

INFORMATION PACKET

EDUCATING RENTERS ABOUT LAKE HOUSE RESPONSIBILITY

Renting your lake house is a great way to share the beauty of Star Lake, but it's essential to educate renters on how to enjoy their stay responsibly. By providing renters with clear guidelines, you can help protect the lake, its ecosystem, and the surrounding Clifton-Fine community.

This packet contains three sections: 1) steps you can take as a homeowner to educate renters about preventing invasive species in Star Lake, 2) steps you can take to make it easier for renters, and 3) components of a Welcome Binder/Packet (that can be individualized for your specific property).

The Star Lake Protective Association has developed this information packet as a resource that we hope you find helpful as you communicate with renters.

1. Prevent Invasive Species: Educate Renters. We view this as one of the, if not *the*, most critical issue to share with renters: protect Star Lake from invasive species!!!

As a homeowner who rents out property you may wish to restrict outside watercraft. If so, we would encourage you to consider including contract language in rental agreements that prohibits renters from bringing their own watercraft to launch in Star Lake.

Note, if you restrict outside watercraft, you may wish to provide renters use of some or all of your watercraft (and include that as part of your property advertising!).

Both of these options ensure that no one is bringing invasive species into Star Lake via watercraft that have been in other lakes and waters and not cleaned properly.

If you choose to allow renters to bring in their own watercraft, we would strongly encourage you to:

- Share invasive species literature with renters prior to their arrival/prior to their potential launching of a boat or any other watercraft (including kayaks, canoes, SUPs, et skills, et. al.) into Star Lake. Contact the Star Lake Protective Association for copies of literature you can send to renters, and display in your home.
- Prior to renters' arrival, share the location of the nearby decontamination station (corner of Rt. 3 and the Benson Mines Rd.) so they can clean, drain, dry watercraft prior to launching any watercraft in Star Lake.
- Require renters to follow the DEC guidelines on "How to protect your waters from invasive species:" Clean, Drain, Dry
 - ✓ Clean any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting equipment. Remove pieces of aquatic vegetation and dispose of them on land well away from the water.
 - ✓ Wash the boat, motor, oars, and trailer with hot (140° F) water or steam at a decontamination station or car wash preferably shortly after taking the boat out of the water; definitely before launching in Star Lake!
 - ✓ Drain all water holding compartments including ballast tanks, live wells and bilges on land, well away from the shore. Note, waterskis and wakeboards sometimes have ballast tanks; be sure to drain them. Flush them with 140° F water.

- ✓ Don't release unused bait into the water and don't dump your bait bucket water into the lake. Don't release fish caught in other lakes or streams into Star Lake either. Fish not native to Star Lake may be undesirable species that will negatively affect the ecosystem of the lake. We'd add, *don't ever use* baitfish from other than Star Lake.
- ✓ Dry boats, trailers, and all equipment before use in another waterbody. The most effective way to ensure that no invasive species or fish diseases are transported to a new body of water is to completely dry your boating *and fishing equipment*. A minimum of 5-7 days drying time in dry, warm conditions is recommended. Disinfect anything that came into contact with water if it cannot be dried before reuse."

Please consider including the requirement to follow DEC guidelines as contract language in your rental agreements.

- Provide renters with cleaning supplies and sprays to use for cleaning watercraft.
- **Require renters to provide you with a "Clean.Drain.Dry" certification card.**
Note: boaters operating any kind of motorized watercraft in the Adirondack Park and within ten miles of the Blue Line are required by law to possess certification that, before launching, their vessel has undergone measures to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species by following the Clean.Drain.Dry standards. These certificates can be acquired by visiting a DEC designated aquatic invasive species inspection station where boat stewards are present to inspect or decontaminate vessels and to provide boaters with a certification card. Alternately, boaters may perform Clean.Drain.Dry steps themselves and then complete a [self-issued certificate](#). (Quoted from [DEC](#).)



Invasive species have been found on neighboring lakes and ponds so it is up to all of us, owners, renters, day visitors, to be extremely vigilant about following these steps prior to launching watercraft or using fishing equipment in Star Lake!

2. How to Make This Easy for Renters

- **Print welcome materials, invasive species and boat cleaning materials** and leave them in visible places in your home (e.g., kitchen counter, welcome binder). [Suggestions for Welcome Binder/Packet included in the next section.]
- **Post reminders** around the property:
 - Signs at the dock for invasive species prevention and dock use.
 - Fire safety reminders near the fire pit.
 - Quiet hours notices inside the house.
- Include **cleaning materials** like bleach sprays and encourage renters to use them for invasive species prevention.
- Please install **smoke detectors** and **carbon monoxide detectors** in your property and keep sufficient up to date **fire extinguishers** on hand.
- Help renters understand their critical role as guests in a lake community and how they can support our conservation efforts.

By educating your renters on these rules, guidelines and norms you not only protect Star Lake but also contribute to preserving its peaceful and beautiful environment for generations to come.

3. Provide a Welcome Binder/Packet

Create a welcome binder/packet for renters. A sample packet is included on the following pages. It has suggested sections (with some example text). There is also a section where you might include house rules (specific to your property). For example, you may wish to include guidance on water usage given septic tank and impact on lake water, “quiet” hours, discharging of fireworks, and pet guidelines if applicable.

WELCOME TO STAR LAKE!



In this packet you will find information, rules, guidelines and norms so you can better enjoy your stay in Star Lake, help us protect the lake, and contribute to preserving its peaceful and beautiful environment for generations to come!!! We hope you have a wonderful visit!

Welcome Packet Sections:

- Contact Information for Health, Safety and Emergency Services, and Local Authorities
- Water Quality Protection
- Invasive Species Prevention
- Water and Boating Safety
- Lake-Specific Guidelines and Protocols
- Sand Bar Etiquette
- Being a Good Neighbor/Quiet Hours on the Lake
- Pet Guidelines
- Contact Information for Local Businesses, Eateries, and Other Community Resources
- Property-Specific Information and Guidelines



CONTACT INFORMATION FOR HEALTH, SAFETY and EMERGENCY SERVICES, AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Health, Safety and Emergency Services

- **Fire – Star Lake Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department:**
Call 911 for emergencies or (315) 848-3621 for non-emergencies.
(The Fire Hall is at 4187 State Route 3, Star Lake, NY 13690)

- **Medical Emergencies**

Call 911.

The Star Lake Volunteer Fire Department maintains an emergency response vehicle.

The Clifton-Fine Hospital, a Rural Emergency Care Hospital, has an Emergency Room which is open 24 hours a day. The Hospital is located at 1014 Oswegatchie Trail Road, Star Lake, NY 13690.

- **Clifton-Fine Convenient Care** is available at the Clifton-Fine Hospital without an appointment, walk-ins only, if you need non-emergency care and your primary physician or pediatrician is not available. Convenient Care is currently available Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. – Noon. (Check the Clifton-Fine Hospital website for the most up to date information: <https://cliftonfinehospital.org/>) Convenient Care is not intended for life-threatening situations. If you have any questions as to the severity of an injury or illness, please call 911 immediately.

- **Power Outages: National Grid**

- ✓ Gas Emergency call [911](tel:911) and/or National Grid Hotline [1-800-892-2345](tel:1-800-892-2345)
(24-Hour Assistance)
- ✓ [Power Outage Map: Star Lake, New York](#)



- **Firewood and Fire Safety**

- ✓ Firewood Regulations – Don't Move Firewood. Please remember that there is a NYS Department of Environmental Conservation regulation that **prohibits the movement of untreated firewood** more than 50 miles from its source. The regulation also prohibits the importation of firewood into New York unless it has been treated to kill pests. Learn more from Don't Move Firewood.org. Moving untreated firewood is one of the main ways invasive pests and diseases spread to new areas and threaten the health of our forests.
- ✓ Fire Safety
 - ❖ Camp fires are a potential danger if not carefully watched. Please do not leave them unattended.
 - ❖ Do not burn garbage.
 - ❖ Be sure camp fires are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
 - ❖ See NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's page regarding [fire safety and rules for burning \(https://dec.ny.gov/things-to-do/camping/fire-safety\)](https://dec.ny.gov/things-to-do/camping/fire-safety)



WATER QUALITY PROTECTION

Star Lake currently enjoys the highest lake rating for water quality. We all, as property owners, renters and/or community members, must try to keep it that way. This is the source of our community's drinking water, an additional reason to ensure we are all doing our part of keep the lake clean. We all play an important part in impacting lake quality. There are a variety of environmental factors that can negatively impact lake quality:

- The introduction of non-native plants and animals is probably the single greatest threat to lake quality. Boats, motors, and trailers and live bait from other lakes and rivers are the main source of these contaminations. (See section below on "Prevent Invasive Species.")
- Septic tank seepage into the lake can contain high levels of nitrogen and phosphates both of which can nourish weed growth. There is also the potential of direct disease transmission from raw sewage. Please follow guidance provided on septic tank usage on this rental property.
- As noted in the old '70's slogan: "Don't be a litterbug!" Please batten down boats on windy days to avoid accidental littering. Try to avoid using glass containers on the lake to minimize the potential of injury from broken glass. Please be particularly careful handling gasoline, oil and anti-freeze to ensure that spills don't contaminate the water or shoreline. It's everyone's obligation to the lake community to help keep it clean and green.

PREVENT INVASIVE SPECIES

Follow the DEC guidelines on “How to protect your waters from invasive species:”

CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY

- ✓ Clean any visible mud, plants, fish or animals before transporting equipment. Remove pieces of aquatic vegetation and dispose of them on land well away from the water.
- ✓ Wash the boat, motor, oars, and trailer with hot (140° F) water or steam at a decontamination station or car wash preferably shortly after taking the boat out of the water; definitely before launching in Star Lake! Note, there currently is a decontamination station at the corner of Rt. 3 and the Benson Mines Rd.
- ✓ Drain all water holding compartments including ballast tanks, live wells and bilges on land, well away from the shore. Note, water skis and wakeboards sometimes have ballast tanks; be sure to drain them. Flush them with 140° F water.
- ✓ Don't release unused bait into the water and don't dump your bait bucket water into the lake. Don't release fish caught in other lakes or streams into Star Lake either. Fish not native to Star Lake may be undesirable species that will negatively affect the ecosystem of the lake. We'd add, *don't ever use* baitfish from other than Star Lake.
- ✓ Dry boats, trailers, and all equipment before use in another waterbody. The most effective way to ensure that no invasive species or fish diseases are transported to a new body of water is to completely dry your boating and fishing equipment. A minimum of 5-7 days drying time in dry, warm conditions is recommended. Disinfect anything that came into contact with water if it cannot be dried before reuse.”
- ✓ Make sure you have a “Clean.Drain.Dry” certification card.

WATER AND BOATING SAFETY

Follow all New York State and local laws and rules and regulations which include:

- ✓ Keep a close watch on children and pets playing in and around the lake. Follow NYS laws regarding the use of [Personal Flotation Devices](#) and boating safety.
- ✓ Every pleasure boat, and every rowboat, canoe and kayak, must have a personal flotation device for each person on board. Children under 12 years of age must wear a PFD while onboard.
- ✓ No one may operate a boat on the waters of New York State while intoxicated or impaired by alcohol or any other substance.
- ✓ All motorboats must be registered with the NYS Department of Motor Vehicles.
- ✓ Recreational boats must display required navigation lights between sunset and sunrise.
- ✓ As of January 1, 2025, New York law requires all boat operators, regardless of age, to obtain and carry the New York boating safety certificate. Check this website for information about how to obtain the certificate: [Get your New York Boating License & Safety Course | Boat-Ed](#)
- ✓ Non-motorized boats have the right of way at all times. All motorboats must yield right of way to sailboats, boats engaged in fishing, canoes, kayaks, wind surfers, paddle boats, paddleboards, and swimmers.
- ✓ New York State Law prohibits speeds in excess of 5 mph (no wake) when within 100 feet of a raft, dock, sailboat, canoe, kayak, anchored boat, and the lake shoreline. The boat operator is responsible for damages caused by the boat's wake, including shoreline, boats, rafts, and docks.
- ✓ Boats towing a water skier, tube, or other similar device must have on-board an observer (spotter) who is watching for the person(s) being towed. The observer must be at least 10 years of age.
- ✓ A cover boat must accompany all persons swimming more than 100 feet from shore. Scuba divers should have a partner, marker buoy, and required flags.



Properly dispose of fishing line, hooks, and tackle so as not to endanger people or wildlife.

Please remember we share our lake with the loons. Do not “chase” the loons, rather opt to observe them from a distance (at least 100 feet).

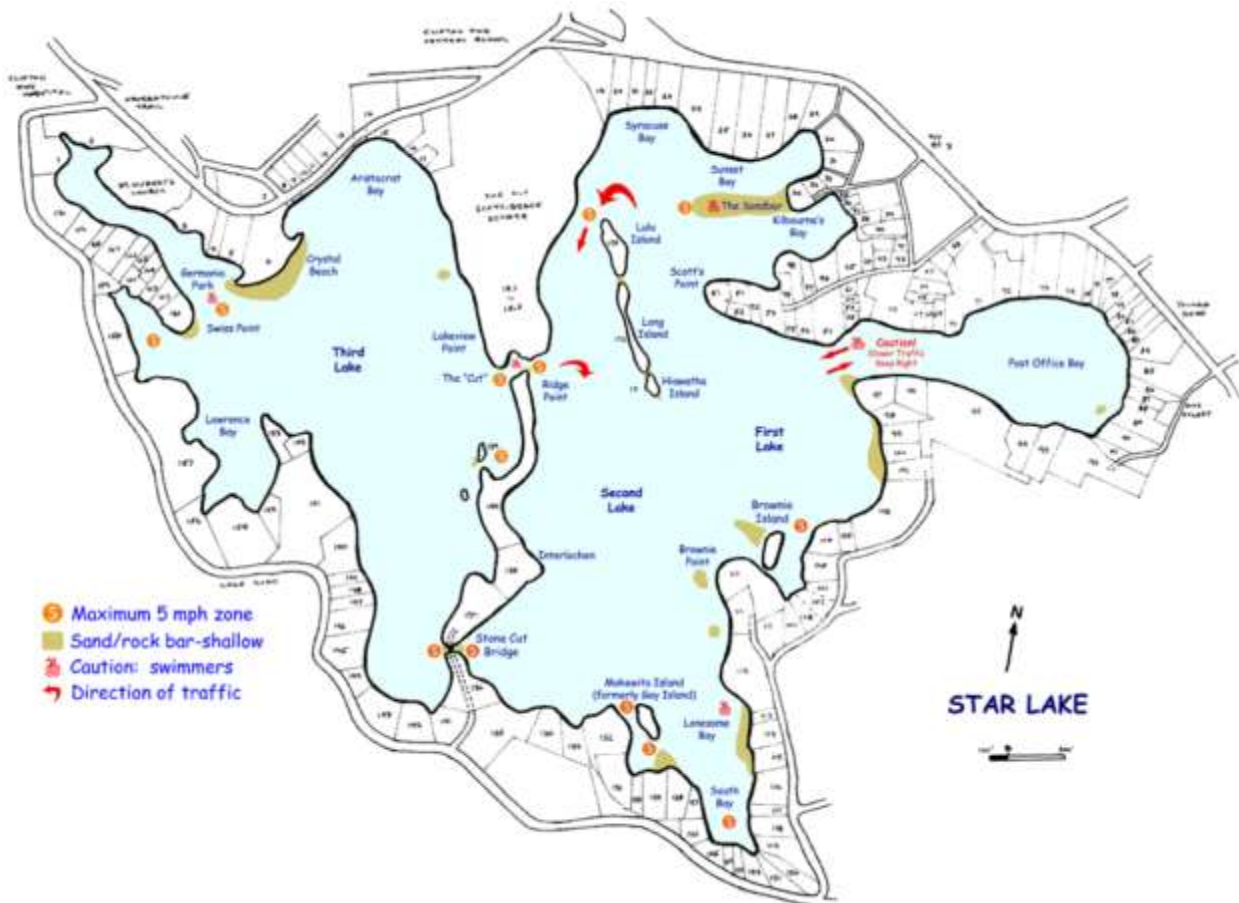
Loons also face deadly threats from other wildlife preying on their eggs as well as from fishing-line entanglement, leading to infection or preventing the loon from being able to eat. Please ensure you are collecting any fishing line you find washed up and retrieve any broken line.

The deadliest threat to loons is lead poisoning. Lead poisoning is the leading cause of death for common loons. Loons can ingest lead tackle that has dropped to the lake bottom. If loons swallow a fish off a line, they can ingest lead tackle like jib head hooks or weights. We encourage everyone to switch to lead-free tackle!



LAKE-SPECIFIC GUIDELINES AND PROTOCOLS

See map below. (Also see Star Lake Protective Association Handbook for more information and detail regarding lake specific guidelines and protocols. The Handbook is available on the Association webpage: <https://slpa.info/>)



SAND BAR ETIQUETTE

One of the unique qualities of Star Lake is the Sand Bar. It is a wonderful place to swim, and spend time with new and old friends. We ask that everyone follow good "Sand Bar Etiquette:" make sure you bring your trash home, and it doesn't enter the lake, and if you bring a pet to the sand bar make sure they are potty trained. Please remember our drinking water comes from Star Lake!

BEING A GOOD NEIGHBOR/QUIET HOURS ON THE LAKE

We ask that all users of the lake be tolerant of others' rights to the quiet enjoyment of their property and that they do so in a responsible, safe manner. Remember that "voices carry on the lake" and your private conversation may be heard by those across your bay – or even across the lake! Please limit late night and early morning noise, both on the water and around the property.

PET GUIDELINES (if renters are allowed to bring pets)

- **Leash laws:** The [Town of Fine](#) requires dogs to be on a leash and/or under the full control of the owner or responsible person at all times.
- **Clean up after pets:** Please pick up after your pets and properly dispose of waste to protect the environment.

**CONTACT INFORMATION FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES, EATERIES, AND OTHER
COMMUNITY RESOURCES**
(listed in alphabetical order)

TYPE	Name and Address	Phone Number
American Legion	American Legion Mervin Eno Post 1539 264 Benson Mines Rd, Star Lake	(315) 848-2089
ATMs	Circle K 4228 State Rte. 3, Star Lake)	(315) 848-2067
	Community Bank, N.A. 4091 State Rte. 3, Star Lake	(315) 848-3344
	U-B's Mercantile, LLC 3386 State Rte. 3, Oswegatchie	(315) 848-2758
Churches	Adirondack Community Church 918 Co Rd 60, Newton Falls	(315) 848-2503
	First Baptist Church 469 Oswegatchie Trail Rd., Oswegatchie	(315) 848-2267
	St. Hubert's Catholic Church 1046 Oswegatchie Trail Rd, Star Lake	(315) 848-3612
	Star Lake God's Missionary Church 4272 State Rte. 3, Star Lake	(518) 744-0361
	Western Adirondack Presbyterian Church (churches in Star Lake and in Wanakena)	(315) 848-2926
Gift Shops	Adirondack Rustics 3424 State Rte. 3, Star Lake	(315) 848-5500
	ADK Holy Grail Gift Shop 4051 State Rte. 3, Star Lake	(518) 593-3611 (Text Only)
	U-B's Mercantile, LLC 3386 State Rte. 3, Oswegatchie	(315) 848-2758
Grocery/ Convenience Stores	Circle K 4228 State Rte. 3, Star Lake	(315) 848-2067
	Dollar General 4149 State Rte. 3, Star Lake	(315) 309-4285
	Otto's Adobe 6 Hamele St., Wanakena	(315) 848-3008
	U-B's Mercantile, LLC 3386 State Rte. 3, Oswegatchie	(315) 848-2758

Hardware Store (also has variety of other products)	Todd's True Value Supply 4190 State Rte. 3, Star Lake	(315) 848-3389
Pharmacy	Adirondack Pharmacy 4057 State Rte. 3, Star Lake	(315) 848-3784
Post Office	United States Postal Service 4052 State Rte. 3, Star Lake	(800) 275-8777
Restaurants/ Take Out Eateries	Circle K 4228 State Rte. 3, Star Lake	(315) 848-2067
	Club Grub 4173 State Rte. 3, Star Lake	(315) 244-3993
	Hometown General Store 4878 State Rte. 3, Star Lake	(680) 310-9121
	Star Lake Scoops (Ice Cream) 4361 State Rte. 3, Star Lake	(315) 848-4258
	Twin Lakes Hotel 4155 State Rte. 3, Star Lake	(315) 848-2291
	U-B's Mercantile, LLC 3386 State Rte. 3, Oswegatchie	(315) 848-2758
Recreation/ Historical	Clifton-Fine Golf Course 4173 State Rte. 3, Star Lake	(315) 848-3570
	SOS (Save our Schoolhouse), The Adirondack Exhibit Center 4195 State Rte. 3, Star Lake	(518) 570-2475
	Wanakena Historical Association (local history museum) 21 2nd Street, Wanakena	(351) 848-2428
Trash Removal/ Recycling	Star Lake Transfer Station 4582 State Rte. 3, Star Lake	(315) 848-3589

Note: The "Bargain Hunter" is published weekly on Mondays and is available at Adirondack Rustics (limited number of copies are also available at the Post Office). The publication includes advertisements from local businesses and local event updates.

This document was created by the Star Lake Protective Association and was current as of the date of publication. The Star Lake Protective Association provides this as an information source, not as an endorsement of any individual businesses/organizations. Cover page photo by B. Ritchings.

PROPERTY-SPECIFIC INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES:

