

Waterworks

New York State Federation of Lake Associations, Inc.

November 2014

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Invasive Species Transport Bill

Becomes Law—Clean, Drain, Dry!

On September 2nd, Governor Cuomo signed legislation prohibiting the launch of watercraft in New York State without taking “reasonable precautions” to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. The bill was supported by NYSFOLA and lake associations from every corner of the state.

The legislation makes it the responsibility of boaters launching watercraft to clean, drain and dry the boat, trailer, and any other exposed equipment of visible plant and animal matter.

The law applies to launching watercraft or floating docks "...into a public waterbody or any inlet or outlet to such waterbody for any purpose, including by trailer or other device or carrying by hand...into the waterbody." According to NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) officials, an entirely private waterbody with no connection to a public waterbody ["public waterbody" will need to be defined in the regulation] would not be covered under this law. This includes many NYSFOLA member lakes.

The law (Bill A 9619B same as S7643) takes effect one year after enactment - technically by 9/2/15. DEC must adopt regulations that go through a prescribed legal process that typically takes about a year to complete. The regulations

will also focus on the "reasonable precautions" language in the law and prescribing what constitutes such precautions. In the meantime, DEC recently released its draft Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan (see p. 10).

What can NYSFOLA members expect? There is already a lot of information available to help boaters with recommended Clean, Drain, Dry procedures. You can find a lot of information at www.nysfola.org. Go to the “Lake and Watershed Management” tab on our home page. Drop down to “Invasive Species” on the menu, and then click on “Clean, Drain, Dry...” on the submenu. You will find **signage** that you can print and share, a link to “**A New York Boater’s Guide to Cleaning, Drying and Disinfecting Boating Equipment**” and a great **video** produced by the Lake George Association. New York Sea Grant Extension and the Cornell University Cooperative Extension Invasive Species Program have published a **New York State Watercraft Inspection Steward Program Handbook**. The 81-page, illustrated guide is the standardized model for starting new watercraft inspection programs and includes a Watercraft Inspection Steward Training and Field Guide section. You can find the link to this on the NYSFOLA website program with the directions above.



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.

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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 - George C. Kelley

GREETINGS!

Greetings. As fall brings the beautiful displays of color, lake people are rapidly closing their cabins, boats, and docks to await the long winter's nap.

There is no rest for the NYSFOLA Board as we have been actively preparing for a very busy 2015. In order to continue providing the best educational opportunities and services to our members, the NYSFOLA Board of Directors has decided it is time, for the first time in 20 years, to raise our dues and to add a new membership category. Many lakes are developing non-profit foundations that have also been seeking membership status in NYSFOLA, and the Board decided to add that category at \$100/year.

We have announced earlier that 2015 will be a busy year for our organization. Manager, Nancy Mueller, is our Chairperson in hosting the North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) International Symposium in November at the Saratoga Springs City Center. Several NYSFOLA members will soon be going to the NALMS meeting in Tampa, Florida where we will have opportunities to work with their staff and will have a booth promoting our 2015 Saratoga Springs meeting. We thank the members of the Host Committee who have been helping with this event thus far especially Dean Long, Holly Waterfield, Bill Harman, Matt Albright, Corrina Parnapy, Alan Richer, and the NALMS staff who have moved this forward.

The additional responsibilities placed on Nancy because of the NALMS meeting, created the need for Board members to pick up the responsibilities for organizing and running our annual May NYSFOLA conference at White

Eagle Conference Center in Hamilton. Dean Long has agreed to be the Program Chair. Laurel Mann, Tarki Heath and Nancy Craft will help with various pre-conference tasks. Terri Mayhew,

Bob Rosati, and others will continue their assistance at the Registration Desk and Silent Auction. Many thanks to all who help with this each year. Now is the time to let us know what conference topics you might be interested in! Call or email Nancy with your program ideas.



With continued concern over the encroachment of invasive species into our lakes and streams, several lakes are seeking more information and professional help regarding what we collectively refer to as Watershed Management. NYSFOLA and DEC cooperatively developed and published the 2d edition of *DIET FOR A SMALL LAKE*. This volume is designed to help lake members find specific information or gain a broad understanding of watershed management. We developed this publication to help lake owners understand "how lakes work". We deliberately incorporated extensive Table of Contents, lists of outside references to help people find additional resources, and references to many similar publications. As people, have used the book and realized its range of information, several groups have purchased multiple copies for their lake members, and one lake purchased copies for every one of its members. If this publication would be of help to your lake, please contact Nancy Mueller at the office. It's a good book to curl up with next to the wood stove while you're thinking about summer on the lake.

Ah, but since the frost is getting thicker each morning, it's time for me to close and pack for the trip to Tampa.

Interested in Serving NYSFOLA?

The NYSFOLA Board of Directors seeks members interested in enhancing their involvement in the scientific and administrative operation of the organization.

The NYSFOLA Board is the governing body of the tax exempt 501c(3) corporation, the New York State Federation of Lake Associations. The Board facilitates the corporation mission: *“To protect the water resources of New York State by assisting local organizations and individuals through public dialogue, education, information exchange and collaborative efforts.”*

Board members are elected for a term of office of three (3) years by the general membership at the annual business meeting of the corporation held in early May of each year. Any unexpired mid-term opening occasioned by a Board member resignation is filled by a majority vote of the remaining directors.

The Board usually meets at the White Eagle Conference Center in Hamilton, or other central location, to transact corporate business three (3) times a year: in the fall (September or October), spring (March), and at the annual conference in May. Meetings typically last about four hours. The Board is able to reach decisions at these short meetings because the majority of its work is actually transacted between meetings via e-mail and teleconferencing. *Applicants for a position of director must be comfortable with the use of these communication vehicles.*



We would especially like to hear from potential members in the **Adirondack region** since we do not currently have a Board member from that area.

Members interested in serving on the Board may submit a resume to the NYSFOLA Nominating Committee.

Contact: John Slater, Chairperson, NYSFOLA Nominating Committee; (October-April) 17 Brookline Drive, Utica NY 13501- 6550, (315)724-3949 (home) – (May-October) 4391 East Lake Road, Hamilton, NY 13346, (315)824-1649 (summer camp) – email sj Slater477@hotmail.com

The Board of Directors has adopted the following recommended expectations for potential directors:

- attend as many board meetings as possible
- be a NYSFOLA member, cultivate new members, and communicate with non-member associations about NYSFOLA membership
- attend the FOLA annual conference and support those who have conference responsibilities with ideas, presentation, and other actions
- serve on at least one committee, keep informed and assist as needed on other committees
- understand the priorities communicated by NYS DEC and support the CSLAP program for NYS lakes
- encouraged to support FOLA communications through contribution of articles to *Waterworks*, NYS-FOLA’s Facebook page and the FOLA website.

NYSFOLA: Lake Associations Organized for Action and Education

By Nancy Mueller, NYSFOLA and Holly Waterfield, SUNY Oneonta Biological Field Station

Originally published in the Summer 2014 edition of LakeLine Magazine, North American Lake Management Society

The call of a loon, the sound of waves lapping on a shoreline, a canoe trip through the Adirondacks, or the tug of a bass or walleye on a freshly cast line – these are the reasons why people in New York are drawn to over 7500 lakes around the state. New Yorkers are passionate about their lakes; so it's not surprising that the first lake association in the nation, the Lake George Association, was formed here in 1885. Since that time, hundreds of other lake associations have formed across the state. They range in size and scope from fully staffed incorporations, with large annual budgets, that are actively engaged in lake management issues to small clubs whose main mission may be to host an annual picnic or boat parade. What they have in common are people committed to their lakes, who are willing to volunteer their time and effort to ensure that the enjoyment of their lake is passed on to future generations.

Beginnings

Early on, most lake associations in New York focused their attention on local issues – lake level, zoning, development pressure, and taxes. There was some concern about water quality, especially in regions impacted by acid rain or urbanization, but things were generally “good” if you asked a lakefront property owner in most parts of the state. By the 1980's, concerns over water quality and Eurasian water milfoil provided the impetus for a group of lake associations to push for a statewide coalition. Within a year, the New York State Federation of Lake Associations, Inc. (NYSFOLA) was established with a mission “to pro-

tect the water resources of New York State by assisting local organization and individuals through public dialogue, education, information exchange and collaborative efforts” and a primary goal of encouraging New York lawmakers to establish a volunteer lake monitoring program similar to those in Vermont, Maine, Michigan and Illinois. Those efforts were successful, and in 1985 the New York State

Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP) was established as a cooperative program between the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and NYSFOLA. The program was successful, and in 1988 the state Environmental Conservation Law was amended (ECL 17-0305) to mandate CSLAP and provide a full-time coordinator at NYSDEC.

It can easily be argued that NYSFOLA and CSLAP have matured side-by-side. Nearly 2000 volunteers have participated in the program since it began, and over 100,000 hours have been spent collecting 20,000+ samples from 235 lakes around the state. The information collected by dedicated volunteers has become the state's primary lake water quality dataset and has recently expanded

to include harmful algal bloom monitoring. More importantly, CSLAP volunteers typically become more invested in their lake's water quality. They want to know more about lake management issues and become involved in decision making that impacts water quality. They ask the questions: Why are there more weeds? What do we do to stop these algae blooms? What does the CSLAP data



Figure 1. New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation's CSLAP Coordinator Scott Kishbaugh trains a new CSLAP volunteer on Java Lake. Photo: Robert Thill

tell us? NYSFOLA is here to provide the answers and move them toward a solution.

Activities

The mission of NYSFOLA is to educate and assist lake associations with their local efforts. Through its newsletter, “Waterworks”, website www.nysfola.org, an annual conference, and its network of CSLAP volunteers, NYSFOLA assists lake associations with everything from organizational issues, such as by-laws and insurance matters, to navigating the complex state regulatory framework, and a host of lake management issues. NYSFOLA and NYS DEC have collaborated on two volumes of “Diet for a

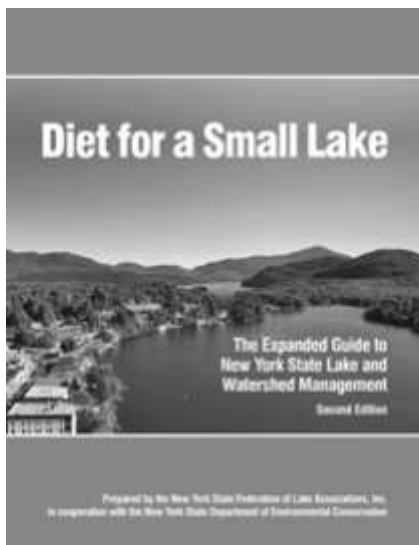


Figure 2. This NYSFOLA-produced book has aided many lakes throughout New York State.

Small Lake: A New Yorker’s Guide to Lake and Watershed Management.” This book has been the cornerstone for local lake management planning around the state, and thousands of copies have been sold.

As a result, lake associations in New York are increasingly engaged in lake and watershed planning, on-site wastewater treatment, phosphorus reduction, aeration, and invasive species management. Associations hire consultants, prepare permit applications, report harmful algal blooms, and submit aquatic plant samples. All of this is being accomplished as the mechanisms of funding lake management in New York are changing. State and federal funding has diminished over the last decade, and lake associations have been forced to take on more of the financial burden of lake management. Many have formed separate tax districts or foundations to serve as the fund raising “arm” of their association.

A University Partnership

The State University of New York College at Oneonta’s (SUNY Oneonta) M.S. in Lake Management provides a low-cost alternative for lake associations to start the process of comprehensive lake management. Responding to the need for well-rounded whole-lake managers, the program strives to train a new generation of lake managers

with the ability to assess lake ecosystems and the communities that revolve around them, and present sound approaches to mitigate acute problems in the short-term as well as plan for long-term management of the ecosystem. Lake associations with an interest in long-range planning benefit from an economical option that yields a comprehensive lake management plan for the future.

NYSFOLA has partnered with the SUNY Oneonta program to spread the word, connect the program with interested lake associations, and provide scholarship funds for graduate students. In a nutshell, a lake association commits to a two-year scholarship for a graduate student in the program; funding for two students per year is matched by the NYSFOLA Scholarship Program, with an additional match from the Scriven Foundation, a private foundation in the Oneonta-Cooperstown area. Students enrolled in the program each choose a lake and/or lake association on which to focus their efforts; the result of their two years of Master’s Thesis research includes, among other components, a comprehensive management plan for that lake and watershed (Figure 3).

Three faculty members and two staff members, all Certified Lake Managers, at the college’s Biological Field Station provide continuous guidance and mentoring of stu-



Figure 3. SUNY Oneonta and SUNY Cobleskill students assess the fish community of Goodyear Lake, NY, via electrofishing survey in October 2013. The survey is part of a whole-lake assessment that will be used to develop a comprehensive lake management plan for Goodyear Lake and its watershed through the work of a student in SUNY Oneonta’s M.S. in Lake Management program. Photo: Bill Harman

dents as they assess the current state of the lake and research historical conditions, survey the lakeside and watershed residents’ concerns and goals for the lake, provide

information for public education on key issues, and develop a range of solutions that both mitigate acute problems in the short-term and address issues more broad in scale with long-range lake and watershed planning. Drafting and adopting a lake management plan is a critical step and can be a means by which to obtain funding for management activities, but it is just the first step in establishing a productive working group that can move forward to implement the plan's recommendations.

Other Partnerships

In addition to protection their "own" lakes, New York lake associations are increasingly working together to solve local or regional issues hence the formation of the Madison County Federation of Lake Associations, which encompasses a group of small recreational lakes originally created to feed the Erie Canal system, or the Finger Lakes Watershed Protection Alliance focusing on the unique needs of the Finger Lakes region. They are also looking to NYSFOLA to take the lead on statewide issues. Recently, NYSFOLA worked with other environmental groups across the state in an effort to pass invasive species transport legislation. It will take lake associations large and small, from every corner of the state, to continue to get Albany's attention. The leadership role falls to NYSFOLA, but it is the active engagement of lake associations and their most passionate members that will get legislation through the Assembly and Senate.

As the role of lake associations has changed over time, NYSFOLA's role has grown to meet the demands. There is a greater emphasis on a statewide voice for lakes and an increasing demand for more lakes to be included in CSLAP. NYSFOLA provides the tools to ensure that lake associations, their managers and members continue to provide for the health of New York's lakes. Would you like to learn more? Join us at the annual conference of the NALMS 2015 International Symposium in Saratoga Springs.



Be Septic Smart!

Did you know that one-quarter of all U.S. homes have septic systems? Yours may be one of them. If you're not properly maintaining your septic system, you're not only hurting the environment, you're putting your family's health at risk—and may be flushing thousands of dollars down the drain! EPA's SepticSmart initiative is a nationwide public education effort that aims to inform homeowners living on properties serviced by septic systems on the importance of properly maintaining their septic system and provide valuable resources to help homeowners make important decisions regarding their wastewater management needs. The initiative also provides educational outreach resources for organizations who seek to promote this message locally. Find out more at: <http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/septic/septicsmart.cfm>.



Sleepy Hollow Hosts Columbia and Greene Counties Lakes Coalition Summer Meeting

By Theresa C. Mayhew, Lakes Coalition Coordinator and NYSFOLA Board Member

The Columbia and Greene Lakes Coalition met on Friday, July 25th at scenic Sleepy Hollow Lake in Athens, a 2200 acre residential community surrounding a two and a half mile long man-made lake. Mother Nature gifted us with a perfect summer day – sunny and warm with a slight breeze. Association of Property Owners of Sleepy Hollow Lake Manager, and fellow NYSFOLA Board Member, Laurel Mann, her attentive staff, and members of her board served as our hosts.

We were treated to a terrific power point overview of the history of Sleepy Hollow Lake and a lively boat tour following lunch. To learn more about this lake, log onto <http://www.sleepyhollowlake.org/>. Prior to feasting on some delicious culinary offerings from Pamper Thyme in Leeds, Paul and Warren Grosjean from Lake Bottom Blanket by Derma-Safe (<http://www.lakebottomblankets.com/>) gave a lively presentation on their product line, including the Deskuzzer (<http://www.deskuzzer.com/about-us>), which has my vote for the best descriptive name of the decade.

During the course of our meeting, we also had updates on the recent NYSFOLA annual conference and other items of import. We had about 30 individuals in attendance from Copake Lake, Kinderhook Lake, Queechy Lake, Robinson Pond, Sleepy Hollow Lake and Twin Lakes, as well as two special guests, NYSFOLA President George Kelley and Nancy Craft. All in all, it was a very informative meeting and a most pleasant way to spend a midsummer's day!

Western NY Lakes Celebrate 20th Annual Gathering

Over 60 people were treated to great talks and a tasty lunch on October 18th at Moonwinks Restaurant in Cuba, NY for the 20th annual gathering of NYSFOLA members from the western side of the state. Hosts Don Cook and Barbara Utter put together a great meeting once again. Hilary Mosher and Andrea Locke, coordinators of the Finger Lakes and Western NY Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISMs), discussed the activities of their groups and coordination across the state. Find out about your local PRISM at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/47433.html>. NYSFOLA Manager Nancy Mueller gave an overview of the history and growth of NYSFOLA since its founding in 1983. Did you know that over 240 lakes have participated in CSLAP over the years? Representatives from the Findley Lake Foundation and Loon Lake Watershed Improvement Alliance discussed their reasons for forming not-for-profit foundations and Terry Allison from the Lamoka-Waneta Lakes Association described the many lake management efforts the lake association has conducted to reduce nuisance aquatic plant growth and improve water quality. They are currently looking at a possible aeration project which was of interest to many lake associations. Attendees included members from Chautauqua Lake, Conesus Lake, Findley Lake, Finger Lakes Community College, Honeoye Lake, Java Lake, Lamoka and Waneta Lakes, Loon Lake, Rushford Lake, Silver Lake, Smith Pond and more! Next year's meeting will be October 17th at Moonwinks.



Barbara Utter from the Cuba Lake Cottage Owners Association and NYSFOLA Board member Don Cook, Honeoye Valley Association, hosted the 20th annual meeting of NYSFOLA members in the western part of the state

Bugs Wanted!



Enlarged picture of the tiny *Nanophyes marmoratus* - <http://bugguide.net/node/view/881468>

-By Tarki Heath, NYS-FOLA Board of Directors

Little beetles and weevils have been munching their way across the United States in search

mapped the distribution of the invasive plant, taking pictures and documenting its spread. In August, 2014, with assistance from the NYS office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, and the Cortland-Onondaga Federation of Kettle Lake Associations, Song Lake was permitted through USDA APHIS (United States Department of Agriculture - Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service) to

of their favorite food: *Lythrum salicaria* L., commonly called, purple loosestrife. This is a well-known, harmful, invasive plant in North America. It is difficult to control, but after years of research, there are currently two leaf-eating beetles, *Galerucella pusilla* and *Galerucella californiensis*, one flower and seed head eating weevil, *Nanophyes marmoratus* and the root damaging weevil, *Hylobius transversovittatus*, that have proven to be safe and effective.

Today on Song Lake, a small kettle lake in central New York, there are a modest 700, tiny loosestrife flower weevils (*Nanophyes*) that have been introduced, and are working their way around the lake, to ease the negative impacts of purple loosestrife on the watershed. The lake residents began to notice a dramatic increase in the growth of purple loosestrife over the past three years. Although the Song Lake Property Owners Association implemented best practices for reducing or eradicating the plant, it continued to thrive in the riparian areas and wetlands around the lake. The association



Photo by Eric Coombs, Oregon Department of Agriculture. Used with permission - www.invasive.org.

distribute *Nanophyes*. These flower weevils are expected to provide minimal impact initially, that is why the association is planning a second phase, with the release of the more aggressive loosestrife leaf beetle, *Galerucella*, in the summer of 2015. Although purple loosestrife is an invasive non-native in North America, with no natural predator, it is a native plant in many countries around the world and there are over 100 insects that do feed on the plant. However, as the plant traveled across North America - planted by gardeners and beekeepers going back to early 1800s, transported in ship ballasts and later assisted in its spread with the development of roads and ditches – life for this unthreatened plant was good. The spread of purple loosestrife was most notable when it aggressively moved into the Saint Lawrence River floodplain in the 1930's, finding its way to shallow waters and marshes throughout North East and North Central America. In these wetlands, the plant created mass communities, de-

stroying the natural diversity and negatively impacting wildlife and critical wetland functions.

Attempts to control the plant by digging, mowing and the use of herbicides failed to stop the invasion. The search for a biological agent for use in North America began in Europe around 1987, and after rigorous testing, the first beetles were approved for release in the United States in 1992 and 1994.

Each of these insects has proven to be host-specific (impacting only purple loosestrife), and their success and safe use has been well documented over the years. In New York State, the Montezuma Wildlife Refuge remains an impressive example of bio-control success on purple loosestrife. As stated on their resource management page,

“Numerous invasive species are found at Montezuma. Purple loosestrife is the invasive species that has had the greatest impact on the quality of habitats available at Montezuma. Current management of purple loosestrife primarily involves the use of biological control agents, weevils and beetles that are host-specific (feed and live exclusively on purple loosestrife). The goal of this biological control program is to establish the competitive balance between native plant species and purple loosestrife.”

Purple loosestrife can be identified at any time of year by its ridged, square stem. From late June to late September, the plant puts forth lovely pinkish to purple flowers that cluster tightly together on a long spike. A single, mature

plant can produce as many as 30 stems generating 2.5 million seeds. The plant propagates by seeds, roots and stem segments. The smooth leaves grow oppositely and attach directly to the stem.

Historically, it’s easy to see why gardeners liked this plant.

In addition to its prolific growth and beauty, purple loosestrife had been used as a medicinal plant. Although a discussion about the specific ecological impacts of purple loosestrife continues, the consensus from botanists, wildlife managers, and anglers confirm that purple loosestrife causes drastic changes to the ecosystem, making some areas inhospitable to native flora and fauna.

Other kettle lakes in the C-OFOKLA coalition plan to replicate the efforts of Song Lake, but it’s not enough to depend on controlling an invasive species after-the-fact. All of these lakes are doing what they can now, to prevent the introduction of new invasive species - through extensive education regarding boat washing and other best management practices - while continuing to work to control the invasive species already present.



USDA NRCS. Wetland flora: Field office illustrated guide to plant species. USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Provided by NRCS National Wetland Team, Fort Worth, TX.

Good sources for learning more about Purple Loosestrife and their biological controls can be found at: <http://epolicypace.blogs.pace.edu/2014/05/16/the-double-life-of-purple-loosestrife/>, http://www.sprucecreekassociation.org/Beetle_rearing_protocol.pdf, and www.oregon.gov/ODA/programs/Weeds/Pages/BiologicalControl.aspx, and www.seagrant.umn.edu/purpleloosestrife.

DEC Announces New Proposed Sportfishing Regulations

Adapted from NYS DEC Press Release October 15, 2014

Regulations Schedule to be Effective April 2015

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) is accepting comments on proposed changes to the freshwater fishing regulations through December 1, 2014. These regulations apply to many NYSFOLA member lakes



"New York provides some of the best fishing in the nation, and the continuous assessment and modification of sportfishing regulations helps ensure that this remains the case," said Commissioner Martens. "I encourage anglers to review what is being proposed and provide input if they wish to do so during the public comment period."

DEC modifies the sportfishing regulations approximately every two years as part of DEC's commitment to enhance fishing opportunities and protect the State's freshwater resources.

DEC assessed the status of existing freshwater sportfish pop-

ulations and the desires of anglers in developing the proposed regulations. In addition, many of the proposed changes are the result of DEC's efforts to consolidate regulations where possible and eliminate special regulations that are no longer warranted or have become outdated.

The new sportfishing regulations are scheduled to take effect on April 1, 2015. The regulations in the 2013-14 Freshwater Fishing Regulations Guide

will remain in effect until the new regulations are enacted.

Once enacted, a new regulations guide will be available.

To receive input early in the process, DEC made the proposed

changes available to the public on its website in July 2013. The early feedback helped DEC determine which regulation changes to advance further or to eliminate from further consideration.

Comments on the proposals can be sent by email to regulations.fish@dec.ny.gov or mailed to Shaun Keeler, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Bureau of Fisheries, 625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12233-4753.

The full text of the proposed regulations are available on DEC's website at www.dec.ny.gov/regulations.

DEC Releases Draft AIS Management Plan



The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) released its Draft Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) strategy to prevent the introduction and spread of AIS in New York State for public comment. **Comments will be accepted through December 15.**

Aquatic Invasive Species threaten the ecology of New York's rich abundance of waters and can harm water-based recreational opportunities and economies. New York is particularly vulnerable to AIS due to its vast marine and fresh water resources, major commercial ports and the easy access that ocean-going vessels have to the Great Lakes via the State's canal system. Managing an infestation is extremely costly, so prevention is the most cost-effective strategy.

"Prevention of aquatic invasive species is critical to the long-term vitality of waterways across New York State," said DEC Commissioner Joe Martens. "This strategic plan details proposals to further our efforts to help ensure AIS-free waters remain free and additional AIS are not introduced to other waters. We welcome the public's ideas and feedback on the draft strategy." This action-based Strategic Plan updates DEC's "Nonindigenous Aquatic Species Management Plan," which was written in 1993. The draft plan includes more than 50 actions designed to address prevention, detection, and response to AIS. Proposed actions identified in the strategy include:

- Expand the boat launch steward program statewide;
- Develop an AIS response framework to guide decision making when AIS are detected, and communicate the reasoning for the response selected;

- Implement an AIS public awareness campaign and evaluate its effectiveness in reaching target audiences;
- Expand the use of AIS disposal stations at waterway access sites;
- Establish regional "first responder" AIS teams to incorporate local expertise in planning and implementing appropriate AIS responses; and
- Identify and evaluate risks associated with pathways for AIS introduction and movement within New York.

Aquatic invasive species arrive by many pathways including direct introduction, live animal trade, the nursery and landscape trade, recreational boating and cargo transportation. Northern Snakehead, Sea Lamprey, Round Goby, Hydrilla and the New Zealand Mudsnail are examples of aquatic invasive species present in some New York waters, which can prey upon or displace native species, alter habitat or otherwise harm native species.

To help slow the spread of both aquatic and terrestrial invasive species, DEC asks all citizens to clean, drain and dry watercraft and gear after boating and fishing; use non-invasive plants in gardens and landscaping; use local firewood; and learn about, look for and report invasive species. Invasive species can be reported online to New York's Invasive Species Database, a partnership with the Natural Heritage Program and SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, by clicking the link to "Report an Invasive."

The Draft Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan can be viewed on DEC's website at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/99053.html>. **Public comments will be accepted from October 30 through December 15.** You can send comments to the address below or email them - enter "AIS Management Plan" in the subject line.

Philip Hulbert
 NYSDEC Division of Fish, Wildlife, and Marine Resources
 625 Broadway, 5th Floor
 Albany, New York 12233-4753

BoatUS Foundation Grant Applications are Now Available

Over the past 25 years the Foundation has awarded over a million dollars to local community organizations, yacht clubs, flotillas and squadrons. The Foundation is looking for creative and innovative projects that promote safe and clean boating on your local waterway. Past topics have ranged from PSAs on the effects of boating under the influence to hands-on education about the effects of marine debris.



Are you interested in the BoatUS Foundation Grassroots Grants Program? Applications are now available. Guidelines can be found at <http://www.boatus.org/grants/faq.asp>. The cycle closes on January 15th. Public voting will begin in Spring 2015. To stay up to date on the Grants program, sign up for their e-newsletter or follow them on social media.

If you have any questions regarding this program, please email the Grant Administrator, or call (800) 245-2628 ext. 8354.

CSLAPpenings



Greetings Everyone!

Another CSLAP season has come and gone, and we thank all of the volunteers and lab staff who made it happen.

How much sampling? This year sampling was conducted at 115 sites on 110 lakes, and over 800 samples were collected. This high level of participation and extensive data collection continued despite the 2013 loss of 33% of the CSLAP lab budget due to federal sequestration cuts (that were not restored in 2014). The CSLAP committee worked hard to reduce the impact of this cut to the program and the CSLAP participants.

Harmful Algal Blooms: As of late October, at least 40 CSLAP lakes experienced HABs in 2014, out of about 90 lakes reporting HABs throughout the state. Twelve of these lakes had samples showing high toxin levels- about half of the statewide total of lakes with high toxins. These numbers are very similar to those reported in 2013. However, many of the persistently blooming lakes in the state exhibited both fewer blooms and a lower intensity of blooms in 2014. Regionally, blooms seemed to be less persistent in western and central NY, and were similar or more persistent downstate in 2014.

Recognition for CSLAP! The CSLAP HABs program was featured in a national HAB webinar hosted by the United States Environmental Protection Agency, as presented by NYSDEC. Dr. Gregory Boyer recently gave a presentation about the program at the 16th International Conference on Harmful Algae in Wellington, New Zealand.

Online Data Entry Pilot: An on-line CSLAP data reporting pilot was initiated this year for about 15% of the

CSLAP lakes in 2014, with our sincerest thanks to Lou Feeny for overseeing the pilot. The forms will be further tweaked over the winter, and we will be seeking greater participation from additional CSLAP lakes in 2015. Interested? Let us know! We are working toward the development of more interactive information exchange that has both checks on the data entry, to make sure they are accurate, and some “in season” feedback to volunteers about field results relative to historical conditions. We hope that this pilot eventually becomes the primary means for CSLAP volunteers to report CSLAP field information to FOLA and DEC.



Training tools: An on-line CSLAP quiz was developed for 2014, but unrolled too close to the start of the sampling season and with a few bugs. This will be fixed in the coming months, and will be supplemented with training videos developed by DEC staff to provide some visual enhancement to the sampling protocol and the on-site training sessions at the FOLA conference in May. We expect these will be edited and posted on the FOLA and DEC web pages over the winter

Chocolate: A very special thank you to the volunteers at Queechy Lake for sending all those treats with their samples! It sure makes unpacking the coolers a lot more fun.

2015 Applications: The 2015 applications are being sent out. They will be due January 1st. Please send all of the forms, funds, and waivers in together to save Nancy from tracking down missing pieces!

2015 Training: Will be held on the afternoon of May 2nd as part of the NYSFOLA annual conference at White Eagle Conference Center in Hamilton. Please let us know ASAP how many people from your lake will attend.

Does Your Association Have Insurance?



It's a question that comes up frequently here at the NYSFOLA office? "How many lake associations carry Directors and Officers and/or General Liability insurance?" The answer: We're not sure. In late August, we sent an email to our members with a brief survey to try to assess the situation. We didn't get too many responses. However it is clear that some lake associations carry a lot of insurance while others have none. Based on the 20+ responses, lake associations that have General Liability policies spend anywhere from \$450-\$850/year for \$1,000,000-\$5,000,000 in coverage. Directors and Officers insurance costs were pri-

marily in the \$800-\$1200/year range for a \$1,000,000 policy.

Many of the smaller lake associations reported that they did not carry insurance at all. At the other end of the spectrum, the Upper Saranac Association carries General Liability, Directors and Officers insurance, a crime (theft) policy, a boat policy, and an umbrella policy.

We would like to continue gathering information on this subject, and you can help! Go to the NYSFOLA web page under LAKE NEWS (right side of page), click READ ALL, and you will find postings from earlier in the year. One of them is the lake insurance survey. We hope to hear from all of our members so that we can better assist other lake associations. Thank you.

Save the dates for two big conferences in 2015!



NYSFOLA 32nd Annual Conference "Advancing Citizen Science" May 1-3, 2015

at White Eagle Conference Center in Hamilton. CSLAP training will be held on the afternoon of Saturday May 2nd. Has someone gone "above and beyond the call of duty" for your lake association? Nominate them for a **Lake Steward Award!** (Send a description of their accomplishments to the NYSFOLA office by March 31st.) Registration will be available online or by mail. We'll let you know. If you have suggestions for topics this year, please email Nancy Mueller at foia@nysfola.org. Bring something special for the annual **Silent Auction**, and have a great time bidding!

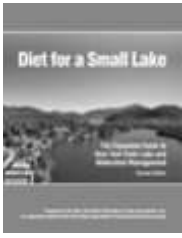


35th Annual NALMS International Symposium

"North American Lakes: Embracing their History, Ensuring their Future" November 17-20, 2015

at the Saratoga City Center in Saratoga Springs, NY. Join NYSFOLA as we host the North American Lake Management Society and welcome them to the Empire State for the first time. If you've never been to Saratoga, this is a great time to visit this historic location while learning about lake management around the continent. We are planning a field trip, pub crawl, the annual NALMS 5K "Clean Lakes Classic" race...and more!

Available from NYSFOLA



Diet for a Small Lake: The Expanded Guide to New York State Lake & Watershed Management

A “must have” publication for anyone who cares about New York State lakes. This publication offers an introduction to lake ecology, descriptions of lake restoration and watershed management techniques and relevant New York State laws and regulations plus guidance for preparing a watershed management plan.

New Price! Get them while they last! \$15.00

Hardcover: \$25.00



Lakescaping for Wildlife and Water Quality

This book is a great resource for those who want to be lake friendly property owners. The book includes chapters about lake ecosystems, designing lakeshore landscaping and selecting the right plants. The book has a bit of an upper-midwestern slant, but it is very applicable to New York lakes.

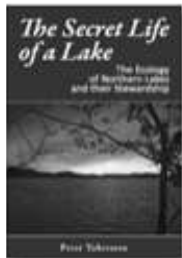
Spiral Bound Paperback: \$20.00



Life on the Edge: Owning Waterfront Property

Published by the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership, this lakefront friendly living guide is useful for New Yorkers, too. In it's 7th edition, *Life on the Edge... Owning Waterfront Property* is considered one of the nations best guides for potential and new water front property owners. This refreshingly practical and easily understood publication will pay back sizable dividends in matching expectations to the realities of water front living.

Paperback: \$10.00



The Secret Life of a Lake: The Ecology of Northern Lakes and their Stewardship

We are very pleased to offer this new publication written by NYSFOLA member and CSLAP volunteer Peter Tobiasen from the Lake Pleasant-Sacandaga Association. Peter has taught aquatic biology for many years at

Union College. By letting readers in on a lake's “secret life,” the author hopes to give them a deeper understanding of these complex and dynamic ecosystems, and perhaps even motivate some to become more active in a lake's preservation. Paperback: \$19.00



Through the Looking Glass: A Field Guide to Aquatic Plants - NEW EDITION!!

A Wisconsin Lake Partnership publication containing wonderful line drawings and descriptions of the most common freshwater plants. Paperback: \$30.00

You can now order online at www.nysfola.org!

Shipping and Handling: Books will ship via U.S. Postal Service Media Rate.

1 copy \$5.50
2 copies \$6.50
3 copies \$7.50
4 copies \$8.50



Please make check payable to NYSFOLA and mail to:

**New York State Federation of Lake Associations, Inc.
P.O. Box 84
LaFayette, NY 13084**

TITLE	PRICE	QUANTITY	SUBTOTAL
DIET FOR A SMALL LAKE (pap)	\$15.00		
DIET FOR A SMALL LAKE - (hdc)	\$25.00		
LAKESCAPING ...	\$20.00		
LIFE ON THE EDGE	\$10.00		
THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS	\$30.00		
THE SECRET LIFE OF A LAKE	\$19.00		
Shipping & Handling	see	chart	
TOTAL			

2015 Membership Form

New York State Federation of Lake Associations, Inc.

Lake, Watershed and other Associations:

Small Association (10-74 members)	\$ 50.00
Medium Association (75-149 members)	\$ 100.00
Large Association (150 or more members)	\$175.00
Foundation (Affiliated with NYSFOLA member lake association)	\$100.00

Individual Memberships:

Individual Membership (not a member of a NYSFOLA member lake association)	\$ 25.00
Individual member of a NYSFOLA member lake association in good standing	\$ 15.00

Corporate Membership: \$250.00

Student Membership (with copy of valid student ID) \$15.00

Name of Lake Association or Individual _____

Location (County) _____ **Sponsor (if any)** _____

Contact Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____

E-Mail _____

Web site _____

Amount Remitted _____ Check # _____ Date _____

Any Additional Donation? _____



Send Payment to:

New York State Federation of Lake Associations, Inc. (NYSFOLA) P.O. Box 84 LaFayette,
NY 13084

IS YOUR NEIGHBORING LAKE ASSOCIATION A MEMBER OF NYSFOLA? IF NOT, REACH OUT TO THEM, AND INVITE THEM TO JOIN US!

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Morning mist on Cazenovia Lake - Photo by Nancy Mueller