



SOA Lake Placid Winter/Spring Newsletter

Letter from the President

Welcome to early spring in the Adirondacks where ice-out will likely occur at a later date than usual this year. I hope everyone had a nice fall and winter, while some enjoyed the abundant snow in Lake Placid and on Whiteface this past season!

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 2024 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.

[Stewardship Program Summary Report 2024.](#)

The dive harvesting program was very successful last summer as we continue to see reduced volume – so much so that we are now counting the number of plants removed rather than the weight of the bulk harvest. David Bumsted and his Lake Management team have had the dive team spending more time this summer surveying the lake for any additional signs of invasive species and fortunately our invasives continue to be

isolated to variable-leaf milfoil in Paradox Bay.

[Aquatic Invasive Species Management Report 2024.](#)

Lendy Barnard led another successful “pump out party” in August. You may also have noticed several camps that were having new systems installed this summer – we greatly appreciate that as owners become aware of issues, they are taking action to upgrade their systems. Please be aware that the town is stepping up enforcement of its septic system laws and working on new penalties for non-compliance. The Town of North Elba Code Enforcement Officer mailed a copy of this letter and law to all registered owners listed on county tax records; if for some reason you did not receive these, let us know and we will get you a copy, or download a copy: [Septic Law](#). We are still aware of some systems which have degraded to the point that they are endangering the lake water quality so please take the time – or have your plumber do a quick inspection – to make sure your system is in good working order.

My thanks to Bill Kaufman and his Dam committee for all the work that went into the dam renovation project. Like all good Adirondack projects, it took a little longer and cost a little more than planned but the results are terrific – and thanks to the generosity of our membership we covered the costs and have preserved our dam for many years to come.

Our work to protect Lake Placid lake is a charitable endeavor – we are very appreciative of those who have donated so that this work can continue – we have the dam project in the rearview mirror but will need to continue to fund our divers and other lake water quality initiatives so please keep us in mind for donations via the [Adirondack Foundation Keep Placid Pure](#) fund– this is a tax deductible 501(c)(3) organization; the link can also be found on our "Donate" button on our LPSOA.org [website](#). Or consider mailing a check to Adirondack Foundation, Keep Placid Pure Fund, PO Box 288, Lake Placid, NY 12946.

Thanks again for your support.

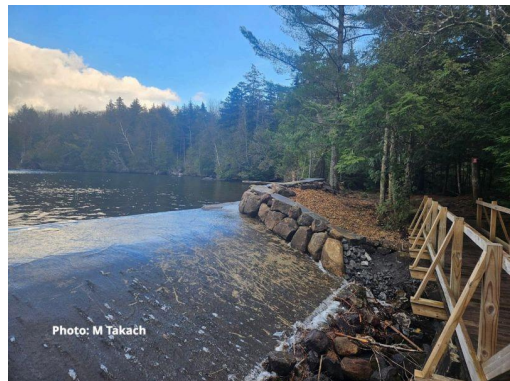


Dam Renovation Project Update

Our grout contractor very successfully completed their work on the dam, which covered mostly underwater cracks. The water that was breaching the dam in almost every location has been contained and the repair methods are working with even better than anticipated results. The vegetation clearing work is also complete. The contractors have completed the final phase of the repair work including the above grade installation of perimeter drains, perimeter retaining walls, and final back filling.

Therefore, the SOA outlet dam is ready for spring and beyond, ensuring enjoyment of water levels in the lake for another generation or two. The dam bridge is reopened for Jack Rabbit Trail hiking, cross country skiing, and snowshoeing.

A special thanks to all who contributed so generously to this very important project!





New Member Welcome

The SOA Trustees would like to extend a warm welcome
to our new Members as of 2024:

Mounzer Agha & Douha Safar of the upper West Lake

Raymond & Jennifer Bonwell of Camp Garden Cove

Brian Byrne of Piney Nook

Kevin and Tina Fountain of Watermoon and Irondequoit

Rich and Mary Flaherty of Brewster Peninsula

Jackie Irvin of The Dock

Bhavik Jariwala of Cambria Hotel

Todd Kemp of Antler Ridge

Ian Mack & Jolene Muscat of Heron Cove

Tom & Christine Mingone of Trout Point on Buck Island

Wendy & Brian Parker of Water's Edge Condos

Michael Schoeller of Slip Away Haven

Brian Hopkins, Camp Narnia on Moose Island

Mark Sperling of the Whiteface Club.

Water Quality notes by Mark Wilson

Though weather conditions triggered harmful algal blooms (HABs) on lakes across the Adirondacks this past summer, none were observed or reported on Lake Placid. In September HABs returned to Upper Saranac Lake for the second year in a row; blooms were also reported on Lake Clear and Upper St. Regis. On Placid, samples of green algae clinging to submerged plants, boat hulls and dock ladders were the benign filamentous green variety, which tend to develop in late July/August and rarely rise to the lake surface. As always, please notify the SOA if you notice floating algae rafts on the lake.

One noteworthy, but untroubling discovery at the end of the season: a single freshwater jellyfish was discovered on Pollywog Bay (near southwestern Sunset Strait). The specimen, resembling a quarter-sized circle of cellophane, was confirmed by NYSDEC labs in Syracuse. *Craspedacusta sowerbii*, while technically an invasive species, are non-stinging organisms, usually found in shallow protected waters with sediment-rich lakebeds. They are

difficult to spot, harder to capture and are not a threat to lake ecosystems.



Keeping the Goose (population) Down by Mark Wilson

Count among the loud, messy, occasionally aggressive visitors who have flocked to Lake Placid in recent years Canada Geese. Nobody can fault this bird's appreciation of our lake's qualities that make it ideal for raising a family—particularly its scenic beauty, open tranquil waters, and proximity to their favorite vegetarian dining option: the sweeping, well-manicured lawn.

While much of Lake Placid's protected shoreline remains inhospitable to goose populations, certain residential and commercial landscaping choices inadvertently create a perfect fowl habitat which—left unchecked—risk pushing Lake Placid in the direction of the suburban reflecting pond or golf resort water hazard.

Three shoreline pointers to discourage a goose boom:

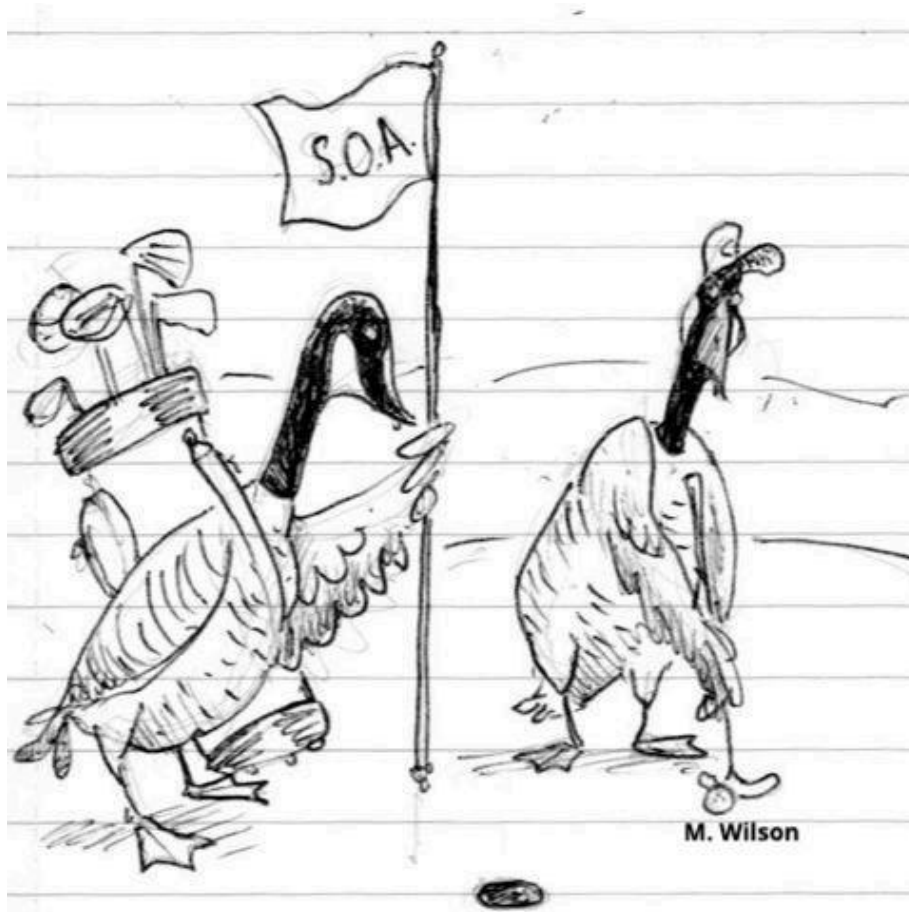
□ ***Shoreline vegetation buffer:*** Apart from filtering stormwater runoff into the lake and preventing erosion, a healthy, low buffer zone of native trees, shrubs or grasses inhibits access by geese, who prefer an uninterrupted sightline to feeding grounds.

□ ***Balanced landscaping:*** breaking up the broad uniform expanse of lawn with fern beds, trees and natural understory limits goose grazing options and saves mowing time, noise and expense.

□ ***Limit springtime shoreline bubblers:*** oversized dock/boathouse circulators that create open water along the shoreline before spring ice-out open up goose nesting real estate. Geese like

open water close to their nests as an escape route from terrestrial predators. Adjusting bubblers to clear a smaller radius around shoreline structures decreases early nesting season.

In general, every ecologically-degrading landscaping choice we make at the water's edge becomes an advertisement and invitation to future shore owners to do the same, or worse. In short, only we can prevent unnecessarily fowled waters.



Septic Information:

The Town of North Elba is reminding owners that you are required by Local Law No.1 of 2019 to maintain your property's septic system.

[Click HERE to View Septic Law](#)



Lost and Found

In late October, Kalen Griffin and Crissy Lussi “rescued” Navigation Buoy #12, which was floating aimlessly in Shelter Strait. A big thank you to the NYS DEC Conservation officer who promptly picked up buoy to place in storage for the winter.





Your 911 Emergency Number for Fire Safety

If your boathouse or dock still displays a number from the pre-2019 SOA numbering map, please remove it to reduce confusion for first responders. It's best to replace an old number with your correct 911 number, which is available from the Lake Placid Volunteer Fire Department on Old Military Rd.

Pick up an order form at the Fire House, or [Click HERE to Download Form](#).

What's your 911 Camp Number?

Consult the 2024 Directory of Shore Properties pamphlet or [Click HERE to email the SOA Administrator](#) to verify your camp's number.



Lake Placid lake is Loon Friendly Lake Certified!

The ACLC's Loon Friendly Lake Certification Program (LFLCP) promotes community-based environmental stewardship to better protect loons and their aquatic habitats. Adirondack loons face many threats — some natural, and some caused by humans. What we do know is that a healthy lake habitat is critical to support thriving loon populations, and vital for all wildlife.

Working together, Adirondack residents and visitors can help minimize and address many of these challenges to better protect Adirondack loons and the lakes they share with us and other wildlife.

Thank you to Mary Shubert and LeeAnn Fancher for spearheading this stewardship program for our beloved lake.

For more information, please visit: [Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation](#)



On a crisp November day, Crissy Lussi (left) and Mary Shubert (right) proudly display the Loon Friendly Certificate

Wondering about the New Vermont Wake Boat Law?

Here's what we know:

As of April 15, 2024, a wake boat may operate in “wake sports” mode only in designated wake sports zones of Vermont's lakes, ponds, and reservoirs. A wake sports zone of a lake or pond is defined as an area of at least 50 contiguous acres over 20 feet deep, at least 200 feet wide, and over 500 feet from shore.

More than half of Vermont's 73 lakes do not have zones that qualify, and therefore operating in wake sports mode on those lakes is prohibited. Petitions have been filed with the VT DEC asking the state to prohibit wake sports in six additional lakes, which would drop the number of wake-able lakes statewide to 24.

To prevent the spread of invasive species, yearly decontamination of wake boats' ballast tanks at a state approved facility is required by the law.

The law is a victory for citizens' organization Responsible Wakes for Vermont Lakes and environmentalists after more than two years of work. They argued that:

- 1) large wakes can disrupt the sensitive ecology of lake shorelines, including loon nesting areas, and
- 2) Sudden large waves can topple paddleboarders, canoes and kayaks.

The law was developed to avoid and resolve “recreational conflicts” and to protect “normal” uses of lakes and natural resource values of public waters. Enforcement is by the VT State Police, Marine Division. More info: [Vermont Wake Boat Law](#)



Shore Owner Tributes

Joan Harrington (“Jay”) Petro of Camp L’Ombre della Pietra on Mt Whitney Way (East Lake) passed away on June 29th, 2024 at age 91, leaving a legacy of love, generosity and adventure. Proud of her Italian and Irish heritage, Jay brought the best of both cultures to her family and friends, especially through her exceptional culinary skills.

Jay first discovered her love for travel as a youth in Europe and the U.S. Rocky Mountains. She always was up for a trip, be it skiing, sailing, or just wandering. Jay met her husband Don while on a ski trip in New Hampshire in 1959. She and Don married in 1961 and lived their best lives together for 50 years. They raised two rambunctious boys and ran two businesses. Jay and Don welcomed into their home various exchange students, random animals and anyone else who needed a meal and place to stay. Jay generously lent her time and resources to anyone in need.

Jay worked as a travel agent, helping others see and experience the world while she globe trotted. Jay was both a ski instructor and a pioneer in the ski industry, producing hand-knit wool ski hats to help support the family's skiing. Her army of knitters would distribute the iconic Jay Hats to ski shops throughout the northeast. Bartering hats for skis and other equipment, including family season passes made it possible for four Petros to spend every winter weekend sliding happily in the Adirondacks.

Jay fell in love with Lake Placid while volunteering during the Olympics in 1980, spending every summer afterward on the lake, and braving the brutal winter wind of the Whiteface Summit lift well into her 70s. It was truly her favorite place on earth. She was a longtime member of the Lake Placid Garden Club, and her gardens on her hillside home on the lake were the envy of many.

Jay’s faith and involvement in the church were the cornerstone of her life. She taught catechism and served on many committees at two different Catholic churches in the Schenectady, NY area. Jay leaves her son Matthew and wife Amy, another daughter-in-law Leah, and five grandchildren.

Nicole Broderick, our longtime SOA Administrator 2005-2019, died on August 21, 2024 at age 56. Nicole moved to Lake Placid in 1991 after graduating from Northeastern University and met the love of her life, Thomas “Brody” Broderick, a Northwood School leader, had their two daughters, Morgan and Kate, and lived their magical life in Lake Placid. She also leaves her devoted mother, Penny Dieffenbach.

A celebration of Nicole’s life was held in Lake Placid on October 19th. Donations in honor of Nicole may be made to the Alzheimer’s Foundation or High Peak’s Hospice.

Former SOA Administrator **Kathiann Tevlin** died at age 67 on December 8, 2024, after a long struggle with ALS. Born and raised in Connecticut, after completing her bachelor’s degree and few early jobs, Kathi moved to the Adirondacks in the spring of 1998. She immediately took to the area and enjoyed many outdoor activities. She started a design firm for graphic and web design and later added business branding and consulting, which she operated until April 2024. Kathi produced beautiful newsletters for the SOA and improved our website and social media presence.

Design paid the bills, but her real lifelong passion was astrology and tarot. She advised many astrological societies and was a popular speaker and teacher.

Kathi leaves her husband, Charlie Levitz, three grandchildren, two siblings and their spouses, and two “special families.”

Kate Fish of Tapawingo on the West Lake passed away January 12, 2025. She lived in 15 different cities and towns on two different continents and finally found her

home in St. Johnsbury, VT where she reveled in a community of like-hearted souls.

Kate was born in Princeton, New Jersey. Her impulse to not dally when adventure was possible was likely encouraged by the peripatetic nature of her upbringing. Her dad, Mac Fish, was deeply into education, for himself, and then as a teacher. He went to schools and then taught at them. Kate temporarily acquired Scottish accent from the years she toddled around Edinburgh where her father was studying.

Kate headed off to California for college. In San Francisco, circa the fun years, she got fairly good at pondering alternative directions. She was a Dance and Philosophy major with a master's degree in Religion and Education who danced right up until the Dog Mountain dance- on-the-grass-with-an-oxygen-tank scenario.

Kate started a not-for-profit to address climate change and got noticed and hired away by a large multinational. She sat next to the president to tell him when he was heading in the wrong direction (full time job) and got hired away from those folks to run a big operation helping companies around the world not make bad decisions regarding the natural world.

Kate believed in the power of love, that it can flow from one to another and not run out. It especially flows to her two daughters Alexandra Perrault (Adam) and Clara Borders and their children, Mabel, Bo, Amani, Dylan, Karina and Charlotte.
She also leaves her beloved three siblings, Farland, Howard, and Peter.
A celebration of Kate's life was held in St. Johnsbury on February 8th.

Emily "Jane" Landenberger Forsyth passed away November 11, 2024.

She was the mother of Jim Forsyth of Tri-Lakes Marine. Jane grew up in Philadelphia where she met her husband of 62 years, James "Jim" W. Forsyth; they moved to Little Silver, NJ and raised a family of five children.

Jane and Jim loved to travel, but Jane's two favorite places were the Jersey Shore and the Adirondack Mountains. She loved to walk on the beach, paddle rivers and lakes, and paint the landscape around her.

Many remember Jane driving her John Deere gator with one, two or several dogs running behind her. Jane had a grace and character that impacted every room she entered and she found great joy in hosting cocktail hours and holiday gatherings for friends and family. Her jokes were a force to be reckoned with.

In addition to son Jim, Jane leaves two daughters, another son,
11 grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

MEMBER DUES

2025 Membership Dues Invoices will be emailed
the week of March 10 via SOA QuickBooks.

For those who want to get a jump on paying dues, please click below:

Pay Dues Now



Want to change how you receive these emails?

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