



June 1, 2024

Hello Fellow Star Lakers!

Spring has finally arrived as winter rather quickly loosened its grip on Star Lake. "Welcome back" to those returning to the lake from points south. Those of us who stayed here made it through another fairly mild winter. Ice-out was a record March 16th this year, as early as I've ever seen it. Lush greens and colorful flowers have now replaced the dull greys of winter and Star Lake has awakened to begin the 2024 lake season.

We would like you to join the SLPA in our efforts to keep the lake clean, beautiful, safe 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. We encourage you to join the SLPA, attend our meetings and help us to plan our various lake activities. Membership info is below, on page 2.

SLPA activities: You don't need to be a member to participate. Just come out and join us for a good time. A schedule of our 2024 events is on page 2 and on our website.

- Organizing Lake Road clean-ups twice a year to keep the roads around the lake clean for all to enjoy.
- Organizing a Lake Shoreline clean-up to help keep the lake pristine, free of garbage and beer cans... Recent surveys of our shorelines have found no invasive, non-native plants in our lake! Good news! Help us keep our lake safe and clean.
- We will soon be planning the 18th annual poker run with cash prizes and a party on the sandbar afterwards.

The SLPA continues to support projects that benefit the Lake and the Star Lake community.

- Members' dues have financed buoys to mark dangerous shallow rock bars around the lake.
- We fund and maintain a web site devoted to Star Lake and the SLPA for all to enjoy (<https://slpa.info>).
- We publish the *Star Lake Handbook*, both in booklet form and on the web site.
- We periodically monitor the lake's water quality, partnered with ALAP (*Adirondack Lake Assessment Program*).
- In partnership with the APIPP (*NYS Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program*), we inspect the lake's shoreline for invasive plants, such as Eurasian Milfoil, which have invaded other neighboring waters (more on this below).
- Our dues fund worthy projects that beautify the community with flowers, flags and banners.
- We have financially supported local organizations such as the Adirondack Exhibit Center (SOS 5K walk/run), the Wilderness Healthcare Foundation and the Star Lake Fire Department and Rescue Squad.

Recent SLPA Initiatives:

- The SLPA, for two years in a row, has met the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation requirements for a "Loon-friendly Lake". See [Adk Loon-Friendly Lake Certification Program — Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation](#).
- The SLPA and individuals have purchased new signage to remind boaters of the 5-mph zones around the lake.
- We are in the process of incorporating and obtaining 501(c)(3) status so that donations will be tax-deductible.
- We have established a special fund to facilitate the mitigation of invasive species, should we need it. Our intention is to grow the fund until needed. Tax-deductible donations will be able to be made by individuals. SLPA fund-raising raffles and the poker run have already added substantially to this fund, with another raffle scheduled for this year.



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 20-40 and only a 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 contribute their time and efforts to help us to achieve our common goals.

2024 SLPA OFFICERS ARE:		
President	John Burns	315-848-3238
Vice President	Karen Reese	315-848-5805
Treasurer	Chris Cook	315-848-2259
Secretary	Bo Ritchings	315-848-2169

E-mail Address? 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, that means we do not have a valid e-mail address for you on file. You can help us keep costs down and receive any SLPA updates by sending us your preferred e-mail address using the feedback form at <https://slpa.info/feedback.htm>.

Our next meeting will be Saturday, June 29th at 10:00 am at the Adirondack Exhibit Center (SOS). 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 2023 Annual Meeting are available for review on our website. We have also tentatively scheduled our Annual Meeting for Saturday, August 31st. A pot-luck picnic will be planned, later in the day. We hope you can join us for our final get-together of the year and a great meal. Check our website for updated information.

Regarding Covid-19, unless things drastically get worse, we will hold our meetings in person. We will conduct our clean-ups as we have in the past. The Poker Run is on the schedule. Our dinner plans in August are yet to be determined. We will utilize the *Bargain Hunter*, our web site and/or our e-mail listings to keep you all informed of any changes. So, stay tuned and stay safe.

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 some reason. 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 as strong as its membership.*

Please help us to define our lake association by taking a moment now to send in your 2024 dues (\$20). Associate members, who are not on the lake but have an interest in Star Lake, pay \$10. Make the check payable to "Star Lake Protective Association" and send or give it to Chris Cook, our treasurer.

Thank you, in advance, for your support of the SLPA. With your help, the Star Lake Protective Association will continue its 123-year tradition of enhancing, protecting, serving and preserving this beautiful lake environment.

'See you on the lake!

Bo Ritchings, SLPA Secretary

Please Send Dues to:

Chris Cook, SLPA Treasurer

P. O. Box 88

Star Lake, NY 13690

2024 SLPA Meetings and Events

Date	Event	Place	Time
Sat, June 29	Regular Meeting, socializing/meeting to follow	SOS Adirondack Exhibit Center	10:00 am
Weds. July 10	First Lake Road Clean-up	Meet at CFCS (school) parking lot	9:00 am
Sat, July 27	18th Annual Poker-Run	Meet at the sandbar to register	12:00 noon
Weds. Aug 14	Lake Shoreline Clean-up	Meet at the Sandbar	10:00 am
Sat. Aug 31	Annual Meeting, socializing/refreshments; meeting to follow	SOS Adirondack Exhibit Center	10:00 am
Sat. Aug 31	Potluck Picnic ? To be determined	To be determined	4:00 pm
Weds, Sept 11	Second Lake Road Clean-up	Meet at CFCS (school) parking lot	9:00 am

2023 was a tough year for our loons...as many of you know. We needed to make several attempts at loon rescues last year. All were the results of Human carelessness. We had a family with two chicks. The mother got wrapped in fishing line and was successfully rescued. Later in the summer, she was rescued again with fishing tackle in her gullet and she died of lead poisoning. One of her chicks also died as a result of trauma suffered probably from being struck by a boat propeller. The other chick was hit by a jet ski, and was rescued, treated, and survived.

Boaters, rafters, kayakers, everyone, *please* keep a safe distance from areas where the loons are so that accidents like those last year can be avoided. Fishermen, *please* don't fish around the loons. Properly dispose of old fishing line, lures and get rid of that lead tackle. It takes about a week for a loon to painfully die after swallowing a lead split-shot or sinker. There is a lead buy-back program at the link below.

The remaining male adult might or might not seek another mate. We don't know if we will be able to enjoy watching loon chicks grow up on this lake again. To learn more about loons, see <https://www.adkloon.org> and consider a donation to the ACLC. Loons' presence on this lake is a testimony to the quality of our lake environment. Please be careful and help protect these amazing treasures. Let's all try to avoid a replay of last summer's loon injuries.



Boaters: A Request from Your Neighbors,

Several people around the lake have expressed concern over the wakes of large motorboats on the lake, particularly those towing skiers and tubers around the islands and in the bays; especially post office bay. There is not only an erosion problem; but several people have noted that they can't even sit on their floating dock when boats take off or drop skiers nearby due to the huge waves created.

This is a difficult problem with no clear solution. Aside from the NYS speed limit of 5 mph within 100 feet of shore, docks, swimmers, etc., and the erosion potential, there is a greater concern. While boaters have a right to waterski and pull tubers and enjoy their boats, they also have an obligation to respect the rights of their neighbors to their "quiet enjoyment" of the lake. Please show some empathy for others and **be aware of your boat wake at all times**. It's not only the law; it's the right thing to do! And, it's good for the lake and the very diverse lake community.



All operators of motorized vessels, regardless of age, will need a boating safety certificate by January 1, 2025.

While we're on the subject, please make sure that boat and jet-ski operators have acquired proper registration and certification to ensure a safe lake environment. Everyone using the lake should review NYS boater safety rules and regulations (links can be found on our web site). We should all observe Informal customs of the lake, such as generally counterclockwise traffic flow, along with where the shallows and the 5-mph zones are. This information can be found in the *Star Lake Handbook* which could be made available to renters, guests and members of your family. Our web site has a map with this information at https://slpa.info/Rules_of_lake.htm. There is also information about boater safety certification classes that can be taken on-line.

Sandbar etiquette At recent meetings, certain sandbar behaviors have come into question. Most notable concerns are loud, rude behavior, foul language, public exposure, bad dog behavior and loud music after dusk. Garbage from the sandbar is often floated onto neighboring beaches.

Enough said! Please self-monitor your behavior on the sandbar (and lake) particularly after numerous adult beverages... If you're going to be out all afternoon, do them a favor and leave your pets at home. Contain your cans and other refuse so that it stays out of the water. Don't pee where you play—plan frequent trips back to your camp to take care of personal needs. And please keep the noise down after dark. Show some consideration for your sandbar neighbors.

From the Presidents' Docks,

All you Star Lake Protective Association Members and soon to be SLPA members, welcome to the 123rd year of Star Lake Protective Association's existence. That is 123 years of promoting "the protection and improvement of Star Lake and the surrounding property and environment" (mission of SLPA stated in 1901). A huge and sincere "Thank You" to SLPA's founding fathers and mothers for their foresight and efforts to protect the lake we all love and enjoy.

Today, 124 years later their "Mission" has passed down to all of us who live on the lake and those who rent their lake front property for visitors to enjoy. Today our Star Lake is clean and free of invasives. However, we must be vigilant in fulfilling our mission to keep Star Lake clean and invasives-free while, at the same time, continuing to enjoy Star Lake and the social interactions that occur on and around Star Lake.

We encourage all of you to come to SLPA's first meeting of the season, Saturday, June 29, 2024 starting at 10:00 am at the SOS Exhibit Center on Rt. 3 in Star Lake, next to the Fire Hall. We encourage all of you—current SLPA members, new members and lake front owners considering membership to come to this meeting. We will welcome back our friends and neighbors who spent the winter in warmer places. You will hear a representative of the Clifton-Fine Hospital tell how they solved the issue of access to the clinic. You will learn about progress that has been made by various committees and share ideas for the future of the SLPA.

'Looking forward to seeing you all at the meeting. Safe travels to those returning!

Be well,

John F. Burns, President

Karen Reese, Vice President

PS. Margie and Joe Russo wanted me to let you all know that SOS is having their free clothing give away again this year. It will be Fri. Sat. and Sun. May 24, 25 and 26. If you have any clothing or household items (i.e. sheets, towels, blankets etc.) you would like to donate, please call Margie at 315-848-5326 to arrange a time to drop your items off at the SOS building.

On the subject of invasive species... 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: invasive plants like milfoil, water chestnut and hydrilla, 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 was infested with milfoil, making it difficult to get to open waters without fouling 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 extremely expensive to manage and impossible to get rid of. *There will be no going back to where we are now.* We all need to be proactive about keeping invasive species *OUT* of our lake.

Boats are beginning to be launched for the season and fishermen are already on the lake. If you let people launch boats off 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, located on the corner of Rt. 3 and the Newton Falls road, will be operational soon. Ask people to use it before launching if their watercraft has been in any body of water other than Star Lake. 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 (and *your shoreline*) from these invasive plants and animals.



CLEAN boats, trailers and equipment of any debris, and dispose of it in an upland area or receptacle provided for this purpose, far from the water's edge. This includes kayaks, canoes, sail boats, sail boards, and any equipment that has been in waters other than Star Lake.

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. If boating equipment cannot be completely and thoroughly dried, it must be decontaminated prior to use in another water body. Please utilize boat wash stations where available (ours is on Rt. 3, near old J & L site just past the Newton Falls turn).

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.

Some Good INVASIVE SPECIES RESOURCES:

A wealth of information can be found by viewing the first YouTube video (right) and then, by visiting the other links that follow.

The last link takes you to an interesting 2019 map of Star Lake with known native vegetation locations, mapped by the volunteers from APIPP.

(E-mail recipients can just click on the links.)

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

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

<http://adkinvasives.com/>

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

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

[https://adkinvasives.com/data/files/Documents/Star%20Lake 2019 APIPP%20EARLY%20DETECTION%20REPORT.pdf](https://adkinvasives.com/data/files/Documents/Star%20Lake%202019%20APIPP%20EARLY%20DETECTION%20REPORT.pdf)

We hope to see you at the meeting on June 29th, 10 am at the SOS Center.

Please take a moment now to send in your member dues.