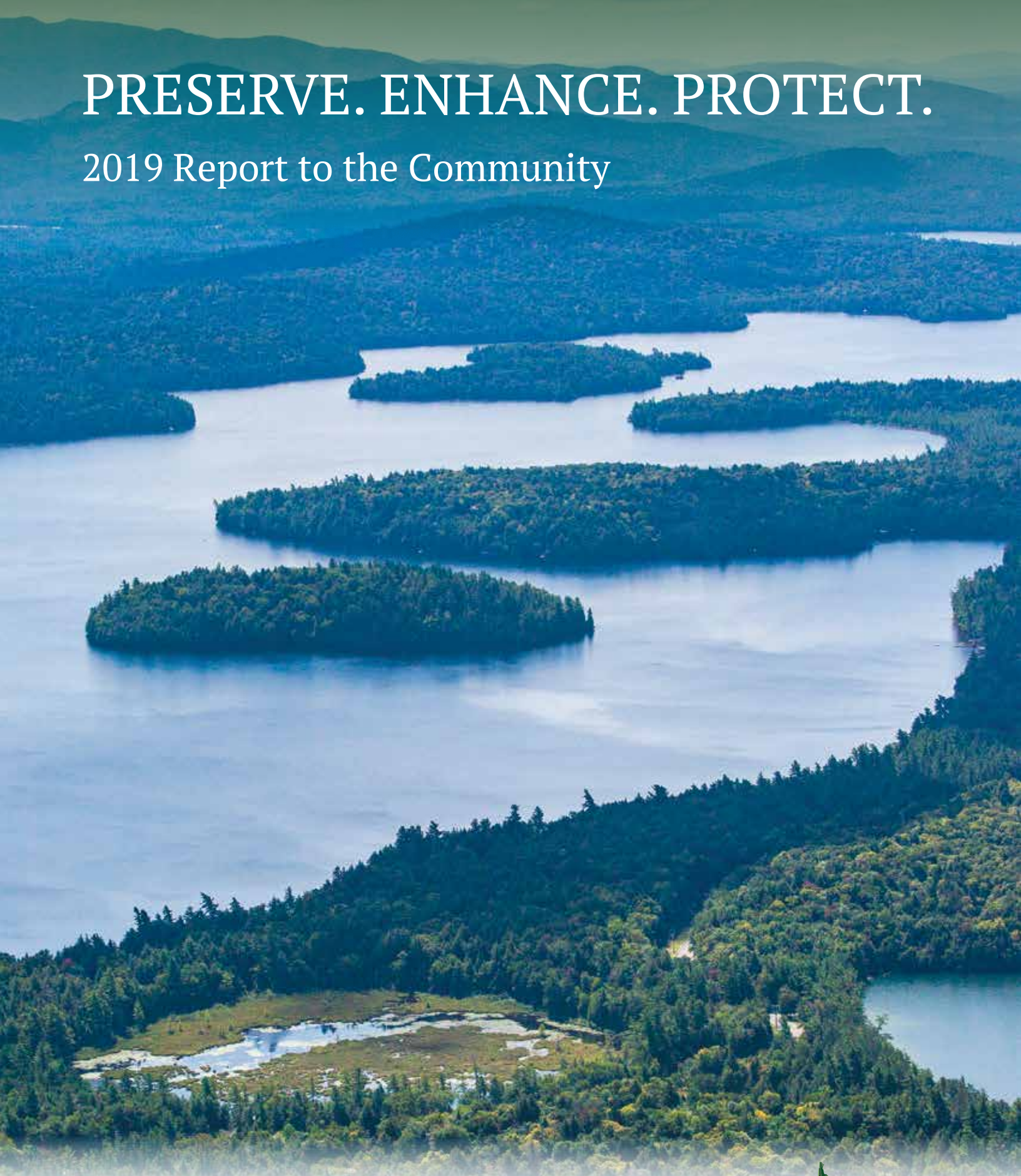
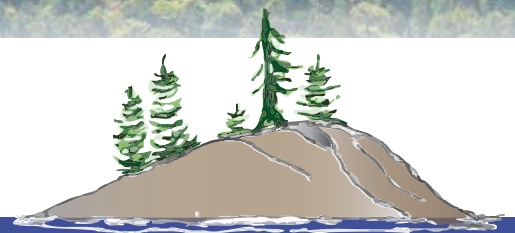


PRESERVE. ENHANCE. PROTECT.

2019 Report to the Community



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



WHO WE ARE

The Upper Saranac Foundation (USF) is a nonprofit, science-guided advocacy organization addressing priority threats that jeopardize the natural character, environmental quality, and recreational enjoyment of the Upper Saranac Lake watershed. We seek to preserve, enhance, and protect the natural beauty of the watershed through selective support of projects consistent with these objectives. Your financial support is critical to our role in protecting the water quality of the watershed we live in.

WHAT WE DO

USF promotes and advocates projects by appealing to and educating the Upper Saranac Lake community through targeted communications, including campaigns to:

RAISE AWARENESS of water quality issues and the role of these projects in preserving water quality.

EDUCATE the community about relevant laws and regulations (state and local) and how these apply to them.

PROMOTE attitudes of compliance, stewardship, and responsible use in order to preserve the lake and its watershed for future generations.

ESTABLISH beneficial relationships with state and local governments and agencies as a means to better achieve USF goals.

COMMUNICATE to the lake community the Foundation's reliance on their support and donations.

MONITOR progress toward our goals and seek to continuously improve operational strategies to best achieve them, and communicate progress to the lake community.

Donations to the Upper Saranac Foundation are used for projects that benefit the watershed, protecting water quality for now and future generations.

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lakemanager@usfoundation.net • Facebook & Instagram • usfoundation.net

Many thanks to Nancie Battaglia for providing the photos of Upper Saranac Lake that appear on the front and back covers of this report.

AIS Prevention & Management

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) pose a major threat to the Upper Saranac Lake (USL) watershed. They can negatively impact ecology, hurt the tourism economy, reduce property values, and hamper recreational activities.

USF has been involved with invasive species for nearly two decades and is considered a national leader in this fight.

In 2019, USF was awarded a \$15,000 grant from the Lake Champlain Basin Program for the USL Watershed Stewardship program. With additional support from donors, USF contracted the Adirondack Watershed Institute Stewardship Program to perform work that prevents the spread of AIS. Watershed stewards were posted at the Back Bay Boat Launch on Upper Saranac Lake and at the Fish Creek Boat Launch in the Fish Creek Campground.



4,179 watercrafts inspected
8,229 visitor interactions
20 AIS-carrying crafts intercepted

Stewards help prevent the spread of AIS by performing careful inspections of watercraft launched and retrieved. Last year, stewards interacted with visitors, inspected boats, and removed plant and animal fragments, all while increasing visitor understanding of AIS.

USF continues to set the standard for AIS harvesting success.

With support from donors, annual

hand-harvesting totals of AIS have decreased from 18 tons in 2004 to an all-time low of less than 290 pounds in 2019.

This success spurred a three-year, \$100,000 grant from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to expand AIS management into the Fish Creek Campground. From 2016 to 2019, a total of 24 tons of milfoil has been removed from the campground's waterways.

In addition to monitoring, USF coordinates AIS surveys to identify new introductions; early detection is one of the best defenses against AIS. In 2019, USF surveyed for various aquatic invasive plants and animals that could threaten the watershed; the annual Asian clam survey, for example, gave the lake a clean bill of health.



ASIAN CLAM SURVEY:
23 volunteers
800 samples
0 specimens found

Partnership, Planning & Management

In 2019, USF initiated an AIS Prevention Partnership Program with private boat launch owners in the USL watershed. Launch owners have committed to directing all watercraft arriving from a different waterbody to be assessed by a watershed steward inspector prior to launching; owners were also provided informational signage and publications to be distributed to users of their launches.



USF also implemented increased management planning thanks to a \$68,000 DEC grant. The new Lake Management Plan will identify water quality issues and define short- and long-term action items to address them. The top objective is to formalize a comprehensive review of the state of the USL watershed, with an emphasis on invasive species. The Adirondack Watershed Institute has been contracted as a consultant to help with the new plan.



AIS Containment & Decontamination

With support from the Cloudsplitter Foundation, USF efforts to contain and decontaminate AIS have netted successes. A 2019 grant from Cloudsplitter was used to purchase containment booms, placed just upstream of the Fish Creek Campground boat launch, to catch fragmented invasive plants that are floating out of the creek, preventing spread into Upper Saranac Lake. Over 2,400 pounds of fragments were prevented from floating downstream. Previous Cloudsplitter support purchased a high-pressure, hot-water decontamination unit, located at the Back Bay Boat launch. Stewards decontaminated an average of 1.9 vessels per day, for a total of 175 in 2019.

Surveying & Monitoring

Upper Saranac Lake is one of the most intensively studied lakes in the Adirondacks, the subject of numerous research projects detailing 30-years of water quality monitoring. USF partners with the Adirondack Watershed Institute to collect and analyze data on water conditions, which is used to identify trends and potential problems and, when necessary, make changes.



Bartlett Carry Dam

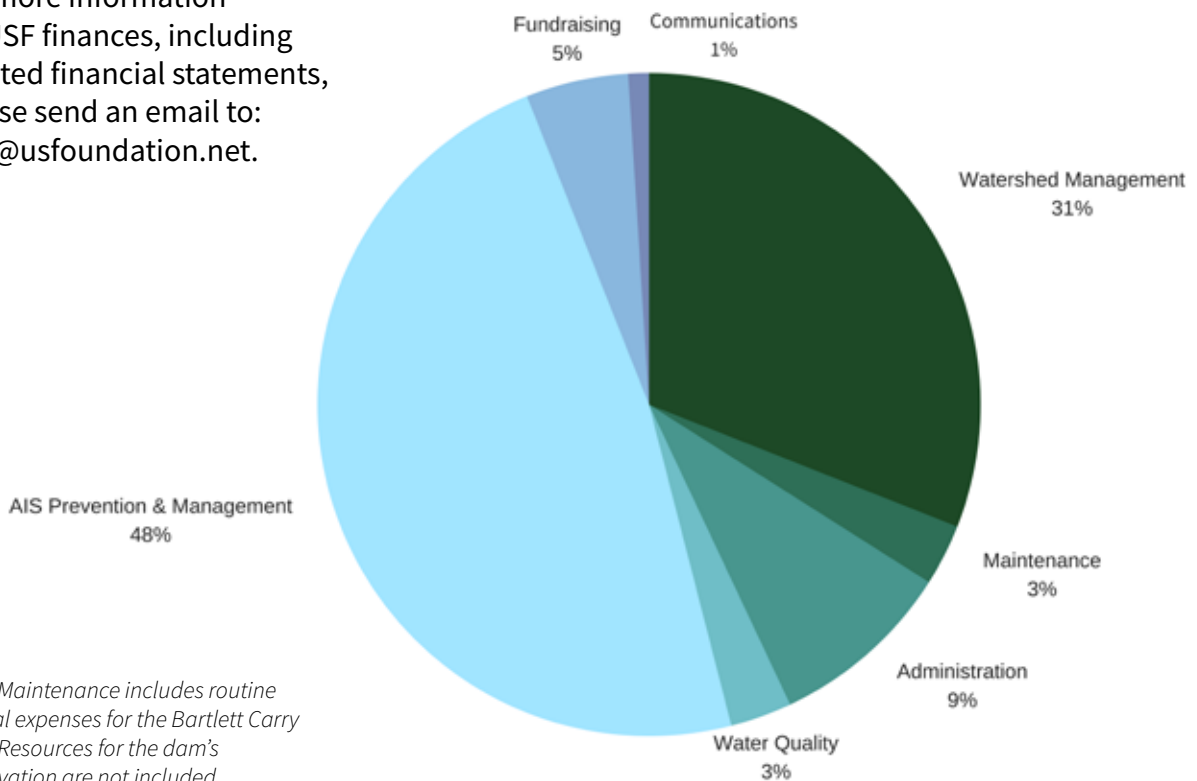


USF acquired the Bartlett Carry Dam in 1993 and has operated and maintained it since. This critical structure maintains water levels for Upper Saranac Lake, supporting recreation, wildlife preservation, fishing, and navigation. As owners of the Bartlett Carry Dam, USF complies with DEC Dam Safety Standards and follows required protocols, including routine maintenance, annual certification, safety inspections conducted by a licensed engineer, and having an Emergency Action Plan that is reviewed and updated annually.

Following the 2018 repairs to stabilize and rebuild the northern embankment, extensive testing and assessments were done on the dam in 2019. This evaluation generated an engineering report detailing recommendations for proposed future additional improvements, tentatively set to begin in 2021.

How We Spend

For more information on USF finances, including audited financial statements, please send an email to: info@usfoundation.net.



Note: Maintenance includes routine annual expenses for the Bartlett Carry Dam. Resources for the dam's renovation are not included.

HOW WE DID IT: Thank you to our 2019 donors

Please excuse any errors or omissions; contact us with corrections.

Government

New York State DEC
Town of Harrietstown
Town of Santa Clara

Foundations

Cloudsplitter Foundation
Lake Champlain Basin Program
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
New England Interstate Water Pollution
Control Commission

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visit usfoundation.net.*



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In an effort to recognize and promote camps that have multiple donors, we have listed below those that are currently combining their resources to be recognized as a camp donation at \$1,000 and above.

\$10,000 and up

711 Bartlett Carry Road
Bartlett Carry Club
Camp Sandanona
Camp of the Winds
Forestrcraft
Wenonah

\$5,000 to \$9,999

94 Moss Rock Road

\$2,500 to \$4,999

Camp Tir Na Nog
864 Deer Island
26 Pinewood Lane
Sunset Camp

\$1,000 to \$2,499

701 Bartlett Carry Road
10 County Route 46
120 Frog Lane
121 Frog Lane
534 Hawk Ridge
5138 State Route 30
5118 State Route 30

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In honor of Jack Brennan's 90th birthday:

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In honor of Curt Stiles:

Curtis and Lynn Alpeter