

# THE LAKE IROQUOIS MONITOR

RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ACTION FOR A HEALTHY LAKE

## MESSAGE FROM THE OUTGOING LIA PRESIDENT

I hope that everyone has been enjoying the lake this summer, despite some rainy weather. We all have so many things to be thankful for and we are especially thankful that we are once again able to gather together. As I near the end of my term as LIA president, I wanted to update you on some of the accomplishments of the last year.

Despite some limitations due to the pandemic, 2020 and 2021 have been very busy years for the LIA Board of Directors. In 2020 we launched a completely redesigned website as part of enhancing our community outreach and education program. This website has become an important tool in sharing of information as we have navigated the Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) herbicide permit and treatment process.

Speaking of EWM, after seven years of research, data collection, and work, ProcettaCOR, an herbicide narrowly targeted to EWM, was applied on 37 acres at the northern end of the lake on June 28. We are already seeing a significant decline in the EWM in this area, and we expect to see none by the end of July – four weeks after treatment. This treatment is part of an integrated pest management plan to reduce and control the infestation of invasive EWM in Lake Iroquois. This multi-faceted approach includes using Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH), hand pulling where possible and appropriate, in addition to the use of bottom barriers in high traffic areas, and the continued management of our state recognized Greeter/Boat Wash Station Program at the public boating access.

EWM is a serious problem not only here in our lake but in many waterbodies in Vermont and around the country. It is a very hardy invasive plant, able to adapt to a variety of environments and it propagates easily by rooting from even very tiny fragments. Because it spreads easily and rapidly, it can squeeze out the native vegetation that fish and amphibians need for food and habitat thereby disrupting the entire ecological web of the lake. We have seen this very thing happen here with a decline in native plant species of nearly 25% over the last several decades. To address this problem over the long term, your board of directors continues to work tirelessly to investigate and determine every possibility that exists to help mitigate the spread of EWM and to reverse the damage it is causing to the lake.

Another accomplishment this year was the publication of a five-year lake management plan for Lake Iroquois. This plan gathers in one place all the various activities going on to enhance and protect Lake Iroquois and the surrounding watershed and lays out initiatives for the next several years. It is posted on our website at <https://www.lakeiroquois.org/about/annual-reports>

We are also happy to announce that the LIA in partnership with the Lewis Creek Association (LCA), and the Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District (WNRCD) has been awarded a grant from the Lake Champlain Basin Program to create a Watershed Action Plan. This project will be implemented beginning in January 2022 and will be looking at the entire watershed and how various aspects of it affect the health of the lake ecosystem and the rest of the watershed. We will have much more information on this in the next few months as the project gets underway.

We are also continuing to work closely with the Lake Iroquois Recreation District (LIRD). LIA and LIRD are continuing to work on addressing the problems of Beebe Lane washing out and pouring sediment into the lake. To that end, a grant was received several years ago for an engineering design to remedy the problem. LIRD and LIA have now applied for a grant to implement that design. We are hopeful for a positive outcome.

All these efforts are supported by state and federal grants, allocations from the surrounding towns, and most of all by your dues and donations. We could not do this without the help and support of all of you. As an all-volunteer organization, with no paid staff, every penny received from the towns, from the grants, and from dues and donations goes into implementing these projects. We continue to need your help in our fundraising efforts. If you are yet to be an active

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member, we would love to have you join us. You can join online <https://www.lakeiroquois.org/help/donate> or mail your membership. And, if you can, an extra donation would help immensely to support the important work of education, outreach, and protection of our precious water resources. You may target your donations to a specific project or contribute to the general fund. We can't do it without you!

In this final month of my term as LIA President, I want to thank all of you and most especially the LIA Board of Directors. I have had the sincere pleasure of working with the finest board members anyone could ask for during my tenure as president. I AM THE LUCKY ONE. I plan to remain on the board to continue to help out and support the work of the LIA for a few more years. In fact, I will again be teaming up with my fundraising co-chair Ernie Rossi, so you will be seeing Ernie and me walking the lake soliciting your involvement and of course your money!! This will also be a great time for you to speak directly to us regarding our programs. Once again, thank you all for your generosity and support during these past few years.

Chris Conant

### MOW LESS-PROTECT THE LAKE MORE!

That's right! By not mowing all the way to the shoreline, you can improve lake water quality, reduce shoreline erosion, prevent sediment and pollutant runoff, create better habitat for native plants and pollinators, and best of all, have more time to relax and enjoy the lake.

The Lake Wise Program is a Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) initiative that awards lake-friendly shoreland property. Its goal is help property owners create lake shore landscaping that protects the lake. The Lake Wise Award certifies that the property uses shoreland best management practices (bmps) and is maintained in a way that cares for the lake.

We already have six properties on Lake Iroquois that have received the award. You can identify these lake-friendly properties by the Lake Wise Award sign posted close to shore on each one.

The LIA is providing help and advice to property owners who are interested in making their property more lake friendly and who want more time to enjoy the lake. To begin, check out the wealth of information on the LIA website, including links to the state DEC's program, lists of native plants, landscaping ideas, and much more. You can find all of this at: <https://www.lakeiroquois.org/water/shoreline-health>

Our lake is beautiful but it would be even better if it were golden. By making your property 'lake wise', you can also help make Lake Iroquois golden. If at least 15% of the properties around the lake become Lake Wise Award winners, the Lake Iroquois community will be awarded the Gold Lake Wise Award. Not only will that be something for all of us to be proud of, but it will also be a huge step in helping to protect and enhance our precious lake.

LIA can provide advice, information, and resources to help you get started on making your property more lake friendly and giving you more time to play at the lake, just contact us at [info@lakeiroquois.org](mailto:info@lakeiroquois.org)



Steve & Lessie Reiman receiving the first Lake Iroquois Lake Wise Award from DEC's Amy Picotte.

## THE 2021 LAKE IROQUOIS GREETER PROGRAM

Mark Kinsley is our Greeter Manager this year. He is responsible for overseeing our greeter and boat wash program. Mark and all of the greeters attended the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation training in the spring and are providing information to boaters about preventing the spread of invasive species and checking and cleaning boats entering and leaving the lake.



Mark is a retired Williston resident who frequently enjoys the beauty of Lake Iroquois and several other lakes and waterways in our wonderful State. "If we are to continue to enjoy these wonderful resources and their full beauty for years to come, we (boaters) need to do our best to help protect them from invasive species that threaten the delicate balance of our natural ecosystems. It's amazing how just a little precaution can have a profound impact, often saving

hundreds of thousands and even millions of dollars that are required to mitigate problems once invasive species infest a waterway," says Mark.

Our greeter program is part of a statewide effort to educate boaters and prevent the spread of invasive species. The most effective preventive measures that boaters can do are:

- Visually inspect your boat and trailer before leaving the boat launch after each use, removing any vegetation.
- Wash your boat and trailer after each use, and don't forget to clean and drain bilge, cockpits, etc.
- Allow two weeks for your boat to completely dry whenever possible

Our summer greeters are Emilie Bernier, Rowan Dunlop, Erica Hirschhorn, Anna Igler, Hannah Kay, and Josh Kinsley. They are on duty each weekend from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

*The Greeter Program is supported by a grant from the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, LIA member dues and donations, and the Towns of Williston and Hinesburg*



**HOW ARE WE DOING?**  
We want to hear from you. Drop us an email and tell us what you think of our work so far and what you'd like to see us work on in the future.

Email us at:  
[info@lakeiroquois.org](mailto:info@lakeiroquois.org)

Bald eagle on rock island (photo by Ed & Sue McGuire)

CVU High School crew team (photo by Marian Mumford)

Loon & babies (photo by Sue McGuire)

Marck Bellaud of Solitude Inc. ready for herbicide treatment (photo by Marian Mumford)

## LIA ANNUAL MEETING AND PARTY

Come and learn about what is going on around the lake, meet and talk with others in the Lake Iroquois community and celebrate the lake.

**Date:** July 29, 2021

**Location:** Chris Conant's camp, 744 Beebe Lane

**Time:** Meeting begins at 5:30 p.m. with celebration of the lake immediately following

**What to bring:** family & friends and chairs.

**Directions:** First camp on Beebe Lane. Come by boat or car (parking is available)

Refreshments will be provided

*This will be an in-person meeting outdoors. It will be held rain or shine under the tent.*

## CHECK OUT LIA'S LATEST PUBLICATIONS

### THE LAKE IROQUOIS LAKE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2020-2025

The management plan brings together a summary of the research, advocacy, and projects carried out by volunteers since 1977, describes current management actions, and outlines goals for the next five years. It is available on our website at: <https://www.lakeiroquois.org/about/annual-reports>

### THE LAKE SHORE PROPERTY OWNER'S MANUAL

This booklet provides you with information about state and local regulations and guidelines as they relate to your property, the shoreline, boating, and the lake in general. The 4<sup>th</sup> edition of our Lake Shore Property Owner's Manual is available on our website at <https://www.lakeiroquois.org/water/shoreline-health>.

## WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!

*If you haven't already, please join or renew your membership for 2021 and, if you can, add a little extra to support our work for the health of Lake Iroquois and the surrounding watershed.*

*It's easy—join or renew online through our website: <https://www.lakeiroquois.org/help/donate>*

***[www.lakeiroquois.org](http://www.lakeiroquois.org)***

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