

## Asian Clam Eradication Effort Begins



Last August, the Asian clam (*Corbicula fluminea*) was discovered in the south end of Lake George. **The Asian clam poses a threat to the Lake's environment and ecology that is more serious than that of any aquatic invader we have faced before.** A task force of environmental and municipal groups was quickly formed to respond to the threat. Testing and sampling took place throughout the fall, and in March an initial plan to eradicate the clams, which included a spring suction harvesting component, was released and posted on the LGA website. The plan for the spring has now been revised.

Benthic mats are scheduled for installation on the Lake bottom this spring. Although these actions will be somewhat inconvenient for shoreline owners and the Lake George community, the long-term threats to the ecology of Lake George and the local economy are too great to do nothing, to delay, or to minimize efforts. By acting now, and not waiting, the Lake George Asian Clam Rapid Response Task Force believes the clam can be eradicated in Lake George, not merely "managed." Fortunately, shoreline property owners understand the long-term consequences of not acting now, and are working with the task force to coordinate efforts.

We don't want to follow in the footsteps of Lake Tahoe, where action was delayed for a number of years. Tahoe's area of infestation rapidly increased from a just few acres to over 200 acres. Extensive clam beds and accompanying algal blooms now dominate what

were once beautiful and clear bays. Lake Tahoe is past the point where eradication is possible. They have spent \$1.4 million, only to manage and control clam populations, not to eradicate them.

In Lake George, the primary infestation area is 4.74 acres running largely along the village shoreline from Pine Point to the English Brook delta. This is one of busiest areas in Lake George, with over 750 rental units and 150 boat slips. A secondary area of 3.31 acres may have smaller populations; more testing will take place this summer. Look for updates at [www.stoptheasian-clam.info](http://www.stoptheasian-clam.info).

### A Revised Eradication Plan

1. Approximately 770 benthic mats (50'x 7') will be placed over a 5 - 6 acre area.
2. Installation should be completed by mid-May.
3. Once proper installation has been certified, mats will be left on the lake bottom for 45 days.
4. Removal will begin in late June and will take two to three weeks.
5. This initial spring treatment will aim to contain the identified Asian clam population and significantly limit the risk of continued population expansion and spread along the shoreline to Shepard Park Beach and points south, including Million Dollar Beach.
6. Based on the results from the spring treatment, additional control efforts will be planned and implemented for the fall, after Labor Day, with the goal of eradication.



## Simple Ways to Save the Lake this Spring

*Spring is here at last and we're all looking forward to warm weather and beautiful days in the water and around the Lake. To keep the Queen of American Lakes looking her best, here are important points to remember, especially as you work around your home and garden.*



1. To keep stormwater runoff under control, minimize paved or impervious surfaces and bare soil areas around your home. Consider installing a rain barrel, permeable pavers, a rain garden or native plants. (Call us for ideas or help.)

2. Rake or blow leaves, clippings, winter debris, salt and sand away from paved surfaces, storm sewers, streams and the Lake. Leaves and clippings are loaded with phosphorus. Keep metals, pesticides, pet waste, household cleansers, and automobile fluids from entering the Lake as well.

3. Call your local department of public works if you see a clogged basin or culvert.

4. Schedule septic system maintenance, so all will be well when your visitors arrive in the summer.

5. To prevent polluted runoff, do not apply pesticides near wells, driveways, sidewalks and other impervious surfaces, and do not apply pesticides when heavy rains are expected or if the ground is already saturated or frozen. Always follow the label and only use pesticides to treat an identified problem if absolutely needed. Many times there are other things you can do to avoid the use of these harsh chemicals all-together.

6. Minimize areas of lawn by planting more native plants, which provide benefits for water quality and wildlife.

For areas of lawn you wish to keep, take the necessary steps to keep it dense and healthy. A healthy lawn will reduce surface runoff and will filter and purify water before it enters the soil and groundwater. Follow these tips from Dr. Frank Rossi of Cornell Cooperative Extension:



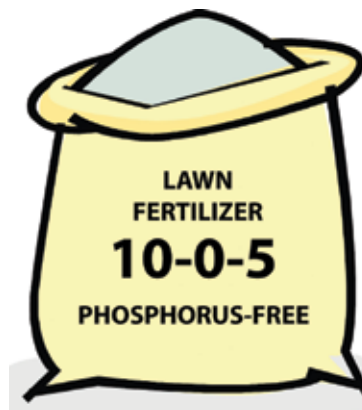
Rain barrels are available at the LGA. Cost is \$55 for LGA members and \$65 for non-members.

- Avoid fertilizing if your lawn looks good, or if you fertilized last fall. Excess fertilizer in the early spring promotes top growth at the expense of root growth.
- Weigh how much time, energy and money you want to spend on lawn care with what the lawn's function will be. A plot of green lawn so the kids can play ball makes sense. Large expanses of turf that exist only to be mowed, probably not.
- Grow the right type of grass. (Tall fescues and fine-leaf fescues, not Kentucky blue grass. Tall fescues have deep roots, tolerate shade and tolerate high foot traffic.)
- Do not apply fertilizer before Labor Day. Nitrogen is all that grass needs to achieve dense vegetation. (Potassium can lead to an abundance of dandelions.) New recommended concentration levels are lower than before: 3/10 - 5/10 lbs per 1000 square feet. (NOT what the fertilizer bag says.)
- Leave legumes, like white clover, in your lawn to add nitrogen, naturally.



**REMEMBER... It is now illegal to apply phosphorus fertilizer in the village and town of Lake George.**

(And the LGA recommends that only phosphorus-free fertilizer be used anywhere in the watershed.)



## Creative Ways to Give

### The Milford D. Lester IROW Rowing Race



Milford Lester was a long-time LGA member, devoted volunteer, and steadfast advocate for lake protection. From the mid-1990s to just before his death in 2007, Milford faithfully reported for volunteer assignments each week at our LGA office.

Thanks to his second cousin Bob Tarrant, Milford is remembered through a Lake George IROW rowing race each May. (Bob has many happy memories of rowing with his "Uncle" Milford.)

**This year's Milford D. Lester Memorial Cup will take place on Saturday, May 21, starting at 9:30 am at Million Dollar Beach.** Open water shells and recreational shells are eligible, (Milford loved racing these boats), both singles and doubles. Rowers in the six-mile race leave Million Dollar Beach, travel to Diamond Island, and return, in approximately one hour. Afterwards, at an awards ceremony at the Adirondack Pub & Brewery, winners are recognized for men's singles, men's doubles, women's singles and women's doubles, and their names are engraved on the Milford D. Lester Memorial Cup. The entrance fee is \$25 for singles, and \$35 for doubles, and all proceeds benefit Lake George Association programs. You can pre-register by contacting Bob, or you can register the day of the event. And if you're not a racer, just come out and observe the fun!



### Many thanks to the Inn on the Hill



Barbara and Jephson Hilary from Inn on the Hill have developed an inventive way to educate their guests about stewardship while encouraging them to support the LGA. Donation containers with labels (pictured below) are placed prominently in each of the guest

rooms. Each room also contains information about the LGA and what we are doing to protect the beautiful lake their guests have come to enjoy, as well as tips on how visitors can be good stewards of the Lake. Guests are encouraged to support our efforts with their loose change, which is collected throughout the season and is very generously presented to the LGA each fall.

The Hilarys have also created a link to the LGA from their website that states "Learn more about Lake George, the Floating Classroom and the tireless work being done constantly behind the scenes to maintain the lake in its pristine condition."

Please call us to see how you can join Barbara and Jephson in supporting the LGA's conservation and educational programs.



## SAVE the DATE! Friday, July 15, 2011

LGA Summer Splash Gala. A benefit for the protection of Lake George at the Inn at Erlowest.

*Get ready to boogie to the New York Players Entertainment Group's City Rhythm*

*Due to the overwhelming response to this very well attended event, LGA members will be given priority for advanced ticket purchases. Additional supporter's reservations will be confirmed after June 6.*



## West Brook Environmental Park's Exciting New Partners



### Great progress on the stormwater treatment complex.

Rough grading for the stormwater treatment complex on the south parcel of West Brook continued throughout the first part of winter, and continued again in April (see picture above). It is nearly complete.

The contours of the retaining ponds and wetland areas have taken shape where Charley's Saloon once stood! Lots of snow beginning in mid-February temporarily stopped the progress, but the rough grading on the south side construction is now 95% complete. We are on schedule to begin planting on this property in the spring, along with the installation of hundreds of native plants. And by the time you receive this newsletter, we also expect that the remaining buildings on the north parcel will be demolished, including the Opera House and Cavalcade of Cars.

### Exciting new partners for the environmental park.

Meanwhile, an innovative and exciting landscape architecture firm has been selected to plan, design and develop the environmental park: ELAN Planning, Design and Landscape Architecture, PLLC. In the past we have shared conceptual plans and sectional drawings for the south parcel, depicting walkways, overlooks and pavilions. We expect that some of these concepts will be retained, but these were concepts only, not final designs. The village of Lake George is negotiating a contract with

### We still need FUNDING!

It's true that the \$15 million West Brook Project has received generous support from the federal government, the New York State Dept. of State and Dept. of Transportation, NYS Parks, and USDA Urban Reforestation and Quality Communities.

The LGA has raised over \$320,000 from individual donors. But we're not close to retiring our \$2.1 million debt on the conservation easement, and every month that goes by sees us paying interest on debt, instead of putting those same dollars toward additional lake saving initiatives.

If you can support this once-in-a-lifetime project to protect Lake George, please call Walt Lender or Nancy Cobb-Zoll at the LGA.



## West Brook, cont'd: ELAN Planning / Design / Landscape Architecture



ELAN, made possible through a federal Transportation Enhancement Program (TEP) grant, which was secured by the Lake George Association. Once the contract is signed, planning for public participation will begin.

Other partners include C.T. Male Associates, PC, (engineering), Points North Communications, (interpretation), Shadley Associates (waterfront parks landscape architecture), Hoffman Architects and NTC Consultants (permitting support).

Public participation will be key. As part of the planning process of the environmental park, ELAN will conduct a series of public outreach sessions to collect input from community groups, stakeholders, neighbors, and the general public. Here at the LGA



we hope to see elements that will not only educate, engage and entertain the park's visitors, but will motivate them to action and inspire them to keep Lake George clean and clear. Our goal is to build a state-of-the-art, environmental park that will be held up as a demonstration project nationwide.

### More about ELAN

ELAN Planning, Design and Landscape Architecture, based in Saratoga Springs, has established a strong reputation for development of parks and recreational facilities that preserve or restore lands, waters, or existing park infrastructure. They know how to engage and facilitate public opinion and ideas as part of the planning process, and this ability was a contributing factor to their selection for the West Brook project. Their experience includes visualizing park improvements, connecting a natural amenity to a community's business center, designing and upgrading trails, and creating both passive and active recreational facilities.

*(continued, next page)*

## West Brook, cont'd



The above shoreline walk and pier at Rouses Point on Lake Champlain was designed by ELAN, the Saratoga-based landscape architecture firm selected by the village of Lake George to complete the remaining design work on the West Brook Stormwater Wetlands and Environmental Park.

**PUBLIC INPUT** will begin this summer! To create the right public space at West Brook, we will need your participation. Keep an eye out for events\* like these:

**Stakeholders Meetings:** One-on-one meetings with key individuals in the community who have been involved or will be involved in the Park, including private land owners, businesses, neighborhood groups, and environmental groups.

### **Evening Community Visioning Session:**

1. WBCI will be explained; existing conditions will be reviewed;
2. ELAN will provide "food for thought" – ideas used in other successful environmental parks – and an explanation of best practices in the field.
3. Participants will be divided into small groups for a facilitated discussion. Each group will identify their desires and vision.
4. Participants will draw on maps to illustrate how they might like to see the area evolve.

**Open Design Studio:** For several days following the Community Visioning Session, the ELAN design team will work on-site, as near the WBCI property as possible, to develop initial concepts from input gathered from the community. Stakeholders and the community will be encouraged to stop in at any time to share any new thoughts and to check on the project's status.

\* ELAN, a planning and landscape architecture firm working on behalf of the village of Lake George, will facilitate this public participation process.

## Baitfish Regulations

On the behalf of our members, the LGA has submitted a comment letter to the New York State Department of Environment Conservation regarding proposed changes to the baitfish regulations.

Please submit your own comment letter as well! Comment letters are due May 23, 2011 and can be sent via U.S. mail to the attention of Shaun Keeler, NYSDEC, 625 Boadway, Albany, NY 12233, or via e-mail to: [fishregs@gw.dec.state.ny.us](mailto:fishregs@gw.dec.state.ny.us). Here are some key points:

1. The Lake George Association supports maintaining the current New York State baitfish regulations. Revising them will allow transportation corridors to become established in new areas of the state -- a very disappointing step backwards in the fight to protect New York's waters from invasive species.
2. The best defense against invasive species is identifying the pathways of invasion and instituting spread prevention programs and policies to address those pathways.
3. The current regulations address baitfish transport as a major pathway and should remain as strong and enforceable as possible.
4. Once an invasive species is established, the costs to control it far outweigh any preventative measures. Currently Lake George is estimating a cost of \$415,000 to combat a new invasive we believe has been in the Lake only two years – the Asian clam.
5. Baitfish and the waters where they are transported are well documented vectors, facilitating the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) from infected to uninfected waters.
6. In 2007, New York State (NYS) became a leader in addressing this pathway by instituting several regulations that control the use of baitfish. Since then, at least three other states, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Vermont, as well as the Canadian province of Ontario, have followed New York's example and instituted similar regulations.
7. There is wide-spread agreement that if the regulations, as they stand, are followed and properly enforced, the chance is low for VHS and other AIS to spread to waters via the baitfish pathway.

For more information, visit: [www.dec.ny.gov/press/73584.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/press/73584.html)

### NEW Flyer!

OPPORTUNITY FOR LAKE-FRIENDLY LIVING  
**Septic System Maintenance**

See our website, call us, e-mail us or stop by our office to receive your copy!

## Anglers: Felt sole waders banned

Now that trout season has begun, we'd like to remind anglers around Lake George to help prevent the spread of invasive species.

Due to their role in the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS), felt sole wading boots worn by anglers have been banned in Vermont, Maryland, New Zealand and will be in Alaska in 2012. There is no news yet as to whether New York State will ban felt sole waders as well.

According to Trout Unlimited's Dave Kumlien, there is considerable scientific evidence that felt soles move sediments and AIS. As a result, Trout Unlimited (TU) formulated a "no felts by 2011" policy, which the Lake George Association supports. According to Trout Unlimited, the felt soles are not the only part of the boot that can spread AIS. AIS could also be riding along on wader booties, boot laces or on the surfaces of wading boots. To address this possibility, TU recommends that anglers not only eliminate the use of felt soles but that they also follow the guidelines provided in Trout Unlimited's Clean Angling Pledge to inspect, clean and dry angling equipment and to avoid moving fish, fish parts, water and plants between drainages.

**So what should replace felt soles?** Vibram, Patagonia, Korkers, Chota, Orvis and others are introducing alternative soles. If you have felt soles in good condition, or you don't want to switch, you can still follow the recommendations of the Clean Angling Pledge to inspect, clean and dry your equipment. By following these guidelines, you will do your part to reduce the risk of spreading AIS.

## 2010 CSLAP Lake Quality Report

Lake George water quality data for 2010 has been released by the Citizen Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP). **The full report is now posted on the LGA website.** Summaries and detailed reports, as well as scorecards, are available for Diamond Island, Harris Bay, Basin Bay, Huletts Landing, Gull Bay and Hearts Bay.

We would like to recognize the efforts of our 2010 volunteers: Joanne and Mark Mueller, Julie and Irwin Nathanson, Roger and Susan Wilson, Cathy and Jack LaBombard, Peter Leyh, and R.T. and D.A. Gasser.

Since 2004, the Lake George Association has participated in CSLAP, which is coordinated by the New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation and the NYS Federation of Lake Associations. Throughout the summer, trained volunteers monitor the sites eight times

## CSLAP Report, cont'd

for water clarity, potability, chemicals, biological health, water quality perception and local climate change.

### A Brief Summary of the 2010 Results

Lake George continues to be characterized as oligotrophic at all sites, based on water clarity, total phosphorus readings and chlorophyll a readings (all typical of oligotrophic lakes). Algae levels are not high enough to render the lake susceptible to taste and odor compounds or elevated DBP (disinfection by product) compounds that could affect the potability of the water. With the exception of a slight decrease in pH readings at the Huletts Landing site (which is probably not ecologically significant), there has been no long-term chemical change at any of the sampling sites. Plant surveys conducted by the Darrin Freshwater Institute found a very high plant diversity, with at least forty-five plant species, including eight protected plant species and two invasive exotic plant species. The modified floristic quality index (FQI) indicates that the quality of the aquatic plant community is "excellent." Lake perception continued to be highly favorable at all sampling sites.



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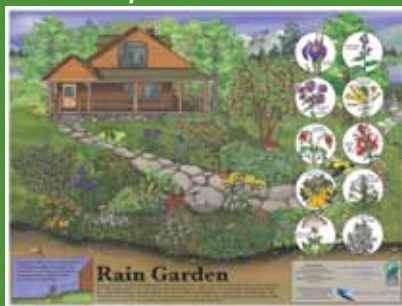
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Lake George Association, Inc. PO Box 408 Lake George, NY 12845

## Free! BEAUTIFUL Rain Garden Poster

Illustrated by Sheri Amsel

Learn how to make your own.  
Become inspired!



Stop by the LGA today to  
pick one up!

Lake George Association  
P.O. Box 408  
Lake George, NY 12845

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Do we want this to happen to Lake George? Join  
the LGA today. Help us fight the Asian clam.



Algae blooms, caused by an infestation of the Asian clam, turned parts of Lake Tahoe green in 2008. Unlike Lake Tahoe, Lake George has responded quickly to the urgency of the threat, and immediately began planning for eradication.

The eradication effort has required many hours of labor from the Lake George Association staff, as active participants on the Lake George Asian Clam Rapid Response Task Force (LGACRRTF). In addition to in-kind support, the LGA has pledged \$25,000 in cash toward eradication.

Currently, the LGACRRTF has commitments of \$340,000 toward a \$415,000 budget. Due to our current budget shortfall and the long winter, we were forced to forego the suction harvest component originally planned for this spring.

Photos courtesy of Brant Allen, UC Davis



Check out the LGA's NEW website and our  
NEW Facebook page!



We have launched a new website full of great content on the Lake George watershed, our ecosystem and the environmental programs that protect the Lake. We also invite you to find us on Facebook. Here's a sample of what you can do on the website:

- Learn about lake-friendly landscaping & septic systems
- Request a reservation on the Floating Classroom
- Learn how to become an LGA Citizen Scientist
- Plan an LGA stream monitoring field trip
- Find lesson plans and info on Lake George flora and fauna
- Read the status of lake saving projects underway
- Catch up on LGA publications, presentations and events
- Join the LGA online or make a donation, and much more!!!

**LGA's MISSION:** *Working together to protect, conserve and improve the  
beauty and quality of the Lake George Basin.*

