



LAKE PLEASANT-SACANDAGA ASSOCIATION



Volume 27-Issue 2

NEWSLETTER FALL 2025



Email: LPSA.ADK@gmail.com

Website: www.lpsa-ny.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

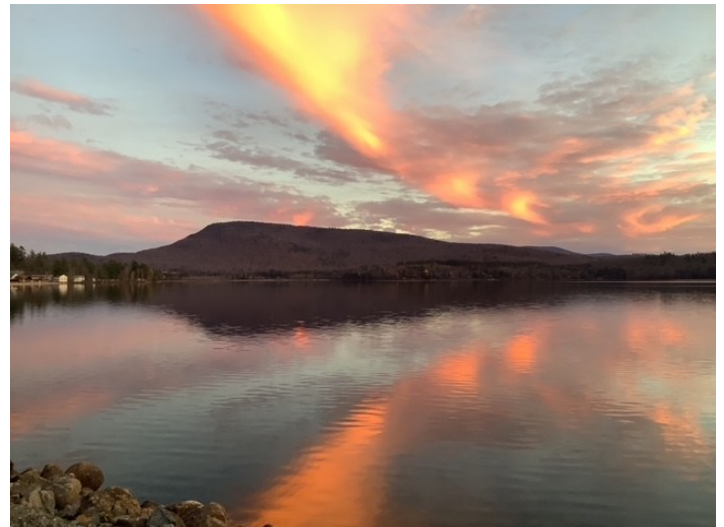
By Craig Pedersen

It is mid-November and the snow has already made an appearance on the ground. It is very strange to look at the snow and think that just two months ago we were swimming in the lakes. How quickly the seasons change up in the Adirondacks!

Even though it is no longer summer, Lake Pleasant Sacandaga Association (LPSA) is still hard at work throughout the year. We are reviewing what was accomplished in 2025 and already developing plans for next year which is the driver for next year's budget. LPSA relies on the annual membership dues as well as the extra donations which are given by our supporters. As a reminder, the annual renewal letters for 2026 will be sent in the first quarter of next year!

We cannot thank you enough for your continued support and investments in LPSA and its goals. We do this through fostering PREVENTION, MONITORING and EDUCATION. While the funding is a very important component of LPSA's efforts, if it were not for the many volunteers and workers who dedicate their time, we would not be able to accomplish our objective as an organization.

LPSA relies on ramp stewards, ecologists, lake monitors, board and committee members to be the "feet on the ground" to execute our various operations. We also rely on state agencies like the Adirondack Park Agency, the Department of Environmental Conservation and finally Paul Smith's College all working together to keep our lakes clean and safe.



Lake Pleasant photo by Speculator resident
Robert "Shorty" Hoffman

The range of opportunities to serve is great and varied. Have you ever wanted to learn more about lake ecology? If so the operations team would love extra hands to help in testing the lakes. Do you have a talent for communications and help support the work in that area? We are looking to expand our membership participation and I am sure there is an untapped talent out there.

As we look ahead to 2026, LPSA stands ready to engage with our members, community and partners to continue the effort to protect our environment and in particular our lakes. We all want to see our lakes clean and safe for generations to come. On behalf of the Board of Directors of Lake Pleasant Sacandaga Association, we wish you all a very Happy Holiday Season and a wonderful New Year.



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!

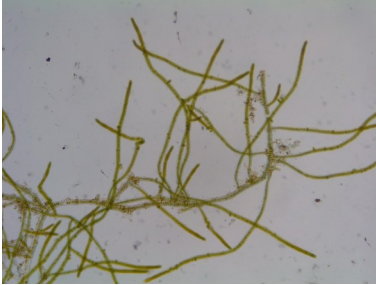
Editor: **Tom Rippere**

Design & Production: **Belinda Germain**

NUISANCE FILAMENTOUS ALGA IN LAKE PLEASANT

By Peter Tobiessen, Lake Pleasant Ecologist

Many shore owners on Lake Pleasant have been concerned about a new alga that dies and washes up on sandy beaches, forcing beach owners to collect it and dispose of it too before they can enjoy their beach. It can arrive by the bushel, leaving a thick black foul-smelling mass within a day. It has also affected the swimming beach. Who is this new culprit that has suddenly become a problem in the last 5 years, why has it suddenly appeared and can anything be done to control it?



Ulothrix filaments
low magnification

The first thing to realize is that it is not new to the lake. We saw this same alga during a previous survey of Lake Pleasant about 15 to 20 years ago. To answer the other questions we have to determine what species it is. Casual microscopic examination suggested that it could be one of two algal groups, and one of those was possibly toxic. So a more intensive observation with a better microscope was necessary (see photos). It turns out to be NOT the toxic one, but a beautiful NON-TOXIC filamentous green alga with a common name of "mermaid's hair."



Ulothrix filaments
high magnification

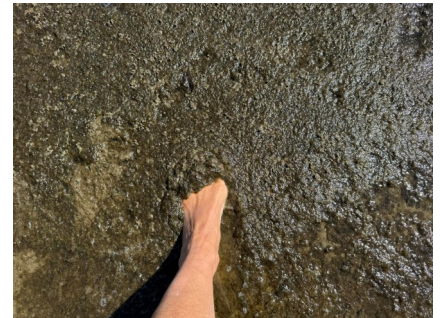
Its scientific name is Ulothrix, and it is a common green alga that grows in well-aerated, cold water of good water quality. It starts out attached to the substrate, but wave action can dislodge it, and it will then form little (one half inch diam) tufts of tangled filaments that end up floating and washing up on a beach. It is eaten by snails and microscopic animals. It does not appear on sandy beaches in Sacandaga Lake (yet???)

Why has it suddenly become a problem? Of course we can never be sure, but since it is described as living in cold water, our warming lakes could be a contributing factor. Also, I'm not sure about the cur-

rent level of LP's snail population, but it may be declining. If I remember correctly, in years past there had been some years of massive snail mortality in LP. Their populations may be strongly cyclical, which would be another possible contributing factor. Since Ulothrix is a native species, it would be difficult to impossible to get DEC permission to use algicides to control it. The one thing we can be sure about is that the presence of the "mermaid hair" alga does not mean that there are mermaids in Lake Pleasant.



Washing up to shore



Resulting black mass with foot

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.



REMOVAL OF AQUATIC WEEDS BY HAND

By Tom Rippere

Our members sometimes ask us if there are any laws or restrictions on hand-pulling weeds that grow near the shoreline. Fortunately, we have not yet seen any invasive plants growing in our local lakes, but we have seen a significant increase in the amount of native, non-invasive plants growing in our lakes. When these plants grow near your beach or boat dock, they can be a nuisance. The Adirondack Park Agency (APA) has regulations that cover this subject. The information below is from the APA website.

No permit is required for the removal of aquatic wetland plants, including their roots, under the following circumstances:

- The removal is conducted only by hand or by a hand-operated, tined rake;
 - The removal is limited to 25% of the vegetated area in water less than 6.6 feet (2 meters) deep, provided the total area of vegetation removed is no more than 650 square feet (60 square meters);
 - Any freshwater clams removed by hand or by rake are returned to the water body in a location where wave action will not cause beaching;
 - The removal is limited to areas used for swimming or other water recreation, such as docking or navigation to open water by watercraft;
 - All plant fragments are collected and disposed of in a non-wetland upland area;
 - The removal is not part of a larger harvesting program by individuals or groups; and
- The removal is not associated with any other activity involving wetlands, including dredging, filling, matting, application of pesticides, or other regulated action.

Tips for the Removal of Aquatic Invasive Plants

- The best time to remove aquatic invasive species is early in the season, while the individual plants are small.
- The quality of harvesting is more impactful than the quantity.
- The entire plant should be removed, including the root mass. Wearing gloves, ease your hand into the sediment and gently ease the plant out of the sediment.
- A mesh SCUBA dive bag or 25-pound capacity

onion bag helps hold the plants and fragments.

- Collect as many fragments as you can. After finishing, and once the water quality has improved, survey the area managed and the surrounding area and remove any additional fragments. Remember – if you harvest one plant but produce another from a fragment in the process you are not being effective.

- Inspect your lake-front after every wind or rain event and collect and remove plant fragments. This will help prevent re-establishment of new plants. Harvested plants can be composted and used for mulch.



HCSWCD Technician Katie Whitkovits surveys Indian Lake for aquatic invasive species.

The harvesting of aquatic plants from open water more than 2 meters deep (6.6 feet) is not regulated by the Agency. Depth is measured from the mean low water mark.

More information is available on the APA website: www.APA.NY.gov / Permitting / Laws / Jurisdiction Explanation / Hand Harvesting of Aquatic Plants.

Rakes that can be used to pull aquatic weeds are available for loan from Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District (HCSWCD), located behind the County Court House. (Phone 518-548-3991)



Our Board of Directors 2025-2026

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<i>Peter Tobiessen</i>	<i>Lake Ecologist</i>
<i>Dan Wilt</i>	

STATE BUDGET DELIVERS BIG WINS FOR THE ADIRONDACKS

Reprinted from Adirondack Council News-
letter, Spring 2025, (Edited for length)

The New York State budget [for fiscal year 2026] delivers major investments in the Adirondacks, including a record \$425 million for the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) and \$500 million for clean water infrastructure and septic system replacement. The budget affirms the state's commitment to environmental protection and community resilience in the Park.

Highlights include \$2 million in funding for a climate and lake ecosystem study (SCALE). Forest Rangers achieved long-sought improvements to retirement benefits, bringing them in line with other law enforcement officers. Additional funding includes \$42 million for open space protection, \$50 million for state land stewardship, and \$10 million for Adirondack/Catskill visitor safety and wilderness protection. The Adirondack Park Agency also secured \$10 million toward its new headquarters.

The Adirondack Council praised the state's leaders for prioritizing the region's environmental and cultural health during a challenging budget year.



STATE SEPTIC SYSTEM REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

Reprinted from DEC News Bulletin
July 2025

Governor Kathy Hochul has signed into law legislation making it easier and more affordable for New Yorkers to upgrade to advanced septic systems that significantly reduce water pollution, protect public health, and improve water quality. The Governor also announced a \$30 million investment for Round 5 of the State Septic System Replacement Fund Program to help homeowners upgrade or replace failing septic systems, particularly those impacting water bodies designated as priority areas.

The \$30 million in grants are awarded by the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC), in coordination with the Departments of Health and Environmental Conservation. New York State will provide funds to counties to reimburse eligible property owners for a portion of the cost of replacing cesspools and septic systems and installing more environmentally effective systems, like enhanced septic systems. Eligible waterbodies for Round 5 will be posted to EFC's website once counties have been notified of their funding amount. *Editor's note: State funding for round 4 included Sacandaga Lake and Lake Pleasant, as reported in LPSA's Spring 2025 Newsletter.*



MEET YOUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

This year, three of our current board members retired from their positions with LPSA, and three new Directors were elected at our Annual Meeting to replace them. We thank our past Directors for their time, energy, and ideas that they have contributed to our organization: Kathy O'Connell, Mark Donecker, and Tom Rippere. Also, we welcome our new Directors:

Laurie Allen

Laurie retired recently, and moved to live in Speculator year-round. In addition to over 30 years of experience in environmental science and policy programs at local, regional and national levels, she has academic background and work experience in aquatic ecology directly related to the LPSA mission.

She has a B.S. in Wildlife and Fisheries, a Master of Public Administration, and a PhD in Environmental Science and Policy. Her career experience includes work at National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and five years leading the national wildlife research program for the Department of Interior at US Geological Survey (USGS), where she worked directly with management of invasive species.



Laurie has expressed her interest in using her Federal work experience and her skills as a writer to help with grant proposal writing, plus her experience with nonprofit organizations to help LPSA with a variety of projects. She hopes to bring her unique perspective, broad knowledge, and specific skills related to the LPSA mission to protect the health and beauty of these beautiful lakes for people to enjoy into future generations.

Todd Caliguire

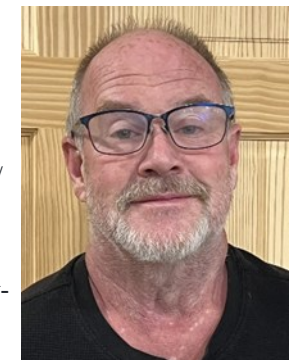
Todd is an avid water skier, and is a part-time resident on Lake Pleasant. He practiced law for many years, and has been the chief executive of a large public water utility company. Todd is interested in water quality preservation and preventing aquatic plant overgrowth. He has spent time in the Adirondacks for more than 60 years and is passionate about protecting and preserving the quality of the environment in this region for future generations.



Scott Greenfield

Scott and his wife have a second home in Speculator. He retired in 2020, and they are now part-time residents in Speculator, with their home base in New Jersey. Scott has a degree in Accounting and performed many corporate accounting and auditing functions during his career with TRW and AT&T/Lucent Technologies/Nokia.

Scott has agreed to serve as LPSA's Treasurer, succeeding Mark Donecker, who has been in that role for the past nine years. Scott also serves as the Treasurer/Officer of the D.R.A.G. of Speculator Snowmobile Club.



LPSA MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Lake Pleasant-Sacandaga Association is to conserve and protect the purity of all the lakes in the Town of Lake Pleasant, protect the environment, and conserve the scenic and natural beauty of the area.



WINNERS OF CONTEST AT LAKE PLEASANT SCHOOL ANNOUNCED

By Charlie Ascher

The winners of the thirteenth annual contest sponsored by LPSA at the Lake Pleasant School were announced at the school's awards ceremony on June 24th. Each of the students in 7th and 8th grade worked on research projects concerning aquatic invasive species and the problems caused by their introduction into our lakes as well as the trickle-down effects on the local economy. This year's projects were coordinated with a field trip sponsored by LPSA to Lake George on the Lake George Association's Floating Classroom along with a trip to a feeder stream to the lake.

The students' projects were presented for review using advanced computer techniques. Finalists were chosen by a panel of staff members. The finalists subsequently presented their projects to a review panel of LPSA representatives, who selected the rankings of the winners. The presentations this year included many new invasive species, both plant and animal, that had never been covered in previous years.

Each winner received a framed certificate from LPSA, along with a gift card as a reward for their accomplishments. Most importantly, all participants acquired a tremendous wealth of knowledge on a subject that affects all of us who love and utilize our lakes and waterways.

All finalists did an excellent job with their presentations, which made the job of the review panel very difficult. The contest winners, as chosen among the finalists, are as follows:

First Place – Josie Parslow

Second Place – Lilyana Mendez

Third Place Tie – Elia Reenders and Emma Crouse

Honorable Mention Tie – Liam Humphrey and Adeliz Ruiz



Left to Right: Rich Armstrong - LPSA Vice President, Josie Parslow, Lilyana Mendez, Emma Crouse, Elia Reenders, Adeliz Ruiz, Liam Humphrey, Charlie Ascher - LPSA Education Committee member

LAKE PLEASANT SCHOOL TRIP SPONSORED BY LPSA

By Charlie Ascher

LPSA sponsored a class trip for the seventh and eighth grade classes from Lake Pleasant School to Lake George in May. The students participated in various water quality experiments and testing while they were on the Lake George Association's (LGA) Floating Classroom. They utilized various pieces of equipment



including Secchi discs to measure water clarity, specialized funnels to collect water samples to look for microscopic organisms, as well as specialized thermometers to measure and graph the water temperatures at various levels all the way to a depth of 100 feet below the surface. The level of involvement, participation and responsiveness of the kids was terrific.

This trip was scheduled to augment their knowledge acquired during their participation in the annual LPSA school contest on invasive species. After spending about 2 ½ hours on the floating classroom and a quick picnic lunch at Shepard Park, the group continued the educational experience at the Lake George Recreation Center by learning about the importance of protecting the watershed of a lake. Samples were collected from the West Brook Stream and the various



organisms collected were identified. The weather was wonderful, and everyone had a great day while learning about the origins of Lake George, LGA's ongoing battles with invasive species and how fortunate we are in the Town of Lake Pleasant to have prevented the introduction of invasive species in our lakes so far. LPSA and the Town of Lake Pleasant continue our efforts to stop the introduction of these invaders. A special thank you goes out

to the entire Lake George Association staff who coordinate this wonderful program, especially Captain Todd Earl and Lindsey Ken- na, Education for Action Manager, who did an outstanding job running the program.



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

Does your family have more than one email address?
Would you like to receive our Newsletter and other LPSA news at more than one email address?
We would love to send our messages to every member of your family.
Please send your information to LPSA.ADK@gmail.com, and we will add any additional email addresses to our membership database.

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.

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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

BASIC MEMBERSHIPS

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

GIFTING MEMBERSHIPS—any payment over the Basic Membership level is Tax Deductible.

_____ SPONSOR \$30.00 _____ PATRON \$50.00 _____ BENEFACTOR \$100.00

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

Gifting Fund #1 The Foundation's general fund (for ongoing program expenses) \$_____

Gifting Fund #2 Kathy Huber Fund (held in reserve for a quick response to invasive species) \$_____



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

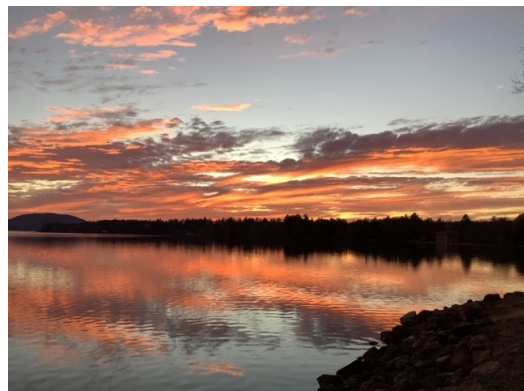


Photo by Shorty Hoffman

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