PECK'S LAKE

PROTECTIVE

ASSOCIATION

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Watch for

Summer edition

of the PLPA

Newsletter



PLPA Newsletter

President's Message: Jim McCulley

I'm about to do something I've never done before and hopefully will never do again.— I'm going to quote Yoko Ono. Beatles fans, forgive me. In fact, maybe I should ask for forgiveness from all of you. But her quote about the seasons seems especially relevant to those of us who spend our winters in the Northeast — and particularly to those who spend winter here at the Lake.

"Spring passes and one remembers one's innocence. Summer passes and one remembers one's exuberance. Autumn passes and one remembers one's reverence," Ono is quoted as saying, and "Winter passes and one remembers one's perseverance." As someone who has spent a winter here at the lake, I can attest to that!

For PLPA members it's not just that we may have persevered through the winter weather, though this past winter in upstate New York, I am told, was the warmest on record – each month, December, January, and now February averaging about 7 degrees warmer than usual. It's that we – the PLPA members and the greater lake community -- have persevered, or are persevering, through some existential threats to the quality of life here at the lake.

One of the questions I get asked most often is about the status of the lawsuit challenging the deed restrictions prohibiting the business or commercial use of deed restricted properties, and of the prohibition on using properties to grant access to the lake to the general public. In November 2023 a State Supreme Court judge ruled that short-term rentals are prohibited by our deed restrictions, and that renters do not have access to the lake itself.

The judge's decision was the culmination of more than two years of legal haggling, and a

special note of thanks go to all who donated to defray the PLPA's legal expenses, the PLPA membership who supported our cause, and to the Peck family for joining with us in this fight. You can read more about the lawsuit on the PLPA website (plpa.org).

Renters, unfortunately, haven't been the only invaders to the lake. Many Adirondack lakes are threatened by widespread contamination from non-native plant and animal species. Our neighbors at Canada and Caroga Lakes, for example, have been battling invasive species for some time. Though the infestations are not as prevalent here, Pecks Lake has not been spared.

In January 2023 the PLPA Board created an Invasive Species Committee (ISC) to learn more about what we can do to both prevent invasives from entering the lake, and to combat those that are already here. Just this past January, and thanks to the hard work of the ISC, Peck's Lake has its first-ever "Aquatic Invasive Species Adaptive Management Plan," developed especially for the Pecks Lake.

You can read more about the invasion of invasives, and how you can help keep them out of our lake by visiting the "Invasive Species" link on the home page of the PLPA website (plpa.org). Many thanks to Invasive Species Chair Donna Coffey, Committee members Fred Greenberg, Kathleen Perrott, Tom Bielli, Bob Kossowsky, Lorrie Mott, Ellen Greenberg, John Blaum, Karen Jones, Lou DeCunzo, and Peck family representatives, Albee Peck and Tammy Warner for making this happen. Thanks also to Brian Greene of the AIPPP (Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program) for his invaluable assistance.

continued....

Considering a

new boat this

year?

To see limits

and regulations

on boat and

motor size

go to:

https://plpa.org/

lake-rules/



President's Message.... continued

Right now we're in the middle of our annual membership drive — and the response so far has been very encouraging. If you haven't joined or renewed your membership yet, **please do so before March 31**. In order to promote more timely renewals, the PLPA Board has instituted a new policy. For those who join or renew their membership AFTER March 31 the annual dues will be \$75 (prior to March 31, member dues for homeowners is \$50). The PLPA is funded entirely by member dues and donations, and our fiscal year begins January 1.

We can't effectively budget without a good idea of how much we have to spend – so we're trying this to see if we can spur our members to join earlier in the year so that we can make informed budget decisions. So PLEASE, join or renew your membership on or BEFORE March 31! You can pay your dues and make donations right on the website at plpa.org, or send a check to the PLPA at 1 North Shore Drive, Gloversville, NY 12078.

Over the past couple of years the PLPA has organized a number of social events –a "welcome back to the lake" cocktail party, kayak races, cornhole tournaments and a "Summerfest" weekend for the lake community. Participation in these events has been mixed – so we are rethinking the events calendar for 2024. If you have an idea for an event that the entire lake community can enjoy, please let us know. We'll be discussing the calendar at the April Board meeting, and you'll hear more about PLPA sponsored events after the meeting.

One last thing – another goal for 2024 is to promote the North Shore Trail system and to encourage more PLPA members to enjoy the 7 miles of trails that are maintained by the PLPA – as well as to enlist more members to help Arnie Henry maintain the trails. We will be reviving the Trail Committee and are thinking about ways to promote the trails. Last fall Arnie took me on a tour of the entire 7 miles of trails – you can read more about it by visiting the "News" section of the PLPA website and clicking the "Happy Trails" link.

Oh – that reminds me. The website. Last year we did a total makeover of the website. We'd like to turn it into a resource for the lake community. We will be posting events, the dates of the container drives, and articles and items of interest to the community. If you have an idea for an article or an event you'd like for all of us to know about, please let us know!

Required New York State Safe Boating Certificate

An important reminder for all those who use motorized water-craft on Pecks Lake. New York State Law requires ALL PERSONS OPERATING MOTORIZED WATERCRAFT, regardless of age, to take an approved safety course and receive a boating safety certificate by January 1, 2025. Persons 40 years of age or under are already required to have successfully completed the course and have a valid safety certificate in order to lawfully operate motorized watercraft in New York State. You can find more information by visiting:

https://www.parks.ny.gov/boating/education.aspx



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The Hidden Danger Below-How Can We Protect the Precious Waters of Peck Lake from Algae Blooms?

We have heard so much over the last couple of years about invasive species in our water but there is another hidden danger to our lake that is very often overlooked. Over the past couple years, you may have seen articles or heard about algae blooms that were discovered in Lake George (LG) and Saratoga Lake. This was the first time that the coveted waters of LG have had "noticeable" algae blooms in the lake. LG mostly likely had algae blooms in the past that were just not detected or noticeable. These algae blooms are typically blue-green in color. Saratoga Lake has been the topic of algae blooms for many years now.

Algae blooms are usually caused by an oxygen-rich atmosphere and an increase in the nutrients that are discharged into the waters. This, along with sunshine and warm, calm water causes these algae to grow, bloom and congregate. These blooms can be toxic and produce liver toxins and neurotoxins harmful to humans, pets and wildlife.

So, I know what you're thinking, "What causes this?" I am glad you asked. Many lakes including Great Sacandaga, Caroga and Peck Lake are primarily (if not completely) serviced by residential onsite wastewater treatment systems or septic tanks and leach fields (absorption field). All the wastewater generated in your home is collected and passes through the septic tank to remove solids (both floating and settleable using baffles in the tank) before discharging to the subsurface ground via the leach field. This is why I call them the hidden danger as they are often "out of sight and out of mind"! Many times, homeowners don't know where their septic tank and leach field are located.

There are setback requirements for distances between your onsite system and receiving water, like lakes, typically 50 to 100 feet depending on your type of system, your lot size etc. Over the years and depending on the size of your household and whether you are year-round or seasonal resident, solids build up in the septic tank. These tanks need to be properly maintained and should be pumped every 2 to 3 years for year-round residents and no more than 5 years for seasonal to be properly maintained. What happens is, these systems are neglected, solids continue to build up and once the tank cannot hold anymore solids, those solids are then discharged to the leach field which is not meant to filter the solids and it plugs the field eventually causing a failure of the septic tank and leach field, resulting in discharge of raw sewage directly to the subsurface ground. Eventually, these discharges make their way to our pristine lake. Continuing these "discharges" of sewage increases the nutrients, decreases the clarity of our water and can result in toxic algae blooms. These nutrients can also feed invasive plants.

A good example of what could happen if we don't maintain our onsite system is Saratoga Lake. Prior to the installation of sewage collection system around that lake to collect wastewater that is treated at the Saratoga County

Sewer District, homes and cottages had onsite systems that failed and discharged to the lake; now granted this happened over manymany years.

There is no state Department of Health or NYS Department of Environmental Conservation inspection program for onsite/private treatment system. They simply do not have the resources even to monitor a self-reporting type system, although there has been some discussion more recently after the LG issue.



The Hidden Danger Below... continued

My guess is your second question is "What can we do to avoid this from happening at Pecks Lake and keep our water as beautiful as it is today 20, 30 or 40 years from now?" First and foremost, maintain your septic tank. This means having it pumped out and inspected every 2 to 3 years, if you're only here 6-months or so a year you can probably push it to 5 years. This only cost about \$300-\$400 but can save you from a failed system that will cost \$10,000-\$20,000 to replace. Another key point is to know where your septic tank and leach field are on the property. If you start to experience backups in your home, odors inside or out, or see standing water in this area that wasn't there before, it could indicate a problem. Addressing any issues immediately will eliminate or minimize any impacts to the lake. Here is a list of some companies that pump your septic tanks and can also inspect the tank.

- Adirondack Septic Amsterdam 518-842-1322
- USA1 Septic Broadalbin 518-448-9520
- Cosselman Septic Pumping Gloversville 518-725-0491

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The small things we do now as the PLPA, with the key word here being "Protective", will ensure our lake thrives in the years to come. If we don't, there is a hefty price tag in the 100s of millions of dollars associated with replacing our onsite systems with off-site sewers and treatment plant, most of which would be absorbed by us, the taxpayers and I think we all agree our taxes are already too high. Let's all do our small part now and be stewards for our lake and the environment.

John Blaum is a registered Environmental Professional Engineer in New York State and has over 35 years of experience in the environmental industry.



<u>Joan Olsen:</u> Our lake lost one of its longest summer residents this year. Joan Olsen left us in February. She, her late husband Bill and their sons Andrew and Matthew have been coming to Peck's Lake since before there were camps and homes along the shores! They enjoyed 2 weeks in Cabin 14 every summer for many years. When property became available along the lake, the Olsens were one of the first to purchase a lot and build their summer cabin.

Joan watched the lake grow from only the summer cabins to a few new camps along the shores of the original dirt roads, to what it is today. She loved summers at the cabin, sharing the quiet beauty of Pecks lake with her family and friends, swimming, fishing, water skiing and cooking something most yummy from her home garden produce (her dillybeans and squash blossoms were my favorites!). In recent years, Joan was happy to be here on her deck doing a puzzle, or on her dock watching for loons and a beautiful sunset. We will miss her.

~ Priscilla Muscolino

Ron Rudio: Sadly, Ron Rudio of the North Shore passed away on Wednesday, January 31. Ron moved here from western New York back in 2006. Over his time at the lake he was on the PLPA board, helped his neighbors put in and take out their docks, and just enjoyed life here at the lake. When he and Candice weren't enjoying the warm Florida sunshine in the winter, they could be found splitting wood, kayaking on the lake or enjoying time here with their family, friends and neighbors.

~Lorraine Carlson

Know the Lake Boating Rules

In cooperation with the Peck's, we have been working to educate boaters on the rules regarding speed. New York state law PROHIBITS any motorized boat from operating at greater than 5mph within 100 feet of any shoreline, dock, docked or moored boat. The rules of Pecks Lake, established by the Pecks, **increased this to 200 feet**. As a point of reference, the average WALKING speed of a human is 4mph. If your boat is making visible wake, you are likely going greater than 5mph. If your boat is going faster than you can walk, you ARE very likely going more than 5mph.

Boats producing large wakes near the shoreline are annoying but more importantly, destructive to docks, the shoreline, and potentially to nesting birds, like loons. I also want to remind everyone it can be DANGEROUS.

Kayakers, swimmers, canoers, people enjoying their docks or using floats can be knocked over by large wakes near the shore. As the wake nears and reaches shore you might be surprised how the wake from a boat can become much larger.

By the time wake is causing unnecessary damage or presenting a danger, the boat is long gone. So please, be aware of your distance, your speed, and the size of your wake. 5mph is the MAXIMUM speed within 200 feet of the shoreline, dock or docked or moored boat. 200 feet is about 70 yards, slightly more than 2/3's of a football field.

The vast majority of boaters on the lake follow this simple rule, but I am hoping that getting the word out will curb those who are perhaps unaware of the rule, or of the potential for damage or danger.

All the boating rules for the lake can be found plpa.org website, under "Lake Rules." They are also part of property owner deeds. Knowing the rules and using common courtesy is all that's needed to address this problem. Thank you!

Trail Committee News

The Trail Committee is (re)forming! AKA Arnie's Army! Seasoned residents know well the work Arnie Henry has done over many years making sure our 7 miles of trails off the North Shore Road are cleared, maintained and groomed year round. But for folks new to our lake community, Arnie has done this work and will continue to do this work for the benefit of us all. Jim McCulley wrote a great article in the last newsletter talking about Arnie and the trail system. To quote Jim, "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." Arnie will continue to do all of the "heavy lifting" but we can help him. Maintaining the trails is a constant endeavor so when we walk, if we see brush needs to be cut or branches moved out of the way - we can just do it. But we can do more.

There will be a few work days during the year that this group will convene - likely a Spring and Fall work party and probably after a major storm. But we need you! Please send me an email, text, or phone call if you can help in the maintenance and preservation of these treasured trails. While 7 miles may seem like a lot, many hands make light work.

Beth Flynn dayflynn@gmail.com 518.281.3279



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Pecks Lake Aquatic Invasive Species Committee Update

We are looking forward to spring on Pecks Lake. The aquatic invasive species committee, along with our partner, APIPP (Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program), has created an adaptive management plan for the lake. Please take a look at this plan at the PLPA website under the Invasive Species link (click here to go to the site).

This plan includes goals, objectives and management steps and monitoring activities. Under the monitoring activities early detection is very important. We are planning to have two programs this summer at the lake. We are looking for volunteers for both programs.

The first program is the Lake Protector program. Volunteers attend a training session in July at a nearby lake where they learn to identify and report aquatic invasive species. This is a three hour session. The next step is to monitor the lake at least once between July and September. Finally, you report your findings back to APIPP via paper forms, online, or an app. You may also watch the 2023 training video instead of going to the training in person.

The second program is the Lake Management Tracker. This is a monitoring program to help assess the effectiveness of management programs by collecting data to better inform the management of AIS. APIPP will help us set up the program and locations to monitor on the lake. Software is provided to record observations. Data collected is analyzed and is part of an annual report. The commitment for our lake would be three to five years of tracking plant growth and management effectiveness. Locations are monitored once a year.

Another issue found in our lake is the abundance of native aquatic plants. Purple bladderwort and large leaf pondweed have become an issue in areas. We encourage residents to clean beaches and around docks. These plants spread easily and can be a problem in areas when they become too abundant.

Finally, it is critical that we work to keep other invasive species out of the lake. The Clean, Drain, Dry protocol is our best bet. Anything that enters our lake can carry invasive species. Please make sure that kayaks, canoes, and fishing gear are cleaned well before putting in the lake. Also let the Peck family know if people are putting any boats, kayaks, and canoes in that don't belong here.

Please contact Donna Coffey at dmmc40@aol.com if you have not yet signed up to help this summer. We will be in touch in early spring.

Summer Fest Committee Update

As the winter months wind down, the Peck's Lake SummerFest Committee is busy planning events for the upcoming summer season. The goal of our committee is to provide opportunities for our lake community to come together—catch up with our neighbors and meet new friends. Our first event will be a Welcome Back gathering on Memorial Day weekend. It has been a great way to kick off the summer season the past two years and to reconnect with our neighbors. Be sure to check the PLPA website for updates of SummerFest events.

Come join us! We welcome everyone... young or old; seasonal or year-round-resident...Come and volunteer to help at an event or join the SummerFest Planning Committee! Please contact Karen Mulrooney at kmulrooney324@gmail.com if you are interested.

2024 Membership Reminder

A few weeks ago, we sent out an email asking you to join or renew your membership in the PLPA. For those who have already joined or renewed your membership, thank you!

If you haven't gotten around to it yet, here's your reminder! The PLPA relies entirely on dues and donations, so please join or renew your membership for 2024! Without our members, there is no PLPA.

Imagine for a moment what life at the lake would be like without the PLPA.

Crashed your boat into a rock? That's because the PLPA wasn't there to install and maintain the buoy and hazard marker system. Went fishing and didn't catch any fish...that's because there was no PLPA to stock the lake with fish.

Had to go all the way to the Gloversville Post Office to get your mail? That's because the PLPA hadn't installed or maintained the mailboxes for the North and South Shore.

BECOME A MEMBER

Wanted to go for a walk in the woods? You'd have to find someplace other than the 7 miles of hiking, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing trails along the North Shore that are marked and maintained by PLPA for its members.

And there'd be no social events, like boat and "welcome back to the lake" parties, that are sponsored by the PLPA.

JOIN TODAY!

To submit your membership dues, click here! All this, and more, for just \$50! Campers can join or renew their membership for only \$25. For those of you who haven't gotten around to paying your dues yes, after March 31 dues payments for property owners will be going up from \$50 to \$75.

So PLEASE, if you haven't yet, please join or renew your membership in the PLPA. You can pay your dues or make a donation online at plpa.org or send your check to PLPA 1 North Shore Dr, Gloversville, NY 12078. If you're renewing by mail, please enclose the attached form with your payment.

Power-FULL Advice

Considering the recent multiple day power outage, I want to suggest that second homeowners should get into the habit of turning off their water when they are away. You cannot always rely on your generator to keep your home's temperature above freezing as they don't always start. Turning off your water can potentially prevent considerable damage to your home.

It takes just a few minutes to turn your water off. Simply turn off the value on the pipe from your pump. This is generally a black plastic pipe that comes through the foundation wall. Next, turn off the breaker for the pump. Do this to prevent your pump from burning out. If you do have a ruptured pipe, your water system will keep calling for water and the pressure switch won't be satisfied with the waterline valve shut. For additional protection, open the faucets and flush the toilets after you have closed the waterline valve.

This is a good habit to get into even during warmer months. One of my clients had a poorly repaired pipe joint fail and water ran into their home for several days causing several thousands of dollars' worth of damage to their finished basement.

~ Paul Nestork

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Dear Peck Laker....

Here is an opportunity for members to ask questions that you've been wondering about but unsure who to ask. If you have questions for our anonymous "Dear Peck Laker", please email them to the editor at pah868@gmail.com to be forwarded. Answers will be forthcoming in the next newsletter!

♦ Dear Peck Laker - I am overrun with mouse in my house. They keep getting in my basement and now my cat has befriended them. What can I do? ~ Overcome with Rodents!

Dear Overcome with Rodents! - That is a problem many of us have experienced from time to time. Do you know about the Adirondack Mouse Trap? It's a big bucket filled with water that has peanut butter on a bal anced stick, and when a mouse runs to get it, falls into the bucket of water and drowns... kills 'em every time.

♦ Dear Peck Laker - I want a shed on my property but I already have a house and a garage and gazebo. Does the gazebo count as the third structure? ~ Need More Storage!

Dear Need More Storage - That is a good question! Is it enclosed on all sides? Does it have a door? Technically that would be a structure. But asking the Pecks may be your best avenue for an answer.

♦ Dear Peck Laker - Am I supposed to go clockwise or counter clockwise around the waterski area? And is it 11 am to 5pm or do I have the times wrong? ~ Going the Right Way

Dear Going the Right Way- You are asking an important question. It's counterclockwise and you are right - it is between eleven and 5:00 pm. And in case you forget, stay just around the orange buoys or you might get boaters and those fishing angry if you are somewhere else on the lake. In turn, boaters and those fishing shouldn't be crossing the path during those hours when being used by waterskiers and tubers.

- ♦ Dear Peck Laker Some folks who fish and some slow boaters come awfully close to my dock and boat. Those fishing go at trawling speed but I have found some hooks where I would rather not have them! The slow boaters sometimes are not so slow and going too fast and wake my boat and dock. What can I do? ~ Don't Rock the Boat
 - Dear Don't Rock the Boat Those are good questions. I am glad you asked. As far as the hooks go, it is really just an unfortunate accident and you must have some really good fish along your shore. Where do you live? As for waking that is very annoying. Yelling at them sometimes works... but getting a photo and sending it to the PLPA President (Jim McCulley) will help. The offender will soon be reminded to pass at a snails pace.
- ♦ Dear Peck Laker I just love hiking the trails off of the North Shore Road. I have not seen much wildlife however and wonder what lives in our woods. ~Woodland Friends

Dear Woodland Friends - That is an interesting question. I think the person who can answer that best is Arnie Henry. He is our trail master who takes care of the 7 miles of hiking paths for the PLPA. I bet he has some sto ries to tell. He is likely on his ATV when working so I guess he could high tail it in the other direction if needed. I can say though, that there are Black Bears in the Adirondacks. They are most active from dusk to dawn and are rarely aggressive. I myself, have never encountered a bear here. But if you know John VanVranken - he could fill your ears with stories of his encounters in the area. He is though, more of a hunter and not a hiker. If you like snakes, we have 'em. But the only venomous one is called the Timber Rattlesnake and their habitat is around Lake George, not here. Phew. What a relief!

If you have any more questions for me, send them on to PLPA.org and I will do my best to answer them! Peck Laker

Good Things Happening at The Glove!

This is an exciting and busy time for The Glove Theatre! As we work with architects and plan for our upcoming renovations, we are enhancing and expanding our program offerings.

The Glove is a soon to be 110-year-old venue that's re-emerging. After being closed from the 1970s to the mid-1990s, a group of concerned citizens saved the storied theatre from the wrecking ball. Without their efforts, The Glove would be a parking lot. We recently received 2 large grants totaling \$4 million that will enable us to bring the shine back to The Glove. While we set those plans in motion, we've been enhancing and expanding our programming. Here's a sampling of some of our new and expanded offerings:

This Spring we premiere our new **518 Concert Series** – spotlighting both established and emerging acts on The Glove's stage. We'll be showcasing 518 / capital region talent and seeking to bring people out to see and support live music. This series kicks off on March 30th – with a fun concert and some pre-show excitement for all!

- Sat. 3/30 @ 7pm: **The NoLaNauts** 10-piece band bringing the high-octane fun and funk of New Orleans to Gloversville including pre-show festivities that promise to be fun for all ages!
- Sat. 4/20 @ 7pm: **The Refrigerators** the original horn-fueled party band in the Capital district. They've filled our house before, and we can't wait to have them back!
- Fri. 5/3 @ 7pm: **The Insolent Willies** local fan favorite bringing their hip-shaking mix of quirky, clever original music and unpredictable covers to our stage!
- Sat. 5/25 @ 7pm: Alex Torres & His Latin Orchestra Alex Torres' 12-piece orchestra brings their original blend of Afro-Caribbean rhythms such as Salsa, Merengue, Cha-cha, Bomba, Plena and Latin Jazz to The Glove! Get ready to dance! Not a dancer have fun listening and watching!

More 518 Concert Series bands will continue to be announced! Keep an eye on our website (www.theglovetheatre.com/upcoming-events) and our Facebook page for additions during the season.

In March, we have three weekends of *Big Screen Saturdays/Retro Edition* – featuring movie length marathons of *I Love Lucy* (3/2 @2 and 7), *The Honeymooners* (3/9 @ 2 and 7) and *Happy Days* (3/16 @ 2). We'll cap off the series with a *Sock Hop* on 3/16 at 7pm. Come out and lindy-hop, jitterbug, twist and jive at The Glove!

We also have a fun *Trivia Night* fundraiser for Fulton County Regional SPCA (FCRSPCA) at The Glove on March 23 @ 7. Come with your friends and family, have some fun and raise some money for FCRSPCA.

In April we are staging Noël Coward's *Blithe Spirit*. Coward described this play as "an improbable farce in three acts". Come have some fun and laugh with us during this fun play.

Every month, we host *Vaudeville Thursdays/Open Mic* (on the last Thursday of the month) – If you have a special talent you'd like to share on our stage – come out to The Glove. Show starts @ 7. Performer sign-ups start @ 6:30. Check The Glove's website (https://www.theglovetheatre.com/) for more information.

This is just a sampling of the things coming up at The Glove this Spring. For more information about The Glove and our programs—including our FREE movies, please check out our Facebook page and our website!

~ Kathleen Perrott

Visit us online: plpa.org



First Bottle Drive of 2024: April 22!

In 2023, the PLPA held five can/bottle drives that raised a total of \$2,507!

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

Please have bottles and cans you have been busy emptying over the winter ready for collection by 9am. It's a great help if you can separate glass bottles, cans and plastic bottles in separate bags. If you'd like to volunteer, please let us know by emailing us at plpaorg11@gmail.com.

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





SPRING is coming



