

PLPA Newsletter

Inside this issue:

Annual Meeting Recap	3
Brookfield Update	6
Dear Peck Laker	5,6
Holiday Craft Fair	8
Holiday Dinner	8
President's Message	1,2
Photos	4
Wintertime Craft and Chat	4

President's Message: Jim McCulley

Another season is in the books. The leaves are off the trees. The buoys and hazard markers and the docks are gone and tucked away for winter. Some are off to warmer climes. But the PLPA is still busy doing what we can to serve the lake community and we still have a lot going on for the rest of the year.

The Fall Newsletter is sort of a State of the Lake newsletter, a recap of the PLPA accomplishments in 2024 and a look ahead to 2025. So without further ado...

Court Issues final Decision and Order in lawsuit challenging restrictive covenants

The most noteworthy news of 2024 was the culmination of the lawsuit brought against the PLPA, the Pecks and several individual lake residents and Peck family members, challenging the restrictive covenants found in our deeds.

Last November the State Supreme Court ruled that short-term rentals violate the restrictive covenants found in our deeds and that short-term renters—or members of the general public, like renters—do not have access to the lake itself. While the plaintiffs initially filed notice that they would appeal in August they abandoned their appeal, and the court has now issued a final Decision and Order in our favor. In summary, the court ruled that short-

term rentals violate our deed restrictions and are not entitled access to the lake itself. You can read the decision yourself by visiting the "In Deed" page on the PLPA website. We have also heard rumors that some property owners continue to offer their homes as "house swaps," where homeowners "swap" homes with others. According to our attorneys, "house swaps" also violate the restrictive covenants in our deed and we would ask any property owners using their property this way to please stop.

Docks and buoy and hazard markers are out

In mid-October work crews from the PLPA removed, cleaned and stored the buoys and hazard markers in their winter home. Thanks to the Peck family for use of the work boats and for the barn space. Just a reminder that everyone should have gotten their invoices from Tim Alteri for removing the docks—please pay your invoice promptly! We want to keep Tim!

Website Update

We're trying to make the website a more useful, user-friendly, and informative resource for the lake community. We've created an ad hoc group of volunteers to explore ways to improve the new website that we

Continued on next page...

"The fall newsletter is a sort of State of the Lake newsletter..."



Do you have a contribution for the next newsletter? Email the editor, Patty Herrick at pah868@gmail



**December 7
6:00 pm
Holiday Party
Hales Mills
Country Club**

President's Message, continued

started in 2023. Thanks to Val Nicotina, Lisa Hanger and Karen Mulrooney for donating their time and expertise. If you have any thoughts on how the website could be easier to use or navigate – or what information or functionality we can add, please let one of us know. We're working on some exciting updates, so stay tuned!

Some sad goodbyes.

We had to say some sad goodbyes to some treasured members of the Lake Community this year. We lost Ron Rudio, Rev. Bob White and Jack Valakovic. They are missed.

Wha's up Next?

- **The PLPA Board** will be meeting later this month for one of our quarterly board meetings. At the meeting we will be discussing and approving, among other important items, the PLPA Budget for 2025. We'll also be discussing lake events calendar, including Summerfest events, Fireworks, etc...for 2025. If there's an event you'd like us to sponsor, let us know.
- **2025 Membership Drive.** Starting in late December/Early January we'll begin our 2025 membership drive. We've worked hard to make it easier for you to pay your dues and update your information. We'll continue to give members the option to either pay dues online or by check and to update member info online
- **Newsletter.** Are you a wanna-be writer, have some interesting or humorous stories to share, have a special skill—like gardening, or woodworking—or enjoy wine, or cooking or some hobby? We're looking to reinvigorate the PLPA Newsletter and we're looking for contributors! Our next newsletter will be in the Spring 2025—and we could use your help!
- **HOLIDAY PARTY.** The PLPA Holiday Party is Saturday, December 7 at Hales Mills Country Club. You can find out more, and purchase your tickets, on the PLPA website.
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THANK YOU!

Thanks to all of you –the members of the PLPA -- who volunteer for our many activities, including Buoy and Hazard marker maintenance, Trail Maintenance, deposit container drives, water quality and invasive species activities—or attend Summerfest events like the Welcome Back Happy Hour. If you've let your membership lapse, you might want to visit plpa.org and click the "About" link to find out all that the PLPA does to make the lake and the lake community better.

Also thanks to Sue Phillips, our Secretary, and Patty Herrick, our Treasurer, for taking on these (mostly) thankless tasks. Also a shout out to John Dackow for his work heading the Strategic Committee and for his many services to the lake community, including negotiating with propane companies to get the best prices—and to all the others who donate their time and expertise to the PLPA.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS to all of you and look forward to seeing you at one of our lake events in 2025!

2024 Annual Meeting Recap: Jim McCulley

The PLPA held its annual meeting on Saturday August 31 under the tent at the Marina. At the annual meeting members get updates from all our committees and vote for the officers and board member seats. It's always the weekend of Labor Day, so keep that in mind for next year. It's a great opportunity to meet many of your lake neighbors, to learn more about what the PLPA is up to, and to have your voice heard.

The officers for 2024-2026 are:

- President: Jim McCulley
- Vice-President: Fred Greenberg
- Secretary: Sue Phillips
- Treasurer: Patty Herrick

Clif Wassel, Shawn Croucher, Rosemarie Jaquith were re-elected as Directors. Beth Flynn, the former Vice-President, will be staying on the board, replacing Fred Greenberg, who has agreed to take on the duties of VP for the year.

In keeping with our goal of modernizing the PLPA's bylaws, a motion was approved at the annual meeting to allow board members to vote on matters before the board via email.

Some of the highlights from the meeting included;

- **Peck family update from Geoff Peck.** Geoff informed the PLPA that logging will be taking place on Peck family property along the upper portion of North Shore Road. There will be disruptions to the trails, and changes in the structure of the trails. As soon as dates are known, the community will be alerted. It will, Geoff said, take about 3 months, likely in winter, and the impact will be kept as limited as possible.
- **Water Quality Update.** Tom Bielli reported that he and Bob Wilson have collected samples 8 times over the season. The 2023 report indicated no major changes, and that the lake is in good condition.
- **Invasive Species Update.** Donna Coffey gave an update on the activities of the Invasive Species Committee. Peck's Lake was the 2024 host to the Adirondack Invasive Species Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) Lake Protector Program. This was quite an honor. Peck's Lake also has its first ever adaptive management program. It's currently posted on the website on the Invasive Species page. Donna reported that there are only two invasive species found at the lake—Spiny waterflea and variable leaf milfoil, as well as some aggressive native species, including purple bladderwort and large leaf pond weed. Tom Bielli is heading an effort through APIPP to identify as many as 100 points along the lake to monitor for invasives, including species and density. The monitoring will provide data for any corrective action that may be needed in the future.
- **Trail Maintenance.** We reconstituted the Trails Committee in 2024 to help the intrepid Arnie Henry, who does such an amazing job building and maintaining the trails. If you haven't you really should check the trails out! Trail Maps can be found in the Members Section of the website.
- **Membership.** Treasurer Patty Herrick reported that PLPA membership was up significantly in 2024, from 130 property owner members in 2023 to 162 in 2024. Camper/Affiliate membership was steady at 8. Encouraging more campers to join the PLPA will be a priority in 2025 and Board/Affiliate Member Mike Moore has agreed to help with a camper membership drive in the Spring.

Wintertime Craft and Chat– Val Nicotina

Are any of the hardy souls at the lake this winter interested in a regular "craft and chat" (aka "stitch and b*tch") session? Perhaps we could meet every other week. Just bring your favorite beverage and a portable craft to work on (or not!) as you chat. The host will make a light snack and set out chairs. I will be happy to host the first gathering starting the first week in December if anyone is interested.



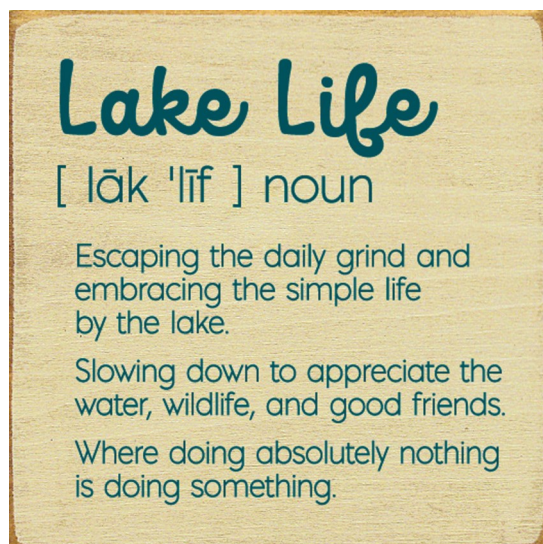
If you always wanted to learn to knit or crochet, Val can help you get started. If you're not a crafter but want to come just for the company, that's fine too. So dig out your yarn, beads, embroidery, coloring books or whatever and come join in!

Contact Val at val.nicotina@gmail.com if interested.



During fall the North Shore sees the morning Sun rising over the fog on the lake. At the same time, the South Shore gets a different perspective.
~ Bob Wilson

Late October Blues and Grays
~ Bob Wilson



Dear Peck Laker,

I have a prime fishing spot right in front of my dock. I can just cast away early in the morning and I'm just about jigging for that fish. The problem is other folks have discovered it too. I don't mind sharing my bounty - but they troll a foot off of my dock. And on top of that, I'm not a fan of their music or loud talking particularly at 5 am.

What can I do?

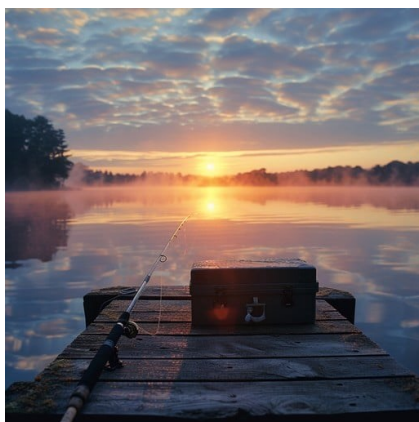
Signed, Grumpy Laker

Dear Grumpy Laker,

It's great that you're open to sharing the fishing spot, but having others that close—and at 5 am—definitely impacts your peaceful mornings! Here are some ways to reclaim a bit of that tranquility:

- **Friendly Signs:** Consider putting up a polite, low-profile sign on the dock, something like, *"Private Dock—Please Respect a Quiet Zone"* or *"Please Maintain a Comfortable Distance for All Fishers."* It's a gentle reminder that may keep others from crowding right next to your space.
- **Early Morning Presence:** If you can, get out on the dock earlier than usual, even if just to sit with a coffee or your gear. Often, just seeing someone there can encourage others to keep a respectful distance.
- **Build Boundaries with Respect:** Sometimes a friendly, brief chat can help—when you see them, wave and politely say something like, *"Hey, just letting you know I try to keep this area quiet for fishing in the mornings."* Most people understand once it's pointed out directly.
- **Install "Natural" Boundaries:** Consider a slight alteration to the dock's edge with natural, non-intrusive features, like adding potted plants along the perimeter, which might discourage others from getting too close.

These approaches can help set the tone for a respectful distance while keeping a friendly vibe with others who share your fishing enthusiasm.



Dear Peck Laker,

Not too long ago we used to have a printed out directory including all kinds of useful information. Why did the PLPA stop this? It's a handy thing to have around and reference all kinds of things. Mostly I forget people's names but I know where they live so I can jog my memory. Signed, Forgetful Friend

Dear Forgetful Friend,

That directory was a great thing. The team that put those together always printed enough for all residents but found that many people never picked them up. It also became increasingly more expensive. Please know that the PLPA has a very useful website that has that information and much more. It has a schedule of events for the season/year, photos, the directory of lake members and a lot more. It is user friendly and if you think it should include something more - simply email our president, Jim McCulley. Try it - I think you will like it (and you can always print out the directory for reference). Click here to go to the website: <https://plpa.org/>

Dear Peck Laker,

We're all so fortunate to have such a serene and beautiful place here at Peck Lake and wonderful neighbors! Sometimes I've noticed that homes have spotlights or flood lights illuminating their property or docks. And some seem to be on all night. I wonder if they don't realize the effect that has on star and moon gazing or that their light may be shining in a neighbor's home. Any suggestions?- Signed, Star Gazer

Dear Star Gazer,

You know - I never really thought about that. Sometimes I see lights along the lake at night but never knew people kept them on ALL NIGHT. You're spot on about how bright outdoor lighting can interfere with both stargazing and neighbors' comfort! It's a growing issue called "light pollution," and more people are becoming aware of it. There are many options for more responsible lighting including, motion-sensor lights, shielded lighting, timers to turn lights off at a certain time among other things. These changes can improve the night experience for everyone in the area—plus, they can even save on energy costs! For more information and resources, check out the International Dark Sky Association at <https://darksky.org/>

Dear Peck Laker... continued

Dear Peck Laker,

I have a bunch of stuff - junk really but it may be a treasure to another person. I was disappointed that there was no garage sale last summer. I really need to clean out my garage and basement. I guess we can't have garage sales willy nilly but I would like to see if there will be a community wide one next summer. Can you help? Signed, Junk Man

Dear Junk Man, Well I sure would like to see what you have - I am looking for a good fish net to scoop up the huge fish I catch. But it just takes one person to coordinate a garage sale and I bet others who have accumulated trash or treasures would help. You can always contact our President - Jim McCulley. He would be happy to put you on the schedule to help.



An Update on Brookfield Power

Most of us take for granted the operation and integrity of the dams that service Peck Lake. It's good to know that the lake stewards, ie Brookfield Power stay on top of things. Some of you may have noticed that over the summer there was a flurry of activity near the marina, over by the dam and spillway. Multiple trucks, equipment trailers, and divers with the Brookfield logo were busily working on and around the dam. This was part of their ongoing commitment and efforts to inspect, maintain and upgrade systems associated with the dams. The 2 most notable tasks completed were:

1. The cleaning of the inlet screens (located under water at the base of the dam) which protect the 2 large valves by catching and diverting debris from clogging or damaging the valves which allow lake level to be adjusted.
2. Critical upgrade was performed repairing the left side valve which has been inoperative for many years. This repair had been waiting on approvals from various government agencies and was finally granted this year.

This repair is important for multiple reasons:

- A. It allows (if desired) to double the output flow of water in order to lower the lake level. While this may not seem that important under normal circumstances, it could prove extremely beneficial in the event of heavily forecasted storms and rains where the ability to proactively and quickly lower the lake level ahead of the rain could prevent damage during a large storm surge
- B. As an industry "best practice", when you have redundant systems, it is always good to alternate the usage so that they are both regularly operational, and in the event of damage to one, there is confidence the other will work properly, as well as giving the option to prepare for and repair the damaged one, while still having one capable valve. Brookfield had not been able to do that for many years while they were waiting on approvals for these repairs.

Its reassuring to know that these types of work happen in the background, helping ensure the integrity of systems associated with the lake.

The Peck family and the PLPA Liaison Committee regularly meet with Brookfield representatives to try and stay current with what's happening and give feedback and input.

So next time you drive to the marina, as you cross the bridge take notice if the right, or left, both or neither valve is in operation.

John Dackow, PLPA Liaison Committee Chairperson

A Worthy Cause!

Mountain Valley Hospice Foundation Board



Helen Keller



Alone we can do so little; Together we can do so much.

Hello Friends,

November is National Hospice Month, and the Foundation of Mountain Valley Hospice is reaching out to raise awareness about the importance of the high-quality hospice and palliative care in our community.

Our programs combine the highest level of quality medical care with an abundance of emotional and spiritual support that families need most when facing a serious illness or dealing with end of life issues.

During the month of November we are looking for support from our Friends of Hospice to raise both awareness and a financial contribution for Mountain Valley Hospice that directly benefits those in need.

We live in a community that works together, especially when it makes a difference for our family, friends and neighbors who find themselves at a difficult time in their lives.

We are asking you to be a part of "1 in 100" friends of Hospice.

Your ONE \$100 contribution will cultivate \$10,000 when the 99 others join you in supporting this effort together.

Please consider answering our call to individuals or businesses to step forward and be one of those numbers between 1 and 100.

Donations should be made to:

MVH Foundation 108 Steele Avenue, Gloversville, NY 12078

Or given to a board member

With sincere gratitude for your support from the Foundation Board:

Patricia Beck Todd Rulison
 Jeff Brown Joseph Sise, Esq
 Scott Hohenforst Clayton Sitterly
 Amy Osborne Terry Swierzowski
 Sue Putman Tammy Warner

For more information, or
 to make a donation, go to:
<https://mvhcares.org/>



Mission – Enhancing the lives of those we serve by honoring what matters most to them. **Vision** – To be everyone's first thought for those in need of comfort, compassion, dignity, and quality of life

Within our Peck Lake Community, we donate to many great causes in our local area. The Mountain Valley Hospice has been helping with medical needs since 1984. The Hospice Board has included many lake residents over the years including, Don Fleischut, Clay Sitterly, Jeff Brown and myself. As you consider your end-of-year giving, please consider this amazing organization.

Thank you! Tammy Warner



**Saturday
November 23
10 am—3:30 pm
Home of Heather Werner
617 North Shore**

Get an early start on your holiday shopping!



**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7
6:00 PM**

Please do not delay in getting in your pre-paid (unfortunately non refundable) RSVP received by November 22nd or on November 23rd when you stop by the Peck Lake Artisan Craft Fair from 10-3pm!

I will be meeting with Hales Mills the 2nd week in November and I am sure I will be asked how many guests we are anticipating. Please drop me a text 518-248-7350 or an email hwarts1@outlook.com with any questions or to let me know of your interest and we can arrange in person payment as well.

Hales Mills Country Club
146 Steele Road
Johnstown, NY

Menu

Charcuterie Board, Fresh Ciabatta Bread and Rolls, Mixed Green Salad, Roast Beef Carving Station, Chicken Piccata Honey Glazed Salmon, Roasted Red Potatoes, Maple Glazed Carrots, Assorted Desserts, Coffee/Tea, Cash Bar

Price Per Person \$60.00

1 bottle of chardonnay and 1 bottle of pinot noir will also be at each table and is included in the price per person!

RSVP BEFORE November 22 with payment

Yankee Swap Gift Exchange Game

Payments can be made via check "PLPA" mailed to 1 North Shore Road Gloversville, NY 12078
Or in person with Heather Werner at 323 North Shore via check (payable to PLPA or cash)
Paypal to plpadonations@gmail.com (there will be a \$2 charge for using this method)

Credit card on the PLPA website (there will be a \$2 charge for using this method)

Any questions please contact Heather Werner via text 518-248-7350 or email hwarts1@outlook.com

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 and 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



Thanks to all those that made contributions and especially all those who helped collect and sort the 2024 Bottle and Can Drives!

\$2,155
was contribution to
the Fish and Lake Fund in 2024!

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

Deliver To:
