

PECK'S LAKE

PROTECTIVE

ASSOCIATION

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PLPA Newsletter

President's Message: Jim McCulley

The leaves, the boats and the docks are gone – along with many of our PLPA members -- and so is another summer here at the lake. I hope that the rainy weather didn't put too much of a damper on your summer!

As I begin my second year as the PLPA President, the time has come to start thinking and planning for what life at the lake will look like in the coming years, and the role the PLPA will play in that future. It's not just the seasons that are changing here at the lake. There's a changing of the Peck family guard – as the older generation is making way for the new -- and with it changes for how things are done and by whom. The same is happening in the PLPA family – as members we have long relied on are beginning to transition to lesser roles.

The closing of the marina, the Peck's no longer servicing, winterizing and storing boats, the outsourcing of dock removal and installation, are all examples of the Peck family's shifting their role at the lake. Recognizing that change is the one constant in life, the PLPA created a "Long Term Planning" committee to begin thinking about how these, and other, changes will impact life at the lake, and the role that the PLPA plays in making these transitions as smooth as we can.

For example, the Peck family has outsourced

the spring installation and fall removal of our docks to a private contractor. Removal and billing is now being handled by Tim Alteri of Alteri Landscaping. It's a difficult job and requires a team of workers and heavy equipment to safely place the docks offshore for the winter.

You might wonder "is this a PLPA issue?" The answer, yes. Let me explain. If we want the docks installed and removed, most of us need someone to do it for us. To do that, Tim needs a way to contact us, to bill us, and to get paid. The PLPA doesn't share your contact information with anyone, so if you haven't reached out to Tim already, please email him at alterilandscaping@gmail.com. His contact information is also up on the PLPA.org website. Tim's had problems getting paid in the past, and if it's not worth his while, we're going to lose him. That will be a problem for all of us.

Other long-term concerns are the future of the dams on the east and west ends of the lake, as well as the threat that invasive species pose to lake life. Most, if not all of us, know that the lake is bounded on the East and West by dams that are operated and maintained by Brookfield Energy, not the Peck's. Without the dams, there is no Peck's Lake. We are happy to report that Brookfield plans to maintain the dams decades into the

"The PLPA doesn't share your contact information with anyone.."

**Do you have a
contribution for
the next news-
letter? Email
the editor,
Patty Herrick at
pah868@gmail**



**December 9
5:30 pm
Holiday Party
Lake Pleasant
Inn**

President's Message, continued

future. You can read an update about the dams in the "News" section of our website at plpa.org.

Invasive species are a growing, literally, problem for almost every Adirondack lake – and Peck's Lake is no exception. You can read Invasive Species Committee Chair Donna Coffey's update elsewhere in this newsletter.

As for the here and now, the question I am asked most frequently is "what's happening with the lawsuit?" Short answer. Not much. The trial judge heard arguments in March 2023, and we are still awaiting a decision almost eight months later. There's nothing we can do but wait – the wheels of justice do sometimes turn slowly – we just hadn't expected them to turn this slowly. We're hopeful that there will be a decision before next year's rental season -- and that it will be in our favor.

Besides planning for the future, we've been busy doing the everyday things the PLPA does. We recently removed, cleaned and stored the buoy and hazard markers – thanks to all the volunteers and the Peck's. Just a reminder, this is a joint effort of the PLPA and the Peck's. We provide most of the person-power, they provide the boats and the winter homes for they buoys. Since the last newsletter we've also had several very successful container drives thanks to Clif Wassel, a contingent of volunteers, and, of course, to thirsty Peck Lakers – as Clif would say, "the fish thank you."

At the annual meeting in September, we had to say goodbye to two retiring Board members and thank them for their many years of service to the PLPA. Both Lorraine Carlson and immediate Past President Kathleen Perrott decided not to seek re-election to the Board. While they will be missed, I know they will continue to be active in the greater community and here at the lake. Both are involved with the Caroga Arts Music Festival, and Kathleen is an ardent supporter of the Glove Theatre. Lorraine organizes and hosts the annual lady's hike.

Now that Summer is over, I would be remiss not to thank all who volunteered for the container drives, buoy repair and maintenance, and to VP Beth Flynn, who organized, or helped organize, many of the PLPA social events, including the boat party, cornhole tournament, and the beginning and end of summer parties. Thanks also to the Caroga Lake Music Festival for what's becoming an annual appearance at the lake – and to the Peck's for their invaluable support for the annual fireworks and their support of the fish fund.

Soon you'll be getting an email about the upcoming 2024 membership drive. The PLPA relies heavily on member dues and donations, and I think you get a lot for your \$50 dues. I hope you agree! If you'd like to be reminded of all we offer, visit the "About" page at plpa.org.

Aquatic Invasive Species Committee– Can You Help?

We recently had a visit from Glenn Sullivan, a certified lake expert to check out the extensive vegetation we now have in Beaver Bay. He suggested that we get drone video of the two adjoining bays in order to document what we are seeing. If anyone has the ability to video the two bays please reach out to Fred Greenberg at Fredgreenberg@gmail.com.



The AIS committee wants to thank the residents that have volunteered to help with the lake tracker program we will begin next summer. We are looking for a few more volunteers. Please visit the APIPP (Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program) by [clicking here](#). If you are interested, you can contact Donna Coffey at dmmc40@aol.com for more information.

Welcome To Our New Residents

A warm welcome to new residents who have joined our lake community in recent months. We hope you will enjoy the beauty and tranquility of Peck Lake as the seasons change from summer warmth to autumn chilly breezes. We miss our friends who have moved on to new adventures and wish many happy times to those who now enjoy this beautiful lake!

New Owners

Property Address

Jennifer Persaud	293 South shore Road	Daughter of previous owner, Tim Swarthwout
Joe & Kathy Fernandes	475 North Shore Road	
John Blatz	599 South Shore Road	
Brian & Maureen Ahearn	110 Hemlock Drive	Previous campsite owners.
Jason Feingold & Wendy Sernberg	706 North Shore Road	Moved from 110 Hemlock.



Photo Credit: Donald Fleischut

1st Annual Haunted Schoolhouse a Great Success!



GOOD TIMES AT THE HAUNTED SCHOOLHOUSE -- I think it's safe to say that a lot of fun was had at what may be the first ANNUAL Haunted Schoolhouse at the Peck's Park Schoolhouse Museum Sunday, Oct. 22. We had a capacity crowd of costumed kids seated at the desks and parents and grandparents standing. Activities included pumpkin cartooning, a brief overview of the schoolhouse's history by museum docent Jane Sitterly (and a rendition of "Five Little Pumpkins" led by Jane, who incidentally flagged down traffic with a toy chainsaw and horror mask), an audience-participation reading of "Henry Didn't Listen" (replete with group hooting, hissing and howling of scary animal noises on cue), a guest presentation by Gloversville history writer and poet Bradley Luberto, cider and cookies, Halloween activity sheets, Adirondack ghost stories and a costume show-and-tell. Many thanks to all who filled the house, and a special thank you to Tammy (Peck) Warner for her time, mileage and expense furnishing pumpkins, cookies, disposable tableware, prizes and decorations to make the event a success. Judging by this year's interest, there may be a reprise of the Haunted Schoolhouse in the future.

Weather Update from Kathy Henry

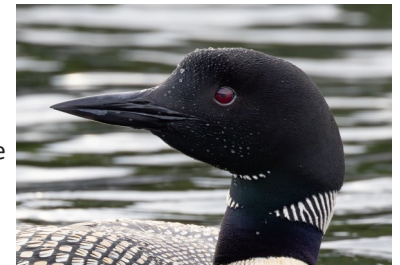
As a volunteer weather observer for the National Weather Service (NOAA), I collect weather data at 7AM daily, at 422 N Shore Road. I record the prior 24 hour high, the low and current temperatures, and measure any precipitation. If it snows or sleet, this includes measuring the depth, and the quantity when melted. This data is then shared with our local NOAA weather observer program in Albany.

When observed, I also report fog, strong winds, sleet, potentially hazardous conditions, etc., and when the lake surface freezes/melts. To date, we've had no ice or snow since April 2023, though we have had two very slight frosts recently. Most years, we do have at least a trace of snow occur in October. Perhaps we still will, as temperatures are predicted to drop soon from these warm days! As of October 27, 2023, Peck Lake precipitation (rainfall and snowfall) totals appear similar to earlier years. Now to see what our precipitation accumulation will be the next few months!

The National Weather Service uses observer data, along with their national data, to help achieve a better picture of local and national weather, and predict future weather.

Adirondack Loon Census

The Adirondack Loon Census has been held annually on lakes across the Adirondacks since 2001 to help monitor the loon population. On Peck Lake, we've participated since 2004. The census is a snapshot of loons on given lakes, from 8 to 9AM, on the third Saturday of July. The findings are part of a scientific research project on loons in the Adirondacks. (Visit: info@adkloon.org to learn more about loons and support the program.)



In our years of participation on Peck Lake, our sightings have ranged from 5 to 12 adults, 0 to 2 chicks, and 0 to 3 immature loons. There is no guarantee that the adult loons are Peck Lake Summer residents...they may just be making a dining visit on their way to another lake!

On July 15th, 2023, 38 Peck Lake Loon Lovers participated in the annual Adirondack Loon Census on Peck Lake, providing coverage for the entire lake for the count period. During this year's count, six adults loons and 2 chicks were documented. One of the six adults had been observed incubating an egg on a nest, and another was seen dining on a fish! (Observers are assigned to specific areas on the lake for the count, and record the time they see a loon(s), details about the loon, and map its travel. Unless they land on the lake, flying loons are not counted.)

As Fall approaches, the adult loons leave their lakes for a journey to their winter residences, usually along the New England coast. Their offspring follow later, as soon as they mature enough to make the trip. You may observe numbers of loons partying on our lake as they make their trip. However, there may be times when the lake freezes over too soon, or the loons are unable to fly. That's when it's important for us to be on alert.

If you see a loon that appears injured, is tangled in fishing line (yes, this has happened on Peck Lake!), or unable to fly from the lake because of ice entrapment, please contact me, and I'll contact the Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation program for assistance. Let's keep our loons safe so we can enjoy and learn more about them for years to come! (Loons live 20 to 30 years!)

-Kathy Henry (ahenry1@nycap.rr.com)

Order Off the Menu

Separate Checks

Saturday, December 9

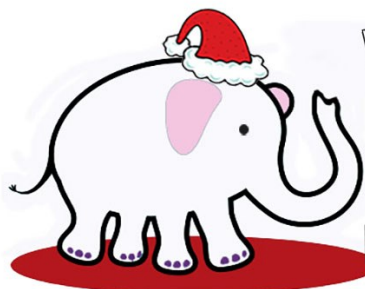
5:30—8:00 pm

Pleasant Lake Inn

Good Food!

Great Fun!

*To reserve your seat, email Patty Herrick at
pah868@gmail.com
by November 30*



**White
Elephant
Gift
Exchange**

Let's break the ice with a game of
White Elephant.

Each person is asked to bring one,
wrapped gift with a value of \$10 or less.
Gifts can be sweet, silly, serious or
even ridiculous!
(no names on the gifts, please)

Patty Herrick (pah868@gmail.com) and Rosemarie Perez Jaquith (rperezjaquith@gmail.com) are heading the event. Feel free to contact either with questions.

Happy Trails from Jim McCulley

Last week I was treated to a tour of the entire North Shore Trail system by our own intrepid Trail Master Arnie Henry. Part amusement ride, part Peck's Lake history lesson, it was nearly four hours of breathtaking scenery, amusing conversation and anecdotes, and Peck's Lake history.

For more than a quarter century, Arnie, and his extensive collection of ATV's, tractors, snowmobiles, and grooming equipment, has lovingly cleared, maintained, and groomed the 7 miles of trails that snake along Peck's Lake's north shore. Yes, 7 miles!

It wouldn't surprise me if most Peck Lakers haven't been on the trail system -- or like me, have only been on just a small portion. Well, if you haven't -- you truly don't know what you are missing! From the Maplewood Extension all the way to Wellington's Watch, I was awed not only by how beautiful the trails are -- but the ENORMOUS amount of time and effort that Arnie has put in cutting the paths and maintaining the 7 miles (yes, I had to say it again) of trails.

But while I was overwhelmed by the sheer effort and creativity it took to build them -- and by their serene beauty -- no one should be overwhelmed by the trails themselves. Whether you're an inexperienced -- and lazy -- hiker like me, or more experienced trekker -- there are plenty of trails, loops, and elevations that can be enjoyed by anyone. And yes, there is something for everyone -- marshes, deep woods, wide open spaces, slender, intimate trails. I felt as if I was in a Robert Frost poem -- or as close to a Robert Frost poem as you can get riding in an ATV with Arnie! More than once we took the path less traveled. They're also not just for hiking. Arnie grooms the trails in winter, so break out your snowshoes or cross-country skis, or just take a winter walk through the woods.

When I began this article, I mentioned that my tour was also part history lesson. Arnie kept me entertained with decades of Peck's Lake history, amusing anecdotes, local lore, why this trail is named this and that trail named that, and who lived where, and when.

It also turns out that Arnie and I shared a connection of which I was never aware; the wood stove in my house once belonged to Arnie and Kathy! It was a reminder that we just don't live on a lake, we live in a lake community. It's part of what makes this place so unique and so special.

Going back to my President's message, I spoke of changes ahead for the Peck's Lake community as the old guard looks to make way for the new. The trails are no exception. Arnie could use some help -- and if we want to keep the trails, we need to find ways to help him.

At the next board meeting, I will be asking the Board to reconstitute the Trail Committee to help Arnie maintain the trails. We will be trying to create our own "Arnie's Army" to help him with minor clearing of overgrowth and brush and removing fallen branches. In the meantime, if you happen to be hiking on the trails and see a branch lying across, please pick it up and toss it off the trail. If a tree or tree limb is blocking the trail that you can't move, let us know.

We tout the trails as a benefit of PLPA membership, but all the thanks go to Arnie, a (very) few other volunteers, and the Peck family, who graciously allow us access to the many scenic acres that make up the trail system. And of course, to the property owners who allow the trails to cross along or behind their property.

If you haven't, you should check out the trails. There are maps available in the Members Section of the PLPA website (plpa.org) for the entire 7 miles of trails. When you renew your membership, you can also direct a donation to the trails.

Thanks again, Arnie for the Happy Trails!



Summer Craft Fair was a Great Success!

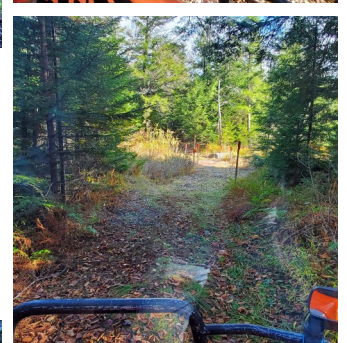
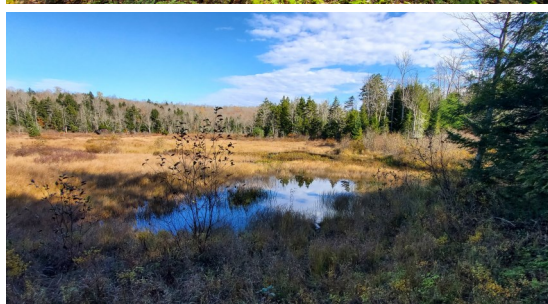
Eight Peck Lake artists and crafters participated in this Summer's fair! It was held at the Marina on August 5 as one of the Summer Festival activities. We had many people who shopped and visited. Thanks to all those who participated and attended!

~ Cookie Fleischut

**Saturday
November 18
10 am—4 pm
617 North Shore**



Trail Pics



SummerFest 2023

It is kind of hard now that it is fall and the chill is in the air, to think back on all of our summer events. I believe more activities were cancelled or postponed than were held because of the crazy weather we had. If it was a weekend, it was raining! In any event, there were definitely some nice summer highlights...beginning with the welcome back cocktail party and ending with the end of summer goodbye party - both held under the marina tent, thanks to the Peck family. One or two of the boat cocktail parties were cancelled because of wind/rain. The kayak and canoe race was sadly cancelled. The cornhole game was fun - folks here are very serious about their cornhole. Different size/weight bean bags (sandbags?) were not well received as apparently winning bragging rights matter. The Summerfest/Fun Committee will purchase uniform, competition bags for next year unless we choose to have a hatchet throwing contest instead! (Can you imagine how much insurance the vendor has to carry for that?)

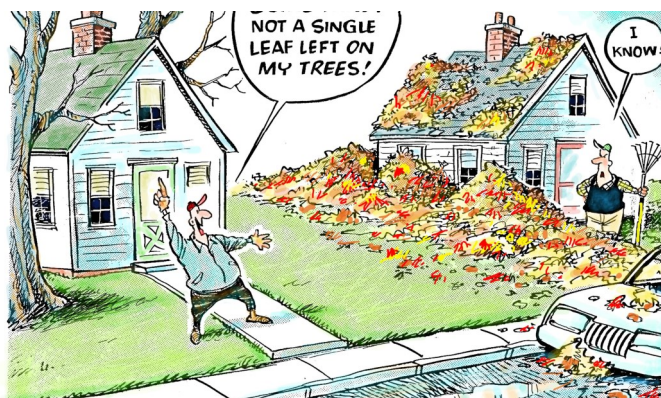
Next year we are also considering having First Fridays, open to all PLPA members, at the marina tent. Perhaps bring back the kayak/canoe race - and keep some of these events on the same weekend as the craft fair...with fireworks the same night. However, we also have to consider Caroga Arts Collective's many event dates so we don't conflict. Keep watching for updates for next season. If you have ideas or want to join this committee, contact me at dayflynn@gmail.com

Many thanks to all on the Summerfest/Fun Committee;

Lisa Hanger, Marian Lachanski, Heidi Mannick, Karen Mulrooney, Denise Soucar, Bob Wilson and all those who pitched in to help when asked; Steve and Amy Atcheson, Donna Coffey, Shawn Croucher, Larry Esposito, Tom Flynn, Jim Merrell, Michael Springsteen and Clif Wassel.

Beth Flynn

dayflynn@gmail.com



Late Summer and Autumn at the Lake



Photo Credit: Lisa Hanger

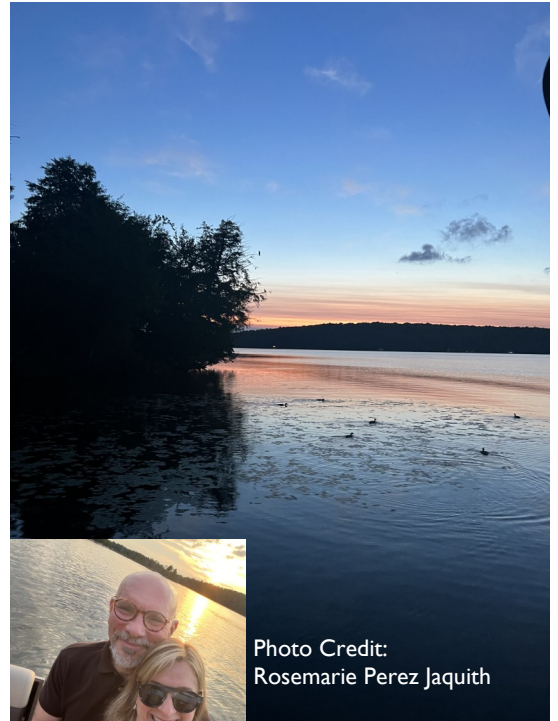


Photo Credit:
Rosemarie Perez Jaquith



Photo Credit: Lisa Hanger



Photo Credit: Tom Bielli



Photo Credit: Rico Perrott



September Rainbow: Alex Miller



A calm and dry evening in the waning days of summer.—Bob Wilson



Photo Credit: Tom Bielli

© Tom Bielli



Photo Credits: Barb Brown and Bear



Photo Credit: Jim McCulley



Visit us online:
plpa.org



Your Contributions Welcomed!

The next PLPA Newsletter will come out the last week in January. Anyone in the lake community is welcome to contribute an article, photo, piece of history or general thought! If you have something you'd like to pass along, please send it to me at pah868@gmail.com.

Patty Herrick, Editor



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