



Adirondack White Lake Association

Fall 2021 Newsletter

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



Photo by: Louanne Cossa

Dear Fellow Members & White Lake Community,

As the summer season draws to a close and fall progresses, lake levels are lower, fish are jumping, loons are calling, and the mosquitoes are still biting. That's what a very rainy season can do – mosquitoes & challenging lake levels. As with the 2020 season, we exercised caution with regard to our in-person meetings and activities due to ongoing COVID-19 concerns. Thanks to video technology, as a group, we were able to meet twice and discuss our most pressing issues, while the Board met many times to deal with important matters. In addition, we were able to revive last year's successful 4th of July festivities – Boat Parade, Drinks on the Dock, and the nighttime Flares and Firepits lighting, along with the popular DJ on the Dock event – enabling us to meet in smaller groups while sharing laughs, conversation, and dancing!



Photo by: Sadieann Spear

Adirondack Lake Assessment Program

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 is a major concern for our lake, as well as most of the lakes in the Adirondacks, and this long-term study has helped to bring about awareness and change in winter road salt usage throughout the Park. Alan “Spike” Woodruff along with the Entwistle’s have been collecting water samples for years. Our association is grateful for their participation in this program – we would like to thank them for their years of service! The water sampling analysis is available to review on the website; current status: water clarity remains high!

Bacterial Water Tests

Alan “Spike” Woodruff has also collected water samples for bacterial tests since 1983. As with the ALAP program, these tests are taken at three different locations around the lake – 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.** When available, this year’s test results will be on our website in the Lake Science Reports section.

Fish Restocking

Our annual fish stocking took place on Saturday, May 22nd, rather than the traditional Memorial day event, due to warmer lake temperatures. We were able to purchase 700 fish at a cost of \$3,000. Due to rising costs, this is half of what we have historically stocked since the Adirondack White Lake Association was formed in 1981. 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. Our Fish Restocking Program is funded through a combination of membership dues, our Pancake Breakfast, and your generous donations to the Fish Fund. Your donations are greatly appreciated and help keep our lake vibrant!

AWLA Steward Program

Inspection of boats – and if need be, boat washing – prior to launching on our lake is **required** and extremely important to stop aquatic invasive species from entering our pristine waters. We have hired stewards seasonally since 2016. This year, Cole Entwistle was our Lake Steward working Saturdays & Sundays from May 29 to September 5th. Thank you, Cole! The full report from Paul Smith's College, including the number of boats and invasive species detected, is posted on our website; 2022 findings will be posted when available. In the early years, we were fortunate to get a grant to help offset some of the costs, but this has not been available for several years now. AWLA funds this program from membership dues, our 50/50 raffle, and your generous donations to our Environmental Fund. Thank you for your continued support!

Bubblers & 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. Last winter, a snowmobiler came too close to an open area where a bubbler was being used and started to sink before being rescued by a lake member. Warning signs can help avoid such incidents. 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. Last year, a deer also fell through the soft ice surrounding a bubbler and drowned; the dead deer had to be pulled out of the water to avoid creating a health hazard.

Key tips: When purchasing or replacing a bubbler, choose the smallest size possible to maintain an ice free zone around your dock. Use a thermostat and timer to run the bubbler device only when air temperature drops below the freezing point and for a few hours a day. For proper usage, please check out detailed information on our Adirondack White Lake Association website – <https://www.whitelakeadk.com/water-quality-1>



Photo by: Mary Anne Tamburro

Spring Meeting

Our spring meeting was held on May 23, 2021 with 45 members attending. The main topic of discussion was the proposed White Lake Granite Quarry and questions regarding the impact of this 25 year / 26.6 acre project. More information below.

Meet and Greet

Thanks to Barbara Spring for organizing a Meet & Greet for new lake owners (as of 2019) on July 26th! We have twelve new families since our 2019 White Lake map was issued. We will continue to hold this event as needed. Welcome to all new members – we are so glad to have you as part of our community!

Rt 28 Litter Clean Up

Thanks to Rob Reith for organizing the Saturday, August 28th RT 28 Clean-up event! Bags, gloves, and safety vests were provided along with coffee, donuts, water, and soda. Volunteers worked along both sides of RT 28 from Seasons Cafe to the Brandy Lake trailhead. Clear bags were used for cans/bottles so they could be recycled at the transfer station, and the rest went to the Town dumpster as approved by the Forestport Town Supervisor, TJ Entwistle. Thank you to all the volunteers!

50/50 Raffle

Congratulations to our 50/50 raffle winner, Katrina Vandermark! This year, we were able to raise \$3,620 towards the White Lake Steward Program, which helps offset the almost \$7,000 per season expense.

Lake Levels

As you no doubt noticed, lake levels were unusually high throughout August and into September but are finally back to normal levels. Thank you to our lake level committee members and other volunteers who took many trips down the outlet to make sure there weren't any debris or beaver dams blocking flow. Other than a proliferation of pickerelweed, the culprit of high lake levels was the abundance of rain. Thank you to all who courteously observed a "No Wake Zone".

Quarry Update

This has been an amazing community effort! Thank you all! We have come together to question the impact of this 25-year project on our beautiful, spring-fed, pristine lake. We have spoken loudly: we want more answers! LA Group/Kevin Franke's 52-page report outlining all the discrepancies in the proposed quarry application is invaluable to our cause. This is not over, but the next step will depend on the two agencies: the Adirondack Park Agency (APA) and NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC). We have been getting good media coverage, but we want to ensure that our voices continue to be heard. Thank you for getting involved and staying involved as we navigate this complex process together.

APA: The APA board needs more time to review the application and all the correspondence, including our DEC public hearing comments. The next APA meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 18/19. The notice will be posted on the APA website Wednesday the week before the meeting (in this case, Wednesday, November 10th). As of now, it will be held on Zoom. We will keep you posted!

DEC: Thank you to those that attended and provided public comment at the September 2nd NYSDEC Public Hearing. It was a huge success! It was an impressive showing - approximately 20 speakers stated our case before an Administrative Law Judge, members of the DEC, and the media, and raised numerous and important substantive issues. In this period following the hearing, the DEC will determine whether substantive or significant issues have been raised as defined in 6 NYCRR Part 621 Uniform Procedures, and either proceed with an adjudicatory public hearing before an Administrative Law Judge or issue a decision.

And thank you all for submitting your comment letters to the DEC! You have given a voice on behalf of our community. The DEC received over 120 USPS letters and a box of 1200+ petition letters, and this doesn't even include the copious amounts of emails sent.

AWLA has obtained legal environmental counsel to represent us going forward.

Your New AWLA Board Members

We would like to welcome three new board members: Sarah Cotter, Deborah Dempsey, and Joe Foley. They each bring new skills and perspectives to our AWLA board, joining current members Camaron Cohen, Louanne Cossa, Karen Dwyer, TJ Entwistle, Jeff Lyman, Danielle Mazuy (re-elected), Ginny Vorhis, and Joe Turczyn. A special thank you to Courtney Wellar for being available in an advisory capacity. We are grateful for his leadership as AWLA President for the past six years. Our board continues to meet throughout the winter, ensuring all of our programs and community issues are addressed.

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 donations from YOU! Your Board cannot accomplish these activities without your help and greatly appreciates all of the time and effort so many of you have and continue to provide. We missed seeing all of you in person and hope that we can resume our in-person activities next year. Remember to share photos on our AWLA Facebook page, as it's wonderful to see the views of our lake in all seasons!

Wishing you & your families a peaceful fall/winter season.



Louanne Cossa, President
Adirondack White Lake Association

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)

Thank you to those that have and continue to support the AWLA. We appreciate your ongoing contributions. And if you haven't done so, please consider making a donation today! Your generous contributions help to conserve, protect, monitor, and safely regulate the precious resources of White Lake for today's enjoyment and future generations. Please visit our website, and "Donate Now"!