



FEBRUARY 2018

THE UPPER SARANAC LAKE ASSOCIATION

# MAILBOAT

## Antonia Bissell Laird — “Toni”

By Emily Bissell Laird

Born in Wilmington, Delaware in 1932, Antonia Bissell first came to Upper Saranac Lake in 1935 arriving from NYC by train to Lake Clear Jct early in the morning after a night in a sleeper car.

Every summer until the war in 1942, Toni spent with her grandmother at Camp of the Winds down the road from The Saranac Inn.

Her most treasured childhood memories came from those two months spent on the lake with her grandmother each summer. She went to the Inn for tennis, swimming, and dancing lessons, and she remembers wonderful costume parties there every summer along with movies and ice cream.

For many years, she did not visit the lake until she returned in the late 50's to spend Christmas at Camp of the Winds with her husband Walter Laird, and young family who happily all shared her love of the Adirondacks. Beginning in the 60's, she and Walter were allowed to use the camp every other summer, bringing their six children up for the month of August.

In 1972, they were able to buy their own camp on the Western shore of the Northern Basin and used their many teenaged boys to help paint and fix up the cabins. Toni and Walter named the camp Mosswood. They had many wonderful summers together on the lake until Walter died in 2000. Toni still spends two months each summer with their five sons, one daughter, and their families who include thirteen grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren all who visit over the course of the summer.

Toni began to write poetry in 2nd grade and was the editor of her high school literary magazine. Walter loved all mountains and took her on many more camping trips than she would have preferred including a stay in Glacier National park where the outhouse was destroyed by a bear soon after she had gotten up in the middle of the night to use it.



Toni will read some of her poems with interludes of Celtic Harp and Guitar music played by her granddaughter and son-in-law.

From her book “A Parasol of Leaves” Published in 1973.  
First appeared in The Ladies Home Journal in 1973



### Blueberry Picking

Antonia Bissell Laird

Long ago in August  
by an Adirondack lake,  
we were sent to pick blueberries  
to make into a cake.

Not the cultivated berries  
that you buy now in the store,  
but the tiny, wild dark blue ones  
that you don't see anymore.

The bushes were not tall ones,  
the berries hugged the ground  
and hid when we were coming,  
they hated to be found.

We filled our baskets slowly  
for they tasted very good, and that was  
part of picking  
and the joy of lost childhood.

Sometimes I see wild berries  
but my back is hard to bend.  
if you pick me some for breakfast,  
you will be my best small friend.

### Camping Out

Antonia B Laird

Stretched beneath a parasol of leaves,  
I watch the moonlight slipping down  
between the wooden spokes of trees,  
along bark trunks  
to touch the forest floor,  
shimmer off the cold gray rock  
beside my head.  
Around my sleeping bag cocoon,  
star moss and fallen leaves,  
tree stumps and branches  
claim their share of silver  
from the moon,  
spread such shining wealth  
across my bed,  
that I lie captive in a jail of light,  
until night  
is swallowed by the day.

# President's Letter

Susan Hearn

*"A lake is the landscape's most beautiful and expressive feature. It is Earth's eye; looking into which the beholder measures the depth of his own nature."*

This quote, attributed to Thoreau, graces the website of many a lake association, including our own. And doesn't it capture the contemplative state that we enter as we sit on our docks and look at Upper Saranac?

It is this idea of self-reflection that I wish to approach today as it pertains to the Upper Saranac Lake Association.

During a November 2017 meeting of the USLA Board of Directors, the Board voted to undertake a strategic planning process. USLA has undertaken strategic planning processes before, the last time in 2007. Certainly after a decade, self-reflection is in order to make sure we can continue to meet the needs of our members.

We have appointed an ad hoc steering committee, which includes Larry Koch (chairman), Susan O'Brien, Lynne Perry, Bob Tate and Sally Ward. I will work with them as recording secretary and the committee's sponsor. The committee is charged with preparing the way for a successful process, and we will endeavor to have our strategic planning meetings in the summer of 2018. The process and the discussion throughout will provide the board an opportunity to examine our mission, vision, and goals, and adapt them to fit the current environment in which we operate.

The input of our members will be critical, and we will reach out to you and seek your input. What do you think the USLA should be focused on? What issues are important to you? What have we done well, both in the past and more recently? What should we stop doing? What should we do more of?

I don't know where the journey will take us, but I expect it will be an interesting process and result in a stronger and more energized organization.

Please write to me at [president@uppersaranac.com](mailto:president@uppersaranac.com) with your thoughts. I would really love to hear from you.

## Upper Saranac Lake Association Treasurer's Report 2017

REVENUE	-----2017-----		
	APPROVED	ACTUAL	VARIANCE
Dues	26,000.00	24,250.00	-1,750.00
Contributions	4,000.00	3,725.00	-275.00
Other *		2,720.83	2,720.83
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,000.00</b>	<b>30,695.83</b>	<b>695.83</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Executive	6,995.00	4,009.25	-2,985.75
Communications	9,350.00	8,741.21	-608.79
Cultural Affairs	2,500.00	1,138.34	-1,361.66
Environmental	1,150.00	212.75	-937.25
Government Affairs	1,000.00	0.00	-1,000.00
Membership	2,895.00	2,847.27	-47.73
Safety	950.00	200.00	-750.00
Zone Chairs	1,600.00	1,416.52	-183.48
Other	8,500.00	8,000.00	-500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,940.00</b>	<b>26,565.34</b>	<b>-8,374.66</b>
<b>Beginning Balance 1/01/2017</b>		<b>22,681.16</b>	
<b>Ending Balance 12/31/2017</b>		<b>26,811.65</b>	

\* Repayment of loan to USLA Store

Respectfully submitted,  
M. Jay Kapolka, Treasurer, USLA, Inc.

UPPER SARANAC LAKE ASSOCIATION, INC.  
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THE USLA MAILBOAT  
Lynne Perry, Editor  
Harry Wirtz, Layout/Design

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Vice President, Michael Specht (518-891-4307)  
Secretary, Jeff Dickson (518-534-2731)  
Treasurer, Jay Kapolka (518-359-7298)

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Communications: Lynne Perry (518-359-2630)  
Cultural: Sally Ward (518-359-7940)  
Environmental: Steven Maikowski (518-359-3162)  
Government Affairs: Cindy Rosenwald (518-891-0818)  
Nominating: Larry Koch (518) 891-2835  
Membership: Dean Butts (518-891-8433)  
Safety: Michelle Brown Garcia (518-891-3905)

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**Zone 1** Bob Tate (518-891-1269)  
**Zone 2** Mary Ann Randall (518-891-0430)  
**Zone 3** Larry Koch (518-891-2835)  
**Zone 4** Cindy Rosenwald (518-891-0818)  
**Zone 5** Dick Gunther (518-891-4138)  
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**Zone 7** Mary Jane Staufenberg (518-891-1428)  
**Zone 8** Nancy Cohen (518-359-8749)  
**Zone 9** Ruth Smith (518-359-8172)  
**Zone 10** Susan O'Brien (518-359-2069)  
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#### MEMBER AT LARGE

Tom Swayne (518-359-7679)  
Mike Bonheim (518-891-8074)

#### HONORARY DIRECTOR

Bruce Holran (518-891-8447)

### USLA SCHOLARSHIP FUND, INC.

President, Ron Otten (518-359-7841)

### DATABASE ADMINISTRATOR WEBSITE ADMINISTRATOR

Sara Sheldon (518-637-4304)  
[usla@uppersaranac.com](mailto:usla@uppersaranac.com)

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

© 2017 USLA



# 2017 USLA Annual Report

Susan Hearn, President

## Meetings

The USLA held 2 meetings for the membership in 2017, as required by our by-laws. The July meeting featured a wide ranging Q&A with Saranac Lake mayor, Clyde Rabideau. The August meeting featured a dynamic presentation by Adirondack Medical Center CEO, Sylvia Getman. At each meeting, committee chairmen made presentations about activities and offerings during the summer season.

## Personnel

Charlie Svenson stepped down from the Board as Chairman of Nominating Committee. Larry Koch (Zone 3 chairman) has agreed to serve as Nominating Committee chairman.

Jane Oravec stepped down as Zone 8 chairman. Nancy Cohen has agreed to serve as Zone 8 Chairman.

Zones – Eleven of twelve zones hosted zone gatherings/parties during the summer. These gatherings are an essential way to enable communications between the USLA board and members.

Zone chairs worked under the leadership of Michael Specht, USLA Vice President, to develop an informational trifold to provide to new members. This trifold will offer an introduction to the USLA and the USE, and will be available in the spring.

Thanks to Bob Tate, zone 1 chairman, for reviewing and revising the new home owner’s information available on the Upper Saranac Lake Association web site.

## Committees

Communications - The Communications committee continues to provide correspondence to keep our members informed. The Mailboat is sent three times a year. Currently, 739 individuals or families receive a printed version of the Mailboat, sent via US Mail, while an additional 197 elect to receive the Mailboat electronically (via email).

In addition, the Communications committee coordinated the sending of biweekly e-newsletters throughout June, July and August, to provide on-going updates of activities of interest around the lake. The Committee also maintains bulletin boards at various points around the lake to provide information to members who may not have access to email at their camps.

## Cultural Affairs

The Cultural Affairs committee offered four well-attended events for the enjoyment of the lake community. These included

a reception and wooden boat show at the Back Bay boat docks after the wooden boat parade, a Victorian croquet tournament at Dancing Waters Camp, a lecture on Boats and Boating on the Saranacs by TAUNY’s Hallie Bond held at historic Camp Iroquois, and a stargazing evening at the Adirondack Public Observatory.

## Environmental

The committee collaborated with the Upper Saranac Foundation to create a Homeowners’ Guide to Septic Maintenance. This guide was preceded by a survey of the USLA membership to inquire as to their current understanding of septic system maintenance. The committee continued their efforts to increase recycling awareness and participation among USLA members, as well encouraging enrollment and participation in the angler diary program.

## Government Affairs

The Government Affairs committee monitored many issues in 2017, including the Saranac Lake schools capital project, the Town of Santa Clara Fire substation, changes to the land use code in Santa Clara (which impacted the use of Eagle Island), the amendment to the New York State Constitution to create a land bank in the Adirondack Forest Preserve and the Funding of the Lake Champlain Basin program.

In addition, many USLA board members contributed to comments submitted to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation regarding the draft Saranac Lakes Wild Forest Unit Management Plan. This plan proposes numerous changes to recreational sites around the Saranac Lake watershed, many of which would impact Upper Saranac Lake. These comments are available on the USLA web site.

## Membership

We ended 2016 with 536 paid members and ended 2017 with 536.

## Safety

CPR/First Aid class was not held due to low subscription. The safe boating classes were held and everyone received a passing grade. The safety committee also provided information on safety equipment that boats are required to carry, and informed members about paddling and snow mobile incidents that had occurred in the North Country, in order to increase awareness and encourage safe operation by our members.

# Calendar 2018

Please see related articles for times and details.

<b>Boating Safety Course</b>	July 9 & 10	9am – 1 pm	Santa Clara Community Room
<b>USLA Membership Meeting</b>	July 14	8:30 am	TBA
<b>First Aid course</b>	July 17	5-9 pm	TBA
<b>CPR course</b>	July 18	5-9 pm	TBA
<b>USLA Annual Meeting</b>	August 11	8:30 am	TBA
<b>Boating Safety Course</b>	August 13 & 14	9am – 1 pm	Santa Clara Community Room

# Plans Heating Up for Summer

Sally Ward, Cultural Affairs Chair

**Mark your calendars and start looking forward to another Saranac summer. There's something for everyone! Whet your appetites with a preview of what's on tap.**

## **July 22 - Historic Camp Tour**

La Jeunesse (1916-1954) was an elite boys' camp which is now in private hands. The former infirmary has been transformed into a stunning retreat where owners Chuck and Joan Bechtel will host us from 4-6 p.m. A tour and talk will be followed by a wine and cheese reception.

## **July 25 - Paddle 'n Picnic**

USLA Board member Jeff Dickson will lead this adventure. Bring your canoe or kayak and count on a memorable outing. Rain date: July 26. Location TBD.

## **Early August - A Day at the Races**

And they're off!! Join USLA friends for a trip to one of the oldest sporting venues in the country, the beautiful Saratoga race track. Pick your favorites and savor the pageantry.

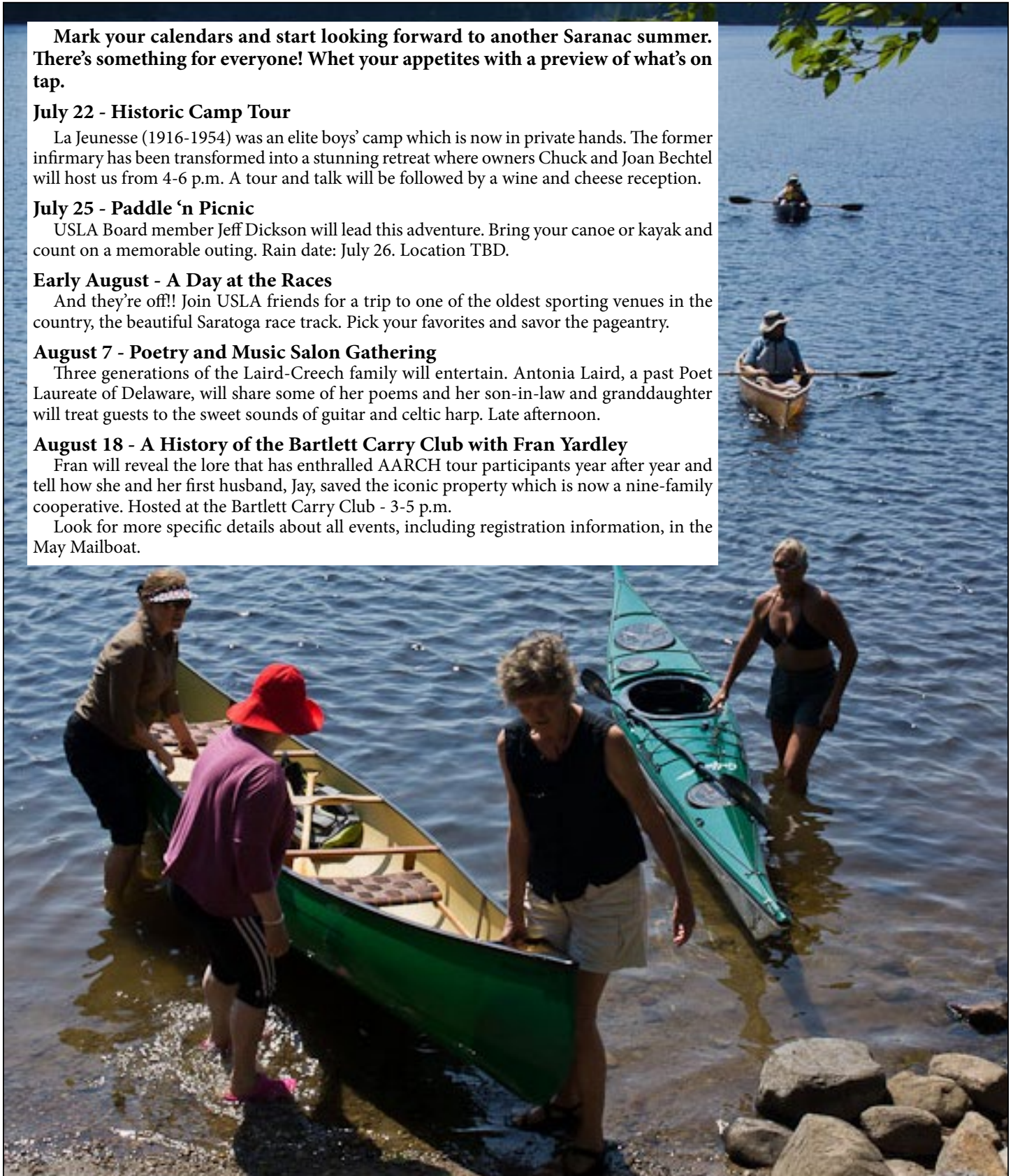
## **August 7 - Poetry and Music Salon Gathering**

Three generations of the Laird-Creech family will entertain. Antonia Laird, a past Poet Laureate of Delaware, will share some of her poems and her son-in-law and granddaughter will treat guests to the sweet sounds of guitar and celtic harp. Late afternoon.

## **August 18 - A History of the Bartlett Carry Club with Fran Yardley**

Fran will reveal the lore that has enthralled AARCH tour participants year after year and tell how she and her first husband, Jay, saved the iconic property which is now a nine-family cooperative. Hosted at the Bartlett Carry Club - 3-5 p.m.

Look for more specific details about all events, including registration information, in the May Mailboat.



Paddle and Picnic, 2012

# Eagle Island Update

Eagle Island opened its shores for two Open Island Days in July and a day in August, which also served as the 80th anniversary celebration of the original gift of the Graves Family to the Girl Scouts, taking the island out of private ownership and into a new life as an idyllic summer camp for girls. In celebrating that gift, Eagle Island reaffirmed its commitment to reopening the island as an Adirondack camp to serve future generations of children.



Beth Bathe

Beth Bathe, Lancaster, PA – “Welcome to Eagle Island” won Best of the Eagle Island prize in Adirondack Plein Air Festival

In 2017, visitors had the new option to take a guided or self-guided tour of the Island’s Nature Trail. Ed Kanze, naturalist and, according to *Forbes*, “Adirondack guide nonpareil,” made an exciting contribution to the mission and vision of Eagle Island in helping to reestablish the trail with volunteers.

Some fifteen years ago, while Mike Benson was on staff and studying forestry, he led the effort to blaze a nature trail through the interior of the island past interesting and unique Eagle Island



Photos: Mark Kurtz

Eagle Island from the air.

Adirondack features. In 2016, Kanze visited the island and was so intrigued that he volunteered a day to work with Mike to assess and expand the existing trail. Allie Weill, PhD candidate in ecology and EIC alumna, then continued and completed their work, creating a wonderful Nature Trail Guide and leading tours.

Eagle Island was also thrilled to participate as a host site for the 2017 Adirondack PleinAir Festival, to which artists were invited to spend the day painting scenes unique to the island. The artists created a beautiful collection of landscapes and architectural paintings, and generously donated a portion of sale proceeds.

In the May issue, we will detail some of the work plans for the 2018 season. These include water and septic, kitchen renovations, roofs, and more.

Paula Michelsen, Executive Director  
Eagle Island, Inc.

[pmichelsen@eagleisland.org](mailto:pmichelsen@eagleisland.org)  
[www.eagleisland.org](http://www.eagleisland.org)



Photo: Diana Webster

Upper Saranac Lake beginning to Freeze, December 2017.

# Effects of Road Salt on Upper Saranac Lake

by Guy Middleton, Upper Saranac Foundation Lake Manager

Lakes in the Adirondack region have naturally low concentrations of chloride and sodium. However, wide spread use of road deicers (primarily sodium chloride) have significantly increased the concentration of these chemicals in the environment. Road salt, by some, is considered the new acid rain of our time. Research by the Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI) estimates that 192,700 tons of road salt are used each year in the Adirondacks and nearly 7 million tons have been used since 1980. This is about six times the total load of sulfate and nitrate from acid deposition (Kelting, 2017).

Road salt is entering our ground water and lakes and is having impacts on our ecosystems, drinking water and potentially on our health. State roads in NY have the highest application rates for deicing in North America. The NYS Department of Transportation applies an average of 23 tons of road salt per lane kilometer to State roads annually (Kelting, 2017). With 54 km of state roads, it is estimated that there are 1,242 tons of salt applied each year within the Upper Saranac watershed. Based on research from 2012, the concentrations of sodium and chloride found in various lakes in the Adirondacks correlate with the mileage of state roads in each watershed (Laxson, 2016).

As reported in the 2016 Upper Saranac Lake Watershed Report, concentrations of sodium and chloride were slightly higher in the north basin than in the south, but substantially higher than concentrations in Adirondack lakes without paved roads (10X higher for sodium, 35X higher for chloride), and 4X greater than they were in 1991. Using the average lake-wide chloride concentration, it is estimated that there were approximately 1,370 tons of chloride in the Lake in 2016, versus 410 tons in 1991. "If Upper Saranac Lake was undeveloped, and had no maintained roads in its watershed, we would predict chloride content of the Lake to be approximately 40 tons" (Laxson, 2016).

Stream monitoring performed by AWI, and conducted in the summer when streams are primarily fed by groundwater, shows evidence of regional groundwater pollution. For example, Cranberry

Brook, an USL tributary at the southern end of the Lake that is impacted by State Route 3, has a chloride load entering the Lake 44x higher than Black Brook, a tributary on the north end of the Lake that has no road impact (Kelting, 2017).

While we are unsure of the direct impact of road deicers on organisms, we do know there are direct and indirect effects on aquatic ecosystems. "Based on laboratory studies, the lethal concentration for most aquatic organisms is much higher than concentrations encountered in a lake environment. However, at times lethal concentrations can be encountered in near-road environments that receive direct run-off, such as road-side streams or vernal pools" (Laxson, 2016). With regard to lake stratification (lake turnover), water density levels due to salt have already affected Mirror Lake, in the village of Lake Placid.

Road salt can also affect well water. In Dutchess County, 20% of the wells have salt concentrations that prohibit use by residents with high blood pressure (Schlesinger and Findlay, 2009). Locally, a number of wells have been contaminated by road salt in the Lake Clear area.

While the solution to the road salt problem is not an easy one to solve, the Upper Saranac Foundation is working with the AWI to monitor and address these issues. We do know that if salt continues to accumulate at its present rate, many surface water and well water sources will be unhealthy for humans and wildlife in the near future.

Kelting, D.L. 2017 Salinization of Adirondack Waters by Road Salt. Available from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQqV34RIIOY>

Laxson, C.L., Yerger, E.C., Regalado, S.A., and D.L. Kelting. 2017. Upper Saranac Lake: 2016 Watershed Report#: PSCAWI 2017-06

Schlesinger, W.H., and Findlay, S.E.G. 2009 Salt Makes Roads Safe but Can Pollute Water. *Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies*. Retrieved from [http://www.caryinstitute.org/ecofocus\\_2009-11-08.html](http://www.caryinstitute.org/ecofocus_2009-11-08.html)



Photo: Michelle Brown Garcia

Groundhog Day on Pelky Bay, 2018

# New updates for the Fire Department & Rescue Squad January 2018

Michelle Brown Garcia, Safety Committee Chair

The Tupper Lake Volunteer Fire Department will be the agency that handles the fire calls for Santa Clara, from the southern end at the town line on route 30, to the northern end of the town line, at Forest Home road. They will also handle the Fish Hatchery road, Dunlap road and the northern end of the Bartlett Carry road, which is located within the town of Santa Clara. The department will also be in charge of the Fire & Rescue boat which will be docked in Gilpin Bay.

The new volunteers have finished their training at the Tupper Lake substation, which is located in the Santa Clara Community Center on route 30, and will be the 1st responders for the Tupper Lake department.

The Tupper Lake Rescue squad will also be covering the same area in Santa Clara from the southern end at town line on route 30, but will stop at Moss Rock road.

The Saranac Lake Volunteer Fire Department will handle all of

the calls south of the Santa Clara town line on route 30, as well as the Panther Mt. road and the southern end of the Bartlett Carry road which is located within Harrietstown.

The Saranac Lake Rescue squad will handle north of Moss Rock road on route 30 to the northern end of the town line and include the Dunlap road, the Fish Hatchery road and part of the Bartlett Carry road as well.

The Paul Smiths/Gabriel's Volunteer Fire Department will continue to handle the Back Bay area, which is located west of the college within the town of Santa Clara and Saranac Lake will handle the rescue squad.

REMEMBER, When you are in need of any assistance at your camp or in the area you should only call 911.

If you are using a cell phone to call 911, make sure that you know and give the address where the help is needed.

## Government Affairs

by Cindy Rosenwald, Chair

### Santa Clara to Get its Own Fire Substation

Santa Clara residents will be getting a fire substation at the town offices on Route 30, with volunteers who are currently training to fight fires. This new substation is connected to the Tupper Lake Fire Department.

The Route 30 location is expected to shorten response time to six to 10 minutes from the current response time from surrounding departments of 20 to 30 minutes. Currently, members are training to fight external fires only, but additional training can be undertaken in the future.

Along with shorter fire response time, the town will maintain first responders for medical emergencies as well at the substation.

Homeowners may be able to save 20% to 25% on home insurance too, depending on the carrier.

### Local Government Contacts

#### Santa Clara Town Board Members & Officials

##### Supervisor

Marcel Webb  
5359 State Route 30, Saranac Lake, NY 12983 518-354-8477

##### Councilman

Richard S Lyon  
5560 State Route 30, Saranac Lake, NY 12983 518-354-8477

##### Councilman

David Perry  
729 Bartlett Carry Rd., Tupper Lake, NY 12986 518-354-8477

##### Councilman

Thomas Kimpton  
5530 State Route 30, Saranac Lake, NY 12983 518-354-8477

##### Councilman

Dr. John Murray DDS  
70 Wallace Wood Lane, Saranac Lake, NY 12983

##### Town Clerk

Laurie McGill  
5359 State Route 30  
Saranac Lake, NY 12983 518-354-8477

##### Highway Superintendent

Andrew McGill  
Town Garage - 5359 State Route 30  
Saranac Lake, NY 12983 518-891-1919

##### Town Justice

Michelle Brown Garcia  
Town Hall - 5359 State Route 30  
Saranac Lake, NY 12983 518-891-4656

##### Harrietstown Officials

##### Town Supervisor and Council

Michael Kilroy, Supervisor (Term 2018-2021)

[htownsupv@harrietstown.org](mailto:htownsupv@harrietstown.org)

Councilman Howard Riley, Deputy Supervisor (Term 2016-2019)

[hjriley@adelphia.net](mailto:hjriley@adelphia.net)

Councilwoman Patricia Meagher (Term 2016-2019)

[pbm7762@gmail.com](mailto:pbm7762@gmail.com)

Councilwoman Jordanna Mallach (Term 2018-2021)

Councilwoman Tracey Schrader (Term 2018-2021)

# An Important Safety Notice From the Safety Committee

## KIDDE FIRE EXTINGUISHER RECALL

The recall involves 134 models of Kidde Fire Extinguishers manufactured between January 1, 1973 and August 15, 2017. They are the fire extinguishers that have plastic handles. The manufacturer, Kidde, has received some reports that the extinguishers are failing to discharge as expected. No injuries have been reported. The recall includes extinguishers that you use in the home as well as on your boats, Jet Skis and RV's.

For information go to [www.kidde.com](http://www.kidde.com)

On the home page click on, Product Safety Recall Notice.

Then choose the location that applies to you, the United States or Canada.

On the next page click on, Open to view the Fire Extinguisher ID Guide. Scroll down to page 2 and you will find the list of models that are involved in the recall. If you believe your model is affected follow the steps on the previous page.

You can also call the Kidde Recall toll free number for assistance, 1-855-262-3540. When calling make sure you have the model and serial numbers available which are located on the extinguisher.

### Plastic Handle Fire Extinguishers

The recall involves 134 models of Kidde fire extinguishers manufactured between January 1, 1973 and August 15, 2017, including some models that were previously recalled in March 2009 and in February 2015. The extinguishers were sold in red, white and silver, and are either ABC- or BC-rated. The model number is printed on the fire extinguisher label. For units produced in 2007 and beyond, the date of manufacture is a 10-digit date code printed on the side of the cylinder, near the bottom. Digits five through nine represent the day and year of manufacture in DDDYY format. Date codes for recalled models manufactured from January 2, 2012 through August 15, 2017 are 00212 through 22717. For units produced before 2007, a date code is not printed on the fire extinguisher.



Photo: Tom Swayne



# Lead and Loons

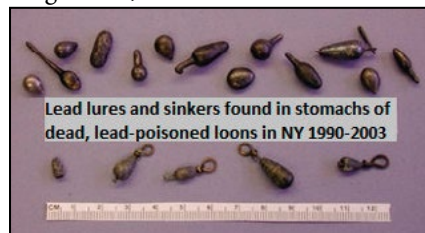
by Larry Nashett, Member, USLA Environmental Committee

Shortly after Thanksgiving, an alert reader of the Adirondack Daily Enterprise contacted representatives of the Upper Saranac Lake Association Environmental Committee about an article that appeared on November 24, 2017. The article was titled, "Loons' lead deaths rise in NH, despite tackle law".

## What New Hampshire Does

According to the article, New Hampshire passed one of the nation's toughest bans on the use of lead fishing tackle in 2016. It prohibits both the sale and use of lead tackle there. Yet loons are still dying due to the ingestion of fishing weights and lures made of lead.

New Hampshire has only 300 breeding pairs of the iconic birds in the state, and lead poisoning is believed to be slowing the population's recovery. Researchers examined the causes of loon deaths in New Hampshire from 1989 to 2012 and published the results last year in the *Journal of Wildlife Management*. They found that 49 percent of 253 loons studied died from lead fishing tackle ingestion. Despite New Hampshire's tough law, eight deaths due to lead poisoning were documented this year, compared to only two last year. As long as old, lead tackle is still around and used illegally in New



Hampshire, loons will continue to swallow it and die of lead poisoning. However, experts believe that the law is changing attitudes among anglers, and that bait shops have complied with the ban.

## What New York Does

The State of New York has acted to reduce the incidence of lead poisoning in loons by banning the sale of lead sinkers weighing less than half of an ounce.

Excluding large-scale deaths of loons from type E botulism on Lake Erie over the last few years, about 30% of other loon mortality in New York is due to lead poisoning. Again, lead sinkers and lead-weighted lures are the primary culprits. Anglers commonly snag their tackle on obstructions under the water. If their line breaks or is cut, any attached lead sinkers or lures remain there. Also, these items may be accidentally dropped or spilled into the water. Loons might ingest these lost items while attempting to swallow small stones that help grind food in their stomachs. However, more lead-weighted lures than lead sinkers are found in loons, suggesting that they mistake the lost lures for prey items. Most sinkers found in loons are likely swallowed when the birds eat minnows or crayfish that were attached to the lost rigs. Non-toxic alternatives (steel, bismuth, tin, tungsten, etc.) to lead sinkers and jigs are currently available.



## What You Can Do: Get the Lead Out

Although the sale of small lead sinkers is prohibited in New York, their use is not. You can be even more lake-friendly by avoiding the use of lead tackle, altogether. Sort through your tackle box (a fun thing to do this time of year), and remove the lead. Swap it for alternative, non-toxic weights at businesses participating in the Adirondack Cooperative Loon Program's lead sinker exchange plan. Or set it aside and dispose of it on a community hazardous waste collection day. Purchase only lead-free tackle, recover as much snagged tackle as possible, and talk to other anglers about doing the same.

In addition to getting the lead out, anglers should strive to fish responsibly. Fish in a way that minimizes impact on the state's natural resources. First, follow all fishing regulations. It is legally required that everyone must have a valid fishing license in their possession while fishing or helping someone to fish, even if you're fishing from your own dock.

### This includes:

- Anglers fishing on private waters not open to the general public
- Anglers that do not keep the fish that they catch
- Assisting an angler (including a child under the age of 16) in the act of fishing
- Anglers that fish occasionally (shorter term licenses are available at a lower cost)

An exception to the above requirement is that anyone can fish on New York's designated "Free Fishing Days" regardless of whether they have a license. Upcoming Free Fishing Days in New York are February 17-18, 2018 and June 23-24, 2018. Fees from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses, as well as federal funds and other resources provide the main source of money to conserve, manage and protect New York State's fish, wildlife and marine resources and their habitats; inform and educate the public; and provide opportunities for people to use and appreciate these resources. By buying a license you're helping conserve the lake's fish and wildlife resources.

Another regulation, not to be ignored, is that anglers must be in immediate attendance when their lines are in the water. This is a legal requirement, and it minimizes the chance of loons or other wildlife taking your bait and becoming injured. Pick up any discarded monofilament line. It persists for a long time in the environment, and it can entangle animals, strangle them and cause deep wounds. Replace or fix weakened and damaged monofilament line regularly, and dispose of scraps properly. Old fishing lures and gear can potentially harm wildlife too. Leave the area you visit even cleaner than when you arrived.

Good luck on the water!

Photos from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation website: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/7908.html>

## The New York Safe Boating Courses for 2018 season

The NYS Safe Boating Course is being taught once again at the Santa Clara Community Center. This year, the course will be given twice. Each course will be given in two days for 4 hours each day. Please note the new dates and times for the classes.



### When

July 9 & 10th from 9 AM until 1PM each day.  
August 13 & 14th from 9 AM until 1PM each day.

### Where

The Santa Clara Community Center, located at 5367 State Route 30 just north of USL.

### Who

Anyone interested in taking the course must be at least 10 years of age by the first day of the course. Anyone 18 and over is required to pay a fee of \$10.00 payable to NYS at the end of the course. The course runs for 2 mornings. You must attend both days and pass a test in order to qualify for a certificate.

NOTE: NYS passed a law in 2014 stating that anyone born on or after May 1st, 1996 is required to take this course in order to operate a motor boat of any size.

It is recommended that you sign up early. Please contact Lynne Perry to register or if you have any questions at 518-359-2630 or [lgper2@optonline.net](mailto:lgper2@optonline.net). Michele Brown Garcia will teach the course with support from Dave Perry.

## New York State Legislature Approves Major New Septic System Fund

Steve Maikowski, Chair, Environmental Committee

As members of the USLA know, in 2017 the Environmental Committee of the USLA and the Upper Saranac Foundation collaborated on developing a public education program on the dangers of failing septic systems to the water quality of Upper Saranac Lake.

We are delighted to report that in October 2017, the NYS Legislature, recognizing these dangers to water quality, approved the Clean Water Infrastructure Act. This Act established the State Septic System Replacement Fund. The purpose of this \$75 million Fund is to replace existing cesspools and septic systems that are having a significant and quantifiable environmental and/or public health impact to groundwater used for drinking water, or a threatened or impaired water body.

The new Fund is authorized to reimburse property owners for up to 50% of the eligible costs incurred for eligible septic system projects, up to \$10,000. Initially, the Fund is being targeted to priority geographic areas within "Participating Counties". Twenty-eight counties in Upstate New York have been identified as Priority Geographic Areas, including nearby Essex, Clinton, and St. Lawrence counties.

However, Franklin County was not included in the initial list. Guy Middleton of the Upper Saranac Foundation alerted officials at the Franklin County Soil and Water office of this new Fund, and they report that they are applying to have Franklin County become a Priority Geographic Area.

There are, however, significant restrictions on this septic remediation program: only single family, two family and small business with an existing design sewage flow not exceeding 1,000 gallons per day as of the date of the Fund are eligible. Seasonal or secondary homes are not eligible for this program, which means that many homeowners on Upper Saranac Lake will not qualify for this program (if it is extended to Franklin County in a future year of the five-year program). Details on this legislation (Bill #A07892) can be found at the NYS Assembly web site.

More information on our collaborative septic public education efforts for 2018 will be announced in the next issue of the Mailboat.



Photo: Tom Swayne



## Sign Up & Save A Life...

### First Aid & CPR Classes Are Coming Back To The Lake.

#### Dates & Times:

<b>First Aid</b>	Tuesday July 17th.
<b>CPR</b>	Wednesday July 18th.
Both classes run 5- 9PM.	

**Location:** TBA in the next Mail Boat.

**FIRST AID** classes will cover topics including how to respond to an emergency, muscle, joint, bone and soft tissue injuries, bandages & splints and so much more.

**CPR** classes will cover chest compressions & artificial ventilation to preserve brain functions and how to use a defibrillator.

Classes last about 3 1/2 hours each.  
Certifications are accredited by the National Safety Council.

**Contact Sonny Young for more information.**

518-359-8194 or 518-524-6002 or  
e mail: [adkfoothillsgs@gmail.com](mailto:adkfoothillsgs@gmail.com)

**Pre-registration is required.**

## IN MEMORIAM

### JIM MARSHALL

James Douglas Marshall died December 9, 2017 at Kendal in Oberlin, Ohio. He graduated from Yale University, with a degree in Industrial Engineering in 1947. He spent 53 summers on Upper Saranac Lake, New York entertaining visits from family and friends and enjoying the lake and mountain activities the Adirondacks offer. He volunteered as a trail guide at the Wild Center Museum in Tupper Lake and served in many capacities at the Island Chapel on Upper Saranac Lake. He was involved in volunteer activities everywhere he lived (Summit, New Jersey; Huron, Ohio; and Kendal). After he retired, Jim and his wife, Linda, travelled extensively in the United States and internationally. Jim's greatest joy was his family and he loved visiting his children and grandchildren and spending time with them in the Adirondacks. Jim is survived by his wife, Linda, of 63 years, Douglas (Mary), Sally (Philip), Lee (David) and Newton (Susan) and nine grandchildren.

### MARTHA POLLOCK

Martha Pollock died December 2017. She was the daughter of Herbert and Virginia Pollock. She is survived by her son Michael.

### MARJORY COHEN

Marjory Cohen died in January 2018. She was a graduate of Sarah Lawrence and Bank Street Colleges. Marjory was a teacher, advocate for early childhood education and supporter of the Adirondack region. She will be missed for her warmth, joy, caring and generosity.

### EVELYN PARSONS

Evelyn Parsons died January 14, 2018. She was a graduate of

Syracuse University and Nazareth College. Evelyn was a teacher, an avid gardener, dedicated homemaker and had a special love for the Adirondack Mountains. Survived by her husband Paul, 3 children and 3 grandchildren. Until recently Evelyn and Paul spent summers on Upper Saranac Lake.

### RAY JENKINS

Ray Jenkins died January 2018. He lived on Upper Saranac Lake and was predeceased by his wife, Dickie Jenkins, last year.

### EDITH SHEERIN

Edith Parrish Barton Sheerin died Tuesday, Jan. 23, 2018 in Charlottesville, Virginia, surrounded by her family. Edith graduated from Miss Porter's School and Wellesley College. She had a long career in real estate and as a pre-school teacher.

She never tired of learning and joyfully passed on her passion for music, gardening and the environment to her family. In 1952, she married Charles W. Sheerin and began her journey as an independent and graceful clergyman's and faculty wife with adventurous stays in Virginia, Massachusetts, New York and summers at her beloved Upper Saranac Lake.

She gave her time widely and deeply to the Groton Music Association, Charlottesville Oratorio Society, Dolly Madison Garden Club, Albemarle Garden Club, Fort Orange Garden Club, Albany's Downtown Daycare Center, Charlottesville's Tuesday Evening Concert Series, Friday Morning Club in Albany, Upper Saranac Lake Association, and the Church of the Ascension on Upper Saranac Lake.

She is survived by her three children: Edie Patterson (Bob) of Richmond, Virginia, Anne Sheerin (Joel Kolker) of Falls Church, Virginia and Charlie Sheerin of Washington D.C.; and six grandchildren.



Photo: Tom Swayne

THE UPPER SARANAC LAKE ASSOCIATION

## MAILBOAT

FEBRUARY 2018

Upper Saranac Lake Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 892

Saranac Lake, NY 12983



# Membership Committee

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Dean Butts, Chair

USLA ended 2017 with 536 paid members, exactly the same as the end of 2016. THANKS to all who were on board last year.

Although it may be too early to put your boat in the water, it is not too early to renew your membership or join USLA for 2018. Go to [www.uppersaranac.com](http://www.uppersaranac.com) and click "Pay Now". You have the option of sending a check for \$45 and downloading the Membership Form, OR paying on-line using PayPal or credit card.

BE AN EARLY BIRD and renew / join your Association today.

We will appreciate your support.

**Remember  
to  
Pay Your Dues!**