



# Lake George Association

*People Protecting the Lake Since 1885*

## **NEWS RELEASE**

Contact: Lynne Rosenthal  
Communications Coordinator  
518-668-3558  
[lrosenthal@lakegeorgeassociation.org](mailto:lrosenthal@lakegeorgeassociation.org)

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **LGA's New Citizen Science Program: Invaders Watch**

**Lake George, NY – June 20, 2011** – The LGA is seeking volunteers for a new Citizen Science program for Lake George called Invaders Watch. Volunteers are needed to look for and monitor non-native, invasive species along Lake George's shorelines, and to help prevent their spread. "Early detection of new invasive plant and animal infestations provides the best opportunity for successful eradication, management and control," said Emily DeBolt, LGA's director of education.

This program is part of a regional effort coordinated by the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP). APIPP is documenting the distribution and abundance of invasive plants throughout the Adirondacks. The information the LGA volunteers gather locally here on Lake George will be shared with the larger APIPP program.

Invaders Watch volunteers will choose a section of Lake George shoreline to monitor. Free training sessions will be offered to help volunteers learn to identify native and invasive aquatic species and how to conduct a survey. Monitoring takes place during the summer between mid-July and early-September.

People who are interested in participating should contact the LGA at 518-668-3558 or [info@lakegeorgeassociation.org](mailto:info@lakegeorgeassociation.org). More information about Lake George Citizen Science programs can be found on the LGA website at [www.lakegeorgeassociation.org](http://www.lakegeorgeassociation.org) under the "what we do" tab.

Two training sessions for the Invaders Watch program are coming up:

#### **1. Aquatic Invasive Plant Identification Workshop:**

**Tuesday, June 28th, 2011- 10 am - 2 pm**

**Darrin Fresh Water Institute, Bolton Landing**

#### **2. Aquatic Invasive Animal Identification Workshop:**

**Thursday, July 28th, 2011- 2 pm - 4 pm**

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In these workshops, conducted by the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program, volunteers will learn aquatic plant identification tips and survey techniques for both native and aquatic invasive plants. The second workshop will cover aquatic animals such as zebra mussels, Asian clams, spiny waterflea and more.

The training is free, but space in the first workshop at Darrin Fresh Water Institute is limited. Volunteers should RSVP for the first workshop by contacting Hilary Smith at the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program via email at [hsmith@tnc.org](mailto:hsmith@tnc.org) and provide contact info, training location and lake of interest.

Once trained, volunteers will:

- Conduct monitoring on a day when the Lake is fairly calm, so ripples and small waves do not obscure views of plants below the surface of the water.
- Visit the designated shoreline and look into the Lake. Look for aquatic plant growth at or below the surface. Check any hard substrates for attached species, such as zebra mussels.
- Photograph and take samples of plants that are invasive or look suspicious. Include stems, leaves and flowers if present. Wrap the plant in a slightly damp paper towel and place in a sealed plastic bag. Label the bag with location, date, and contact information. Send in the samples immediately or keep them refrigerated until they can be brought to the LGA office.
- Fill out a reporting form and send it in along with photos and plant samples.

### **About the LGA**

The LGA is a non-profit membership organization of people interested in working together to protect, conserve, and improve the beauty and quality of the Lake George Basin. It is the nation's oldest lake association. For more information, contact the LGA at (518) 668-3558 or visit the LGA website at [www.lakegeorgeassociation.org](http://www.lakegeorgeassociation.org).

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Pictures:



**Picture caption:** Examples of invasive species that volunteers in the Invaders Watch program will be looking for include Eurasian watermilfoil, curly-leaf pondweed, and Asian clams.



**Picture caption:** Volunteers for the Lake George Invaders Watch Citizen Science program will be trained by experts with the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program to learn to identify aquatic plants and animals, both native, and invasive.