

FALL 2023

THE LAKE IROQUOIS MONITOR

RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ACTION FOR A HEALTHY LAKE

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy Fall in Vermont everyone. I hope you have had the opportunity to enjoy our amazing Vermont weather this fall. We deserve these blue-sky days recently after the summer we have had. Let's hope for many more of these days ahead.

It's funny though, with all the rain that we had during July and August, so many people came to have fun on Lake Iroquois. I've spent my summers on the east shore of the lake by the public beach/public boat access for many years. This past summer as I would look down the lake towards the southern end, I would see dozens of watercraft including water skiers, paddle boarders, kayakers, canoers, and bass fisherman enjoying the lake regardless of the weather. This is what Lake Iroquois is all about. The beach also had a busy year, and the LIA Greeter/Boat wash Program inspected over 2800 water vessels on weekends from Memorial Day to Labor Day. We are very thankful to Mark Kinsley, our Greeter Program director, and his staff.

Your LIA Board of Directors has been busy planning for 2024. We are pleased to acknowledge that many of our residents/lakeshore owners have been named Lake Wise Properties by the VT Department of Environmental Conservation. The Lake Wise Award certifies that a property is well managed, using shoreland "Best Management Practices" to protect the lake. Lake Iroquois is the third lake in the state to achieve "Gold Status". This is huge! Please read the article in this newsletter about the Lake Wise Program.

Of course, with all this good news, there always seems to be a catch. Our Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM) problem is back. Thanks for everyone who sent a "Milfoil sighting report" to our website. AE Diving Contractors, Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) contractors worked on the lake in September removing large patches of milfoil. The Fall Plant Survey recently completed by Larry Eichler, (former RPI Institute), which helps us identify native and non-native plant species throughout the lake, identified additional sections of milfoil. The LIA Board of Directors is considering every available option to take control of the milfoil. **Please see Larry Eichler's Milfoil Map on page 2 in this newsletter** and the full report on our [website](https://www.lakeiroquois.org).

The Lake Iroquois Association is a nonprofit organization that strives to protect the lake, an incredibly unique resource. Every year more boaters, paddlers and swimmers are enjoying the lake. As Stewards of the lake, the Lake Iroquois Association Board feels the pressure from each of the surrounding communities to assure continued excellent water quality through our efforts. We ask for your help and support to continue to strengthen that endeavor. Please visit our website at www.lakeiroquois.org

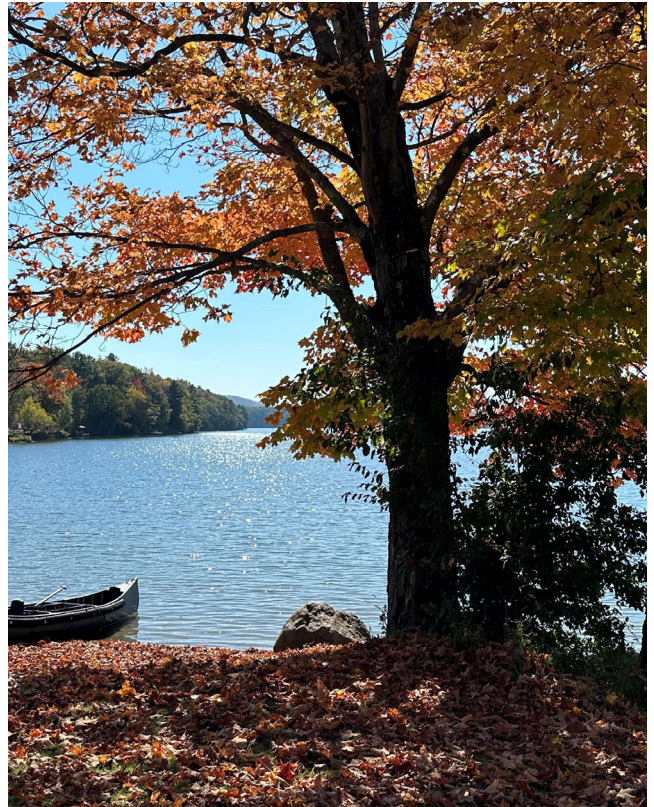
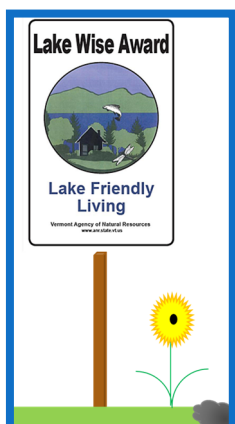
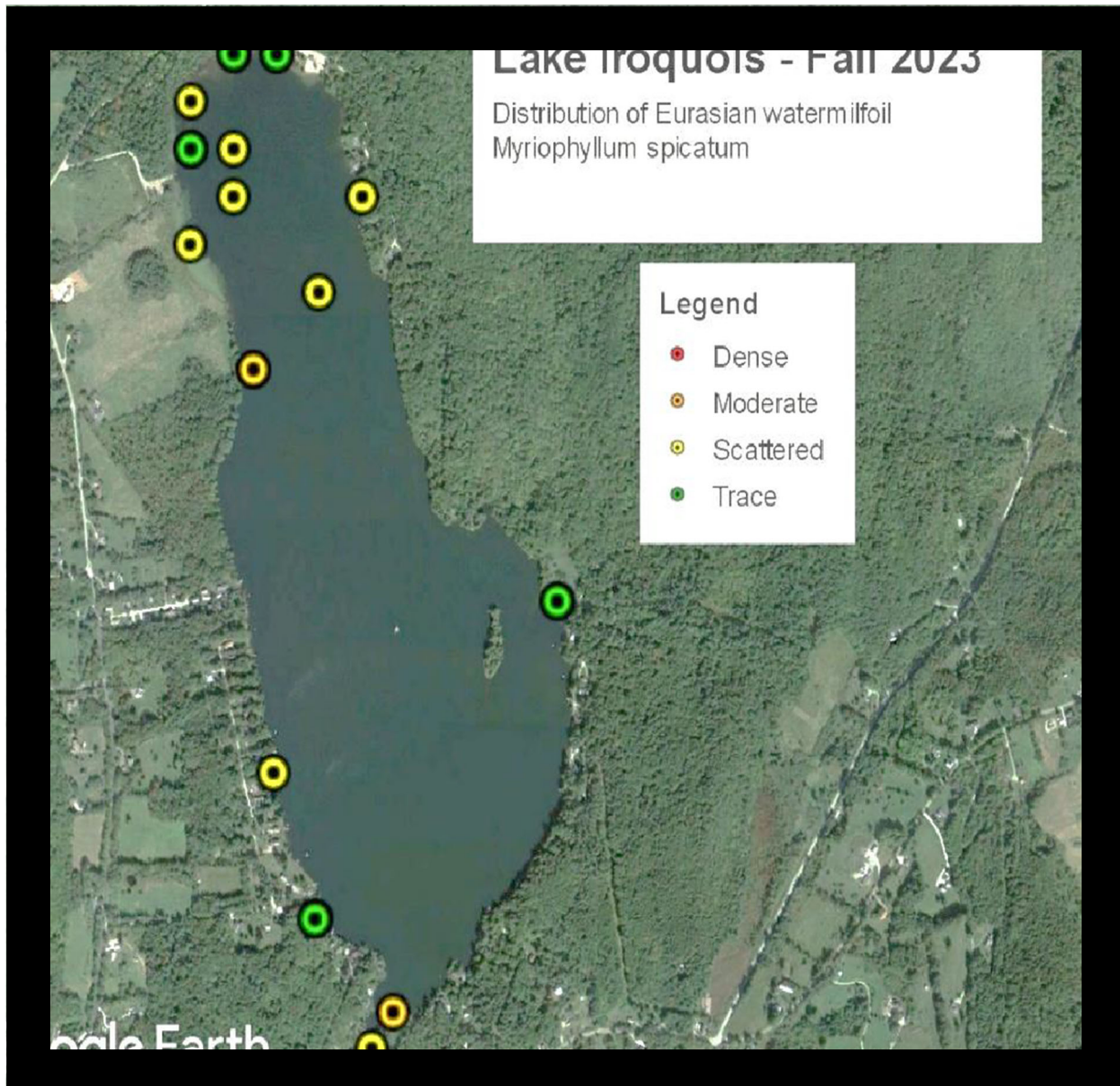


Photo by Josh Weinstein 2023



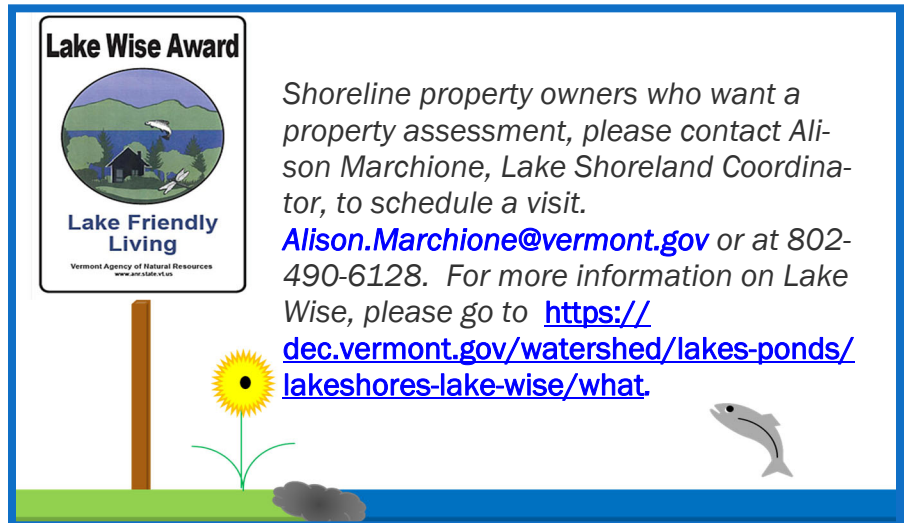
LAKE IROQUOIS ECOSYSTEM

The Lake Iroquois Association (LIA) oversees aquatic plant surveys to determine the types and levels of aquatic invasive species infiltration, including Eurasian Water Milfoil (EWM). Two surveys were performed by Larry Eichler in 2023—one in June and one in mid-September. Milfoil (EWM) was not detected in the June and September 2022 surveys following the treatment with ProCellaCOR. A small amount was detected in Spring 2023, and as illustrated on the map below, the September 2023 survey found moderate, scattered and trace amounts of milfoil representing 19% of survey points. Thank you to all who reported milfoil sightings through the LIA website or directly to LIA Board members! Diver-Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) was performed in September, but the rapid recurrence may indicate a need for reapplication of ProCellaCOR. The Beebe Lane Road Improvement project will help prevent phosphorus from washing into the lake and creating an enhanced environment for milfoil growth. Increasing the number of days the greeters/boat washers are on duty in the summer could also help to prevent reintroduction of invasives.



LAKE WISE GOLD!

At the LIA annual meeting held on July 19th, Julie Moore, Secretary of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, presented the Lake Iroquois Association with the Lake Wise Gold award. For a lake to achieve Lake Wise Gold status, 15% of a lake's total shoreline property owners must receive the Lake Wise Award. The Lake Wise Program was developed to educate lake shore property owners and incentivize them to invest and implement best management practices that enhance shoreline protection. Shoreline property owners undergo an assessment of their parcel of land, which must meet specific criteria set forth in the program to be awarded the coveted Lake Wise designation. The capstone to a successful award is a beautifully designed sign signaling the property owner is doing their part to protect the shoreline for lake health.



Shoreline property owners who want a property assessment, please contact Alison Marchione, Lake Shoreland Coordinator, to schedule a visit.

Alison.Marchione@vermont.gov or at 802-490-6128. For more information on Lake Wise, please go to <https://dec.vermont.gov/watershed/lakes-ponds/lakeshores-lake-wise/what>.

Why 15%

According to the VT DEC's informative [Lake Wise web page](#), social science suggests neighbors are influential with other neighbors in seeking similar property improvements that in turn lead to recognition. The web page also cites marketing research showing that 15% of a given population is a metric that often leads to favorable trendsetting.

How significant is this achievement?

There are over 800 lakes and ponds found within Vermont's borders. Of these bodies of water, only two other lakes in Vermont have achieved Lake Wise Gold status. Lake Iroquois proudly becomes the third Lake Wise Gold recipient statewide! LIA is actively working to help other property owners on the lake become aware of the Lake Wise program and work with them to achieve the Lake Wise award. If you are interested in learning more about the program, check out the resources and links on the LIA website [here](#).

Also noteworthy is that the Lake Iroquois Association celebrated its 15-year anniversary in November 2022. While not formally organized prior to 2007, lake residents and others have participated in active stewardship of the lake since the 1970's. *Jane Clifford, Lake Wise Committee, LIA Board*

NO ICE-OUT CHALLENGE 2023!

The winter ice of 2023/2024 will come and go, but we won't be guessing the dates. The Ice Out Challenge won't happen.

Stay tuned for exciting new FRIENDRAISING events.

THANK YOU SHANNON KELLY!

On behalf of the Lake Iroquois Association, I want to take this opportunity to thank Shannon Kelly for the incredible work that he accomplished while being a member of the LIA board but also his leadership as President. Shannon was instrumental in attaining the Federal grant for Beebe Lane repairs that will have an everlasting impact on this lake. We as board members will not only miss his enthusiasm, his endless energy, and organizational skills, but most of all we will miss his friendship (his daily "just checking in", making sure that each one of us was ok) which he did so often. Shannon, you have left an incredible impact on this lake for generations to come! Enjoy your time with your beautiful family, your lovely wife Kate, and your amazing daughters.

Thank you and see you on the Lake my friend!! — Chris



LAKE IROQUOIS HATS AND SHIRTS COMING SOON!



Lake Iroquois hats and shirts with the new loon logo will soon be available for purchase!. Proceeds go to the Lake Iroquois Association projects to protect the quality and sustainability of Lake Iroquois.

Soon you will be able to show your support of Lake Iroquois by sporting these very cool t-shirts and hats!



GREETER PROGRAM GAINS FOR 2023

Despite the number of rainy days in Summer 2023, our team of greeters greeted 2,823 boaters—approximately 350 more than Summer 2022 and approximately 1,481 more than Summer 2021.

Every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from Memorial Day through Labor Day (plus holidays) the greeters inspected boats, trailers, and non-motorized watercraft on their way on and off the lake. The greeters also washed watercraft and trailers. They informed boaters about aquatic invasive species, how to wash their boats at home, and the dangers of using lead fishing equipment.



The greeters prevented additional invasive species from Lake Iroquois. This summer watercraft came to our lake after visiting 48 other bodies of water, many of which have aquatic invasive species. The majority of boats launched were last in Lake Iroquois or Lake Champlain.

Greeters reported 1,513 out of the 2,823 watercraft launched were kayaks, paddle boards or canoes.

Many thanks to Mark Kinsley for managing the 2023 Greeters Program, to Bob Donnis and his committee who oversee the Greeter Program, and to our greeters who participated in the Annual Greeter Training Program through VT Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), and inspected over 2800 watercraft.

We are grateful to the VT DEC for the Aquatic Nuisance Control Grant that shares costs of the Greeter/boat wash Program, to the Hinesburg Fire Department who supplies the water for boat washing; and to all who supported the 2023 Greeter Program through volunteer hours, and monetary donations. The Lake Iroquois Association Board hopes to increase the number of days per week that greeters/boat washers are available.

Month	Launches	Retrievals	Total	Washes	%
May	165	20	185	6	4%
June	580	304	884	67	12%
July	663	288	951	81	9%
August	392	120	512	59	12%
September	220	71	291	22	8%
2023 Totals	2020	803	2823	235	12%

FOVLAP NEWS

Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds (FOVLAP)

President, Pat Suozzi

The Federation of Vermont Lakes and Ponds (FOVLAP) is dedicated to the protection and preservation of Vermont's lakes, ponds, and their watersheds. We advocate with the state legislature and administration on issues related to lake and watershed health, provide educational events and materials, and support the state's lake associations. Some of the Federation's recent events included our annual meeting devoted to presentations and discussions of the emerging threat of cyanobacteria. The June Lake Seminar focused on lake regulation enforcement. We also do many shorter 1 hour lunch time events during the fall and winter. Coming up in November we are planning "Let's Talk Lake Talk", a forum for lake associations to celebrate successes and discuss challenges. Scheduled for November, this event will be virtual and free. Watch the [FOVLAP website](https://vermontlakes.org) for details and registration information for this and for other short events throughout the winter. All of our events are recorded and can be viewed on our website: <https://vermontlakes.org>. Looking forward to January, we are preparing for the legislative session. We plan to continue our advocacy for adequate funding to support greeter programs and nutrient reduction efforts as well as supporting legislation to increase protections for the state's most pristine waters. We will also be following developments regarding the proposed regulation of wake sports. To receive regular updates on all the Federation's events and to stay informed of lake related legislation and administrative rules, join our mailing list here: <https://vermontlakes.org/lakes-and-ponds-news/>

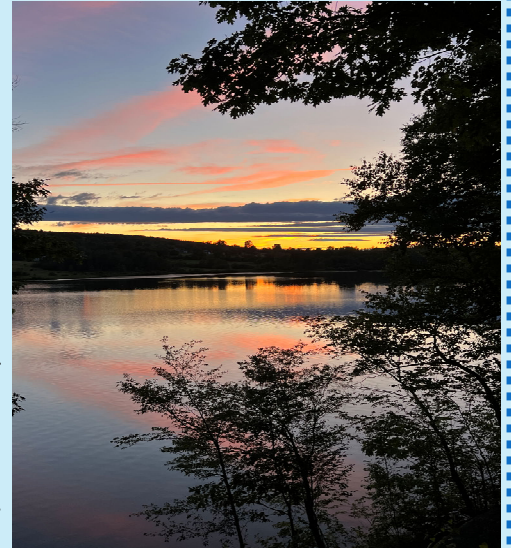


Photo by Karen Villanti 2023

Loons on the Lake

Again this year, we were fortunate to have a nesting pair of loons on Lake Iroquois. Although their special floating nesting raft had additional vegetation and sticks added to make it larger, the nesting pair decided they preferred



Photo by Ernie Rossi 2023

the old nest. They removed most of the new vegetation before their eggs were laid in the nest.

In early June two baby loons were born on Lake Iroquois. It was fun watching them grow throughout the summer. With the approach of fall weather the parents and "babies" have flown south for the winter.

Jack Linn, LIA Board member set the floating nesting raft in place on the

lake. We are also grateful to Erik Hanson of the VT Center for Ecostudies for his guidance and support. Our first nesting raft on Lake Iroquois was constructed in 2018. You can read more information on the statewide VT Loon Conservation Project at: <https://vtecostudies.org/projects/lakes-ponds/common-loon-conservation/vermont-loon-conservation-project/>.

LIA BOARD UPDATE

Meet New LIA Board Member Sarah Beebe

Sarah's love of lake life goes back to her childhood when she spent time at the family cottage her grandfather built on Lake Morey in Fairlee, Vermont. Sarah has been coming to Lake Iroquois for over thirty years now. She has three boys who have grown up on the lake and have inherited her fondness for the lake and for keeping it healthy. She is recently retired, after forty years in the medical field as office manager, patient care coordinator, and bookkeeper for a busy dental practice in Manchester, Vermont. While not involved directly, Sarah has kept abreast of the LIA's work and dedication since its inception through her brother Roger Jones, and now feels she has the time to be a useful member. Sarah lives in Arlington, Vermont, with her husband David who is also very interested in preserving the natural beauty of the lake. Hobbies include quilting and gardening, and of course spending as much time as possible at the lake with family and friends!

ANNUAL MEETING

The LIA Annual Meeting was held at Chris Connant's Camp on July 18th. President Shannon Kelly led the meeting and welcomed Julie Moore, Secretary of the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources who spoke of the successes of the LIA and Lake Iroquois programs and recognized our water quality stewardship; and leadership in the state since developing our Greeter/boat wash station in 2016. Secretary Moore then presented the Lake Wise Gold Award to President Kelly. **President Kelly introduced Alison Marchione**, Lake Shoreland Coordinator, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation who is available to assist with Lake Wise assessments of anyone's property. She presented Lake Wise Awards to Kim and JoAnne Conant, Karen Villanti and Roger Jones. **President Kelly then introduced Casey Spencer**, District Manager, Winooski Natural Resources Conservation District who said our Lake Iroquois-Patrick Brook Watershed Action Plan is precedent setting!

Election of 2023 Officers/Directors: Christopher Conant, President; Jane Clifford, Vice President; Roger Jones, Jeff Davis, Bob Donniss, David Horn, Pat Souzzi were reelected as Directors. Sarah Beebe was elected as a new Director.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:28 pm to a wonderful pot-luck supper!! There were 52 attendees.



Sec'y Julie Moore foreground, Coordinator Alison Marchione

What the Lake Iroquois Association is doing for you!



- Created a five-year lake management plan
- Distributes the property owners manual
- Reduced the Eurasian Watermilfoil invasion
- Coordinates/supports the Diver Assisted Suction Harvesting (DASH) boats to remove milfoil from Lake Iroquois
- Continues tributary sampling
- Manages Greeter and Boat Wash program
- Educates/supports property owners re: Lake Wise award/certificate
- Works with LIRD on the Beebe Lane Drainage and Water Quality Improvements implementation grant
- Performs aquatic plant surveys
- Supports the Vermont Center for Ecostudies Loon Conservation Project

The Lake Iroquois Association is a 501(c)(3), tax-exempt, non-profit organization with the mission to maintain and enhance healthy ecosystems and appropriate public uses of Lake Iroquois and those aspects of its watershed which impact the health and well-being of the lake. This will be achieved through monitoring, preventive and management initiatives, research, education, advocacy and other actions, involving the cooperative efforts of property owners, town, state and federal officials and other interested parties.

www.lakeiroquois.org



WE GET BY WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS!

We need volunteers! Test water (we will train you!), send photos or newsy notes for the newsletter, the website, and our Facebook page or help write a grant—get involved and join a fun team!

Lake environments are dynamic, and the impacts of new development and stormwater run-off, cause increases in sediment, phosphorus, e-coli, and invasive species like milfoil!, threatening the health and safe enjoyment of the Lake. Your help makes a difference!

No time?— make a donation through the LIA website: <https://www.lakeiroquois.org/help/donate> . Many thanks !