

Upper Saranac Foundation

It still is, and always will be, about Water Quality.



Edition 2

December 2013



INTRODUCING OUR NEW WEBSITE BY JENNIFER OTTEN

In 2013, the Upper Saranac Foundation introduced a new, updated and modern website.

The redesign of the website aimed at multiple goals driven by the communications team.

First and foremost was to create a modern, user centric, design. The layout was created with custom tile posts. The inspiration for the site is from the Windows 8 operating system. The colorful tiles are wonderful and bold, with responsive design.

The content dynamically arranges and resizes itself, so that it works and looks great on all mobile browsers and devices, as well as large desktop monitors.

The architecture of content on the site was stripped back, while pushing the most important information and Foundation data to the surface.

New interactive temperature and water level graphics were added, a live feed from Facebook and reorganized articles, for easy browsing and filtering.

Please go to: www.uslf.org to see the new and exciting website.



SUMMER RECAP FROM LAKE MANAGER, GUY MIDDLETON:

Before I begin with my recap of what the Foundation has been doing, and the scientific data that goes along with it, I thought I would take this opportunity to share a few personal stories from this summer. These stories didn't occur on Upper Saranac Lake, where I spend most of my time, rather on other bodies of water in the Adirondacks.

It has been a few years since I have been out on the waters of Lower Saranac Lake in a boat, so when a friend offered me an opportunity to spend the day, I took him up on it.

We were out for only a short period of time, when my friend, the operator of the boat, slowed to a halt and then put the engine in reverse, before accelerating forward again. When I questioned what he was doing, he informed me that there was so much Milfoil caught on the prop, it was hindering the performance of the boat and, by putting the boat in reverse, he dislodged the Milfoil build-up. He repeated this practice throughout the day, and any time we ventured near shore.

The next story is generated from a visit to my parents' home in Lake George. When I questioned the haphazard appearance of the usually pristine, raked beach, I found my probing was an irritant to my father. He had become increasingly distraught as he came to the realization that with his aging body, combined with the increased Milfoil washing up on the beach, he was no longer able to keep up with his daily ritual of raking and removing the accumulation of the invasive build-up.

Fortunately for Upper Saranac Lake, we have much better news on the invasive plant battle! The Foundation continues its largest initiative, with its emphasis on our invasive species management and the hand-harvesting of Eurasian Water Milfoil. Continued attention remains on invasive awareness, through increasing public education and outreach to residents and visitors, thus promoting invasive prevention.

The diver's total harvesting amounts of Milfoil have been decreasing for the last three years. This is a good thing. Although we are finding Milfoil plants virtually in all littoral zones and all possible growth areas of the Lake, we are finding plants early enough that they are not becoming mature and dense. This early detection and quick response is the key to preventing Milfoil from maturing and natural fragmenting, thus spreading and starting new growth. This downward trend of harvested amounts began in 2009-10, by employing new techniques for spotting, Rapid Response and the utilization of a smaller, quicker dive team. Many of you may have seen my Lake Manager buoys throughout the Lake, marking Milfoil locations for the divers to harvest.

Decreasing harvests amounts show that our efforts are working, and we are able to keep control and stay on top of regrowth. Although we are getting the upper hand, we are not yet comfortable enough with our efforts that we can decrease our 20 full weeks of harvesting. This year was unusual, with its reduced growth, due to increased run-off and rain, less sun, more cloudy days; all limiting water clarity and growth stimulation.



The Foundation is well aware that premature cut backs, or complete discontinuation of the harvesting efforts, would devastate the overall trend of Milfoil growth in a very short time. Harvesting of Milfoil on Upper Saranac Lake continues to be the model for Milfoil control throughout the Northeast, as well as other areas of the Country.

Editors Note:

The members of the Board of Directors of the Upper Saranac Foundation would like to express to Guy Middleton, the Lake Manager, their great appreciation for his continuing service, expertise and dedication in protecting the shores and waters of Upper Saranac Lake, for the benefit of all of the Lake's Community and visitors. Without Guy's extraordinary efforts, the Lake's Water Quality would be severely challenged.



An independent Plant Monitoring Report, recently completed by the Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI) at Paul Smiths College, supports the Foundation's findings - that we are winning the battle to control Milfoil. It can never be eradicated. AWI utilizes plant monitoring sites throughout Upper Saranac Lake and compares them to previous years, as well as comparing unmanaged sites adjacent to Upper Saranac Lake.

As invasive species continue to encroach into the Adirondacks, it is important to increase our understanding of the potential challenges they bring to our waters. The Upper Saranac Foundation continues to look at and assess prevention strategies for all invasive intrusions. As part of the awareness process, the Foundation has provided hands-on, educational field work for local school children, participated in the Invasive Species Awareness Week with an invasive educational paddle opportunity up Fish Creek and provided invasive educational, hands-on publication displays at numerous Lake locations throughout the summer.

If we all work together to widen the awareness and spread prevention of invasive species, we really can make a difference. Everyone can keep an eye out for new and unusual plants growing along their shoreline, and utilize the Rapid Response system we have in place by calling me at 518-796-1052.

The Foundation also works with Paul Smiths and AWI doing scientific monitoring of our tributaries and the two basins of the Lake, collecting water samples throughout the summer. We test and record a multitude of important chemical parameters, and have built a robust data base to analyze the trends in the Water Quality of Upper Saranac Lake.

Through this process, it recently became apparent that Phosphorus levels in Hatchery Brook were increasing. High Phosphorus levels entering the Lake feed the growth of algae and degrade Water Quality. Nuisance algae blooms yield unpleasant odor, plus an appearance that reduces the aesthetic and recreational appeal of lakes. Potentially, this could have led to another Lake-wide algae bloom, similar to what happened in 1990.

Ultimately, it was determined that a change to a less costly fish food at the Hatchery corresponded to the increased Phosphorus levels and was likely the cause. Discussions between the Foundation and the DEC have resolved the feed problem, and the Hatchery has reverted back to a more environmental friendly food, ensuring the best Water Quality possible for Upper Saranac Lake. Recent data has already shown the positive effects of our combined efforts.

The Foundation continues to work on our Dam Maintenance projects in conjunction with a professional Engineer. As owners of the Bartlett Carry Dam, the Upper Saranac Foundation is mandated by the NYS DEC to continue to preserve the integrity of the dam, to prevent any catastrophic



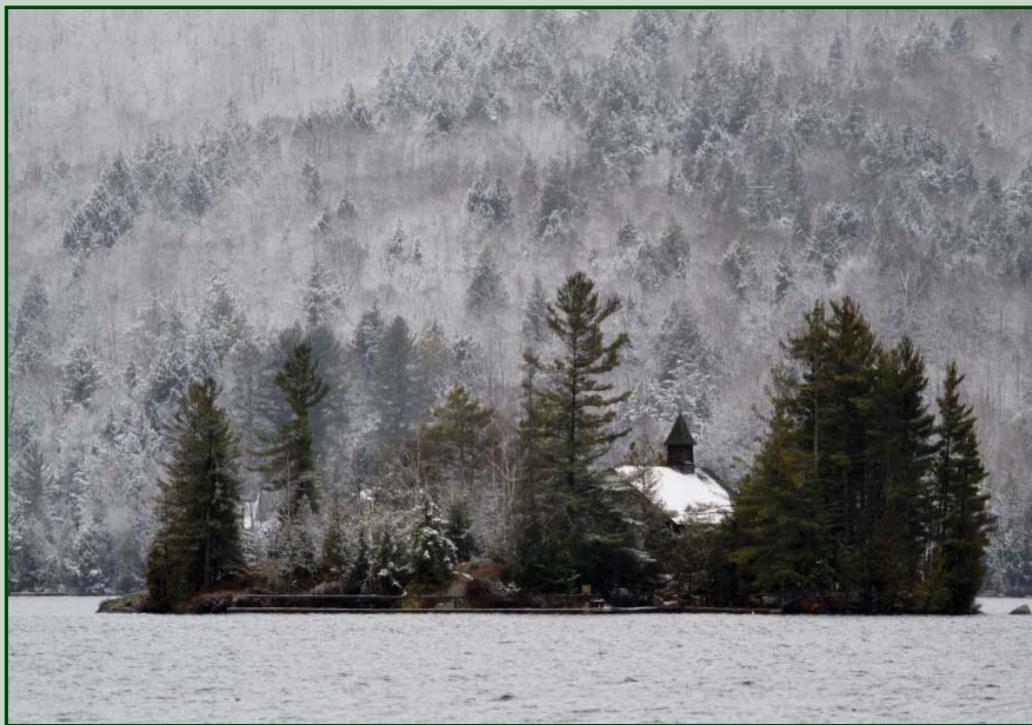
disaster downstream and to maintain the recreational value of the Lake's present level. Without the dam, Upper Saranac Lake would be three to four feet lower in elevation. In recent years, the Foundation has developed and implemented an Inspection and Maintenance Plan, an Emergency Action Plan, reestablished an emergency and maintenance road, has routine safety inspections conducted by the Engineer, and we are now a certified NYS DEC Dam. The Foundation has recently completed over \$45,000 in repairs to both North abutment walls and, this fall, further maintenance of the North embankment to ensure it remains sound into the future.

The Foundation has optimized our outreach abilities by adding a Facebook page that can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/UpperSaranacLakeFoundation>, as well as a new web page <http://uslf.org>. Regular postings on these pages include Milfoil progress, Lake water levels, water temperatures, photos and Lake Friendly Living information.

Thank you again for another productive Lake Manager summer. I especially want to thank those of you whom I had the pleasure to meet and talk to, who are as passionate as I am about maintaining the quality of Upper Saranac Lake and its shoreline. I would also like to thank all of those who contacted me with Rapid Response calls for Milfoil sightings, concerns regarding possible violations of ordinances/regulations and general environmental inquiries - all for the benefit of the Lake.

Together we can make a difference.

Guy Middleton
Lake Manager
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Special thanks to Thomas Phillips for providing the photographs in this edition of our Newsletter.

*To view more of Tom's collection, visit his website at
www.fineartamerica.com/profiles/2-thomas-phillips.html.*

Upper Saranac Foundation

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