



NEWSLETTER

SPRING/SUMMER 2025



Email: LPSA.ADK@gmail.com

Website: www.lpsa-ny.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Craig Pedersen

Happy Spring! I say this while overlooking Lake Pleasant which is still ice covered, and we had a dusting of snow this morning (writing in early April). With that said, a sure sign that Spring is on its way is when the local maple syrup supplier is boiling sap, and it is a sign that the trees will soon be budding. The weather will soon be warming up along with the much-anticipated summer activities. A lot of those summer activities are done on our lakes and waterways, hence why Lake Pleasant Sacandaga Association (LPSA) exists.

LPSA serves the local community where the lakes in the Town of Lake Pleasant (primarily Lake Pleasant, Lake Sacandaga, Oxbow and Echo Lake) are located. Your support is vital in our effort to keep the lakes clean and free of any major invasive species. Whether you are a member, contributor, partner or a volunteer, all are important ingredients to achieving LPSA's mission to keep our lakes and waterways clean.

The LPSA mission is focused on prevention. Prevention is the most effective, and least costly approach to avoiding an invasive species invading our lakes. The impact of such an invasion on any one of our lakes would be high costs, restricted use of the lakes and would by extension likely impact our local economy, which is very heavily dependent on tourism. The stakes are high, but the rewards are many and long lasting.

With prevention in mind, LPSA sponsors Education programs, Ramp Stewards programs, Lake Monitors as well as lake testing. These efforts support the prevention of harmful plants being transported into our lakes and the testing ensures that nothing has

slipped through the cracks. LPSA is looking for new volunteers for any one of these activities. Please consider serving your family and community in one (or more) of these efforts. Check out our website www.LPSA-NY.org for more information.

While LPSA will always continue with all the prevention efforts, we would be remiss in not planning for a lake infestation incident. This is why LPSA is spearheading the LPSA Lake Management Plan. This plan will document actions to take if an invasive species is introduced into one of our lakes. The coordination of the relevant agencies (local, county and state levels) is important to ensure quick and decisive steps are taken so the most serious risks are addressed with a safe and timely response.

Finally, LPSA is currently in the middle of our 2025 membership drive, and we thank all those who have renewed their membership for 2025. For those still considering becoming a member, we ask you to join in the effort and be a part of the family to keep our lakes clean for generations to come. Just go to <https://lpsa-ny.org/members/join.asp> and fill out a simple online form.

We also ask that you consider volunteering – LPSA has many opportunities to get involved. The cumulative efforts of many volunteers have a TREMENDOUS impact on outcomes. All the small efforts combined will result in big things and we are looking forward to serving along with you.

On behalf of the Lake Pleasant Sacandaga Association Board of Directors – We THANK YOU!



White Water Rafting Mosaic



Volume 27-Issue 1

Editor: Tom Rippere

Design & Production by Belinda Germain

LAKE PLEASANT-SACANDAGA
ASSOCIATION

SEPTIC SYSTEM REPLACEMENT FUND

By Caitlin Stewart, Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District Manager

Editor's Note: Aging septic systems that are not functioning properly have the potential to introduce excess nutrients into lakes, rivers, and streams, leading to increased growth of native aquatic weeds, and creating an inviting environment for new invasive aquatic species. Replacing old ineffective septic systems can help protect the health of our lakes.

The New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) provides funding to counties to help homeowners and small businesses replace cesspools and septic systems. The Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District is overseeing the Septic System Replacement Fund on behalf and at the request of Hamilton County.

Program eligibility requirements are established by the EFC, and priority geographic areas (in accordance with the Clean Water Infrastructure Act of 2017 and served by a septic system) are established by the DEC, not the counties. EFC will reimburse half of the expense for a replacement project, not to exceed \$10,000. Hamilton County and the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District signed a participation agreement, and can only fund projects in priority geographic areas as designated by DEC and EFC.

For rounds 2 and 3, the DEC designated Lake Eaton (near Long Lake) as the only priority geographic area in Hamilton County eligible for funding. For Round 4, DEC

designated several additional waterbodies eligible for funding. This expanded list includes those listed below that are in or near the Town of Lake Pleasant:

Round 4 Eligible Priority Geographic Area (with Priority Waterbody List ID):

Sacandaga Lake (1104-0050)

Lake Pleasant (1104-0051)

Minor Lakes in Upper Sacandaga River watershed (1104-0174)

Minor lakes in Upper West Branch of Sacandaga watershed (11-04-0013)

Indian Lake (1104-0021)

Piseco Lake (1104-0047)

Lake Alogonquin (Wells, NY) (1104-0173)

Cedar River, Upper, and tributaries (1104-0278)

In February, the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District mailed all eligible landowners an application. Round 4 funding, as designated by the EFC, is \$200,000 for Hamilton County, and will fund 20 projects up to \$10,000 per project. For further information, contact Katie Whitkovits at 518-548-3991 or katie@hamcoswcd.org

Editor's Note: As of the end of March, HCSWCD had already received enough applications to utilize all the funds available in this round of funding.



NEW YORK STATE ROAD SALT REDUCTION

Reprinted from Adirondack Council State of the Park Report 2024-2025

Senator Paul Harckman moved a bill through the [New York] Senate that would create a new Road Salt Reduction Council and Advisory Committee to facilitate interagency cooperation while implementing the recommendations of the Adirondack Road Salt Reduction Task Force. The task force report called for numerous changes in how salt is handled, applied, and stored at the state and local level. New York needs a mechanism to ensure that those changes are made at the relevant state agencies. This is a critical need for communities that are facing significant burdens from road salt pollution in wells and water sources, together with rivers, lakes, and wetlands that are paying the price.

Editor's Note: Runoff from salt applied to winter roads can get into lakes, rivers, and wells, causing ecological damage to plants, animals, and drinking water supplies. In 2020, NY Governor Cuomo signed the Road Salt Reduction Act, which established a task force to develop recommendations for how to reduce road salt pollution. In 2023, the Adirondack Road Salt Reduction Task Force issued a full report, with recommendations for steps to be taken in the future. It is good news that New York State is taking steps to implement recommendations made in that report.



LPSA LAKES MANAGEMENT PLAN—WHAT IS THIS ABOUT

By Rich Armstrong

Over a year ago LPSA decided to embark on creating what is called a Lake Management Plan with a few key **objectives**:

Consolidate the significant technical assessment data, trends and analysis for our lakes, so our broad member base and other constituencies can understand what is happening in our lakes.

Create a fact based and benchmarked view of our go-forward risks and recommendations including potential grant funding opportunities....a Lake Management Plan is generally a prerequisite for external funding

Develop action plans to address our most serious risks that can help us respond in a safe and timely manner.

Our **process** started with establishing a small, passionate and knowledgeable team including members from LPSA (Tom Rippere, Jim Olsen, Scott MacMillan and Rich Armstrong) as well as key leadership from the Lake Champlain-Lake George Regional Planning Board. Step 2 was to conduct a survey of our members and constituents followed by benchmarking other plans and gaining board consensus on the scope of effort. After 18 months and several critical reviews, our ~50 page Plan is ready for LPSA Board and then broader member and constituents review and feedback. It is important to recognize that a Lake Management Plan is a “living document” that should be regularly updated as new information is obtained.

Highlights from our **member survey** with over 240 respondents:

92% describe water quality as Good or Excellent; none described it as poor.

The top three biggest threats to water quality are Invasive Species, Algae/aquatic vegetation, and falling or unmaintained septic systems.

From a **Technical** perspective the—summary table below show our lakes are considered in generally good shape except should not be used untreated for drinking water and thankfully do not have any aquatic invasive plants.

| Lake Name | Classification | Assessment | Best use Impairments |
|----------------|----------------|--------------------|--|
| Lake Pleasant | AA | Needs verification | Source Water Supply (Stressed) |
| Sacandaga Lake | AA | Impaired | Fishing (Impaired), Source Water Supply (Stressed) |
| Oxbow Lake | Unassessed | | |
| Fawn Lake | Unassessed | | |
| Echo Lake | Unassessed | | |

Table 1: Lake Classifications Source: NYSDEC WI/PWL

According to the NYSDEC assessment, the use of both Lake Pleasant and Sacandaga Lake as water supplies is classified as “stressed” due to chloride and phosphorus contamination. Additionally, fishing in Sacandaga Lake is classified as “impaired” due to elevated mercury levels, which is likely a legacy issue which historically impacted all Adirondack lakes.

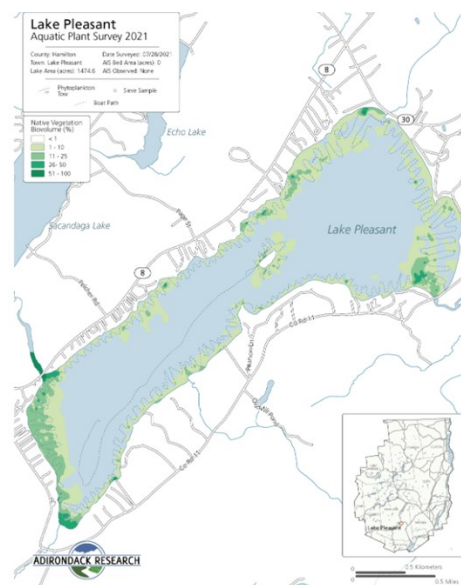
Our qualitative **risk assessment** factoring probability of occurrence as well as the potential impact on our lakes concluded that the top 3 risks that can be potentially managed are not surprisingly:

Invasive plants...note that Lake Algonquin (in Wells, NY) has this problem...it only takes 1 miss

Shoreline erosion that results in added nutrients

Nutrient loading from lawn runoff and septic system loading

Items 2 and 3 above are of significant concern due to the impacts being observed with native aquatic weed and algae growth...this effect, combined with warming water temperatures, is being seen significantly in Lake Pleasant.



Key **recommendations** so far include:

Continued boat launch monitoring to prevent invasive introductions

Community education and awareness about sources of nutrient loading and the affects on the lakes

Increased monitoring including updating the 2021 Aquatic Plant survey looking for rates of change.

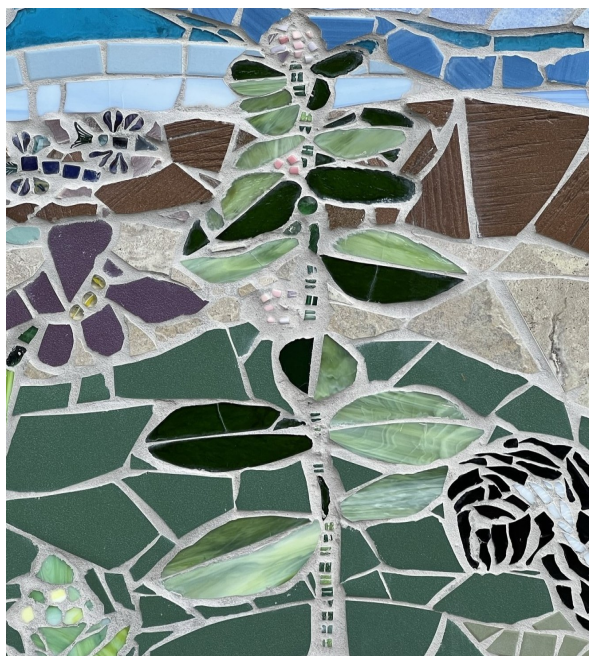
We plan to have a draft version of the Plan available later this year for review and comments from our members.



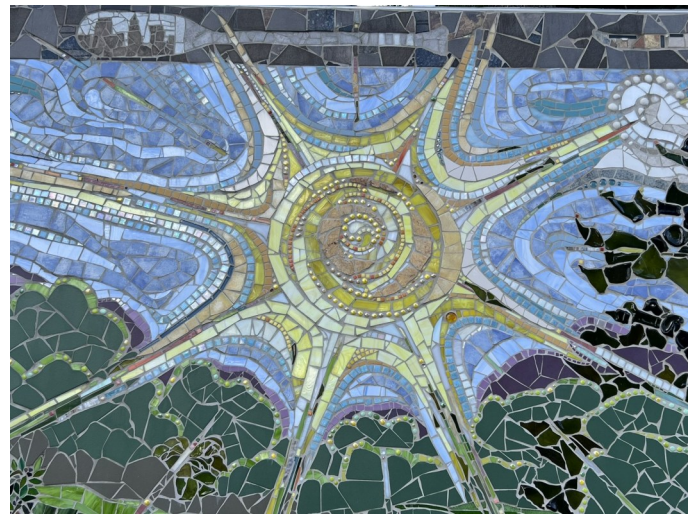
NORTH CREEK MOSAIC

By Tom Rippere

Many of the photos in this Newsletter show segments of the North Creek Mosaic Project. This is the largest community artwork in the Adirondacks. It was created by local artist Kate Hartley and over 2000 volunteers from 2011 to 2020. The project is about 220 feet long, and contains over 200,000 individual tiles. The scene represents nature and recreation in the Adirondacks, where people can enjoy the rivers, lakes, and wildlife. The mural faces Main Street, in the town of North Creek, about 30 miles east of Speculator.



Do you have original artwork or photos that you would be willing to share in the LPSA Newsletter?
If so, please send your photos to Tom Rippere, Newsletter Editor, at TomLPSA@yahoo.com



PLEASE USE LOCAL FIREWOOD

Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and New York State Parks [encourage campers to use local firewood](#) and follow State firewood regulations to help prevent the spread of invasive species.

Many people take campfire wood from their backyards or neighborhoods when heading out to a favorite camping spot, not realizing the untreated wood may be hiding the eggs, larvae, spores, adults, or even seeds of invasive threats. Hitching a ride on infested or infected firewood allows these pests to spread faster and farther than they otherwise could have. Before you go, here's what you need to know about New York State firewood regulations:



- Prohibit untreated firewood from being brought into New York State from other states or countries;
 - Prohibit untreated firewood grown in the state from being transported more than 50 miles from its source or origin; and
- Require that people carry source, origin, or treatment documentation whenever transporting firewood. If you transport untreated firewood, it must have a receipt or label that identifies the firewood source. If purchasing and transporting heat-treated firewood, it must have a receipt or label that says, "New York Approved Heat-Treated Firewood/Pest Free." Heat-treated firewood may be moved in an unrestricted manner.



CONTACT US

Additional information about LPSA is available on our website LPSA-NY.org

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

To contact Craig Pedersen, LPSA President, you can send email to Pres@LPSA-NY.org if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions.

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.

Library Hours:

Lake Pleasant Public Library: Open - Mon, Wed, & Fri, 1-7 pm, Tue, Thur, Sat, 10-2 518-548-4411
During July and August also open Tue & Thur 10-7 pm 518-548-4411

Virginia Hosley Free Library in Wells: Open: Tues & Thur 6 to 8 pm Sat 10 am to Noon
Mah Jongg Game Night, every Tues 6 to 8 pm. Craft Night, every Thur 6-8 pm 518-924-2220

HAMILTON COUNTY LAKE MONITORING PROGRAM

By Caitlin Stewart, Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District Manager

2024 marked the 31st year of the Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District's (HCSWCD) Lake Monitoring Program. With great foresight, elected officials recognized the need to protect the county's vital water resources, and the Board of Supervisors contracted with the Conservation District in 1993 to conduct a comprehensive lake monitoring program. Hamilton County residents, economy, and ecosystem depend on clean water for drinking, recreation, and flourishing flora and fauna. Decades of consistent lake data collection is essential to the effective analysis of long-term trends. Taxpayer dollars are saved when a water quality problem is detected and remediated in its early stages.



Lake monitoring equipment. Photos provided by Hamilton County SWCD.



District Technician Katie WhitKovits uses a Kemmerer Water Sampler to collect lake water for analysis.

In 2024, staff completed lake monitoring rotations May through October on 20 priority lakes. Study lakes within the Town of Lake Pleasant include Oxbow, Fawn, Sacandaga and Lake Pleasant. A contracted, ELAP-certified lab completed lake water quality testing for calcium, sodium, chloride, nitrogen, total nitrate-nitrite, total phosphorus, alkalinity, and dissolved organic carbon. A YSI ProDSS Multiparameter Meter was used to collect profile data for the following parameters: pH, temperature, depth, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, and chlorophyll. Data is validated by the DEC for quality assurance and quality control, and reports and raw data are available at hamcoswcd.org/lake-monitoring.

Editor's Note: LPSA volunteers collect similar lake chemistry data each year, as part of the New York Citizen Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP). Together, HCSWCD and LPSA collect more lake data than either organization could gather alone.



SAVE THE DATES—MARK YOUR CALENDAR

LPSA has two events scheduled for this summer. We hope you will plan to join us:

Sunday, June 22, "Meet and Greet" 4 pm, at The Lemon Tree Brewery, Speculator

Sunday, August 24, Annual Meeting & "Meet & Greet" 4 pm at The Lemon Tree Brewery

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

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 Craig Pedersen, at Pres@LPSA-NY.org. 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



BOATING SAFETY TRAINING NOW REQUIRED IN NEW YORK

by Tom Rippere

A new law requires that motorboat operators will need to complete a Boating Safety course. In 2024, the safety training course was required for anyone born January 1, 1978 or later. In 2025, the training will be required for ALL motorboat operators, regardless of their age. Motorboat operators must complete a Boating Safety course, and carry a certificate of the training with them when boating. An operator who has a valid boating safety certificate issued by another state is exempt from the New York State certification requirement if they have their certificate with them. To operate a motorboat in New York, you must be at least 10 years old. Young boater safety certificates previously issued by New York State satisfy the educational requirements.

Anyone operating a Personal Watercraft (PWC, e.g. JetSki™, Wave Runner™) must be at least 14 years old, and have a boating safety certificate with them. Although it is not recommended, children under the age of 14 may operate a PWC provided there is a certified operator over the age of 18 on board.

Additional information is available on the state website:
<https://parks.ny.gov/boating/education.aspx>

Classroom training sessions are sometimes provided at various locations across the state. These courses are listed on the state website shown above. This website also provides links to several companies that provide the training on-line, for a fee - usually about \$35. The only free on-line training is provided by the non-profit organization Boat U.S. (Users are encouraged to make a donation to the foundation, to help cover their operating expenses.) Learn more at <https://courses.BoatUS.org>.



CORRESPONDENCE TO BOARD MEMBERS

**Lake Pleasant-Sacandaga Association
PO Box 164
Speculator NY 12164-0164
Craig Pedersen, LPSA President
pres@lpsa-ny.org**

ALL MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS, CHECKS & LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS:

**Lake Pleasant-Sacandaga Association
PO Box 383
WELLS NY 12190-0383
Email: LPSA.ADK@gmail.com
Face Book @LPSA2016**

LPSA NEEDS A TREASURER VOLUNTEER

LPSA is powered by Volunteers.

This year, we need a new Treasurer. If you would like to volunteer yourself, nominate someone else, or get more information, please contact Craig Pedersen, LPSA President, at Pres@LPSA-NY.org, or Tom Rippere, LPSA Nominating Committee Chairperson, at TomLPSA@yahoo.com



2025 Board Meeting Dates:

**Saturday, June 14th - 8:30 am (at Library)
Saturday, August 9th- 8:30 am (at Library)**

EASY WAY TO PAY YOUR DUES & DONATIONS

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

**Craig Pedersen - President
Rich Armstrong - 1st Vice President
Ron Uva—2nd Vice President
Tom Rippere -Vice President - Gifting
Mark Donecker - Treasurer
Kim Lewis - Secretary**

**Betsy Bain - Lake Pleasant Supervisor
Jeanette Barrett - Speculator Mayor
Caitlin Stewart - HCSWCD
Jim Hammond - Camp of the Woods President
Peter Tobiessen - Lake Ecologist
James Olsen - Vice Lake Ecologist**

**Mike Camoin
Bob Hogan
Scott MacMillin
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Dan Wilt**

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:

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Website: www.speculatorlawyers.com

Katie Smith, Esq

Email: katie@speculatorlawyers.com



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Lake Pleasant Park

**Michael Thuman
2726 State Route 8
Lake Pleasant NY 12108
thumann27@msn.com**

Camp of the Woods

**106 Downey Ave
Speculator NY 12164
Phone: 518-548-4311**

**A Christian Family Resort
www.camp-of-the-woods.org**

Camp Fowler

**152 Pelcher Rd
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Phone: 518-548-6524
Or Year Round phone: 518-631-6789
Email: campfowler@rca.org**

A Christian Children's Camp

Deerfoot Lodge

**Craig Boronow
State Route 30
Speculator NY 12164
Adirondacks.deerfoot.org**

O'Connor Automotive Sales & Service Inc

**Michael O'Connor
State Route 8, PO BOX 820
Lake Pleasant NY 12108
mpoc211@yahoo.com**

Lemon Tree Brewery

**2849 St Rte 30
Speculator NY 12164
518-548-7533
Email: admin@lemontreebrewery.com
Website: Lemontreebrewery.com**

C&K Landscaping

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973-224-3563
mkarr1@verizon.net**

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crysti723@gmail.com

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Lake Pleasant NY 12108
watersedgect cottages@gmail.com

Henrietta House

Rob Macchi
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Speculator NY 12164
973-800-0233
Macchi.robert91221@gmail.com

Think Globally, Act Locally

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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.

Business memberships are \$30.

Contact us at 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: PO Box 383, Wells, NY 12190-0383

GIFTING MEMBERSHIPS

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

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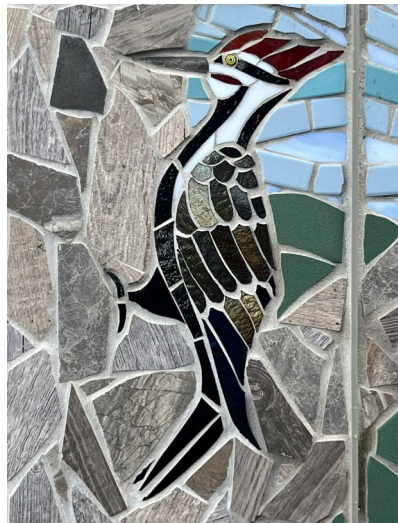
_____ INDIVIDUAL \$15.00 _____ FAMILY \$20.00 _____ BUSINESS \$30.00

DONATION OPTIONS (Circle One): **LPSF GENERAL FUND** - Provides funds for current program expense

LPSF KATHY HUBER FUND - Reserve account for rapid response to any invasive species we discover in our lakes



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



MAIL TO: