

## 2017 Volunteer Asian Clam Survey Report

2017 was the third year of the Volunteer Asian Clam Survey. The purpose is to identify if there are any locations in Upper Saranac Lake/ Fish Creek Ponds where the invasive Asian Clams were present. Second to prevention, our best defense against Asian Clams is early detection for the greatest chance of eradication. Left unchecked, Asian Clams can reproduce exponentially and cause negative ecological impacts including algae blooms. Concentrations of Asian Clams have the potential to negatively impact the tourism economy, reduce property values and hamper recreational activities. Asian Clams have successfully been established in Lake George since 2010. With such close proximity, and its biological characteristics, Asian Clams could easily inhabit the waters of Upper Saranac Lake.



### Survey Implementation:

The Upper Saranac Foundation conducted the organization of the Survey, and 25 people volunteered in the Survey effort. The Survey was conducted at the convenience of the volunteers anytime during the month of August. Volunteers signed up to survey one of the ten predetermined selected sites. These sites were designated based on the clam's desired habitat, proximity to potential entry points and limiting infringements on private land owners.

The Survey work included sieving through sandy areas of the assigned sites at 20-30 foot intervals. If anything appearing to be an Asian Clam was found, the surveyor contacted the Lake Manager for identification. Each site varied in the number of samples required to be taken to complete the Survey. The smallest of the sites only required 12 samples, while the largest needed over 224 samples.

**Survey Results:** All ten of the sites were surveyed this year (one up from last year). Among the ten sites, just under 700 sediment samples were sieved and over 23 hours were dedicated to identify the presence of Asian Clams.

**Fortunately, no Asian Clams were found in 2016.** There were reports of native Finger Nail Clams, also commonly known as Pea Clams discovered in one of the sites. In the case of Asian Clams being found, the Upper Saranac Foundation would implement the protocol outlined in the *Upper Saranac Lake Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention and Preparedness Plan* for eradication.



The Upper Saranac Foundation would like to thank all those who volunteered their time and efforts for the Survey. The Foundation will plan to make the Volunteer Asian Clam Survey an annual event and will continue similar efforts for prevention and early detection to assure maintained water quality of Upper Saranac Lake.