



# Star Lake Protective Association

Star Lake, New York 13690

June 1, 2017

Hello Star Lake waterfront neighbors,

It's time once again for our annual membership letter which goes to all Star Lake lakefront property owners. "Welcome back" to those returning to the lake. For those who stayed year 'round, we made it through another interesting winter. Ice-out was early and spring is here. Lush greens and colorful flowers have replaced the dull colors of winter. Star Lake has awakened to begin another great lake season.

We would like you to consider joining the SLPA in our efforts to keep the lake clean and beautiful and fun for all. Joining the SLPA provides many benefits. Membership gives newcomers to the lake a good way to meet their new neighbors in our unique lake community. Meetings, held twice a year, provide a forum to discuss lake issues and to renew friendships. Just \$20 in dues gives you a voice and vote in various lake matters. Included with membership is a password to the Members' Area of our web site, access to a Star Lake web cam and a \$5 discount per hand on registration for the poker run! We encourage you not only to join the SLPA; but also to attend our meetings and participate in our various lake activities.

SLPA activities include organizing lake clean-ups twice a year for twelve years now, helping to keep the roads around the lake looking clean for all to enjoy. We are also planning the 13th annual poker run with cash prizes and a party on the sandbar following. Of course, we would prefer you join; but, you don't need to be a member to benefit from or participate in any of these lake activities—just come out and join us for a good time!

The SLPA continues to support projects that benefit the lake. Members' dues have supported the placement of buoys on rock bars around the lake. We fund and maintain a web site devoted to the lake for all to enjoy ([slpa.info](http://slpa.info)); and we published the *Star Lake Handbook*. Our dues also fund worthy projects that place flowers, flags and banners around the community. The SLPA made a sizeable contribution to the new Clifton-Fine Medical Clinic. We also support the SOS 5K walk/run. Recently, we asked the DEC to better-monitor the public carry-on boat launch more frequently to help avoid on-going problems there. We continue to periodically monitor our water quality with a sampling and testing program. In partnership with the *NYS Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program*, we inspected the lake's shoreline for invasive plants such as milfoil, which have devastated other neighboring lakes and waterways, including Lake Bonaparte, Cranberry Lake, and the Little River flow. Good news: no invasive plants have been detected in our lake so far. However, we all need to be proactive about keeping invasive species OUT of our lake. That's why we (and New York State) are increasing our focus on invasive species education for lake property owners. We formed a committee last year, headed up by Dick Reese and Hank Moshano, devoted to local public awareness about invasives and what we can do to avoid catastrophic contamination by plants and animals that threaten our Adirondack lakes. Please read the attached letter to lake owners and read, then follow ALL the info links on page 4 to become better-informed.

It's up to all of us to help! For example, If you rent out your property or provide lake access to others who are planning to launch any water craft of any size, *please* ask them to carefully inspect and clean their boat, motor, trailer and gear *before launching* to insure that no milfoil or other invasive species get anywhere near the lake. You could also make sure that boat and jet-ski operators acquire proper registration and certification to ensure a safe environment for all to enjoy. Everyone using the lake should review NYS boater safety rules and regulations. Links can be found on our web site's home page (<http://slpa.info>). Those who use the lake should be aware of the informal customs of the lake, such as general counterclockwise traffic flow. This information, along with where the shallows are on the lake and the 5 mph zones can be found in the *Star Lake Handbook* and should be made available to renters and guests. Our web site has a map with this information at <http://slpa.info/SLHandbook.htm> and [http://slpa.info/Rules\\_of\\_lake.htm](http://slpa.info/Rules_of_lake.htm). Please do your part to help us.





If you join the SLPA, consider becoming an *active* member. Out of 170+ lake property owners, only 60-75 join each year. Meeting attendance averages 25-40 and only a very few actually help with the planning, organizing, and execution of lake activities. We would appreciate your dues to help finance SLPA programs; *but, more important*, we would like members to actively contribute their time and efforts to help us to achieve our common goals.

Our next meeting will be Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am in the Adirondack Exhibit Center (SOS) where the SLPA once traditionally held their meetings.

Refreshments and socializing will be followed by the meeting. If you have anything you'd like to add to the agenda for discussion, please contact me at least a week before the meeting. Minutes of last fall's 2016 Annual Dinner Meeting are available for review on our website; or you can contact me at (315) 848-2169 to obtain a copy. We have also tentatively scheduled our Annual Meeting for Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup> at the Haven on Star Lake. We hope you can join us for our final meeting of the year and a great meal!

This letter is generally the only communication we send to all lake owners; but, we occasionally send notices out during the year via e-mail. If you received a paper copy of this letter, we must not have a valid e-mail address for you on file. You can help us keep costs down and receive any summer updates by sending me your e-mail address at [bo\\_ritchings@slpa.info](mailto:bo_ritchings@slpa.info) or by using the feedback form at <http://slpa.info/feedback.htm>.

The SLPA benefits *all* who enjoy the lake, members or not. Perhaps you have contemplated joining the SLPA in the past. Or, you are new to the community. Or, you were once a member; but quit for one reason or another. In any case, *now is the time to join* the only organization that represents your Star Lake waterfront interests. We hope that you will continue to support the Association with your membership and contributions of time, effort and dues. Please take a moment now to send your 2017 dues (\$20). Make the check payable to "Star Lake Protective Association" and send or give it to Chris Cook, our new treasurer. **By the way, if you see Tess Golden, please stop and thank her for her time and effort as treasurer since 1993. She took us by surprise last fall when she "retired" as treasurer of the SLPA after 24 years of excellent service to our organization.** And, we welcome Chris Cook, who took over the job. Chris, a semi-retired CPA, is well-qualified for the job!

**Please Send Dues to:**  
 Chris Cook, SLPA Treasurer  
 P. O. Box 88  
 Star Lake, NY 13690

Thank you, in advance, for your support of the SLPA. With your help, the Star Lake Protective Association will continue its 116-year tradition of enhancing, protecting, preserving and serving this beautiful lake environment.

See you on the lake!

Bo Ritchings, Secretary  
 Star Lake Protective Association

2017 SLPA OFFICERS ARE:		
President	Vito Testone	315-848-3476
Vice President	Daphne Henri-Foley	281-381-6119
Treasurer	Chris Cook	315-848-2259
Secretary	Bo Ritchings	315-848-2169

2017 SLPA Meetings and Events			
Date	Event	Place	Time
Sat, June 24	Regular Meeting-socializing/refreshments; meeting to follow	Adirondack Exhibit Center (Old Schoolhouse--SOS)	10:00 am
Wed, July 12	First Lake Road Clean-up	Meet at CFCS (school) parking lot	9:00 am
Sat, Aug 5	13th Annual Poker-Run	Meet at the sandbar to register	12:00 noon
Wed, Aug 16	Lake Shoreline Clean-up (if there are enough volunteers)	Meet at Sandbar	1:00 pm
Sat, Aug 26	Annual Dinner Meeting - 5:00 Cocktails, Meeting, Dinner	The Haven at Star Lake (former Houghton Lodge)	5:00 pm
Wed, Sept 6	Second Lake Road Clean-up	Meet at CFCS (school) parking lot	9:00 am

June 1, 2017



Dear Star Lakers,

We are communicating with you to advise you of recent New York State actions concerning the exposure and spread of invasive plant species throughout the Adirondack Park. In response to this concern, you may be aware that the State has developed a park-wide system of boat washing stations including one located on Rt. 3 near Benson Mines. Current regulations require owners to wash all watercraft when moving them from one body of water to another.

While there is some evidence of invasive species that are confined to land based plants around Star Lake, there is currently no indication of water based infestations. As such, this is good news. However, due to the growing concern about invasive species, the Star Lake Protective Association, at its June, 2016 meeting, moved to establish an Invasive Species Committee to explore information and recommend strategies intended to reduce exposure to the lake.

A variety of suggestions have been offered including signage at various launching sites, stickers to evidence compliance and engagement of the APA and DEC. While desirability, legality, and enforcement of these suggestions are issues that the lake community will weigh in on at a later date, it was the SLPA's acceptance of the Committee's recommendation at its August 2016 meeting that all property owners receive this communication along with the recommendation that:

**PROPERTY OWNERS PERMITTING VISITORS AND RENTERS TO LAUNCH WATERCRAFT INTO STAR LAKE FROM OTHER BODIES OF WATER SHOULD REQUIRE THAT ALL SUCH WATERCRAFT, TRAILERS, LIVE BAIT WELLS AND OTHER GEAR FIRST BE EXAMINED FOR INVASIVE SPECIES AND CLEANED.**

It is the view of the SLPA that the best protection afforded to the ongoing health and beauty of Star Lake rests with its owners. We therefore ask that you consider this request.

Sincerely,

Hank Moshano and Dick Reese  
Invasive Species Committee  
Star Lake Protective Association

## SOME GOOD INVASIVE AQUATIC SPECIES RESOURCES

**On the subject of invasive species** and, in particular, invasive plants like milfoil, water chestnut and hydrilla, New York State has provided many resources to help to educate and inform lake property owners so that they might become more vigilant and more proactive in prohibiting the introduction of these invasive plants into our lake. Make no mistake: they are all around Star Lake, including Cranberry Lake, Lake Bonaparte, the Little River basin, the St. Lawrence River and Lake Ontario (*see map link below*). It's no coincidence that the public boat launch at Lake Bonaparte is infested with milfoil, such that it is difficult to get to open waters without fowling the prop. We have been lucky so far in that we have not found any here; but, it is just a matter of time before an infestation occurs. It only takes a small sprig of milfoil to root and spread rapidly. And, then, it becomes expensive to manage and impossible to get rid of completely. *There will be no going back to where we are now.*

**Boats are beginning to be launched** for the season and fishermen are already on the lake. It is imperative that land owners who let people launch on their property ask them to carefully inspect their boat, motor, trailer and gear to make sure that no "hitchhikers" get introduced into the lake. The boat wash site will be operational soon--ask people to use it before launching if their watercraft has been in any other body of water recently. If you see a watercraft being launched, don't hesitate to ask where it has been and if it's clean. Please help to keep our lake free from these invasive plants and animals.

**A wealth of information** can be found by viewing the two youtube videos below first; and then, by visiting the web sites that follow. PLEASE become better-informed, share this information with others and be proactive in helping to protect our very special lake from the devastation that might occur.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P76NJire3A&feature=youtu.be>

<http://bit.ly/2qjo2Hw>

<http://adkinvasives.com/>

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/48221.html>

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/50272.html>

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/50121.html>

<http://adkinvasives.com/Invasive-Web-Map/index.html>

