

# SLPID

## 2023 SPRING NEWSLETTER



SLPID, PO Box 2551, Malta, NY 12020 | [www.SLPID.org](http://www.SLPID.org)

A healthy lake and ecosystem are imperative for maintaining property values. Securing the ecological and economic benefits of maintaining a healthy lake is clear, and there are minor solutions for how property owners have a significant impact. Various studies have proven that property values on lakes with clear and clean water are significantly higher than those with biological and chemical pollution. What you and your neighbor do to protect water quality affects all those who live adjacent to water bodies. The Saratoga Lake community is intimately tied to the lake's ecosystem and arguably our most precious resource. Property owners can help prevent shoreline erosion and stormwater run-off, which in turn prevents nutrient load into the lake, increasing lake weed growth, dangerous HABs (Harmful Algal Blooms), and more.

Don't Get Caught Filling or Dredging	2
Property Assessment	3
Lake Smart Event	4
Lake Protectors Wanted	5
Stormwater Erosion	6
Native Buffer	7
Aquatic Plants	8
Alagl Bloom	10
Garden for Cleaner Water	11
Head Systems	13
Take the Pledge	14

# DON'T GET CAUGHT

## Filling or Dredging Saratoga Lake without a Permit

Saratoga Lake has a mostly sensitive shoreline with minimal natural protections such as a rocky or well forested/vegetated shoreline. There are many streams and wetlands along the shoreline which contribute significant natural resource value to the lake. These resources also have sensitive shorelines and even small disturbances can have a major impact. This condition makes it important to maintain the natural shoreline to the greatest extent possible.

### Impacts of Filling or Dredging

Adding fill or dredging material from the lake, wetlands and streams can yield significant negative impacts to fish nests and small animal and amphibian passage between the water and the shore. In addition, erosion and sedimentation can result in serious and long-lasting environmental damage.

### Permits Requirements

To make sure the shoreline is kept in its natural condition to the greatest extent possible the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation established a permit process to guide property owners who desire to add fill to their individual shorelines. The permit process contains standards that are designed to protect the natural environment, animal habitat, fisheries, and general water quality of the lake.

A federal permit may also be required from the US Army Corps of Engineers. Federal permit requirements kick in when the amount of fill requested reaches a certain threshold. The determination of whether additional permits, including a federal permit is required, occurs during the general permit process which requires the applicant to complete a Joint Application Form that is sent to both DEC and ACOE.

Please be aware that a landowner who wants to excavate or place fill in navigable waters of Saratoga Lake, including adjacent and contiguous marshes and wetlands, is required to obtain a Protection of Waters Permit from NYSDEC before any work is started. Projects will require either a minor or major permit from DEC. Generally, Minor projects have shorter review time frames and require less public review. Minor Excavation or Placement of Fill in Navigable Waters projects include:

- Fill of less than 100 cubic yards.
- Maintenance dredging occurring at least once every 10 years.
- Excavation of an area of 5,000 square feet or less.
- Installation of rip-rap of less than 100 linear feet for each parcel of land.
- Repair or replacement, in-kind and in-place, of existing structures.

### Further Information

Please check out the following website for information on submitting a permit: <https://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/6230.html>. Contact the NYSDEC Region 5 office in Warrensburg with questions about completing the application form and other required information for your application. Contact permit administrator Beth Magee at 518-623-1282 <mailto:dep.r5@dec.ny.gov>



# HELP KEEP SARATOGA LAKE CLEAN AND HEALTHY

*Learn More!*  
...with a Complimentary  
Property Analysis

All properties within the Saratoga Lake Protection and Improvement District (SLPID) are welcome to a consultation on watershed-friendly practices. The consultation is an external evaluation of your property by a SLPID consultant, to prevent stormwater runoff and property erosion. Effects on water quality from stormwater runoff and soil erosion are explained. Standard practices that prevent water quality issues are shared.

SLPID will provide recommendations to help reduce or divert the impacts of stormwater from properties.

*Such as...*



As the property owner, you would implement any recommendations yourself



Permeable Driveways



Rain Gardens



Berm/Swale Systems



Rain Barrels



Driveway Trenches

Once completed, SLPID supplies a proud lawn sign to display as a model home for your neighborhood

To sign up or have questions about this initiative or anything Saratoga Lake-related, Contact SLPID at [cconnolly@slpidny.gov](mailto:cconnolly@slpidny.gov)



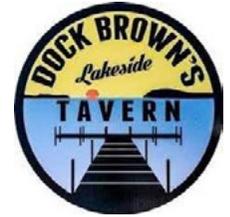
# Lake Smart

## A SLPID Community Event

**Where:**  
**Date:**  
**Time:**

**Dock Brown's Tent at Browns Beach**  
**Sunday, June 25th**  
**11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

Enjoy Dock Brown's Food Truck, meet your neighbors in the Saratoga Lake community, learn about Saratoga Lake ecology, fishing population, and tournaments, and meet your Marine patrol.



Presentations by the Saratoga Lake Protection and Improvement District, Saratoga County Sheriff Marine Patrol on specific laws to Saratoga Lake

Saratoga Tackle and Archery on Saratoga Lakes fish population, regulations, and tips for professional and amateur anglers and local fish tournaments.



Learn more about Saratoga Lake's aquatic vegetation and Lake health and how to become a SLPID Champion and Take the Pledge.

**Free raffle prizes from local businesses – must be present to win!**



**The Saratoga Lake Protection and Improvement District (SLPID) is committed to the future of Saratoga Lake and is seeking volunteers around the lake.**

# Become a **Lake Protector**

As a Lake Protector, you will learn how to identify aquatic invasive species (AIS), hand pull and dispose of AIS, identify harmful algae blooms (HAB), how to report a possible HAB and help spread the message to the lake community important messages on Clean, Drain, Dry, stormwater run-off and erosion.

**It is through all our actions of working together to invest in keeping Saratoga Lake healthy.**

For more information  
email SLPID at [cconnolly@slpidny.gov](mailto:cconnolly@slpidny.gov)  
SLPID is the governmental agency with jurisdiction over Saratoga Lake,  
protecting and improving Saratoga Lake.



# STORMWATER EROSION

When dealing with lake ecosystems, many different factors are at play that affect the lake's quality and the organisms that call it home. Some of these factors depend solely on nature. However, an increasingly negative factor on Saratoga Lake is influenced by human actions - Stormwater runoff and erosion.

As humans and property owners, we have a significant impact in shaping Saratoga Lake water quality and protecting property values by preventing instead of furthering stormwater runoff and erosion.

There are three primary sources of erosion, each of which can vary in their extent and time. Each of these categories has sub-categories consisting of methods by which erosion takes place.

- **Terrestrial Forces:** Soil slumping, soil creep, frost action, wind erosion
- **Aquatic Forces:** Splash, sheet erosion, gullyng, wave action, longshore drift, ice push
- **Human Activities:** Lake-level control, stormwater runoff, removal of natural vegetation

Terrestrial and aquatic forces occur naturally, and although we still might need to mitigate them occasionally, we can have much more control over our actions as people. We need to improve our decisions to have a better effect on the lake we enjoy so much.

In terms of what we as humans are doing to the lake that is having a negative impact, there are crucial elements to highlight. The first would be that as we implement more impervious surfaces (parking lots, driveways, sidewalks, roofs), and the more we remove soil and shorefront, the amount of stormwater runoff increases which is detrimental to the lake quality in many ways.

Since the rain can't penetrate these hard surfaces and be absorbed, it collects and then is delivered in a higher volume over a more concentrated soil area washing into the lake. This causes more of the earth to erode and more stormwater to run off into the lake. Stormwater runoff into the lake is not pretty, lowers property values, and affects wildlife and human health.

A major negative impact seen along Saratoga Lake's shoreline is the removal of the natural vegetation along and near the shoreline.



Natural vegetative buffers along the shoreline are more aesthetically pleasing and should be utilized to prevent stormwater runoff and deter geese and other waterfowl from entering your property. Natural vegetative buffers along the shoreline create a longer root system, unlike turf and lawn grass. These root systems are critical for keeping soil in place as they reach deep into the soil. With grass, the soil is more likely to get washed away into the lake.

Many adverse effects come from our influence on the soil; removing trees, and grading steep slopes, stairways, and paths to the lake all create stormwater runoff and lead to excess nutrients in the lake, negatively affecting the water quality.

Phosphorus and other nutrients naturally build up on land, and the increased runoff and erosion can deposit them in the lake in high amounts. This can lead to harmful algal blooms (HABS), which could lead to serious illness. Erosion also increases water turbidity (cloudiness), reducing habitat for fish and wildlife through sedimentation of particles covering plant material. Economically, property values on lakes with clear water are higher than on lakes with cloudy water.

There are simple, effective actions we should all implement to help protect our lake quality. Vegetative buffers, rain gardens, and leaving natural vegetation on the shoreline utilizes deep-root native plants, which are more aesthetically pleasing on a lakefront than bare grass and concrete walls.

Please use this Vegetative buffer as a guide [A-Guide-to-Creating-Vegetated-Buffers-for-Lakefront.pdf \(slpidny.gov\)](#) For more information and to participate in a SLPID property assessment, call SLPID at 518-223-3252.



# PREVENT POLLUTION WITH A NATIVE BUFFER

## How it works...

Shorefront buffers are areas of vegetation situated between developed environments and the water. These buffers consist of native trees, shrubs, and other vegetation that help prevent erosion, trap pollutants, sediment, and stabilize the shoreline. A good buffer will reduce the effects of pollution runoff, protect the quality of the lake, and improve property values.

## GROWING YOUR OWN BUFFER

### Landowners Benefits:

- Provides an aesthetic appeal to the property.
- Deters geese and waterfowl from entering your property.
- Stops property erosion along the shoreline.
- Prevents harmful stormwater runoff from reaching the lake.
- Improves property values by stabilizing the shoreline and preventing erosion.
- Prevents harmful and unwanted sediment from entering the shoreline environment fostering more aquatic plant growth.
- Buffer boat noise and improve privacy.
- Shield from wind and sun.
- Buffers are attractive, low-maintenance, and low-cost.
- Buffer installation does not require heavy equipment.

### Things to consider when planning your new buffer:

- Location of buildings
- Soil types and habitat conditions
- Degree of slope
- Exposure to the sun
- Traffic pattern of your yard
- Pathways to the shore
- Your budget

### Natural vs. Landscaped?

- Natural buffers are low-budget but take time to grow
- Landscaped buffers are created quickly but are costly
- A combined approach is best

### Ideal native plants:

- Speckled Alder
- Dogwood
- Black chokeberry
- Elderberry
- Tussock sedge
- Soft rush
- Boneset
- Native Iris

### Plants to avoid:

- Purple loosestrife
- Non-native honeysuckle
- Japanese barberry
- Buckthorn
- Oriental bittersweet
- Japanese knotweed
- Multi-flora rose

**A shoreline buffer with trees, shrubs, and perennial plants  
Even a strip of vegetation provides shorefront benefits.  
A shoreline with no natural buffer is not friendly lake living.**

Call or email SLPID at 518-223-3252 [cconnolly@slpidny.gov](mailto:cconnolly@slpidny.gov)  
For a complimentary property assessment on the many ways you,  
as a property owner, can protect the lake quality and property values.



# EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT AQUATIC PLANTS



## Benefits of Native Species and How Invasive Species Threaten Biodiversity

During SLPID Lake Steward boat inspections, we often hear people use the word “seaweed” to describe the various aquatic plants we find on their vessels. This term doesn’t do justice to the multitude of aquatic plants that thrive underwater and their importance to water bodies. The diversity of aquatic life is outstanding; each type of aquatic plant is essential to the function of the lake ecosystem, from providing habitat for other aquatic life to improving water quality. A lake’s vitality depends on the health of its aquatic vegetation ecosystem.

The most important contribution of native aquatic plants is to wildlife habitat. From the bottom of the food web, tiny plankton and invertebrates depend on vegetation for food and cover. The species of invertebrate and their abundance depends on the type and quantity of aquatic vegetation. Small fish, amphibians, and turtles feed on these organisms. They also use the vegetation for cover from larger predatory fish, such as large and smallmouth bass, chain pickerel, and northern pike. The density of vegetation impacts the hunting efficiency of predatory fish, as more diverse vegetation means better cover. Predatory birds, such as ospreys and bald eagles, rely on fish for food, and the vegetation type impacts their success. The vegetation type has bottom-up effects on the rest of the lake food web and can influence fish productivity.

Native plants are essential in maintaining water quality. Nutrients from stormwater runoff enter the lake from the landscape and can lead to nuisance algal blooms. Native plants and the biological community that lives on the plants absorb these nutrients for growth and will act to prevent harmful blooms. Plants also filter out other pollutants from water bodies. By introducing invasive species to lakes, we are altering the vital process.

Unfortunately, the health of these vital ecosystems is under attack. Invasive plant species rapidly spread between water bodies while diminishing native plant communities. These invasive plants alter the habitat and, ultimately, the ecosystem function of a lake.



## A Glance at Life Below the Surface

A great diversity of life can be found in any given area in a lake. The balance of these species is highly dependent on the aquatic plant species present in the lake. By protecting native plants, we also protect the other life that depends on them.



# The State of Saratoga Lake Invasive Species Management

Saratoga Lake has a moderate level of plant nutrients in shallow water areas where sunlight penetrates the underlying lake bottom. The lake is 4006 acres, and the area supporting plant growth is approximately 1000 acres. It should be everyone's expectation that there will be aquatic plants or lake weeds at their docks, supporting a healthy lake environment.

The first recorded plant survey occurred in 1932 when coontail, elodea, water celery, and native pond weeds were found in the lake. This study also found non-native invasive curly-leaf pond weeds. In 1969 another plant survey was completed that also found the same plants. The 1969 survey noted that elodea and wild celery were at nuisance densities. Sometime after 1969, most likely by the mid-1970s, Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) arrived at the lake and quickly became established as the dominant plant.

## “BOATERS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS ALIKE CAN PLAY A LARGE PART TO PRESERVE BIODIVERSITY.”

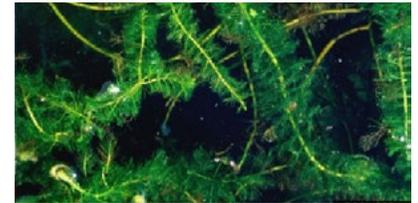
Saratoga County Sewer District One was built in 1978 and eliminated wastewater discharges from Ballston Spa, Saratoga Springs, and along the lake shore. Removing wastewater discharges improved water clarity allowing plants to thrive.

In 1982 a comprehensive diagnostic feasibility study to determine options for lake reclamation was completed, including control of EWM. The number of aquatic plant species found was lower than in the prior studies. The changes in the lake can be demonstrated by reviewing the difference in the number of pond weed species discovered in 1932, 1969, and 1982. In 1932 and 1969, there were seven or eight native pond weeds and non-native curly-leaf pond weed. In 1982 three native pond weeds were found along with curly leaf pond weed.

In 1986 Saratoga Lake Protection and Improvement District (SLPID) were established to carry out the recommended work described in the 1982 diagnostic feasibility study. To control the growth of EWM, both the drawdown of the lake and harvesting to improve access to the open water were recommended.

In 1994 SLPID retained the RPI Freshwater Institute to complete a new plant survey. This survey found that the number of pondweed species had recovered to seven native species and the non-native curly leaf pondweed species. This work was repeated in 2004 and annually since 2007. EWM was the dominant plant.

In 2007, 2008, and 2009, there was a comprehensive treatment plan using systemic herbicides to control EWM in the lake. In 2020 and 2022, the herbicide ProcellaCor was successfully used in Saratoga Lake for EWM. Today, less than 8% of weeds in the lake are EWM. This decrease in EWM and the corresponding increase in the density and biomass of coontail and native pondweeds is what you see in the lake now, showing the health of the Saratoga Lakes ecosystem with an abundance of native aquatic plants.



The need to preserve native aquatic species in New York state has led to the management and control of invasive species plants, which SLPID is an active participant in. Boat stewards all across New York State are actively working to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species to help preserve the quality of lake ecosystems. Boaters and community members alike can play a large part in preserving this biodiversity.

Please **CLEAN, DRAIN, and DRY** all watercraft and equipment before entering any waterbody. The Lake Steward program is based at the New York State Boat Launch at Saratoga Lake. There is a decontamination station for boats and equipment to be cleaned before entering and leaving Saratoga Lake and information to help educate boaters on the importance of aquatic invasive species spread prevention. SLPID encourages all boaters, even resident boats, to visit the decontamination station at the NY State Launch for a boat wash when launching and removing your boat. When visiting other lakes, this is encouraged to help stop the spread of resident aquatic invasive species to other lakes.

Also, resident boats should always be cleaned before re-entering the lake to prevent established invasives from spreading to different areas of the lake and new invasives from entering Saratoga Lake.



# ALGAL BLOOMS

## What Is It?

Most Algal Bloom's are harmless and an important part of the ecosystem. However, some can produce toxins and can be harmful to humans and animals; these are HABs or harmful algal blooms. For most people, it is hard to tell the difference between algal blooms, and it is best to avoid all of them.



## What does it look like?

Algal blooms have the appearance of spilled paint in the water. Normally the color is a green-blue but can also be yellowish-brown or red.

## Where Does It Occur, and When?

Blooms occur on the surface of a water body with the right conditions – calm water, warm weather, and sluggish or no water circulation.

## Why Does it Occur?

Algal blooms flourish when favorable conditions present themselves. When the wind is slow and the water temperature is up, blooms can blow up overnight. Furthermore, an excess amount of nutrients in the water causes algae to reproduce rapidly and consume all resources in the surrounding area. Some nutrients are naturally occurring, and others happen from human interaction and changing of the land around the water body.

## Dangers of the Blooms

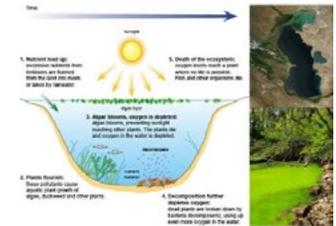
Harmful algal blooms release neurotoxins. These toxins can be dangerous to people, mammals, pets, fish, shellfish, and birds. For many smaller organisms, neurotoxins are fatal, but for people, it may cause vomiting, nausea, diarrhea, skin/eye/ throat irritation, and allergic reactions that the toxins may trigger.

## Facts and Myths

**Myth:** All algal blooms are toxic. **Fact:** Less than 1% of all blooms are considered harmful.

**Myth:** Seeing a bloom is never a good thing.

**Fact:** Blooms aren't always a bad sign. It expresses the healthiness of the environment in the water and even on the land. They even give back to the ecosystem by increasing the food supply.



## Impacts

Algal blooms have a wide effect on several parts of an ecosystem. It clogs fish gills, smothers vegetation, removes all oxygen in the surrounding area, and can potentially contaminate drinking water. It may be deadly to smaller animals and pets and could cause sickness in people. This also impacts any homeowners living near the water body that swim boat. The water is deemed dangerous to swim in or even be in contact with while a bloom is occurring.



## What can be Done to Help?

Blooms naturally come and go, so not much can be done to remove them. Anyone who sees a bloom should report it to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) website and to SLPID 518-223-3252. Homeowners within the SLPID District can stop fertilizing lawns, spraying chemicals near the lake, and creating vegetative buffers and rain gardens to prevent stormwater runoff into the lake. Runoff into the water creates excess nutrients, causing the bloom. If you come into contact with a bloom, rinse the affected area off immediately and seek medical attention if symptoms begin to show.

Sources: New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; dec.ny.gov, National Ocean Service; oceanservice.noaa.gov, Science Daily; sciencedaily.com

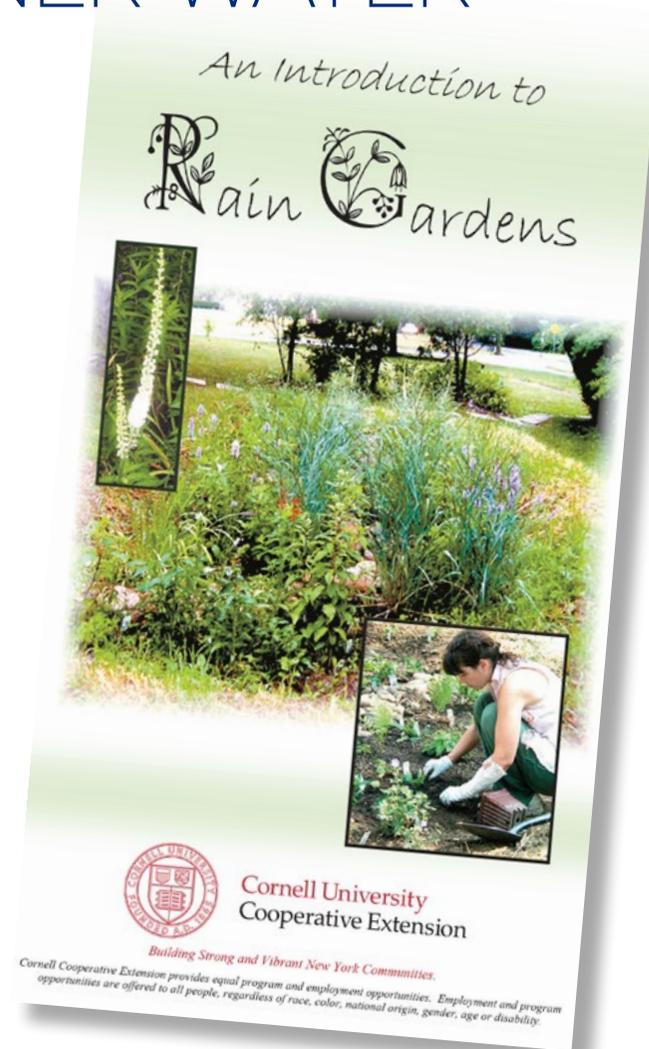


# GARDEN FOR CLEANER WATER

One of the largest sources of stormwater run-off is from our everyday activities as property owners. Fortunately, there are easy steps we can take. Rain gardens are easy and fun way to contribute.

## What is a Rain Garden?

Rain gardens are where form meets function and the gutter meets the ground. Simply put, rain gardens are gardens that are specifically designed to soak up rain water, mainly from roofs, but also from driveways and patios. Rain gardens look like regular flower gardens but they are more. When it rains, a rain garden fills with a few inches of water and allows the water to slowly filter into the ground rather than running off to the storm drains. Compared to a patch of lawn, a rain



# Garden for Cleaner Water

**What is stormwater runoff?**  
Stormwater runoff is the water that runs over and off the land during a rainstorm or snowmelt, rather than soaking in.



## What's the problem?

As stormwater runs over streets, parking lots, and lawns it can pick up and carry many kinds of materials that get washed into nearby streams and lakes. This leads to stormwater pollution!



**Where do these pollutants come from?**  
Stormwater picks up contaminants that come from all of us-

- Fertilizers
- Pesticides
- Bacteria from pet waste
- Eroded soil
- Road salt
- Grass clippings
- Litter

*Just to name a few!*

**Rain gardens capture and filter stormwater**



**R**ain gardens are a beautiful and beneficial addition to any landscape. By capturing rain water, they help to reduce stormwater pollution and protect local streams, lakes, and rivers.



**BEFORE:**  
*Rainwater diverted off the roof flows into the yard.*

### Plant a Rain Garden of Your Own!

- Add beauty & interest to your yard.
- Contribute to cleaner water.
- Increase groundwater recharge.
- Provide habitat for butterflies & wildlife.



**AFTER:**  
*The gutter directs rain from the roof into a beautiful rain garden, which holds the water as it soaks into the ground. This rain garden is located at the Zen Center of Syracuse and helps to prevent stormwater from entering Onondaga Creek & Onondaga Lake.*

The rain garden above is a demonstration project created by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County. Funding was provided by an Onondaga Lake Partnership "Mini-Grant" through EPA Region II, & USDA Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service Regional Water Quality Project, Region 2. This brochure was produced by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Onondaga County and has been re-printed with permission.

For more information about rain gardens, or how to design and construct one for your own yard, contact:

**SARATOGA COUNTY  
CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION  
INTERMUNICIPAL STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

50 West High Street, Ballston Spa NY 12020

Phone: (518) 885-8995

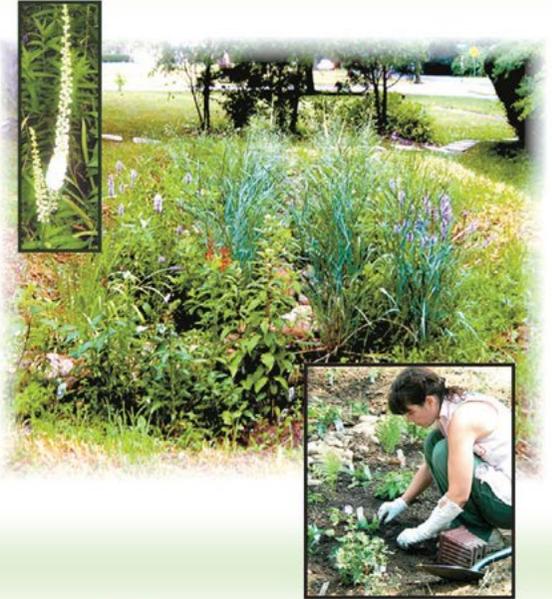
Email: brn5@cornell.edu

Web: [www.saratogastormwater.org](http://www.saratogastormwater.org)



An Introduction to

# Rain Gardens



**Cornell University  
Cooperative Extension**

*Building Strong and Vibrant New York Communities.*

Cornell Cooperative Extension provides equal program and employment opportunities. Employment and program opportunities are offered to all people, regardless of race, color, national origin, gender, age or disability.



# ATTENTION ALL BOATERS WITH HEAD SYSTEMS

The dumping of waste material is not only morally reprehensible but also **ILLEGAL!** If caught dumping waste into Saratoga Lake, you will be served a heavy fine. Likewise, if you see anyone visibly dumping his or her waste into the lake, please notify the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, the Saratoga County Sheriff's Department, the NYS Park Police, and NYS Environmental Conservation (ENCON). These are the main law enforcement groups patrolling Saratoga Lake. They are the first line of patrol enforcing environmental and safety regulations across the water body and have the full capability to charge anyone with a citation or arrest if they are seen breaking any law.

To get your head system cleaned, contact Point Breeze Marina, located at 1459 Rt. 9P, as you will need their assistance in completing the task. A token must be obtained to run the machine, which costs \$10.00. After backing the boat in, a nozzle is attached directly to the boat, suctioning out your system and discharging the wastewater to the Saratoga County sewer system. It is generally a quick and easy process, although it is advised that people looking for this service should come during downtime, during the week, as the marina can get very busy on the weekends.



# 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.

