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Skaneateles Lake Association publishes 2025 Annual Report, Highlighting Key Watershed Milestones and Long-term Protection Efforts

*This report provides an overview of the first full year of investments under
the SLA's ambitious Five-Year Skaneateles Lake Protection Plan*

April 24, 2026 – SKANEATELES, The [Skaneateles Lake Association](#) (SLA) announced the publication of its 2025 Annual Report, capturing a pivotal first full year of investments under its ambitious Five-Year Skaneateles Lake Protection Plan. This comprehensive plan provides a comprehensive overview of the organization's dedicated, science-backed operations to mitigate environmental hazards, defend against invasive species, and safeguard the water quality of Skaneateles Lake.

Fueled by the community's exceptional generosity towards the SLA Legacy Campaign, the 2025 fiscal year brought critical milestones across several protection programs:

- **Eurasian Milfoil Mitigation:** The SLA successfully managed and mitigated invasive Eurasian milfoil infestations by deploying 326 benthic control mats across 6.3 acres of the lake's shoreline—a proven method to eliminate the weed and halt its spread, without the use of pesticides.
- **Hemlock Forest Preservation:** Teams treated 2,912 Eastern hemlock trees throughout the watershed. Hemlocks serve as a vital bedrock species for the local ecosystem, and these targeted treatments protect the trees from the deadly woolly adelgid, an invasive aphid-like insect that kills 90% of the trees it infects.
- **Boat Launch Steward Inspections:** To prevent the introduction of new aquatic invasive species, the SLA Boat Launch Steward Program inspected 7,384 watercrafts at the lake's public launches from mid-May until mid-October, successfully intercepting 312 invasive species.
- **Community Engagement & Education:** The SLA secured 274 "Lake-Friendly Living" pledges from watershed residents, continuing its push to educate neighbors on sustainable gardening, yard maintenance, and boating practices that minimize polluted nutrient runoff into the lake and its tributaries.
- **Expanded Operational Scale:** This past year also marked the launch of the *Legacy* boat—made possible by a generous donation from Linda and Dan Roche—which will greatly increase the efficiency, precision, and capacity of the SLA's daily lake operations.

"Protecting a lake as extraordinary as Skaneateles takes more than appreciation—it takes action," said Bob DeWitt, SLA Board President. "Together, we strengthened our defense against invasive species, expanded watershed efforts to reduce nutrient runoff, and deepened our investment in science to better understand emerging threats to water quality. These efforts are already making an impact, building a stronger, more resilient future for the lake."

While 2025 yielded historic progress, SLA leadership stresses that the threats confronting Skaneateles Lake—including persistent invasive species, rising lake temperatures, and Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs)—require constant vigil and long-term, continuous solutions.

"This report shows a succinct view of how our Legacy Funds are being strategically deployed to protect what we love," added Frank Moses, Executive Director. "We know what Skaneateles Lake and this community have meant to families for generations. This progress is only possible because of a community that shows up, and we encourage our members and neighbors to review the report, share it, and continue supporting this critical work through volunteering and donating."

The full 2025 Annual Report is available electronically. To read the complete report, join the organization, or make a contribution to the Legacy Fund Campaign, please visit skaneateleslake.org.

About The Skaneateles Lake Association

First established in 1969, the Skaneateles Lake Association is a 501(c) non-profit that dedicates 100% of its efforts to preserving and protecting Skaneateles Lake. One of only six unfiltered water sources in the entire country, Skaneateles Lake provides drinking water to more than 200,000 people in the city of Syracuse as well as residents of Skaneateles, Jordan, Elbridge, Salina, and DeWitt, but it is under constant threat from climate change, development and invasive species. Subsequently, the SLA works to protect the lake from invasive species and harmful algal blooms; preserve the watershed's hemlock forests, which are critical to maintaining the overall health of the lake; and educate the public on lake-safe gardening, farming and septic-tank maintenance.

Established, supported and led by a volunteer force of community members, the SLA has been protecting Skaneateles Lake for over 55 years. To learn more about the SLA's proven, results-oriented efforts and programs and to join our growing community of lake protectors, go to <https://skaneateleslake.org>.

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