



Lake George Association

People Protecting the Lake Since 1885

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LGA's Lake Steward Program Off to Strong Start

Lake George, NY – June 24, 2011 – The LGA Lake Steward Program, designed to protect Lake George from the spread of invasive species, has expanded to five launch sites this summer: Mossy Point, Rogers Rock, Norowal, Hague, and new this year: Dunham's Bay. The LGA also plans to have stewards at the Million Dollar Beach launch in the fall, when it is open to the public.

Nine lake stewards were hired and trained by the LGA earlier this spring. Training takes place at Paul Smith's College, in conjunction with stewards from Schroon Lake, Brant Lake and the Adirondack Watershed Institute. A new video, showing how Lake George stewards are trained, has been produced and is now available online. Monika LaPlante, the assistant coordinator for the program produced the video. "I thought it was important for people to see the extent of the training we go through," she said. "Because many native species can look very similar to invasives, it's important for us to get hands-on practice in plant identification before we go out to work at a launch site," she added.

The Lake George stewards have been on duty since May 27. Up until June 8 they had already inspected 787 boats. Sixty-six percent of those boaters reported that they had taken steps to prevent the spread of invasive species on their boat. Nine of the boaters had been on the Hudson River just prior to Lake George, eight had been on Schroon Lake, eight on Saratoga Lake and seven on Lake Champlain. Compared to Lake George, all of these waterbodies host considerably more invasive species, so there is a real threat that new invasives will be transported and introduced into Lake George if a boat is not thoroughly cleaned beforehand. The stewards have removed 13 suspicious samples from inspected boats so far. Of these, five were invasive: two were curly-leaf pondweed and three were Eurasian watermilfoil.

Lake stewards inspect incoming boats for invasive species, remove suspicious specimens, and educate boaters about the threats of invasive species and how to prevent their spread. The LGA has coordinated the program on Lake George since 2008.

Additional funding was provided this year from the Lake George Park Commission. The funding allows for maximum coverage for peak periods and for the launches that receive the highest traffic. Estimated program costs for 2011 are \$67,000. \$25,000 will be funded through the Lake Champlain Basin Program, \$35,000 will be provided by the Lake George Park Commission, and the LGA will provide the remaining funds from its Helen V. Froehlich Foundation grant awards.

See pictures below.

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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.



Photo caption: 2011 Lake George Stewards include (left to right, first row) Assistant Coordinator Monika LaPlante, Britt Gellethien, Aly Birch, Alison Canavan, and (left to right back row) Don Lindstrom, Brandon Bezio, Michael Abrahamson and Brendan Carberry. Not pictured: Kara Shannon.



Photo caption: Brendan Carberry, a Lake George Lake Steward, examines a sample of Eurasian watermilfoil during a training session earlier this summer at the Lake George Association's office. Stewards Don Lindstrom and Brandon Bezio look on.