Spring Madness

Thanks to Long-Time SLA Board Member

Since 1998, Kay Sanford has been an integral part of the Saratoga Lake Association Board. He has served in so many capacities, it’s difficult to list them all, but his most recent involvement was as chairman of the Lake Level Initiative. The study has proved very valuable to maintenance of our lake levels and Kay put in an enormous amount of time on this project.

Because of so many commitments and family responsibilities, Kay has had to tender his resignation from the Board.

As a result, the emails have been “flying,” and everyone is having a hard time letting Kay go. Current president, Bruce Goodale, wrote, “we will certainly miss you, as you have been a committed member for a very long time and have made valuable contributions to the welfare of the lake and its community, especially in trying to achieve improved lake level management.” Past President Wilma Koss wrote, “Although I am no longer on the Board, I greatly depending upon your expertise and thoughtful analysis of each and all the problems we faced during the term of my presidency. . . Your thoughts and advice will continue to be a valuable asset to SLA.”

Thanks, Kay. Don’t be a stranger!

Spark of Inspiration?

News, announcements and information keep us all updated. Photos are great and tell a story. So get your creative juices flowing and send your submissions to sinnidi@aol.com.
AGENDA
Saratoga Lake Association Informational Meeting
Panza’s Restaurant on Saratoga Lake
April 25, 2013, 7 PM

6:30 PM Pre-Meeting, SLA Business, Apparel Sales
7:00 PM Opening Remarks by SLA President
7:05 PM SLA Spring Roadside Cleanup in 2013
7:10 PM SLA Social Committee Events
7:15 PM Saratoga Lake sewer planning & construction activities, Chad Cooke, Executive Director, Saratoga County Sewer District
7:45 PM Needs and plans for water chestnut control in 2013, SLIPD & SLA
8:15 PM SLPID Report:
   Herbicide treatment program in 2013
   2013 Fireworks
   Registration of boats & docks
8:30 PM Open Comment Session, SLA Membership
9:00 PM Meeting Completed

A Burning Issue

The area fire departments would like to remind everyone that the spring burn ban is an annual occurrence. There are two sets of regulations that are complementary; town regulations and state regulations contained in Environmental Conservation Law in the Air Resources sub chapters.

Beginning March 16th and ending May 14th of each year there is a springtime ban on open burning, from May 14th until March 16th of the following year burning may be allowed as long as all legal requirements are met and no further bans are in place through local or State regulations. The burning of leaves is banned in the State of New York.

The regulations accomplish two things reduce harmful air pollutants and help prevent wildfires. The occurrence of wildfires greatly increases this time of year because the snow cover is gone, grasses and leaves are dry, the sun quickly dries out ground cover along with low humidity and spring winds make for excellent burning conditions. Once the leaves develop on the trees, the grass greens up and humidity levels increase, the fire danger decreases.

The national weather service will frequently issue a red flag warning indicating conditions are ideal for wildfires to occur. At the same time residents are cleaning up their lawns and find that burning the debris is the quickest method of disposal. Very often small fires quickly spread and can result in several acres burning off or in the worst cases spread to structures. Just recently a wild fire in nearby Argyle took four volunteer departments two days to contain and was started by an unattended camp fire. Those who were involved with the camp fire were issued tickets by DEC.

The Town of Stillwater issues free burn permits during periods when burning can take place and are available by contacting the Fire Marshal at Town Hall at 664-6148 XT215. (submitted by Tom Rinaldi, Commissioner, Stillwater Fire District)

Left: These photos were taken in 1979. We put them in only to show how many weeds we had to pull in back then. So, if you think you have weeds, let’s all be thankful to SLPID Commissioner Joe Finn for coordinating the weed treatment program!
New Thrift Shop Coming to Town!

All Saints-on-the-Hudson will have its grand opening of St. Theresa’s Closet at the Parish Center, 52 Williams Street, Mechanicville, on May 1st at 10 a.m. Come and shop for good clothing, lamps, household items, children’s clothes, books, CDs, DVDs, jewelry, craft items, toys, and much more. Your donations of like goods are also very welcome, so when your cleaning our your closet, attic, or garage, think of St. Theresa’s Closet and come on over!

St. Isaac Jogues Chapel

It’s never summer on the lake until our little chapel, St. Isaac Jogues, opens its doors. This year from Memorial Weekend to Labor Day Weekend, mass will be held on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. For those of us who know, it’s like stepping back in time to a slower, easier time on the lake when you walk into the knotty pine chapel. Hope to see you there!

Stillwater’s Town-Wide Clean-up

Why not multitask on April 27th. Fill your vehicle with debris for the clean-up day for Stillwater residents, stop by Mangino’s for breakfast, then take your debris to Stillwater.

The clean-up runs from 7 am to 2 pm, and there will be a nominal fee for your debris.

Accepted items: brush (nothing larger than 3 in. in diameter); leaves (bagged); white metal appliances; furniture and other non-hazardous material; lumber; garbage.

Items NOT accepted: paint, tar, oil, gas, chemicals or batteries.

Carload: $5; Pick-up: $10; Single Axle Dump Truck: $20; Tires: $2 each.

PROOF OF RESIDENCE IS REQUIRED.

Please direct any questions or concerns pertaining to collection items to Stillwater’s Town Clerk, Sue Cunningham, by telephoning her at 664-6148, ext. 2.

30th Annual NYSFOLA Conference

“Managing Lakes in a Changing World”

Saratoga Lake has been a member of the New York State Federation of Lake Associations for many years. This organization “protects the water resources of New York State by assisting local organizations and individuals through public dialogue, education, information exchange and collaborative efforts.”

The Federation of Lake Associations, Inc. was founded in 1983 by a small consortium of New York lake associations concerned about a variety of problems facing their lakes. Water quality was of concern to nearly all of the lake associations, and little information was available on methods to combat the increasing threat of aquatic invasive species. In 1995, the name was changed to the New York State Federation of Lake Associations, Inc.

If you are interested in attending the conference or just in viewing their website, please feel free to do so at http://www.nysfola.org/.

Corrections to Business Directory

Please change SLA Board Member Donna Hladik’s email address to donnahladik134@gmail.com.
If you’ve been at the lake for many years (and yes, we mean seniors!), you may wonder why we reprint the lake map each year. With each new family that moves in, a glimpse at the areas around the lake helps them to learn about the various communities.

But, let’s get back to the seniors. You will notice in the key many businesses — stores, livers, beaches — that have been gone for many years. If any of you out there have a memory of one or more of those listed, send it to Julie at sinnidi@aol.com.

So much of our history has been lost, so if you can recall something from the past on the lake, why not let us share it.

(please note that this year’s map is dedicated to just businesses from years past)
Italian- and Greek-American deli coming to Malta at former Just Meat and Deli location - saratogian.com


Bonacio plans another phase of The Springs mixed-use development on Weibel Avenue.

Saratoga 150 Festival

Saratoga will celebrate the 150th anniversary of Saratoga Race Course this year. The honorary chairs of the Saratoga 150 Celebration are Marylou Whitney and John Hendrickson.

The 2013 celebration will begin in May and continue through September. Over 64 local non-profit organizations are involved in sponsoring events ranging from duathlons and symphonies to Shakespeare and rock concerts.

This website will provide you with a continually updated calendar of activities. It looks to be a very special summer in Saratoga Springs.

http://www.saratoga150.com/events/saratoga150-events/

Stillwater Town Offices Plan Move

As of May 1st, the Town of Stillwater will move into the old St. Peter’s Parish Center on 881 Hudson Avenue. Mailing Address is still P.O. Box 700.

The move will allow greater access and accommodations for Town Hall meetings, allow expansion of the Building, Planning and Development Offices, Town Clerk’s office, Town Court and provide additional emergency management operational space.

This is a great time to clean up your shore line. Why not take advantage of the low lake levels.

Panza’s Restaurant Celebrates 75 Years
Mark your calendar for May 7

Panza's Restaurant is celebrating their 75th anniversary as Saratoga county's oldest continuously run family business!

All proceeds from the May 7th celebration are being donated to Saratoga Hospice, Wesley Healthcare, Ruben Dialysis and Living Resources. (if you have any questions, contact Melissa D'Andrea at 584-6882)
Consignment Sale at the Stillwater Area Community Center

Need a little extra cash? SACC is hosting a consignment sale on May 18th from 9am-4pm. If you are interested in being a consigner this is what you need to do:

1. Complete the consigner agreement form, pay a $5 consigner fee, and bring the forms to SACC. (go to www.stillwaterareacommunitycenter.org for the form needed)
2. SACC will provide you with a seller number and pre-made tags with your personal seller number on them.
3. At home, price out the items you wish to sell
4. Return the priced items to SACC no later than 7:00pm Wednesday, May 15th ** THE SOONER THE BETTER**
5. SACC will generate a list of all of the items you are selling
6. You have two options for payment. You may either volunteer to work 2 hours and receive 70% of what you sell OR leave your items and receive 50% of what you sell.
7. When the sale is over return to collect your money and the items that did not sell.

New York City Trip

The Stillwater Area Community Center is going to New York City! Saturday May 11th the Stillwater Area Community Center has a bus trip planned for a day in the Big Apple! Its the perfect gift for Mother's Day! See the Empire State Building, Times Square, 9/11 Memorial, etc. There's so many wonderful sights to see!

Get your tickets today! Tickets are $35 per person and can be bought in the Main Office at the Center. Bus will depart from the Center at 7am and will return at approximately 10:30pm.

Please call Aimee Salecker at 664-2515 ext. 14 or email saleckera@nycap.rr.com with any questions or to reserve your seat!

Do have plants to donate? If they are in pots already you can bring them up until Friday, May 3rd. If they are coming in bags please drop them off by Friday, April 26th so we can pretty them up! All plants need to be identified though. Call 664-6255...

Friends of the Library Annual Plant Sale: "Sharing our Gardens"

This is the plant sale lots of people talk about all year long! Friends donate plants when they divide up their own gardens for the coming season. Then you can come and donate money to buy plants to help the Friends of the Library raise money.

Saturday, May 4th from 8am - noon in the library parking lot.

Do have plants to donate? If they are in pots already you can bring them up until Friday, May 3rd. If they are coming in bags please drop them off by Friday, April 26th so we can pretty them up! All plants need to be identified though. Call 664-6255...

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**RU-INTEXT-A-CATED?**

PUT DOWN THAT PHONE WHILE DRIVING!!!

Earth Day 2013 — April 22
“The Face of Climate Change”

Learn stories of people, animals, and places affected by climate change and those doing something about it.

http://www.earthday.org/

Malta Trails Clean-up Day

On Saturday, April 20th, the Malta Trails Committee is hosting their Annual Trails Clean-up Day on the town trails in honor of Earth Day. Volunteer and make a difference.

A BBQ will follow the clean-up in the Shenantaha Creek Park. Wear your gloves, vest and dress for the weather. Meet at the Shenantaha Creek Park at 10 a.m.
**Town of Malta 2013 Town-wide Bulk Refuse Pick-Up**

Please place all items out by Sunday night, April 21st, 2013

The Town of Malta, in partnership with County Waste, announces the *townwide bulk refuse pick-up* for the Town of Malta and the Village of Round Lake. The trucks will begin collecting in your area on Monday April 22nd. Residents are asked to place bulk items at the curb or along the edge of their property by 7:00 p.m. on the Sunday evening. It will take up to seven days to pick up all items. There is no daily schedule by street, so residents are asked to be patient if all or any items are not collected early in the week.

Please review the following instructions:

Metal (Including Appliances) must be placed in a separate pile from the items below. Metal items such as pipes etc. can be no longer than 6’. A separate truck will collect metal.

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### Acceptable

- **Furnishings:** couches, love-seats, chairs, mattresses, rugs, etc.
- **Appliances and metal items:** stoves, refrigerators, washers, dryers, grills, pipes, lawn mowers.
- **Wood products:** desks, tables, cabinets, wallboard, trim, windows, doors, etc.

### Not Acceptable

- Household trash and yard debris, grass clippings, branches or leaves
- Aerosol cans
- Computers and computer monitors
- Hazardous Material
- Driveway sealer buckets, paint, stains, etc.
- Propane Tanks

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**SAVE THE DATE!!!**

Bove Fuel's 5th Annual Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday, June 15th. It will be held at Saratoga Lake Golf Course with dinner following at Panza's.

The tournament we will be raising funds for Albany Medical Center Children's Hospital. So far, with the four previous tourneys, we have raised over $60,000.

Please join them for a good cause and a fun time and great raffles, not to mention a great Panza dinner! Details to be forthcoming.....

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A nice combo of moonrise and the reflection of the setting sun on windows on the east side. *Photo by Paul Phillips.*
Saratoga P.L.A.N. hosts Forest Forensics classes

Saratoga P.L.A.N. (PLAN) held classes on “Forest Forensics” on April 5th and April 6th at Hennig Preserve in Providence. The classes, held for PLAN’s trail volunteers as well as members of the New York State Forest Owners Association, taught participants how to read the history of the woods.

Tom Wessels, ecologist, environmental science professor and author of Reading the Forested Landscape and Forest Forensics led the programs and demonstrated his ability to read the woods the way most of us read a book. Participants learned to read the forest floor for signs of human impact, including lands that have reverted to forest after decades, even centuries, of use as pasture, cropland, or woodlots. The 604-acre Hennig Preserve served as an excellent laboratory for such a field study, containing old stone walls, a pre-Civil-War house foundation and well, a 100-plus year old charcoal making mound and many other interesting artifacts of a bygone era. Armed with information about how to interpret this evidence, participants could read the history of these sites and others.

Among other lessons learned, Mr. Wessels taught how to distinguish former pastureland from cropland or woodlots, how to determine the age of stumps thereby indicating when the area was last logged, and how to tell the purpose of an individual stone wall. Many other historical lessons were discussed regarding the huge impact of sheep farming that drastically changed our landscape in the 1800s and the various pre-industrial farming techniques, the evidence of which can still be seen in every corner of Saratoga County.

Don Washburn, a lead volunteer for the Hennig Preserve and member of PLAN’s Stewardship Committee said, “This was a truly unique class offered by Saratoga PLAN for trail volunteers, and we will be able to share what we learned with others in the future”. Maria Trabka, Executive Director of Saratoga P.L.A.N. said “We are thankful to our volunteers for helping maintain all of our public trails, and we are thankful for the historic research they do on the preserves. Understanding how others have used the land in the past helps us be better stewards today”. Commentary and photographs of the forest forensics class can be found on the Saratoga woods & waterways blog at: http://saratogawoodswaters.blogspot.com/2013/04/lessons-in-forest-forensics.html

Volunteers needed to clear creek for paddling

The Friends of the Kayaderosseras are looking for volunteers to help clear a passage through the creek for kayakers and canoeists. Winter runoff deposits brush and debris, which collect into barriers. A bit of strategic pruning and pulling can clear passages big enough for a kayak. Public-spirited residents with canoes, kayakers, waders, or just a willing pair of hands are invited to take part in the annual Creek Tender Paddle.

This year’s Paddle is scheduled for Saturday, April 20th, according to Dave Stern, FoK paddling coordinator. Participants will be meeting at Kelley Park in the Village of Ballston Spa at 10am. Supplies to clean up debris from winter runoffs will be provided. For safety reasons, all work will be done without power tools.

Those who would like to join a canoe group, can contact Dave by e-mail, dstern@alittlehelp.net. The event is weather-dependent, so participants can check Dave’s Facebook page to make sure creek conditions are suitable for paddling.

If creek conditions are not good, plan on the following Saturday, April 27th. Depending on the turnout, there may be a meeting back at Kelley Park for snacks and beverages. Paddlers can choose to get out at the Burl Trail’s Gray Crossing area, or a couple of miles further down the creek at the Driscoll Road. Non-paddlers are invited to be at both sites to assist paddlers in debris collection.

Friends of the Kayaderosseras have standing committees that carry out our work. Each committee will meet this spring to plan for the coming season. You are invited to attend any meeting that interests you.

- Education and Outreach Committee will meet April 30. Details will be sent later.
- Conservation Committee - Date and time TBA.
- Recreation Committee - Date and time TBA. Visit FoK’s website at www.kayaderosseras.org and “friend” us on Facebook.
ICE-OUT DATE MORE TYPICAL IN 2013

Given the more typical winter of 2012-2013, it probably is not surprising that ice-out on Saratoga Lake was also much closer to normal this year. It occurred on March 31. This was 5 days earlier than the historic median date and about 2 weeks later than last year when it took place on March 12.

At Saratoga Lake we have 50 years of reliable data on the annual date of ice-out. We are fortunate to have had Ann Durrocher as the unofficial recorder of annual ice-out up until recently. Ann’s simple but reliable criterion for ice-out is to be able to launch a boat at the State boat launch at the northern end of the Lake and travel unimpeded to South Marina on the south end. The new official recorder is Steve Bleznyk and he took many rides around the lake watching shifting and melting ice, and we thank him for his diligence.

Based on the 50 years of record, ice-out has varied over a six week period. The earliest ice-out date occurred on March 10, 2002. By contrast, the latest ice-out date took place on March 12, 1971, or 45 days later than the earliest date. The median date for ice-out on Saratoga Lake is April 5.

A table showing annual ice-out dates on Saratoga Lake over the past 50 years is shown below.

The annual ice-out date follows the natural rhythms of the season and is a very unpredictable event. Its date varies widely from year to year and depends on many factors including: ice thickness, temperatures, wind, precipitation and other climatic factors.

It is interesting to point out that the four earliest dates for ice-out have occurred more recently in 2002, 2006, 2010, and 2012. This pattern is consistent with measured changes in the ice-out dates of many lakes in the northern hemisphere where earlier ice-out dates (as well as later dates for freezing) have also been observed, and is undoubtedly linked to the current global warming trend. (submitted by SLA President Bruce Goodale)

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<th>Year</th>
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For the past three years, SLPID has been taking water samples from Saratoga Lake with the assistance of CSLAP (Citizen Statewide Lake Assessment Program) measuring and monitoring Bluegreen Algae blooms. So far to date all tests on Saratoga lake have tested OK. Provided attachments “Blue-green Algae” and Concerns about surface water as drinking source” are provided for information purposes. Please notify your SLPID Commissioner if you spot any

These questions and answers provide information to address health concerns about exposure to blue-green algal toxins in surface waters (lakes, rivers, streams and reservoirs).

Blue-green Algae

What are blue-green algae?

Blue-green algae, technically known as cyanobacteria, are microscopic organisms that are naturally present in lakes and streams. They usually are present in low numbers. Blue-green algae can become very abundant in warm, shallow, undisturbed surface water that receives a lot of sunlight. When this occurs, they can form blooms that discolor the water or produce floating rafts or scums on the surface of the water.

What are the potential health effects from drinking or coming in contact with water containing blue-green algae?

Some blue-green algae produce toxins that could pose a health risk to people and animals when they are exposed to them in large enough quantities. Health effects could occur when surface scums or water containing high levels of blue-green algal toxins are swallowed, through contact with the skin or when airborne droplets containing toxins are inhaled while swimming, bathing or showering.

Consuming water containing high levels of blue-green algal toxins has been associated with effects on the liver and on the nervous system in laboratory animals, pets, livestock and people. Livestock and pet deaths have occurred when animals consumed very large amounts of accumulated algal scum

Surface water affected by blue-green algae often is so strongly colored that it can develop a paint-like appearance.

Under some environmental conditions, blue-green algae can become so abundant that they form floating rafts or scums on the surface of the water.
Recreational contact, such as swimming, and household contact, such as bathing or showering, with water not visibly affected by a blue-green algae bloom is not expected to cause health effects. However, some individuals could be especially sensitive to low levels of algal toxins and might experience mild symptoms such as skin, eye or throat irritation or allergic reactions.

There is less information available about the potential health effects of long-term exposure to low levels of blue-green algal toxins. Some limited evidence from human studies suggests that long-term consumption of untreated surface waters containing high levels of blue-green algal toxins could be associated with an increased risk of liver cancer. However, people in these studies also were exposed to other factors associated with liver cancer. As a result, it is unknown whether algal toxin exposure contributed to this risk.

Long-term, continuous exposure to algal toxins in the Northeast is unlikely, because blue-green algal blooms are likely to occur only during the hottest part of the summer. New York State public water supplies that use surface water sources also have operational controls to minimize the introduction of blue-green algae in drinking water.

**How do I know if I am being exposed to blue-green algae?**

People should suspect that blue-green algae could be present in water that is visibly discolored or that has surface scums. Colors can include shades of green, blue-green, yellow, brown or red. Water affected by blue-green algal blooms often is so strongly colored that it can develop a paint-like appearance.

Unpleasant tastes or odors are not reliable indicators of blue-green algal toxins or other toxic substances, because species producing blue-green algal toxins may or may not also produce chemicals that affect the taste or odor of drinking water. Similarly, the absence of unpleasant tastes and odors does not guarantee the absence of blue-green algal toxins.

**Avoiding exposure to blue-green algae**

Never drink untreated surface water, whether or not algae blooms are present. **Untreated surface water may contain other bacteria, parasites or viruses, as well as algal toxins, that all could cause illness if consumed.**

People not on public water supplies should not drink surface water, **even if it is treated, during an algal bloom because in-home treatments such as boiling and disinfecting water with chlorine or UV and water filtration units do not protect people from blue-green algal toxins.**

If washing dishes in untreated surface water is unavoidable, rinsing with bottled water may reduce possible residues. **While we don’t know if water containing low levels of blue-green algal toxins could leave residues on dishes, taking this precaution may help reduce possible exposures.**

People, pets and livestock should avoid contact with water that is discolored or has scums on the surface. **Colors can include shades of green, blue-green, yellow, brown or red. If contact does occur, wash with soap and water or rinse thoroughly with clean water to remove algae.**

Stop using the water and seek medical attention if needed if symptoms such as skin, eye or throat irritation, allergic reactions or breathing difficulties occur while in contact with untreated surface waters. However, swimming, bathing or showering with water not visibly affected by a blue-green algae bloom is not expected to cause health effects.

**Where to get more information**

NYS Department of Health
Bureau of Toxic Substance Assessment
ph: 800-458-1158 ext. 2-7820
The New York State Department of Health wants to remind people that there are risks from using water from any surface water source as drinking water, unless that water is properly filtered and disinfected. Water from rivers, lakes, ponds and streams can contain bacteria, parasites, viruses and possibly other contaminants. To make surface water fit to drink, treatment is required.

Remember, we use our drinking water in many different ways. We use it as a beverage, but also make ice cubes, mix baby formula, wash fruits and vegetables, and brush our teeth. If the water is contaminated, this may put you at risk. Depending on the kind of contamination, it may also be a concern to wash dishes, wash hands, shower or bathe.

Public water systems are required to treat, disinfect and monitor water quality for their customers. A public water treatment system is well designed and employs trained technicians to test and maintain water quality. If you are not on a public water system and use surface water as your water supply source, please contact your local health department* for advice. They can talk to you about developing another source of drinking water in your area. If there are no other choices, then they can discuss the treatment options for your surface water source. In the meantime, avoid the use of surface water for your drinking water needs. You should use bottled water or disinfect small batches of water by bringing it to a rolling boil for one – two minutes.

Although the New York State Health Department cannot recommend specific treatment systems or businesses that install them, we would be glad to talk to you about options. For general questions regarding drinking water, call 1-800-458-1158, extension 27650.

*You can find the number for the local health department in your phone book, or call the toll-free number listed above for help in locating the office nearest to you.