

A View from the Highlands of Skaneateles!

THE SKANEATELES LAKE ASSOCIATION

Invites Current and New Members to its

2017 Annual Meeting

Sunday, July 9th - 5pm to 7pm

Gather for a picnic supper in a resurrected, historic Skaneateles area barn
at the home of Bill & Janet Stinson, 4334 Rte. 41A

Aimee Clinkhammer, Watershed Coordinator, will give a presentation
on the Finger Lakes Water Hub, DEC

Go home knowing that your membership makes a difference

2017 Annual Membership Registrations accepted at the door.
4334 Rte. 41A is 10 mi. from Rte. 20 & 4 mi. from Mandana.

RSVP via the "Contact Us" tab at SkaneatelesLake.org or by calling 685-9106.
Please include names, telephone numbers and email addresses. of attendees
2016 Annual Membership Registrations will be accepted at the door.



Enjoy peeks of the Lake
from the Skaneateles Highlands.

Wander the 26 acres of incredible views
of Skaneateles Lake & its surroundings

Casual dress & walking shoes suggested.
Bring a chair if you wish.

A Message from the Editor

William Dean

Our lakes and water supplies of Central New York are under continued threat from invasive species and from watershed runoff which adds nutrients impacting the overall ecology and well-being of the lakes. Skaneateles Lake, our water supply, has not escaped the threat from invasive species and from growing environmental changes and perturbations. The invasive species of greatest concern, which has not yet appeared in our lake, is Hydrilla. Other invasive threats include: Asian Clams, Round Gobies, Water Chestnut and many others.

We have been active in controlling the watermilfoil invasive since 2007 and have held it at manageable levels. Plans to significantly reduce this level of infection are now underway.

These efforts are described in the milfoil program overview in this issue.

Our Stewardship Program has also been a great success story in preventing contaminated boats and trailers from launching, and in communicating the importance in prevention. We, however have not had the resources to cover all launch sites, and more significantly, have not been able to completely cover all hours at the key high volume sites. Our efforts and future plans are described in the stewardship program overview in this issue.

In addition, we have observed significant runoff issues from streams entering the lake, adding nutrients, which promote increased biological activity. *See photos next page*

The implications of these challenges left unaddressed will be degradation of the ecosystem, more invasive species and less clean water. The impact on drinking water alone is huge and can cause the loss of the filtration waiver for the City of Syracuse, which will result in a major investment to install filtration systems.

The Skaneateles Lake Association is expanding its programs to meet these threats. To effectively move forward, we will need strong community support including volunteers to aid in our efforts. We will need to enhance funding to provide for the expanded programs. Our funds presently come from membership dues and donations. We are putting much effort in securing one time grant monies from

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A Message from the Editor *(continued)*

William Dean

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local organizations including a Central NY Community Foundation Grant (CNYCF) focusing on expanding our Stewardship Program and developing educational media, and the Citizens Statewide Lake Assess-

ment Program (CSLAP) focusing on expanded analysis of lake water composition. **These grants provide seed monies for initiating these efforts but do not provide for long term funding.** This means it remains critical that we build membership in

the SLA and continue to have the financial support from donors to help fund these critical programs.

We invite you to join us as an annual member of the SLA and help us continue and expand all our efforts.

Clear cutting lakeside slopes and erosion into the lake... there is a relationship



What's happening with the milfoil control program

Robert Werner

The Skaneateles Lake Association is starting its second decade controlling Eurasian Watermilfoil in Skaneateles Lake. We initiated this effort in 2007. Our plan was to first halt its exponential growth by significantly removing as much of the weed as we could. Reproduction of milfoil is accomplished by a process called fragmentation where pieces of the plant settle to the bottom, send out roots and create a new plant. By cutting back the population this way we were able to reduce its ability to reproduce. Once it was significantly decreased we then planned to go into what we called the “maintenance phase”. Acknowledging that we would not be able to remove every piece of milfoil from the 35 miles or so of shoreline habitat, we felt that we could, with far less effort and expense, restrict it to relatively low levels. We are still following this plan.

In 2001 when we first became concerned about milfoil the City of Syracuse and the Skaneateles Lake Association surveyed the inshore area of the entire lake locating 39 large patches of milfoil. This survey was repeated in 2006 and we found a huge increase in milfoil up to 111 large patches, almost a 3-fold increase in 5 years. That was the turning point and the start of our milfoil control project. In 2007 we put 3 boats with some 15 divers at work removing milfoil. This effort was expanded in the

following years until we had 5 boats and approximately 35 divers removing milfoil at the peak of the effort. This was very successful at reducing the level of milfoil from 111 to 28 large patches by 2010. By 2012 we were down to about 17 large patches. Assuming that the initial rapid growth rate between 2001 and 2006 had been allowed to continue without any control effort we would have had approximately 200 large patches instead of 17. This is a 92 % reduction from expected. So, we were successful in our initial effort of stalling its rapid growth.

In 2013 we entered the maintenance phase of the operation. The idea here was to prevent any additional increase in the population of milfoil. That same year we initiated a new and more accurate method of determining the amount of milfoil in the lake by using a sonar/gps/mapping program from ciBioBase. This program uses sonar coupled with gps to create a map of the vegetation. Once you identify the milfoil patches you can calculate the area of each and pinpoint their location.

We use this system to survey the lake every summer in late July and August after all of the mats are deployed. Once we have a listing of the milfoil sites and the area of each we prioritize them based on size and determine where we will focus our efforts for the following year.

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What's happening with the milfoil control program *(continued)*

Robert Werner

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We start with the largest patches and work down to smaller ones until we have deployed all of the mats. The results are encouraging. The table to the right summarizes the results of our maintenance efforts. The "Area" is the number of acres left in the lake at the end of the summer after all the mats have been deployed.

YEAR	AREA (acres)
2013	26.7
2014	25.3
2015	28.4
2016	19.5

The average amount of milfoil remaining at the end of each summer is about 25 acres. Up to this point we have been deploying 5 acres of matting each year. This

leads us to believe that, on average, there is additional growth during the summer of about 5 acres, which puts us into a kind of balance between removal and regrowth. For 2017, we are constructing another acre of matting, so we will then be able to mat 6 acres, which may move the balance point to a lower level.

So, the bottom line is: We have significantly lowered the amount of milfoil in the lake from the start of this effort and we have been able to maintain this lower level with a much reduced and less expensive milfoil control program. We hope to be able to improve on this as we go forward and possibly get the level even lower.

Thanks to everyone who has contributed to this effort!!

Boat Launch Invasive Species Monitoring Steward Program

Buzz Roberts

Starting in 2012, the SLA employed a combination of college and high school students to inspect boats launched at entry sites of Skaneateles Lake. To help prevent additional invasive species (zebra mussels and milfoil had already been established) from entering the lake, any vegetation or organic material on the boats or trailers were removed. The boating public were also educated on the threat to the lake of invasive species. That first year 701 boats were inspected with 6% requiring removal of plant and aquatic species.

This past summer of 2016, 9 stewards were employed at 4 boat launches: DEC state launch on West Lake Rd., Town of Skaneateles launch at Mandana, Town of Scott launch at the far southern end of the lake, and the private launch at the Glen Haven restaurant. The DEC site (the most active where 77% of boats enter the lake) was staffed 7 days a week (8am to 6pm Monday to Thursday and 5:30am to 6pm Friday to Sunday). The remaining launches were covered on weekends. Along with inspecting the boats and recording data, boaters were informed of the new NYS law that imposes a fine on anyone launching a boat with any form of vegetation or organisms on the boat or trailer. A total of 4210 boats were inspected this past summer with 3% carrying plant or aquatic species - no fines were levied, but warnings were given (in accord with the new roll out of the law). The most common previous body of water the boats entering the lake had been on was Skaneateles (76%) followed by a variety of other lakes in and out of state (Owasco and Cayuga were at the top of the list).

Now Hydrilla, an invasive weed (originally from Korea) similar to milfoil, but much more prolific and far more difficult to remove poses a real threat to lakes. It was found in the Cayuga Lake inlet 2 years ago and treated with chemicals (costing ~\$500,000). It has now been discovered in over 25 acres of the lake off the Village of Aurora. This invasive plant, because of its extensive growth pattern, has the capability of changing the character of a lake. We hope to decrease the probability of this plant being established in Skaneateles Lake by increasing our steward hours this year and extending our coverage into September and October.

Skaneateles Lake Association, Inc. Membership Registration Form

Name _____ E-mail Address _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

(Enter winter contact information below, if different.)

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

☐ Family: \$100 ☐ Individual: \$50 ☐ Other \$ _____

☐ Milfoil Boat Sponsor & Membership: \$1,000 ☐ Milfoil Boat Co-sponsor & Membership: \$250

☐ Lake Steward Sponsor and Membership : \$175

Please make checks for your membership dues and any donations payable to the **Skaneateles Lake Association, Inc.**

Mail your membership application and check to: Skaneateles Lake Association, Inc., P.O. Box 862, Skaneateles, NY 13152

You may also join the SLA, pay your dues and make donations at: www.SkaneatelesLake.org

Skaneateles Lake Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 862

Skaneateles, NY 13152

Expanding our Funding to Expand our Efforts

William Dean

Two Funded Efforts are in the works, which impact the expansion of our efforts:

The Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP) opportunity and
the Central New York Community Foundation (CNYCF) Grant Proposal.

The Finger Lakes Hub and CSLAP

The Finger Lakes Hub of the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation has received funding to conduct a Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP) on all eleven Finger Lakes to develop water quality baselines for each lake and to learn how the water quality of these lakes is trending over time.

The Skaneateles Lake Association was approached to coordinate the CSLAP program for Skaneateles Lake. Our board agreed and we have reached out to its members and community citizens about committing to the training and sample collection. The sampling will be done at two stations at each end of the lake. We have received commitments from many people who are willing to carry out this work.

This can be a very useful program since it will extend the geographic range and the frequency of measurements made on the lake. It will not only provide useful data but it will also give community members a chance to actively participate in protecting the lake and it will give them a better understanding of how the lake functions. And it is a lot of fun!!

Central New York Community Foundation (CNYCF) Grant Proposal

The Lake Association has applied for a grant, targeting our stewardship activities to prevent invasive species from entering Skaneateles Lake. Our proposal includes funding for expansion of our Stewardship staffing and for enhancing community involvement in SLA efforts. These monies will allow for expanded coverage at our key launch sites.

SLA Board of Directors: Paul F. Torrisi, M.D., President - Buzz Roberts, M.D., Vice President - Dessa Coling Bergen, MLS, Secretary - Richard D. Hole, Esq., Treasurer - William Dean, Ph.D. - Jed Delmonico - Robert DeWitt - Charles Driscoll, Ph.D. - Fran Fish - Joseph Grasso - Bill Hecht - Joseph M. Hennigan - Deborah M. Hole - Robert G. Werner, Ph.D., Lake Ecologist - Robert Liegel, Esq. - Patricia Orr - Larry L. Rothenberg, Esq. - William R. Sawyer, Ph.D. - Mary Sennett - James Tift, M.D. - James Tuozzolo

Advisors/Committee Chairpersons: John Menapace (Milfoil Eradication Project) - Mary Menapace (Chair-Hydrofracking Committee)

Newsletter: **Editors:** William Dean **Staff:** Robert Werner - Buzz Roberts - Fran Fish