

2020 Goals and Progress

GOAL #1: Advocate for decreased road salt draining into Mirror Lake and Mill Pond.

PROGRESS: The Mirror Lake Watershed Association was in the forefront of raising awareness about the dangers salt posed to the watershed. The Association worked with The AuSable River Association (AsRA) to assure that factual and actionable information was given to decision-makers.

GOAL #2: Encourage and fund monitoring of water quality.

PROGRESS: Monitoring of Mirror Lake continued with Association volunteers providing data for the state's Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP). AsRA, Adirondack Water Institute (AWI), and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) were continuously making water quality measurements throughout the year. These together provide a solid picture of the health of the lake.

GOAL #3: Watch for milfoil, spiny water flea, and fish hook water flea.

PROGRESS: No signs of these invasives were found.

GOAL #4: Eliminate invasive plants.

PROGRESS: MLWA volunteers removed 218 Purple Loosestrife plants from the banks of Mirror Lake this summer. It is a task that needs constant vigilance as one plant can produce a million or more seeds. A few yellow iris were seen and removed by Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP).

GOAL #5: Keep Mirror Lake free of garbage and trash.

PROGRESS: Less trash than last year ended up in Mirror Lake, although recreational use of the lake was very high all summer. A number of residents are picking up trash as they walk around the lake.

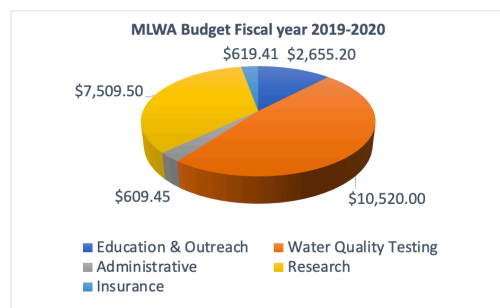
GOAL #6: Increase public awareness of its role in keeping the watershed of high quality.

PROGRESS: The Association had an outstanding year with a refreshed website, a new kiosk by the village beach, and revised signs. A brochure on how homeowners can help maintain water quality was sent to 800 watershed residents.



Mirror Lake Watershed Association Budget 2019

Donations \$23,071.52
Expenses \$21,913.56



Mirror Lake Watershed Association Goals for 2021

- Goal 1:** Advocate for reducing salt draining into the Watershed.
- Goal 2:** Perform CSLAP measurements; support other testing to assess the quality of Mirror Lake.
- Goal 3:** Monitor outflow of storm drains entering Mirror Lake.
- Goal 4:** Remove Purple Loosestrife for the shore line before it blooms.
- Goal 5:** Help APIPP to monitor and remove Yellow Iris.
- Goal 6:** Maintain signage and public outreach efforts.
- Goal 7:** Partner with the clean-up committee for the lake clean-up day and pick up garbage from the lake during the summer and fall.
- Goal 8:** Explore the possibility of a boat washing station at the Mirror Lake beach boat launch.
- Goal 9:** Maintain a functional web site with information about Mirror Lake and Mill Pond.
- Goal 10:** Keep a watchful eye out for milfoil, fish hook water flea, spiny water flea and algae blooms in Mirror Lake and Mill Pond.
- Goal 11:** Reduce the use of styrofoam for floatation in docks and rafts in Mirror Lake.

Board members: Chair-Bill Billerman, Treasurer-Mark Wilcox, Secretary-Denise Bujold, Members-Sandy Bissell, Steve Detwiler, Marcy Fagan, and Georgia Jones.

Advisors: Shawn Ayers, Nev Dunn, Larry Master Ph.D., Kelley Tucker, Brendan Wiltse Ph.D.



Mirror Lake Watershed Annual Report 2020

A letter from the Chairman:

I am often asked, "What does the Mirror Lake Watershed Association do?" We do many things. We are advocates and volunteer water quality monitors, trash pickers, and weed eradicators. We are amateur speakers, photographers, and scientists. Our mission is straightforward: to keep and improve the Mirror Lake watershed quality - all the lands, ponds, and streams that drain into two water bodies - Mirror Lake and Mill Pond.

The greatest threat to the watershed is road salt. For decades road salt has drained into Mirror Lake. Fortunately, scientists and advocates raised the alarm that we were killing the lake. The state, town, and village responded, and there is now less salt going into the lake. We expect to see further reductions as we learn how to minimize salt use and still keep our roads safe for travel.

In 2020, we saw the first good sign of this joint effort. Mirror Lake turned over after years of not doing so. Why is that important? Northern lakes naturally turnover, usually in spring and fall, mixing all the water layers. The upper portions of the lake sink to the bottom, forcing the water on the bottom to rise to the top - redistributing oxygen and other nutrients throughout the lake. This is particularly important for aquatic life.

This mailing describes more of our work and future goals. Our website (mirrorlake.net) is a trove of information, and we welcome you to attend our monthly meetings (the 2nd Monday of each month, 5 pm, at the Peacock Park Beach House).

We ask for a donation to support our work. Enclosed is an envelope for mailing, or you can donate through our website. We share with you the love of our watershed and this beautiful, beautiful area.

Bill Billerman