



# Star Lake Protective Association

Star Lake, New York 13690

June 1, 2021

## 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 6<sup>th</sup> this year, about two weeks early! Lush greens and colorful flowers have now replaced the dull greys of winter; but we are also still dealing with a terrible pandemic. Star Lake has awakened to begin another lake season; but in an uncertain 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.

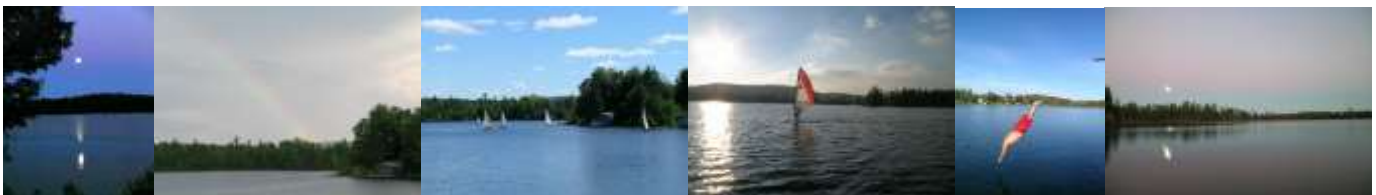
**Regarding the Covid-19 Pandemic**, SLPA officers held a Zoom meeting March 5<sup>th</sup> to discuss the coming year's projects, activities, and meetings as well as how the virus will affect the SLPA and its functions. At this time, we have decided to hold our meetings in person, instead of on-line. We will be able to conduct our clean-ups, with some minor changes. We are not certain about the Poker Run. Our dinner plans in August are yet to be determined. We will be utilizing our web site and our e-mail listings to try to keep you all informed. So, stay tuned, stay safe, get vaccinated, and follow CDC guidelines to protect yourself those around you.

**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 three time a year to keep the roads and shorelines around the lake clean for all to enjoy. We (hopefully) will soon be planning the 16<sup>th</sup> 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 2021 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 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 beautify the community with flowers, flags and banners. 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 APIPP (*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 ALAP team surveyed our shorelines in 2018 and found that no invasive, non-native 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](http://slpa.info/Rules_of_lake.htm). Help us keep our 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 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am at the Star Lake Community Center. 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 2020 Annual Dinner Meeting are available for

review on our website. We have also tentatively scheduled our Annual Dinner Meeting for Saturday, August 28<sup>th</sup>. We hope you can join us for our final social get-together of the year and a great meal. The location and time are to be determined at the June meeting. Our plans, of course, depend on the pandemic and CDC guidelines in place. Hopefully, everyone will be vaccinated by then. Check our website for the latest meeting information.

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 strong as its members.* Please help us to define our lake association by taking a moment now to send in your 2021 dues (\$20). Associate members, who are not on the lake but have an interest in Star Lake, pay \$10. 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 120-year tradition of enhancing, protecting, serving and preserving this beautiful lake environment.

**'See you on the lake!**

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

2021 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

2021 SLPA Meetings and Events (dates are tentative and subject to change)			
Date	Event	Place	Time
Sat, June 26	Regular Meeting	Star Lake Community Center	10:00 am
Weds. July 7	First Lake Road Clean-up	Meet at CFCS (school) parking lot	9:00 am
Sat, Aug 7	16th Annual Poker-Run (may be CANCELLED due to Covid}	Meet at the sandbar to register	12:00 noon
Weds. Aug 11	Lake Shoreline Clean-up	Meet at the Sandbar	1:00 pm
Sat. Aug. 28	Annual Dinner Meeting, cocktails, brief meeting, dinner	Venue TBA	TBA
Weds, Sept 15	Second Lake Road Clean-up	Meet at CFCS (school) parking lot	9:00 am

## A Message from Mike Smith, the SLPA President...

Greetings, Star Lakers. I don't have to remind you that last year was a difficult year for everybody and although it took its toll on social activities, thankfully we were all able to enjoy Star Lake. But normal life is returning. The loons have come back from their wintering spots, the hermit thrushes are singing in the woods, the fish are biting, and ever so slowly, the woods are greening up. But most importantly, Covid restrictions are gradually lifting as people get vaccinated and the spread slows down. So, I'm happy to report that this year, we're able to have our June meeting in person (a big relief if you're as tired of Zoom as I am) and plans are being laid for the summer social and maybe a summer raft parade in lieu of the poker run.



I hope you'll be able to make the June meeting to be held this year at the Star Lake Community Center, which provides more room for social distancing. By then I imagine that masks will no longer be needed for those that have been vaccinated. A couple of interesting items on the agenda for discussion: recent invasive species mapping results, and the DEC requirements for marking no wake zones. Also, I'd like to bring up the possibility of Star Lake becoming a Loon Friendly certified lake. Loons are the essence of the north country and Star Lake is fortunate to have a resident loon population.

So, in the meantime, I'll be enjoying the lake, trolling for landlocked salmon on my little 14-foot V-hull, and I wish you a splendid Star Lake Summer.

- Our **Regular Meeting**, scheduled for Saturday, June 26 at 10:00 am, will be held in person at the Star Lake Community Center. We hope that attendees will be fully vaccinated by then, to protect everyone.
- The first **Lake Road and Lake shoreline cleanups** will proceed as scheduled on Wednesday, July 7 and Wednesday, August 11, respectively. Meet at the school parking lot for the road cleanups and the sand-bar, for the shoreline cleanup. Latex gloves and garbage bags will be available. The second Lake Road cleanup will occur Wednesday, September 15, as scheduled.
- The **Annual Poker Run** may be cancelled due to covid-19 concerns. At the June 26th meeting, we will discuss whether or not it will be safe to hold the event, or perhaps an alternative event.
- The **Annual Dinner Meeting** and program (Adirondack Loons?) will be held on Saturday, August 28th. Possible venues are being considered for the cocktails, short meeting, program and dinner. We will discuss details at the June 26 meeting.

Watch our website, <http://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 of the web site.

Hope to see you on the lake,

Mike (Smitty)



## 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 was 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.

**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 wealth of information** can be found by viewing the YouTube video (right) first; and then, by visiting the web sites that follow.

<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/50121.html>  
[Star Lake Survey Results--APIPP](#)

**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 (ours is on Rt. 3, near old J & L site just past the Newton Falls turn).

