



Star Lake Protective Association

Star Lake, New York 13690

June 1, 2018

Hello fellow Star Lakers,

Spring is finally here, once an extremely long winter finally loosened its grip on the North Country. "Welcome back" to those returning to the lake from points south. Those of us who stayed here made it through another interesting winter. Ice-out was late this year; but spring is now upon us. Lush greens and colorful flowers have replaced the dull greys of winter. Star Lake has awakened to begin another great lake season. It's also time for our annual membership letter to all Star Lake lakefront property owners.

We would like you to consider joining the SLPA in our efforts to keep the lake clean, beautiful and fun for all. Membership in the SLPA provides many benefits. It gives newcomers to the lake a good way to meet their new neighbors in our unique lake community. Meetings, held twice a year, provide a forum to discuss lake issues and to renew friendships. Just \$20 in dues gives you a voice and a vote in various lake matters. Included with membership is a password to the Members' Area of our web site and a \$5 discount per hand when registering for the annual poker run! We encourage you not only to join the SLPA; but also to attend our meetings and help out with our various lake activities.

SLPA activities include organizing clean-ups twice a year to keep the roads around the lake clean for all to enjoy. Of late, we have also organized an annual lake shore cleanup. We will soon be planning the 14th annual poker run with cash prizes and a party on the sandbar following. Of course, we would prefer you join; but, you don't need to be a member to benefit from or participate in any of these lake activities. Just come out and join us for a good time! A schedule of our 2018 events is on page 2 and on the web site.

The SLPA continues to support projects that benefit the lake. Members' dues have supported the purchase and placement of buoys on rock bars around the lake (we just put them in for Memorial Day weekend). We fund and maintain a web site devoted to the Star Lake for all to enjoy (<http://slpa.info>); and we published the *Star Lake Handbook*. Our dues fund worthy projects that place flowers, flags and banners around the community. We also support the SOS 5K walk/run. Recently, we asked the DEC to better-monitor the public carry-on boat launch more frequently to help avoid on-going problems there. We continue to periodically monitor our water quality with a sampling and testing program. In partnership with the *NYS Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program*, we inspected the lake's shoreline for invasive plants such as milfoil, which have invaded other neighboring lakes and waterways, including Lake Bonaparte, Cranberry Lake, and the Little River flow. An ALAPP team surveyed our shorelines just last year. Good news: no invasive plants have been detected in our lake so far. However, we all need to be proactive about keeping invasive species OUT of our lake. That's why we (and New York State) are increasing our focus on invasive species education for lake property owners. The SLPA now has a standing committee devoted to local public awareness about invasives and what we can do to avoid catastrophic contamination by plants and animals that threaten our Adirondack lakes.

It's up to all of us to help! For example, If you rent out your property or provide lake access to others who are planning to launch any water craft of any size, *please* ask them to carefully inspect and clean their boat, motor, trailer and gear *before launching* to insure that no milfoil or other invasive species get anywhere near the lake. You could also make sure that boat and jet-ski operators have acquired proper registration and certification to ensure a safe environment for all to enjoy. Everyone using the lake should review NYS boater safety rules and regulations. Links can be found on our web site's home page (<http://slpa.info>). Those who use the lake should be aware of the informal customs of the lake, such as general counterclockwise traffic flow. This information, along with where the shallows are on the lake and the 5 mph zones can be found in the *Star Lake Handbook* and should be made available to renters and guests. Our web site has a map with this information at <http://slpa.info/SLHandbook.htm> and http://slpa.info/Rules_of_lake.htm. Please do your part to help us.





If you join the SLPA, consider becoming an active member. Out of 170+ lake property owners, only 60-75 join each year. Meeting attendance averages 25-40 and only a very few actually help with the planning, organizing, and execution of lake activities. We would appreciate your dues to help finance SLPA programs; *but, more important*, we would like members to actively contribute their time and efforts to help us to achieve our common goals.

Our next meeting will be Saturday, June 30th at 10:00 am in the Adirondack Exhibit Center (SOS) where the SLPA once traditionally held their meetings.

Refreshments and socializing will be followed by the meeting. If you have anything you would like to add to the agenda for discussion, please contact me at least a week before the meeting. Minutes of last fall's 2017 Annual Dinner Meeting are available for review on our website; or you can contact me at (315) 848-2169 to obtain a copy. We have also tentatively scheduled our Annual Meeting for Saturday, August 25th at the Haven on Star Lake. We hope you can join us for our final meeting of the year and a great meal!

This letter is generally the only communication we send to all lake owners; but, we occasionally send notices out during the year via e-mail. If you received a paper copy of this letter, we do not have a valid e-mail address for you on file. You can help us keep costs down and receive any summer updates by sending your e-mail address using the feedback form at <http://slpa.info/feedback.htm>.

The SLPA benefits all who enjoy the lake, members or not. Perhaps you have contemplated joining the SLPA in the past. Or, you are new to the community. Or, you were once a member; but quit for one reason or another. In any case, *now is the time to join* the only organization that represents your Star Lake waterfront interests. We hope that you will continue to support the Association with your membership and contributions of time, effort and dues. An organization is only defined by its members. Please help us to (re)define our Association by taking a moment now to send your 2018 dues (\$20). Make the check payable to "Star Lake Protective Association" and send or give it to Chris Cook, our treasurer.

Please Send Dues to:
 Chris Cook, SLPA Treasurer
 P. O. Box 88
 Star Lake, NY 13690

Thank you, in advance, for your support of the SLPA. With your help, the Star Lake Protective Association will continue its 117-year tradition of enhancing, protecting, serving and preserving this beautiful lake environment.

See you on the lake!

Bo Ritchings, Secretary
 Star Lake Protective Association

2018 SLPA OFFICERS ARE:		
President	Vito Testone	315-848-3476
Vice President	Daphne Henri-Foley	281-381-6119
Treasurer	Chris Cook	315-848-2259
Secretary	Bo Ritchings	315-848-2169

2018 SLPA Meetings and Events			
Date	Event	Place	Time
Sat, June 30	Regular Meeting-socializing/refreshments; meeting to follow	Adirondack Exhibit Center (Old Schoolhouse--SOS)	10:00 am
Tues, July 10	First Lake Road Clean-up	Meet at CFCS (school) parking lot	9:00 am
Sat, Aug 4	14th Annual Poker-Run	Meet at the sandbar to register	12:00 noon
Tues, Aug 14	Lake Shoreline Clean-up	Meet at Sandbar	1:00 pm
Sat, Aug 25	Annual Dinner Meeting - 5:00 Cocktails, Meeting, Dinner	The Haven at Star Lake (former Houghton Lodge)	5:00 pm
Tues, Sept 11	Second Lake Road Clean-up	Meet at CFCS (school) parking lot	9:00 am



SOME GOOD INVASIVE AQUATIC SPECIES RESOURCES

On the subject of invasive species and, in particular, invasive plants like milfoil, water chestnut and hydrilla, New York State has provided many resources to help to educate and inform lake property owners so that they might become more vigilant and more proactive in prohibiting the introduction of these invasive plants into our lake. Make no mistake: they are all around Star Lake, including Cranberry Lake, Lake Bonaparte, the Little River basin, the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario (*see map link below*). It's no coincidence that the public boat launch at Lake Bonaparte is infested with milfoil, making it difficult to get to open waters without fowling the prop. We have been lucky so far in that we have not found any here; but, it is just a matter of time before an infestation occurs. It only takes a small sprig of milfoil to root and spread rapidly. And, then, it becomes expensive to manage and impossible to get rid of completely. *There will be no going back to where we are now.*

Boats are beginning to be launched for the season and fishermen are already on the lake. If you let people launch boats on your shore, it is imperative that you ask them to carefully inspect their boat, motor, trailer and gear to make sure that no "hitchhikers" get introduced into the lake. The boat wash site will be operational soon. Ask people to use it before launching if their watercraft has been in any other body of water recently. If you see a watercraft being launched, don't hesitate to ask where it has been and if it's been cleaned. Please help to protect our lake from these invasive plants and animals.

A wealth of information can be found by viewing the two youtube videos below first; and then, by visiting the web sites that follow. **PLEASE** become better-informed, share this information with others and be proactive in helping to protect our very special lake from the devastation that might occur.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P76NJire3A&feature=youtu.be>

<http://bit.ly/2qjo2Hw>

<https://keepinvasivespeciesout.com/>

<http://adkinvasives.com/>

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/48221.html>

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/50272.html>

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/50121.html>

<http://adkinvasives.com/Invasive-Web-Map/index.html>



A new awareness campaign promotes simple steps anyone can take to prevent the spread of invasive species. The "Keep Invasive Species Out" campaign is centered around a new logo and a website, KeepInvasiveSpeciesOut.com that provides an overview of the problem and offers simple, preventive solutions for limiting the likelihood of unintentionally spreading an invasive. Tips are given for specific outdoor activities, including hiking, camping, boating, fishing, hunting, mountain biking, horseback riding, gardening/landscaping, and farming. The site is designed to provide information quickly and easily, and serves as a complement to APIPP's longstanding website, adkinvasives.com. Invasive species are plants, insects, animals and other organ-

isms that are non-native to the ecosystem and cause significant economic or environmental harm, or harm to human health. Among the lengthy and diverse list of potential impacts: invasive species can reduce native species biodiversity, hamper recreational use, reduce property values, and spread diseases. "Most invasive species are introduced and spread throughout the Adirondacks by people — on our clothing and equipment, our boats and vehicles, and in materials such as firewood or soil that we move long distances," said APIPP's Project Manager Brendan Quirion. "But whether you live, work, or play here, there are simple steps you can take to ensure you're protecting Adirondack woods, waters, and communities now and for future generations."

New York State agencies encourage boaters to help prevent spread of aquatic invasive species at the start of the boating season. The DEC and State Parks are working with local governments, lake associations, the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) and Paul Smith's College Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI) in taking a frontline defense against invasive species, such as Eurasian watermilfoil and spiny water flea, in waterbodies in the Adirondacks. One of the main pathways for transfer of aquatic invasive species between waterbodies is recreational water vehicles (boats, canoes, kayaks, and jet skis). Aquatic invasive plants and animals are easily transported on boats, boat trailers, and recreational gear. State regulation requires water recreationists to take reasonable precautions to prevent the spread of AIS. New York is expanding the boat steward programs across the state. In-person discussions with boaters, anglers, and other recreational water users raise awareness about aquatic invasive species and practices that reduce the spreading of aquatic invaders.

The DEC advises boaters and anglers to check boats, trailers, and other fishing and boating equipment for any plants or animals that may be clinging to it. Be sure to check bunks, rollers, trim tabs and other likely attachment points on boats and trailers. Following a thorough inspection, DEC encourages boaters to follow the CLEAN, DRAIN, and DRY standard:

CLEAN boats, trailers and equipment of any debris, and dispose of it in an upland area or receptacle provided for this purpose.

DRAIN the boat completely, including bilge areas, live wells and bait wells. Water ski and wake board boat operators should be sure to drain all ballast tanks. Many aquatic invasive species can survive in as little as a drop of water, so it is imperative that all water is removed.

DRY all equipment for at least five days before using it in another water body. Drying is the simplest and most effective way to ensure equipment does not transport plants or animals. If boating equipment cannot be completely and thoroughly dried, it must be decontaminated prior to use in another water body.

