

# Twenty-five years: Protecting the life and beauty of the Mirror Lake Watershed

## Custodian

Supported new regulation to keep electric motors to five miles and under and to ban electric hydrofoils in the lake.

Identified the problem and supported the outlawing of open polystyrene in docks and rafts in Mirror Lake.

Conducted quality water measurements for NYS's Citizen Statewide Lake Assessment Program.

Installed and maintained tubes for disposal of fishing lines to protect water fowl from getting entangled.

## Clean-Up

Initiated the effort to place dog waste bag dispensers around Mirror Lake.

Conducted trash clean-up in Mirror Lake and on Mirror Lake Drive on a weekly basis.

Engaged divers to retrieve trash in deep areas of Mirror Lake.

Participated in village sponsored clean-up days.

Raised the awareness of the Municipalities of the impact of stormwater - resulting in the installation of Vortex filtration structures.

## Protection

Worked to eradicate Purple Loosestrife, an invasive plant growing on the shore of Mirror Lake. Five hundred plants removed in 2022

Initiated water steward inspection at boat launch on Mirror Lake to assess presence of invasive plants on boats.

Reported on sightings of Yellow Iris for eradication.

Monitored for signs of algae bloom.

Surveyed and recorded all stormwater drains into Mirror Lake.

## Advocacy

Leading citizen advocate for reducing salt in Mirror Lake. Joined with scientific organizations and governments to raise citizen awareness and urge government action.

Advocated for moving fireworks display from Mirror Lake to other site.

Advocated for pond hockey on Mirror Lake with provisions for clean-up.

Responsible for the addition of the Stormwater Ordinance to the Land Use Code.

## Outreach

Developed informational posters and brochures.

Wrote informational articles for newspaper.

Established a website and Instagram and Facebook presence.

Built kiosks near village beach and Jewtraw Park for ongoing outreach.

Created many informational signs.

## Campaigning

Initiated a public campaign to stop feeding the ducks.

Distributed a brochure to shore owners regarding the use of winter road salt, lawn fertilizer, phosphates, and ways to discourage nuisance resident geese from Mirror Lake.

Pushed for cigarette butt containers being placed outside of Main Street businesses to reduce butts being drained into Mirror Lake.



*Photo by John Elfridge*

## Goals for 2023

1. Support and fund further monitoring of water quality by Ausable River Association and Adirondack Water Institute.
2. Continue to monitor and eradicate invasive species.
4. Maintain informational signboards to raise awareness of the threats to the watershed.
5. Continue the ongoing effort to keep Mirror Lake free of garbage on a weekly schedule. Conduct an annual Mill Pond/Chubb River clean-up.
6. Continue informational articles in The Lake Placid News and maintain a functional website and social media accounts on Instagram and FaceBook.
7. Support efforts to address the nuisance resident geese problem.
8. Maintain observation of hazardous algae blooms; have a plan if one occurs.
9. Perform CSLAP water quality measurements.
10. Review the water steward report. Determine if further study and action are needed.
11. Maintain a loon-friendly lake.
12. Monitor for phosphate hot spots.
13. Review/update the water management plan.

**For more information about our work, please go to our website, [mirrorlake.net](http://mirrorlake.net), or better yet attend a meeting!**

Fiscal Year 2021-2022	
Income (Grants and donations)	\$ 19,976.60
<b>Expense + Accounts Payable(AP)</b>	
Education/Outreach	\$ 1,126.96
Administrative	\$ 294.00
Clean-up	\$ 237.90
Instagram editor	\$ 500.00
Insurance	\$ 479.41
Water Quality Testing	\$ 520.00
Water Stewardship 2021	\$ 4,592.00
Water Stewardship 2022(AP)	\$ 9,612.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 17,362.27</b>
<b>Income/Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 2,614.33</b>

### MLWA Board Members:

Marcy Fagan, *Chair*  
 Denise Bujold, *Secretary & Vice Chair*  
 Mark Wilcox, *Treasurer*  
 Bill Billerman  
 Sandy Edgerton Bissell  
 Steve Detwiler  
 Nev Dunn  
 Georgia Jones  
 Buzz McGraw

### Advisors:

Shawn Ayers  
 Chris Carroll  
 Chris Guida  
 Larry Master

# Twenty-five Years of Making a Difference

## Mirror Lake Watershed Association 2021-2022 Annual Report



Twenty five years ago, the Mirror Lake Watershed Association began as the "Water Management Committee" in the Town/Village Comprehensive Plan. Its goal was to conduct water testing and to participate as a member of the NYS Federation of Lakes. David Ackerman and Bill Billerman started as co-chairs of this committee, and Bill continued as the committee evolved into an association. The scope of the work quickly expanded. David Ackerman was an early driving force and produced a "Water Management Plan" for Mirror Lake.

Little did Bill Billerman realize what he signed up for when he agreed to co-chair the committee. He served continuously as the Association's chair for 25 years and he, along with David Ackerman, are largely responsible for its achievements listed on the next page. Being a chair requires a special skill set that includes nudging and negotiating mixed in with persistence and patience. Well done, Bill!

Over the last 25 years, the Association has been one of the most active watershed associations in the state, meeting monthly to review progress and challenges to the watershed. Our work, all-volunteer, has been bolstered by several science-based organizations that provide the data and technical knowledge to guide us in our advocacy. With their help, road salt, which threatened the very life of Mirror

Lake, is on the decrease. We are not there yet, and we will continue to make this a top priority in the coming years.

This past year, we led a successful initiative to limit the speed of electric boats on Mirror Lake to five miles per hour and to prohibit electric hoverboards, which are just beginning to appear on the market. Certainly, one of the charms of the lake, aside from its crystal-clear water, is its tranquility. Humans and animals appreciate being able to enjoy the lake without worrying about motorboats and their wakes.

We hope that you will support us in our continual work. This year's annual report not only lists our activities in the last year but also the accomplishments in the preceding 25 years that made it all possible.

Thank you, and see you on the lake!

Marcy Fagan, Chair



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### Monthly Meeting

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