



# Star Lake Protective Association

Star Lake, New York 13690

June 1, 2023

## Hello Fellow Star Lakers!

**Spring has finally arrived** as winter rather quickly loosened its grip on Star Lake. "Welcome back" to those returning to the lake from points south. Those of us who stayed here made it through another fairly mild winter. Ice-out was April 13<sup>th</sup> this year, pretty much on schedule. Lush greens and colorful flowers have now replaced the dull greys of winter and Star Lake has awakened to begin the 2023 lake season.

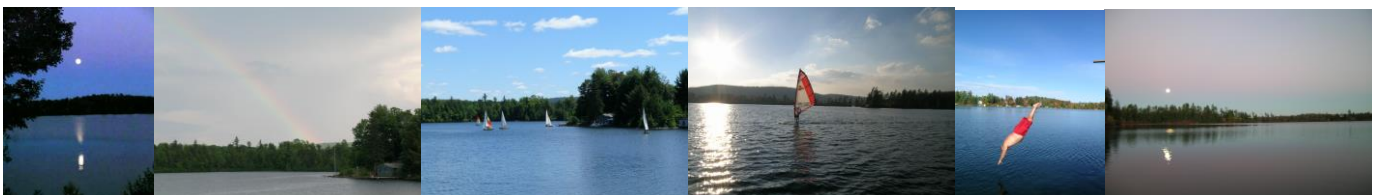
**We would like you to join the SLPA** in our efforts to keep the lake clean, beautiful, safe and fun for all. Membership in the SLPA provides many benefits. It gives newcomers to the lake a good way to meet their new neighbors in our unique lake community. Meetings, held twice a year, provide a forum 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 times a year to keep the roads and shorelines around the lake clean for all to enjoy. We (hopefully) will soon be planning the 17<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 2023 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 (<https://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. Recent surveys of our shorelines have found no invasive, non-native plants in our lake! Good news!

**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 also 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 (<https://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 [https://slpa.info/Rules\\_of\\_lake.htm](https://slpa.info/Rules_of_lake.htm). Help us keep our lake safe and clean.

**Regarding the Covid-19 Pandemic**, SLPA officers have discussed the coming year's projects, activities, and meetings and how we should deal with the virus. Unless things drastically change, we will hold our meetings in person. We will conduct our clean-ups as we have in the past. The Poker Run is on the schedule. Our dinner plans in August are yet to be determined. We will be utilizing the *Bargain Hunter*, 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 and those around you.





**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 20-40 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 24<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am at the Adirondack Exhibit Center (SOS). 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 2022 Annual Meeting are available for review on our website. We have also tentatively scheduled our Annual Dinner Meeting for Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup>. We hope you can join us for our final get-together of the year and a great meal. Check our website for up-to-date 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, that means 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 preferred e-mail address using the feedback form at <https://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 membership.* Please help us to define our lake association by taking a moment now to send in your 2023 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 122-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

2023 SLPA OFFICERS ARE:		
President	John Burns	315-848-3238
Vice President	Karen Reese	315-848-5805
Treasurer	Chris Cook	315-848-2259
Secretary	Bo Ritchings	315-848-2169

2023 SLPA Meetings and Events			
Date	Event	Place	Time
Sat, June 24	Regular Meeting, socializing/refreshments; meeting to follow	Adirondack Exhibit Center (SOS building)	10:00 am
Weds. July 5	First Lake Road Clean-up	Meet at CFCS (school) parking lot	9:00 am
Weds. Aug 9	Lake Shoreline Clean-up	Meet at the Sandbar	10:00 am
Sat, Aug 12	17th Annual Poker-Run	Meet at the sandbar to register	12:00 noon
Sat. Aug. 26	Annual Meeting (Dinner or picnic being planned)	Adirondack Exhibit Center (SOS building)	10:00 am
Sat. Aug. 26	Potluck Picnic	TBA	TBA
Weds, Sept 13	Second Lake Road Clean-up	Meet at CFCS (school) parking lot	9:00 am

## From the Presidents' Docks,

Happy spring fellow Star Lakers. To the few of us here year- round, congratulations we made it through another winter. To the Star Lakers who spent the winter in warmer climates, we look forward to seeing you again, hopefully at our June 2023 meeting. The snow is melted, the ice is gone, the loons have returned, the sun is shining and the air is warm but not hot. We are so lucky to be able to enjoy life on our beautiful lake in the incredible Adirondack Park.

With our good fortune of living on Star Lake comes the responsibility to be good caretakers of Star Lake and thus, the Star Lake Protective Association. At our August 2022 meeting, many of us enthusiastically signed up to be part of several committees charged with looking into various issues to protect our lake as well as having some fun social activities. The plan is to use the June 2023 meeting to hear brief updates on your committee's work so far, and to hear your recommendations of what is next for your committee. It was suggested that the first name on each committee list would act as the chairperson so that person will be called upon at the meeting to report. However, open feedback and discussion will be encouraged. We will need to keep each report brief, especially if the meeting is on a sunny day. We also asked for each chair to prepare a brief written report. If any of the committees didn't have a chance to communicate, there is still time before the June meeting.

We look forward to gathering again, catching up and we are looking forward to another summer on our beautiful Star Lake!

Be well,

John Burns, President

Karen Reese, Vice President

## Boaters: A Request from Your Neighbors,

Several people around the lake have expressed concern over the wakes of large motorboats on the lake, particularly those towing skiers and tubers around the islands and in the bays; especially post office bay. There is not only the erosion problem; but several people have noted that they can't even sit on their floating dock when boats take off or drop skiers nearby due to the huge waves created.

This is a difficult problem with no clear solution. Aside from the NYS speed limit of 5 mph within 100 feet of shore, docks, swimmers, etc., and the erosion potential, there is a greater concern. While boaters have a right to waterski and pull tubers and enjoy their boats, they also have an obligation to respect the rights of their neighbors to their "quiet enjoyment" of the lake. Please show some empathy for others who might have a different way of enjoying the lake and their property.

**Please be aware of your boat wake at all times.** It's not only the law; it's the right thing to do! And, it's good for the lake and the lake neighborhood.



## 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 fouling 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>  
[https://adkinvasives.com/data/files/Documents/Star%20Lake\\_2019\\_A\\_PIPP%20EARLY%20DETECTION%20REPORT.pdf%20REPORT.pdf](https://adkinvasives.com/data/files/Documents/Star%20Lake_2019_A_PIPP%20EARLY%20DETECTION%20REPORT.pdf%20REPORT.pdf)

**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).

