



MAY 2011

# THE UPPER SARANAC LAKE ASSOCIATION MAILBOAT

**FLOOD UPDATE**  
see  
p. 6

## Think Spring – Ideas for Lake-Friendly Spring House Cleaning

Lake-friendly living isn't just for those who live along the shores of Upper Saranac Lake. Everyone in the watershed is making decisions on a daily basis that can affect the water quality of the lake. From deciding whether or not to fertilize your lawn, pave your driveway, or what vegetation to cut, there are many different ways to live "lake friendly." Living lake friendly isn't about giving up anything — it's about finding out what works for you. It's about educating yourself so that your decisions and actions will help protect Upper Saranac Lake for years to come.

### 10 Things You Can Do This Spring to Protect Upper Saranac Lake

10. Have your septic tank inspected and pumped out. Record it and make a note to pump out within the next 3 years.
9. Install vegetative buffers on your property. Proper landscaping can screen out boat noise, provide habitat for animals, prevent erosion, slow runoff and remove pollutants.
8. Pick up after your pet. Pet waste can contain harmful bacteria.
7. Refrain from fertilizing your lawn. Grass clippings act as mulch, providing your lawn with the nutrients it needs. If you feel the need to fertilize, use phosphorus-free lawn fertilizer.
6. Control soil erosion. Soil erosion can be prevented by covering exposed soil with vegetation or mulch. Keep roof drains,

sump pump drains, and other surface water runoff from running directly into the lake.

5. Think before you flush. Do not dispose of household hazardous wastes in sinks or toilets. Properly dispose of paints, chemicals, cleaners, gasoline, oil or other toxic materials that could kill the good bacteria in your system.
4. Inspect your boat's engine for any gas or oil leaks.
3. Use water efficiently. The less water you use, the less water that enters your septic system and the lake. This helps your septic system operate properly and reduces stress and the risk of a failure on your system. Avoid frequent use of a garbage disposal. Run dish washers and washing machines only when full.
2. Report suspected Milfoil sightings and any environmental concerns to the Lake Manager
1. Tell a friend. Share this list with friends and neighbors. Encourage them to try these tips.

Bonus: Remember to renew your membership to the USLA and consider a donation to the USLF Milfoil fund.

Guy Middleton  
Lake Manager  
518 796-1052

[Lakemanager@uslf.org](mailto:Lakemanager@uslf.org)

## Lake News

The most interesting news item in the Tri-Lakes area is the adjudicatory hearings that are being conducted, as recommended by the APA, to permit the Adirondack Club and Resort (ACR) plans. As most of you know, ACR plans to build a revitalized Big Tupper Ski Area and a resort on land surrounding the ski area. This new resort would feature a new Big Tupper Ski Area, a hotel, 600+ homes, a marina, equestrian facilities, etc., and is branded as an Orvis Resort. This has been a hot topic for years now and seems to finally be reaching a climax. It appears that almost all of the local residents, politicians and businesses support the permitting of ACR, and, while the environmental groups oppose it, many support the revitalization of the ski area. The hearings are being conducted in three stages and are scheduled to end in early June. There is a daily blog available online at the *Adirondack Daily Enterprise* website.

Other news is that the Harrietstown and Santa Clara interest in

forming a fire district in the two towns, featuring a new fire department based at the airport, may be waning. Each town formed a committee to investigate feasibility, costs, etc., but there is no information as yet about their findings. Santa Clara probably could not form a volunteer fire department without Harrietstown's involvement, because of limited year-round volunteer fire personnel. Harrietstown may have budget issues that probably preclude any significant expenditures of the magnitude necessary to fund a fire department. The limited response I received concerning the fire department issue suggested that most favored a new fire district separate from the Saranac Lake Village Volunteer Fire Department. Is this an issue for the lake community? Please make your thoughts known.

If there are any other issues that concern you, please contact me at [president@uppersaranc.com](mailto:president@uppersaranc.com).

Ron Otten



Photo: Michael Franklin

## President's Message

It is now "Mud Season" in the Adirondacks, and on most of Upper Saranac Lake. However, by the time that you read this, most of our gravel roads and driveways on the lake should be dry again. I know that most of you enjoyed spending your mud season in warmer climates. The many homes and camps can now be easily accessed so they can be opened. Waterfront and other activities will soon be starting again.

The winter was extraordinarily snowy this year, which meant that skiing was exceptional. Whiteface Mountain stayed open until mid-April, and skiing at Big Tupper continued until March 20th on natural snow, and concluded with a 50th Anniversary celebration. The volunteers did a great job running the lifts, grooming the trails, and running the lodge. Congratulations to all involved with Big Tupper!

Great news for our lake community is that the USL Cookbook is back, and available for purchase. Marsha Stanley and her team are selling copies, and all proceeds will go to the Upper Saranac Lake Foundation to fight milfoil. USLA is happy to again help with this project and is making a contribution to help defray costs. There is more information elsewhere in this *Mailboat*.

We are conducting our two annual meetings this year at the Wild Center, on July 9, and on August 13. Please plan to attend and visit with your friends and neighbors from the lake. See you all this summer.

*Ron Otten*

### USLA Tentative Schedule Spring/Summer 2011

July 4	10:00 AM Boat Parade Summer Sailboat Races, TBE
July 9	Summer Meeting, Wild Center 8:30 coffee 9:00 meeting
July 11, 12; August 1,2	Boating course
July 19	CPR Course
July 26	First Aid Course Member Social Event, TBE
August 13	Annual Meeting, Wild Center 8:30 coffee 9:00 meeting

If you have an event planned for the USL community and do not see it on this list, let us know and we will put it on our website.

## New York State Safe Boating Course Schedule

July 11th 9 am-2 pm  
July 12th 9 am-12 noon  
Aug. 1st 9 am-pm  
Aug. 2nd 9 am-12 noon

Class size is limited to 15 people. Children aged 10-17 must have a boating safety certificate to operate a power boat by themselves. Children must be 10 years old by the first day of the course. If the registration is not full, adults may take the course. NYS requires a \$10.00 fee payable to the state for adults only. Successful completion requires attendance at both sessions and a score of 75 on the final test. Materials will be provided.

Please note that there are several youngsters who have already signed up.

Participants should bring lunch the first day. Water will be provided.

Please register by calling Dave Perry at 518-359-2630 or e mail him at [dper@optonline.net](mailto:dper@optonline.net).

**UPPER SARANAC LAKE ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
P.O. Box 872  
Saranac Lake, NY 12983  
[www.upparsaranac.com](http://www.upparsaranac.com)

THE USLA MAILBOAT  
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Photo of the mailboat, "Saranac", courtesy of the  
Adirondack Collection, Saranac Lake Free Library

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## Cultural Affairs

The Cultural Affairs Committee has been discussing several events that we hope will be of interest to lake residents of all ages. While we have not completed our discussions, nor finalized any of the events, it seemed like a good idea to share our early deliberations via this issue of the Mailboat.

**Adirondack Adventures** – Is hiking, paddling, or nature watching your thing? This event will feature an Adirondack guide or naturalist to increase members' awareness and enjoyment of the natural beauty of the Adirondacks. Come and learn a few insider tips. A social hour will follow at the historic Bartlett Carry Club. (Date and time TBD)

**Great Camp History and Architectural Event** – We are attempting to identify an historic Great Camp to host a discussion of the history of the camp and its unique architecture. The event will include a tour of the facility and a social event following. (Date and time TBD)

## Sailing Lessons Offered by Sam Morgan

My thoughts on how to conduct sailing lessons on Upper Saranac this summer are:

- I would like to offer one week of lessons in July and in August
- Lessons will be held at our camp in Back Bay on the north end of the lake
- We will use our Flying Scot and Sunfish for the lessons
- I will teach: Seamanship including parts of a sailboat, knot tying, splicing (for anyone interested), rules of the road, courtesy on the water, and how to sail a boat at the beginner, intermediate and racing levels
- Lessons will run for 5 consecutive days each month, starting at 8:00 am and ending at 12:00 noon, rain or shine (Rainy days are great for knot tying, seamanship and sailing theory lessons)
- Minimum age will be 10 years old
- Life jackets will be mandatory (We have extras in case students don't have one)
- Participants will be expected to contribute \$50.00 to the Upper Saranac Lake Association in addition to membership dues.
- I will provide all teaching materials
- Graduates will be able to take home "knot boards" that they will make during the course

To schedule lessons, I request that interested parties contact me by email at: [sammorgan905@hotmail.com](mailto:sammorgan905@hotmail.com) and we can jointly decide on the most convenient weeks for everyone.

## Membership Report

We are pleased to report that as of April 24 we have received membership renewals from 429 members, well ahead of last year at this time. Of that number, 23 are NEW memberships, which is very encouraging. Thanks to all for the prompt response to our dues mailing.

For those who have not yet renewed, the process is easy using our web site: [www.upper saranac.com](http://www.upper saranac.com). Click on Membership, then click "Pay Membership Online," scroll down and follow the prompts.

If you prefer to pay your dues by mail, follow above procedure, but click "Pay Membership By Check" and follow prompts. You can download the Membership Dues Statement and mail it with your check for \$45 payable to USLA and mail to USLA Membership, Box 892, Saranac Lake, NY 12983.

*Dean Butts, Membership Chair*

**Star Party** – This event will feature a local astronomer to provide a lecture on observing the constellations in the night skies over the Adirondacks, as well as a practical session using a telescope. Bring your own or use one provided. We hope to hold this event prior to the appearance of the Perseid meteor showers in early August (August 13). Refreshments will be included. (Date, time and venue TBD).

**Happy Hour** - We are attempting to work with a local merchant to host a happy hour for USLA members. This will be an opportunity for casual socializing with fellow lake residents, as well as a chance to enjoy a local venue. (Date and time TBD)

The details of these events will be finalized in the upcoming weeks and a schedule provided. If you have any feedback or wish to work with the Cultural Affairs committee on any of these events, please contact Susan Hearn at [shgsd@aol.com](mailto:shgsd@aol.com).

## Zone Happenings

### Zone 8

#### Cocktail Party to all Zone 8 Families

Please join us for drinks on Saturday, July 9, 6–8 pm  
at 783B Bartlett Carry Road.

RSVP: Jane & Mark Oravec: 891-5992. Boat parking limited.

### Zone 9

Please join us for cocktails & hearty hors d'oeuvres  
Wednesday, July 27, 2011, 5–7 p.m.

### The Carry

76 Old Hotel Road  
RSVP (518) 359-9177

[nancyhoward1@yahoo.com](mailto:nancyhoward1@yahoo.com)

## Saturday Sailing Races! Volunteers Needed

One boat, but at least two persons to act as a Committee Boat – Instruction to be provided. This usually means a Saturday afternoon from 1:00 (set up) to 4:00pm. The wind is best for racing around 2:00pm.

### Skippers:

We need a minimum of three boats to commit to a race and to notify me or the Committee team at least the day before.

All the equipment for the committee boat will be provided.

Contact Mary Watson at 359-9952 or email at [emjay@snet.net](mailto:emjay@snet.net)

NOTICE: Anyone interested in sailboat races please contact [president@uppersaranac.com](mailto:president@uppersaranac.com)!

*Celebrating our*  
**45th Anniversary**  
*with our*  
**ReConnect with Nature Series**  
**20% Off**  
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New Events and Offerings  
see our calendar  
[www.LodgeOnLakeClear.com](http://www.LodgeOnLakeClear.com)



# Friends Move Forward with Plans to Acquire Eagle Island

By Beth Rubin

Goodwill permeated a Maplewood, N.J. church, and the buzz may have carried all the way to Upper Saranac Lake on April 2, when more than 70 Eagle Island Camp alumnae gathered for the first official meeting of the Friends of Eagle Island, Inc. Dozens more watched on a live-stream video at the Friends of Eagle Island website: [www.friendsofeagleisland.org](http://www.friendsofeagleisland.org).

High school students to retirees, the Friends traveled from eight states to celebrate the group's recent incorporation as a not-for-profit in the State of New York, rekindle friendships sown in Eagle Island's stunning mountain vistas, fields of pine needles and crystal-clear waters, and further formulate plans for acquiring the historic landmark.

Those plans, as outlined by Dorcas R. Hardy, Chair of the Friends of Eagle Island, Inc., include seeking donors and partners to preserve the historic landmark; opening a youth summer camp—perpetuating the intent of Henry Graves, Jr., who gifted the property to the Girl Scouts of the Oranges and Maplewood, N.J. in 1937—that will be used for and by all youth; and offering a variety of historic preservation, environmental, educational and wilderness adventure programs focused on developing leadership skills during the months that the island is accessible.

Jill Martin, Esq., read a note from Henry D. Graves, Jr., great grandson of the benefactor: "I stand ready to support you in any way that I can. I wholeheartedly hope the island can and will remain a haven for girls to experience the wonders of camping in the Adirondacks."

Messages of congratulations and support poured in from well-wishers, among them, Eagle Island's neighbors: Mary Hotaling, Director of Historic Saranac Lake, Steve Engelhart, Executive

Director of Adirondack Architectural Heritage (AARCH), Ron Otten, President of the Upper Saranac Lake Association, and Carole Jackman, a year-round Upper Saranac Lake resident, EIC alum, and volunteer with the Wild Center in Tupper Lake.

Eagle Island's owners, The Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey (GSHNJ), closed the camp in 2009 and announced in 2010 its intent to sell the historic property, which was cherished by several generations of campers. Alumnae credit their Eagle Island experiences, especially the leadership skills they acquired, for molding them into successful women. Among them are attorneys, policy-makers, scientists, urban planners, professional fundraisers and academics.

The estate on Eagle Island, comprised of 11 buildings, originally built in 1903, was the home of former Vice President Levi Morton. It was designed by the renowned Adirondack architect, William Coulter. As a Girl Scout camp open to all, Eagle Island provided thousands of girls and young women with a singular wilderness experience, a top-notch sailing program and a wide range of activities in a setting among the High Peaks that has changed little since the first tent was raised in 1938.

Now, the Friends of Eagle Island, Inc. await the IRS approval of tax-exempt status to launch a major capital campaign and advance one step closer to their goal of acquiring and reopening the island for enjoyment by youth and the greater community.

During Eagle Island's closure, the Friends have remained active in the local community, joining the Upper Saranac Lake Association and helping to sell USLA cookbooks. The Friends look forward to future partnerships with our neighbors.



photos: Beth Rubin

# Second Conference to Discuss Damage from Winter Road Salt

New York is the heaviest user of salt in the nation, putting 225 pounds of pure salt per lane mile per application on our state roads, which can be MANY times per storm event.

AdkAction.org, which has strong membership on Upper Saranac, along with the Adirondack Council, will co-sponsor a second inter-organizational conference June 13 at Paul Smith's College to address the growing problem of winter road salt damage in the Adirondack Park. The conference is open to individuals responsible for winter road maintenance policy and execution, including county, town and village executives, elected officials, state agency personnel and environmental groups by invitation or request.

Attendees at last year's conference reached general consensus on several key proposals to reduce the use of road salt and the damage it causes to Adirondack lakes and roadside environments, as well as its heavy costs in application and in damage to vehicles and infrastructure. However, attempts to take those proposals to Albany for action last winter were hindered by governmental inertia, when a lame-duck governor was packing to leave and candidates were vying to take over.

"We believe the evidence suggests that salt damage in the Adirondack Park could be reduced by 50% or more with changed practices, at no increase in long-term cost or reduction in safety," said Lee Keet, chairman of the AdkAction.org water quality committee.

The June conference will consider some specific recommendations for improved sharing of services, common purchasing of equipment and chemicals, standardized approaches to snow and ice management, improved training and reduction of overlap in responsibilities. The conference also will examine the "clear road" policy adopted in the Adirondacks to accommodate traffic at the 1980 Olympic event with consideration of whether it could be modified without compromising public safety.

Daniel Kelting, executive director of the Paul Smith's Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI), will report at the meeting on results of his new research on chloride loading in Adirondack watersheds along road networks in the Adirondack Park.

Kelting, and the AWI, last year released an important publication commissioned by AdkAction.org titled *Review of Effects and Costs of Road De-icing with Recommendations for Winter Road Management in the Adirondack Park*. Many Upper Saranac Lake residents generously helped fund that AdkAction.org initiative.

Upper Saranac Lake residents Fred Schwarz and Tupper Lake resident Phyllis Thompson have agreed to lead break-out sessions at the meeting. Fred and Phyllis are also board members of AdkAction.org. Another break-out leader will be Allison Buckley of the Adirondack Council. The conference will run from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

For more information, contact Lee Keet at [Lee@adkaction.org](mailto:Lee@adkaction.org).

# Revenge, Murder, Betrayal, Mayhem and...a Mouse!

The Pendragon Theatre (the only year-round theatre in the Adirondacks) is planning a terrific season for summer of 2011. Three plays will have limited runs. Two others will be performed periodically through September.

"Sweeney Todd, the Demon Barber of Fleet Street" opens July 13th for only 12 performances of Sondheim's tale of revenge ...and meat pies! George and Liz Cordes from the High Peaks Opera join forces with many Pendragon regulars to bring this exciting musical to life!

"Les Liaisons Dangereuse" opens July 27th with just 10 performances. Two former Pendragon company members will return for this special production: Ginger Honey and Joe Guzman. USLA member Binnie Ritchie Holum will also appear.

"Deathtrap," which opens August 18th, will be directed by

Pendragon regular and USLA member Burdette Parks, who also appears in Irma Vep.

Appearing periodically through the summer will be "The Mystery of Irma Vep," a madcap play on the traditional melodrama. The 2-person tour-de-force (Bob Pettee and Burdette Parks) satirizes a variety of theatrical and movie genres.

As always, the theatre will offer a family show, "The Adventures of Stuart Little," based on the beloved E.B. White classic. The play also tours to school and public audiences in the spring and fall.

Season subscriptions and individual performance tickets are available. Early reservations assure best seats. More information is available at [www.pendragontheatre.org](http://www.pendragontheatre.org), or e-mail [pdragon@northnet.org](mailto:pdragon@northnet.org), or call 518 891-1854. Group rates (10 or more) can also be arranged for USLA members.



## Ice-out 2011



April 19th, 4 PM

April 21st, 10 AM

April 22nd, 7 AM

April 22nd, 1 PM

Photo 1: Michael Franklin; Photos 2-5: Jim Crane

# Snow Melt and Heavy Rain Cause Major Flooding in Saranac Lake and Tupper Lake

Heavy rains over the past week, combined with snow melt and warm temperatures contributed to major flooding in Saranac Lake and Tupper Lake. In downtown Saranac Lake, both the Main Street and Dorsey Street bridges were closed because of flooding. At its peak, water levels were 36 inches above the dam spillway in Saranac Lake, but as of May 3, levels have dropped considerably as the floodgates were opened to lower the water level.



Mark Kurtz, Saranac Lake, NY



Mark Kurtz, Saranac Lake, NY

Top: Main Street Bridge with water above the bottom of the bridge. Right: Sandbags along the Saranac River in a parking lot behind the buildings on main Street. Bottom: Saranac River where it goes over the dam in Saranac Lake



Mark Kurtz, Saranac Lake, NY



Jim Crane



Tom Chipperfield



Jim Crane



Tom Chipperfield

*Clockwise from left:*  
 Hole opens in Bartlett Carry Dam; Water levels high on Upper Saranac; Gull Point on April 28; Gull Point on April 28.

# The Blue Line is Becoming Green

By Barbara Franklin, Environmental Chair

I gave myself an easy article for this issue of the Mailboat... I thought. Why not simply provide a quick reference list of environmental groups serving the Adirondacks? How many could there be?

For a small population area of about 130,000 full-time residents, there is no shortage of groups devoted to the survival of the Adirondacks. Interestingly enough, I learned not just environmentally. People are becoming more aware that for the Adirondacks to survive, the people inside the Blue Line must survive economically, as well. Failing this, the Park becomes another Yellowstone or Yosemite, with no homes inside its borders, and more tax burden to the rest of the country.

As I reviewed some of these sites, I saw many familiar names from our lake serving on their boards. I'm thrilled about the

devotion our members have to maintaining this very special world. It's my hope that, as you review these sites, you'll join or support financially one (or more!) of these worthwhile groups. As you'll see, many of these groups have social or outdoor activity components, as well, giving you one more excuse to join.

Below I've provided a topline summary of dozen-plus groups, with their mission statement and website. I will continue to read more about these groups and feature some of them in future issues. If I've missed any (or misrepresented or omitted key points), please let me know. While many of them appear to have overlapping objectives and strategies, I'm sure as you get a deeper understanding, differences will appear. Also importantly, I am not endorsing any of these.

## Upper Saranac Lake Foundation

Saranac Lake, NY

[www.uslf.org](http://www.uslf.org)

For more than 20 years, this has been the steward of our lake. They raise funds for the Milfoil removal program with the divers you see each summer. Guy Middleton, our lake manager, is part of this program. He heads the milfoil program, as well as helps camp owners on septic, runoff and other water quality issues and has been conducting a long-term water quality monitoring project.

## ADK Action

Saranac Lake, NY

[www.adkaction.org](http://www.adkaction.org)

This is a nonpartisan, issue-based forum for both permanent and seasonal residents. A current study is the rail corridor between Lake Placid and Tupper Lake. They also are involved in developing fair tax assessments for all residents, and studying the use of road salt and its impact on the pollution of lakes and ground water.

## Wild Center

Tupper Lake, NY

[www.wildcenter.org](http://www.wildcenter.org)

Their mission is to "ignite an enduring passion for the Adirondacks where people and nature can thrive together and set an example for the world." There is something magical about the Wild Center – it is a state of the art museum, with topical lectures and special exhibits. Its buildings are built at the top of the Green standards, and its interactive exhibits engage both young and old. A major national climate change conference was held there, followed by one specific to the Adirondacks, in 2008.

## Adirondack Council

Elizabethtown, NY

[www.adirondackcouncil.org](http://www.adirondackcouncil.org)

To ensure ecological integrity and wild character of the Park for current & future generations. Vision: to ensure clean air and water and large wilderness areas, surrounded by working farms and forests and vibrant local communities. They are focusing on acid rain, mercury, climate change and protecting private land from inappropriate development.

## Wildlife Conservation Society

Saranac Lake, NY

[www.wcsnorthamerica.org/Adirondacks](http://www.wcsnorthamerica.org/Adirondacks)

Okay, I'm a little biased. This group conducts the Annual Loon Survey, which is near and dear to my heart. Additionally, this group links wildlife, wilderness and human well being, through applied science and community-based conservation. Their focus includes loons, boreal birds, climate change and community-based conservation.

## Nature Conservancy

Keene Valley

[www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/newyork/placesweprotect/adirondacks/index.htm](http://www.nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/newyork/placesweprotect/adirondacks/index.htm)

The local chapter of a national organization, they strive to preserve plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of the Adirondacks by protecting the land and waterways.

## Northern NY Audubon

Tupper Lake, NY

[www.nnya.org](http://www.nnya.org)

Their mission is to conserve & restore ecosystems in the Adirondacks, focusing on habitats of particular importance to birds and other wildlife.

**ADK Mountain Club**

Saranac Lake, Lake Placid and many other local chapters in the area  
[www.adk.org](http://www.adk.org)

This group is incredibly diverse, offering environmental educational lectures, hikes, canoe and kayak lessons and trips, as well as instruction on use of compass, GPS, boats, etc. They have been building and maintaining many of the trails in the High Peaks for the past 80 years. ADK offers lodging near Mt Marcy, as well as wilderness lodges. They also sell maps, trail guides and some equipment.

**Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program**

Keene Valley, NY  
[www.adkinvasives.com](http://www.adkinvasives.com)

Housed in the Nature Conservancy building, this is a joint cooperative effort began in 1998, with various organizations and private citizens focusing on aquatic and terrestrial invasive species. July 10-July 16 is Adirondack Invasive Species Awareness Week with several events and lectures in our area. They have developed a database and are also an information source on both land and water invasive species.

**Protect the Adirondacks**

Niskayuna and Saranac Lake, NY  
[www.protectadks.org](http://www.protectadks.org)

A grassroots, local residents' organization dedicated to the protection, stewardship and sustainability of the natural environment and human communities of the Adirondack Park and the New York State Forest Preserve for current and future generations. Current projects include Lows Lake, snowmobiling, Adirondack Club & Resort, and review of the Adirondack Park Regional Assessment Program.

**Adirondack Wild**

Niskayuna, NY  
[www.adirondackwild.org](http://www.adirondackwild.org)

This is a relatively new group, which evolved from Friends of the Forest Preserve; focusing on more internet education/communication, its emphasis being safeguarding and expanding the "Forever Wild" provisions for the Forest Preserve and educating and attracting more young people to the Park. An example of this was this past November, when they took a group of Pace University law students on a hike of St. Regis, and engaged in discussions on interpreting the Forever Wild concept as it applies today. (I can only imagine the waiver they signed!)

**NY State Conservation Council**

Ilion, NY  
<http://www.nyscc.com>

With a focus on statewide conservation issues, this 76-year-old group consisting of volunteers helps formulate policy to conserve, protect, restore and perpetuate forests, wildlife and recreational areas of NY State, as well as enforce conservation laws. They also help coordinate individual volunteers with various organizations.

**Adirondack Ecological Center/SUNY**

Newcomb, NY  
<http://www.esf.edu/aec>

A leader in ecological sciences and a part of Syracuse University; due to NY State budget cuts, this group now manages the Newcomb Visitor Information Center. In addition, they have a facility there to study wildlife, ecology and behavior.

**NY State Federation of Lakes Association**

<http://www.nysfola.org/presidents/index.shtml>  
 Lafayette, NY

This is a voluntary group of lakes throughout NY, of which Upper Saranac Lake Association is a member, studying the causes and effects of water degradation, including invasive species. There is a sharing of information, as well as educational materials developed.

This actually is not a complete list, but I tried to find the major players. Again, I hope to write features on some of these, as well as a new type of group evolving in the Park, one which also recognizes

the economic viability of its residents. My hope is that this is not at cross-purposes with these groups.



# The Upper Saranac Cookbook Set for Second Printing

By popular demand, a limited edition second reprint of the award-winning Upper Saranac Cookbook is on order for delivery Memorial Weekend. Paid pre-orders are being taken from Lake Association members, recipe contributors and other cookbook supporters before the book is released to retailers.

Don't miss out on this second chance to stock up on this keep-sake cookbook, which sold out last summer in only 9 weeks. Download an order form from a link on the USLA cookbook page at <http://www.uppersaranac.com/cookbook.asp>. The book makes an excellent gift for summer visitors, family and friends.

Cookbook photographer and designer Burdette Parks has agreed to autograph all pre-paid books before they are distributed.

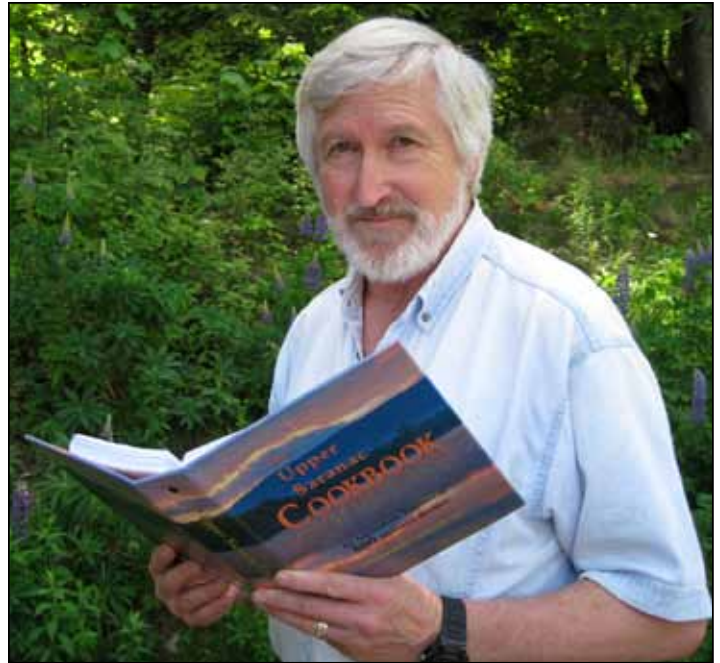
Copies of the reprint are \$30 each, the same as the retail price last year, with free pick up at the lake, or reasonable shipping costs (See order form for details.). Once again, Adirondack Community Trust (ACT) has agreed to serve as our umbrella 501(c) (3). ACT will provide tax receipts by email for payments greater than \$75. Save your cancelled checks for deductions on smaller orders. More than half your payment is tax deductible (\$17.58 per book.)

Send your order form with your check for pre-payment today. Retailer interest in the book is heavy, and we are giving Lake Association members and friends first chance before releasing the book for retail sale when it arrives. Don't miss out.

The Wild Center, the Adirondack Museum, Bookstore Plus and other retailers report they are still getting almost weekly requests for copies and are eager to carry the book again this summer.

This winter, The Upper Saranac Cookbook took second prize in a national contest sponsored by the publisher, Morris Press Cookbooks, winning \$2,000 additional money for milfoil control efforts on Upper Saranac.

The book netted more than \$37,000 in cookbook sales last year, which was awarded in a grant from ACT to the Upper Saranac Lake Foundation for milfoil control. The Upper Saranac Lake Association, which helped underwrite the book last year, is underwriting a portion of the reprint costs so that all the proceeds would be dedicated to the successful yearly efforts to keep milfoil under control. Several anonymous donors also have contributed to reprint costs.



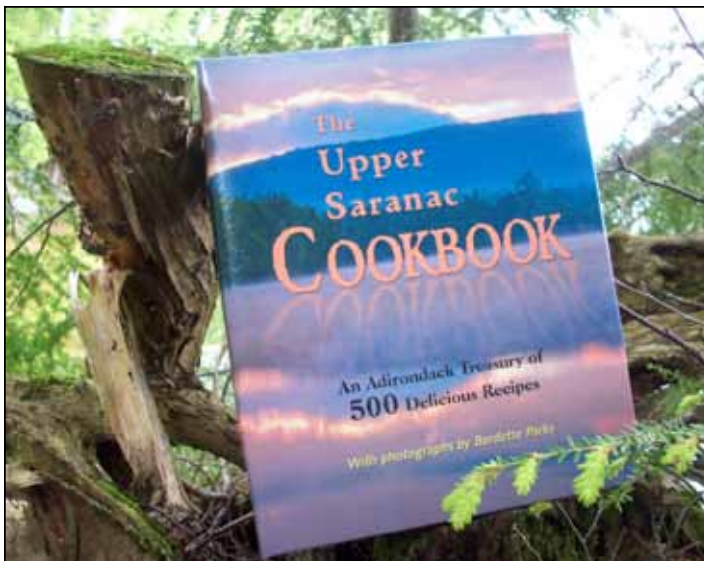
The Cookbook Committee, which worked so hard to make the cookbook a hit last summer, has launched a new campaign to seek help from last year's Patron Sponsors and Friends & Families Sponsors. Both Patron and Friends & Families ads will appear in the second edition at no charge. We are asking Patrons to donate a suggested \$150 toward reprint costs and Friends & Families sponsors to donate a suggested \$50. Larger donations will be gratefully accepted. All such contributions will be fully deductible through our fund at ACT for Upper Saranac.

The top 10 contributors to the reprint will be invited, with one guest each, to a special thank you cocktail party on Dry Island, thanks to the generosity of Dry Island's owner and original cookbook patron, Jerry Hacker. (Space is limited at Dry Island's beautiful main camp, requiring a guest limit, but that may add an element of fun and suspense to the fundraiser!) Both Patron and Friends and Families-level contributors will be invited to a cookbook celebration at the camp of Marsha Stanley and Tom Curley. Full details are coming in a mailing. Both Patron Sponsors and Friends and Families sponsors will be recognized on the USLA web site and in a letter inserted into all cookbooks sold.

If you would like to make a fully tax-deductible contribution to help pay the reprint costs and maximize the return for milfoil control, please send a check made out to ACT for Upper Saranac to Marsha Stanley, 3203 Sarah Joan Ct., Oakton, VA 22124. Your donation may be made anonymously if you wish. We are grateful for donations at any level.

With your continued support, the cookbook committee believes it is possible to raise at least \$20,000 — with your help even more — this summer in new funding for milfoil control. Help us make the second edition a roaring success. Have fun this summer at cookbook events. Take a deduction. Help fight milfoil. It's a win, win.

(Questions? Send an email to cookbook committee chair Marsha Stanley at [marsha.stanley@gmail.com](mailto:marsha.stanley@gmail.com).)



# The Upper Saranac Lake Foundation (USLF) Gets Results

Arch Montgomery

“The only time I ever hear from you is when you are asking for money,” a friend of mine said. “What does the USLF actually do?” My short answer was, “The USLF gets results.” A longer answer follows:

Deeply concerned members of the Upper Saranac Lake Association founded the USLF in 1989, when serious problems emerged on Upper Saranac Lake that threatened our water, our camps, and our cherished way of life. There was real urgency because of the failed dam at Bartlett Carry. Absent immediate fund raising and prompt action, the loss of the dam would lower the water level on the lake by three feet or more. Imagine what a disaster that would have been for our docks, boathouses, and shoreline!

**RESULT NUMBER ONE:** The USLF raised the money and repaired the dam, thereby preserving our lake, our quality of life, and our property values.

Another challenge that threatened the lake in a substantive and frightening way was the dramatic water quality catastrophe during the winter/summer of 1989/1990, when an algae bloom confirmed that an unacceptable level of phosphorous was being dumped into the lake.

**RESULT NUMBER TWO:** The USLF raised the money and led the battle to reduce water pollution in Upper Saranac Lake. The dramatic algae bloom of two consecutive seasons ceased. The water quality of the lake improved. A careful scientific monitoring program exists today. A Lake Manager has been hired to oversee water quality. Again, the USLF got results, thereby preserving our water, our property, and our quality of life.

In 2004, the significant infestation of Upper Saranac Lake water

by Eurasian water-milfoil (EWM) became apparent. Absent immediate and dramatic action, Upper Saranac Lake would look like the south end of Lake George or other lakes whose surfaces resemble badly-matted swamp land more than open water lakes.

**RESULT NUMBER THREE:** The USLF immediately raised one and a half million dollars from the lake community for a 3-year EWM control project. It became the most comprehensive EWM-control project in the history of the Adirondack Park. A successful, intensive, hand-harvesting program reduced infestation to manageable levels. Every year the USLF raises money to sustain and improve that control program. As a result we have preserved our lake, our quality of life, and our property.

In summary, the USLF has gotten results during the last two decades when faced with three distinct emergencies. It has raised the funds, and it has taken action that has saved our lake. This is not an exaggeration. Absent the measurable and observable results produced by the USLF, we would have: (1) A degraded shoreline with docks and boathouses stranded high and dry; (2) Terrible algae blooms, as a result of phosphorous pollution, that would sting our eyes and irritate our skin, making the lake virtually unusable; and (3) A clogged and matted lake surface in water 1–12 feet deep all around our lake.

The USLF gets results. That is what it does, and that is why I am grateful to those committed concerned residents who got it started in 1989. It is also why I am grateful to today’s lake residents who understand that the lake is their responsibility. They give to the USLF to preserve this beautiful lake that we love so much.

## Water Quality Matters

Due to the foresight of some Upper Saranac Lake residents, there are continuous measurements of various components of water quality on Upper Saranac Lake, going back to 1999. These data, however, have been collected by various organizations, stored by others, and have not been thoroughly analyzed. This year the Upper Saranac Lake Foundation expanded its contract with the Adirondack Watershed Institute to gather these data, store them in a single place, analyze the trends shown by the data, and develop recommendations for on-going monitoring. Amongst the data available are total phosphorus concentration, pH, alkalinity, nitrates and water clarity measured by Secchi disk visibility. There is also information for a shorter period of time on chloride, sodium and dissolved oxygen.

A good measure of changing water quality requires time-series data so we know the trends in water variables on Upper Saranac Lake, and comparisons with other lakes, to determine whether changes in water quality are due to natural causes or some phenomenon peculiar to our lake. By working with the Adirondack Watershed Institute we will have comparisons with the 100 other lakes on which they collect data, as well as the 54 lakes measured by the Adirondack Lakes Survey Corporation.

While much of the attention to water quality on Upper Saranac Lake has appropriately focused on Eurasian Milfoil, it is important for the residents to be aware that there is a comprehensive plan for monitoring water quality on our lake.



## MAILBOAT

MAY 2011

Upper Saranac Lake Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 892

Saranac Lake, NY 12983



## CPR and First Aid Courses For July, 2011

The USLA is again offering CPR and First Aid courses for its members. We have double-checked to make sure that we don't have a conflict of dates, as happened last summer when the Wild Center decided to have their cocktail party for our members on the day that had been scheduled for our courses. Naturally, we had to cancel our course, as it could hardly be a fair choice between pounding on the dummies and having a party!!

So, we are now scheduled to give our CPR course on Tuesday, July 19, with the First Aid scheduled for Tuesday, July 26. For both courses, we will let you know whether they start around 5:30 or 6 PM. We need to speak with the instructor first. The new instructor will also be informed that we are to limit the class time to a couple of hours, as always. With the best of intentions, the previous instructor ran a little overtime. We hope not to have that happen again.

Please remember that we are not near any medical facility, and,

even the rescue boat takes time for its crew to get to the boat to make an emergency run. Therefore, you are the first responders!! We welcome teenagers!!! There have been news articles about young people who have saved lives, based on courses given in some schools. Nobody is too old to take the courses. But, it is necessary to get down on the floor to do the CPR and some of the First Aid procedures. However, if you cannot actually do the floor procedures, you could instruct someone else how to do them in emergencies.

Our classes are held at Pinebrook on Gilpin Bay. You may want instructions to reach us by boat or car. Please see me at the first USLA meeting if you would like to register, or call at 518 891-2515, after the July 4 weekend. Or, email me anytime, at [jncohen@aol.com](mailto:jncohen@aol.com).

Looking forward to seeing you!

*Judy Cohen*

## Upper Saranac Lake Association, Inc. Minutes of the E-Mail Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Upper Saranac Lake Association on April 12, 2011

Members who voted by e-mail on the two questions that President Ron Otten submitted to the Board of Directors for consideration and vote were: Michelle Brown-Garcia, Dean Butts, Bo Dixon, Barbara Franklin, Nancy Ferrell, Dick Gunthert, Susan Hearn, Bruce Holran, Nancy Howard, Curt Kingsley, Marc Koolen, Jon Landsberg, Airlie Lennon, Jay Kapolka, Bill Mansfield, Jane Oravec, Ron Otten, Charlie Ritchie, Sara Sheldon, Charlie Svenson, Tom Swayne, and Bob Tate.

The two motions considered were:

1. That \$4,500 from the accounts of the Upper Saranac Lake Association, Inc. be allocated to help fund the cost to reprint 1,000 copies the Upper Saranac Cookbook.
2. That Mary Jane Stauffenberg be elected the Zone 7 Chair, replacing Michelle Brown-Garcia, who resigned from the position when she was elected Judge of the Town of Santa Clara in November 2010.

Both motions were approved by a vote of 22-0.

In presenting the motion to help fund the reprint of the cookbook, President Otten proposed that the Association fund its \$4,500 grant from these sources: \$2,500 from budget item 2-110 (Summer Meeting), which was for a picnic, which we are not having this year; \$1,500 from item 2-113 (Contingency), and \$500 from 2-504 (Government Affairs Contingency).

He also noted, as background, that Tom Swayne, president of the Upper Saranac Lake Foundation, asked Marsha Stanley if the cookbook committee would reprint the popular Upper Saranac Cookbook, first published in 2010. Marsha agreed and 1,000 copies have been ordered at a cost of \$13,120. She has received \$4,200 in donations and the \$4,500 USLA grant, and expects to raise \$4,400 from original sponsors of the cookbook.

The plan is to charge \$30/copy from direct sales and \$20/copy from sales to stores. If each group sells 500 copies, the gross income (less 3% for ACT) will be \$25,000 for milfoil management in 2011, assuming all printing costs are covered, as expected.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Bruce Holran, Secretary*

### IN MEMORIUM Parker W. Packard

Parker W. "Jake" Packard died on March 27, 2011 after a long illness. He fell in love with the Adirondacks at an early age when summering with family on USL. Later, he bought a home at the lake and enjoyed living there year-round for many years. He is survived by his wife, Jane, of New Castle, N.H.