

# SOA NEWS

Preserving Placid's Ecology, History, and Scenic Beauty since 1893.



## The Future of the Lake is in Our Hands

Lake Placid is one of the purest lakes on earth. Only 2.5% of the water on earth is fresh water, and of that only 1% is suitable for drinking. Lake Placid is included in that 1% classified as AA-Special, the highest rating for water quality. It is a rare and beautiful resource that must be protected.

## Membership Update

To our members, first and foremost, we want to thank you for all that you do for our Lake. Your dues fund the SOA operating budget, which we use to provide all of the services that keep our Lake safe, clean and healthy.

These services are critical to the caretaking of this precious resource, includ-

ing testing and monitoring our water, organizing and subsidizing camp septic system pump-outs, maintaining the Lake water level through our management of the dam, and monitoring our navigation marking system.

If you have neighbors who may not have joined the SOA, please let them know about this important work and

encourage them to join us. We are all in this together and there is undoubtedly strength in numbers when it comes to protecting our Lake!

The SOA Board would especially like to thank those of you who have donated to the Invasive Species Prevention Fund.

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## Greetings from the President

Dear Shore Owners,

It is during uncertain and stressful times like these that I am especially grateful for the tranquility and beauty of Lake Placid. I am in Lake Placid now looking out over blowing snow and whitecaps. Gazing over Lake Placid never ceases to thrill me. During the long fall and winter months, you can be assured that the SOA will continue to focus on issues that most impact the purity and enjoyment of our Lake.

During our virtual Annual Meeting in July, you raised questions and concerns about matters that affect the quality of life on Lake Placid. First, was the significant increase in activity on Lake Placid; and second, was our effort to prevent the spread of invasive species. Both are addressed in this Newsletter.

SOA Trustees, Officers and Committee Members have been busy with projects

that will facilitate member communications and strengthen our advocacy for water quality and boater safety. We are upgrading the website; creating a new Shore Owners map and membership list; making needed repairs to the dam; surveying properties owned by the SOA; and working with the Town, Village and DEC on boating safety issues. We also continue to work with the Ausable River Association to complete the Lake Management Plan so we can be more data-driven and proactive in our efforts to protect the Lake.

Climate change, invasive species and increased usage all pose threats to Lake Placid. Yes, our efforts must increase if we hope to preserve Lake Placid for future generations. Thank you to those who have contributed to the charitable funds we manage to protect the Lake. If you

have not already done so, we need your support.

Please donate to the *Invasive Species Prevention Fund of Placid Lake*, a tax-deductible 501(c)(3) organization administered by the Adirondack Foundation. The link is [adirondackfoundation.org/funds/invasive-species-prevention-fund-placid-lake](https://adirondackfoundation.org/funds/invasive-species-prevention-fund-placid-lake).

I wish you and your families a healthy, happy holiday season.

Sincerely,

# Invasive Species Update

**The SOA has increased the effort to control the only invasive species currently in Lake Placid – Variable Leaf Milfoil (VLM).**

Our divers harvested VLM twelve days in 2020, up from two days in previous years. These efforts are paying off. Our divers removed 1475 pounds of VLM this summer, a 91% decrease from the 1,675 pounds removed in 2019. This is welcome news after two years of exponential growth. We are still well over the amount of VLM we removed prior to 2018. We will conduct a similar diving program in 2021 to make sure we continue to drive down the amount of VLM in Lake Placid.

These efforts cost approximately \$60,000 to \$70,000 each year. While we apply for grants from the Lake Champlain Basin Program, and request contributions from the Town of North Elba and the Village of Lake Placid, the costs of this program falls primarily on us.

The SOA depends on annual contributions from Shore Owners to protect the Lake from invasive species. In 2019 Shore Owner's contributed a total of \$60,241 to the Invasive Species Prevention Fund. 2020 has been a difficult year. To date, we have received only \$25,800 towards this critical cause. We must increase our giving to the 2019 level to ensure that we have the funds needed to prevent invasive species from clouding the waters of Lake Placid and changing its ecology.

As we Shore Owners know, there are dire consequences for a failure to take persistent action to prevent and control invasive species:

- Water becomes unsuitable for drinking, swimming and boating
- Native plant diversity declines
- Fish and invertebrate populations decline
- Mosquito populations increase

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We are deeply appreciative of your partnership in helping us manage this threat. It requires significant effort and dollars to protect our Lake and your investment. We cannot do it without you..

In other membership news -- as you may know -- there were two fires on the Lake this past summer. The Lake Placid Fire Department would like to have an emergency contact number for every camp in the event that they need to reach us. For your safety, please email your camp name, camp number and telephone contact number to [soalakeplacid@gmail.com](mailto:soalakeplacid@gmail.com). If there are changes to your contact information, please let us know so we can send you important updates about our Lake.

Finally, please welcome your new neighbors and ask them to join our ranks. Let us know who they are so we can send them information about the SOA and invite them to join us. You can reach us at: [soalakeplacid@gmail.com](mailto:soalakeplacid@gmail.com).

We wish you happy and healthy holidays and hope that you may be able to spend all or part of them in Lake Placid this year.

—Lauren Razook Roth  
*Membership Chair*

Stay in Touch

**Let's Go Green!**

**During these uncertain times, it is more important than ever to communicate via email.** Please be sure we have your current email address. Just send a quick email to Kristin Parker, our SOA Executive Assistant at: [soalakeplacid@gmail.com](mailto:soalakeplacid@gmail.com).

Shore Owners Association of Lake Placid  
P.O. Box 1235  
Lake Placid, NY 12946  
[LPSOA.org](http://LPSOA.org)  
[soalakeplacid@gmail.com](mailto:soalakeplacid@gmail.com)



Research technicians taking their final lake samplings of 2020.

## Lake Management Plan

Work on our Lake Management Plan continues. A key piece of data is the survey that was sent out over the summer and is available on our website: [lpsoa.org](http://lpsoa.org).

The survey gathers information regarding uses of Lake Placid and top concerns regarding the Lake. This survey is the best way to make your voice heard. To date, only 70 Shore Owners have completed the survey. If you have not done so, please go to: [www.lpsoa.org/survey](http://www.lpsoa.org/survey). We will keep the survey open through December 15, 2020. Thank you for participating.

## Officers & Trustees

David Bumsted, *President*  
Rusty Hlavacek, *Vice President*  
John McMillin, *Treasurer*  
Lendy Barnard, *Secretary*

Teresa Brady  
Scott Donnelly  
Jay Ireland  
William Kaufman  
Cristina Lussi  
Hilary McDonald  
Barbara Renninger  
Diane Reynolds  
Lauren Razook Roth  
Cathy Sloan  
Kathy Trainor  
Jeff Volmrich

Fred Calder, *Honorary Trustee*  
Georgia Jones, *Honorary Trustee*

## Please Help Us Continue to Protect the Lake

While Lake Placid has changed over the decades, one fact remains the same: members, friends, visitors, boaters, community residents and businesses –have relied on the SOA to protect Lake Placid water quality for more than 127 years. You can make a difference in the health and purity of Lake Placid water.

There are three simple ways to contribute to the prevention of invasive species:

ONLINE  
[adirondackfoundation.org/funds/invasive-species-prevention-fund-placid-lake](http://adirondackfoundation.org/funds/invasive-species-prevention-fund-placid-lake)  
[lpsoa.org](http://lpsoa.org)

BY CHECK  
Adirondack Foundation  
Memo line: *Invasive Species Prevention Fund of Placid Lake*  
P.O. Box 288  
Lake Placid, NY 12946