



Adirondack White Lake Association

Winter 2023 Newsletter

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



Photo by: Louanne Petronio Cossa

Happy New Year, Fellow Members and White Lake Community!

It's wonderful to connect with you all once again! As we approach the New Year, let us take time to reflect on this past year and enjoy the presence of the season with family and friends. Thank you to our year-round residents and periodic visitors for posting beautiful winter photos of our lake on the [AWLA Facebook Page](#). It's wonderful to see White Lake in all seasons.



Photo by: Louanne Petronio Cossa

FUN FACTS ABOUT WHITE LAKE LOONS

White Lake is the home of a loon family each season, and this past season was no exception. We often get asked many questions about our resident loons, so we've compiled a list of common loon facts – a great way for adults and children alike to learn more about our favorite waterfowl.

- Adult Loons can weigh anywhere between 6 and 14 pounds, with an average wingspan of 41-52 inches; life expectancy ranges from 15-20 years.
- Loons only go on land to mate and incubate their eggs.
- Loons can recognize individual people by facial features and decide (on their own terms) whether that person is friend or foe.
- Loons can stay underwater for up to five minutes!
- And what exactly do loons eat? Fish. Lots of fish...about two pounds a day. Loons also eat invertebrates like crayfish and aquatic insects like dragonflies.
- In the spring and summer months, loons breed and raise their chicks. Both the male and female incubate the eggs, with a 24-31 day gestation period.
- In the late fall, loons begin their migration southward. First one parent and then the other, leaving the juvenile(s) on the lake to gather their strength. Usually the juvenile(s) will migrate a few weeks after their parents. This year it seems our juvenile stayed much later, with sightings well after December 3rd. This may not be our White Lake juvenile, as it might be a loon from further north stopping on our lake during migration. By this time of year, it's hard to tell the juveniles from the adults – winter molting makes identification more difficult!
- Both the adult and juvenile loons migrate to Cape Cod, Long Island, New Jersey, and even as far as North Carolina and the Gulf Coast of Florida. Rather than returning in the spring like the adults, the juveniles will stay there for two years. In the third year, juvenile loons return north, but not usually to the lake where they were born; they do not breed for several more years.

Much like us, once the winter is over, the adult loons can't wait to get back to their favorite lake again! They usually return to the same water bodies year after year.



Photo by: Karen Spine

BEAVERS, RAIN, SNOW (AND MORE BEAVERS)

It's been a challenging season with our beaver friends, who had taken up residence at the White Lake outlet located at RT 28 and the Stone Quarry Road culvert. The trapper AWLA hired for many years retired; we hired three new trappers this season, and all had difficulty removing the beavers. The third trapper finally succeeded! The beavers – along with fall rains and a two-foot snowfall with subsequent melting – have created higher lake levels. The outlet is still flowing, but it's like draining a large tub with a straw! Thank you to Joe Turczyn, Ralph Cossa, Courtney Wellar, TJ Entwistle, and Jeff Lyman for all their efforts.

BECOME A BOAT STEWARD!

Looking for a great summer job and a way to support your lake? How about becoming a boat steward? The Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI) at Paul Smith's College will train and pay you **\$18 per hour** for full or part time positions – an excellent job for teenagers, college students, and retirees. Interested? Members can apply for a boat steward position with AWI by contacting Bill Brosseau at bbrosseau@paulsmiths.edu. Questions? Please direct them to Louanne Petronio Cossa at oldicehouse74@gmail.com.

ICE FISHING DISCOURAGED; NO PUBLIC ACCESS

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has opened ice fishing (new '22-'23 regulations) on most lakes in the Adirondacks, which were previously prohibited from ice fishing. White Lake does not receive any assistance from the state for fish restocking and all the property surrounding White Lake is private. Therefore, **access to the general public is prohibited.**

Since becoming a private lake, we have spent decades rebuilding the fish population and the health of the lake's ecosystem. It would be a shame, and take but only a season for all our efforts (pancake breakfasts, donations from members) to be literally wiped out by a few hardcore fishermen overfishing on our very small pristine lake.

The reason DEC prohibited ice fishing on most lakes was to remove the fishing pressure during spawning and allow time for trout-based fisheries to repopulate naturally. As trout species are much slower to repopulate than other species such as pike, bass, panfish (perch, rock bass, etc), DEC allowed ice fishing only on larger trout-based lakes that were unlikely to be overfished due to their massive size (Lake George, Great Sacandaga, Schroon, Otsego, to name a few).

Ice fishing creates a number of problems:

1. Overfishing with no enforcement of regulations (there are size limits to the amount and kind of fish) **could decimate our rainbow and native lake and brook trout population.**
2. The introduction of bait fish into White Lake could leave our lake vulnerable to **invasive minnow species and other contamination.**
3. Danger to fishermen due to the creation of **thin ice** by the many bubblers on the lake.
4. Ice shanties/sleds on the lake could lead to significant litter including food, bottles, and cans on the ice and in the lake.
5. Violators **trespassing** through private property to gain access to the lake.

For these reasons, AWLA **discourages** ice fishing on White Lake. Steve Addison, President of WLSA, has notified its members and has posted "**No Access for Ice Fishing**" signs on their property. AWLA members/lakefront owners can and should prohibit outside fishermen from entering our lake to fish this winter. We encourage you to post NO TRESPASSING signs on your property, keep watch, screen any camera footage for violations, and report to the following agencies: DEC law enforcement: (315) 785-2231 and/or the NYS Police at (315) 831-4177. **Please keep these numbers handy to report ice fishing, trespassing, and/or violations.**

A sustainable fishery is a key factor in the overall health and water quality of our pristine lake. Let's maintain and protect what we've all worked hard to preserve and take pride in!



Photo by: Linda Carl Duffy

IN MEMORIAM

Charles Gaetano, longtime member of the White Lake Community, passed away September 22, 2022 at the age of 99. He is fondly remembered by many for his love of fishing, spending hours on the lake catching trout and bass. He once landed a nearly 20-pound lake trout from White Lake!

We would like to extend condolences to the Gaetano family.

Please take a moment to read about his extraordinary “life of business and philanthropy.” <https://tinyurl.com/2mm8sny3>

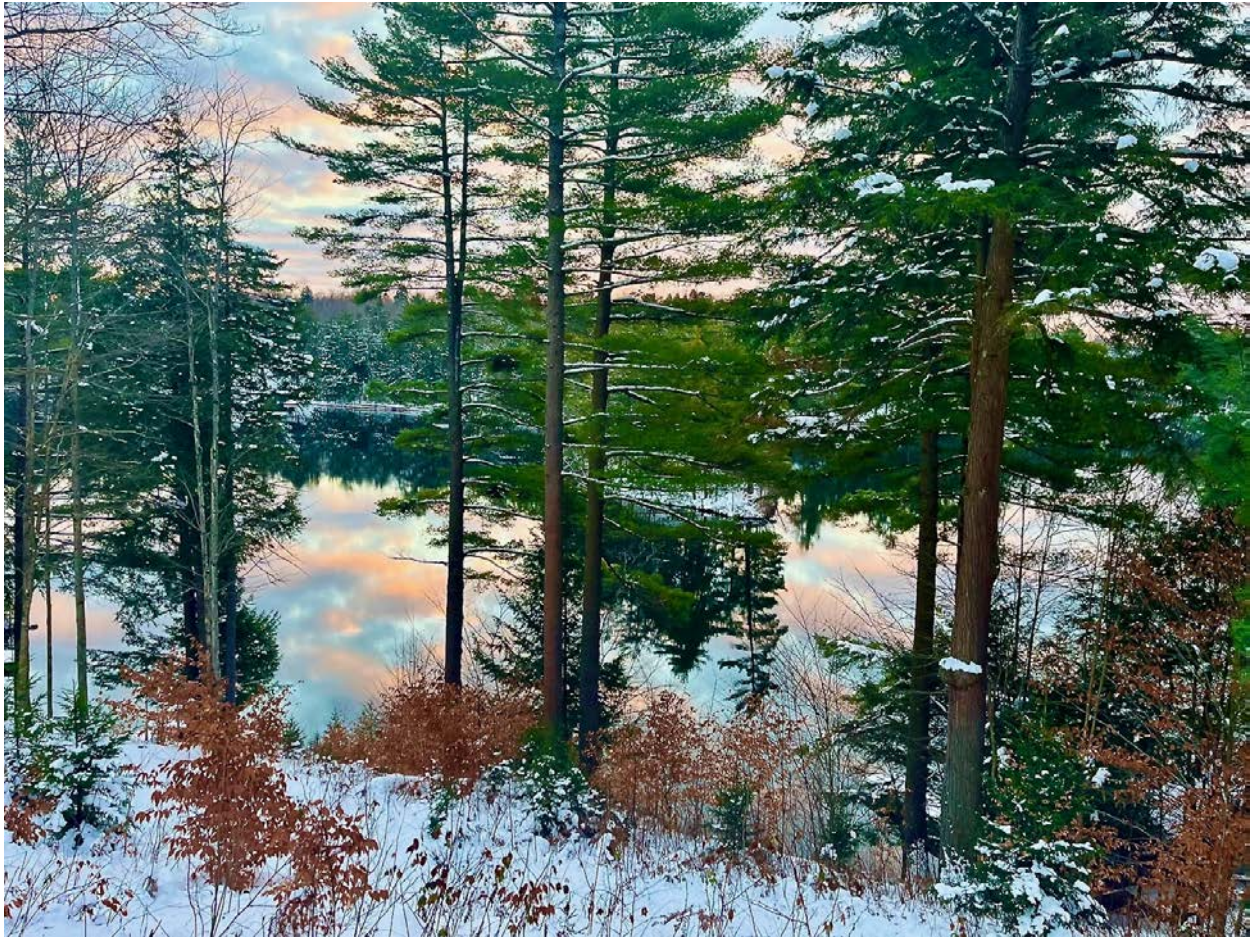


Photo by: Derek Davey

SEARCH FOR INVASIVE SPECIES

The Adirondack Research Vessel, in collaboration with the Nature Conservancy, searched for invasive species on White Lake on July 6th. At this time, **our lake is currently free of invasive species!** We do have native plants (non-invasive) such as American White Waterlily, Bladderwort, Large-leaf Pondweed, etc. It is important to note the Fulton Chain of Lakes are contaminated with invasive Variable-leaf Milfoil and 7th lake is infested with Eurasian Milfoil.

To prevent invasive species, White Lake has invested seasonally, hiring boat stewards two to three days per week since 2016. We continue to educate our community that **“Prevention is easier (and cheaper), than the cure.”**

Remember, all boaters – owners, guests, and renters – are required to clean and have their watercraft inspected before launching onto White Lake. It is now New York State Law. Thank you for your diligence and continued support on this important issue!



Photo by: Patrick Romeo

NO INCREASE TO 2023 DUES MEMBERSHIP

During our AWLA Board meeting on September 3, 2022, we decided not to raise dues for the 2023 season. Dues will remain \$60, and there will be a \$10 late fee for those who register after May 1st. Rather than raise our dues, we hope that members will take advantage of our newly-created WLADK 501c3 tax-exempt non-profit and give generously to our Fish, Environmental, and Legal Action/Quarry Funds. Donations made to these funds will be routed through WLADK, which will make them fully tax-deductible.

Unlike most other lakes in the state, White Lake is a private lake - supported solely by YOU, our White Lake family. Your contributions are essential as we work together to protect our lake. Please note, our basic operating expenses (insurance, postage, website, etc.) are just covered by the \$60 membership fee, but our various programs/funds are not. As in the past, we are counting on our AWLA members to support these Funds: Fish, which supports the stocking of fish for a healthy and alive lake; Environmental, which covers the hiring of boat stewards to prevent aquatic invasive species, in addition to water quality tests, and beaver/lake level services; and the Legal/Quarry Action Fund, which helps ensure that all State and Park laws are appropriately applied in protecting our lake and surrounding environment. Your continued and precious support is greatly appreciated.

AWLA MEMBERSHIP 2023 – Join or Renew!

We are so grateful to you, our White Lake family, for getting involved and staying involved! **Membership renewal is available online starting January 1st.** You can submit your membership form in one of two ways: fill out the membership form electronically and pay online - or - download the membership form from our website, print, and mail it to the specified address, along with a check. Membership dues are currently \$60. There is a \$10 late fee for enrollment after May 1st. Please enroll as a member and consider a much needed tax-deductible donation to our Environmental, Fish, and Legal/Quarry Action funds today! To join or access membership renewal, please visit:

www.whitelakeadk.com/membership

Message From the President

New Year's resolutions can be a good way to create a positive plan for change and improvement in the coming year. For 2023, AWLA has made a New Year's Resolution to stock our lake this coming May with 1,200 fish, a sharp increase to the 550 fish stocked in 2022. (This has not been done in many years due to rising fish costs.) To meet this goal, we need to double our usual \$3,000 fish budget to \$6,000. Please remember our Fish Fund goal when renewing your 2023 AWLA membership; we could use the extra Fish Fund donations this year! Thank you again for all your support and willingness to stay engaged with our special White Lake Family.

Wishing you all a very happy & healthy 2023!



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!