



FOR THE BETTERMENT OF TWO OF THE FINEST LITTLE LAKES IN NEW YORK STATE

## SPRING NEWSLETTER – May 2015



From the President – Terry Allison

I'd like to welcome everyone back to the lake and wish you all a great lake season ahead. This is the best time of the season since we're looking forward to those warm summer breezes and lazy days of summer. There's lots of activity at the lakes with the opening of cottages and lake houses. I recently discovered some little furry friends who were vacationing in a drawer in my kitchen when we started to open up! Yikes! The ducks and geese are flying overhead and the fish are lying in wait for the anglers to return for another challenging fishing season. Docks are starting to appear in the waters and boats are waiting to be uncovered and start their season. With all the fun to look forward to we mustn't forget that each of us is a caretaker of these beautiful waters. Please remember that during your time on, around and in the waters that you affect the health of our lakes positively or negatively by the way you use them. Respect the beauty, nature and the life that thrives in our waters. You are our first defense. A special thanks to those of you that have renewed your membership and donated extra for the work of the association. It is greatly appreciated.

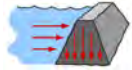
---

### LAKES' FORUM:

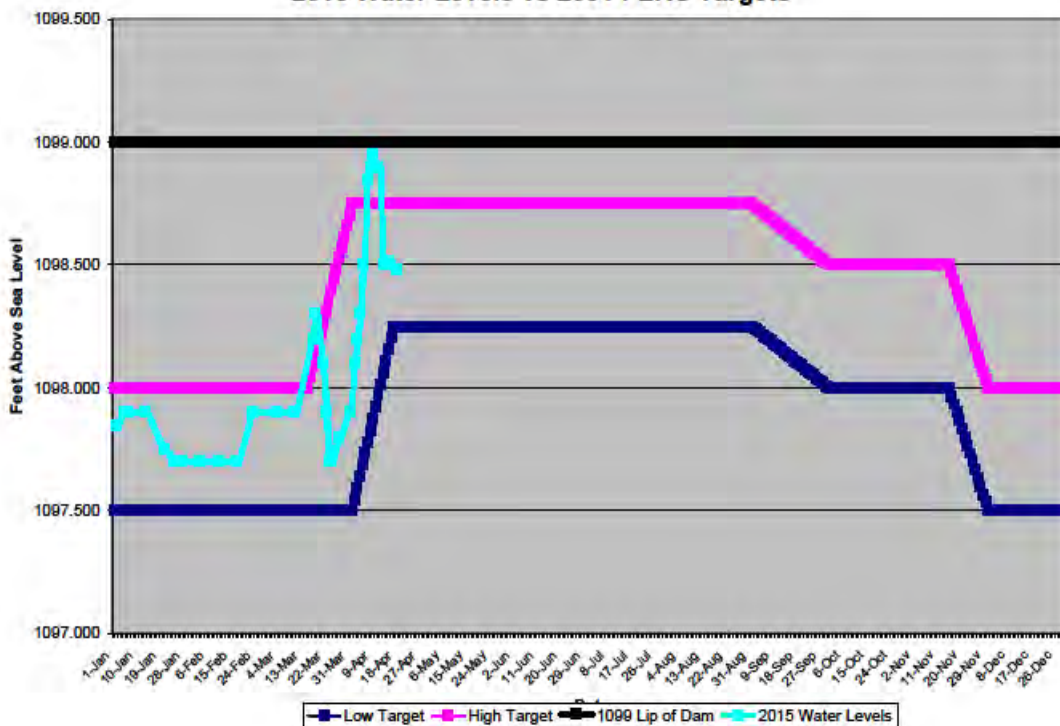


**On May 23, 2015, 10:00AM at the Tyrone Fire Hall**, the LWLA will sponsor a Lakes' Forum. Under the chairmanship of Jean Hubsch and Dick Fagan, this year's opening public meeting will take yet a different look from our previous public meetings. We've invited some of our lake neighbors who will share solutions to a variety of lake issues they have found that work for them: aeration and water movement weed rakes, suction harvesting, weed mats and more. Also invited is Darryl Sturgis from the Schuyler County Watershed Protection Agency who will discuss well-water testing and septic system information. There will be books for sale on lake property management: *Diet for a Small Lake*, *The Secret Life of a Lake*, *Landscaping for Wildlife and Water Quality* and *Through the Looking Glass: A Field Guide to Aquatic Plants*. These publications come from the New York State Federation of Lakes Associations and will prove to be valuable guides for lake property owners. As always, we'll have our line of LWLA logo products, t-shirts, vests, hats, visors, sweatshirts, car magnets and license plate holders, electronic and regular flares and our new line of screen print tees with new logo. For those of you needing a second copy of our 2014 Lakes Directory, they will be on sale also. As a reminder, we do not have the capability for use of charge cards, so bring your checkbook or cash with you.

**LAKE LEVEL:** As you are well aware, one of the biggest issues we faced last year was the constant problem of maintaining a manageable lake level. A good portion of the time we were not only dealing with the weather but with getting NYSEG down to open the gates and then getting them back down in a timely manner to close the gates so as to not lose much needed water. Thanks to our lake level team headed by Terry Fisk who has shouldered the major responsibility of lake level, we did our best to keep the level adequate for water activities. Over the winter we did some research and found a system that will make this job more precise, much easier and put us in sync with other lake associations using up-to-date technology. This system is an electronic device that works on cellular signals to give readouts of the level of the lake when accessed. It will give us the ability to read the lake level from a computer as well as give NYSEG the capability to know what our lake levels are without coming on sight. We have been in communication with a representative from the Telog Company out of Victor, NY. The cost of the system is approx. \$1995.00 with a monthly fee of \$20.00 that pays for the cellular connection. The device measures the lake level, records the level on a graph or any other record keeping model and can be attached to our lamokawaneta.com website. We have a link in place awaiting the systems installation. You will be able to read what the lake level is whenever you wish by simply accessing the website. We are hoping to install the device near where our present measuring device is located. Weather conditions will determine the time of installation. It's our goal to maintain an adequate amount of water in our lakes this year for the enjoyment of boating, fishing and water activities. Thanks to all of you who expressed your opinions on lake level last season and throughout the winter. With the addition of the new lake level monitoring system, we hopefully will be able to better control our water level. Here's hoping Mother Nature cooperates too!



**2015 Water Levels vs 2001 FERC Targets**



## AERATION PROJECT:



After considerable effort in trying to find funding for the proposed aeration project, we are unable to consider the project for activation at this time. The cost is the major stumbling block...\$140,000+. That cost would only affect about 1/3 of Waneta Lake with no aeration in Lamoka for the foreseeable future. I know that many of you are disappointed about this decision but as I reported in a previous letter, the only way to afford weed treatment which is necessary yearly along with aeration, our lake abatement tax would have to be doubled to afford both. The lake abatement tax is what all of us are assessed for based on our lake frontage. For example, 50 ft. frontage is \$90, 50+ is \$120. If you feel that raising the lake abatement tax is a possible option, please let members of the board or me know. Suggestions have been made to create a fundraiser for aeration that would ask all of you to donate to the "cause." It could take time to "save up" enough money to do so, time being determined by just how much everyone could pony up. We'll continue to look for grant dollars but if any you have suggestions, we would invite you to share them with us.

---

## WEBSITE:



The LWLA has a new look on the internet. We hired webmaster Katie Tomlinson to create a new look for our website. It is very user friendly and you should find some new additions that will be helpful in answering questions you may have. There are numerous links to sites that will be of interest to all of you. Fishing tournament information, boater safety course calendars, kayaking and canoeing information, a calendar of events around our region and more are at your fingertips. Association board meeting minutes, lake news alerts and much more will be available to you. So, take a look and enjoy it!

---

## LAKE TREATMENT:



The Lamoka-Waneta Lakes' Association will conduct, under the direction of the Lakes' District Commission and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, an application of the aquatic herbicide triclopyr, Renovate to Waneta and Lamoka Lake. Either Renovate 3 (liquid) or Renovate OTF (granular) will be used depending on location. The application is currently proposed to be conducted during a two day period in mid-to late May, 2015. During this application 27.8 acres of Lamoka Lake and 28.7 acres of Mud Creek Channel will be treated. On Waneta Lake, 83.5 acres will be treated with Renovate OTF. The appropriate Renovate program will control the nuisance plant Eurasian Water milfoil (EWM) while causing little damage to native plants; however it will require plant monitoring. Maps showing the treatment areas for 2015 are available on the LWLA website.

### **The water use restrictions associated with the use of Renovate aquatic herbicide are:**

Use of water for human consumption is prohibited following application until the Renovate concentration falls below 50 parts per billion (ppb) by laboratory analysis. Known potable water users will be notified when the safe level is reached.

- Swimming and bathing are prohibited for 3 hours following application.
- There are no restrictions for fishing or use of fish caught.
- Treated water may not be used for irrigation purposes for 120 days after application or until residue levels of Renovate 3 are determined by laboratory analysis to be 1 ppb or less. There is no restriction on the use of treated water to irrigate established grasses. If you rent out your property during the time of application, it is your responsibility to notify renters of the applicable restrictions.
- For persons affected by potable water restrictions, the Lamoka-Waneta Lakes' District Commission will provide potable water, as needed, following treatment. Those affected by this restriction may also request potable water for up to 30 days following treatment.

## LAKE TESTING:



As part of our responsibilities as caretakers of the lakes, you may see a boat anchored off shore dropping test equipment into the water gathering samples for testing. It's important to keep a running record of changes in the lakes as time evolves. We keep track of water temperature, ph levels, oxygen levels, muck depth and more. We are able to track the effects of chemical treatments, weather conditions, human and animal populations, weed overgrowth, watershed issues and more. Check our website to see some of the results as they become available. Our lake testing team is comprised of property owners from both lakes who have volunteered their time for training and data gathering. Thanks to Gordon Shafer, Kurt Bischoff, Brian Smith, Ed Sharpe, John Webb, and Kevin Morris for giving of their time for data gathering and analysis.

---

## WATERCRAFT INSPECTION:



New York Sea Grant and New York State Parks are sponsoring a day-long workshop on May 1 in Hamilton, New York for those interested in starting a new watercraft inspection program. Groups experienced in these programs will be presenting on topics that include legislation as related to watercraft inspection, aquatic invasive species, how to start a program at your lake, data collection, etc. We are pleased to be sending Rich Stewart from our board of directors to represent the LWLA. It is our hope to begin a watercraft inspection program in the near future to help ward off the introduction of other invasive species to our already burdened lakes. **As we begin to build our own inspection program, we would like to solicit your help. In order to be effective we will need many volunteers. At present, we are considering 2-3 hours on Saturday and Sunday mornings. Would you be a part of our program by volunteering some time? Our goal is to educate the public in the importance of clean boats in and out of the water. Contact us if you can help.**

---

## DOCKS AND MOORING LAWS/REGULATIONS:



Recently a lake property owner brought to our attention that their property was being infringed upon by a right-of-way ruling on their property. The right-of-way gave the owner across the road the ability to access the lake. In so doing, the right-of-way individual built a dock on the waterfront, infringing on the waterfront area of the lake front property owner. In doing some research, we have found that there are no docking and mooring laws on the books of the towns surrounding our lakes. Our association will attempt to work with the surrounding towns to establish some guidelines that can address similar issues that could arise in the future. Isn't it better to be proactive instead of being reactive? If you have knowledge that may help us in this area, please contact us.

---

## BE SEPTIC SMART:



Did you know that one-quarter of all U.S. homes have septic systems? If you're not properly maintaining your septic system, you're not only hurting the environment, you may be putting your family's health at risk and may be flushing waste into our lakes! EPA's Septic Smart initiative is a nationwide public education effort that aims to inform homeowners living on properties serviced by septic systems on the importance of properly maintaining their septic system and provide valuable resources to help homeowners make important decisions regarding their wastewater management needs. Find out more at:

<http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/septic/septicsmart.cfm>

---



## RAINY DAY AT THE LAKE? WATCH THESE VIDEOS!

(Taken from Waterworks, NYSFOLA)

Technology is changing, and so is the way we learn about methods to keep our lakes clean, stay safe in the water, identify invasive species, and more!

**Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers, Clean, Drain, Dry** – This three minute video produced by the Lake George Association provides useful tips on how to inspect and clean your boat and equipment to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species. Watch the video on the Lake George Association website at <http://ww.lakegeorgeassociation.org/>.

**When in Doubt Say Out! Protect your pooch from harmful algal blooms** – This short video from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reminds us of the risks posed to pets from blue-green algae blooms. On YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=goPMNzDmJDg>.

**Calling All Boaters: Help Prevent Hydrilla** – Produced by NY Sea Grant, this short video describes the hydrilla infestation in the Cayuga Lake inlet in Ithaca. Watch this one at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i2WwcVtnHHo>.

**After the Storm** – This video, produced by the US Environmental Protection Agency and The Weather Channel has been shown at several NYSFOLA conferences, and is always well received. It focuses on storm water runoff and its impact on surface water quality. It is now on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0flXhs6DzIE>.

**East Shore Schroon Lake Association Milfoil Scout Training Video** – Can you recognize Eurasian water milfoil? Does your lake have a program to keep it in check? Take a look at the efforts of the East Shore Schroon Lake Association at <http://essla.org/milfoil-scout-program/milfoil-scout-training/>.

**Bloom – The Plight of Lake Champlain(Part 1 of 4)** – This first film <http://youtube.com/watch?v=oz3KNo-21Q4> in the four-part series is an Emmy award winning documentary exposing the declining health of the 6<sup>th</sup> largest lake in the United States, and the future of watershed communities of Vermont, New York, and Quebec. Bloom first premiered on Mountain Lake PBS in December 2010, with follow-up episodes premiering on February 2012. It tells the story from the front lines of lake management, policy and environmental advocacy- fighting the status quo, awaking an apathetic public, and envisioning a new future for the ecological treasure and economic engine of the historic Champlain Valley. Find out more about the Bloom film project at <http://bloomthemovie.org>.

---

## **Are you a Member of the LWLA? Join Today! Support the Cause... Why?**

- Through a partnership with the Department of Environmental Conservation, Schuyler and Steuben Counties various water quality management agencies, the towns of Bradford, Tyrone and Wayne, and the New York State Federation of Lake Associations the LWLA gathers information and shares it with the over 1,000 property owners around the lakes.
- Monthly water testing monitors various components of the lakes and that information is shared with the NYS Department of Health, the DEC and the New York State Federation of Lakes Associations to create a map of what's happening in the lakes throughout the state.
- Careful monitoring of the lake level helps in maintaining a healthy water level that is subject to rapid change due to cloud bursts, major downpours or in extremely hot weather, preserving precious water for recreational use.
- The LWLA monitors invasive species outbreaks and chemically treats the lake on a yearly basis working in partnership with the Lakes District Commission to keep harmful weeds from overtaking our lakes.
- Fish studies are done on a regular basis to monitor the health of the wildlife living in the waters.
- Controlled hunting of geese is used to maintain a healthy balance in the lakes environment.
- The LWLA promotes and supports various activities throughout the summer season to create opportunities for property owners to gather together. Those activities may include: two public meetings for the dissemination and gathering of information, promoting flare nights, organizing the July 4<sup>th</sup> boat parade, sponsoring the annual golf tournament and pancake breakfast and creating common times for the annual rummage sales around the lakes.
- Promotion of wearing apparel to create a sense of pride and caring for our lakes.
- Open meetings seven times yearly where you can voice your concerns and support.
- Yearly newsletter to know what's going on
- Lake Directory- find friends and businesses of interest to you

**Check our website to download an application and join us in our stewardship of the lakes today.**

## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE LAKE?

### Calendar of Events for 2015

**Public Meetings:** Location: Tyrone Fire Hall  
May 23 - Lakes Forum (10:00 AM) August 29 (10:00 AM)  
**Flare Nights:** July 4 (9:30 PM), September 5 (9:00 PM)  
**Boat Parade :** July 4, (2:00 PM) Lamoka - Meet at Baptist Camp;  
Waneta - Meet at South End of Waneta  
**Golf Tournament:** July 11, Arrow Creek Golf Course  
**Rummage Sales:** July 18-19 (Lamoka) July 25-26 (Waneta)  
**Pancake Breakfast:** August 8 (8:00AM - 11:00AM) Tyrone Fire Hall  
**Board of Directors Meetings:** Location - Tyrone Town Court, 10:00 AM  
April 18, May 16, June 20, July 18, August 15

### Other Community Events...

- Bradford Fire Hall hosts breakfast third Sunday from 8 - 11 in the morning
- Tyrone Masonic Lodge hosts breakfast first Sunday May through October from 8 - 11 in the morning
- Wayne American Legion hosts meal every Thursday May through October at 6 in the evening
- Tyrone Methodist Church hosts senior luncheon every Wednesday at 11:30 in the morning
- Weston Presbyterian Church hosts bake sale on Saturday of Memorial Day, Fourth of July & Labor Day from 9 - 11 in the morning
- Wayne American Legion hosts Chicken BBQ, TBD
- Tyrone Methodist Church hosts Chicken BBQ, August TBA at 4 in the afternoon

### Did You Know?

The Wayne Village Baptist Church has recently been placed on the National Historic Register. There will be a ceremony for installation of the roadside marker in the early summer. Check the Facebook page for Town of Wayne, NY History Group for the date, when decided. Did you know that there is another building in Tyrone on the National Historic Register? The Weston Schoolhouse (also the location of the Mustard Seed Attic) has been on it since 1998 and will soon have a plaque. The plaque & marker were obtained by a grant from the Pomeroy Foundation.

Check our website for other events...[www.lamokawaneta.com](http://www.lamokawaneta.com)



OOPS! I made a mistake! Please check your calendars and change the second Flare Night from August 29 to September 5<sup>th</sup>. We will still have our public meeting on August 29<sup>th</sup>.

## Your Governing Board

President

Terry Allison                      607.734.6474      607.425.4245

Vice President

Cartha Conklin                      607.292.6153                      Schuyler County Watershed Rep., Town of Tyrone Rep.

Secretary

Terry Fisk                              607.292.6808      607.731.8863      Lake Level

Treasurer/Membership

Kurt Bischoff                      607.857.1629                      Lake Testing, Schuyler County Watershed Rep.

Directors from Lamoka

Ron Dixon                              607.734.1955      607.292.3677      Clothing

Al Gerth                                607.962.6488      607.377.2070      Pancake Breakfast

John Herbert                        607.968.0055      607.769.3589

Jean Hubsch                         607.583.4273                      Directory, Lakes Forum, Website

Chuck & Joan Rybak              607.292.3885      607.426.1959      Merchandise

Gordon Shafer                      607.292.6276                      Lake testing

Brian & Patty Smith              607.765.7178      607.725.3100      Lake testing

Andy Strawhand                    585.671.2613                      Goose Control

David Wallace                      607.382.1806      607.478.8627

Directors from Waneta

Al Buckland                         607.292.6281                      Tyrone Fire Department liaison

Dick Fagan                            607.292.3075                      Pancake Breakfast

Sean Fitzpatrick                  607.292.6508                      IT consultant

Gary Gray                            607.292.9922                      Golf Tournament Coordinator

Chris Kain                            607.733.0204

Dene Karaus                        434.239.9055      617.633.3164      Lake level

Kevin Morris                        607.292.3678                      Lake testing

Ed Sharpe                            585.663.5066      585.613.2966      Lake testing

Richard Stewart                  315.536.8079      315.536.3366      Newsletter Editor

Carolee Thatcher                570.494.1951      607.292.3087      Publicity

John Thatcher                      607.292.9903                      Flares



## **THE BRADFORD DAM:**



As a property owner on Lamoka or Waneta Lake, you may or may not be aware that our lakes rely on the Bradford Dam to sustain the waters for them. You also know that our association helps to maintain an agreeable water level in the lakes. Do you know that we DO NOT own the dam and are not required to pay for maintenance of the dam? The Bradford dam is the property of New York State Electric and Gas. Through a written agreement that was made a number of years ago, NYSEG maintains the dam so that a healthy level of water can be held in the lakes. NYSEG responds to our requests when we have too much water, sends down crews to open the dam gates and routinely maintains the equipment associated with it. It is an expensive responsibility but one that NYSEG does willingly. Most recently it was discovered that the gates were not responding properly and that maintenance is necessary to get them repaired. Winter debris built up behind the gates and became jammed deep down and out of reach of the crews sent to clear them. Repair work is being planned as of this writing and will return the gates to doing their jobs again. We are grateful to NYSEG for their continual immediate response to our needs and hope to continue in good standing with them now and in the future.