



# THE UPPER SARANAC LAKE ASSOCIATION MAILBOAT

FEBRUARY 2017

## Lady Tree Lodge

Chris Cohan

Lady Tree Lodge was built in the 1890's during the golden age of Adirondack great camps. It is one of the oldest remaining structures on Upper Saranac Lake. Until recently, it was virtually hidden from view. The surrounding woods grew unchecked for over 50 years with evergreens close to and against the house. The waterfront became overgrown making the house almost invisible from the lake. Open spaces and a roadway were lost to second growth timber. Lady Tree was painted Adirondack brown camouflaging its presence in the forested setting. Together, all this caused it to disappear from public view for half a century.



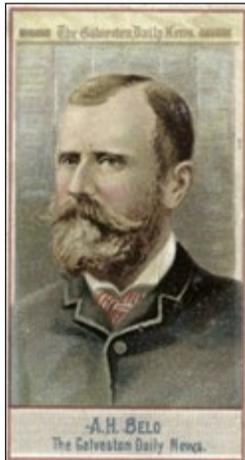
Historical photo of house

Rita A. Wong is an architect and one of the owners coordinated the just completed two-year long restoration. Rita researched the house history at the Adirondack Museum to assist and inspire her plans for a careful and true restoration. At the museum, she uncovered architectural drawings by William L. Coulter who designed some of the finest Adirondack Great Camps. He is recognized for his significant influence on the development of the Rustic Camp Style for which the Adirondack region is known. Lady Tree is a classic example of the Adirondack Rustic style.

Rita noticed that Lady Tree has many details that are Coulter trademarks. For instance, the lake facing façade has one of, if not, the largest and most ornate screens in the Adirondacks which he is known for. Also, when comparing Lady Tree to Moss Ledge (1898) Coulter's earliest known lakefront Adirondack commissions there are many similarities. This is significant as Lady Tree may be an unconfirmed Coulter design or inspiration for his first confirmed commission just down the Lake at Moss Ledge.

Adirondack Architectural Heritage (AARCH) recognized Lady Tree with a 2016 preservation excellence award. The award recognizes exemplary historic preservation projects reflecting a combination of compassion and excellence. Also, Lady Tree has been submitted for NYS and National Registers of Historic Places.

Originally, known as Lone Star Camp, it was built for A.H. Belo, a Confederate Colonel. After the war, he rode horseback to Texas where he founded the



Belo

A. H. Belo Corporation, a major media company traded on the NYSE. His newspapers became a standard of excellence for others to emulate. Adolph Ochs, said "I received my ideas and ideals for a clean, honest, high-class newspaper from the late Colonel A. H. Belo...I have put those ideas into effect at The New York Times." Belo was a confidant of President Cleveland who called him, "A chivalrous, high-minded man, and an exceptionally able, fearless and conscientious journalist."



Hughes on porch

Governor Hughes is said to have run New York State from the front porch. Afterwards, he ran for president against Woodrow Wilson, barely losing. Later, Hughes became one of the most distinguished Chief Justices of the U.S. Supreme Court. He was recognized as a man of utmost character and a true statesman in a sea of petty politicians.

The house has 46 true divided light windows with 34 panes of glass each and 6 doors with similar pane detailing. Together, there are 1780 panes, but who's counting. Then every window's screen was removed, scraped, primed, painted and rescreened. All window frames were opened to replace every sash cord. Some window panes were cracked and needed replacement. Now when the sun shines through the old glass it casts shadows defined by a series of diamond, square and triangle shapes across the floors.



During the early part of the last century, Lady Tree was electrified using exposed conduit that ran indiscriminately across walls and over ceilings. Also, a heating and plumbing system with exposed pipes running hither and yon was insensitively

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# President's Letter

Susan Hearn

The by-laws of the USLA state that, "There shall annually be published in such form as the Board may direct, a Report of its Proceedings of the preceding year, which Report shall state the aggregate contributions and dues, disbursements made pursuant to the direction of the Board and the purpose(s) for which such disbursements were made, and information on the affairs and finances of the Association."

The annual report is typically provided in the February issue of the Mailboat; i.e., this issue. Last issue, I provided a summary of the activities undertaken by the USLA during the summer 2016, as did the many committee chairmen. So, the annual report will consist of our membership figures from Dean Butts, Membership Chairman, and an update on the finances from Jay Kapolka, Treasurer.

Activities of the USLA have continued throughout the fall and winter months. Committees are meeting to plan activities for the coming season and are keeping abreast of items that might be of interest to you, our members. I am grateful to them for their service to the lake association.

I know many of you, like me, visit our Upper Saranac Lake Association web page with some frequency. For many of you, it's a click on the webcam link to see what the weather looks like, if the lake has frozen, if there are deer on the ice. We are grateful to Marsha Stanley and Tom Curley for hosting the webcam. It's invigorating, getting a look at Upper Saranac and recalling wonderful times spent on the lake. I know there will be many more clicks in the future, as we anticipate spring.

The web site, of late, has featured news of the passing of many of our friends and neighbors around the lake. Many of these obituaries make note of the many summers that these individuals and their families enjoyed along the waters of Upper Saranac Lake. It is a common bond that we share with them, a solidarity through the years. We offer condolences to their families and friends and hope they find comfort for their loss.

I hope wherever you are you are enjoying good health and favorable weather.

## Local Author: Neil "Tony" Holtzman

Tony has been spending time on Upper Saranac Lake since the 1970's and is an owner at Bartlett Carry Club since 2002. A retired physician and professor, Tony always wanted to write creatively. He began writing short stories based on personal experiences and some satirical topics. He develops his characters to make a point related to social issues.

A visit to the Adirondack Museum in 2003 helped to develop an interest in the logging exhibit. After research into the history of logging, Tony wrote Adirondack Trilog which followed the history of the industry as it affected our area.

Born in Brooklyn, Tony graduated as a history major from Swarthmore, NYU College of Medicine and was a resident at John Hopkins in pediatrics. Tony was Professor of Pediatrics, Health Policy and Epidemiology in the University School of Medicine and School of Public Health.

His book *Proceed With Caution* discussed the implications of the Human Genome Project. *Blame*, his latest novel, centers on scientific misconduct and conflict of interest. Currently, Tony is writing a novel based on the mystery of the disappearance of Dr. Norman Bethune's murals.

A member of the Board of Directors of Adirondack Center For Writing, Tony wants to support others in writing and publishing as well as supporting high school programs.

*Editor's Note:* We are fortunate to have several authors living on or near Upper Saranac Lake. This is the first in a series of articles highlighting the authors. I invite you to send me the names of people who might be included in this series at [communications@uppersaranac.com](mailto:communications@uppersaranac.com)

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THE USLA MAILBOAT  
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Photo of the mailboat, "Saranac", courtesy of the Adirondack Collection, Saranac Lake Free Library

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# Lady Tree Lodge

Continued from page 1



Walls during/before/after

installed. It was a difficult project to relocate all exposed utilities behind walls and under floors. This arduous project celebrated the original charm of bead board walls while restoring the home interior.

The entire house interior is finished with clear spruce bead board on walls and ceilings. Many decades of neglect left the wood dulled and darkened, the grain poorly visible, and covered in rough alligator finish. They were carefully cleaned. Today, the century old walls glow with a warm richness that highlights the grain.

Much has changed around Lady Tree Lodge and the lake over the past 125 years. However, the captivating beauty of this vast wilderness filled with high mountain peaks, clear lakes, fresh invigorating air and abundant wildlife has not. The Forever Wild policy guarantees the view from Lady Tree across the lake, will not change over the next 125 years or ever.



View across the Lake from Lady Tree Lodge

# Membership Committee

Dean Butts, Chair

We ended 2016 with 536 paid members. Their names are listed in the USLA website, [www.uppersaranac.com](http://www.uppersaranac.com) under "Members". We appreciate their support.

Now is the time to think about being an early bird and renew your 2017 membership. Go to our website and you will see at the top of the screen "Pay your 2017 Membership Dues - Pay Now". Click on the Pay Now button which will take you to the Membership page. Scroll down and choose "Pay by Check or "Pay Online". If you choose Check, you will download a membership information form. Mail it with your check for \$45. If you choose to pay online, fill in the blanks and hit Submit. You name will appear on the website paid membership roster once the payment has been processed.

# Save The Date! Upper Saranac Lake Picnic

Tim Holmes, Membership and Appeals Officer of The Wild Center, announces that the annual Upper Saranac Lake Picnic sponsored by USLA members will be held Monday July 17th at the Wild Center. Another great program is being planned.

Look for more information in the May issue of the Mailboat.

# Financial Report

Jay Kapolka, Treasurer

Cash in Bank - 01/01/2016	\$ 38,485.25
Income:	28,480.00
	<hr/>
	66,965.25
Expenditures:	
USLA expenses	\$ 21,596.02
USLF donation -	
Fish Creek Pond Milfoil harvesting	5,000.00
Fireboat repairs	13,467.24
	<hr/>
	40,063.26
Fund Balance - 12/31/2016	\$ 26,901.99
	=====
Cash in Bank - 12/31/2016	\$ 22,681.16
Due from the USLA Scholarship Fund	4,220.83
	<hr/>
Total Fund Balance	\$ 26,901.99
	=====

# Calendar 2017

<b>July 1</b>	Wooden Boat Parade and Reception	Back Bay
<b>July 8</b>	USLA Membership Meeting	
<b>July 10-12</b>	Boating Safety Course	Santa Clara Town Hall
<b>July 17</b>	Upper Saranac Lake Picnic	Wild Center
<b>July 19-20</b>	CPR/First Aid Course	TBA
<b>July 22</b>	Victorian Croquet Tournament	Dancing Waters
<b>August 6</b>	Boats & Boating on USL	Camp Iroquois
<b>August 7-9</b>	Boating Safety Course	Santa Clara Town Hall
<b>August 12</b>	USLA Annual Meeting	
<b>August 16</b>	Stargazing	Adirondack Observator

# Government Affairs Committee

Cindy Rosenwald, Chair

## Saranac Lake School Project Approved

Voters in the Saranac Lake Central School District approved an \$18.7 million capital project in January. The project was approved by a vote of 329 to 77.

With interest, the total cost is \$26.6 million; however, state aid is expected to bring the district's final cost down to \$13.5 million. Depending on how the financing is arranged, the tax increase is projected to average 16 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value over the timespan of the bonds.

The \$18.7 million will cover renovations and improvements to the Saranac Lake High School, Petrova Elementary/Middle School, Bloomingdale Elementary School, the former Lake Colby Elementary School, (now used for day care), and the district bus garage.

The project is planned to start this summer with renovation to the two village schools. It will take six years to complete.

## Santa Clara Opens New Fire Substation

The town of Santa Clara has opened the new Tupper Lake Volunteer Fire Department substation in the town building on Route 30 and held a December open house.

Tupper Lake Mayor Paul Maroun said the new Santa Clara substation will save time and money for the Village of Tupper Lake as

well as residents of Santa Clara in manpower, gas and wear and tear on equipment.

With the truck based in Santa Clara, on duty personnel can arrive on the scene more quickly to extinguish a blaze. Santa Clara residents should see lower fire insurance rates according to Mayor Maroun: "We are very confident it's going to reduce the fire insurance costs to the people in that area of Santa Clara. They won't get the best rate but they will get a reduction in their insurance (costs), because obviously the time to get to the fire will be reduced."

Costs will be covered by three jurisdictions. Tupper Lake Village will train the firefighters, Santa Clara is responsible for providing equipment, and worker's compensation will be paid by Franklin County.

## New Land Use Code Approved for Santa Clara

The Santa Clara town board recently adopted a new section, 8.15 National Historic Landmark Properties, to its land use codes. This new section will allow historical land to be returned to its pre-existing use. Friends of Eagle Island will thus be allowed to have a camp once again.

Click here for a link to the new section:

<http://www.townofsantaclara.com/jan122017.html>

# Summer '17 Events Preview

Sally Ward, Cultural Affairs Chairperson

Mark your calendars and get ready for a vibrant line-up of events planned by your Cultural Affairs Committee! Jan Butts, Nancy Cohen, Susan Hearn, Beth Hall, Patty Koch, Susan O'Brien, Mary Jane Staufenberg and Mary Ann Randall have been a great help.

## Saturday, July 1: Reception at Back Bay Following the Wooden Boat Parade.

Come admire the boats up close and celebrate the start of the season with coffee and donuts. We're adding an activity table and planning a special craft for the kids this year. It's a great time to renew acquaintances, make new ones, and have the kids meet some others to hang with while at the lake. Thanks to the Back Bay Association for providing our venue.

## Saturday, July 22 (Rain date 7/23): Victorian Croquet Tournament at Dancing Waters — 3 pm.

Pull together some neighbors, field a family team or just show up for friendly competition. Costumes or period hats are optional but enthusiastically encouraged! (A prize for the most authentic.) Thanks to Mary Watson for offering her camp with its natural stone amphitheatre and playing field.

We're looking for team captains and additional volunteers to help with this event. Guaranteed to be a hoot! Please contact Sally Ward with your interest: [smarty3138@aol.com](mailto:smarty3138@aol.com).

## Sunday, August 6: "Boats and Boating on Upper Saranac Lake" Camp Iroquois — 4-6 pm

Historian and former Adirondack Museum curator, Hallie Bond, will take us on a virtual boat ride through time on Upper Saranac, a heavily used waterway for travel and recreation since the time of the Indians. Following her presentation, enjoy wine and cheese with conviviality while you soak in the ambiance of beautiful private family camp. Thanks to Kevin and Betty Ann Keane for opening their doors to us.

## Wednesday, August 16 (Rain date 8/17) -Stargazing at the Adirondack Observatory — 8 pm

Stargaze with an astronomer who will help us identify and appreciate the wonders of the night sky. You'll also learn about the Observatory's plans to grow as an astro science center. This is a family-friendly event.

## Get Involved!

Many thanks also to all the USLA members who suggested ideas for programs. They're reflected here. Keep 'em coming! And if you're looking for a fun way to engage further with the lake community, how about joining us on the Cultural Affairs Committee?

# Santa Clara's New Addition, A Fire Company!

Michelle Brown Garcia

A small reception was held on December 17, 2016 to introduce Chief Steffen, Tupper Lake's Fire Chief and some of the TLVFD members to the residents that were able to attend the event. The group was there to answer questions, address any concerns as well as providing application forms for membership, for anyone interested in joining the department.

Chief Steffen mentioned that you don't need to carry hoses and actually fight the fire to be of help. There are plenty of jobs that provide support including directing traffic or even manning the station- there's something for everyone to do. Summer residents are also welcome to join. For more information call the Tupper Lake Fire Department at 518-359-2543

Keep in mind, if you live within 5 miles of the Town Hall you might be eligible for a rate reduction on your fire protection in your Homeowners Insurance Policy. The final details are being worked out with the insurance companies at this time.



Photo: Michelle Brown Garcia

Tupper Lake Fire Department Reception

# Notes From The Safety Committee

Michelle Brown Garcia, Chair

With the winter season in full swing many people are out and about on their skis, snowshoes, skates and snowmobiles, but remember to use some caution when you are out enjoying your free time. Lately there have been several people, both young and old riding their sleds, losing control, which has resulted in fatalities. Just because you are out on what appears to be a frozen lake, doesn't mean that there aren't obstacles out there such as logs and rocks or even tributaries to cause an accident. Trying to take a curve too fast and not being able to see what's ahead of you can lead to a disaster.

Remember that in NYS any youth between the ages of 10 through 17 must successfully complete a snowmobile safety course in order to earn a certificate, if they operate a snowmobile, on lands upon which snowmobiling is allowed. Snowmobile classes are offered at different locations and most riders take the courses from

September to December. Snowmobiler's Guides will be available at our USLA meetings this summer so that you can get a head start on the season. You can also check out the website, [www.nysparks.com](http://www.nysparks.com) for more information. Anyone operating or riding on a snowmobile must wear an approved safety helmet and must meet minimum equipment requirements.

The DEC is warning anglers to be careful while ice fishing this winter. There needs to be a minimum of 4 inches of clear ice for the water body to be considered safe, and ice thickness can vary. The DEC says that anglers should be extra-cautious around areas of moving water and boathouses.

The department also reminds the public that February 18th & 19th have been designated a free fishing weekend, when no license is required but all other regulations still apply.

Although it's still winter it's never too early to think about summer at the lake!

## The New York Safe Boating Course will once again be offered this summer.

Classes will be held on July 10th 11th & 12th from 9 to 12 Noon. And, again on August 7th, 8th, & 9th from 9 to 12 Noon.

They will be held at the Santa Clara Town Hall Community Room.

You must attend all three days and pass the test in order to receive your NYS Safe Boating Certificate. Keep in mind that NYS passed a law that states if you were born on or after May 1, 1996 you must take a course and obtain a boating certificate in order to operate a motor boat of any size. To register contact Lynne Perry at 518-359-2630 or email [lgper2@optonline.net](mailto:lgper2@optonline.net).

Sonny Young will be teaching our First Aid & CPR courses this summer. The classes will be held on July 19th & 20th from 5:30 to 8:30, the location TBA. For additional information or to register, contact Sonny or Sheila at 518-359-8194 or [adkfoothill@yahoo.com](mailto:adkfoothill@yahoo.com).



Photo: Michelle Brown Garcia

Tom Turkey and his girls 2016



View eastward from Mariner Boathouse

Friends of Eagle Island (FEI) has been busy during these cold months as we wait for the ice to melt doing planning, designing and fundraising.

At its January meeting, the Town Board of Santa Clara voted unanimously to amend the local Land Use Code to reestablish group camping on Eagle Island, located on Upper Saranac Lake. FEI has been in discussions with the Town of Santa Clara to reestablish group camping on Eagle Island through a petition to amend the Land Use Code thereby enabling our treasured camp to re-open. This multi-step process has been quite involved; preparing and filing a petition for an Amendment with the Town Board, review of the Amendment by the Planning Board, a Public Hearing on December 8 and the vote by the Town Board.

The resolution adopting the amendment set specific restrictions to limit the use to the “historic uses” which include all activities that campers and others remember: traditional summer camp, family camp, work and women’s weekends, low impact water activities, with limited/scheduled access for historic tours.

FEI appreciates all the tremendous work done by everyone involved and sincerely thanks the Town of Santa Clara Board, our many supporters, attorneys, and partners.

In other news, FEI is thrilled to be awarded a \$498,825 Grant through the 2016 Regional Economic Development Awards from the State of New York for the Preservation and Restoration of Eagle Island Camp, that is located on Upper Saranac Lake. This is one of the 77 projects totaling \$61.4 million within The North Country Economic Development Council.

This matching grant enables FEI to make significant strides

towards meeting its substantial capital goal required to reopen this historic youth camp. The capital needs are projected to be \$1.5-2M and include a new water supply system, septic upgrades, a new electrical supply, foundations, roofs, and kitchen upgrades.

FEI was also awarded \$10,000 by the National Trust for Historic Preservation from the Hart Family Fund for Small Towns. These funds will be used to match local funds to help support the preparation of Architectural Drawings for the project.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is a privately-funded nonprofit organization that works to save America’s historic places to enrich our future. It is committed to protecting America’s rich cultural legacy and helping build vibrant, sustainable communities that reflect our nation’s diversity.

The land use approval with the grant awards puts FEI and Eagle Island closer to its goal of instituting camp in 2018 and opens many doors for fund development and future partnerships. While there is still major work to be done and funds to be raised in 2017 to transition from the planning stage to a work phase. FEI is thrilled to have started out the New Year with such good news and we are confident in our ability to make it happen. Among its plans for summer 2017 will be to host Open Island events so that the local community can see the progress and get to know our organization.

Paula Michelsen McGovern,  
Executive Director

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Both Photos: Paula McGovern



View of Eagle Island from Gilpin Bay

## IN MEMORIAM

### ANN WATSON BICKFORD

Ann Watson Bickford, age 100, of Bethlehem, PA died on December 18, 2016 in Bethlehem. She was the wife of the late Edward Davidson Bickford. Ann was born in Buffalo, New York on August 23, 1916, the youngest of three daughters of the late Arnold Beach and Esther (Goodyear) Watson.

Having spent the summers growing up at her parents' home, Green Bay Camp on Upper Saranac Lake, she and her husband purchased Pine Rock Camp on Markham Point in 1951, a home her family continues to enjoy. While raising five children, she was an avid tennis player reaching the finals of the Connecticut State Championships and winning many tournaments at The Saranac Inn and Saucon Valley Country Club in Bethlehem. Ann enjoyed an early morning paddle on Upper Saranac, gardening, music, reading and loved her many dogs. Above all she enjoyed spending time with her extensive family and lifelong friends.

Ann is survived by four children: daughters Mary Ann Casey and Patricia B. Donnelly; sons Edward W. Bickford, and Peter W. Bickford; 15 grandchildren and 26 great grandchildren. Ann is predeceased by her daughter Susan Bickford Thomas and her sisters Ellen Watson Spaulding and Esther Watson Crane.

A private funeral service will be held in June, 2017 at St. John's in the Wilderness Episcopal Church, Paul Smith's, NY followed by a burial in the Parish Cemetery.

Contributions can be made in memory of Ann to the Bickford Family Fund at the Trudeau Institute, 154 Algonquin Avenue, Saranac Lake, NY 12983.

### BEVERLY HARRIS

Beverly Borgman Harris, 81, who is remembered most for her servant heart, generosity, and warm hospitality died December 8, 2016, in Venice, Florida.

Born in Minneapolis, Minnesota she is the daughter of the late George and Alice Borgman. She attended the University of California (Tokyo, Japan) and University of Colorado (Boulder, Colorado).

Her career included the distinction of being the first woman to be appointed as Deputy Commissioner of Environmental Conservation for Intergovernmental Relations in the state of New York. Beverly brought to that position a broad background of legislative and administrative experience with the State of New York as director of the Joint Legislative Committee, director of State and Local Relations for the State Assembly, staff director for the Assembly Majority Whip, and as administrative officer to a regional planning and project review agency. She later served as executive secretary for the Adirondack Park Local Government Review Board, and executive vice president for the Fulton County Chamber of Commerce. She had previous experience with private industry in the exploration departments of major oil companies, executive secretary in various law firms, and started her career as a civilian employee with the Military Intelligence Service Group in Tokyo, Japan during the Korean Conflict.

She founded and was president of the Clarkstown Women's Republican Club of New City, N.Y., and was a member of the Federation of Women's Republican Clubs of NYS and the National Federation of Republican Women.

After retiring from New York State politics, she and her husband, Glenn, moved to Florida in 1992 and set up residence in Bradenton and then Venice. When Glenn died in 2002, she turned her attention to serving the community by bringing smiles to those in need in the persona of hospice clown "Flibbertigibbit." Her contribution earned her the President's Volunteer Service award.

Beverly was predeceased by her first husband, Carl Sawaya, and is survived by her son John Sawaya (wife, Cynthia) and 2 granddaughters. She was predeceased by her second husband, New York State Assemblyman Glenn Harris, and survived by stepdaughter Glynn Kelli Best and step granddaughter Shari Lynn Ybarra (husband, Rocky Joe).

### CATHERINE M. VAN YPEREN

Catherine M. Van Yperen, wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, went to be with her Lord on October 3, 2016 at the age of 91.

She is survived by her husband of 68 years, Richard J. Van Yperen; her six children: Richard (and Doreen) Van Yperen of Cumming, GA, Jack (and Robyn) Van Yperen of Ridgewood, NJ, Cathy (and Joseph) Kozlik of Clarendon, VT, Jim (and Sharon) Van Yperen of East Washington, NH, Jill (and Jim) Burke of Manchester Center, VT, and Joan (and Glenn) Olson of Rutland, VT; 12 grandchildren; and 25 great-grandchildren; one sister, Joan Douglas of Wall, NJ; and several nieces and nephews.

There will be a celebration of her life held by the family at a later date.

### RICHARD VAN YPEREN

Richard J. Van Yperen, husband of the late Catherine S. Van Yperen, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, went to be with the Lord and reunited with his wife of 68 years on Dec. 1, 2016 at the age of 91.

Richard was predeceased two months by his beloved wife; he is survived by his six children: Richard (Doreen) Van Yperen of Cumming, Georgia, Jack (Robyn) Van Yperen of Ridgewood, New Jersey, Cathy (Joseph) Kozlik of Clarendon, Vermont, James (Sharon) Van Yperen of East Washington, New Hampshire, Jill (James) Burke of Manchester Center, Vermont, and Joan (Glenn) Olson of Rutland, Vermont; 12 grandchildren; 25 great-grandchildren; his sister, Ruth Bryson of Muskegon, Michigan, his sister-in-law, Joan Douglas of Wall, New Jersey, and, New Jersey and later moved to Blue Mountain Lake, New York where they owned and operated the rustic Adirondack resort, The Hedges, for 27 years.

The family held a celebration of both Richard and Catherine's lives in December in Queensbury.

### JAMES WARNE

James A. Of Sanborn, NY, died December 30, 2016. Husband of Mary T. (Fournier) Warne; father of Mark J. (Linda Kissell) Warne, Matthew P. (Kathleen) Warne and Pamela S. (Gary) Gallagher; grandfather and great-grandfather of many. Jim loved his family and enjoyed spending summers at their camp in the Adirondacks. Private services held at convenience of the family.

# The Foundation and Association: Working Together for the Lake

Guy Middleton – Upper Saranac Foundation, Lake Manager

The Upper Saranac Foundation and the Upper Saranac Lake Association have a long history of collaborating on projects. This year has been no different, working together to preserve and protect the natural resources of our watershed. These are some of last year's highlights:

**Water Shield Workshop:** With a focus on youth education and next generation stewardship, the Upper Saranac Foundation joined forces with the Adirondack Watershed Institute at Paul Smith's College and the Upper Saranac Lake Association to host the second annual Water Shield Workshop. Those that participated found out what makes Upper Saranac Lake so special; learning about the Lake's watershed, its ecosystem, lake stewardship, and invasive species. Participants were involved with hands-on activities, including testing water quality, measuring water clarity, conducting plankton tows, using a watershed module and interacting with our divers while harvesting milfoil.

**Asian Clam Survey:** Twenty-seven (27) USLA members participated in the Foundation's second annual Volunteer Asian Clam Survey. The purpose, to identify any locations where the invasive Asian Clams were present. Second to prevention, our best defense against invasives is early detection providing the greatest chance of eradication. Left unchecked, Asian Clams can reproduce exponentially, causing ecological impacts including algae blooms, which have negative impacts on tourism economy, recreational activities and reduce property values. Nearly 800 sediment samples were sieved, and over 25 hours were dedicated to the project, with no Asian Clams being found. In case Asian Clams were 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 Saranac Headwaters Aquatic Invasive Species Management Project:** This project addresses the threat of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) and protects citizens' investments by expanding the Upper Saranac Foundation's successful AIS hand harvesting program into the NYSDEC campground at Fish Creek. The Upper Saranac Foundation worked in calibration with the Adirondack Watershed Institute at Paul Smith's College, the Adirondack



USF Aquatic Invasive Management (AIM) Divers at Fish Creek – Milfoil removal Park Invasive Plant Program and the Adirondack Foundation. The harvesting portion of this project was funded in part by the Association. The NYSDEC Campground at Fish Creek is a significant source of AIS. The project will reduce the spread of AIS and improve water quality, protecting downstream waters from infestation and help prevent the export of known populations of AIS to non-infested waters.



Water Shield Workshop

The project has just begun the initial three-year intensive start-up and already has shown impressive amounts of Milfoil harvested. In just the first four weeks of harvesting, we have removed 9.5 tons of Milfoil. Although remarkable, we have harvested less than 10% of the total littoral project area. Knowing the challenges ahead of the Foundation, efforts to fund this project are ongoing. After initial intensive harvesting efforts, the Foundation, committed to the long-term sustainability of this project, will continue AIS management efforts, ensuring prolonged results.

We are fortunate that we have our two organizations working together, fulfilling similar missions to protect our Lake. The organizations complement each other with differing roles, the Association, a clearinghouse for information to raise community awareness, and the Foundation, responsible for the hands on efforts of stewardship.

More information about the Upper Saranac Foundation, Milfoil Control, the Asian clam Survey and the Upper Saranac Lake Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention and Preparedness Plan can be found on the Foundation's web site at <http://usfoundation.net/>



9.5 tons of Milfoil from Fish Creek Campground

## MAILBOAT

FEBRUARY 2017

Upper Saranac Lake Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 892

Saranac Lake, NY 12983



# Environment Committee to Collaborate with the Upper Saranac Foundation on Developing Education Program on Potential Threats of Septic Systems to Lake Quality

Steve Maikowski, Chair, Environment Committee  
Guy Middleton, Lake Manager, USF

Part of the mission of both the USLA and the Upper Saranac Foundation (USF) is to preserve and protect the water quality of the Saranac Lake watershed. To uphold this mission, it is important to assure that the waste water treatment systems of shoreline property owners are operating properly.

We know that the Saranac Watershed is challenged with old, malfunctioning or non-functioning private sewage systems, seasonal cottages becoming year round, legacy properties not being upgraded, small lots, poor soils, shallow and inadequate depth to groundwater or bedrock and systems not being pumped or even knowing where they exist.

In 2017, the Environmental Committee and Guy Middleton of the USF will collaborate to develop an education and outreach program about the dangers that antiquated septic systems pose to our lake quality, and to identify best actions to address the problem.

Basic information about the problems of septic systems can be found at the USF website: <http://usfoundation.net/blog/septic/>

This issue is also being taken up at the state level. This past fall, the USLA informed all members that the Adirondack Council is leading an effort to develop support for legislation to require septic system along waterfronts to be inspected at the time of property sale. The USLA emailed all members this link: [http://salsa4.salsalabs.com/o/51275/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action\\_KEY=19732](http://salsa4.salsalabs.com/o/51275/p/dia/action3/common/public/?action_KEY=19732). Though this notice stated that the deadline was October 21, 2016, there is still time for individual members of the community to write to Albany about this matter.

The USLA Board will also take up this issue at a Special Board meeting in March. Please send us your thoughts and comments on this issue as well: [steve.maikowski@nyu.edu](mailto:steve.maikowski@nyu.edu); [lakemanager@uslf.org](mailto:lakemanager@uslf.org).