

Mirror Lake Watershed Association

2021 Goal #1: Advocate for decreased salt draining into the Mirror Lake Watershed.

Initial data from testing in late summer by the AuSable River Association (AsRA) and the Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI) suggest lower concentrations of chloride and higher dissolved oxygen in the bottom layer of Mirror Lake. This is likely due to the decreased salting of Mirror Lake Drive and from ongoing pressure and advocacy from the Mirror Lake Watershed Association (MLWA), AsRA, and AWI. This is good news for us and for the lake trout, especially for the 1040 young trout stocked last 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 to decrease salt pollution with improved drainage systems on Main Street and plows that monitor and control the spreading of salt.

2021 Goal #2: 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.

This year, 285 Purple Loosestrife plants were removed from Mirror Lake and Mill Pond. The control of Purple Loosestrife is a continual challenge as one plant can release millions of seeds, which can remain dormant for years. Only two Yellow Iris were discovered and removed by APIPP. Through the watchful eyes of volunteers, they are being eradicated.

2021 Goal #3: 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 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. Removing trash from Mirror Lake and Mill Pond is one of the tasks done by MLWA 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 end up in road drains leading to the lake. Cigarette butts leach toxic chemicals into the water that can remain there for a decade.

2021 Goal #4: Explore the possibility of a boat washing station at the Mirror Lake Beach boat launch.

Thanks to your donations and a grant from LEAF, the MLWA paid for a water steward to check for invasive plants and species on boats and to find out who uses the boat launch. Stewards checked on the weekends during the summer and early fall. No invasives were found, and a high majority of users were local residents. As such, the MLWA believes that a Mirror Lake boat washing station may not be needed.

2021 Goal #5: Keep a watchful eye out for milfoil, fishhook water flea, spiny water flea, and algal blooms in Mirror Lake and Mill Pond.

None discovered in 2021.

2021 Goal #6: Perform CSLAP measurements and support other testing to assess the quality of the water of Mirror Lake.

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

2021 Goal #7: Reduce the use of polystyrene for floatation in docks and rafts in Mirror Lake.

A regulation has been proposed to declare uncontained polystyrene to be illegal in new rafts and docks in Mirror Lake. In fall 2020, small pieces of blue and pink foam were washing up on the shoreline. It was believed to have been caused by muskrats seeking to build nests within polystyrene in docks and rafts. The village is studying how to replace its beach dock, where polystyrene is deteriorating.

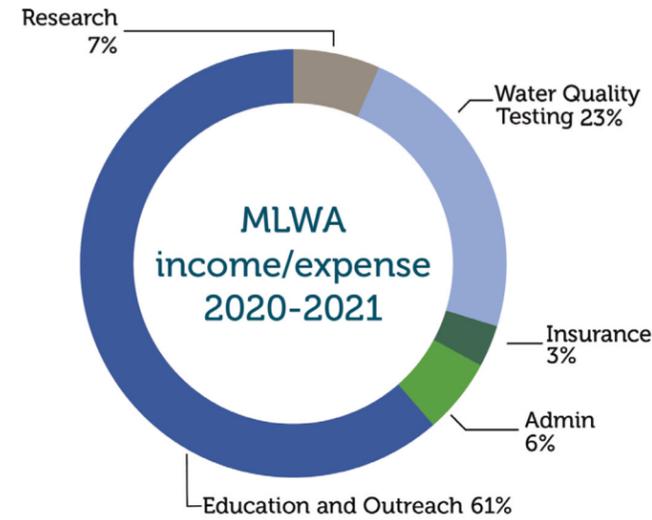
2021 Goal #8: Maintain signage, public outreach efforts, and a website.

New signs promoting water quality appeared in the fall, as well as newspaper articles on protecting Mirror Lake. Of particular concern is an increase in the number of Canada Geese taking up residence on Mirror Lake. Last summer, eight (two parents and six chicks) made Mirror Lake their home. Each goose can produce two pounds of waste per day. MLWA is studying how to discourage geese from living on our lake 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 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 informational articles in *The Lake Placid News* and maintain a functional website.
7. Support efforts to address the Canada Geese problem.
8. Maintain observation of hazardous algal blooms; have a plan if one occurs.
9. Perform CSLAP water quality measurements.
10. Address our social media presence.
11. Review the report on boat launch use. Determine if further study and action are needed.
12. Conduct an annual Mill Pond/Chubb River clean-up.
13. Support the removal of unencapsulated polystyrene floats in the village beach dock.
14. Advocate for changes in the land use plan to prohibit unencapsulated polystyrene floats in new docks and rafts on Mirror Lake.



Income: \$17,468.52
 Expenses: \$15,198.84

- Education and Outreach: \$9,327.43
- Administrative: \$872.00
- Insurance: \$479.41
- Water Quality Testing: \$3,520.00
- Research: \$1,000.00

MLWA Board Members
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For more information about our work, please go to our website, mirrorlake.net.

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

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



Mirror Lake Watershed Association Annual Report 2021



Letter from the Co-Chairs

Every year scientists, governments, and advocates know more and are doing more to maintain the quality of the Mirror Lake Watershed. Much progress was made in the last year as we have seen some positive signs that the work on salt reduction is beginning to pay off. Of course, 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 algal bloom was discovered in early fall 2020. 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 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, the Adirondack Watershed Institute, and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, who are continually monitoring the quality of the lake and are ever available to us for guidance.

This year, the Mirror Lake Watershed Association (MLWA) paid for a water steward to check boats for invasive plants and species at the boat launch near the village beach. There were no invasives found, and we learned that Lake Placid residents are the biggest users of the boat launch. As a tourist destination, we sometimes feel that visitors outnumber us. It was wonderful to know that locals take the time to enjoy the lake.

We hope you will take a few minutes to read our annual report. Each year we set goals for MLWA. Some are repeats from years before, but we add new goals to address emergent issues that affect the quality of the watershed.

Please join us at our monthly meeting and give us 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. We share with you the love of our watershed and this beautiful, beautiful area.

Bill Billerman and Marcy Fagan

