



# fall NEWSLETTER



Fall 2025

Protecting Lake Placid Water Quality Since 1893

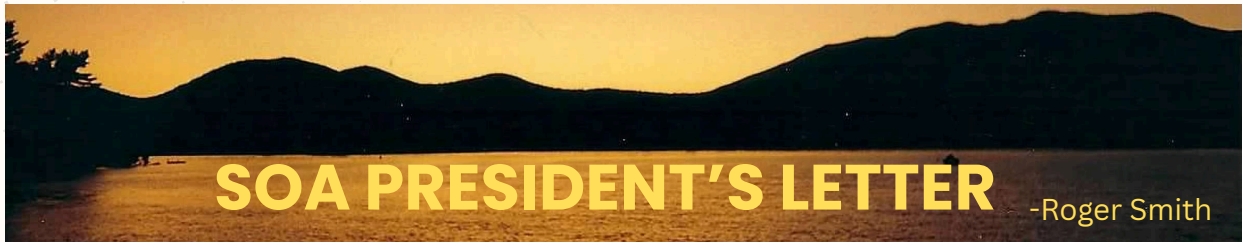


Photo provided by A. Mayberry

## SOA PRESIDENT'S LETTER

-Roger Smith

Dear SOA Members,

### Organizing for Effective Stewardship

Effective stewardship requires thoughtful organization and clear priorities. While I would love to begin by celebrating the spectacular foliage around the Lake, I want to be sure that my first letter as president sets the right course.

Like any good non-profit, our bylaws provide for leadership rotation. I follow strong leaders who left the SOA in excellent shape, and just as each of them made improvements, it is now my responsibility to do the same. Over time, the SOA has become a tapestry of strong governance shaped by the contributions of many.

With that in mind, our August board meeting was almost entirely devoted to reexamining our committee structure to ensure that we are organized around our mission. The outcomes are summarized below.

### Water Quality and Lake Health

This is our top priority. Vice President Kip Testwuide is leading a coordinated effort that ties together several related initiatives.

Lendy Barnard continues her leadership of septic pump-out, Mark Wilson remains engaged with the CSLAP program, and Rusty Hlavacek continues his leadership of water testing. We are also adding a new component—monitoring the health of waterfowl and fish—led by Deana Donnelly.

By consolidating these activities, Kip can benchmark our work against other lake associations. Lakes such as Lake George and Upper Saranac have been forced to address major challenges, and their solutions could provide valuable lessons for us

### Community Building

As I noted at the Annual Meeting, our effectiveness as an organization depends on having a connected and engaged membership. Julianne Bertagna is leading Membership, while Fred Jubitz oversees Communications with support from Ashley Kasperzak. Nancy Bieger continues to chair the Nominating Committee, and I am responsible for Social Events. We hosted a successful New Members Reception in August and plan to do so again next year.

### Safety

Tragic fatalities and injuries are part of our lake's history, and it is imperative that we do what we can to reduce risks. Hilary McDonald and John Rosenthal continue in their respective roles for Boat Safety and Navigation.

In addition, Scott Donnelly will track developments across the state and country related to the regulation of wake-surfing boats. Given Lake Placid's relatively small size and the impact of modern surf wakes on both safety and the environment, we need to stay informed.

### Operations and Government/External Relations

Strong operations are the foundation for all the above. Dam and property management are being led by Bill Kaufman, with support from Keith Olsen and Kevin Bette. We are also fortunate to have added Ashleah Mayberry, whose administrative expertise is proving invaluable. Our Treasurer, Cristina Lussi, is joined by Jaideep Khanna and me on the Finance Committee. Development (fundraising) is critical and led by Hilary. Engagement with the Town, DEC, Essex County, and other lake organizations is a joint effort led by Roby Politi, Deanna, and me.

### Summary

If you've read this far, thank you. Much of this work may not sound glamorous, but it is the essential backbone of effective stewardship. By staying organized and attentive to these responsibilities, we will ensure that Lake Placid remains a treasured place for all of us today and for generations to come.



# SOA COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

Water Quality & Lake Health.....	Kip Testwuide
Waterfowl & Fish Health.....	Deanna Donnelly
Membership.....	Julianne Bertagna
Communications.....	Fred Jubitz
Nominating .....	Nancy Begier
Social Events.....	Roger Smith
Boat Safety.....	Hilary McDonald
Navigation.....	John Rosenthal
Dam & Property Management.....	Bill Kaufman
Septic Pump out .....	Lendy Barnard
Finance Committee .....	Cristina Lussi
Development .....	Hilary McDonald
Government & External Relations..	Roby Politi



Photo provided by A. Mayberry

## MEET THE NEW SOA ADMINISTRATOR

In May, Ashleah Hoffman Mayberry was named SOA Administrator. The part-time role of Administrator is to work with the Board of Trustees to advance the SOA mission, foster communication, and assist the Officers with the administrative functions of the Association, including financial management, compliance, and membership.

Ashleah is a Lake Placid native. She previously served as Partner and Office Manager at Adirondack Asset Management until its recent sale. Her leadership experience includes serving as Executive Director of the Lake Placid Institute and as Administrator of the Adirondack Film Society. She is also an active Board Member of both the Lake Placid High School Alumni Association and the Lake Placid-North Elba Historical Society, and serves as the organizer of the Olympic Car Show benefiting the Lake Placid Ski Club.

Ashleah splits her time between Lake Placid and Albany, where her husband, Dan, serves as Superintendent of Schools for the Guilderland Central School District, following 13 years as Superintendent of Keene Central School. They have two sons: Brooklyn, a Clarkson University graduate living in Phoenix, who codes for a tech company while pursuing his dream of playing professional baseball; and Jacob, a U.S. Marine exploring aviation software and engineering.

Ashleah can be reached at  
[Soalakeplacid@gmail.com](mailto:Soalakeplacid@gmail.com)



## OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

### OFFICERS

**Roger Smith**  
*President*

**Kip Testwuide**  
*Vice President*

**Cristina Lussi**  
*Treasurer*

**Lendy Barnard**  
*Secretary*

### TRUSTEES

**Nancy Begier**  
**Julianne Bertagna**  
**Kevin Bette**  
**Deanna Donnelly**  
**Fred Jubitz**  
**Ashley Kasperzak**  
**William Kaufman**  
**Jaideep Khanna**  
**Hilary McDonald**  
**Keith Olsen**  
**Peter Pence**  
**Roby Politi**  
**Tom Walden IV**

### HONORARY TRUSTEES

**Fred Calder**  
**Georgia Jones**

### ADMINISTRATION

**Ashleah Mayberry**

[www.lpsoa.org](http://www.lpsoa.org)

# Welcome TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

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

Rob & Deb Bowman, #239, Pinetown  
Tracey Brooks, #219, Whiteface Club  
David Cuthell, #2, Camp Carolina  
Kelli Ford, #515, Camp Clover  
Jessica Levy, #214, Lake Placid Lodge  
Clayton McCleskey, Jonathan & Chris Ortloff, #407, Cully's Castle  
Erin Goodrich & Rolfe Radcliffe, #514, Camp Wildwood  
John & Mary Beth Reiss, #202, R-Great Camp  
Brooks & Steve Reynolds, #406, Camp Reynolds

## Membership Report

### Member Dues Paid By Year

Dues 2022 Final	160	\$35,930.00
Dues 2023 Final	154	\$34,650.00
Dues 2024 Final	184	\$41,400.00
Dues 2025 YTD	180	\$40,500.00

Through September 30th, 180 individuals have submitted their SOA membership dues. Thank you for your continued support as dues directly support the administration of the SOA's mission to protect the ecology, water quality and scenic beauty of our lake. Membership varies from year to year given property sales, member deaths, newly developed lots and loss of contact. Julianne Bertagna, our membership chairman, is up for the challenge to increase overall membership. Please contact Ashleah, our SOA Administrator, at [soalakeplacid@gmail.com](mailto:soalakeplacid@gmail.com) if you would like to rejoin or know of a membership opportunity.



# Lake Health Report

-Kip Testwuide



Kip Testwuide is following the leadership of David Bumsted overseeing SOA's overall effort on Lake Health. Our core mission is to preserve the clarity, purity, and overall quality of the water of Lake Placid to ensure the health of the indigenous aquatic ecosystem into the future.

## Invasive plant eradication

- The Upper Saranac Foundation's Aquatic Dive Team completed its fourth consecutive year of efforts to completely eradicate variable-leaf watermilfoil from our lake. Over the years the Dive team has successfully reduced the growth of milfoil in Paradox bay, by discovering and harvesting all plants they find. During the summer of 2022, 648 plants were harvested from Paradox Bay. This past summer during 6 trips and 179 hours of searching from June through September only 61 plants were discovered and harvested. Last month after finding only one plant in Paradox bay, the Aquatic Species team used a boat and standup Paddleboards to search for invasive plants in the shallower bays including Brewster Bay, Echo Bay, Whiteface Bay, Barrel Bay and McLenathan Bay. Happily, no invasive plants were detected.
- The SOA in a partnership with Paul Smith's Adirondack Watershed Institute supports a team of Lake Stewards that inspect boats entering Lake Placid at both boat ramps. If invasive aquatic plants are found, they clean the boat. Through August 1, 2025, 2,385 boats were inspected and only 14 were found to have invasives.

## Run off and leaching

Runoff and leaching from inadequate septic systems and from lawn and garden chemicals are among the greatest threats to our water quality over time. Lendy Barnard on behalf of the SOA and working with the town of North Elba schedules a septic pump out service for shore owners with the SOA covering some of the cost. This past season the septic systems for 15 camps were pumped. To ensure homes are keeping their systems functioning, the town code officer and an inspector inspected other camps that had not previously been inspected or had not passed previous inspections. The SOA is not involved with those inspections nor informed of failed systems.

## Monitoring

The third leg of our water quality initiative is to monitor water quality. Mark Wilson continues the SOA's 30-year partnership with New York's Department of Environmental Conservation, sampling and analyzing Placid's overall chemical and microbial health and environmental resilience. Meanwhile, at the tap where it matters most to shore owners, Rusty Hlavacek provides testing to assess drinking water quality. Tests this season found no traces of our key concern E.coli. In a new effort, Deanna Donnelly is approaching the DEC to develop a plan to monitor the health of the fish and or other indicator species in our lake



Photo provided by A. Mayberry

## REMEMBER LAKE PLACID LAKE IN YOUR YEAR END GIVING

Ongoing support of many years has helped us preserve and maintain the quality of Lake Placid Lake. Programs such as the Invasive Species provide for lake stewards who monitor incoming boats and educate boaters as well as financing the divers who remove milfoil. In addition, the Lake is monitored for clarity and bacteria on an annual basis. We have also successfully worked with the Town of North Elba to provide increased mandatory inspections of all septic systems before any transfer of property is possible. Our efforts to ensure clean drinking water area a high priority so we provide septic pump out via complimentary use of the Barge each summer available to all lake homeowners. Our programs also cover the maintenance of the Dam which has recently undergone a major rehabilitation. All of this is possible given your past support.

We encourage you to make Lake Placid Lake part of your annual year end giving practice. Thank you in advance for your annual donations which are tax deductible through the Adirondack Foundation.

Donations may be made by clicking on the DONATE button at the top of the page on the SOA Website: [www.lpsoa.org](http://www.lpsoa.org), or

by mailing a check payable to:

Adirondack Community Foundation  
Memo: SOA Lake Placid Clean Water Fund  
PO Box 288  
Lake Placid, NY 12946

Donations to the Fund are also eligible for Employee Matching Gift Programs.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to protecting the lake we all cherish.

## MEMORIAL TRIBUTE:

# *A True Lady of the Lake*



Barbara Ris Walden of Camp Sunset passed away on September 11 at the age of 79. Born in Rockville Centre and raised in Garden City, Long Island, Barbara attended Bradford Junior College and later Cedar Crest College.

Soon after, she met and married Thomas Walden III, and together they settled in Summit, New Jersey, where they raised their family. Barbara was an active and generous member of her community, volunteering with the Fortnightly Club, the Junior League of Summit, the Reeves-Reed Arboretum, and Calvary Episcopal Church. When not volunteering, she could often be found baking, tending to her gardens, needlepointing, or playing golf at Baltusrol Golf Club, where she and her late husband Tom were longtime members.

Lake Placid was Barbara's home away from home. She cherished her time there—reading on the dock, teaching her children to ski both cross-country and downhill, playing golf, and entertaining friends. Her spirit of giving extended to Lake Placid as well, where she served on the boards of the Lake Placid Shore Owners Association and the Lake Placid Institute.

Barbara will be remembered for her kindness, grace, and genuine interest in everyone she met. She is survived by her loving children, Thomas Walden IV and his wife Kate, and Laura Walden Dugan and her husband Brendan; her brother Bud Ris and his wife Peggy; and her adored grandchildren, Thomas Walden, Tess Walden, Avery Dugan, and Edythe Dugan.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Barbara's honor to the Lake Placid Institute, Adirondack Medical Center or the Adirondack Community Foundation's SOA Lake Placid Clean Water Fund at the Adirondack Foundation.