



Bring a chair if you wish

RSVP via the "Contact Us" tab at
SkaneatelesLake.org or call 315-685-9106.

2019 Annual Membership Registrations
accepted at the door.

If you missed Camp last year, do not miss it this year!

Camp and the SLA 2019 Annual Meeting

is where you come to learn about all
the SLA's efforts and your role in protecting Skaneateles Lake,
gather with old friends, make new friends and
have a great picnic supper.

THE SKANEATELES LAKE ASSOCIATION

Invites Current and New Members to its

2019 Annual Meeting

Lourdes Camp • Saturday, June 29th - 5pm to 7pm

1150 Ten Mile Point • Skaneateles, NY

Informational and Educational Displays, Election of SLA Board Members



2019

A Pivotal Year for the SLA

As the Lake Association enters its 50th Anniversary year as a not-for-profit (501c3) organization whose **only mission** is to help preserve Skaneateles Lake, we can appreciate how 2019 could be a pivotal year with activities, programs, and personnel in place to propel our efforts to the next level.

First of all, annual support for the SLA continues to grow with individual and business members approaching 2,000 annual renewals. Of course, this is not without a Herculean and time-consuming effort from our Membership/Fundraising Chairperson, Fran Rotunno Fish. This approach at **annual renewable membership** dues has continued to sustain our efforts to maintain our control of the Eurasian watermilfoil infestation and to grow the Lake Stewardship program as an attempt to prevent any or all of the over 180 other Aquatic Invasive

Species (AIS) that currently inhabit the Great Lakes/Finger Lakes from entering Skaneateles Lake (remember: the Zebra/Quagga mussels that quietly snuck into the lake 30 years ago are probably major contributors to our present HABs crisis!). This expense approaches \$225,000, annually. With tremendous watershed wide and CNY community support, the SLA has managed to stay about a year ahead of these regular expenses!

The establishment of the **SLA Legacy Fund** (Co-Chaired by Jessica Millman and Dave Birchenough) has enabled us to form a growing source of "seed money", thanks to many generous and concerned citizens. This is aimed presently at the HABs crisis. The 9E Plan certification process was jump started in 2018 from the Legacy Fund. Now, this season, we're looking toward getting started with numerous **watershed remediation projects** in

addition to continued support of critical monitoring of many of the tributaries. (see Bill Dean and Bob Werner's report on **Nutrient Management**).

Much work with the City of Syracuse and other municipal stakeholders has been underway to form a **watershed council/intermunicipal organization**, such as exists on most other lakes. Rich Hole has been coordinating this effort for the SLA. The focus and need for such a council is aimed at transitioning our robust lake stewardship into a mandatory inspection/decontamination program to insure that no other Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) establish a foothold in the lake. This can only happen with the full collaboration of all the watershed municipalities and the leadership of the City of Syracuse (see *article on Invasive Species Monitoring Program on page 4*).

SLA Moves from Analysis to Action

William Dean, PhD & Robert Werner, PhD

The end game for all our efforts concerning Skaneateles Lake is to protect the lake as a clean and pure water source. Until recently the major focus of SLA efforts has been the management of milfoil, an invasive species, and the building of our Stewardship program to prevent new invasive species from entering the lake. In addition, the SLA has been supporting efforts to quantify the levels of nutrients (phosphorus in particular) in the lake, and initiating early efforts to identify where nutrients could be entering the lake. The Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) event of September 2017 was a wakeup call for all. Skaneateles Lake was not expected to have a HAB bloom event due to its oligotrophic (low nutrient) nature, but we had a significant event nonetheless.

In response, the HAB problem immediately became the high priority of the SLA. A plan consisting of four inter-related efforts was put in place: Nutrient Management, Community Involvement, Watershed Governance, and Program Funding. These four focused efforts are all part of one integrated program to lower nutrients flowing within the lake.

Sunlight, warm water, calm conditions, and nutrients are all required for a HAB bloom. We cannot, in any way, control sunlight, water temperature or calm conditions. That leaves controlling nutrients as the most logical target of our efforts in controlling HABs. A Nutrient Management Team was assembled with representatives from the SLA Board, City of Syracuse Water Department, Syracuse University, SUNY ESF, County Soil and Water, NYS DEC (Dept. of Environmental Conservation), CNYRPDB (CNY Regional Planning and Development Board), farm representatives, and many others to focus on lake nutrients and where they are entering the lake. There are more than 150 tributaries entering the lake. Over the past year, data has been collected on the 4 main tributaries with significant funding from the SLA. An additional 6 tributaries are being added in 2019. These efforts have been contracted with Upstate Freshwater Institute. The SLA also developed a community volunteer sampling program to provide additional supporting data for the effort on additional tributaries.

The SLA board chose to utilize the “Nine Element Plan”, a government program that, when completed, would significantly increase our ability to obtain government funding for remediation projects to reduce nutrient runoff into the lake. The 9 Element Plan details what is required in terms of data collection within the watershed, community involvement, and watershed governance efforts. A key input is a Data Gap Analysis, recently assembled by O’Brien & Gere Corporation, based upon the data collected so far, and other watershed conditions. The 10 tributaries mentioned above have been identified from the GAP Analysis. Monitoring these tributaries over several years will help identify nutrient sources, which in return, will focus our remediation efforts. The Town of Skaneateles has sponsored the 9 Element Plan and contracted with the Central New York Regional Planning and Development Board in its execution. This plan will guide efforts to reduce nutrient loading and prevent algal blooms in the future. Having a completed 9 Element Plan will greatly increase our ability to acquire large grants to be used to clean up the watershed lowering nutrient flow into the lake.

It is clear however, that obtaining funding to mount major watershed remediation projects will take many years. The SLA has therefore established the Legacy Fund (*see related article on page 3*) which, with community participation, will jumpstart data collection and allow the lake community to begin remediation on smaller tributaries where there are indications of excessive nutrient flow into the lake. As mentioned above, there are more than 150 tributaries flowing into the lake, some large and some only intermittent. We have identified more than 25 potential small remediation projects covering the entire lake watershed. Larger remediation programs may have to await government funding enabled by completion of the 9 Element Plan. Two of these smaller remediation projects have been or are now being extensively studied for remediation potential: Dowling Creek and the Winkelman Property. Other projects will undoubtedly be evaluated this Spring and Summer.

Dowling Creek: Dowling Creek runs through the Skaneateles Country Club (SCC) property and empties near “The Point”. The lake around the SCC appears to be a hotbed of HAB activity and thus the interest in mitigation. The SCC has recognized its stewardship of SCC property and has worked closely with the SLA and the Nature Conservancy (TNC) to develop a remediation plan. The project is a collaboration of the Skaneateles Country Club, the SLA, The Nature Conservancy and the Onondaga County Soil and Water Conversation District (SWCD). It is based on the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) survey conducted in November of 2018. The project proposes to: (1) Reduce erosion and sedimentation derived from unstable banks and undersized infrastructure. (2) Reduce nutrient loading in storm events by providing filtration via a well vegetated flood prone area.

(continued on page 3)



(3) Restore stream banks and pattern to a more natural state, (4) Improve aquatic and riparian habitat. With direction from the Nature Conservancy, remediation plans are now complete and permits have been obtained from the USFWS, Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the NYS DEC. Obtaining a stamped engineering design for the Town of Skaneateles will be required prior to breaking ground. This effort is funded with 25% support from the SLA Legacy Fund and 25% from the Nature Conservancy. The 50% balance is funded by the SCC. A contractor has been identified. The project is anticipated to begin in the Fall.

Winkelman Property: This 50-acre farmed property is within the sub-watershed of One Mile Creek. An evaluation of remediation possibilities is being done as part of a Syracuse University program within the Dept. of Civil & Environmental Engineering. The Winkelman family is working with SU students to evaluate various options for minimizing nutrient flow from the property into the lake under two scenarios: leaving the property as farm land, or potentially developing the property with residential sites. A project plan overview developed by the SU students was presented May 1st. Further efforts on this property must await a more detailed evaluation.

If you or someone you know has property that they feel could be used to mitigate nutrient loading to the lake please contact the Skaneateles Lake Association at <http://www.skaneateleslake.org>.

The Legacy Fund for Skaneateles Lake



Beyond Annual Membership

Jessica Millman

In order to address the immediate threat posed by Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs), the SLA created the Legacy Fund. It is a capital fundraising campaign to expedite the necessary monitoring and remediation to prevent future HABs which present a real and imminent threat to the lifeblood of our community.

Help Protect Our Lake

One-on-one fundraising in 2018 resulted in over \$900,000 raised through the generous donations of ten families. The public portion of the Legacy Fund Campaign was launched at the "Party on the Point" on May 26th. We welcome and appreciate donations in any amount. For those new to the SLA, a Legacy Fund donation of \$150 or more includes a 1-year membership. Checks can be made out to the SLA Legacy Fund and mailed to: SLA, P.O. Box 862, Skaneateles, NY 13152.

How Donations Will Be Used

The SLA aims to raise a total of \$1.5 million to fund:

- Remediation projects to reduce the flow of nutrients into our lake including catch basins and riparian buffers.
- Educational opportunities including an Adopt-a-Stream program and a floating classroom.
- Scientific studies to better understand and mitigate HABs including monitoring and collecting data and building lake and watershed models.

If you have any questions, please contact Jessica Millman at jessicamillman@gmail.com.

Skaneateles Lake Association, Inc. Membership Registration Form Mail to Skaneateles Lake Association P.O. 862 Skaneateles, NY 13152

Name _____ E-mail Address _____

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____
(Alternate Address)

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

- Family: \$100
 Individual: \$50
 Milfoil Boat Sponsor & Membership: \$1,000
 Milfoil Boat Co-sponsor & Membership: \$250
 Lake Steward Sponsor & Membership: \$175
 Legacy Fund Donation: \$ _____ (for new members a donation of \$150 or more includes a 1 year membership)

Skaneateles Lake Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 862

Skaneateles, NY 13152

Watercraft Inspection Steward Program 2018

Buzz Roberts

Skaneateles Lake has already 3 aquatic invasive species, Eurasian Milfoil and both Zebra and Quagga mussels, that have dramatically impacted the lake. Milfoil has contributed to nutrient loading and Zebra and Quagga mussels may be playing a significant role in the recent harmful algal blooms. At present we are free of some of the invasive species found in our neighboring lakes such as water chestnuts, spiny water flea, starry stone wart, and the round goby fish. Cayuga Lake continues to have new areas of Hydrilla found along diverse portions of it's shoreline. This prolific weed can be more deleterious to a body of water than Milfoil and is much more difficult to eradicate or control.

Because of these ongoing threats, we are expanding our watercraft inspection program. We will continue to have our stewards at the DEC launch on West Lake Rd., the Mandana launch, the Town of Scott Park, and the Glen Haven launch. We are increasing the hours at our most active DEC launch to 5:30am to 6pm and from 5:30am to 9pm on Fridays and Saturdays. The Scott boat launch, which is an active site for fishermen, will have stewards from 5:30am to 6pm daily. In addition, stewards will be placed at both Sevey's Marina and the Borodino launch.

Our stewards will continue to educate the boating public and to ensure that the boats entering our lake come in "Clean, Drained, and Dry". They will continue to collect data on the watercraft being launched which will be transmitted electronically to the DEC data base. Through these efforts, we hope to preserve the pristine nature of this beautiful body of water and protect the drinking water for future generations. This summer we welcome our returning experienced stewards: Jeremy Castle, Laurie Kenyon, Marty Minet, Hunter Purdy, Julia Torrisi, and Roy Truswell. In addition, Jim MacLachlan, Emma Beavers, J.P. Soderberg, Alex Cerchia and Alex Poplawski will be joining our team.

An Office for the SLA

After years of working out of the dining rooms of Board Members along with the generous donation of conference room space from Delmonico's Insurance, the SLA has an office. Located in the lower level of St. James Church in the Village of Skaneateles (96 E Genesee St.) and fully handicapped accessible, the office will provide working space for our Executive Director and student interns, storage space for our materials and the availability of conference room space for smaller meetings. The entrance is on the east side of the church via a heated walkway and there is an elevator to the lower level. We will have signage to our office both outside and inside the building. Because our Executive Director is often out of the office, please contact Rachael DeWitt until June 14th and Frank Moses after June 14th if you have a need to meet with either at our office. Use the "contact us" tab at SkaneatelesLake.org to schedule an appointment.



Executive Director, Rachel DeWitt stands by the window in our new office

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 - Robert G. Werner, Ph.D., Lake Ecologist - Deborah Bobbett - 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 Liegel, Esq. - Patricia Orr - Mary Sennett - James Tift, M.D. - James Tuozzolo. **Executive Director** - Rachael DeWitt (through 6/14/19), Frank Moses (thereafter)

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