



Lake George Association

People Protecting the Lake Since 1885

NEWS RELEASE

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For IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lake Steward Program to Expand this Summer

Lake George, NY – May 12, 2011 – The 2011 Lake Steward Program on Lake George will significantly expand over last year's level, thanks to new funding provided by the Lake George Park Commission (LGPC).

Lake stewards, posted at several Lake George boat launches throughout the summer, 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 Commission's marine patrol is contacted whenever stewards encounter a boat being launched that has obvious signs of invasive species and is unwilling to be inspected.

Since 2008, the Lake George Association (LGA) has managed training, hiring, supervision and reporting for the Lake Steward Program.

The additional funding provided this year will provide maximum coverage for peak periods and for the launches that receive the highest traffic. The 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.

In 2010, Lake stewards were posted at four launches around Lake George: Norowal Marina, Mossy Point, Hague Town Beach and Rogers Rock. In 2011, two additional launches will be added. Days and hours of coverage will also increase; the goal is to provide seven-day-a-week coverage during the busiest times of the season. Twelve-hour-a-day coverage is the goal for Mossy Point and Norowal, while other sites will receive eight hours per day. Mossy Point and Norowal were chosen for increased coverage due to the high volume of their traffic.

"The Lake George Lake Steward Program is critical to protecting the water quality of Lake George," said Bruce Young, chair of the Lake George Park Commission. "By visually inspecting boats and trailers, and removing suspicious samples, the LGA stewards help stop the introduction and transport of invasive species between waterbodies throughout the Lake Champlain Basin and the Northeast," he said.

"While dozens of different aquatic invasive species reside nearby, only four are currently found in Lake George. We aim to keep it that way," said Emily DeBolt, LGA education director and manager of the Lake Steward Program on Lake George.

In addition to inspection, lake stewards will collect data about lake users and invasive species spread: the species found, number of boats launched, the type of boat, number of people in the boat, the last body of water the boat was in, and the presence of a LGPC decal. This information sheds light on the pathways of invasive

species, and helps to identify target areas for early detection and control. A report for the public is prepared at the end of the season.

The program is closely coordinated with similar programs. Lake George, Lake Champlain, and the Adirondack Watershed Institute collaborate on training, printed materials, and data collection as members of a regional partnership, the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP).

While Lake Stewards primarily cover boat launch sites, they also assist at special events such as the Adirondack Park Invasive Species Awareness Week, and inventory terrestrial invasive species on state-owned islands.

In 2010, Lake Stewards inspected a total of 2,538 boats, and educated boaters about the threats of Eurasian watermilfoil, zebra mussels, curly-leaf pondweed, and the Lake's most recent invader, the Asian clam. Thirty-six samples of Eurasian watermilfoil were removed during the season. Nine samples of curly-leaf pondweed were found, three samples of zebra mussels, and five of water chestnut, an invasive that is not currently found in Lake George.

The 2010 Lake Steward Program was funded by the Bolton Local Development Corporation, the town of Hague, the town of Ticonderoga, the Lake George Park Commission, the Helen V. Froehlich Foundation, and the NYS Department of State with funds provided under Title 11 of the Environmental Protection Fund. The program was originally conceived by the Invasive Species Task Force of the Lake George Watershed Coalition.

About the Lake George Association

The LGA is a member-supported nonprofit organization. Families, businesses, summer residents and donors support the LGA. Founded in 1885, the Lake George Association is the nation's oldest lake protection organization. Members and friends of the association can:

- Learn more about lake-friendly living;
- Take a trip aboard the LGA's Floating Classroom;
- Subscribe to a free e-newsletter;
- Attend educational outreach presentations;
- Become a citizen scientist or volunteer for stream clean-ups;
- Call the LGA for technical expertise and solutions for low-impact development and landscaping; and
- Learn about LGA stormwater protection projects in their neighborhoods.

The LGA is located on Rt. 9N across from I-87 South Exit 21 in Lake George. For more information the public can call 518-668-3558 or visit www.lakegeorgeassociation.org

About the Lake George Park Commission

The Lake George Park Commission, a New York State environmental, planning and public safety agency, is devoted to the preservation of Lake George and the safety of its users. The Lake George Park Commission:

- Operates a marine safety and law enforcement patrol covering all areas of the Lake;
- Administers special recreational quality regulations on vessel speed, noise, anchoring, PWC and more;
- Regulates dock, mooring and marina construction to preserve the lakeshore's best qualities and prevent congestion, overcrowding and safety hazards;
- Investigates pollution and operates a pollution hotline at 518-668-9347;
- Administers a comprehensive stormwater management program, including regulations on new development;
- Manages Eurasian watermilfoil, clearing 92% of the sites in Lake George in 2010.

For more information, contact the Park Commission at PO Box 749, Lake George, NY 12845 or www.lgpc.state.ny.us.



Photo one caption: Each spring, Lake George Association stewards receive training on how to identify and remove invasive species at the Darrin Freshwater Institute and at Paul Smiths College. Here a steward is identifying Eurasian watermilfoil. The LGA will hire and train more stewards than ever before this year, due to increased funding provided by the Lake George Park Commission.



Photo two caption: Monika LaPlante, an LGA lake steward, inspects a boat for invasive species at the Norowal Marina during the 2010 summer season. The LGA will hire and train more stewards than ever before this year, due to increased funding provided by the Lake George Park Commission.

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