



Star Lake Protective Association

Star Lake, New York 13690

June 1, 2020

Hello fellow Star Lakers!

Spring finally arrived as winter slowly loosened its grip on the North Country. "Welcome back" to those returning to the lake from points south. Those of us who stayed here made it through another interesting winter. Ice-out was April 3rd this year, about three weeks early! Lush greens and colorful flowers have now replaced the dull greys of winter; but we are also in the midst of a terrible pandemic. Star Lake has awakened to begin another lake season; but in an unfamiliar fear-filled environment. We will have to proceed with great care to strike a balance between enjoying the lake environment and protecting the health of those around us.

Regarding the Covid-19 Pandemic, SLPA officers had a Zoom meeting April 28th to discuss the coming year's projects, activities, and meetings as well as how the virus will affect the SLPA and its functions. At this time, we have to consider holding some of the meetings on-line. We will be able to conduct our clean-ups, with some minor changes. We will have to plan the Poker Run with some changes, if we have it at all. Our dinner plans in August are still to be announced. We will be utilizing our web site and our e-mail listings to try to keep you all informed. So, stay tuned, wear a mask and keep your social distance from each other on and off the lake.

We would like you to consider joining the SLPA in our efforts to keep the lake clean, beautiful and fun for all. Membership in the SLPA provides many benefits. It 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 a vote in various lake matters. We encourage you to join the SLPA, attend our meetings and help us to plan our various lake activities.

SLPA activities include organizing clean-ups twice a year to keep the roads and shorelines around the lake clean for all to enjoy. We (hopefully) will soon be planning the 16th annual poker run with cash prizes and a party on the sandbar afterwards. You don't need to be a member to participate in any of these lake activities. Just come out and join us for a good time. A schedule of our 2020 events is on page 2 and on our website.

The SLPA continues to support projects that benefit the lake. Members' dues have purchased buoys to mark rock bars around the lake. We fund and maintain a web site devoted to the Star Lake and the SLPA for all to enjoy (<http://slpa.info>). We published the *Star Lake Handbook*, both in booklet form and on the web site. Our dues fund worthy projects that place flowers, flags and banners around the community. We support the SOS 5K walk/run. We periodically monitor the lake's water quality through ALAP (*Adirondack Lake Assessment Program*). In partnership with the *NYS Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program*, we inspect the lake's shoreline for invasive plants such as Eurasian Milfoil, which have invaded other neighboring lakes and waterways. An ALAPP team surveyed our shorelines in 2018 with good news. No invasive, non-indigenous plants were detected in our lake.

We all need to be proactive about keeping invasive species *OUT* of our lake. That's why we (and NYS) are increasing our focus on invasive species education for lake property owners. If you rent out your property or provide lake access to others 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 ensure that no milfoil or other invasive species get anywhere near the lake. It's the law. You could also make sure that boat and jet-ski operators have acquired proper registration and certification to ensure a safe lake environment. Everyone using the lake should review NYS boater safety rules and regulations (links can be found on our web site (<http://slpa.info>)). Informal customs of the lake, such as generally counterclockwise traffic flow, along with where the shallows and the 5 mph zones are can be found in the *Star Lake Handbook* which could be made available to renters and guests. Our web site has a map with this information at http://slpa.info/Rules_of_lake.htm. Help us keep the lake safe and clean.





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 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 contribute their time and efforts to help us to achieve our common goals.

Our next meeting will be Saturday, June 27th at 10:00 am on-line via Zoom and **will not** be in the Adirondack Exhibit Center (SOS) due to the current status and restraints of the Corona virus (see president's notes below). If you have anything you would like to add to the agenda for discussion,

please contact me at least a week before the meeting. Minutes of last fall's 2019 Annual Dinner Meeting are available for review on our website. We have also tentatively scheduled our Annual Meeting for Saturday, August 8th. We also hope you can join us for our final social get-together of the year and a great meal on August 29th! Our plans, of course, depend on the pandemic. Check our website for latest information and news.

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 do not have a valid e-mail address for you on file. You can help us keep costs down and receive any SLPA updates by sending us your e-mail address 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 some reason. 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. *An organization is only as good as its members.* Please help us to define our lake Association by taking a moment now to send your 2019 dues (\$20). Make the check payable to "Star Lake Protective Association" and send or give it to Chris Cook, our treasurer.

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 119-year tradition of enhancing, protecting, serving and preserving this beautiful lake environment.

'See you on the lake!

Bo Ritchings, Secretary, SLPA
 P. O. Box 279
 Star Lake, NY 13690

2020 SLPA OFFICERS ARE:		
President	Mike Smith	315-848-4155
Vice President	Daphne Henri-Foley	281-381-6119
Treasurer	Chris Cook	315-848-2259
Secretary	Bo Ritchings	315-848-2169

2020 SLPA Meetings and Events

Date	Event	Place	Time
Sat, June 27	Regular Meeting-socializing/refreshments; meeting to follow	Adirondack Exhibit Center (Old Schoolhouse--SOS)	10:00 am
Tues, July 7	First Lake Road Clean-up	Meet at CFCS (school) parking lot	9:00 am
Sat, Aug 1	15th Annual Poker-Run	Meet at the sandbar to register	12:00 noon
Sat. Aug 8	Annual Meeting	Adirondack Exhibit Center (old schoolhouse--SOS)	10:00 am
Tues, Aug 11	Lake Shoreline Clean-up	Meet at the Sandbar	1:00 pm
Sat, Aug 29	Annual Dinner - 5:00 Cocktails 6:00 Brief Meeting, Dinner to follow	To be determined	5:00 pm
Tues, Sept 8	Second Lake Road Clean-up	Meet at CFCS (school) parking lot	9:00 am

A Message from the SLPA President...

Hi. My name is Mike Smith but I also go by Smitty. My wife Laurie and I bought land on the lake in 2008 and built a cabin on Colby Road. When we saw it, we were enchanted by the lake's clear water, scenic shoreline, the loons, the fishing, and the friendly community. I recently retired as a geologist for the state of Pennsylvania and my work for 38 years has been with water quality, water resources and mine reclamation. So naturally, I was thrilled that Star Lake had an organization dedicated to protecting the lake. I later discovered the fun and friendly social component to the SLPA. I was elected president at the August, 2019 meeting.



Covid-19 and the SLPA 5/10/2020 "Greetings" SLPA members and all lake neighbors, and welcome back to Star Lake for the summer season. I hope that this message finds you and your family doing well through the pandemic. The past few months have been difficult and if you're lucky enough to be at Star Lake right now, I hope that you stay well and that summer on the lake refreshes your spirit. In view of the pandemic, here are a couple important points about how the SLPA might have to change the way it works because of the pandemic.

- Our regular meeting scheduled for Saturday June 27 at 10:00 am will be held virtually, via Zoom. If you haven't used Zoom yet, you will find it pretty easy but you need to use a PC, tablet, or cell phone that has voice and video capability. As we approach June 27, you will receive an email invitation from Bo (secretary) with the meeting code and password as well as a download link. If we don't have your email address, look in the members' area of our website for the information. Try to log in a few minutes early and you will be placed in the "waiting room" until it's time to start the meeting. Unfortunately, there will be no coffee and pastries for us to share and socialize this year. But the good part is that you can attend the meeting no matter where you happen to be. If you changed your email address or haven't given us one, please use the feedback form on the website so that we have it on file.
- The first Lake Road and Lake shoreline cleanups will proceed as scheduled on Tuesday July 7 and Tuesday August 11, respectively. But instead of assembling at the school parking lot and sandbar, just email Bo Ritchings at bo_ritchings@slpa.info and let him know of your plans to participate and he will assign you a section. Latex gloves and garbage bags are available.
- We don't know yet if we will be able to hold the annual Poker Run scheduled for Saturday, August 1. It all depends on social distancing requirements in effect at the time. We will hopefully make a decision on it during our June 27 meeting. Keep your fingers crossed!
- A second meeting is presently scheduled this year to be held on Saturday, August 8 at 10:00 am at the Adirondack Exhibit Center. Again, we will decide how to hold it during the June 27 regular meeting.
- The Annual social, dinner, and a program (Adirondack Loons) is planned for Saturday August 29 at The Haven. At this point, we are hoping that we will be able to hold it as planned but again, it will depend on how things are going with the Corona virus. We will make a final decision by the end of July.

Watch our website (slpa.info) for further information, updates or changes in plans. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email or call me. Contact info is in the members' area.

Hope to see you on the lake,

Mike



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, making it 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. *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. If you let people launch boats on your shore, it is imperative that you 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 been cleaned. Please help to protect our lake from these invasive plants and animals.

A wealth of information can be found by viewing the two Youtube videos (right) 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.

A new awareness campaign promotes simple steps anyone can take to prevent the spread of invasive species. The "Keep Invasive Species Out" campaign is centered around a new website: KeepInvasiveSpeciesOut.com.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P76NJire3A&feature=youtu.be>
<http://bit.ly/2qjo2Hw>
<https://keepinvasivespeciesout.com/>
<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>

NY State agencies encourage boaters to help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species at the start of the boating season. The DEC and State Parks are working with local governments, lake associations, the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) and Paul Smith's College Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI) in taking a frontline defense against invasive species.

CLEAN boats, trailers and equipment of any debris, and dispose of it in an upland area or receptacle provided for this purpose, far from the water's edge.

DRAIN the boat completely, including bilge areas, live wells and bait wells. Water ski and wake board boat operators should be sure to drain all ballast tanks. Many aquatic invasive species can survive in as little as a drop of water, so it is imperative that all water is removed.

DRY all equipment for at least five days before using it in another water body. If boating equipment cannot be completely and thoroughly dried, it must be decontaminated prior to use in another water body. Please utilize boat wash stations where available (Rt. 3, near old J & L site).

