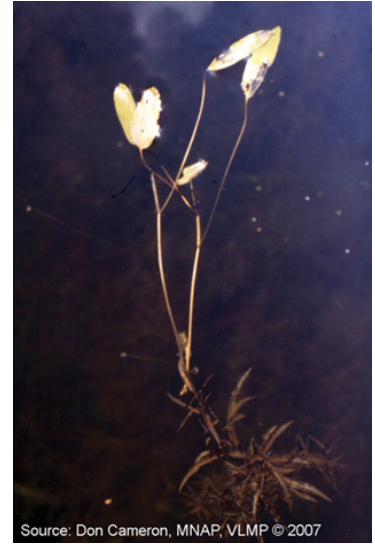
Ron Uva
Lyn Van Druff
Lake Ecologist:
Peter Tobiessen

DON'T FEED THE WEEDS

by Rich Armstrong

Most of us who spend time on Lake Pleasant have observed the significant recent growth of a native aquatic plant called Grassy Leaved Pond Weed. LPSA has engaged experts including the APA lake ecologists' consultations and surveys to better understand its risks and what can be done to minimize its expansion. It is important to point out that the plant is native and that our lakes are in fact quite clean but none the less many are concerned about lake use impacts and property valuations as the extent of expansion is not clear. The answer to the question ***"Why has this expansion only come recently?"*** appears to be a combination on lake nutrient levels and rising water temperatures. Since we don't have any practical ability to impact lake water temperatures the answer to the question ***"What can we do to help?"*** is also quite clear...

DON'T FEED THE WEEDS! LPSA in consultation with Hamilton County Soil and Water



Source: Don Cameron, MNAP, VLMP © 2007



have been trying to reach everyone on our lakes with an informational campaign by handing out post cards, refrigerator magnets and even septic dye testing kits when requested. Over 200 Post cards have been distributed to Lake Pleasant lake shore owners with encouraging feedback about all doing what we can. For more information please go to : www.lpsa-ny.org. On the header menu bar, click on "Protect Our Lakes", and select "Don't Feed the Weeds". Thank you for doing your part!



Lake Pleasant – Sacandaga Association

Don't Feed the Weeds
together we can keep our lakes beautiful

Did you know that nutrients in a lake promote algae blooms and weed growth?

Run-off from 1 acre of lawn can carry as much sediment (and nutrients) into a lake as 170 acres of forest.

Even a thin shoreline buffer can make a big difference!

protect lake from weeds




shorelines need buffers



Learn more at: www.lpsa-ny.org

Top 3 Benefits
Of installing a vegetative buffer using native Adirondack vegetation

1. Reduces shoreline erosion
2. Creates filtration of run-off
3. Prevents overpopulation of water fowl like geese



Contact the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District to schedule an appointment for a FREE vegetation buffer consultation!
(518) 548-3991
hcsxcd@frontiernet.net
www.hcsxcd.com

Other ways to help!



Maintain your septic system, testing kits available



Limit the use of fertilizers and pesticides and use phosphorus free fertilizer



Clean up pet waste to reduce polluted runoff

Don't Feed the Weeds



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@frontiernet.net

Red Pines B&B

South Shore Road, Lake Pleasant, NY 12108

Your Adirondack Retreat
Three comfortable guest rooms
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Phone: 518-548-5382

Website: www.redpinesbb.com

Email: diane@redpinesbb.com

GLF Electric, Plumbing, Heating

Gary & Darcy Foutch

396 Gilmantown Rd
PO Box 565

Wells NY 12190
518-924-4492

Mountain Market

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

Kendal's Beauty Salon

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

Bearhurst

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

Lawrence & Smith, PLLC

Strawberry Lane, PO Box 156
Speculator NY 12164
Phone: 518-548-2771 Fax: 518-548-2447
Website: www.speculatorlawyers.com
Katie Smith, Esq
Email: katie@speculatorlawyers.com



Business memberships are \$30.

Contact us at LPSA.ADK@gmail.com for
more information

Moonlight Bay RV Park

Susan Dodge
Moffitt Beach Rd
Lake Pleasant, NY



Cedarhurst Motor Lodge

Route 30, Speculator NY 12164 518-548-6064
Email us at: cedarhurstlodge@frontiernet.net

Year Around, Family Owned, All Rooms
equipped with bath, AC, heat, microwave,
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Snowmobilers welcome.
Within walking distance of the public beach.

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Phone: 518-548-7451

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Housewares, Camping, Bakery, Outdoors,
Groceries, Bookstore

Alpine Meadows Chalets

CHARI & CHUCK SMITH

Po Box 14
Speculator NY 12164
518-548-5615
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



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.





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 383
Wells NY 12190-0383



MAIL TO: