

# Waterworks

New York State Federation of Lake Associations, Inc.

August 2016

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## Clean Your Boat! New Regs Now in Effect

New York's new Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations took effect on May 25th. The final rule-making for the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Spread Prevention regulations requires that "reasonable precautions" are taken prior to placing a watercraft or floating dock into public waterbodies to prevent the spread of AIS. A 45 day public comment period was held from December 16, 2015 to February 1, 2016 on the proposed regulations. According to the New York State



Photo: [http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/fish\\_marine\\_pdf/boatdisinfect.pdf](http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/fish_marine_pdf/boatdisinfect.pdf)

Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), a total of 22 comment letters were received in which 134 issues were raised.

The Final rulemaking for Part 576 to 6 NYCRR Aquatic Invasive Species Spread Prevention is available at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/propregulations.html#recent>. The regulations along with Q/A and related documents can be accessed by links from this page: <http://>

[www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/2359.html#576](http://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/2359.html#576).

### Here are the Frequently Asked Questions & Answers from the NYS DEC website:

**What waterbodies are included?** These regulations apply to all public waterbodies. Public waterbodies are defined as all waters within the state, public or private, except those private waters which do not combine or effect a junction with natural surface waters, which are wholly or partially within or bordering the state.

### Are private and public launches included?

Yes, the regulations apply to both private and public launches on public waterbodies within the state.

### What constitutes a watercraft or floating dock?

A watercraft means every motorized or non-motorized boat, vessel or vehicle capable of being used or operated as a means of transportation or recreation in or on water. A floating dock means a removable buoyant platform supported by floating devices or suspended over the surface of a waterbody by anchors or other devices.

**Who do these regulations apply to?** These Aquatic Invasive Species Spread Prevention regulations apply to all watercraft and floating dock operators on public waterbodies.

**What actions are required by the watercraft operator?** The purpose of these regulations is

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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 - Richard Handerson

Greetings!

Our 33rd Annual NYSFOLA Conference and Membership Meeting convened from Friday 29 April, through Sunday, 01 May, 2016 at the White Eagle Conference Center. Thanks to you, our members, the conference was successful. We received some very helpful and enlightening feedback from the surveys that 77 of you turned in by the end of the conference. The conference received an overall 'good' or 'very good' rating from over 93% of those who completed the survey. In addition, we welcomed many members who attended for the first time! We hope you'll return as well as tell others in your lake organizations about this substantive event.

I want to extend thanks to Nancy Mueller, Directors, Presenters, Exhibitors and the White Eagle staff for their diligence and hard work that make this event work well.

In last fall's Waterworks we issued an appeal to 'Give a Gift to NY Lakes'. Many of you responded with generous gifts that are arriving at a good time. To the extent permitted by law, many of your gifts are tax deductible and year-end giving may impact your tax liability in a good way. NYSFOLA is financially challenged to continue many of the initiatives that we believe serve our customers. Increasing costs as well as steady or declining revenue streams have led to this situation.

As I thought about writing this, it occurred to me that the flow of funds within a business or not-for-profit organization such as ours, is similar to the harmful algal bloom (HAB) problem of which we are cognizant in our lakes. An inability to control nutrients leads to increased algal blooms—a very undesirable and potentially dangerous condition. Similarly an inability to control spending leads to budgetary deficits—these

threaten the future viability of the organism and ultimately prevent it from addressing customer needs. There are two things we can control: spending and revenue. When deficits loom, reduce spending or grow revenue or both. With HABs one can reduce influx of nutrients (reduce spending) or increase the water quality via local controls such as aquatic invasive species prevention and increased clean water flow (diluting nutrients).

NYSFOLA is fortunate to have a creative and highly intelligent Board of Directors. As president, I hope to utilize this potential to achieve a double pronged approach to NYSFOLA's finances: reduce spending while increasing revenue! Directors Jim

Cunningham and Jan Andersen are working with Treasurer Walter Dutcher to create a detailed line-item budget that will enable us to become even more efficient with your funds than we've been heretofore. In addition, I want to

challenge the Board to work on methods and approaches for increasing revenue for NYSFOLA. This would include charitable bequests, grants, shared funding of projects, rational pricing, sponsorships and other ideas that are presented.

The net benefit of these two efforts will be an increased ability to heed the Voice of the Customer—you, our members! There are many best practices that we can utilize as well as additional outreach and cooperative initiatives that we can undertake. New York's lakes, ponds and reservoirs are facing ever increasing environmental pressures as well as multiple and competing priorities from human intersection, that challenge both good stewardship as well as efficient application of limited financial resources. For our generation and those that follow we can do nothing less than work hard to be faithful stewards of our wonderful lakes.



to establish reasonable precautions, such as removing visible plant or animal matter, washing, draining or drying that must be taken by persons launching watercraft or floating docks into public waterbodies to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. Material removed should be disposed of in a proper receptacle or upland location.

**Are there any exemptions to the regulations?** The prohibitions included in 576.3 do not apply to any watercraft and associated equipment or floating dock that is re-launched from a launch site into a public waterbody, within the bounds of any permanent barrier that was removed from the same launch site without having been launched into any other waterbody.

**What are the penalties for violating the regulations?**

For any first violation a written warning may be issued along with educational materials. For a second offense a fine of up to \$150 may be issued. For a third offense a fine of up to \$250 may be issued. For a fourth offense a fine up to \$1,000 may be issued.

NYS DEC has published a 6 page brochure entitled, “**A New Yorker’s Guide to Cleaning, Drying, and Disinfecting Boat Equipment: Procedures to Prevent the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species While Boating.**” It can be found online at: [http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/fish\\_marine\\_pdf/boatdisinfect.pdf](http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/fish_marine_pdf/boatdisinfect.pdf).



## *Thank you Jan Shields & Welcome Kristen Rohne*

With much regret, the NYSFOLA Board of Directors has accepted the resignation of long time board member Jan Shields from Babcock Lake Estates. Jan was first elected to the Board on May 5, 2001. She has been a long time CSLAP volunteer and will continue to serve on the NYSFOLA CSLAP Committee. Jan created the NYSFOLA Newsletter and Media awards presented each year at the annual conference. She also played a major role on the Host Committee of the 2015 North American Lake Management Society International Symposium in Saratoga last fall. She has always been willing to step up and serve when needed, and her dedication and service will be very much missed. Thank you, Jan.



The good news is that we have welcomed Kristen Rohne to the Board of Directors. Kristen is the Lake George Association’s Director of Education, and she has been a frequent contributor at NYSFOLA and other regional and statewide conferences. Her professional experience at the Lake George Association and deep connections with many Adirondack region lake associations will strengthen our Board in the years to come. NYSFOLA was incorporated in 1983, largely through the efforts of the Lake George Association, and our organizations have a long history of collaboration. Kristen will be the fourth LGA representative to serve on the NYSFOLA Board, and we look forward to her contributions. (Photo courtesy of the Lake George Association.)

# NYSFOLA Annual Conference Draws a Crowd!

Another big crowd filled White Eagle Conference Center this spring for the NYSFOLA Annual Conference, “The Water is Great in New York State.” Special thanks this year go to:

**Jan Andersen** - for stepping in to help with CSLAP training when things did not go quite as planned.

**Lake Moraine Association** - for their continued assistance getting boats in the water for CSLAP training.

**Dean Long** - for keeping the show running, as always.

**Laurel Mann** and her staff at the APO of Sleepy Hollow Lake - for taking on the enormous task of name badges and registration folders for a second year.

**Terri Mayhew** (and her judges ) - for a fantastic job with the Newsletter Contest. There were a lot of wonderful entries this year.

**Bob and Carol Rosati** - for organizing this year’s wine auction (again). The bidding got a little crazy, but it brought in over \$600 for NYSFOLA.

**Jan Shields** - for promoting the Media Award and finding yet another worthy reporter who is dedicated to NY lakes.

**Maxine Verteramo** - for her amazing job with the “Paint-a-Lake” workshop. That was a fun addition to the conference this year, wasn’t it?

**Jason Wheelock** - for taking over the duties of Registrar upon the retirement of Nancy Craft

And to the rest of the Board, the staff & students at SUNY Oneonta Biological Field Station, the staff at White Eagle Conference Center (especially Kalie Hill, Randy Gross, Don Brown and Wil Cotter, Jr.), our



*Maxine Verteramo helps us “Paint-a-Lake” on Friday night.*

members and their guests. Thank you, once again, for another great weekend.

**SAVE THE DATES!!!** The 2017 conference will be held at White Eagle May 4-6. We are going to try a different format next year with the banquet on Friday night and ending by ~5pm on Saturday. We are exploring new conference venues, but have been unsuccessful finding an affordable place, during the late spring, with multiple break out rooms, that can also accommodate CSLAP training. If you have any ideas, please let us know.



*NYSFOLA Board member Theresa Mayhew embraces her inner Monet!*

# Read all about it! NYSFOLA Newsletter Contest Winners Announced

By Theresa Mayhew, FOLA Board Member and Newsletter Contest Coordinator

We're all familiar with the adage that a picture is worth a thousand words. We can probably all think of photos that have made a deep impression upon us. I recently came across a quote that I found profound, especially since it deals with prose, which has long been a passion of mine. It's from author Neil Postman who states, "The written word endures, the spoken word disappears." That quote could certainly be applied to this year's NYSFOLA newsletter contest winners.

NYSFOLA has sponsored a newsletter contest for many years now. The actual judging used to take place at the conference but for the last two years it has taken place about two weeks prior. Newsletters are judged according to their association's membership size – small (10-74), medium (75-149) and large (150+). First, second and third place can be awarded in each category and winners receive a spiffy-looking trophy that would brighten any bookshelf, desk or mantel.

Congratulations to this year's recipients:

**Small category:** 1st Place – Melody Lake News; 2nd Place – Woods and Waters (Horseshoe Pond -Deer River Flow Assn.)

**Medium Category:** 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Upper Saranac Foundation; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Otisco Lake Droplets

**Large Category:** 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Three Lakes Council; 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Saratoga Lake; 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Copake Lake Conservation Society

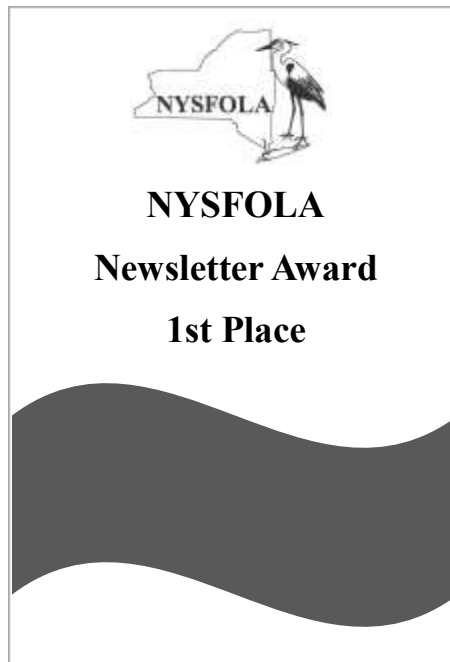
Newsletters are judged on the following criteria: overall appearance (easy to read and visually attractive); use of color in text (one or four color); photographs or graphics (black & white or four color); publication information

(name of editor, issue or date); President's Message; committee reports; and articles or features by officers or members. Judges are also looking for the following newsletter elements: masthead; mission statement; table of contents; list of officers; list of donors; and a calendar of events.

While full color publications are desirable, content nearly always trumps fancy bells and whistles. Use of color is not the determining factor in selecting a winner. The overall aim is to produce a newsletter that is informative, interesting and educational – something that members will peruse at the very least and read in its entirety at best. If it contains news about the lake and its residents, it will most likely be held onto until the next issue arrives. Advertising to offset the cost of production and mailing will not be a selection factor but it should not be obtrusive or detract from the publication's readability.

I would like to extend thanks to this year's dedicated panel of judges: Karrie Allen, Chatham Courier editor; Linda Behrens Conway, Master Gardener volunteer; Evan Hogan, fisherman and outdoor enthusiast; Karen Mort; Environmental Management Council member; and Donna Peterson, Master Gardener Program Volunteer Coordinator. Their enthusiasm, professionalism and interest is and was greatly appreciated!

Look for a future article that will summarize the major points from my "How to Publish a Great Newsletter – That People Will Actually Read" talk that I presented at the recent FOLA Annual Conference. There will also be some changes to the newsletter contest category configurations so be on the lookout for that announcement, too. In the meantime, happy writing, editing, and publishing!



# New DEC General Permit for the Management of Invasive Species

In May of this year, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) issued General Permit GP-0-15-005 - Management of Invasive Species. The General Permit allows the removal of invasive species using hand harvesting techniques, suction harvesting techniques, and/or benthic barriers—provided that the project meets the General Permit Requirements. The permit application can be found on the DEC website. For situations that exceed the scope of this general permit, an application for an individual permit should be submitted.

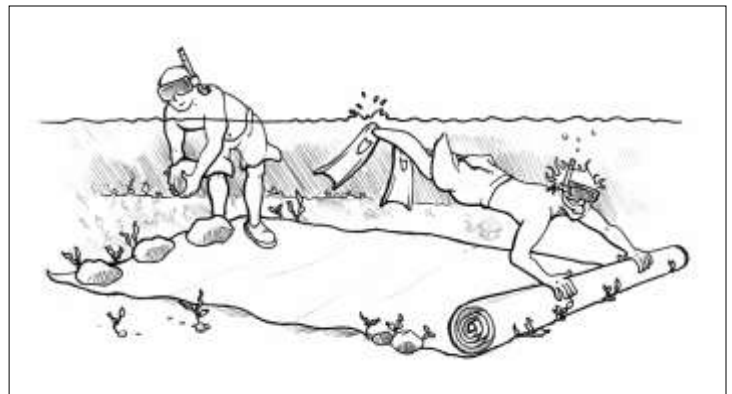
This is a significant change with regard to benthic barriers (also called seaweed/bottom mats, etc.) which now require a permit. NYS DEC's David Adams responded to NYSFOLA's email questions about the matter in May as follows:

“Use of benthic barriers has become common in the last 20 years. While benthic barriers can be an effective tool for controlling nuisance or invasive species, this increase in use has generated concern regarding impacts to non-target organisms, cumulative effects, and failures to remove these structures in a timely manner. The development of a general permit for the Management of Invasive Species has provided an opportunity to consider the regulatory status of benthic barriers and clarify the status of benthic barriers under Protection of Waters Act (Article 15, Title 5).

After review, and based on the definition of “fill”, it has been decided that benthic barriers should be regulated as fill under Part 608. The general permit for the Management of Invasive Species covers most small-scale, seasonal installations of benthic barriers and provides a streamlined path for compliance. However, benthic barriers exceeding the thresholds described in the General Permit will require an individual permit.” (David Adams, NYS DEC to Nancy Mueller, NYSFOLA email dated May 20, 2016)

**Benthic Barriers** - Benthic barriers are a natural or synthetic material used to kill aquatic plants by eliminating

sunlight. They are popular with lakefront property owners to keep dock and swimming areas weed-free. They have been effectively used for many varieties of nuisance vegetation in a wide variety of lake conditions. However, benthic barriers provide non-selective plant control (killing the native species as well as the non-native), and can impact



*Benthic barriers clear small areas of aquatic invasive species by blocking sunlight and eliminating space where weeds grow. Anchoring the mats with natural stone from the lake bottom to anchor the mats is no longer permitted. Stone from upland sources is allowed.*

*Art Credit : Chris Cooley for “Diet for a Small Lake”*

fisheries and benthic fauna as well as amphibian hibernation (when not removed in the fall).

Under the new General Permit, benthic barriers are authorized only for eradicating new infestations of invasive species (those identified within the past two years). If an area has been treated for more than 2 years, it is not a new infestation. An individual permit application, rather than the General Permit, will be required for longer term infestations, and DEC will consider whether benthic mats are appropriate.

Mats may not be installed over active spawning beds, or between March 15 and June 30 unless the area is confirmed by DEC not to include active spawning beds.

Mats must be anchored. No natural stone from lake bottom shall be used to anchor mats. Rebar, concrete, blocks and stones taken from upland sources (not stones from a water-

*(Continued on page 7)*



body) may be used.

Benthic barriers and all materials used to anchor them must be removed within three months from the date of installation.

Benthic mats must be limited to a one acre area.

The Permittee must notify the DEC Regional Office of Fish, Wildlife and Marine Resources when benthic mats have been removed.

#### **Do you have a benthic barrier or plan to install one?**

- You need a permit! GP-0-15-005 can be found on the web at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/106121.html>.
- Plan ahead for next year! Take photos of the area now, and submit your application during the winter so that it can be reviewed before spring.
- Describe your project. Include the targeted invasive species, size of the area, bottom conditions, slope, and the management timeframe.
- It helps to provide a map of the area where you would like to install a benthic barrier. Include landmarks such as roads, houses, docks, etc. and include dimensions.
- Take photographs of the site and the plants you wish to control.

## *Lake Steward Awards Recognize Outstanding Lake Association Volunteers*

Four people were recognized by NYSFOLA this year for their outstanding contributions to their respective lake associations.

**John Hoxie, Hatch-Bradley Brook Lakes Association** - John Hoxie is an excellent, data driven leader who is proactive and a great team player. He gets things done by listening, planning, communicating and taking action. He has served as the association's President and led the Hatch-Bradley Brook Lakes Association from a social oriented discussion group to a progress based organization focusing on watershed health. He has engaged the association with other organizations including NYSFOLA, SUNY Oneonta, Trees-for-Tribs, Madison County government, the local Amish community and commercial lake vendors.

**Elizabeth Janes, Queechy Lake Club, Inc.** - Betsy Janes is a long time member of the Queechy Lake Club and one of its most active members. She has been a long time NYSFOLA conference attendee, CSLAP volunteer, and active member of the Queechy Lake Club. She assists with the newsletter, water quality issues, and other activities. NYSFOLA further recognized Betsy as the person who keeps the lab staff at Upstate Freshwater Institute happy by including sweet treats with nearly every CSLAP cooler and for taking the time to record detailed observations about the lake on every sampling round.

**Larry Rossini, Beaver Dame Lake Protection & Rehabilitation District** - Larry has been a lifetime resident of

Beaver Dam Lake. As a result, he has developed a deep love of the lake and the community. Larry has served as the Chairman of the Beaver Dam Lake Board and has received numerous accolades from the Orange County Department of Health regarding the quality of the lake and swimming area, including the training, supervising and managing of our beach lifeguards. Larry has been active in CSLAP and other volunteer efforts to improve the lake's water quality, and he and his family spent two weekends last summer organizing volunteers and participating in the harvesting of thousands of water chestnut plants from the lake.

**David Pierce, Ballston Lake Improvement Association** - The Ballston Lake Improvement Association is grateful to Dave for his monumental efforts to improve Ballston Lake. Dave has a scientific background, and he has always worked from the position that cause and effect are integrated, and data collection is critical in the process of analyzing the water quality of the lake. He was instrumental in writing a grant that helped fund a tributary study on Ballston lake and has been actively involved in collecting other water quality data, in addition to his many years as a CSLAP volunteer. As a result, the Town of Ballston approved a Ballston Lake Sewer District in the fall of 2015. Dave also engages other organizations including NYSFOLA, the Saratoga County Soil & Water Conservation District and the Ballston Town Board on issues related to protecting Ballston Lake.

## Over 100 Lower Hudson NYSFOLA Members Attend Annual Regional Conference

Over 100 NYSFOLA members gathered at the Sedgewick Club on China Pond in Putnam County for this year's Lower Hudson regional conference.

Lisa Borre from the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook, NY spoke about climate change and lakes; Dr. Gregory Boyer, SUNY ESF, discussed harmful algal blooms which are prevalent in the region; NYS DEC Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator Catherine McGlynn presented "Hydrilla Hunt"; and Chris Doyle from SOLitude Lake Management talked about his investigations of hydrilla on the Croton and Hudson Rivers. Chris also brought some aquatic plants for display.

A huge thank you to NYSFOLA Board member Janet Anderson from the Three Lakes Council for organizing this event. It's a lot of work and we are very appreciative of her efforts. We are also indebted to NYSFOLA member David Africk, from the China-Barrett Association for hosting us at the Sedgewick Club once again. David also recruited a huge team to help with setting up all the chairs and tables and helping to staff the reception desk.



David Africk (left) and Don Brown, White Eagle Conference Center staff, at a recent NYSFOLA Conference in Hamilton.

## Remembering Don Keppel



Don Keppel (left) and Scott Kishbaugh, NYS DEC (right), in the early days of NYSFOLA.

It is with much sadness that we report the death of our long time friend and Treasurer, Donald Keppel. Don served on the NYSFOLA Board from 1991-2013. He and his wife Marty kept NYSFOLA running at their home in Findley Lake, during difficult fiscal times in the 1990s, and we are truly thankful to have known them.

Don served on numerous NYSFOLA committees, greeted new members with a warm smile, friendly conversation, and enthusiastic support for this organization. He

also served for many years as Findley Lake's volunteer sampler for the Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program. His dedication to NYSFOLA and to the Findley Lake Watershed Foundation will be greatly missed.

The family has asked that those wishing to remember Don consider a donation to the Findley Lake Watershed Foundation - PO Box 125 Findley Lake, NY 14736. <http://www.findleylakewf.org/>.



Don and Marty Keppel receive NYSFOLA's highest honor - The Lake Tear of the Clouds Award.



# Lake Champlain Basin Program Research Puts Price Tag on Clean Water

News Release - Lake Champlain Basin Program, July 24, 2016

## **Algae blooms, cloudy water can hurt home prices, tourism and jobs**

*Grand Isle, VT* - New University of Vermont and Lake Champlain Basin Program research puts a hefty price on Lake Champlain's natural beauty.

According to the study, Vermont lakeside communities would lose \$16.6 million in economic activity and 200 full-time jobs - in July and August alone - for every one-meter (three-foot) decrease in water clarity.

The study is the first to investigate the relationship between home values, tourism and Lake Champlain's visual appearance, which is regularly impacted by algae blooms, nutrient runoff, sewage and other problems.

Crunching five years of data, the scientists found that lake-related tourism - including restaurants, hotels and recreation services - faces a \$12.6 million drop in direct summer expenditures for every meter decline in water clarity.

The team also estimated how lake amenities impact home prices in lakeside counties. Using Vermont tax data, they found a one-meter drop in water clarity yielded a 37 percent depreciation for seasonal homes, and a three percent loss for year-round single family homes.

For a \$300,000 property near the lake, that's a \$9,000 loss for year-round homes, and a \$111,000 loss for seasonal homes.

The research, led by UVM's Brian Voigt, was announced in July in partnership with the Lake Champlain Basin Program (LCBP).

### **Economic risks justify action**

"These findings show that water quality in Lake Champlain and its surrounding basin is more than just an environmental concern," says Voigt, a research at UVM's Gund Institute and Rubenstein School. "It's a major economic issue that affects homeowners, businesses and employees."



Voigt says that quantifying Lake Champlain's water woes gives state and federal leaders economic data to justify investments in solutions.

The results suggest that meeting new Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) standards could help to prevent these significant economic losses and trigger new economic benefits for Vermonters, said Eric Howe, Director of the LCBP.

The study focused on the Vermont lakeside counties of Chittenden, Addison, Franklin and Grand Isle.

Researchers paired data on lake clarity from LCBP's Lake Champlain Long-Term Water Quality Monitoring Project with local, state and national economic data.

"We focused on water clarity, because people have a visceral reaction to it," says Voigt. "If you take your family swimming, you might not know what excess phosphorus means. But chances are you will avoid an algae bloom."

Study coauthors include UVM economist Jon Erickson and College of Arts and Sciences student Julia Lees, supported by the National Science Foundation's Research Experiences for Undergraduates (REU) program.

Read the full report at: [http://www.lcbp.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/81\\_VoigtEconomicsFinalReport1.pdf](http://www.lcbp.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/81_VoigtEconomicsFinalReport1.pdf).

# 22nd Annual NYSFOLA Western Regional Meeting

October 15, 2016 10AM - 3PM in Cuba, NY

NYSFOLA Board member Donald Cook has put together another great agenda for this year's western regional meeting. The meeting will be held from 10AM - 3PM at Moonwinks Restaurant, 9302 Jackson Hill Road, Cuba, NY. The meeting is open to everyone, but please note the registration deadline below.

## Agenda

1. Charles Knauf, Retired Director of the Monroe County Health Laboratory - *Monroe County Remediation Projects*
2. Mitchell Owens, Graduate Student, SUNY Brockport - *Aquatic Invasive Species Survey*
3. Mark Emmerson, President, Silver Lake Association - *Effective Ways to Increase Association Membership*
4. Roxanne Razavi, PhD, Finger Lakes Institute at Hobart and William Smith Colleges - *Finger Lakes Mercury Project*
5. Bruce Gilman, PhD, Finger Lakes Community College - *Cornell University Study on Honeoye Lake on Climate Change and its Impact on Algal Blooms.*

A buffet lunch will be served including dessert, coffee and gratuity. Vegetarian, gluten free, lactose free or citrus free meals are available.

**A completed registration form and lunch fee of \$15.00 per person is due no later than October 8, 2016. Please send the registration form and check to: Barbara Utter, 5086 Willowbrook Drive, Clarence, New York, 14031. Checks should be made out to NYSFOLA or New York State Federation of Lake Associations, Inc.**

## REGISTRATION FORM - NYSFOLA WESTERN REGIONAL MEETING

Name(s) of Participant(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Dietary needs? \_\_\_\_\_

Total Number \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

## *Comments on DEC CAFO General Permit Available Online- No Final Permit or Comment Reponse to Date*

Many of our members, especially those in the Finger Lakes region, have asked about the status of DEC's Draft General Permit for Confined Animal Feeding Operations. The agency has not yet responded to comments submitted last winter. However, all of the comments received by DEC are now online at: <ftp://ftp.dec.ny.gov/dow/CAFO/CommentsReceivedOn2015Permits/>. Included in the online comments, are those submitted by the United States Environmental Protection Agency where conflicts between federal requirements and the DEC draft document exist. Those comments can be found at: <ftp://ftp.dec.ny.gov/dow/CAFO/CommentsReceivedOn2015Permits/CAFO-EPA-CWA.pdf>. Many comments were received regarding the impact on water quality including those from NYSFOLA. We will continue to keep our members informed of any developments.



## *NYSFOLA Honors UFI's MaryGail Perkins with the 2016 Lake Tear of the Clouds Award*



The Lake Tear of the Clouds Award is NYSFOLA's highest honor. This award, named for the "highest" lake in the state, is awarded to a person who has shown the highest dedication to lakes and watersheds, assisted NYSFOLA in its mission and produced exceptional performance in his or her field of endeavor.

This year's recipient was MaryGail Perkins. MaryGail is currently the Chief Operating Officer at Upstate Freshwater Institute, but she has long been devoted to advancing freshwater research and education in New York State in her long and varied career at UFI. She has developed and managed field programs, served as the laboratory director, administered grants and conducted research on many water bodies including Onondaga Lake, the Finger Lakes, Great Lakes and small ponds.

Most importantly, at least for NYSFOLA and DEC, she has shown unwavering support for CSLAP. For over a decade, MaryGail has cheerfully navigated issues with UPS, the U.S. Postal Service, bottle suppliers, volunteers, ESF, DEC and NYSFOLA, to ensure that the program runs smoothly. She works tirelessly to make sure the data is delivered on time, is accurate, and will withstand scientific scrutiny. She fully supports the use of the data for many purposes and always provides workable solutions to make things even better and has done so with a consistent display of respect, integrity, and incredibly hard work.

MaryGail has also served as a role model for dozens of environmental professionals, including those who have assisted with CSLAP. We can't begin to thank her for all she has done, but we ask you to join us in applauding our 2016 Lake Tear of the Clouds recipient, MaryGail Perkins.

# NYSFOLA and DEC Team Up to Produce “Aquatic Invasive Plant Surveillance for Citizen Scientists on Lakes”

NYSFOLA and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation have produced a guidance document to instruct lake residents how to look for aquatic invasive plants and report any new findings. The protocol is not intended as a methodology for describing the entire plant community of the lake.

Excerpts from the document follow, but the full document can be found at [www.nysfola.org](http://www.nysfola.org) under the CSLAP tab.

## Where to search for invasive species:

While it might be a great idea to search the entire shoreline, we don't all have that time. So strategize where you will spend time looking. Smart searching is more efficient than trying to cover all of the shoreline. Respect private property, and get permission from landowners before going onto their property. Take appropriate precautions to avoid unsafe conditions under foot or in the water.

**Boat launches** - Invasive species are often spread by people, so it's important to know where people may be visiting the lake, especially if they may be bringing boats or gear from a different lake. If you only have time to look in one spot, look at the area around boat launches. Boat launches are often where many invasive species are first found on a lake.

Also consider searching for invasive species near any marinas on your lake.

**Fishing access** - Sometimes invasive species travel on fishing gear, so also consider searching fishing spots like docks or areas near roads, or where waders might be used.

**Public access** - Invasive species can enter lakes when people dump unwanted aquariums, so that's a reason to look at bridges or locations where it's an easy walk from the road to the shore.

**Inflows or Outflows** - People sometimes unknowingly plant invasive species in water gardens, so look carefully at any streams that enter from a water garden. Input areas for streams that come from other lakes can also be a priority because plants can be carried by currents and streams from one place to another. Plant fragments may also move with the flow of water toward the outlet and collect there.

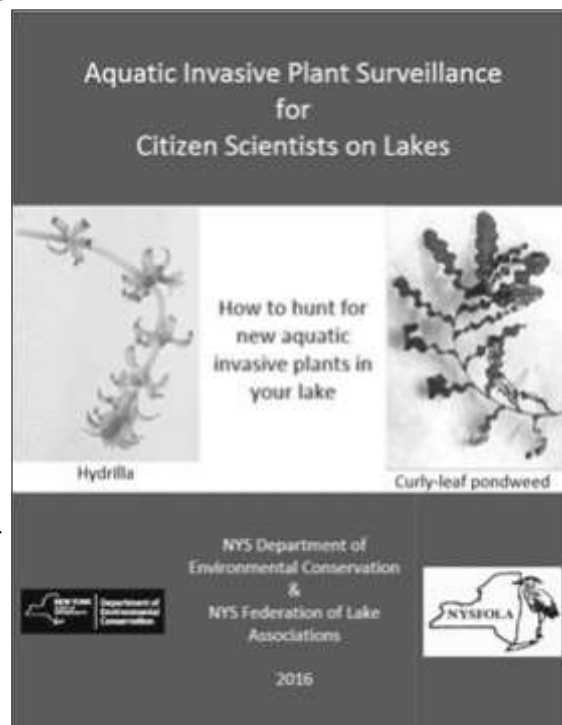
**Downwind** - Many invasive plants spread by fragmentation. A great way to get an idea of the plants on the lake is to look in places where fragments collect, for example on downwind shores and beaches.

**Weedbeds** - Finally, if some invasive plants are located in one place in your lake, that might be a good place to search. Other invasive plants are apt to travel the same path that the earlier plants took. More generally, look in “weedbeds” where plants are growing.

**When to search** - There's no bad time to search. It's a great excuse to walk along the lake shoreline. The best times are when the invasive plants are growing and are large enough to see. Most plants are identifiable in August, and the water's warmer then too. Plants are easiest to identify if they are mature, with flowers and floating leaves. While August is a good general rule, as always, exceptions exist. For example, if you know that you are concerned about curly-leaved pondweed or water chestnut,

you will want to look earlier in the season.

**Make a Map; Take Photos; Submit a Sample** - Of course, you'll want to record your findings, and the guide tells you how to do that. Use a map of your lake to show where the plants were found. Take a picture of one or two the plants including the stem, leaves, flowers, so that the identity can be confirmed. You may be asked to submit a sample for verification, so collect a few and keep them cool but not soaking in water.



# CSLAPpenings



We are about halfway through another successful season, and things are moving along quite smoothly. Thank you to all of our volunteers and the lake associations that support them. Without you, there is no CSLAP!



The NYS DEC Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Notification web page is up and running. The early part of the summer was relatively quiet, with the exception of lakes on Long Island. However, things are “heating up,” and we are seeing more blooms in the Upstate NY lakes as we head into August. The web page is updated every Friday afternoon and can be found at: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/83310.html>. We also post the notifications on the NYSFOLA facebook page.

Tips from the DEC HAB web page:

## **REMEMBER -If you see it - avoid it**

People, pets and livestock should avoid contact with water that is discolored or has algae scums on the surface. Colors can include shades of green, blue-green, yellow, brown or red. If contact does occur, rinse thoroughly with clean water to remove algae.

Never drink untreated surface water, whether or not algae blooms are present. Untreated surface water may contain other bacteria, parasites or viruses, as well as cyanotoxins

that could cause illness if consumed.

People not on public water supplies should not drink surface water during an algal bloom, even if it is treated, because in-home treatments such as boiling, disinfecting water with chlorine or ultraviolet (UV), and water filtration units do not protect people from HABs toxins. Stop using water and seek medical attention immediately if symptoms such as vomiting, nausea, diarrhea, skin, eye or throat irritation, allergic reactions or breathing difficulties occur after drinking or having contact with blooms or untreated surface water.

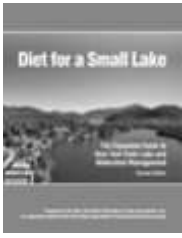
Please report any health symptoms to your physician and NYS Department of Health at <mailto:harmfulalgae@health.ny.gov> or your local health department.

For answers to other frequently asked questions go to the DEC HABs FAQ page <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/91570.html>.

If you suspect that you have seen a HAB or you, your family, or pet has been in contact with a bloom, please report the bloom to the DEC. Fill out and submit a Suspicious Algal Bloom Report Form online at [http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water\\_pdf/suspalgformedit.pdf](http://www.dec.ny.gov/docs/water_pdf/suspalgformedit.pdf). Email the completed form and, if possible, attach digital photos (close-up and landscape to show extent and location) of the suspected bloom to [HABsInfo@dec.ny.gov](mailto:HABsInfo@dec.ny.gov).

For more information, contact your regional DEC office or:  
DEC HABs Program Coordinator  
Rebecca Gorney Ph.D., Division of Water  
Phone: (518) 402-8179

## 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.

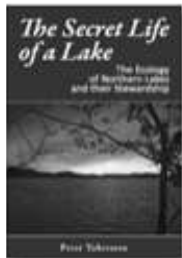
Spiral Bound Paperback: \$20.00



*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 Toblessen 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



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