

PECK'S LAKE

PROTECTIVE

ASSOCIATION

Inside this issue:

Legal Update	3
SummerFest 2023	4
Holiday Party	8
Invasive Species	7
A Bit of History	5
Winter Wonderland Photos	6
Can & Bottle Drive	9
Strategic Planning Committee	4

The deadline for the Spring edition of the PLPA Newsletter is Thursday, April 27.



PLPA Newsletter

President's Message: Jim McCulley

On January 30, the PLPA Board held the first meeting of the year. The January board meeting generally sets the tone and agenda for the coming year, and this year promises to be a busy one.

The board approved the budget for the upcoming year. Membership is down slightly from the previous year. Membership dues are a large chunk of our budget, so encouraging those who haven't yet joined, those who have recently built a home or bought property, or perhaps let their memberships lapse, will be a top priority. If you haven't renewed your membership, or let it lapse, or maybe know one of your friends or neighbors at the lake who have not joined, please encourage them to do so.

One of our projects has been to update the PLPA bylaws, which needed modernization. The board voted unanimously to make several changes to the bylaws, including updating language and increasing insurance policies to protect the board and the many PLPA sponsored events. Clif Wassel, the august Chair of the Lake Committee updated the board on the final fish stocking of 2022 as well as the calendar for the buoy repairs and container drives. The PLPA, along with the Peck's, maintain the buoy and marker system at the lake. This system is essential to keeping the lake safe for boating. The container drives are a major source of income for the PLPA – and fund a significant portion of the fish stocking expenses, so please make sure you save those empties! As Clif always says, "the fish thank you." Maintaining the buoy system and the container drives relies on volunteers – so if you can, please help! It's a great way to meet people at the lake and (usually) have a few laughs!

John Dackow gave the Strategic Committee report. You can read more about that in John's

article on page five of the newsletter. John has also agreed to chair the new, Long Term Planning Committee, to start thinking about PLPA's role in the long-term future of the lake.

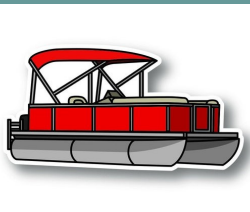
As we continue to work out the PLPA calendar for 2023 we will keep the membership apprised. We still don't have firm dates for PLPA events including fireworks, the Caroga Lake Music Festival here at the lake, hikes, the Ice Cream Social, Fishing Derby and the Holiday Party. But we'll get those dates to you when we have them.

The board created an Invasive Species Committee at our October board meeting and at our January meeting we appointed Donna Coffey as chairperson of that committee. You can read more about the Invasive Species Committee on page seven.

A few shoutouts...the PLPA relies totally on volunteers. I'd like to thank all the board members for giving their time and effort on behalf of all of us at the lake. Special thanks go to our secretary Sue Phillips, who takes the notes for the minutes (so actually must pay attention during board meetings) and handles the PLPA emails. Sue is also my go-to editor and reality checker. Patty Herrick, the treasurer, deftly handles the PLPA's books and, among other things, is in charge of the newsletter and helps keep things running smoothly. And to our new Vice President, Beth Flynn, who always is one to say "I'll do it!" I would be remiss to not thank Kathleen Perrott, our immediate past President. Kathleen, I'm sure, spent many more hours than she ever thought she would be shepherding the PLPA through the past tumultuous year. Thanks Kathleen!

Looking forward to a great 2023. See you all at the lake!

Considering a new boat this year? To see limits and regulations on boat and motor size go to: www.plpa.org click on “Lake Information” then “Watercraft Guidelines”



Snowmobiler Loses Life in Tragic Accident

By Jim McCulley and the Peck Family

Many of you have likely heard that a local snowmobiler tragically lost his life while snowmobiling on the lake in late January. This is from Geoff Peck, who worked on the ice with the recovery team:

“Three riders entered the ice at the end of Fetrow Road sometime after 8:00pm, intending to ride the Lake west enroute to the Hohler Road. About 200 yards from the entry point the lead rider spotted open water, swerved left to avoid it and called out “open water” on his helmet radio. Rider two had a helmet radio and attempted to avoid the water but was unable to do so and became submerged. Rider three had no radio and therefore no warning and drove directly into open water. Rider one used a tow strap to successfully pull rider two from the water. Rider three could not be reached and succumbed to the cold water. Riders one and two left the scene on the remaining snowmobile to seek help.”

Emergency crews, including ENCON Police, State Police, local volunteer fire companies, and the Fulton County Sheriff’s Office responded to the scene in a recovery effort. The Saratoga County dive team arrived later and was able to locate and recover the body. Subsequently, a privately contracted diver was able to locate and remove one of the sleds. In order to avoid risky under-the-ice diving operations a joint decision was made to leave the second sled in the lake until the spring thaw.

No one knows why there was an open area of water on the lake that night. Certainly, a warmer than usual winter so far might have been a factor, but other natural causes, such as a warm spring underneath can’t be ruled out. At the time, Sheriff Giardino told reporters that the ice on many Adirondack lakes is “compromised,” and potentially unsafe. Part of Giardino’s statement was, “We’re asking, so this doesn’t happen to someone else’s family and friends, to stay off the lakes.” Local snowmobile clubs, including the Southern Adirondack Snowmobile Club, have also been warning snowmobilers to stay off of all Adirondack lakes.

All warnings aside – it is the responsibility of everyone who ventures forth on any frozen body of water to carefully assess conditions and weigh the risks.

Ride Safe and Legal!

- Always wear an approved helmet and safety gear while riding.
- Ensure your snowmobile is properly registered in the state.
- Ride at a safe speed. Reduce speed at night or in reduced visibility
- Obtain the landowner’s permission before riding on private lands,
- Never ride while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

www.snowmobilecourse.com/usa/newyork/snowmobile

An Update on Legal Matters

We are finally able to update the PLPA membership on the status of the lawsuit brought by the owners of 298 North Shore against the PLPA and Peck Family.

To bring everyone up to speed, in January 2022, the new owners of 298 North Shore (the plaintiffs) filed a lawsuit against the Pecks, PLPA, and others regarding the interpretation of two of the restrictive covenants contained in our deeds and claims of interference with their short-term rental operations.

The plaintiffs have been using the property as a short-term vacation rental, advertising it on VRBO and other websites. They asked the court to rule that the prohibition against commercial/business use of properties does not include short-term rentals and they are permitted to grant lake access (for example, at Sunrise Bay) to their guests – the same privileges and access a homeowner or lot owner has.

In response, our attorneys filed a motion in late May 2022, asking the Court to rule that the deed restrictions prohibiting commercial/business use includes short-term rentals and that property owners may not “rent” their deeded access to the lake to their customers (the general public).

Due to the death of one of the plaintiffs, the Court held off on any further action in the case until someone could be appointed to represent the interests of the deceased's estate. As that appointment has now been made, the Court has ordered the plaintiffs to respond to our motion by February 23. The Court has scheduled oral arguments for March 6, 2023.

We hope to have a decision before the beginning of the summer rental season.



Winter at the Vly ~ Val Nicotino

SummerFest 2023

Thinking about summer at the lake? It's really not so far away! The Summerfest Committee is up and running and thinking about the possibilities for Summer 2023. We hope to have a Welcome Back to the Lake cocktail party Memorial Day weekend by the marina again this year to kick the season off, and boat parties once or twice during the summer in July and August. And while we do not have a confirmed date for Summerfest yet, we are deep in planning events! Rest assured, the cornhole tournament will return. There were a lot of competitive sand bag tossers last

year. Keep practicing your hand/eye coordination because there will be some serious games played with prizes and trophies! We will again be selling tee shirts and have some kind of lunch that weekend as well. Ideas are being tossed around for music - but there is nothing definite yet. We will update you in our next newsletter. Thought and ideas are welcome.



Summer Fest Kayak Race 2022

Strategic Planning Committee Update

The January meeting of the SC focused on our continuing pursuit of what we believe the lake and surrounding area might look like in the next 5-10 years, physically, as well as ownership and management. Along this line, we have decided this topic is of such significance, that it warrants its own separate committee, to deal in just this topic. As such, a proposal was made and accepted to the PLPA board in their January meeting to establish a Long Term Planning Committee (LTPC) to focus solely on this topic. This committee will report directly to the board, on its finding suggestions and direction. It will allow the SC to be able to continue to have a broader focus on multiple issues that arise. The composition of this group, as of now will consist of John Dackow as chairperson, Joanmarie Dowling, Jed Conboy, Steve Soucar, and Melissa Bakar. Other individuals will be

added as deemed appropriate. The LTPC will meet at least quarterly, and report to the PLPA board accordingly.

In other news, the SC welcomes its newest member, confirmed at the PLPA January mtg. She is South Shore resident, Rosemarie Perez Jaquith.

~ John Dackow



A mild winter—South Shore stream— Bob Wilson

A Bit of History from John Peck: What's in a Name?

One of the questions frequently asked is what is the “real” name of Peck’s Lake. Choices are: Peck’s Lake, Pecks Lake, or Peck Lake. There is no quick answer, without one of my long-winded history lessons. So here goes!

In 1845 John Peck (1818-1882), my G-G-Grandfather, bought 200 acres of land from prominent Johnstown citizen, Judge Daniel Cady that included a sawmill site and millpond. Old John proceeded to purchase other tracts in the area, and soon his pond became known as Peck’s Pond.

During John’s lifetime he bought much more land to include all the property surrounding the pond, built and operated two sawmills and two tanneries, and expanded his businesses. The area encompassing his businesses and Peck’s Pond became known as “Peckville”. Old John died in 1882, and all his land holdings, including the mill and pond, passed on to his son Albert Taylor Peck.

Albert continued to expand the sawmill business and also recognized the potential of tourism. He named his camping grounds for fishermen and hunters “Peck’s Park”, which included “Peck’s Pond”. Names always included the possessive form with the apostrophe.

Albert died in 1910 and being childless his property passed to nephews Arthur Wellington and John Francis. At about the same time the dam was built, and the much-expanded body of water gradually began to be called Peck’s Lake. Wellington and John ran the resort business (tanneries and mills were gone by then) as partners until John left the partnership in the 1920’s. My Grandpa Wellington (known to us kids as “Pa”) continued ownership of Peck’s Park and Peck’s Lake until his death in 1948. Notice, the apostrophes continued. The lake was, after all, his possession. The next owners, my dad Albert II and my Uncle Charles continued ownership until passing the baton to my generation when they passed away in the 1980’s. All along the official name of the lake remained “Peck’s Lake”. Deeds and other formal documents retain this form, including the charter of our property owners’ organization, the Peck’s Lake Protective Association”.

Here’s where Government gets involved. There is an official government agency called the “US Board on Geographic Names”. In the past few decades this agency has “strongly discouraged” the use of possessive form in the naming of geographic entities. Taking their lead from this, state governments have followed suit, renaming roads, villages, and yes, bodies of water to eliminate the dreaded apostrophes.

Most members of my family (me included) fiercely insist that the name of “our” lake should continue to be as it was originally intended and maintained for well over 100 years. To us, the possessive form recognizes and honors the work of all our ancestors who acquired, nurtured, and stewarded this place we call home. We feel that the name of this place is part of history, and we resist attempts to change that.



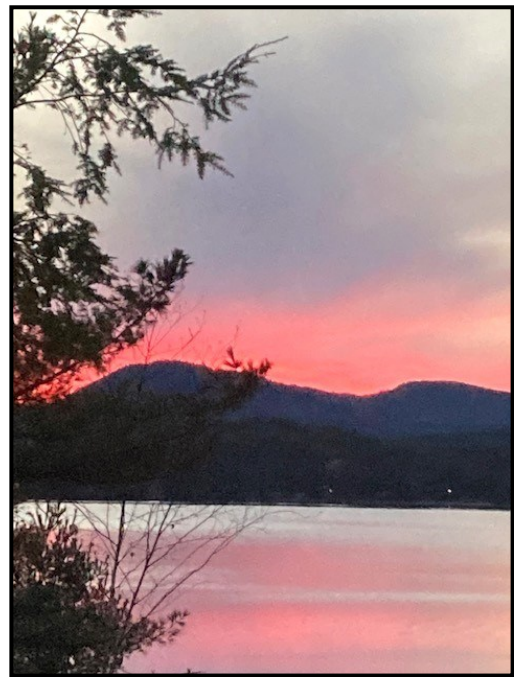
Our Winter Wonderland!



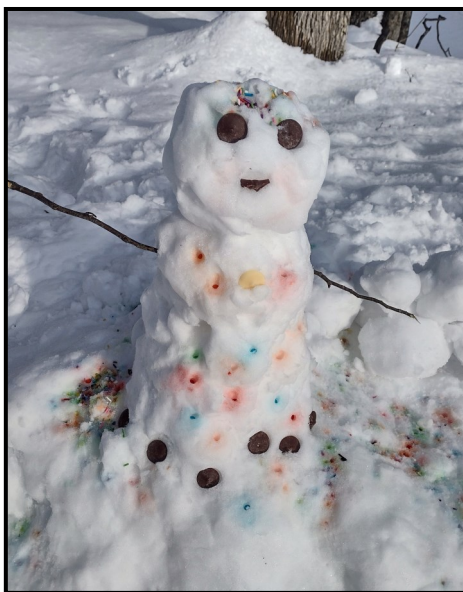
Photo Credits:
Paul Curran



Bob Wilson



Beautiful year round! - Paul Curran



What goes better than candy and snow?!
~ The Schnell Family



PLPA Creates New Committee to Study Impact of Invasive Species

At the January Board meeting the PLPA Board unanimously approved the creation of a new committee to research the problem of invasive species, and investigate what we can do to prevent further infestation at the lake. The committee will also be researching available remediation options to remove or reduce invasive species that have already been identified. Donna Coffey has graciously agreed to chair the committee. The following is Donna's first report:

Our first meeting of the Invasive Species Committee will be held on February 28. Several members have been re-researching the issue of aquatic invasive species that we have discovered in the lake. Our goal is to identify and eliminate species that have already entered the lake. In addition we want to make sure that no additional aquatic invasive species enter the lake.

We have invited Brian Greene from the Nature Conservancy to come to the lake this summer to take a look at the lake and verify which invasive species are currently present. Brian is the aquatic invasive species coordinator for the Adirondack Park. He has strongly encouraged our committee to create an adaptive management plan for the invasive species which he will help us develop.

The committee would like recruit volunteers to survey the lake this summer for invasive species. We are going to receive more information on the training that we need to monitor the lake from Brian Greene in the coming months. There is also a lake management tracker program that the committee will be involved in that will monitor and quantify results of our surveys. This is all new for all of us and we would love other residents to be trained as well.

We realize that our work has just begun but, because we all love our lake, we are looking forward to finding solutions to these issues. Stay tuned for more info.



WOW! Looking right at Cindy Forman as she took this pic!

Holiday Party 2022.... and a good time was had by all!

On December 3, we gathered at the Nick Stoner Inn for our Holiday Party. Having been an annual tradition for many years, this was the first gathering since Covid-19. The upper room at Nick Stoner was decorated beautifully, the staff was amazing and the food was wonderful! Thanks to all those who attended and if you couldn't make it this year, we hope to see you there in December 2023!



Visit us online:
plpa.org



First Bottle Drive 2023: April 24

In 2022, the PLPA held five can/bottle drives that raised a total of \$2043!

Funds raised through the bottle drives go directly to stocking fish and maintaining the lake.

We will hold six drives in 2023 with the first collection happening on April 24. Let's start saving our plastic, glass and aluminum containers. Only items that can be redeemed in NYS for a five cent deposit should be donated.

If you're available to help collect or sort, please contact Clif Wassel.



Peck's Lake Protective
Association, Inc.
1 North Shore Road
Gloversville, NY 12078

Deliver To:
