



LAKE ♦ LUZERNE

ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 276 ■ LAKE LUZERNE, NEW YORK 12846-0276

ACTIVITY UPDATE

SPRING 2022

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Protecting our lake is a 12-month job! Fortunately, the awareness levels of our lake's stewardship has only grown over the past decade. Protecting our lake from milfoil, our mountaintops from acid rain and our lands from erosion requires us all to be vigilant, aware and involved. During the pandemic, the Lake George/Saratoga Region saw a record number of tourists – and with it, a dramatic increase in the number of boaters, kayakers, swimmers and lake recreationalists. With this increased demand, there remains a driving desire to maintain tranquility and preserve our town aesthetically and environmentally. It is organizations like the Lake Luzerne Association, working in conjunction with our Town Board and affiliated groups like the Adirondack Council and the New York State Federation of Lake Associations who are making a difference in everything from local zoning laws to vital SEQR land use studies...all with the goal of enabling balance for the local community while concurrently protecting our natural resources which make the Adirondacks the special place it is. For the 2022 season, the Town Board has hired Land Use Planner Tracey Clothier as the first-ever Lake Manager. Working in coordination with the CSLAP Volunteers, I want to acknowledge Lake Luzerne residents Kurt Tekolste, Keala Tekolste, Kevin McGuinn and Preston Franco for their work in the water sample collection program, along with Jane Oppenlander, Mike Schaffer and Howard Schaffer for providing the drive to assure that attention is devoted to the water study program with the New York State Federation of Lakes. We are excited to be working once again with Supervisor Gene Merlino, drawing on his experience, along with Town Assessor Melissa Genier for her support; in addition, we are pleased to have joining us Freshman Councilman Jim Niles, who has been appointed the Town Board's representative to work with the LLA and the respective milfoil removal contractor for the upcoming season. The Lake Luzerne Association is a 100% volunteer-operated 501-c3 organization and is indeed lucky to have a great team of volunteers. I hope you find ways to support our efforts to make our community an even better place.

Best,

Courtney McGuinn, President
Lake Luzerne Association

PROTECTING OUR LAKE FROM SPECIES INVASION

MILFOIL REMOVAL ACTION PLAN SLATED FOR SUMMER 2022

Your Lake Luzerne Association, working in coordination with the Lake Luzerne Town Board, NYSFOLA and local CSLAP Volunteers have joined forces in orchestrating the 2022 seasonal milfoil plan. This year will mark the tenth of the last eleven seasons

whereby a specific lake water milfoil reduction program is being instituted in Lake Luzerne. There was no treatment program during the 2021 summer season. Greater awareness than ever before is being dedicated to the removal of invasive species at the local, state and national levels.

Town Supervisor Gene Merlino, working with Councilman Jim Niles along with Lake Luzerne Association VP Howard Schaffer, CSLAP Director Kurt Tekolste

and Land Use Planner Tracey Clothier have been leading the task force in regularly meeting to address the milfoil contractor's obligations, the bid process, collection options, program management and budgeting. The Town's representative, Councilman Jim Niles will be working closely with the selected contractor in supervising the project, along with Lake Luzerne's newly appointed Lake Manager Tracey Clothier. The community is fortunate to have these individual leaders at the forefront of this project; Niles is a former Project Manager for the NYS Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), and Clothier is a well-respected land use planner fully versed in Adirondack "best practices" and regulations pertinent to environmental protection. Howard Schaffer has served earlier as President of the Lake Association, having developed the milfoil education program; Kurt Tekolste, as head of the local CSLAP Program has been instrumental for the seasonal water testing for the past two years and he is being followed by Preston Franco who will be leading the effort in the 2022 summer season.



Lake Luzerne Town Supervisor Gene Merlino (left) is joined by Lake Association Vice-President Howard Schaffer, Lake Manager/Land Use Planner Tracey Clothier and Councilman Jim Niles, who are meeting regularly to develop and monitor the seasonal milfoil treatment planned for the 2022 season. Observing social distancing when they meet, the group also participates in ongoing Zoom meetings.



WHAT YOUR SUPPORT MEANS

The Lake Luzerne Association, founded in 1948, is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to preserve and protect the Lake Luzerne aquatic environment. Volunteers are always valued and make the difference in everything we do. Take a moment to see if there is a role for you in our work. We welcome you to join us.



Research Water-related issues



Recruit New Memberships



Assist with CSLAP Water Collection Samples



Make Phone Calls



Solicit for LLA Underwriting/Sponsorships

Let us hear from you.

Contact us thru private message at Facebook

WHAT EXACTLY IS CSLAP?

The Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP) is a volunteer lake monitoring program run by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the NYS Federation of Lake Associations, Inc. (NYSFOLA). It was initiated in 1985 and was modeled after successful volunteer programs in Vermont, Maine, Illinois and Minnesota. Each participating lake association is a member of NYSFOLA, a not-for-profit coalition of lake associations and others interested in lake management. NYSFOLA was founded in 1983 and presently serves over 200 lake associations as well as individual and corporate members.



Citizen volunteers from NYSFOLA-member lake associations are responsible for collecting bi-weekly water quality data and samples from June through September. More than 400 volunteers participate in the program each year on approximately 180 sites. Samples are collected from surface waters (epilimnion) for shallow lakes. Bottom, or hypolimnion, samples are collected from deeper lakes. Parameters include water temperature, Secchi transparency, conductivity, pH, color, total phosphorus, nitrogen (total, NOx, ammonia), Chlorophyll, a calcium, and chloride. Samples are also collected to determine the potential presence of harmful algal blooms.

Lake Luzerne Resident Kurt Tekolste has coordinated the CSLAP Program in Lake Luzerne for the past two years and starting in the Spring of 2022, the lead coordinator will be Preston Franco, who worked closely with Kurt Tekolste and the 2021 volunteers all summer throughout the milfoil collection process.

LAKE LUZERNE ACQUISITION CREATES CORRIDOR LINKING MOREAU LAKE PARK TO RALPH ROAD STATE FOREST

By Mike Lynch Reprinted with permission from The Adirondack Explorer

The Open Space Institute has purchased a 60-acre property in Warren County that connects protected land between Moreau Lake State Park and the Adirondack Park.

The rectangular shaped property ties into Moreau on its southern end while connecting to a 1,260-acre property in Lake Luzerne that OSI purchased in November 2020. That property is next to the 544-acre Ralph Road State Forest, which borders the southeastern part of the Adirondack Park.

Kim Elliman, OSI's president, said permanently protecting the property is part of a years-long effort to link Saratoga County to the Adirondack Park that will "strengthen connections to the land and connections between communities."

OSI's two recently purchased properties are expected to be added to Ralph Road State Forest, according to OSI and the state Department of Environmental Conservation.

"Protecting and making recreational and habitat connections between Saratoga County and the Adirondack Park benefits wildlife, the environment, and the regional economy," said DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos.

This purchase creates a "green corridor" between



Challenges and Successes Managing Eurasian Watermilfoil in Lake Luzerne: A 25 Year Citizen-Government Partnership

Avi Gajjar, *Union College - Schenectady, NY* • Jane Oppenlander, *Clarkson University*
Michael Schaffer, *Lake Luzerne Association* • E. Kurt TeKolste, *Lake Luzerne Association*

Abstract

A 25-year, grassroots initiative to manage the spread of Eurasian watermilfoil, an invasive aquatic plant, in a Southern Adirondack lake is described. A dedicated group of long-term volunteers, together with local government and lake association support, employed a variety of management methods to control the Eurasian watermilfoil, keeping the lake attractive for recreational use. The management methods, volunteer effort, funding, and outcome for each epoch are included, along with keys to success, lessons learned, and future challenges.

See this important article online at: <https://digitalworks.union.edu/ajes/vol24/iss1/3/>.



SAVE THE DATE

LAKE ASSOCIATION REORGANIZATION SET FOR ANNUAL SUMMER MEETING

Founded in 1947, the Lake Luzerne Association throughout the years has brought together countless local and seasonal residents, who have played a role in the Lake Luzerne community, in everything from hosting square dances in the 1960's and 70's to taking an active role in environmental protection and milfoil management today. Our board will be expanding to better address issues concerning our entire community, our local population and the lake's health.

SAVE THE DATE:
Saturday, July 2, 2022, 9:15am
Wayside Pavilion



WHAT CAN KAYAKERS, BOATERS AND PROPERTY OWNERS DO TO REDUCE MILFOIL AND INVASIVES?

We all have a responsibility to respect our lake and surrounding watershed.

Here are some simple acts you can take to make a difference for our Lake.

- CLEAN**
all plants and mud off of boats, trailers, waders, and fishing gear
- DRAIN**
all water from boats, motors, bait buckets, tanks, and holds
- DRY**
boats and gear for five days in the sun or powerwash using hot water before visiting new waterways
- DISPOSE**
of all unwanted or unused bait and worms in the trash
- FREE BOAT WASH STATIONS**
Clean, drain, dry is the law. Free boat wash stations are available at both the Wayside and Pierpont Beach boat access sites.
Visit www.ADKcleanboats.com

"Ralph Road State Forest in the town of Lake Luzerne is an underutilized piece of state land that has numerous trails, streams and a beaver pond that offer good fishing, hiking, hunting and bird-watching opportunities," he said.

The property was purchased from Margie French, who owned the land for more than 40 years. Located at the north end of the Palmertown Range, it is part of OSI's work to connect the southern Palmertown near Saratoga Springs to the Adirondack foothills.

Vermont's Green Mountains and the Adirondack Park that can be used by migrating plant and animal species, according to OSI, which said the property is important for climate-related migration.

In addition, the nonprofit says the property may expand visitor access and recreational use of the Ralph Road and Moreau public lands because it has several roads and could host a new trail and parking area.

Lake Luzerne Supervisor Gene Merlino praised the purchase. "This way it stays preserved and people can use it instead of developers getting it," he said.

Ralph Road State Forest is the only state forest located in Warren County outside of the Adirondack Park. It has no designated or marked trails, although locals use former logging roads for hiking and snowshoeing.

Warren County spokesman Don Lehman said the county had no comment on this specific purchase because they were still learning about it. However, he said the efforts to preserve land in the area and increase recreational opportunities at Moreau and Ralph Road public lands are appreciated.