

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT DAVID BUMSTED

Dear Fellow Shore Owners and Friends of Lake Placid,

I am writing to ask for your help. For 125 years, the Lake Placid Shore Owners' Association has been a primary advocate for protection of Lake Placid. Our history is long, and filled with examples of our commitment to the preservation of the lake. We have saved forests and watershed from logging; we took a leading role in fire protection along the lakeshore; and we purchased and manage the dam to maintain a consistent water level for our boats and docks.

We now find ourselves facing another serious challenge: invasive species. Variable-leaf Watermilfoil (milfoil) was first detected in Lake Placid's Paradox Bay in 2009. While we have been largely successful in controlling the spread, the battle will certainly continue for years to come. This year, our divers harvested more than 1,000 pounds of milfoil from the bay, significantly more than in prior years. Increased efforts are required to control the spread and prevent further invasion. Our research has shown us that a failure to do so can have dire consequences for a lake and its adjacent community.

A picture says a lot. Left alone, milfoil turns suitable bodies of water into this:

Communities that fail to take persistent action suffer the consequences:

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

These consequences have the combined effect of destroying the natural habitat of the lake and adversely impacting real estate values and the vibrancy of the community.

In partnership with state and local governmental agencies and conservation organizations, we are working hard to pursue all avenues for mitigating the considerable cost of dealing with this problem. As the primary advocates for the lake, we must take the lead to ensure a successful outcome. We have elected to undertake a two-pronged approach to eradicate the problem. First, we need to continue to fund the Stewardship Program administered by the Adirondack Watershed Institute of Paul Smith's College. Second, we must continue to expand the engagement of qualified divers that specialize in the search and removal of invasive species. Our best estimate is that the cost to maintain these programs is approximately \$70,000 per year. For more information, visit our website at www.lpsoa.org.



In Summary: Lake Placid has seen a significant increase in detection of a destructive, invasive species of milfoil since it was first detected in Paradox Bay in 2009.

The SOA employs a two-pronged approach to prevent and control the spread of milfoil in our lake:

Teams from the Adirondack Watershed Institute of Paul Smith's College inspect boats seven days a week to ensure that invasive species are detected and removed before entering our waters.

- Qualified divers search for and remove invasive species that have entered our lake.
- Fourteen types of invasive species have been found in Adirondack lakes, requiring ongoing vigilance.
- We actively and successfully pursue partnerships to mitigate the costs of controlling the spread of invasive species.
- We need to raise a minimum of \$70,000 annually to cover the gap in funding needed to control and prevent invasive species in Lake Placid. We intend to raise these funds from public and private sources, including available grant programs.

We are part of a remarkable community. But our good fortune comes with a responsibility to help ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy Lake Placid as we know it today. In this spirit, I ask you to give generously to the Invasive Species Prevention Fund for Placid Lake. This fund is administered by the Adirondack Foundation, a tax-deductible 501(c)(3) organization.

To donate online, please go to: www.adirondackfoundation.org/funds/invasive-species-prevention-lp

To donate by mail, please make your check payable to:

Adirondack Foundation
Memo Line: Invasive Species Prevention Fund for Placid Lake
P.O. Box 288, Lake Placid, NY 12946
Lake Placid, NY 12946

This concerted effort will allow us to preserve and protect our magnificent lake. As your neighbor and a friend of Lake Placid, I thank you for your support.

David Bumsted, President, LPSOA

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT DOCK DE-ICERS

Dock de-icers are used to protect valuable docks from ice damage that can occur with changing lake levels. De-icers include bubblers, agitators and circulators. Unfortunately, all too often these devices create large swaths of open water that go far beyond what is needed to protect the dock. You can operate your de-icer in a manner that will reduce its impact but still provide the protection you wish and save energy while limiting the environmental and safety concerns of large expanses of open water.

Best De-Icer Practices: Your de-icer does not have to run 24/7 to protect your dock or boathouse. Use a thermostat with a timer to limit use so that it only operates when it is cold enough to freeze the water. Choose a motor/de-icer system that will have just enough power to open only the water directly around your dock or boathouse. Periodically check your de-icer for performance and safety. Consider installing a time-temperature management system available from companies that sell de-icers.

Why Try to Reduce De-Icer Impact? Thin ice that surrounds an area opened by a de-icer may not be perceptible to humans, dogs or wildlife on the ice. For safety, limit your de-icer's impact to just what is needed to protect your dock, thereby reducing the risks associated with thin ice. Save money on your electric bill. Reduce noise impact on your neighbors. Protect the lake's ecosystem. The lake needs to rest in the winter. De-icers can stir up sediment and undermine the structure of your dock, reduce water clarity, and allow more light in winter months, potentially promoting growth of weeds and algae.

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 126th ANNUAL MEETING

The 126th Annual Meeting will take place on July 27, 2019 at the High Peaks Resort.
 Registration and coffee will begin at 9:00 a.m.
 The meeting will begin at 9:30.

2018 NUMERICAL LIST OF PROPERTY OWNERS

Will be published and distributed
 in December.

A LOOK UNDER THE ICE: WINTER LAKE ECOLOGY

Have you ever wondered what is happening beneath the ice on a frozen lake? How do fish and other organisms survive for so long beneath the frozen surface?

Let's back up just a bit to talk about what happens before the lake freezes. During the summer, most lakes are thermally stratified. Warm lower density water sits on top of colder higher density water. As summer transitions to fall, the upper layers cool, breaking down that density difference. Eventually, the surface of the lake cools to 4 degrees Celsius (39.2 degrees Fahrenheit), the temperature at which water is most dense. This causes the water at the surface to settle to the bottom, pushing the now relatively warmer water at the bottom back to the surface. This process continues until the surface water cools below 4-degrees Celsius, at which point it becomes less dense, and eventually freezes. Remember, water is most dense at 4 degrees Celsius. It becomes less dense above and below this temperature. If water were most dense as a solid, lakes would freeze from the bottom up, eventually freezing solid. In that case, little or nothing would survive in the lake. Most lakes and ponds don't completely freeze because the ice (and eventually snow) on the surface acts to insulate the water below. Our winters aren't long or cold enough to completely freeze most local water bodies. This process of lakes turning over is critically important to the life in the lake. It is these turnover periods that infuse and distribute oxygen throughout the entire water column.

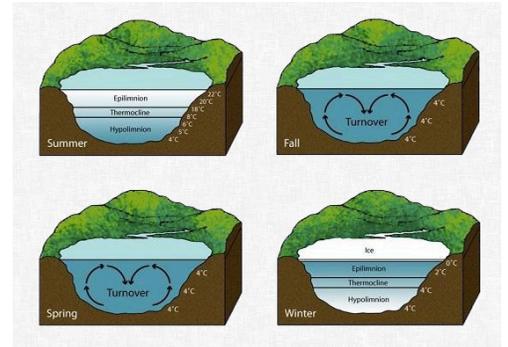
Fish have several adaptations to survive a winter below the ice. First, they are cold blooded meaning their body temperature matches their environment. Colder temperatures mean a reduction in their metabolism. This slows numerous metabolic processes, such as respiration, digestion, and activity level. Fish are often classified as coldwater, cool water, and warm water species. The warm water species will seek out the warmest water they can, which is often found at the bottom of the lake or pond. They will also stay away from areas with a strong current to save energy. They hunker down in these areas and enter a state of torpor, reducing their respiration and using as little energy as possible. The coldwater fish species, such as trout and salmon, will stay more active throughout the water column and preying on other organisms.

When ice forms across the surface of a lake, it seals off the water from atmospheric oxygen exchange and blocks out much of the light that is necessary for aquatic plants and phytoplankton to produce oxygen within the lake. Throughout the winter oxygen levels in the lake slowly decline. This presents a serious challenge to fish, because if the lake stays frozen for too long, oxygen levels can become low enough to kill them.

Fish are the obvious organism to think about in a lake or pond, but what about all the other plants and animals that call the lake home? Phytoplankton, small single-celled photosynthetic organisms, produce thick-walled resistant cells that settle to the bottom of the lake where they overwinter. Zooplankton, the small, nearly microscopic animals that feed on phytoplankton, use a similar strategy. They produce a special resting stage that allows them to over winter in the relatively warm lake sediments. In the spring when the lake turns over again, and light returns, these resting stages become active. Many aquatic plants die back, but their root systems remain intact and store energy to produce new vegetation in the spring. Some phytoplankton remain productive throughout the winter by utilizing the little bit of light that makes it through the ice and snow. Many amphibians will enter a state of hibernation and seek protected areas, often burrowing down into the sediment along the lake bottom.

The combination of the unique properties of water and the diverse adaptations to cold allow almost all of the plants and animals that live in our lakes to survive the winter. Next time you are out on the ice, pause for a moment to think about what is happening beneath your feet.

Author Brendan Wiltse is the Science & Stewardship Director at the Ausable River Association and holds a Ph.D. in Limnology from Queen's University. Image Credit: NOAA; Lake Turnover Graphic: National Geographic



WATER QUALITY

Rusty Hlavacek reported that the 2018 season was a good one in the area of water quality. Tap water testing this summer was encouraging in the sense that we had no positive tests for coliform or e coli. There are always many factors involved, such as water temperature, waterfowl near your intake etc. My sense is that more and more of you are becoming aware and even vigilant about your water quality. We also were the beneficiaries of having Brendan Wiltse from the Ausable River Association collaborate with us about the quality of water in the lake. He accompanied me on my rounds in July and did some testing of his own in various thermoclines in the lake which revealed a healthy ecosystem for the trout population. We look forward to continued dialogue with Brendan and his organization. Lastly, we encourage each camp owner to regularly assess the health of your septic system. There is no greater risk to water quality than a system that fails and leaks effluent into the lake. It would also be prudent to do any necessary updates to old systems as the time is likely coming when the town will begin to inspect them."

SEPTIC PUMP OUT 2018

In a coordinated effort with TDI Septic, Harlow Excavations Barge and Employees, and Ned Scudder and Lendy Barnard, we managed to pump out over 44,0000 gallons of sewage from thirteen camps in two long days. As of now we have five camps signed up for the 2019 pump out.

There has been some confusion on the lake about the workings of a Septic System and the need to pump out. We had a few failed systems this year and in some cases evidence of sewage seeping into creeks leading into the Lake. The SOA pump out is one of the easiest ways to help protect our Lake and maintain your system at a huge discount. If you have questions please reach out to Tommy Dupree at TDI (518-524-3092) or Lendy Barnard at (barnards@optonline.net).

Here are some facts that hold true for Septic Systems:

All Septic Systems need to be pumped out. There is no such thing as a septic system that does not need to be pumped out. You should pump your system when the tank is 1/3 Full. Your system should be inspected annually by a licensed septic company, inspector, or plumber to make sure it is connected and working properly. Leach fields should have plenty of sunlight and be clean of leaves, fallen branches, and other debris.

The Town of North Elba proposes a local law providing for the inspection of septic systems which are proximate to Lake Placid lake. A public hearing is scheduled for December 11 at 6:30 p.m. at the Town of North Elba Town Hall.

As drafted, "the intent of this local law is to better protect Lake Placid Lake from exposure to excess nutrients and pollutants." This local law will effect all zoning districts that are "proximate to Lake Placid Lake."

"The law proposes that all septic systems will be subject to periodic inspections by the Code Enforcement Officer of the Town of North Elba, and that septic systems shall be inspected upon the occurrence of: "(a) upon the effective date of this local law and every five (5) years thereafter, or (b) there exists reasonable cause to believe that a particular septic system in[sic] not functioning properly, or (c) upon the conveyance of the property upon which a septic system is located or which is being service[sic] by a septic system not located on said property."

THE SHORE OWNERS' ASSOCIATION OF LAKE PLACID TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS

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