



# SOA NEWS

Protecting Lake Placid Water Quality since 1893.



- Clean, Clear Water
- Securing Our Dam
- Dark Skies
- Autumn Colors

PHOTO: Carolyn M. Walker

## SOA President’s Letter

Dear Shore Owners,

Sadly, the summer of 2023 has come to an end – I hope everyone was able to spend time enjoying our beautiful lake – thankfully we can spend the winter drying out!

The SOA Trustees, Officers and Committee members continue to focus on our stewardship of this beautiful lake and our responsibility to protect our pristine waters. As we discussed during the annual meeting, the lake stewards at both the state and village launches continue to encounter invasive species and are effectively preventing the introduction of new species to the lake.

The dive harvesting program has now completed the third week of harvesting and I am pleased to report that we continue to see smaller harvests as the more aggressive program continues to reduce the volume of variable-leaf milfoil in Paradox Bay.

The “pump out” continues to be popular as our members with septic systems can cost effectively keep their systems in good working order, which helps to protect our lake water quality. We continue to learn of septic systems that are in need of repair – most of us have limited expertise in septic systems and in most cases, shore owners are surprised to hear that they have a problem until

inspectors bring it to their attention. Not to be alarmist but some systems have degraded to the point of allowing raw sewage to seep into the lake. Please take the time – or have your plumber do a quick inspection – to make sure your system is in good working order.

We are well into the planning process for the outlet dam renovations. The dam committee continues to work with the engineers, contractors, NYS DEC and town on final design and permitting – we are hopeful to get the project started this fall, and if not, then first thing in the spring.

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PHOTO: Carolyn M. Walker

## Memorial Tribute to a True Gentleman of the Lake

Thomas Walden, III of Camp Sunset passed away on September 5, 2023 at age 83. He was born and grew up in northern New Jersey and earned a BA degree in Economics from Middlebury College where he was a "DeKE" and a member of ROTC, an MBA from Rutgers University, and later a masters in business administration from the Harvard Business School Executive Program. Tom enlisted in the Army, was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Quarter Master Core, and discharged as a 1st Lieutenant. He joined the accounting firm Price Waterhouse. In 1966, Tom met the love of his life, Barbara, whom he married on June 22, 1968. In 1975, he joined the family fine paper business, Ris Paper Company, and was put in charge of finance, mergers and acquisitions, making it one of the largest paper companies in the East and Midwest before he retired as its chairman.

Tom and Barbara raised their children in Summit, NJ where he loved watching them play various sports and playing golf with friends and family. Tom was a long-time member of Baltusrol Golf Club and a volunteer in security for the PGA Championship there in 2005. He was also a member of the Union League Club (NYC), Beacon Hill Club (Summit, NJ) and the Whiteface Club in Lake Placid. Tom particularly enjoyed times spent at the family's lake house in Lake Placid which included downhill and cross-country skiing, golf, swimming, boating, waterskiing, and being appointed cannoner for starts & finishes of the Annual Clamato Regatta. He was most proud of his senior citizen season pass at Whiteface Mountain. Tom would often be found working on his father's boat, a 1961 wooden Thompson that he

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# Membership UPDATE

This year we welcomed the following new shore owners to membership in the SOA:

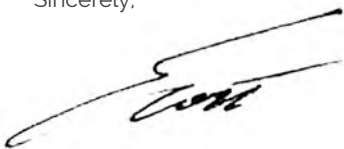
Benjamin & Catherine Etherington of the former Camp Owaissa on East Lake, Harriet & Howard Love of Camp Love on the East Lake, and Cherie & Fritz Mehler of Camp Dynamic on the West Lake. Longer time shore owners who've joined this year are Lou & LeeAnn Fancher of Edge of the Lake condos, and the Waters Edge Association. We have 154 SOA members currently and we're grateful for each and every one of you!

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Unrelated to the dam project, I received a number of questions this summer about the high water levels we experienced in July and August. For those unfamiliar with the dam, it is a fixed height – water simply flows over the top of the dam into Outlet Brook to maintain lake levels. The situation this summer was not a dam problem but a torrential rain problem!

As you know our work to protect Lake Placid is a charitable endeavor – we are very appreciative of those who have donated so that this work can continue. In particular we have had a great response to the special fundraising effort required for the dam repair project, in collaboration with our partner the Adirondack Foundation, a tax deductible 501(c)(3) organization, and its Keep Placid Pure fund. A link can be found on the LPSOA.org site. Thanks again to everyone who contributed for your vital support.

Sincerely,



Scott

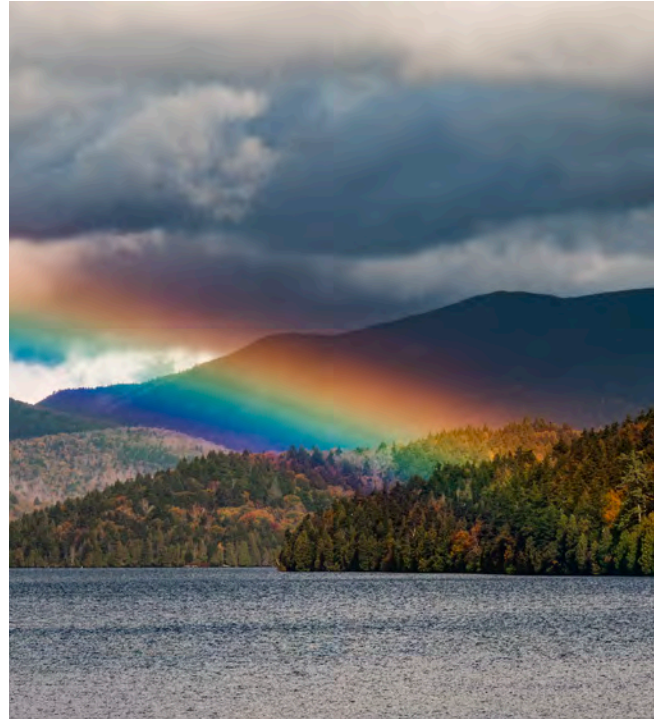


PHOTO: Carolyn M. Walker

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restored by hand in his retirement. His favorite days were those spent with his children and grandchildren enjoying the dock, the lake, and cruising in the family boat, Sunset.

Tom's kindness, generosity, devotion to his family and his amazing sense of humor will be greatly missed. He is survived by his devoted wife Barbara Walden (nee Ris); his loving children Thomas Walden IV and wife Katherine (Kate) Walden and Laura Walden Dugan and husband Brendan Dugan; his sister Sandra Luther and family; and his adored grandchildren: Thomas H. Walden, Elizabeth (Tess) Walden, Avery Dugan and Edythe Dugan. The SOA is grateful for the many donations recently made in Tom's honor to the Keep Placid Pure fund of the Adirondack Foundation.



PHOTO: xxx

## Lake Placid-North Elba Community Development Commission's Dark Sky Initiative

A newly formed Committee is raising awareness of light pollution and its impact on the community, educating local residents on how to prevent and reverse it, and advocating for local conditions attractive to those who wish to pursue activities like astronomy and photography (and sleeping) under a dark sky. It will pursue certification of Lake Placid as a Dark Sky Community by the International Dark-Sky Association, which Committee Chair John Winkler says is the "holy grail" of their mission. There are only 29 Dark Sky Communities currently in the United States, and none of them are found east of Indiana. The beauty of the Adirondack night sky should take its rightful place and stay there for future generations.

In support of this initiative, our trustee emerita, Georgia Jones encourages shore owners to use lights only *where* needed at their camps, docks and boathouses, at the *lowest* brightness level needed, and only *when* needed, ideally on a timer so they're not on all night. Warmer hues like amber are better than bright white light. Red and green are for lake navigation markers only. See the [lpsoa.org](http://lpsoa.org) website for a full article with more key details about the Dark Sky Initiative.

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SOA  
P.O. Box 1235  
Lake Placid, NY 12946  
[lpsoa.org](http://lpsoa.org)

Stay in Touch

## Let's Go Green!

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current email addresses.**

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