



Adirondack White Lake Association

Fall 2023 Newsletter

The Adirondack White Lake Association (AWLA) aims to conserve, protect, monitor, and safely regulate the precious resources of White Lake



Photo by: Katie Cotter

Dear Fellow Members & White Lake Community,

As the summer season draws to a close and the leaves begin to change, many in our lake community are busy with children returning to school and taking steps to close their seasonal camps for the winter. Others, who are fortunate to live here, are welcoming the quiet that the fall and winter months bring to our lake. It's been an interesting summer weather wise – we started off the season with smoke emitting from the Canadian wildfires, causing air quality alerts throughout the Adirondacks and beyond. Then long stretches of rainy weather soon followed, reminding us to take advantage of every sunny day! As we move into the cooler months, this newsletter is dedicated to events, seasonal tips, and the goings-on of your AWLA board.



Photo by: Katie Waldo

SUMMER SOCIAL EVENTS 2023

Thank you to all who volunteered and attended our AWLA 2023 Social Events! We kicked off the season with our annual Pancake Breakfast. The Pancake Breakfast is always a great way for us all to reconnect with friends and help raise money for our annual fish restocking program. And great fun was had at our Independence Day events despite the looming threat of rain, which never became a problem! And it's always great to watch the children participating in the picnic games!

LAKE LEVELS

As you no doubt noticed, lake levels were unusually high throughout August but are finally back to normal levels. Thank you to our AWLA lake level committee members, Joe Turczyn & Ralph Cossa, who took many trips down the outlet to make sure there were no beaver dams or debris blocking flow. The culprit of high lake levels – the abundance of rain!



Photo by: Wayne Niskala

FISH RESTOCKING

Thank you to everyone who donated so generously to our fish fund this year, as we were able to purchase 1,000 fish at a cost of \$5,500. In previous years, our annual fish budget had been \$3,000, but with the rising cost of fish, our buying power has decreased significantly. AWLA started stocking fish in White Lake in the 1980's after the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Fish Hatchery discontinued stocking the lake, which they had been stocking with 5,000 fingerling trout yearly since the 1950's.

Due to warmer temperatures this year, our annual fish stocking took place on Friday, May 12th,. Unfortunately, for our community children, our supplier is no longer able to make Saturday deliveries.

White Lake's fish stocking program wouldn't be possible without the Pancake Breakfast and your generous contributions! A special thank you to The Gaetano Family who donated more than half the money needed to reach our goal this year, in memory of their Dad, Charles Gaetano, who was a longstanding member of our community and an avid fisherman. Our 2024 Fish Fund will be sponsored in part by the Paternoster Endowment, in addition to funds raised by our annual Pancake Breakfast and your generous donations. Your donations are greatly appreciated and help keep our lake environmentally sound and vibrant!

AWLA STEWARD PROGRAM

Inspection of boats – and if need be, boat washing – prior to launching on our lake is **required by law** and extremely important to stop aquatic invasive species from entering our pristine waters. We have hired boat inspection stewards seasonally since 2016 through Paul Smith College. This year, our sister organization, White Lake ADK Association (WLADK), decided to run its own pilot boat steward inspection program to help offset the rising costs and to facilitate a more customized schedule for our lake inspection program.

Thanks to Joan Vivelo and Cole Entwistle who were our weekend staffers at Beach A. Also, thank you to Dan & Judy Shaunessey for volunteering many Friday evenings to ensure we had more coverage. All this was coordinated & managed by Ralph and Louanne Cossa. We are happy to say it was a success, and we will continue this in house program next year! AWLA funds this program from our 50/50 Mega Raffle and your generous donations to our WLADK Environmental Fund. Thank you for your continued support!



Photo by: David Bourgeois

AWLA AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES TRAINING

In an effort to train our own boat stewards, a four hour Aquatic Invasive Species Training Class was conducted on May 26th. Tom Collins from Paul Smith's Watershed Institute taught the informative class and provided the 12 attendees with informational guides and brochures. We also want to thank the White Lake Inn for allowing us to use their picnic area and Bob Shannon for transporting his boat from Constable, NY to use as our teaching aide. We hope to offer this class again in May 2024.

WATER QUALITY ASSESSMENT

The Adirondack Lake Assessment Program (ALAP) was established in 1998 to provide water quality data to shoreowners and to develop a comprehensive, long-term database of water quality conditions in the Adirondack Park. AWLA has been part of this program since its outset. Three times per season, water samples are taken and analyzed for lake water quality, which helps to identify changes over time and causes of concern that may need action. Road salt use continues to be a major concern for our lake, as well as most of the lakes in the Adirondacks. A long term study about the effects of road salt & recommendations has just been released: <https://tinyurl.com/ycx79ac2>

Thank you to Tammy Jo & Chuck Riedman who have taken over this responsibility from the Entwistle's, who ran the program for many years. The water sampling analysis is available to review on AWLA's website. Current status: water clarity excellent; road salt – not so good!

BACTERIAL WATER TESTS

Since 1983, AWLA has also collected water samples for bacterial tests. As with the ALAP program, these tests are taken at three different locations around the lake (this year, four samples) - if one area has higher bacterial count, it may be easier to assess where a leaky or overburdened septic system is located. We continually monitor in order to take corrective action if/when needed. **We encourage all property owners to make sure your septic systems are running properly.** Thank you to Chuck & Tammy Jo Riedman for managing this program.



Photo by: Louanne Petronio Cossa

50/50 MEGA RAFFLE FUNDRAISER

Congratulations to our 50/50 mega raffle winner, Jill Reaves! This year, we were able to raise \$2540 towards the White Lake Steward Program, which helps offset the almost \$8,000 per season expense. Thank you to all who participated!

MOHAWK VALLEY GIVES DAY!

AWLA's sister nonprofit, White Lake ADK Association (WLADK), participated in its first Mohawk Valley Gives Day on September 20th, 2023. Mohawk Valley Gives Day is sponsored by the Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida County, which helps to manage WLADK assets. We are pleased to share that we raised over \$6,000 from both AWLA & WLSA members in addition to donors beyond our immediate community. WLADK enables the community at large to support environmental efforts (boat stewards, fish stocking, etc.) through tax-deductible donations.

NEW AWLA BOARD MEMBER

We would like to welcome new board member, Carlo Cuccaro, and congratulate Meg Marcone and Joe Foley on their reelections! They all bring valuable skills and perspectives to our AWLA board, joining current members Camaron Cohen, Louanne Cossa, Sarah Cotter, Deborah Dempsey, Karen Dwyer, Tammy Jo Riedman, Joe Turczyn, and Ginny Vorhis. Our volunteer board, many of whom work full-time jobs and have other responsibilities, continues to meet throughout the winter, ensuring all of our programs and community issues are addressed.



Photo by: Karen Spine

BUBBLERS AND DE-ICERS

IF YOU USE A BUBBLER FOR YOUR BOATHOUSE DOCK AREA, YOU MUST HAVE PROPER SIGNAGE (DANGER THIN ICE**) TO ALERT WINTER RECREATIONAL USERS.**

Many people may not understand the impact these devices have on the environment and wildlife, the danger involved, legal issues, or the social issues related to the use of these devices. It is understandable that bubblers protect boathouses and docks but unintended consequences have also been observed. For proper usage, please check out detailed information on our Adirondack White Lake Association website –

<https://www.whitelakeadk.com/water-quality-1>

Message From the President

White Lake is a private lake, and all of our programs are funded through membership dues and the generosity of additional tax-exempt donations from YOU! Your Board cannot conserve, protect, and monitor the precious resources of White Lake without your help. We greatly appreciate all of the time and effort so many of you have and continue to provide. Remember to share photos on our AWLA Facebook page, as it's wonderful to see views of our lake in all seasons!

Wishing you & your families a peaceful fall and winter season,

Louanne Cossa, President
Adirondack White Lake Association



[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)

To learn more about AWLA, please visit our website. You will find information in regards to our programs designed to conserve, protect, monitor, and safely regulate the precious resources of White Lake for today's enjoyment and future generations. Thank you to those that have and continue to support AWLA. We appreciate your ongoing service and contributions!