

Mirror Lake Watershed Association

2020-2021 Goal: Advocate for decreased salt draining into the Mirror Lake Watershed.

Initial data from testing by the AuSable River Association (AsRA) and the Adirondack Water Institute (AWI) late summer suggest lower concentrations of chloride and higher dissolved oxygen concentrations present in the bottom layer of Mirror Lake. This is likely due to a decrease in salting of Mirror Lake Drive and from ongoing pressure and advocacy from the Mirror Lake Watershed Association, AsRA, and AWI. This is good news for us and for the lake trout, especially for the 1040 small trout stocked in spring 2021. We need your support to keep this up as AsRA reminds us this improvement, "...remains well short of gains that may be achieved with continued salt use reduction efforts within the watershed." The village and town have been working hard to decrease salt use further with new plows that monitor and control the spreading of salt, as well as with improved drainage systems on Main Street.

2020-2021 Goal: Remove Purple Loosestrife from the shoreline before it goes to seed. Monitor and alert Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP) if Yellow Iris are sighted.

285 Purple Loosestrife were removed from Mirror Lake and Mill Pond. The control of Purple Loosestrife is a continual challenge as one Purple Loosestrife plant can release millions of seeds, which can remain dormant for years. The plant and its roots are difficult to remove. This year only two Yellow Iris were discovered and removed by APIPP. Yellow iris can clog waterways, and removal is difficult if they are allowed to grow in number. Through the watchful eyes of volunteers they are being eradicated.

2020-2021 Goal: Pick up garbage from Mirror Lake and Mill Pond

250 beer cans were retrieved from Mill Pond as part of a fall clean-up by the Watershed Association (MLWA). Many beer cans had made the water their home for years. In summer, the Association engaged volunteer divers to find trash in the deeper parts of Mirror Lake. Disposing of trash in Mirror Lake and Mill Pond is one of the tasks done by Association volunteers. Clean-up also happens on the shores and sidewalks. Cigarettes are the most littered item on earth and for sure on Mirror Lake Drive, where they can eventually end UP in road drains and the lake. Cigarette butts leach toxic chemicals into the water that can remain in the water for a decade. Volunteers routinely pick up cigarette butts and trash along Mirror Lake Drive.

2020-2021 Goal: Explore the possibility of a boat washing station at the Mirror Lake Beach boat launch.

Thanks to your donations and a grant from the Champlain Valley Watershed Basin, the MLWA commissioned a study to determine who uses the boat launch. Stewards were at the boat launch on weekends during the summer and early fall. It was found that a high majority of users were local residents and individuals renting boats or staying at local hotels. These boats were not coming from polluted lakes to Mirror Lake. As such, the MLWA believes that a Mirror Lake boat washing station may not be needed.

2020-2021 Goal: Keep a watchful eye out for milfoil, fish hook water flea, spiny water flea, and algae blooms in Mirror Lake and Mill Pond. None of these invasives were found in 2020-2021.

2020-2021 Goal: Perform CSLAP measurements and support other testing to assess the quality of the water of Mirror Lake.

Monitoring of Mirror Lake by Association volunteers provided data for the Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP). The MLWA, AsRA, the Adirondack Water Institute, and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute make water measurements throughout the year. These together provide a solid picture of the health of the lake.

2020-2021 Goal: Reduce the use of polystyrene for flotation in docks and rafts in Mirror Lake.

It is now illegal to have uncontained polystyrene in new rafts and docks in Mirror Lake. In fall 2020, blue and pink foam was washing up on the shores of Mirror Lake. It was believed to have been caused by muskrats seeking to build nests within polystyrene in docks and rafts. Although grandfathered in, several homeowners replaced their dock and raft flotations. The village is studying how to replace its beach dock, where polystyrene is deteriorating.

2020-2021 Goal: Maintain signage and public outreach efforts, including a website.

New signs promoting water quality appeared in the fall, as well as newspaper articles. Of particular concern for the future, is an increase in the number of Canada Geese taking up residence in Mirror Lake. Each goose can produce two pounds of waste per day. Particularly favored by the geese were the village beach rafts. The Association is studying how to discourage geese from making Mirror Lake home and has published an article with tips in The Lake Placid News on how shore owners can help in this effort.



Goals for 2022

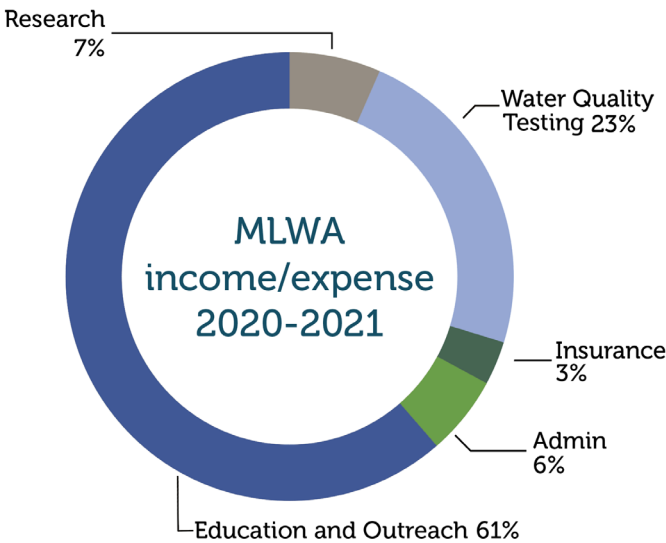
1. Support and fund further monitoring of water quality by AsRA and AWI regarding road salt around Mirror Lake.
2. Continue to eradicate Purple Loosestrife and other invasive plants around Mirror Lake and Mill Pond.
3. Watch for milfoil and Spiny Water Flea in Mirror Lake and in Mill Pond.
4. Maintain informational signboards to raise awareness of the threats to the Mirror Lake Watershed.
5. Continue the ongoing effort to keep Mirror Lake free of garbage on a weekly schedule.
6. Continue the creation of informational articles in the Lake Placid News and maintain a functional and educational website.
7. Support efforts to control the duck and Canada Geese problem. Inform shore owners on how to discourage Canada Geese.
8. Maintain observation of hazardous algae blooms; have a plan if one occurs.
9. Perform CSLAP water quality measurements.
10. Address our social media presence. Accept images of Mirror Lake and Mill Pond from the public to be posted on an Instagram site.
11. Review the AWI report on beach use. Determine if any action is needed.
12. Conduct an annual Mill Pond/Chubb River clean-up.

Mirror Lake Watershed Association

Email: mirrorlk@gmail.com
www.mirrorlake.net
PO Box 1300
Lake Placid, NY 12946

Monthly meeting

Peacock Park Beachhouse (31 Parkside Dr.)
2nd Monday of each month, 5PM
All welcome!



Income: \$17,468.52

Expenses: \$15,198.84

- Education and Outreach: \$9327.43
- Administrative: \$872.00
- Insurance: \$479.41
- Water Quality Testing: \$3,520.00
- Research: \$1,000.00

MLWA Board Members

Bill Billerman, *Chairman*
Denise Bujold, *Secretary & Vice Chair*
Marcy Fagan, *Co-Chair*
Mark Wilcox, *Treasurer*
Sandy Edgerton Bissell
Steve Detweiler
Nev Dunn
Georgia Jones

Advisory Board

Shawn Ayers
Chris Carroll
Buzz McGraw

Mirror Lake Watershed Association Annual Report 2021

A letter from the Chairman

Every year scientists, governments, and advocates know more and are doing more to maintain the quality of the Mirror Lake Watershed, but every year we find new challenges. Who would have known that muskrats would find open foam docks such an inviting place to burrow? What do we do about the increase in Canada geese population on Mirror Lake? That is why it is important to have a watchdog for the watershed, and that is why we exist. One of our key jobs is to alert the appropriate entities when something is awry. In 2020, we alerted village and town officials about the problem with unencapsulated foam floats on Mirror Lake. We informed village and town officials when an algae bloom was discovered in early fall 2020. We are always on the prowl for Purple Loosestrife and Yellow Iris. And in 2018, we notified local authorities when a sewer line broke and leaked into the lake.

Of course, we could not be effective if no one paid attention to us. But we are fortunate in Lake Placid to have responsive and appreciative government officials who sincerely care about the watershed. It's not easy having to make changes, but the village and town have listened and looked for new ways to reduce salt and pollutants. And we have at our fingertips scientists from the Ausable River Association and The Adirondack Water Institute, who are continually monitoring the quality of the lake and are ever available to us for guidance.

This year, the Watershed Association commissioned a study that revealed that Lake Placid residents are the biggest users of the boat launch near the village beach. As a tourist destination, we all sometimes feel that visitors outnumber us. It was wonderful to learn that locals take the time to enjoy this beautiful lake.

We hope you will take a few minutes to read our annual report. Each year we set goals for the Mirror Lake Watershed Association. Some are repeats from years before, but we add new goals to address emergent issues that affect the quality of the watershed. Much progress was made in the last year as we have seen some positive signs that all the work on salt reduction is beginning to pay off.

Please join us at our monthly meeting, we welcome your input and ideas. Enclosed is an envelope for a donation to help us continue our vital work. We are a volunteer organization, and all donations go to the protection of Mirror Lake and Mill Pond. Thank you. We share with you the love of our watershed and this beautiful, beautiful area.

Bill Billerman



Mill Pond