

LPN ~~PLW~~ 8/24/17

# MLWA asks friends of the lake to learn about purple loosestrife

Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) is a pretty, purple plant in disguise. It was introduced into the United States in the early 1800s as an ornamental plant used for honey bee forage and is still sold by commercial nurseries in a variety of locations, but it poses a real danger to native wetland vegetation, such as cattails, grasses, sedges and rushes, because of its ability to nearly eliminate all other plants.

If you have traveled throughout the Adirondacks by foot, boat or car, you have most likely come across this terrestrial invasive plant. It is tolerant of a wide variety of locations and thrives in marshes, wet meadows, ditches and river banks, and along shorelines of lakes, ponds and reservoirs. The plants are distinguished by their pinkish, purple flowers that are produced in mid-late summer, and have stiff stems that grow anywhere from two to eight feet in height.

For the past four years the Mirror Lake Watershed Association has worked to control this plant along the shorelines of the Mirror. The Adirondack Nature Conservancy and the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) helped MLWA begin its mitigation efforts, and over the years the two programs have offered guidance in dealing with this invasive plant. The MLWA plans to continue making purple loosestrife a top priority in

maintaining the health of Mirror Lake, but needs the help of community-members to make it happen. Although the MLWA has made a difference in terms of the population of purple loosestrife that invades the Mirror Lake region, there is a lot of work to be done.

This month the MLWA asks the friends of Mirror Lake to take the time to learn more about purple loosestrife and its impact on our Adirondack ecosystem. A

great first step is to visit APIPP's Web site ([www.adkinvasives.com](http://www.adkinvasives.com)) to identify what purple loosestrife looks like. The Web site provides photos and information about invasive plants and how to get involved in controlling them throughout the Park.

And, if you already know a great deal about purple loosestrife, pick a day to help make a difference, whether it is teaching someone else about this plant or finding the time to volunteer and help harvest. There are many ways to get involved, and finding a way that works for you is the least you can do for the beautiful water body that provided you with a refreshing swim, a peaceful paddle or a surrounding path to walk along in the evening throughout this summer.

In other news, the MLWA is pleased to announce that Amy Smith is the 2007 recipient of the annual "Frog Award." Smith helped assist the MLWA to incorporate into a nonprofit and the association is thankful for her generous support. The Frog Award is given each year to an individual or group who has volunteered their time to further protect Mirror Lake. Smith joins David Ackerman, Jennifer Carlo and the Lake Placid Village Board as recipients of the award.

For more information on the Mirror Lake Watershed Association, please join us at our monthly meeting at 5 p.m. Monday, August 13 in the village beach house in Peacock Park or contact Bill Billerman at 523-8925. We also encourage you to visit our Web site at [www.mirrorlake.net](http://www.mirrorlake.net).