



SLPID

2021 SUMMER NEWSLETTER

SLPID, PO Box 2551, Malta, NY 12020 | www.SLPID.org



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SLPID WOULD LIKE TO THANK

**Saratoga County/CCE Stormwater Management Program,
Saratoga County Soil and Water Conservation District,
Capital Region PRISM and
Cornell Cooperative Extension of Saratoga County Master Gardner**

For updating and making available the Guidebook

This Buffer guidebook is essential to lake living and will help you get started on planning and planting your shoreline.

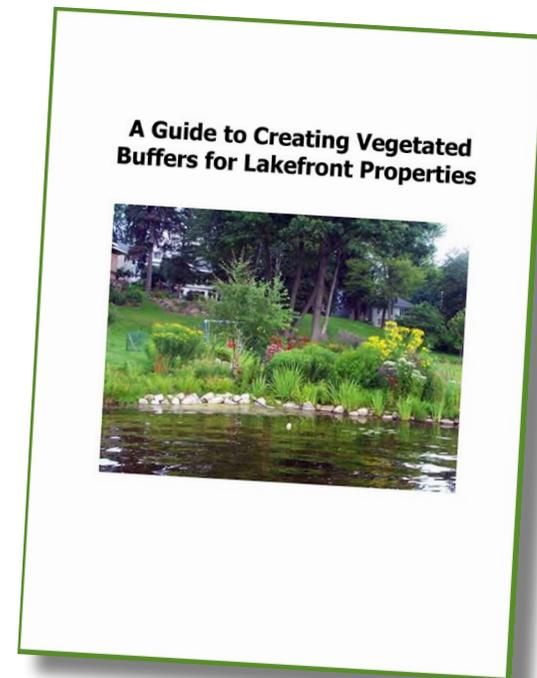
Read the book online at

<https://slpid.org/protect-and-educate/>

If you would like a hard copy of the book

email: cristina.connolly@slpid.org or call: 518-223-3252

Also Remember to [Take the Pledge](#)



Watershed Plan Update

SLPID is developing an update to the 2003 Saratoga Lake Watershed Management Plan. The 2020 plan focuses on a review of the goals, issues and recommendations that have been completed and address issues that have developed over the last 17 years. The project is utilizing a streamlined planning approach that centers on the four communities that front on Saratoga Lake. By limiting the focus, it will cover the areas of highest populations and development plus create the greatest benefit from any implemented control strategy. The plan will use the Drummond Creek-Fish Creek Sub-watershed as its project boundary.

The Plan Update will consist of the following elements:

- An updated general description of the whole watershed with existing data;
- A summary of water quality data;
- A summary of SLPID's aquatic vegetation control efforts;
- A review of zoning and environmental regulations around the lake;
- An outline of issues in the watershed and how they are being addressed;
- A set of recommendations for actions for the lake and watershed; and
- A detailed implementation strategy for recommendations.

The 2021 Saratoga Lake Watershed Management Plan Update will be completed this fall.



SLPID's Effort in Saratoga Lake for WATER CHESTNUT REMOVAL

Saratoga Lake Protection and Improvement District (SLPID) continues its yearly monitoring and control of aquatic invasive species on Saratoga Lake. For the past several years, SLPID has been working on eradicating the aquatic invasive water chestnut plant (*trappa natans*). Typically, on Saratoga Lake, SLPID initiates hand harvesting to remove this plant. On July 15, 2019, a three-acre treatment area of water chestnut was performed utilizing Clearcast herbicide near the Kayderosseros Creek outlet. The treatment was performed with an airboat equipped with a high-pressure treatment system and associated calibrated broadcast sprayer. During the application, an EZ Guide Navigation system was utilized to document the treatment tracks to ensure the even application of the respective herbicide in the treatment zone.

Hand pulling has resumed for the years 2020 and 2021 along with the additional use of machinery. During the week of July 26, 2021, SLPID contracted Northeast Aquatic Weed Harvesting, LLC. for a Weedoo machine. This small machine has a unique bucket specific for water chestnut removal to pull the heavy beds of this AIS safely. A Weedoo is an eco-friendly harvester, propellor driven that does not stir up sediment, alter the lakebed or disturb aquatic life. After the Weedoo completed its work, the SLPID Lake Stewards hand-harvested any lone or sporadic water chestnuts in the area of the Kayderosseros Creek outlet. The Lake Stewards continue to survey and pull water chestnuts found throughout the lake shores and in-between docks where any AIS is sighted.

If you are a property owner or recreational user of Saratoga Lake or any other body of water where water chestnuts are seen, it is crucial to safely pull this invasive plant, along with any fragments, or seeds and dispose of it properly to help combat the spread. If you cannot do so yourself, please give SLPID a call at 518-223-3252 to report any sightings.



SLPID values Saratoga Lake's natural resources and seeks out solutions to preserve our beautiful nature.

Help SLPID rid Saratoga Lake of this invasive species by removing the plant prior to the middle of August when the seed pods of next years crop is dropped. The seed pod is in the leaf cluster.

In 2022 SLPID will either continue to mechanically remove the water chestnuts from the Kayderosseras Creek or use herbicides to eliminate the remaining plants.



SLPID Stewards Stop the Spread and Offer Boat Washes

Saratoga Lake is a popular tourist spot for recreating, fishing, and for year-round living. It is one of the top 15 of all lakes in NYS for the number of angler days. In 1986, the NYS Legislature established the Saratoga Lake Protection and Improvement District (SLPID) as a unit of government to work with the four municipalities surrounding the lake, county, and state to help protect the lake quality, recreational use, wildlife, and property values.

With Saratoga Lake's popularity, one of the greatest threats is aquatic invasive species (AIS). These are plants and animals that are non-native to the region. AIS cause significant ecological and economic impacts on lakes.

One of the strategies the Saratoga Lake Protection and Improvement District is using to stop the threat of AIS into Saratoga Lake and preventing the AIS already here from spreading to one of the many other beautiful lakes is with the SLPID Lake Steward Program. The spread of AIS is often unintentional and caused by plants and animals hitchhiking a ride on boats, trailers, and equipment.

The NYS Boat launch at Saratoga Lake houses a decontamination unit or boat wash station. This de-con unit uses heated high and low-pressure water to remove any microorganisms not seen from the watercraft and gear. The de-con unit uses water directly from a well, using no chemicals, and captures run-off to prevent from going into the lake. Getting a wash is free of charge and is the best five minutes of a boater's time that will help offset the threat of invasive species from spreading and continuing the Class A water quality of Saratoga Lake for many years to come. Even if your next launch is returning to Saratoga Lake, it is essential to take time for a boat wash to help stop any small fragments of AIS from spreading in previously treated areas or areas that are dominated by native plants.

In 2020, at the NYS boat launch alone, there were 29,088 boaters surveyed. Of that number, there were 3,129 surveys conducted where organisms or debris were detected and prevented from entering.

While stationed at the Saratoga Lake State Boat Launch, our team of stewards are equipped with the knowledge and educational information on multiple different topics. Stewards educate the public on the different types of aquatic invasive species, Saratoga Lake's specific invasive species, how to prevent the spread, boater guides, and general safety. Along with the educational literature, SLPID's stewards provide samples of Saratoga Lake's invasives found along the shores or removed from watercraft during inspections. You will also find the SLPID lake stewards conducting inspections at South Shore Marina and Lee's campground launches.



HERBICIDE TREATMENT A SUCCESS!

SLPID and SOLitude Lake Management have completed their herbicide application on Saratoga Lake designed to target the invasive species Eurasian watermilfoil. The application of ProcellaCor was completed on June 8, 2021 and covered approximately 35 acres on the east shore of Saratoga Lake. See attached map for treatment areas.

As in the past, following the application of herbicides, harvesting is suspended in the treatment zones. Harvesting is suspended to allow non-target plant species time to recover. Herbicides may impact desirable native species to a limited extent. This can occur even though the applications are timed to be in the early part of the growing season, and the dose is controlled to have limited damage to the native non-target species. By avoiding the cutting of desirable native species (pondweeds), they will have time to recover from any minor damage that may have been caused by the herbicide. Importantly, allowing the native plant species to recover will also preserve the fish habitat. The herbicides will reduce the coverage by the non-native plants so that boating and recreation should be able to continue even without the aid of harvesting.

The post-treatment survey was conducted on July 28, 2021. The surveyed area showed the use of ProcellaCor to be successful as no Eurasian watermilfoil was found and the native species were not impacted.



Saratoga Lake TAKE THE PLEDGE



ENCOURAGE YOUR NEIGHBORS!

Like us on Facebook and send a message

The goal of **Take the Pledge** is to encourage property owners within the Saratoga Lake watershed to commit to a few sustainable actions and demonstrate that small efforts on your part have a significant reaction on the biodiversity and health of the lake.



As a property owner within the watershed, your direct and indirect actions have the most impact on algal growth, sediment run-off, bacteria, pathogens, and poisoning aquatic life and wildlife.

I PLEDGE:

TO MINIMIZE RUNOFF – Use “soft-scaping” and buffers around the lakefront and any slope or hillside that has a chance to runoff into the watershed.

Tip: Leave a buffer of grass, hedges or native flowers between the lakefront and lawn. You can reduce impermeable surfaces with natural walkways, patios and permeable or gravel driveways. Instead of concrete patios, use natural permeable materials with native plants integrated.



Saratoga Lake

TAKE THE PLEDGE

TO SAY NO TO FERTILIZERS – Most lawns naturally have adequate phosphorous for a healthy lawn and fertilizer is not needed. In accordance with NYS law, if you must use fertilizers, get a soil test done at the county Cooperative Extension office to ensure that you are only using the fertilizer that is needed.

DO NOT apply lawn fertilizer within 20 feet of any water body unless...

- There is at least a 10-foot buffer of shrubs, trees or other plants between the area you are fertilizing and the water OR
- Fertilizer can be applied no closer than 3 feet from the water using a device with a spreader guard, deflector shield or drop spreader.

Tip: Look for alternatives to fertilizers and if you do use them – never before a storm!

TO STOP THE POLLUTION – Do not throw leaves, lawn debris/clippings, or animal feces into the lake. All of these are high in phosphorous that can contribute to algal growth.

Tip: Always bag lawn debris for disposal or better yet, compost!

TO SAY NO TO PESTICIDES – As well as harmful cleaning agents and other chemicals. The bugs you see in and around the lake are also an important part of the ecosystem. Dangerous pesticides and lawn chemicals can be toxic to aquatic life and promote the growth of algae and weeds.

Tip: Avoid all chemicals; they are also bad for you and your pets' health. Wash cars and boats away from the lake.

