

Waterworks

New York State Federation of Lake Associations, Inc

July 2012

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Invasive Species Bill Passes!

NYSFOLA member lake associations have spent many years and large sums of money combatting aquatic invasive species. Many of the aquatic plant species came to the United States through the aquarium and water gardening trade. On June 19th, the NYS Senate gave final approval to a bill (S6826A), Sponsored by Senator Betty Little, that would restrict the sale, possession and importation of invasive species in an effort to combat a growing environmental and costly problem throughout New York. The bill had not been signed by Governor Cuomo as of press time.



A load of stony stonewort, and other invasive plants, harvested from Upper Little York Lake in Cortland County
Photo by Nancy Mueller

"Invasive species are much more than a nuisance, but a threat to ecosystems," said Little. "As we've seen across the state, once invasives are introduced and take hold, dealing with them is time consuming and costly and they are almost always impossible to eradicate. The point of the legislation is to strengthen our first line of defense."

The new legislation will require the Department of Environmental Conservation in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture and Markets and the Invasive Species Council to

(Continued on page 4)

NYSFOLA's mission is to protect the water resources of New York State by assisting local organizations and individuals through public dialogue, education, information exchange and collaborative efforts.

Waterworks

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All letters to the editor represent the viewpoints of the author and may or may not reflect the opinion of the NYSFOLA membership or Board of Directors.

From the President:



A New Partnership & Scholarship in Lake Management Planning

NYSFOLA AND THE SUNY ONEONTA BIOLOGICAL FIELD STATION HAVE APPROVED AN EXCITING NEW PROGRAM TO PROVIDE LAKE MANAGEMENT PLANNING SERVICES FOR YOUR LAKE THROUGH A NEW SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

NYSFOLA, in a collaborative effort with SUNY Oneonta's new Master of Science in Lake Management degree program, has developed a cost effective opportunity for your lake association to have a science based lake management plan developed. The work will be completed by a graduate student, working under the supervision of a North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) Certified Lake Manager (CLM), who will provide your association with the following:

- Watershed characterization
- Comprehensive limnological monitoring
- Stakeholders collaborative development plan
- Presentation of potential management strategies
- Cost development for various management options
- Creation of a Management Plan
- Initial plan implementation
- Presentations to your board, membership & community



How the program works:

- Your lake association will indicate interest.
- A SUNY faculty CLM will visit to ascertain academic viability.
- Your association will provide a scholarship donation.
- Those dollars are matched by NYSFOLA and others.
- The SUNY BFS will match donations up to \$5000 annually.
- A commitment is needed by August 15, 2012 for the upcoming year.
- The study will begin as soon as students arrive for the fall semester.
- Students should complete their projects at the end of two years.
- NYSFOLA has a limited number of scholarships for 2012-13 so contact the NYSFOLA office or Bill Harman ASAP. It is possible that SUNY may develop plans even if NYSFOLA does not have the additional resources.

(Continued on page 3)

This new scholarship program is a cost effective way to develop a management plan for your lake that will set a path for future water quality improvements. It will also help students in the only program that offers a Master of Science degree in lake management. We already have a number of lake associations that have committed funds to this program. If you are interested please contact Nancy Mueller (nysfolanancy@verizon.net), or Bill Harman (Willard.Harman@oneonta.edu).

Our 2012 annual NYSFOLA conference was a great success! I would like to thank the many members, speakers, and program coordinators that participated this year. Special thanks go out to Nancy Craft for her many years of service at the registration desk. Thanks to Vivian Mueller (yes, Nancy's daughter) for her first time, and hopefully not last, helping at every corner of the conference, including keeping "the big secret" of our highest award, the Lake Tear of the Clouds Award, going to Nancy Mueller!



CSLAP Coordinator Scott Kishbaugh, NYS DEC, presents NYSFOLA Manager Nancy Mueller with the 2012 Lake Tear of the Clouds Award, NYSFOLA's highest honor. -Photo by Jim Cunningham

I cannot tell you how fortunate we are to have such an involved and talented NYSFOLA Board of Directors EXCEPT THAT there are so many new and good thoughts

emanating from this board that our Saturday night Board of Directors meeting did not finish up until 10:30 pm! Much of our discussion involved hosting the NALMS International Symposium in NYS in 2015 or 2016. We are very excited about the opportunity to host this international lake conference, which will bring world class speakers and membership from the U.S., Canada and Mexico to New York. We see this as a huge benefit for our NYS lake associations who desire to attend.

We know that everyone worked very hard to help the Invasive Species legislation pass. Thank you to all of the lake associations who wrote letters to get the bill through the legislature. We all owe special thanks to the Lake George Association for dedicating staff and financial resources to get this bill on the Albany "radar screen" at last.

Another great success in New York this year, for the protection of our rivers and lakes, was a court decision to legally require steps to clean up storm water runoff. Storm water runoff is collected in separate storm sewers (MS4) and directly discharged into local watersheds contributing a large volume of chemicals, road salt, oils, gasoline, herbicides, and pesticides into our lakes and streams. The court ordered DEC to rewrite the MS4 General storm water permit to correct for a lack of oversight, establish total maximum daily load (TMDL) with compliance schedules, and involve public participation in the permitting process.

New York State officials are about to consider brand new hydrofracking rules permitting projected gas wells within significant watersheds that now supply safe drinking water, swimming, fishing, ecological, and recreational opportunities. NYSFOLA has written and submitted several letters to the NYSDEC in support of protecting our watersheds. You can be assured that NYSFOLA will have many future seminars and articles on this topic as the new gas well drilling regulations emerge. Have a great summer enjoying New York State's most valuable resource.

We welcome Tarki Heath from the Song Lake Association and the Cortland-Onondaga Federation of Kettle Lakes Association to the Board of Directors.

- Restrict the sale, purchase, possession, introduction, importation and transport of invasive species; and,
- in consultation with the Invasive Species Council, promulgate joint regulations to develop: permits for prohibited species disposal, control, research and education;

would result in a fine not less than \$250.00.

Commercial nurseries and commercial vessels and fishing vessels are subject to other penalties. A first offense would be subject to a fine not less than \$650, and subsequent violations would incur larger penalties.

The agencies would also be required to:

- develop a list of prohibited species, which shall be unlawful to knowingly possess with the intent to sell, import, purchase, propagate, transport, or introduce except under a permit for disposal, control, research or education; and
- develop a list of species that would be legal to possess, sell, buy, propagate and transport but may not be knowingly introduced into a free living state; and
- if deemed necessary, establish grace periods for prohibited and regulated species so businesses can plan the management of existing stock; and
- establish penalties for violations of invasive species regulations.

For any first violation by an individual, in lieu of a penalty, a written warning would be issued, and educational materials could be given to the violator. Subsequent violations

"The point of the legislation is to strengthen our first line of defense."

-Senator Betty Little

The legislation directs the Department of Environmental Conservation, Department of Agriculture and Markets, and the NYS Invasive Species Council to consider establishing grace periods for prohibited and regulated species so that businesses can plan the management of existing stock. Public hearings are also required as the regulations are developed.

Thank you to the many lake associations and individuals who have spoken out in support of this legislation. Special kudos to the Lake George Association and the Adirondack Nature Conservancy for their tremendous effort making this legislation possible as well as getting it passed. However, it could not have been accomplished without statewide support, and NYSFOLA members from every part of the state rose to the occasion.

We encourage you to attend the public hearings on the regulations as they are promulgated. We will keep everyone informed when they are scheduled. The voices of lake associations will be very important in order to make this a bill that truly achieves the goal of stopping the spread of invasive species.



Adirondack Eurasian Watermilfoil Management Summit

The Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program and the Adirondack Lake Alliance are planning a one day summit dedicated to sharing lessons learned from milfoil management in the Adirondack Region.

August 16th 9:00AM-5:00PM

Horicon Town Hall, Brant Lake, NY

Details <http://www.adkinvasives.com/Summit.html>

RSVP requested by August 2nd to Allie Smith at acsmith09@stlawu.edu or (518)668-5773



Alternative Onsite Wastewater Treatment Training

Skaneateles Lake Demonstration Project 8th Annual Tour

With Eric Murdock, P.E.

September 19-20, 2011 - Sherwood Inn, Skaneateles, NY

Cost \$299.00

Day 1 (includes breakfast & lunch)- Solutions for difficult sites: design, construction, operation and annual maintenance

Day 2 - Onsite systems tour

For more information, contact Candace Balmer (845)247-3511.

Annual Conference Draws a Crowd!

The annual NYSFOLA conference drew a crowd to White Eagle Conference Center in Hamilton. With topics including dam safety, hydrofracking, algal toxins, and climate change, the only complaint heard was that there were too many choices!

Meteorologist Dave Eichorn gave a wonderful keynote talk on climate change with emphasis on global weather patterns. We thank Dave for joining us, and we hope that this first trip to the conference will not be his last.

If you missed the conference, you can find many of the PowerPoint talks on our website. Look under the "EVENTS" tab at the top of the page, and then click on Past Conferences where you will find the 2012 conference talk links.

(Photos by Jim Cunningham)



SUNY ESF meteorologist Dave Eichorn describes global weather patterns that may be contributing to climate change.



Nancy Craft checks in attendees and makes sure everyone has a copy of "Diet for a Small Lake."



NYSFOLA Board member Bob Rosati auctions off some wine to raise money for the new scholarship.



Board member Don Cook presents the Media Award to Julie Sherwood of the Canandaigua Messenger.

G is for Galway Lake



Photo Courtesy of Bruce Kniskern

Galway Lake, in Saratoga County, was formerly known as the Amsterdam Reservoir. It was originally constructed in 1855 and enlarged over time to its current size of 580 acres.

The lake is owned by longtime NYSFOLA members, the Galway Lake Campers' Association, Inc., whose members utilize the recreational opportunities provided by the lake through the payment of an annual water assessment fee to the Galway Lake Campers' Association (GLCA).

The GLCA was incorporated for the following purposes:

- A. As owner of Galway Lake and associated land and other property, to represent and act for its members in the use, operation and maintenance of these holdings.
- B. To levy and collect monies equitably from its members for payment of costs incurred in fulfilling its obligations.
- C. To promote and encourage safe and healthy recreational use of the water of Galway Lake by members, their families, guests and tenants.

Galway Lake has been sampled as part of the Citizens Statewide Lake Monitoring Program since 1990. It is a moderately productive lake that is suitable for all types of recreation.

Thank you to the Galway Lake Campers Association for allowing us to reprint information from their website:

<http://www.galwaylakeassociation.com/>

GLCA President Glen Rundell developed the website, and Bruce Kniskern provided the photo.

The Galway Lake Campers Association has a number of Rules & Regulations that its members must adhere to:

- Use of Galway Lake is limited to members of GLCA in good standing and their guests.
- Hunting and trapping is forbidden at all times.
- Fishing is forbidden during the months of December, January, February and March.
- Shooting from or into the water by any person is forbidden at all times.
- No gasoline, diesel, or combustion engines are allowed on the lake at any time.
- The total horsepower of any other battery-powered watercraft must not exceed three (3) horsepower. Airboats and generators aboard electric watercraft are prohibited under this restriction.
- No septic run off is permitted into the lake.
- No discharge of greywater is permitted into the lake.
- Bathing of humans and animals in the lake with soap or detergent is prohibited.
- The GLCA discourages the use of fertilizer around the lake and does not permit fertilizer run off into the lake.
- Wash (preferably pressure wash) any boat(s) and/or trailer(s) which have been in any other waters prior to launching them into Galway Lake.
- The GLCA can not support the use of fireworks on or around the lake, as it is illegal "to possess, use, explode, or cause to explode fireworks in the State of New York," unless you have a license to do so. New York State Penal Law, Section #270.
- We all value the peace and quiet of Galway Lake, so please be considerate of your neighbors while preserving this special place.

Ask Dr. Lake...



Dear Dr. Lake,

I'm hearing a lot about toxic algae blooms. Where can I get more information? What do I do if I think there is a bloom on my lake? What's being done in NYS?

C.N. Green, Lake Microcystis, NY

Dear C.N.,

Harmful algal blooms (HABs) are receiving a lot of attention because of their adverse affect on the human and animal health as well as the "health" of local economies when blooms limit the recreational use of a lake. Although algae are nearly always present in lakes, the term "bloom" refers to a rapid increase or accumulation in the algal population which can result in the lake looking like "spilled paint" or "pea soup". There may also be green clumps or bubbling scums in the water. Although they make look bad, and limit the recreational enjoyment of a lake, many species of algae do not pose a health risk. However, some species of blue green algae, or cyanobacteria, produce toxins, and those are the species of concern.

There is a wealth of information available online about HABs. Your best place to start is with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation web site: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/77118.html> and the NYS Department of Health web site: <http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/bluegreenalgae.htm>.



If you have a bloom on your lake, take some digital pictures! Send them via e-mail to Scott Kishbaugh, at sakishba@gw.dec.state.ny.us or call (518)402-8179. Some blooms can be short in duration, and photographs taken at the peak of the

bloom, can help with identification. Use common sense and avoid contact with the bloom since toxins may be present.

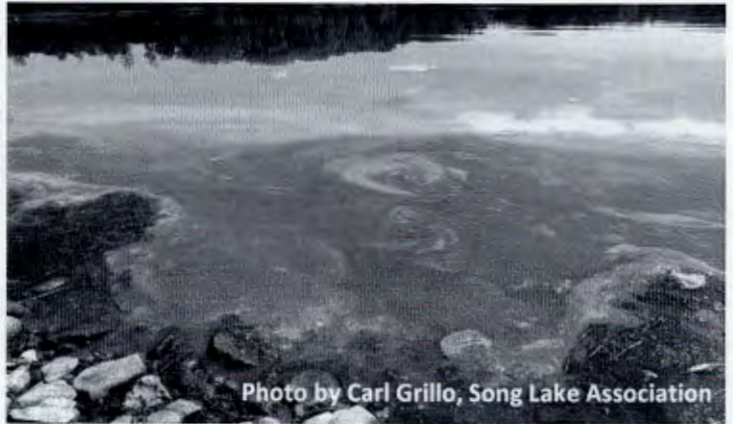


Photo by Carl Grillo, Song Lake Association

When in doubt, stay out!

Keep your pets out of the water as well. Dogs don't naturally avoid green, smelly water like people do. As such, they tend to ingest algal toxins when they lap up water and lick their fur. Severe liver damage and/or fatality can occur.



Photo Credit: CDC

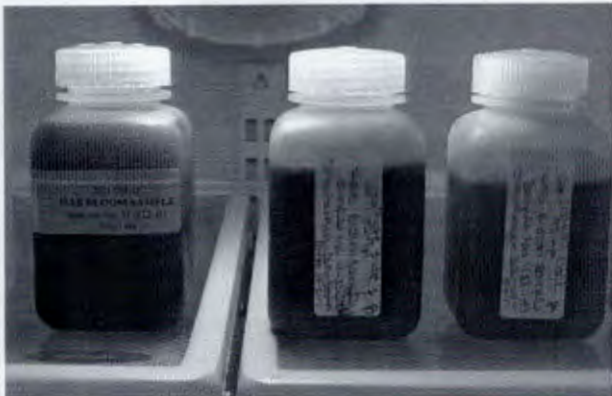
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) produced an Animal Safety Alert that you can print and give to lake association members:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/programs/bnatres/agricult/pdf/algaepostr.pdf>.

For the last few years, NYSFOLA has worked closely with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), the NYS Department of Health (DOH), Upstate Freshwater Institute (UFI), and the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF) to identify and sample HABs as part of the Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP). On a limited number of lakes, primarily those that serve as public water supplies, bloom samples are being collected and sent to the DOH as part of a study funded by the CDC. On all CSLAP lakes, routine screening for HABs and bloom sampling is being funded by DEC through a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Funds have been requested to extend the program for at least two more years. Samples are sent to Dr. Gregory Boyer, a world renowned algal toxin expert, at ESF for analysis.

The NYS DEC website has been recently updated to include blue green algal bloom notices based on data collected through CSLAP and other programs:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/83310.html>. This new notification page includes a table of lakes with known blooms as well as a map showing the location of those lakes.



CSLAP algal bloom samples awaiting analysis

Blooms are categorized in two ways. The first, “**Suspicious**”, means that a bloom has been reported but has not been confirmed by laboratory data. According to DEC, conditions at these waterbodies fit the description of a blue green algae bloom based on visual observations, digital photographs, and/or water quality screening data. However, it is not known if there are harmful toxins in the

water since conditions have not been confirmed with laboratory toxicity samples. “**Confirmed**” means that water sampling results have confirmed the presence of blue green algae blooms and toxicity high enough to cause health effects when people and animals come in contact with the water through swimming or drinking. Toxins have been detected in this water, and blooms may be present in all or part of the waterbody.

If you suspect that you have a blue-green algae bloom in your lake, or you, your family, or pet has been in contact with a blue-green algae bloom please contact your regional DEC office or contact:

Scott Kishbaugh, Division of Water
Phone: (518) 402-8179
sakishba@gw.dec.state.ny.us

When sending an email, if possible, please include digital photos of the suspected blue-green algae:

- close up of the water surface to help identify the bloom
- wide-range view of the bloom to assess the size of the bloom.

NYS DOH & DEC Issue Advisories for Fish Consumption During Blue Green Algae Blooms



The most recent edition of “Health Advice on Eating Sportfish and Game,” has been updated to include broad warnings against eating any fish caught in areas with visible blooms of blue-green algae. The document, available at http://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/outdoors/fish/health_advisories/, is published annually by the New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH) in collaboration with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to advise New Yorkers about known contaminants in sport fish.

The new advisories note that microscopic algae are naturally present in lakes and streams but can mass in warm, shallow, undisturbed surface water. While most are harmless, some produce toxins. Possible risks are nausea, vomiting, skin irritation, allergic reactions and harm to the liver and nervous system.

The data on toxin accumulation in fish tissue appears to be mixed. Some studies have shown that certain toxins accumulate while others do not. A study conducted by the State of Ohio on Grand Lake had mixed results with regard to fish species and

toxin accumulation. Some species of fish (Black crappie) appeared to accumulate toxins while others did not.

The science for examining fish tissue for algal toxins is also still developing. The sample preparation procedures and analytical methods are still being perfected according to a study conducted in the State of Washington:

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/summarypages/1003011.html>.

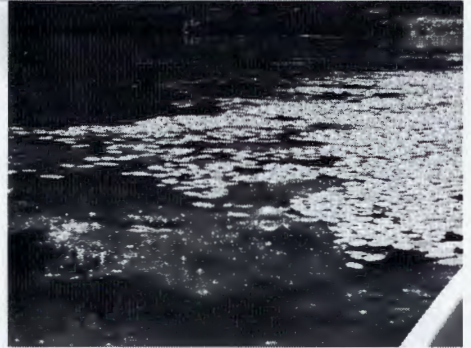
The State of Oregon has an educational flyer entitled, “Frequently Asked Questions: Fishing and blue green algae blooms” which is available online at:

http://public.health.oregon.gov/HealthyEnvironments/Recreation/HarmfulAlgaeBlooms/Documents/fishermanAlgae_factsFINAL.pdf.

It advises people, who decide to eat the fish, to remove certain internal organs before consumption to reduce the risk.

U.S. EPA Watershed Academy Webcast on Nutrients and Harmful Algal Blooms

In case you want to know even more about Harmful Algal Blooms, you can watch an archived video that was originally featured as part of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Watershed Academy series of webcasts. Many NYSFOLA members will recognize Ken Wagner as a Past-President and active member of the North American Lake Management Society and former NYSFOLA conference guest speaker.



January 26, 2011 Webcast Seminar on:

"Nitrogen and Phosphorus Pollution and Harmful Algal Blooms in Lakes"

by Ken Wagner, Water Resource Manager, Water Resources LLC, Wilbraham, MA, and Russ Gibson, Nonpoint Source Program Manager, Ohio Environmental Protection Agency

Join us for a webcast titled "Nitrogen and Phosphorus Pollution and Harmful Algal Blooms in Lakes." This webcast will highlight an emerging issue of nutrient enrichment leading to harmful algal blooms in lakes. The webcast will explain the connection between nutrients and harmful algal blooms such as blue green algal blooms. These algal blooms are causing loss of recreational uses including fishing, swimming and in some cases are resulting in increasing costs for drinking water treatment. The webcast will provide an overview of the issue and will present case studies on Grand Lake St. Mary's in Ohio and Lake Waco in Texas. This Webcast is a first in a series of Watershed Academy Webcasts on the important issue of nutrients and their impact on water resources.

You can view an Archived version of the Webcast; an MP4 version of the Webcast; or a PowerPoint presentation (pdf) by following the links at: <http://water.epa.gov/learn/training/wacademy/archives.cfm#lakes>.

Healthy Lakeshore Resources From U.S. EPA

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has other great online educational resources. You can find links to these at: <http://water.epa.gov/type/lakes/>.

The EPA's 2010 National Lakes Assessment found that lakes with poor lakeshore habitat are three times more likely to be in poor overall biological condition than lakes with good quality shorelands. Scientists looked at the amount and type of lakeshore vegetation, such as grasses, shrubs, and trees, in making their assessment of lakeshore habitat conditions. For this reason, the EPA has an entire section of material devoted to lakeshore protection and restoration: http://water.epa.gov/type/lakes/shoreland.cfm#CP_JUMP_480574. Here, you will find brochures and pamphlet produced from around the country. Among the best are a series produced by the Universi-

ty of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension (look under "Fact Sheets" towards the bottom of the page).



Here's an interesting item from the fact sheet entitled, "Lakeshore Development...It All Adds Up!" which cites a study in Maine showing that a developed watershed with 40% forest cover and a subdivision of one acre lots resulted in an increase of 720% in phosphorus delivery over an undeveloped watershed (Dennis 1986).

What does your lakefront property look like? Is it time to rethink that sloping grass lawn to the lake?

CSLAPpenings



Dear CSLAP Volunteers,

The 2012 season is underway, and we would like to take some time to explain the “road bumps” that have yet to be overcome completely as we head to press.

Every 5 years, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) renews its contract for analytical services. This contract includes *all* of DEC’s laboratory needs— not just those related to CSLAP. The contract is sent out for bid, and because of the way that the bid specs are written, it virtually eliminates smaller, more specialized labs such as Upstate Freshwater Institute (UFI). This is partly due to a mandate for certain instrumentation may be needed for other DEC programs (hazardous waste, air monitoring, etc.) but not for CSLAP. In past years, the large commercial laboratory that had the DEC contract, was willing to sub-contract with UFI to make CSLAP happen. This year, the bid was awarded to another laboratory that was not willing to do so. We recognized very early on, that we were going to have problems due to the nature and number of CSLAP samples, the necessary collaboration between DEC and NYSFOLA, the need to get algal bloom analysis done in Syracuse, and the new contract lab’s higher cost for chlorophyll *a* analysis which would have added greatly to program costs.

As such, DEC prepared a “Sole Source Justification” document which stipulated many reasons, including the higher cost of analysis, for making CSLAP “exempt” from the state contract lab mandate. Instead, DEC proposed, to the Office of the State Comptroller, that the agency would enter into a 3 year contract with NYSFOLA related to CSLAP services. This contract would include analytical services, bottle preparation, and Nancy’s salary and mileage. While the justification appeared to be “solid,” it was not assured, and by early June, it had yet to be approved. That is why we sent out an SOS to which so many of you responded. The conceptual approval was received by the end of June, and we are now moving forward to mutually agreeable contract language to ensure that CSLAP can run

smoothly for at least three more years. Thank you to all of you who contacted your legislators on our behalf. It made many of them more aware of this important program and moved things along more quickly. Please be sure to thank them.

For the most part, things are running very smoothly this year, but there are still some chronic protocol errors that everyone needs to take note of. For example, every measurement should be recorded in the metric system! Please make sure that you have read the 2012 Protocol and call us with any questions you may have. There are also some reminders on the CSLAP page of our website.

CSLAP is so easy, a dog can do it!



Long time CSLAP volunteer Rod Lindsey looks on as Gypsy, the newest volunteer from Loon Lake in Steuben County, reports that the water temperature is great, and sampling is a lot of fun!

Photo by Edward Sick, Loon Lake Association

PLEASE! SEND US YOUR PHOTOS!!

We are attempting to build a collection of CSLAP photos for use in PowerPoint presentations, “Waterworks,” training documents, publicity, etc.

E-mail yours to Nancy Mueller at foia@nysfola.org.

Congratulations to NYSFOLA Award Winners



Lake Steward Award - This award is given to individuals who have gone "above and beyond the call of duty" for their lake associations based on recommendations from NYSFOLA members.

2012 Lake Steward: Jim Adsitt, Tioughnioga Lake Association, DeRuyter, NY

Media Award - This award is given to a print media journalist whose coverage of lake related topics is deemed exceptional by the NYSFOLA Board of Directors. Entries are submitted by the reports and/or editors for judging.

2012 Media Award: Julie Sherwood, Canandaigua Messenger

County Award - This award is given, when appropriate, to a county staff person or department who has provided technical and/or financial resources to NYSFOLA member lake associations in their jurisdiction.

2012 County Award - Pat Reidy & Amanda Barber, Cortland County Soil & Water Conservation District

Membership Award - Given to the person(s) who recruits the most new NYSFOLA members.

2012 Membership Award - Richard Henderson, Black Lake Association, NYSFOLA Board of Directors



Nancy Mueller (left) and Bob Rosati (right) present Amanda Barber (center) with the 2012 County Award. The Cortland County Soil & Water Conservation District pays membership dues and CSLAP participation fees and provides technical assistance to four NYSFOLA member lakes.



Newsletter Awards - Given to NYSFOLA member associations who put NYSFOLA on their mailing list or submit newsletters in time for the competition at the annual conference. Judging criteria includes overall appearance, readability, use of color & photos, content/information, inclusion of a President's message and/or Committee reports, calendar of events, list of officers, table of contents, masthead, mission and (for bonus points) reference to membership in NYSFOLA or NYSFOLA activities.

2012 Newsletter Awards Small Lake Association: - 1st Place Lime Lake News, 2nd Place DeRuyter News, 3rd Place Loon Lake News

2012 Newsletter Awards Medium Lake Association - 1st Place Black Lake Currents

2012 Newsletter Awards Large Lake Association - 1st Place Saratoga Lake Association Shore Lines, 2nd Place Lake George Association News



Special Thanks to our CSLAP "Captains"

Tom Ashmore, Bob Deming, and Jim Finch of the
Lake Moraine Association

For many years they have provided their boats and their time to help make CSLAP training possible.

NYS Senate Bill Would Take Aim at Local Fertilizer Restrictions

NYS Senator Catherine Young has sponsored a bill (S-848) prohibiting municipal governments from adopting any regulations on fertilizer that are different from or in addition to any such requirement adopted in accordance with state law and rendering any local legislation in violation of this section void and unenforceable. Many localities have passed such regulations with setbacks from lakes to improve water quality. The setback in the state legislation is 20 feet.

The Justification clause of the bill states :

“Municipal governments are beginning to pass local laws regulating the sale and application of fertilizers with the belief that application of them is harmful to the environment and, specifically, that restricting fertilizer use will improve the quality of drinking water. This theory has no basis in science and, in fact, has been proven to be incorrect. In fact, these local regulations may do more harm than good. Properly applied, fertilizer is of no threat to the environment and, in residential settings, promotes fuller thicker lawns. A Pennsylvania State University study showed thick lawns slow the velocity of run-off and allow water to infiltrate the ground 15 times greater than a patchy, weed-infested lawn. An average lawn allows a run-off rate of about a half-gallon of water per minute during peak rainfall, as opposed to a rate of 7.5 gallons per minute from a lawn that is thinly seeded and bare. Research has also shown that the amount of phosphorous in run-off from lawns without phosphorous fertilizer was significantly higher than from lawns fertilized with phosphorous - the exact opposite of the intended effect of these local regulations. ”Allowing for local regulations will create a patchwork of differing fertilizer application requirements from

municipality to municipality that will make it very difficult - and costly - for applicators to achieve compliance. This will drive landscapers and fertilizer applicators out of business while driving the cost of fertilizer applications up, placing an undue share of the burden on the consumer. Additionally, the local governments considering these regulations often do not have the scientific or environmental expertise to create and enforce local fertilizer regulations, nor have they considered the cost of the program, which very likely could cause local tax increases.

This legislation, therefore, provides pre-emptive responsibility for the regulation of the application of fertilizer to the one agency in the state with the expertise required to do so - the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets.”

Of course, there are plenty of studies indicating that lawn fertilizer does, in fact, contribute to nutrient loading in lakes. This one, published by the United State Geological Survey is particularly thorough:



Garn, S. Herbert, Effects of Lawn Fertilizer on Nutrient Concentration in Runoff from Lakeshore Lawns, Lauderdale Lakes, Wisconsin: U.S. Geological Survey

<http://wi.water.usgs.gov/pubs/wrir-02-4130/wrir-02-4130.pdf>

If you want to make your voice heard on this legislation, contact members of the NYS Senate Agriculture Committee: <http://www.nysenate.gov/committee/agriculture/>.

Although we have printed most of the text of this bill, you can find more, including the legislative calendar for this bill, at: <http://open.nysenate.gov/legislation/bill/S848-2011>.

North American Lake
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NEWS FROM NYSFOLA MEMBERS

Volunteers from the **Schroon Lake Association** and **Paradox Lake Association** team up every August to conduct a New York State Boater Safety Course. This eight hour course is free of charge. Taking the course and passing the test entitles young boaters between the ages of 10 and 16 to operate a motorboat without the supervision of an adult. It is also the course that is required for all operators of personal watercraft (PWCs).

The **Saratoga Lake Association** reports that populations of invasive plants including Eurasian water milfoil and curly leaf pondweed are declining in Saratoga Lake thanks to a long-term management plan that was implemented in 2007. The plan calls for “spot” aquatic herbicide applications in addition to mechanical harvesting.

As part of Adirondack Invasive Species Awareness Week, the **Upper Saranac Lake Foundation** hosted an invasive plant paddle in an effort to increase awareness of aquatic invasive species. Upper Saranac Lake property owners joined Lake Manager, Guy Middleton for the outing. The group visited Aquatic Invasive Management (AIM) divers and learned more about Upper Saranac Lake’s hand harvesting methods for Eurasian water milfoil.



Researchers at the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry are conducting research on some of the kettle lakes (**Song Lake, Crooked Lake, Tully Lake, Little York Lake, and Gatehouse Pond**) located in northern Cortland and southern Onondaga counties. Specifically, the study is investigating the impacts of boat traffic and development on the success of non-native species establishment. Scientists are using this area to study these processes due to a gradient in boating access (public vs. private) and a range in the number of households surrounding each lake.

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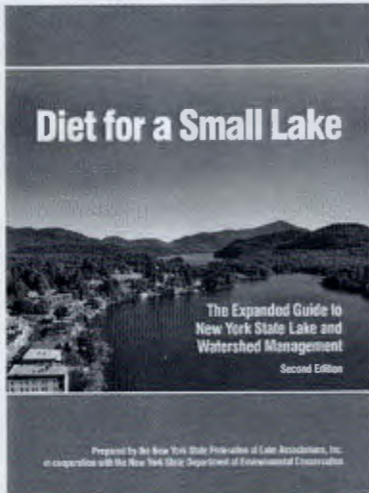
The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Water, has an on-line email newsletter called Making Waves, which provides information about new and important water-related issues, events and news, which could affect your watershed.

If you would like to stay up to date with Division of Water news, subscribe to the MakingWaves email list. You can expect to receive an email from this listserve about once a week.

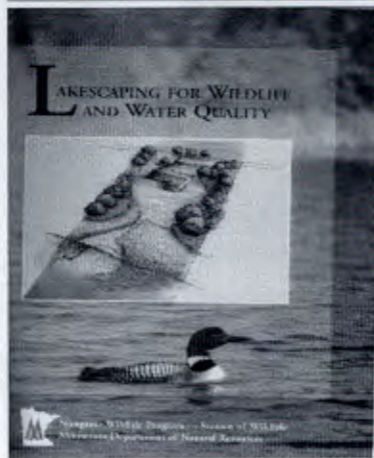
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Available from the NYSFOLA Office



Diet for a Small Lake: The Expanded Guide to New York State lake and Watershed Management— This book is a second edition collaboration between the New York State Federation of Lake Associations, Inc. and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. It serves as a manual for New York lake associations to understand the complexity of watershed management and lake ecology. It also encourages lakefront property owners to take responsibility for managing their lakes, rather than assuming that government agencies will do so. It guides readers through the basics of aquatic plant management and leads them through the process of developing a comprehensive watershed management plan. The book also addresses applicable federal, state and local laws with emphasis on New York State regulations including those that apply to the Adirondack Park



Order from NYSFOLA using the order form below: Cost: \$20 paperback \$35 hardcover plus applicable sales tax and shipping. You can also order (at a higher cost) and pay by credit card on Amazon.com.

Lakescaping for Wildlife and Water Quality: This book as a “must have” for those who want to be lake friendly waterfront property owners. The book includes chapters about lake ecosystems, designing lakeshore landscaping and selecting the right plants to do the job. The book has a bit of an upper-Midwestern bias, but it is very applicable to New York State lakes. Cost: \$20.00 plus applicable sales tax and shipping from the NYSFOLA office.

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Upper Saranac Lake at Sunset: Photo by Guy Middleton, USLA