

Waterworks

New York State Federation of Lake Associations, Inc.

August 2015

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Record Crowd in Attendance at NYSFOLA Annual Conference

The annual conference was a huge success this year as nearly 250 people spent all or part of the first weekend in May at White Eagle Conference Center.

This year, NYSFOLA honored Lake George Park Commission Executive Director David Wick with the Lake Steward Award for his contributions to Adirondack area lake associations. Dr. Gregory Boyer, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, was given the Lake Tear of the Clouds Award for his contributions to CSLAP and the NYS Harmful Algal Bloom monitoring program. His graduate student Katherine Perri was also thanked for the enormous amount of work she has done for the program.

NYSFOLA would like to thank NY Sea Grant for their participation in this year's conference. Their Watercraft Inspection /Steward Program Workshop was well received.

We want to thank our sponsors and exhibitors who help to make the conference a financial success: Allied Biological, Inc., Bergmann Associates, Cayuga Wine Trail, Derma Safe/Lake Bottom Blankets, EcoAnalysts, Inc., GeoTube, MyLakeTown.com, Page's Seeds, Polar Fire Hi-Tech Fishing, Princeton Hydro, Seaweed Mat Systems, Schnabel Engineering, Seneca Lake Winery, Swedish Hill Winery, Upstate Freshwater Institute, Urda Engineering, Woidt Engineering, WSP Group, and Vertex Water Features.



The Tepee served as the hospitality room and the location for the 2015 live wine auction.



The weather was perfect for CSLAP training on Lake Moraine. Thank you to our boat captains!



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 - George C. Kelley

Greetings!

Our phenomenal NYSFOLA manager, Nancy Mueller, has again developed a wonderful edition of *Waterworks*. She did this while juggling NYSFOLA and CSLAP work, presenting talks at various meetings, and doing the planning and program for the upcoming North American Lake Management Society meeting.

So—in my letter to you this time, I will not reiterate the topics and ideas that have been covered so well. Instead, think about this problem and the choices we can make to keep our lakes clean by just one of the ever emerging threats: pharmaceutical contamination.

I recently visited my local pharmacy to purchase a supply of cataract eye drops. (Yes, I am at that stage of life.) Since I had accumulated a box full of old medicines over the years, I asked if the pharmacy took old medicines for disposal. I learned that the pharmacy could not take medicines after they had left the store, but the pharmacist gave me a card indicating that the local police departments would take and dispose of these medicines safely.



While I waited for my new prescription, I saw an ad for a bag to be used for disposal of unwanted drugs. Each bag cost \$5.00. The list of instructions said to put your unwanted medicines in the bag, close it tightly, and put in your garbage.

As I left the store, my mind returned to this question: What kind of bag would be secure enough to prevent leakage of these medicines into a landfill? I am old enough to remember unused medicines being flushed down the toilet into sewer or septic systems and eventually into groundwater,

lakes and rivers.

I had some time before my next appointment, so I visited one of the local police departments listed on the card. By now, I was suspicious, so I asked the receptionist how the department disposed of these drugs. She directed me to the Chief. He responded that incoming medicines were deposited into a locked steel vault. Only the Chief had the key; he removed the drugs twice a year and delivered them to a high-temperature bio-med incinerator for destruction. This procedure seemed much more logical!

Keep in mind that all medicines are chemicals, and pharmaceuticals are one of the new emerging pollutants impacting our surface and groundwater supplies. I found this bit of information at <http://dontflushdrugs.org/>.

Do NOT flush or pour unwanted, unused or expired medications down the drain. This includes expired and unused prescriptions and over-the-counter drugs.

Why Not Flush?

Flushed medications can get into our lakes, rivers and streams

Research has shown that continuous exposure to low levels of medications has altered the behavior and physiology of fish and aquatic organisms.

Pharmaceuticals enter our wastewater from a variety of sources including the flushing of unused medications.

Long-term exposure to low levels of antibiotics might result in the evolution of, or selection for, drug-resistant microbes and bacteria.

Let's spread the word to keep our lakes free from these contaminants!



Finger Lakes Regional Watershed Alliance & NYSFOLA Urge Increased Staffing at DEC “For the Sake of Our Lakes”

Ventosa Vineyards in Geneva, NY served as the picturesque location for the June 26th Finger Lakes Regional Watershed Alliance meeting “For the Sake of Our Lakes.” This event was held to discuss lake related issues with state and federal officials representing the Finger Lakes Region. Hilary Mosher from the Finger Lakes Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management discussed the impact of invasive species, and NYSFOLA Manager Nancy Mueller urged increased staffing for the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation as follows:

Over the last two decades, what was once the NYS DEC “Lakes Services Section” (responsible for monitoring, assessment, management, permit review, technical assistance, special studies, research, public education, etc.) has been drastically reduced. In the late 1980’s-1990’s, this section had 8-10 staff members in Albany. In addition, each of the 9 DEC regional offices had a designated “lake manager” who handled at least some of the lake related work load. During this time, the DEC Division of Water was heavily involved in acid rain research, the restoration of Onondaga Lake, administering and developing management plans for many large lakes, helping lake related organizations, and contributing to other activities in support of private and public lake management.

Since then, many of the same lake related issues remain while new issues have moved to the forefront. DEC staff must now concern themselves with new concerns about harmful algal blooms, newly identified aquatic invasive species, numeric nutrient criteria requirements, and emerging pollutants such as pharmaceuticals. At the same time, the “Lake Services Section” has been downgraded to the “Lake Monitoring and Assessment Section” with fewer staff members, less management responsibility, and even less funding. Monitoring budgets have dropped by more than 75%. DEC no longer has a collaborative agreement with the Department of Health to monitor and analyze water samples. The Federal Clean Lakes Program has disappeared. DEC sampling boats are all between 10 and 20 years old. Collaborative programs with several academic researchers are sunsetting. The Division of Water now has



Ventosa Vineyards overlooking Seneca Lake

a very limited involvement in the management of most high profile lakes and acid rain research. There remain some regional staff dedicated to the Great Lakes, but there is little to no involvement in the management of the more than 7500 inland lakes in New York.

With retirements and attrition, only four lakes staff remain in Albany, and only a few of the regional offices maintain any lake expertise. Most of this has shifted to Fish & Wildlife staff. In the last year, four DEC Division of Water staff, who worked closely with the lakes program and represented 125 years of combined experience, have retired. None of them have been replaced.

In addition, younger seasonal staff who were kept on in an effort to maintain barebones programs have left because permanent jobs did not become available. As the remaining staff members age (all but one are over the age of 50), programs have been further eroded. Nearly all of these staff members will be gone in a decade.

The majority of the lake management work in New York, supported by the NYS DEC Division of Water, is conducted by a single staff person. Lake support from non-Division of Water staff is limited primarily to fisheries and public access support.

Although there continues to be partnerships with other organizations, such as NYSFOLA, to deliver programs like

the Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program, lake management in New York, as overseen by the Division of Water, now falls well short of the high standard set for many years. The situation will only become worse as the last remaining staff retire or get diverted into other programmatic needs. To make matters worse, many academic researchers at public and private universities have also retired or are near retirement.

New York needs to put the “Service” back in the Lake Services Section! Research on lake related issues needs to move forward. **We urge the Governor Cuomo and the state legislature to allow the NYS DEC Division of Water to hire 4-5 mid-level Research Scientists with expertise in lake management issues.**

Where do we go from here?

WRITE!

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Make sure that you also describe the impact this has had or will have on your lake (especially if you’re a CSLAP participant).

WRITE OR CALL! Your state representatives (Senate and Assembly). Who are they?

NYS Senate: <http://www.nysenate.gov>

NYS Assembly: <http://assembly.state.ny.us/>

Include members of the Senate and Assembly Environmental Conservation Committees.

NYS Assembly: <http://assembly.state.ny.us/comm/?sec=mem&id=15>

NYS Senate: <http://www.nysenate.gov/committee/environmental-conservation>

Adirondack Park Agency Approves General Permits to Fight Invasive Species

(from Adirondack Agency press release)

On July 2nd, the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) approved two general permits to advance New York State’s goal to combat invasive species in the Adirondack Park. General Permits 2015G-1 and 2014G-1A authorize a rapid response to both aquatic and terrestrial invasive species throughout the Adirondack Park by qualified and trained persons. These general permits approve eradication efforts both on a park-wide scale as well as for individual waterbodies or specific locations.

APA Chairwoman Lani Ulrich said, “Under the leadership of Governor Cuomo, the Adirondack Park Agency continues to streamline our permitting process to ensure we effectively respond to the threat of invasive species. These general permits will enable those on the front line to respond immediately to new infestations. Fast action by qualified personnel is critical to combat aggressive invasive species.”

General Permit 2014G-1A authorizes the New York State Department of Transportation, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, the Adirondack Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program, and the Regional Inlet Invasive Plant Program to conduct management of terrestrial invasive species without the need to seek a permit from the APA for each specific project. In addition, this permit allows the APA Deputy Director for Regulatory Programs to certify new users once trained and determined to be qualified.

General Permit 2015G-1 authorizes the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Lake George Park Commission, Hudson River Black River Regulating District, Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program, qualified lake associations/organizations, local municipalities, certified lake managers, and experienced lake managers approved by the APA to use benthic and hand harvesting techniques to control aquatic invasive species.

Additional information is available on the Agency’s website at <http://apa.ny.gov/Forms/index.cfm>

NYSFOLA BOD Thanks Kathleen McLaughlin, Lake Oscawana Civic Association

The NYSFOLA Board of Directors would like to thank long time Board member Kathleen McLaughlin for her dedication to NYSFOLA. Kathleen resigned in May, and we wish her all the best with her busy schedule at the Putnam Valley Library and volunteer work with the Lake Oscawana Civic Association.

NYSFOLA Comments on NYS DEC Draft General Permit For Aquatic Invasive Species Management

In May of this year, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation proposed a General Permit for the management of aquatic invasive species http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/permits_ej_operations_pdf/gp015005prmt.pdf . NYSFOLA submitted written comments on behalf of our members as follows:

Mr. Stuart Fox, Deputy Chief Permit Administrator
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation
625 Broadway - Albany, NY 12233

Dear Mr. Fox,

The New York State Federation of Lake Associations, Inc. is a statewide not-for-profit organization. Our membership includes over 250 lake associations, hundreds of individual, corporations, and others interested in protecting New York lakes. We offer the following comments on General Permit GP-0-15-005 Management of Invasive Species.

Joint Application Form – We concur that a map indicating the project area is a useful tool, but we are concerned that the Conformance With Plans language is too strict.

For example, what if a hand harvesting permit is received, but additional plants are discovered outside of the mapped area? In accordance with DEC’s Early Detection/ Rapid Response Plan, those additional plants should be removed, but taking the time to stop and revise the permit application is unreasonable. There should be some language to allow reasonable decision making in such instances.

Drawdowns of Controlled Waterbodies - Does the proposed language mean that drawdown will not be allowed to manage invasive species or just not allowed as part of the general permit? The language is not clear. Drawdown can be a useful technique in some instances. We recognize that there can be habitat issues associated with the methodology, but it should not be entirely eliminated as a tool for managing aquatic invasive species.

Hand Harvesting – We have heard from some lake associations that the “assisted with nonmotorized tools” language is not clear. We would like to see more specifics on what is allowed and not allowed.

Benthic Barriers – We concur that there needs to be a reg-

ulatory framework for the use of benthic barriers due to the potential for habitat disruption. However, DEC may find that the proposed language deluges the regional offices with permit applications. Many thousands of benthic barriers have been sold across the state. Is the agency prepared to handle the flood of permit applications?

“Benthic barriers are authorized only for eradicating new infestations within the past two years.” We strongly disagree that only NEW infestations are NUISANCE infestations. Aquatic invasive species frequently need continued monitoring and management to be kept in check. How is a one year old infestation of (for example) Eurasian Water Milfoil any less of a problem than a recurring nuisance level several years later?

No natural stone from lake bottom shall be used to anchor mats” – We concur that natural stone from the lake bottom should not be disturbed. Natural stone from other locations, however, might be preferred to rebar and/or concrete blocks? Natural stone as an anchor should not necessarily be excluded.

The Permittee must notify the DEC Regional Office of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources when benthic mats have been removed. While we concur that mats need to be removed, we repeat our concern that DEC does not have the staffing capacity to handle this situation.

Shoreline Erosion Control – We agree that erosion must be minimized. A growing concern from our standpoint is the continued “concreting” (with DEC approval) of shorelines around the state. The 2010 US EPA National Lakes Assessment found that “degraded lakeshore habitat is the most significant stressor to poor biological integrity...From the standpoint of human disturbances along lakeshores, just one-third (35%) of the country’s lakes are in good condition.” NYSFOLA believes that this needs to be addressed as a statewide priority.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed General Permit.

Sincerely,

George C. Kelley, President



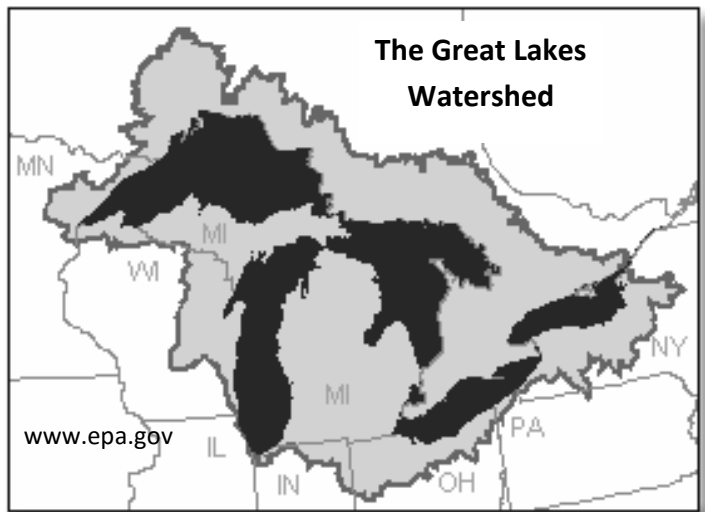
100,000 gallon/day Withdrawal Rule for NYS waters: Red ribbon safeguard or just more red tape?

By Rebecca Schenider, Dept. Natural Resources, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY RLS11@cornell.edu

Unheralded and rather overlooked was a recent updating to the Water Resources Law of NYS. With the final implementation regulations effective in April 2013, the new rule requires a permit from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) for any type of water withdrawal system having the capacity of 100,000 gallons per day (gpd) or more of surface water or groundwater. It no longer applies only to public water supplies. <http://www.dec.ny.gov/regs/445.html> Additionally, the rule requires statewide regulations of existing agricultural withdrawals greater than 100,000 gpd averaged over 30 days and major basin diversions of the same. In a state where only ~2% of agriculture is irrigated (as compared to California with 98% irrigation!), this rule potentially has big implications for NYS farmers who are juggling increasing water demands in the face of hotter summers and more frequent or longer droughts, as well as for municipal water suppliers or new industry initiatives.

On the surface, the new requirements seem like just a lot more paperwork and bureaucracy. However, a broader perspective on how this came about and the intended goals is critical for understanding what's at stake. First step back in time to 1997, when a company requested a permit to withdraw 155 million gallons of water annually from Lake Superior for export to Asia. The request was unprecedented and raised red flags-were there any regulations in place to prevent more requests or exports of larger volumes of water? A moratorium was put in place while representatives from both the United States and Canada began developing a plan with the goal that "new or increased withdrawals will result in no significant individual or cumulative adverse impacts to the quantity or quality of the Waters and Water Dependent Natural Resources and the applicable Source Watershed" of the Great Lakes basin. Fast forward one decade, through alternative proposals, public stakeholder meetings, signed commitments by the governors of all eight Great Lake states and two Canadian provincial ministers to October 2008, when the final, highly vetted Great Lakes Water Resources Compact was signed into law by President George Bush.

Over this same decade, the existence of global warming made itself increasingly obvious, highlighted by many of the warmest years on record, melting and rapid decline of



the Arctic ice cap, and an increase in frequency of intense downpours and associated floods. It was also the driver behind severe droughts, like the 2012 Midwest drought which seriously reduced corn yields and the on-going extended drought in California, which is impacting production of >90% of the U.S. crops of almonds, lettuce, strawberries and other key food items. Diminishing rainfall is affecting food production in other parts of the world as well, and water scarcity is gaining recognition as replacing energy as the key limiting resource globally. As the demand for water increases, the U.S. and the world will turn their attention to the wealth of water in the Northeast and particularly to the Great Lakes which contain approximately one fifth of the world's fresh surface water supply. Without the Great Lakes Compact, it is possible that excessive, uncontrolled water withdrawals would drain this resource, adding to the list of "endangered" water bodies like the Colorado River, the Aral Sea and others.

The 100,000 gallon/day withdrawal reporting rule is a requirement for all the contributing watersheds to the Great Lakes agreement but has been extended by DEC to all of New York. The careful budgeting of water is not precedent

setting in NY. The Susquehanna River Basin Commission, the Delaware River Basin Commission, and the New York City water supply system already monitor and manage water quantity for roughly one third of the state. However, this left out large portions of the state including the Finger Lakes, Lake Ontario, Lake Champlain, and the Adirondacks which had no protections in place.



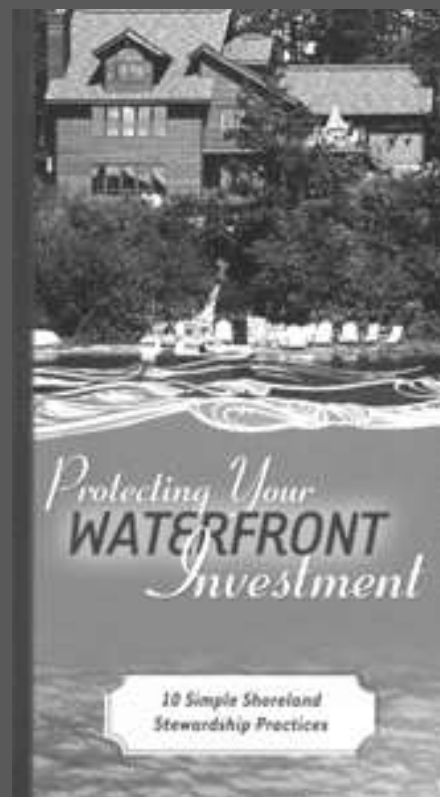
Photo: www.dec.ny.gov

In order to make reasonable and justifiable decisions about water allocation, you need to know how much water you have and how it is already being used. The required permitting and reporting provides the critical underpinning for sustainable water management. Each state will keep an inventory of water usage and regulate withdrawals and consumptive uses. However, they must be consistent with the Great Lakes Compact. It is still too early to see how this more complete

inventory of water usage and demands around the state will be integrated and used as a basis for decisions concerning future withdrawals, allocation, and management. It is, however, a good first step.

A complimentary requirement of the Compact is the development of water conservation and efficiency plans by each state. Conservation of water may seem ludicrous to many New York residents who enjoy the luxury of approximately 40 inches of rain every year. Annual rainfall has actually increased over the past 100 years, and we are experiencing an increase in intense rainfalls, or downpours. Most of us take this water for granted. We also deal with the excess rainfall as useless, and our traditional approach has been to race this fresh water away as quickly as possible. In light of the growing water scarcity in the Southwest and globally, a new outlook is needed on New York's boundless water. If we use it efficiently and conservatively, there should be enough water to address the increases in future demands for irrigation, to provide opportunities for economic development and new industries, and possibly to share with other citizens who are not so fortunate.

Simple Steps to Protect Your Waterfront Investment



NYSFOLA conference attendees were treated to a free copy of this great brochure published by the University of Wisconsin Extension. You can get your own copy from the bookstore at www.uwsp.edu/uwexplakes.

- Choose zero-phosphorus lawn fertilizer for you lawn and garden.
- Properly dispose of household hazardous waste, or better yet, minimize your use of toxic products.
- Minimize erosion by leaving the natural shoreline intact.
- Inspect and maintain your septic system regularly
- Reduce the hard surfaces like rooftops and driveways on your property.
- Plant trees and shrubs to protect your land and lakeshore.
- Direct downspouts onto your lawn or landscaping, not onto hard surfaces.
- Install a rain barrel.
- Build a rain garden.
- Protect or restore your shoreland buffer.

2015 Hydrilla Hunt

Everyone needs to be on the lookout for this plant!

Join the Hydrilla Hunt!

We can't say it enough. Everyone needs to learn how to identify *Hydrilla verticillata* (hydrilla). Hydrilla is an aquatic invasive species that has been found in New York state waters in a limited number of locations during the last several years. In 2011, approximately 80 acres was found at the Cayuga Inlet in Ithaca, and in 2012, 200 acres was found in Tonawanda Creek near Buffalo. The monoecious variety of hydrilla that has been found in New York State is well adapted to the temperate lake conditions in NYS, and large areas of hydrilla have been able to grow rapidly without detection. Hydrilla is identified as an invasive plant by both federal and state government across the United States.

Hydrilla over winters as turions but is most likely spread by fragmentation similar to Eurasian watermilfoil. Spreading by plant fragments allows hydrilla to easily invade large areas of connected waterbodies. It is also spread by boats, trailers and waterfowl that move between lakes and rivers. Unfortunately, this highly invasive plant looks very similar to some very common native plants and at least one other exotic plant. This creates great challenges in finding small patches of the plants before they grow into dense beds that are much more difficult to control. With nearly 20,000 lakes and ponds and many miles of streams and rivers in New York state, everyone needs to have their eyes open looking for this plant.



Early detection is critically important to assess the threat and develop rapid response plans to address any newly discovered hydrilla infestation. Working together, New York State, Tompkins County, and the City of Ithaca have been successful in controlling hydrilla in the Cayuga inlet, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is working to prevent the spread of the Tonawanda Creek infestation out of a contained portion of the Erie Canal. Keeping both infestations out of the larger Great Lakes system has re-



quired a large effort to implement a series of complex herbicide applications. It is likely that future large infestations found too late will not be controllable. This might ultimately result in the spread of hydrilla throughout New York state, similar to the migration of Eurasian watermilfoil out of the Finger Lakes into more than 300 lakes statewide starting in the 1940s.

Volunteers can maximize the number of water bodies examined and greatly improve the

likelihood of eradicating the plant before it moves into many waterbodies. August - September is a good time to search for Hydrilla since it will be fully developed and near the surface water bodies. This plant needs to be found before it grows into an unmanageable infestation.

1. **Watch the 2014 Webinar** on the NYSFOLA website www.nysfola.org. The webinar instructs participants where to look for plants and shows how to report search areas and findings.
2. **Hunt for Hydrilla** during its peak growth season (late July through late September).
3. **Report Your Findings** by email to fofa@nysfola.org and/or Scott.Kishbaugh@dec.ny.gov. **It is important to report all locations searched, even if no hydrilla is found, in order to better understand how hydrilla is being transported around NYS.**
4. If you find a suspected hydrilla plant, report the information and collect the suspected plant for verification. Try to get close up pictures of the leaves/whorls and any turions, if present. Make sure that you include follow-up information.
5. Get your friends and neighbors involved! The more eyes on the lake, the better the chances of identifying this plant early.



New York State Dishwasher Detergent and Nutrient Runoff Law

Is Your Lawn in Compliance?

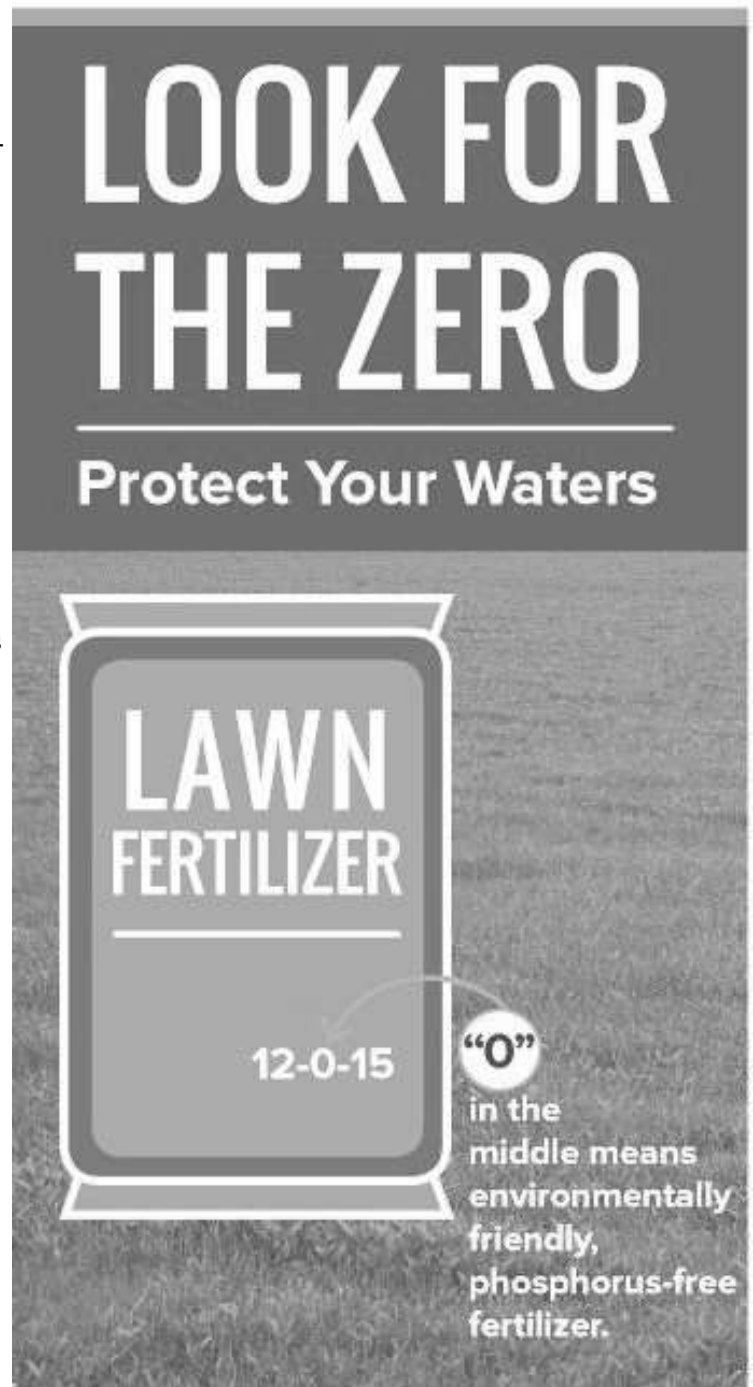
Requirements of the Dishwasher Detergent and Nutrient Runoff Law (Chapter 205 of the laws of 2010) are now in effect, and according to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) website <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/67239.html>, the following provisions apply:

- Do NOT use lawn fertilizer that contains phosphorus unless (1) you are establishing a new lawn, or (2) a soil test shows that the lawn does not have enough phosphorus.
- Do NOT apply any lawn fertilizer on impervious surfaces, such as sidewalks or driveways. If any fertilizer is spilled onto impervious surfaces, you must contain the spill to prevent runoff into drains or waterways.
- Do NOT apply any lawn fertilizer **within 20 feet of any surface water**, including with a sprayer, unless (1) there is a buffer at least 10 feet wide of planted or naturally occurring vegetation, such as shrubs, trees and plants between the area receiving fertilizer and the water, or (2) fertilizer is applied at least three feet from surface water by a device with a spreader guard, deflector shield or drop spreader.
- Do NOT apply any lawn fertilizer between December 1st and April 1st.

The DEC website also has a list of Frequently Asked Questions about lawn fertilizer application at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/74885.html>.

Over 100 waterbodies in New York are impaired due to phosphorus, and many are experiencing harmful algal blooms due to the runoff of excess phosphorus. Most established lawns in the northeastern United States don't need additional phosphorus.

Local governments may enact more stringent standards to address local water quality conditions. They have, in fact, been enacted in some locations including Westchester, Nassau, Suffolk and Chautauqua Counties, the Village of Greenwood Lake, the Town and Village of Lake George, and the Town of Queensbury.



Print this brochure for you lake association meeting!
http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water_pdf/fertbrochure15.pdf

Chinese Mystery Snails are on the Move in NYS



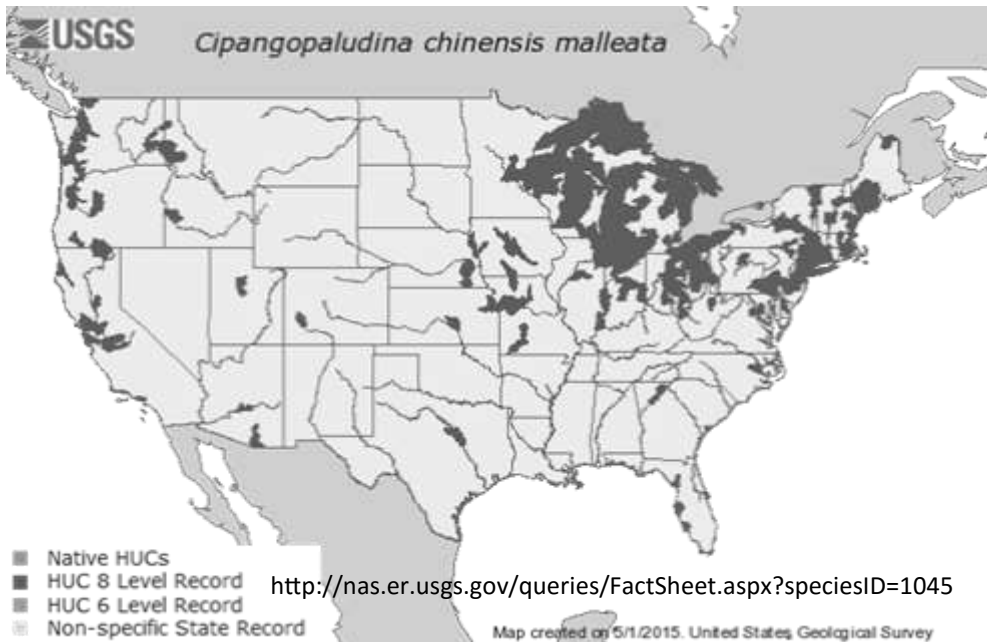
Above: A photo of one half of the snails that were removed from a 50' stretch of shore line, in less than an hour, at Melody Lake in Cortland County. The snail population drastically increased to nuisance levels this year.

An ever increasing number of NYSFOLA members are sending us pictures of snails that are “taking over the shoreline.” In most cases, these have been identified as Chinese mystery snails *Cipangopaludina chinensis malleata*, an invasive species that, according to the U.S. Geological survey, were sold in Chinese food markets in San Francisco in the late 1800s, collected as early as 1914 in Boston, and probably released from an aquarium into the Niagara River between 1931 and 1942 when the first record of their appearance in the Great Lakes occurred. The snail was found in Oneida Lake around 1977, and it has since spread across the state. *C. chinensis* has a “look alike” cousins (possibly the same species but considered by many as two), the Japanese Mystery snail *Cipangopaludina japonica* which also has established populations in Lake Erie.

Mystery snails get their name because they give birth to young, fully developed snails that are said to “mysteriously” appear. These snails can grow to be quite large (see photo below), They typically have 6-7 whorls on the shell which can vary in color from olive green to brown or reddish brown. They prefer calm water such as slow moving freshwater rivers, streams and lakes with soft, muddy or silty bottoms. We have also seen another close relative, the Banded Mystery Snail.

There are no known control methods for these invasive snails. Copper compounds sold as “snailicides” are not selective in the species they kill and can cause more damage to native species than to the target species.

For more information: <http://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/FactSheet.aspx?speciesID=1045>



Harmful Algal Blooms: What We Have Learned in NYS?

(Article summarizing the 2015 NYSFOLA Conference presentation by Scott Kishbaugh, NYS DEC.)

Every other week, our CSLAP volunteers collect both a raw water sample and process a filter sample that are used to quantify and identify the presence of algae in New York Lakes. In addition, when blooms are noted, volunteers fill out a form showing the extent and type of the bloom around the lake. The data is analyzed by laboratories at Upstate Freshwater Institute and the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, both of which are located in Syracuse.

Each Friday during the “bloom season” (roughly late May-October), the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) publishes the Harmful Algal Bloom Notification Page <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/77118.html>. Regional DEC offices, local Health Departments and lake associations are notified if a bloom is present, and notices also go out through DEC’s e-newsletter “Making Waves.”

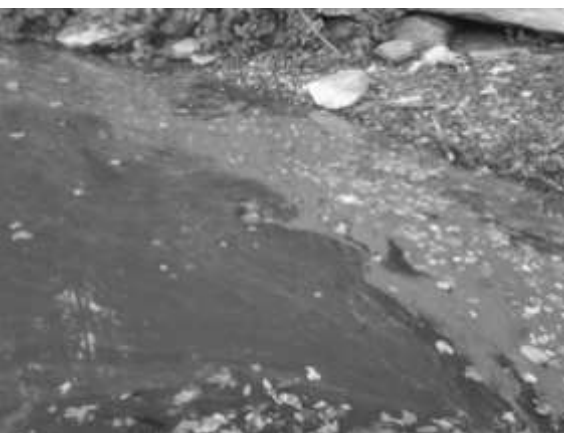
(*microcystis-LR*) above 20µg/L for a shoreline (scum) sample, and 10µg/L for an open water sample.

In 2014, there were 195 waterbodies sampled. Blooms were reported on 93 of those lakes. Reports of blooms came in from CSLAP and other DEC monitoring programs on 75 lakes, and the general public reported blooms on an additional 18 lakes. Seventy four (74) of the blooms were confirmed through laboratory analysis, and 19 were considered “suspicious.” Downstate and Long Island had the most blooms while the Adirondacks had the fewest.

Region	# 13-14 Sampled Lakes	# 13-14 HAB Lakes	2014 avg TP HABs Lakes	2014 avg TP non-HABs Lakes	# Lakes w/ High Toxins
Western and Finger Lakes	37	24	46 ug/l	18 ug/l	7
Downstate and Long Island	95	66	45 ug/l	21 ug/l	27
Central	113	51	44 ug/l	16 ug/l	15
Adirondacks (region)	86	10	24 ug/l	9 ug/l	2

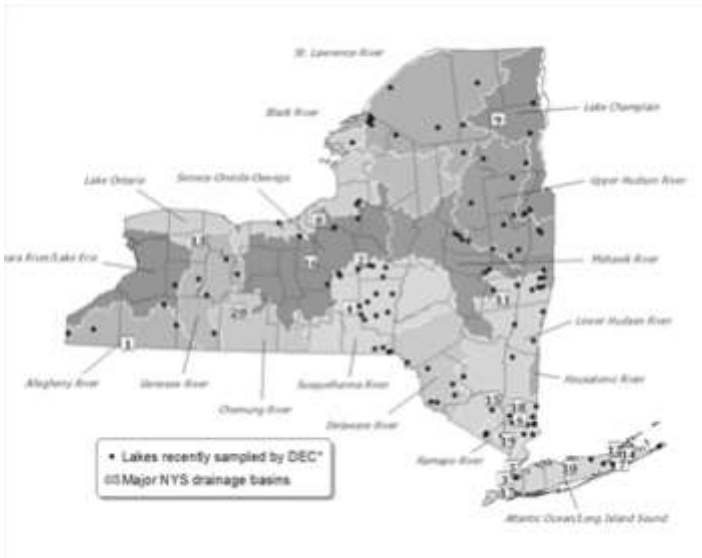
Some things the data have shown us:

Blooms described as looking like “spilled paint” tend to be the most toxic while those described as “pea soup” generally have the highest levels of blue green algae. Why?



Open water blooms with “moderate” toxin risk tend to be limited to lakes where chlorophyll levels are >15µ/L.

The likelihood of a lake experiencing shoreline blooms increases five-fold as chlorophyll levels increase from 5µg/L to 20µg/L. Still, a few lakes are experiencing blooms despite low (0-15µg/L), and that remains as one of the bigger questions that still needs to be answered.



DEC qualifies the reports of blooms as follows:

Suspicious - There is visual evidence of a blue green algae bloom, but there is no lab sample to confirm it.

Confirmed - Visual evidence of blue green algae AND laboratory fluoroprobe data indicating the presence of blue green algae above 25-30µg/L OR visual microscopic analysis indicating a dominance of blue green algae species.

Confirmed with High Toxins - Visual/laboratory confirmation of a blue green algae bloom with toxin levels

Join the Secchi Dip-In!



The Concept of the Dip-In is Simple

The Secchi Dip-in enables volunteers to collect water clarity data in the USA and Canada. Individuals in volunteer monitoring programs take

a transparency measurement on one day during the month of July. Individuals may be monitoring lakes, reservoirs, estuaries, rivers or streams. These transparency values are used to assess the transparency of volunteer-monitored waterbodies in the United States and Canada. When 5 or more years of data have been gathered on a site, it is used to determine trends. Over 2,000 waterbodies are now tracked for trends in transparency.

We accept data from any year. If you weren't able to enter your data from a previous Dip-In, you may still add that data. We also accept data from any date during the year. We welcome small programs to use our database as a data depository.

For more information: <http://www.secchidipin.org/>. The Secchi Dip-In is now run under the auspices of the North American Lake Management Society after many years of being coordinated by Dr. Robert Carlson at Kent State University. We thanks Bob for his dedication to the program, and we look forward to its continued success. Ready, set, DIP!



Registration for NALMS 2015 is Now Open!

Registration is now open at www.nalms.org for the 35th North American Lake Management Society International Symposium, "**North American Lakes: Embracing their History, Ensuring their Future**" - November 17 - 20, 2015 in Saratoga Springs, NY.

This is the first time that the NALMS Symposium has been held in New York, and it will be several years before it makes its way back to the east. We encourage you to join us at the Saratoga City Center for three days of workshops, talks, networking, and fun. The Saratoga Hilton is offering a special conference rate of \$125/night (plus 13% tax) for those who book before October 16th. We hope that you will join us for part or all of the conference.



CSLAPpenings



CSLAP 2015 is up and running, and the cloudy, rainy weather is making itself known. Many of you are indicating that the weather is the major factor impacting recreational enjoyment of your lake.

We seem to have some issues with the **HABS protocol** this year. So, here it is in a nutshell. This applies to every lake, every sampling round—whether or not there is a bloom in progress. We are gathering data on each and every CSLAP lake. The “non-blooming lakes” provide information, too.

Algae raw water sample (left) - Fill the vial with the green cap with some surface water.

HABS filter (from color test filtration) - Filter 200 ml (or as much as you can, but let us know the amount). Put the WATER in the 125ml color bottle. Put the FILTER in the



Algae Raw Water and HABS filter samples - Are used to collect data about blue green algae from all CSLAP lakes.

tiny vial. The raw water sample and the HABS filter can then be put back together with a rubber band and put in the refrigerator, but don't forget about them. It is important that these two samples stay together because they get sent from Upstate Freshwater Institute to SUNY ESF for analysis. Ship them with your regular CSLAP samples.

HABS CSLAP Site Form :

Use this form to describe the algae related conditions of the lake at your CSLAP Sampling Site (open water area of the

lake). “No evidence of bloom” can be checked if algae is not present. That is still useful information. Please remember to fill out the information at the top of the page, especially the lake name and sampling/observation date. This form should not be used to provide aquatic plant or other information.

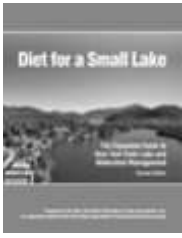
Shoreline and/or Bloom HABS Form: Use this form to describe algae conditions around the shoreline of the lake. Note any areas where algae is present and the type of algae observed. If you are submitting a bloom sample, please note that on the form, and send the original form with your bloom sample to SUNY ESF. Send a copy with your regular CSLAP samples to Upstate Freshwater Institute. Again, one of the choices on this form is “no evidence of bloom” is

one of the selections on the form. Please do not map aquatic plants or put other information on this form (although we encourage you to send that information separately).

Questions? **WATCH THE NEW CSLAP VIDEO** starring Scott A. Kishbaugh at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/81849.html> and/or **download the 2015 CSLAP Sampling Protocol** from the NYSFOLA website www.nysfola.org under the CSLAP tab.



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.

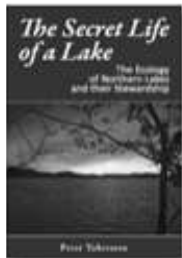
Spiral Bound Paperback: \$20.00



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

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**

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THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS	\$30.00		
THE SECRET LIFE OF A LAKE	\$19.00		
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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

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Amount Remitted _____ Check # _____ Date _____

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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! (OR SEND US THEIR CONTACT INFORMATION)

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CSLAP equipment ready for action! Photo by Joe Montuori, Kirk Lake