



# NEWS

Protecting Lake Placid Water Quality since 1893.



**Shore owners make daily decisions that affect the lake. Protecting Lake Placid from water quality threats requires the vigilance of everyone who lives on the lake.**

*When landscaping, please include rain gardens, pocket ponds, permeable pavers, vegetative swales, and most importantly – plant shoreline buffers of native trees and shrubs. The health of the lake is in our own hands.*

## President’s Letter–Scott Donnelly

**I hope you enjoyed a wonderful summer on Lake Placid. I am sure we agree that it was a welcome return to ‘normal’ in the North Country.**

The SOA Board continues to focus on our stewardship of this beautiful lake and our responsibility to protect its pristine condition. As we discussed during the annual meeting, the lake stewards at both the state and village launches continue to prevent the introduction of

new invasive species to the lake. Our increased investment in a third week of Milfoil harvesting has proven to be well worth the effort. Our annual septic pump-out program remains critical to the quality of the lake water. This summer, several systems were cited as in

need of repair by the town code enforcer. Please note that the SOA’s involvement with septic safety is limited to our subsidizing the cost of the barge. Code enforcement actions are taken by the town to protect our drinking water.

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View of Heart Lake from Mt. Jo

## Partnering with the Adirondack Foundation

**Rich Kroes, Chairman of the Adirondack Foundation**

Adirondack Foundation is proud to partner with the Lake Placid Shore Owners' Association to help protect the lake. As the community foundation serving the Adirondack region, we work to enhance the lives of people in the Adirondacks through philanthropy to help people and communities thrive today, tomorrow, and always. We build charitable assets through gifts, legacies, and dedicated funds.

The Foundation stewards more than 280 charitable funds, including the SOA's tax-deductible funds. Our partnership with the SOA helps to facilitate lake-saving projects to protect the lake now, and into the future.

As SOA Treasurer John McMillin mentioned at the annual meeting, the Foundation engaged Vanguard Institutional Advisory

Services to manage our investment portfolio – something we're sure Jack Bogle would appreciate. You can rest assured that the Foundation's portfolio of more than \$90 million in charitable assets is in good hands.

Through investment activity and the stewarding of gifts from generous SOA members and friends, the Foundation annually grants lake-saving projects, including invasive species management, repairs to the outlet dam, and lake management studies so that the SOA is proactive in its efforts to protect the lake. These funds are critical to maintaining the lake's water quality and aquatic habitat.

To read more about the Foundation, please go the SOA website: [LPSOA.org](http://LPSOA.org)

## Protecting the Lake

Harmful Algae Blooms (HAB) are increasing in the U.S. due primarily to the increase in human activity and the interaction with factors known to contribute to the growth of cyanobacterial blooms.

Specifically, this is storm water runoff, wastewater, and fertilizers. HABs produce toxins that can harm people, animals, aquatic ecosystems, the economy, drinking water supplies, property values, and recreational activities.

### You can help prevent HABs!

- Plant low-growing native shrubs and bushes along your shoreline. Their roots will absorb phosphorus.
- Do not use fertilizer.
- Maintain your septic system.
- Use phosphate-free cleaning materials for household cleaning and laundry.
- Do not feed the ducks. Their droppings contain phosphorus
- Maintain your boat engine to reduce emissions and use oil absorbent pads in the bilge.
- Re-route water flow so it settles into the soil.

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Special thanks to the many volunteers who happily responded to calls to keep the lake safe. They removed floating debris, replaced navigation lights, inspected suspicious vegetation, and managed shoreline safety concerns.

We thank Kristin Parker for all she did for the SOA as our Executive Assistant. We appreciate her hard work and wish her well.

And thank you – SOA members - for your continued support. I wish you and your family a happy and healthy holiday season.



## Membership Committee Report

*Thank you* to all of our dues paying members! We are 158 strong, the highest number of members since 2017.

Membership is at the foundation of all of the work that the SOA does, funding our operating budget and allowing us to provide the essential services of lake health and safety. For more information about how your dues impact our lake, please visit our website: [lpsoa.org/membership](http://lpsoa.org/membership).

Please note that the 2021 dues year is not closed until December 31. If you know anyone who would like to join us, please encourage them to do so. There is strength in numbers when it comes to protecting our lake!

We are so grateful for our wonderful SOA community. Those of us who were able to attend the annual meeting in person felt that in spades. Together we make all the difference and enjoy a special connection as well. Lucky are we!

Stay in Touch

**Let's Go Green!**

**Thank you to all who have provided current email addresses.**

To update your email, please send a quick note to: [soalakeplacid@gmail.com](mailto:soalakeplacid@gmail.com)

## Outlet Dam & Footbridge

**Maintenance of the Dam continues to be a primary responsibility of the SOA. With the passage time, threats to our lake shift and increase. It is incumbent upon us to act swiftly and purposefully to mitigate risks as they arise.**

With the significant increase in tourism in our area, the Dam has become a popular destination not only for residents, but for hikers, cross-country skiers, and tourists. It can be found on Trip Advisor and in hotel lobbies, blogs and social media. The Dam is widely perceived as public when in fact it is privately owned by the SOA. The responsibility of ownership requires regular safety inspections. Our most recent engineer's report revealed that -- for the footbridge to remain open -- it was necessary to install handrails along the portion of the walkway that spans the outlet brook. We are grateful to SOA volunteers who took immediate action to make the footbridge as safe as is practical so that everyone can continue to enjoy passage over the brook in safety. Thank you to Jim Forsyth for donating the barge for the work on the dam.

To further protect the Dam and our surrounding property, the SOA:

- Regularly removes the debris from the Dam and the outlet to ensure proper water flow
- Repairs and reconstructs portions of the dam where damage or leaking has occurred
- Removes vegetation to prevent damage from roots
- Maintains and evaluates signage to protect public safety

## 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 128 years. You

can make a difference in the health and purity of Lake Placid water.

To make a donation, please use the enclosed envelope or go to: <https://lpsoa.org/donate>

## Officers & Trustees

Scott Donnelly, *President*  
Kathy Trainor, *Vice President*  
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Fred Calder, *Honorary Trustee*  
Georgia Jones, *Honorary Trustee*

**John H. Rickard**  
**1942 – 2021**

It is with deep sadness that we inform you of the death of our friend Johnny Rickard who passed away on October 23rd. Johnny, our lake constable for four decades, will be remembered by all for his devotion to the lake and his passion for boating safety. We will miss his friendly manner and commitment to our lake community.