



MAY 2019

THE UPPER SARANAC LAKE ASSOCIATION

MAILBOAT

Emma Bucknell: Upper Saranac Lake Pioneer

Nancy Cohen

Soon after the great ship Titanic's disaster at sea in 1912, the Philadelphia Enquirer interviewed one of the fortunate survivors of that terrible tragedy. Especially compelling was the survivor's description of the incompetent seaman in charge of lifeboat #8 who had never been taught rowing skills: "It was tragic. I have known how to row for a great many years as the result of much time spent

in the Adirondacks, and I slipped into the seat beside the man and showed him how to work the oar." For over 8 hours she and other women on board took turns rowing until they were saved by a passing ship, the Carpathian. The survivor was Emma Bucknell, the original owner of Pine Point Camp on Upper Saranac Lake. That Emma was able to handle her horrific experience on the Titanic with such great fortitude was just one of the many times in her life when she demonstrated an independence unusual for women of the late nineteenth century.

Since 1994 when we purchased Sunset Camp, which was built by Emma's son Howard around 1898, we have been fascinated by the history of this family and their approximately 50 years on Upper Saranac Lake. Emma Bucknell, the matriarch was born in 1852 during her father's Baptist missionary assignment in India, and later grew up in Chestnut Hill, Pennsylvania. It was there that she was introduced to the twice widowed William Bucknell, a member of her father's Baptist parish and a wealthy real estate developer and entrepreneur. Emma became his third wife when she was only 19 and he was 60. After their marriage William continued to build his fortune, and he became an important contributor to Baptist organizations including a small college in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania which was renamed Bucknell University after his generous donations.

Emma bore him four children, but William was reluctant to part with his fortune in order to raise them. He and his wife grew apart. Emma began writing children's stories for the *Philadelphia Enquirer* so that she could earn money to buy clothing for her own children. Meanwhile, William had more money than he could spend in a lifetime, and Emma was given only a small allowance. Her husband had a habit of revisiting his will every five years, and when he made changes, he would sign the codicil on his birthday. After disagreements with the Board of Trustees of the University, he deleted the institution from his will and left a third to his children from his first marriage, a third to Emma and her four children, and the final third to various charities. Later, after his marriage to Emma became unhappy, he changed his mind again, and meant to leave Emma and her children with only a small inheritance. Fate stepped in, however, and before he could sign the codicil on his 80th birthday, William died of a stroke, leaving Emma a very wealthy widow.

The very next year, in 1891, Emma Bucknell, at the age of 39, came to the Adirondacks to purchase land. It isn't known for sure what drew Emma to Upper Saranac at the time. It may have been the romantic notion of the wilderness prevalent at the end of the nineteenth century. It may have been the draw of the new Saranac

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Emma Ward (Bucknell), age 18

President's Letter

Susan Hearn

Magic. There's that word, staring at me from the cover of the May/ June 2019 edition of *Adirondack Life*. "*Camp Sweet Camp: The Magic of Adirondack Getaways*." It's a word used in the letter welcoming new owners to our shores and encouraging them to join the USLA ("welcome to this magical place"). It's a word that oozes out of the pages of Fran Yardley's book, "Finding True North: A History of One Small Corner of The Adirondacks."

This sense of enchantment attracts so many of us to this special part of the Adirondacks. It encourages many to return, year after year. Or to stay and make their home. It's what forces many to hit "refresh" on the web cam at this time of year to see if the ice has gone out, the trees are in bud, there's activity on the water. Or if you are fortunate enough to live in the area full-time, to walk down to the water and experience "refresh." It calls us to preserve the environment and traditions, to keep what is special and good that captivated us in the first place.

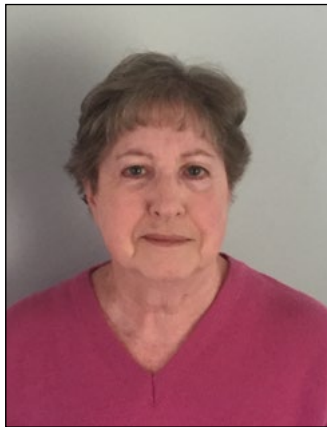
Whether you own or rent, are seasonal or year-round, consider yourself a lake dweller or a pond person, refer to your dwelling as "camp" or "home," you have experienced this magic, haven't you? It's why you favor this special area with your time – your most valuable commodity, why you invite your friends and family to join you here and experience it for themselves. It's why you have joined the USLA (you have joined the USLA, haven't you?) to help us collectively preserve and protect these waters, this environment, to help keep the magic alive here.

We're about to begin another summer, what I hope will be a magical one for you and all your guests. The USLA committees have been hard at work to prepare activities that will enhance your recreational and social enjoyment. Please join us throughout the summer. As always, I welcome your feedback and input.

New Zone 5 Chair

Jan Daly

The Adirondacks have always held a special place in my heart. I first started coming to the Adirondacks as a child, my family vacationed every summer on Fourth Lake in the Fulton Chain. Then when I had a family of my own, we camped many summers at Fish Creek Ponds and my children attended and were counselors at Camp Gorham near Big Moose Lake. When I retired from the University of Rochester as a computer project manager, I was excited to purchase my Adirondack camp and spend more time hiking and paddling. I have four children and 10 grandchildren with whom I love sharing this wonderful place. I have served on the Upper Saranac Lake Association Cultural committee and plan on continuing working with this fun group. I'm excited to increase my involvement with the USLA this year as Zone 5 Chairman.



USLA Scholarship Fund Summer Golf Tournament

Ron Otten

The USLA Scholarship Fund is hosting a Summer Golf Tournament at the Saranac Inn Golf and Country Club on July 29. We will have lunch and a 4 person scramble. Donations for the tournament are \$80. The tournament will be a fun team event with prizes for best teams. All proceeds will go to the USLA Scholarship Fund for scholarships that are awarded annually to deserving seniors at both Tupper Lake and Saranac Lake Central Schools. Our tournament team is still working out some of the details but most of the information is in the poster that is elsewhere in this *Mailboat*. So, start forming your teams and be ready for a great time playing golf with friends at Saranac Inn and support a worthy cause.

UPPER SARANAC LAKE ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. Box 872

Saranac Lake, NY 12983

www.uppersaranac.com

THE USLA MAILBOAT

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Photo of the mailboat, "Saranac", courtesy of the Adirondack Collection, Saranac Lake Free Library

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Emma Bucknell: Upper Saranac Lake Pioneer

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Original Pine Point Camp

Inn at the north end of the lake. Or it may have been her connection with other Philadelphians who came north to escape the heat of the city. Whatever it was, the newly widowed Emma purchased one mile of the Gull Bay shoreline on the east side of the lake, and began building Pine Point Camp in 1891. A newspaper article from the Fort Covington Sun that year noted that the structure cost \$20,000 to build. At that time, there was no Bartlett Carry Road to the property, and all building material had to be milled at the site or carried down the lake by steamboat. It was so unusual for a woman to take it upon herself to buy land and arrange for builders, that Maitland DeSormo in Summers on the Saranac suggested that it was William who had built Pine Point Camp. Emma's personal property consisted of a large main house which was not built in the style of Adirondack rustic, rather, it was a more formal shingle-style home. The large boathouse was connected to a long dock which served as a stop for The Saranac steamboat, and for her own large 1912 launch, the Sea Gull. Two guest cottages, a pump house, playhouse, laundry building, tennis court, caretaker's home and boathouse, barn, and extensive gardens made up the rest of her property. Emma was very particular about her flower and vegetable gardens. Several years ago, we found a notebook in which she wrote exact instructions to her caretaker concerning monthly care of her gardens during the off seasons. She was an expert on all kinds of plants and fertilizer. Today, 100 years later, many of her plants and hydrangea trees remain and flourish under the care of present owner, Vida Rothschild.

In 1896 she gave her eldest child, Howard Bucknell, a large

parcel of land, probably as a wedding gift, and another large parcel was given to a daughter, Margaret Bucknell Stearns, who later married Count Pecorini of Florence, Italy. By 1907, Emma sold the Bucknell mansion in Philadelphia, moved to Upper Saranac in the summer and spent winters in Clearwater, Florida where she had purchased a Greek Revival home. Thanks to articles in the Philadelphia Enquirer and the New York Times, some facts about Emma's life on Upper Saranac Lake are documented. One article dated July 31, 1902, describes Emma's daughter Gertrude's wedding on Chapel Island: "A wedding in the forest was the novelty for the campers of the Upper Saranac Lake region... Wild nature contributed to the decorations at the chapel and the house. There were water lilies in profusion among boughs of pine and balsam... It was the most brilliant event of the kind that has taken place here in the forest among the Saranacs... The ceremony took place at noon, the members of the wedding party and the guests making their way to the island in launches and steamers, of which nearly all in this locality were pressed into service for the occasion. Members of the Wawbeek Orchestra furnished the music." The reception was held at Pine Point Camp.

Emma Bucknell died at Pine Point Camp in June of 1927 at the age of 75. The property stayed with the family until the 1950s when her son-in-law sold most of her property and Howard Bucknell's property to the Thompson family of Rochester, New York. Unfortunately her house was torn down 15 years later in an effort to lower taxes. Countess Pecorini's house burned down in the 1950s, but both hers and Emma's large boat houses remain today as well as the caretaker's home, a pump house and a children's playhouse.

Howard Bucknell's house is still owned by our family and many of Emma Bucknell's books, some of her furniture, and her guide boat reside with us. All properties were subdivided in the 1970s and thirteen neighbors on the Bartlett Carry Road now share this mile of shoreline.



Sign Up & Save a Life...



First Aid & CPR Classes Are Coming Back To The Lake

Classes will be held on
June 26 & 27th from 5:30 - 8PM

Location: 686 Bartlett Carry Rd

FIRST AID classes will cover these topics:

How to respond to an emergency,
muscle, joint, bone and soft tissue injuries,
bandages & splints, so much more.

CPR classes will cover:

Chest compressions
Artificial ventilation to preserve brain functions
How to use a defibrillator.

Classes last about 3 ½ hours each.
Certifications are accredited by the National Safety Council.

Contact Sonny Young for more information.
e mail adkfoothillsgs@gmail.com

Pre-registration is required.

USLA Scholarship Fund Charity Golf Tournament

The Saranac Inn Golf and Country Club

Date of event: July 29, 2019

Time: 10:30 Registration 11:30 Lunch 12:30 Shotgun Start

\$80 per player includes lunch, cart, green fees

Pre-registration required, please provide handicap index

Sponsorships available

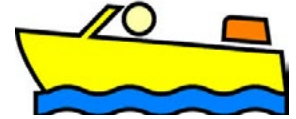
E-mail/Info: uslascholarships@gmail.com

Additional Info: All proceeds go to scholarships for local students at Saranac Lake and Tupper Lake High Schools

Four person scramble format with prizes to the winning mens, womans and mixed teams



The New York Safe Boating Courses for 2019 season certificate.



The NYS Safe Boating Course is being taught at the Santa Clara Community Center. Please note, the new dates and times for the classes.

WHEN

JULY 8th & 9th from 9 AM until 1PM each day.
AUGUST 12th & 13th from 9 AM until 1 PM each day

WHERE

The Santa Clara Community Center, located at 5367 State Route 30 just north of USL.

WHO

Anyone interested in taking the course must be at least 10 years of age by the first day of the course. Anyone 18 and over is required to pay a fee of \$10.00 payable to NYS. The course runs for 2 mornings. You must attend both days to take and pass the test in order to qualify for a certificate.

NOTE: NYS passed a law in 2014 stating that anyone born on or after May 1st, 1996 is required to take this course in order to operate a motor boat of any size.

It is recommended that you sign up early. Please contact Lynne Perry to register or if you have any questions at 518-359-2630 or lgper2@optonline.net

Michele Brown Garcia will teach the course with support from Dave Perry.

Eagle Island Camp

Katrina Dearden, Camp Director

Eagle Island Camp will once again be opening its shores to campers this summer! Day camp programming for young people entering 4th, 5th, and 6th grades will be offered for two one-week sessions the weeks of July 22 and July 29. Campers will explore the island through nature programming, try their hands at sailing, kayaking, canoeing, and rowboating, work on their swimming skills, and get creative with arts & crafts. You might even hear the sounds of camp songs as you paddle by the island!



In everything we do, we believe in inspiring and empowering young people to be confident, collaborative, and courageous . . . and what other day camp includes a boat ride at the start and end of every day?

Earlier in July, the camp will be hosting staff development and training to ensure that we are offering the best possible program to our campers. Camp staff will be trained in a variety of skills, including conflict resolution, child abuse identification and prevention, facilitating group games and team-building exercises, and accommodating diverse learning styles. Some of these trainings are hosted in town and will be accessible to the public. We would love to see you there!

More information about Eagle Island Camp and the training programs can be found on our website: www.eagleisland.org.

Registration Now Open for Cultural Affairs Events

Sally Ward, Cultural Affairs Chair

Sunday, July 14 - Local Lore: Mysteries at the Trudeau Sanatorium - 3-5 p.m.

Where: Bartlett Carry Club- Main Lodge, 682 Bartlett Carry Road

You know that Saranac Lake was renowned as a tuberculosis cure center, but did you know that mystery and intrigue once surrounded the local Trudeau Sanatorium? It's the 1950's and the country is swept up in anti-Communist fever. Unpublished papers documenting the toxicity of asbestos are stolen from one of the Trudeau laboratories in 1953, setting back the public's awareness of the dangers of asbestos by ten years. That much is fact. Join us as Tony Holtzman, Emeritus Professor of Pediatrics at Johns Hopkins and author of *The Bethune Murals*, unravels the mystery of the theft, and describes how he got the idea for his novel of linking the theft to the murals drawn by Norman Bethune, a Canadian physician, while he was a tuberculosis patient at the Trudeau Sanatorium in 1927. To draw the audience into the story, we will show reproductions of the last known photographs of the murals to those who attend. You'll view them before Tony's presentation and consider the question: Do the murals suggest that Bethune was a Communist when he drew them in 1927? Bring your folding chair (and sit on the edge of it) for a lively talk with Q & A. Light refreshments will be served afterward.

Capacity: 80. Members and their guests: No charge.

Saturday, July 27 – Saranac Inn Memories & Memorabilia Soiree - 5-7 p.m.

Where: Saranac Inn Golf Club



The Saranac Inn began as a small, 15 room hotel in 1864 and eventually grew to a luxurious vacation destination. By its heyday in 1920, it boasted accommodations for up to 1000 guests in the hotel, lakeside cottages, and platform tents. Though the Inn closed for good in 1962 and burned in 1978, the golf course and some cottages (now private homes) remain. Come marvel at an extensive private collection of memorabilia from the glory days of a grande dame. We'll have an open mike for those who have personal memories to share. Mingle over heavy hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar (wine and beer).

Capacity: 70. Members: No charge. Guests: \$15 per person

Please make checks to USLA, write USLA event on memo line, and mail to: Patty Koch, P.O. Box 117, Lake Clear, NY 12945

Tuesday, August 6 – Poetry, Music and Art Salon - 5-6:30 p.m.

Where: 5118 State Rt. 30

Emily Bissell Laird



Salon 2018

Three generations of the Laird-Creech family will again host guests in their Mosswood Camp boathouse. Antonia Laird, a past Poet Laureate of Delaware, will read from another selection of her poems with musical interludes by her son-in-law and granddaughter on guitar and Celtic harp. Daughter Emily Laird's original art will complement the evening. Enjoy light refreshments following the 45-minute program. Those who missed this delightful evening last summer are strongly encouraged to attend.

Capacity -25 (USLA members only). No charge.

Saturday, August 10- Family Movie Night - 8 p.m.

Where: Fish Creek Pavilion #1 (near beach). (Rain location: Santa Clara Town Hall -5367 St. Rt. 30)

Calling all young and young-at-heart for fun under the stars with a screening of *The Secret Life of Pets*. Movie critic, Roger Ebert, calls this "an aggressively likeable story about the unique relationship between pets and their owners." We'll have the popcorn machine and lemonade; you bring your lawn chairs and blankets, if desired. Carpooling is strongly encouraged.

Open to members and their guests. No charge.

Please register for these events at: cultural@uppersaranac.com

***Include name(s), email address and phone number where you can be reached.**

Government Affairs Committee

Cindy Rosenwald

APA Approves Saranac Lake Wild Forest Unit Management Plan

The APA has given its approval to this comprehensive plan and recommended it to NY State DEC. Upper Saranac Lake is situated within the boundaries of this part of the park, and there are several aspects of the plan relevant to our lake.

First, the Bartlett Carry Trail will be re-located off the road, with approximately .4 miles of new trail created. This project may involve re-locating the canoe access site.

Campsites will be re-distributed on several of the Saranac Lakes and connected ponds to improve setbacks. Group campsites will be developed. In the end, more campsites will be created.

Efforts will be made to better protect loons and native fish species. Finally, Wawbeek Road will be designated for horse usage.

The entire plan may be accessed through this link:

www.apa.ny.gov/State_land/assets/SLWF_Proposed_Final_draft_UMP.pdf

Although not directly related to the Saranac Lake Wild Forest Unit Management Plan, Governor Cuomo may appoint seven new members out of a total of eight gubernatorial appointments to the APA board this summer.

Culvert Work Will Affect Popular Canoe Route

The culvert many canoers paddle through under Route 30 from Little Follensby Pond to Fish Creek Ponds will be closed this summer for replacement. There may be a temporary carry created, but paddlers may want to plan alternate routes for this summer.

Santa Clara Updates Land Use Regulations

The town board recently adopted new regulations. Some of the highlights include:

- Hickok's marina is designated commercial usage to conform with its long term use and the surrounding parcels.
- Some front yard setbacks have been changed from 75' to 50'.
- The definition of "docks" is broadened to incorporate non-mooring use.
- The definition of "boathouse" is clarified to conform to a recent DEC ruling.
- The total footprint of shoreline structures is clarified.

The updated code is posted on the Town of Santa Clara website.

Preventing Bear Encounters

Kathleen Colson



DEC recommendations to prevent black bear encounters:

- Remove bird feeders and suet
- Keep pet food, and pet feeding, indoors
- Store garbage in a secure location and never put out the day before
- Remove grease from grills after every use: turn on high until residual odors are burned off
- Do not operate refrigerators or freezers on porches. Bears can smell what is inside
- If you compost, no meats or sweets. Consider installing an electric fence around the compost

If you encounter a bear:

- Never approach or corner a bear, they will react aggressively, especially if cubs are present
- Don't run. Slowly back away.
- Don't throw your backpack or food at a bear
- Make noise from a safe distance to scare it away

Keeping Hummingbirds Healthy

Kathleen Colson

As I write this at the end of April, the hummingbird migration map tells us that the Ruby-Throated Hummingbird has been sighted in Saratoga Springs. It will be just a matter of days before they arrive in the Adirondacks and I already have our feeder out in anticipation of their arrival.

Everyone enjoys the sight of hummingbirds. They are easy to identify, and their territorial antics are fascinating to watch. In February they start their migration north from Mexico and Central America to the same nest site, and with our abundance of spruce, beech and pine trees, our forests are ideal for nesting hummingbirds.

There is a lot we can do to support a healthy hummingbird population around our lake-side homes. The ideal habitat includes protection from predators (cats, crows, raptors and large spiders) so if you have cats, you should hang your feeders in well-protected locations that are at least five feet off the ground. They also need good nest sites and building materials. Their nests are small, about the size of a quarter, and they are made of twigs, leaves, lichen, moss and spider silk to bind the nest together.

According to Audubon, hummingbirds must eat once every 10 to 15 minutes and visit between 1000 to 2000 flowers per day. They love nectar-rich gardens and will return to the same gardens every year, looking for the plants they remember. Located by sight, and not smell, the best plants are fragrance-free flowers that are tubular shaped in red or orange colors. Ideal plants include bee balm, phlox, hollyhock, hosta and foxglove. Hanging baskets of fuchsia, petunias or nasturtium will bring the birds in close to your home. Insects, such as black flies, gnats and mosquitos are an important source of protein for hummingbirds, so make sure you keep your gardens as a no-spray zone.

Hummingbird feeders provide a supplement to nectar, but they need flower nectar for a balanced diet. Do not put up hummingbird

feeders if you don't plan on committing to a regular cleaning plan for your feeder. **Feeders that are not cleaned every two to three days will kill hummingbirds.** In summer weather, the feeder food ferments and when ingested, enlarges their livers, eventually killing them. The mold and bacteria from uncleaned feeders can also harm them.

You also need to make a commitment to providing healthy sugar water for your feeder. Don't use honey, artificial sweeteners, powdered sugar or red food color, all of which can cause health problems. Never buy pre-packaged hummingbird food such as is sold in our local hardware store.

The ideal hummingbird feeder is a red-colored glass feeder. The simplest feeder food is also the best: mix ½ cup of organic sugar to 2 cups of filtered or natural spring water. You don't need to boil. I make my hummingbird food in a mason jar – just add sugar and water and shake until the sugar crystals dissolve. Most importantly, and just for emphasis I'll repeat it again: clean your feeder and provide fresh feeder water every two to three days. Be sure to keep your feeder up until mid-September when our tiny bird friends start to store up for their long journey to their winter grounds. And if you work to provide a healthy hummingbird habitat, they'll return to you in the spring.



Audubon

Notes From the Safety Committee

Michelle Brown Garcia, Chair

The Department of Transportation will close part of a popular canoe route this summer. The DEC has announced that DOT will be replacing the culvert under state Route 30. Spider Creek is the waterway that flows out of Follensby Clear Pond to Fish Creek Ponds. During the construction, watercraft will not be able to pass through the culvert. The culvert may be closed for the entire 2019 construction season. When the work is complete, the culvert can be used once again for paddling. The DEC has stated that there will be a temporary canoe carry, but said that paddlers may want to choose a different route.

The state departments of Transportation and Environmental Conservation are considering closing a large stretch of roadside parking on state Route 73 in an effort to improve safety and limit the numbers of hikers utilizing trailheads. A DEC spokesman said that the state is looking at closing roadside parking from the Rooster Comb trailhead in Keene Valley to the Chapel Pond area or about 4.5 miles of roads. This would be on top of the roadside ban instituted last year in the vicinity of Roaring Brook Falls. Outside of designated parking areas, roadsides will be posted with "No Parking" signs. The parking closure will be actively enforced. The DEC will work with the New York State Police and Essex County

Sheriff's Department in enforcing, ticketing and towing of violators. The DEC has stated that there is no firm timeframe for when the ban will go into effect, but that roadsides will be posted with "No Parking" signs when it does.

The Town of Keene has announced that the trailhead known as The Garden will be closed starting Monday April 29th and will continue to be closed all summer, while the town replaces a failing bridge over Johns Brook. In the release, Keene officials said the town is working closely with the DEC and ADK Mountain Club to help inform hikers and provide them with access in spite of the temporary closure. The town said it would add shuttle bus runs that take hikers from Marcy Field on Route 73 west of the town to the Garden trailhead. Under the plan, the shuttles would run seven days a week from 7am to 7pm. The shuttle fee is \$10 round-trip per person or \$13 Canadian. Check the town website for up-to-date shuttle schedules: <https://www.townofkeeeny.com/2019-garden-shuttle-information>. The town asked for cooperation: "Please respect the closure and don't park or walk on private property to gain hiking access", officials said that "Illegally parked cars will be towed. Town employees and DEC rangers will monitor the lot during the week".

USLA Picnic at the Wild Center

Date: July 15, 2019

Time: 5:00 – 7:30 pm

Place: The Wild Center Tent

RSVP: By July 8, 2019: rsvp@wildcenter.org, 518-359-7800 ext.1110, and please provide your name and number of people attending.



The 11th annual *Upper Saranac Lake Night at the Wild Center* will be held this year on July 15th, from 5:00 - 7:30 PM. As usual, there will be a cookout in the tent followed by a brief special program on “micro-raptors” of the Adirondacks. Animal care staff and licensed falconers Leah Valerio and Chelsie LaFountain will present up to 5 of these diminutive birds of prey, including two that

are among the smallest of their kind. The American Kestrel is the smallest and most common falcon in North America, while the small and agile Screech Owl is only 8 inches tall. See these birds up close, while gaining a new understanding of their natural history and learning about the art of falconry.

This is free to all USLA members and their families and friends. The entire Museum, including Wild Walk, will be open only for us! This event, as in the past, is sponsored by your fellow USLA members, many of whom are on the Wild Center Board, as a way to thank you for your support, and to remind you that the Museum is our neighbor and a major contributor to the quality of life that brings us all to the Lake and the Adirondacks.

The aim is to have fun with your family, your friends and your neighbors and to enjoy a cookout at the Museum. Please RSVP to rsvp@wildcenter.org or 518-359-7800 ext.1110, and please provide your name and the number of people attending with you, so that we can make sure we have enough food and drink!



Strategy Committee News

By Larry Koch, VP & Zone 3 Chair

As you read this, springtime is awaking at Saranac Lake. And during this past winter, the Strategy Committee met and did some future planning for the Lake Association. Keeping in mind our new Mission and Vision Statements:

Mission:

The Upper Saranac Lake Association's mission is to enhance the overall quality of life for the Upper Saranac Lake area community.

Vision:

USLA will create the finest environmentally friendly, socially responsible lake area community in the Adirondack Park.

Our focus areas to help us realize our Vision are briefly:

1. Enhance engagement of the USL community
2. Increase membership
3. Improve communications
4. Environmental advocacy
5. Government affairs advocacy

We conducted a conference of the Zone Chairs to share ideas and learn more effective ways of communicating and engaging the community. You have probably seen in the USLA Web site News Column a request for a new creative Web designer to work with the Communications Committee. The Environmental Committee is already working with the USL Foundation to better coordinate activities of both groups and finally, we are developing a plan to be more proactive with the local town governments.

All of these activities will take time; you will not see overnight results, just progress. More importantly, we really need volunteers to help with committee projects. So, if you would like to help make Upper Saranac Lake an even nicer place to live, get involved by sending me an e-mail (koch.larry@gmail.com) with your contact information and we will be back to you quickly!

USLA WANTS A FEW GOOD NEIGHBORS LIKE YOU!
CONTACT US AT koch.larry@gmail.com TODAY!

Tupper Lake Fire Department Sub-Station

Todd Hall, Liaison/Officer



Todd Hall

On behalf of the Fire Department, we would like to thank the Upper Saranac Lake Association for refurbishing the fireboat. Most fire departments in this region don't have a boat of this caliber. Also, we want to thank the town of Santa Clara supervisor, Mickey Webb, and the Tupper Lake village mayor, Paul Maroun, for forming the Santa Clara substation, in order to provide our town with quicker fire response for our remote locations. The Tupper Lake fire department, under the direction of chief Royce Cole, has spent significant time in training the members of the Santa Clara substation. They have also provided the substation with safety equipment and a fire truck. We are looking for year round members. Anyone interested should contact the Tupper Lake fire department at 518-359-2543

USLA Store

Ron Otten

Limited quantities of lake related merchandise as seen in the adjacent poster are available. Items can be purchased by emailing

the order to uslastore@gmail.com or by going to the Upper Saranac Lake Association website and using the "Store" tab. We are in the process of including new offerings for purchase. If you have a favorite item that you would like the store to offer, please email your idea to uslastore@gmail.com. Store items are only available for local pickup or delivery by arrangement.

The USLA Store is BACK!

All proceeds benefit the Upper Saranac Lake Scholarship Fund



Hoodies
Green ADK
Chair or
Brown
Canoe
M, L and
XL sizes
\$40 each



Cap \$20



Youth Hoodies
(Green Canoe only)
S, M and L sizes \$30



Car Decal \$5



24" x 32" Centennial
Quilt Poster \$10



15 oz. Etched Wine Glasses
\$8 each or Set of 4 for \$30



USL Map \$5



22" x 37" Map
Poster \$10



30" x 60" Towel
(10.5 lb.) \$30

Pre Order
Towels

The towels
will be
available
after a
minimum
of 50 are
ordered.

All prices include tax. Cash or check only; checks to be made out to USLA Scholarship Fund. Email orders to uslastore@gmail.com. Include size, quantity, name and phone number. Pick up or local delivery available.

What's New Since January With the Angler Diary Program?

By Larry Nashett, Chair, Environmental Committee, USLA

First, the 2018 diary data collected by volunteers who fish Upper Saranac Lake has been analyzed!

The summer of 2018 was a hot one by Adirondack standards. High winds and high water temperatures made successful fishing a challenge for cooperators. Many reported seeing numbers of large fish on their sonar systems, hugging the bottom, but refusing to bite despite use of a variety of techniques and offerings. Regardless, cooperators proved that Upper Saranac Lake continues to provide

a high quality, premier, smallmouth bass fishery.

Smallmouth Bass - Our four diary keepers reported a total of 138 angler-trips and 244 angler-hours over 80 days of fishing for smallmouth bass (Table 1). They caught 185 smallmouth bass in 2018, resulting in a catch rate of 0.76 fish/hour. Only three of these were creeled (kept), and the rest were released. If you like facts and figures, check out these tables and summaries:

Table 1. 2018 Upper Saranac Lake smallmouth bass fishing effort and catch rates by angler diary cooperators.

Angler	Number Days Fished	Number Angler Trips	Number Hours Fished	Mean Trip Length	Number Caught	Catch Per Hour
1	18	18	40.50	2.25	34	0.84
2	18	18	40.50	2.25	37	0.91
3	19	37	66.75	1.80	95	1.42
6	25	65	96.25	1.48	19	0.20
Total	80	138	244	1.77	185	0.76

Comparing only the data set of anglers who contributed useful data in 2016, 2017 and 2018 shows their average catch rate increased from 0.91 fish per hour in 2016 to 1.21 in 2017 then

dropped slightly to 1.12 fish per hour in 2018. These are exceptional catch rates indicating an abundant population.

Table 2. 2016-2018 Comparison of Upper Saranac Lake smallmouth bass catch rates by angler diary cooperators who provided data in each of the three years.

	Year	Angler 1	Angler 2	Angler 3	Total
Catch Per Hour	2016	0.92	1.10	0.60	0.91
	2017	1.01	1.05	1.46	1.21
	2018	0.84	0.91	1.42	1.12

Examination of length frequency distributions suggests it takes 7 years to grow a bass approximately 16 inches long in Upper Saranac Lake, and there are several strong year classes in the population that should provide high quality fishing for future years.

Other Species - Only one, 2-hour trip specifically for lake trout was recorded last year. A 10-year-old in the group caught and released a 22.0 inch lake trout, just shy of the 23-inch minimum length limit, during that trip in nearly 50 feet of water. Their trip resulted in a catch rate of 0.19 lake trout per angler-hour. More anglers who direct efforts at lake trout are needed as diary cooperators.

One angler cooperator reported catching and releasing two northern pike, each 27 inches in length while fishing for other species.

The high proportion of small yellow perch in the by-catch (83 percent were less than 9 inches long) appears to indicate an over-abundant, stunted population.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) would like to obtain a white perch, voucher specimen for its collection, documenting the species' presence in Upper Saranac Lake. White perch may have adverse effects on the existing fisheries resources. If you catch one, please keep it refrigerated, not frozen, and contact me. I'll make sure it gets to the Ray Brook NYSDEC office.

In other news, the supply of fishing diaries initially provided by NYSDEC has been exhausted. Newly printed diaries, funded by the USLA, and specific to Upper Saranac Lake's fishery, will be distributed to angler diary cooperators for use during 2019. These new diaries were developed with input from the volunteers who keep data through a summer meeting and later email consultations.

There are also plans to encourage use of a new, cell-phone-accessible, virtual "diary". It will allow cooperators to enter fishing trip and catch information into the data base in real time.

To increase participation, the Environmental Committee hopes to work with lake stewards at the Upper Saranac Lake and Fish Creek Campground Boat Launch Sites to recruit new angler diary cooperators through the distribution of business-type cards.

The angler cooperators who contributed to this effort deserve our many thanks. Please continue your excellent work; and good luck on the water during the 2019 season!



Larry Nashett

Small mouth bass caught and released 2/17/19 while ice fishing for yellow perch

Calendar 2019

Note: See accompanying articles for details and for registration

May 25	Board of Directors Meeting	9 am	TBA
June 26 & 27	First Aid and CPR Course	5–8 pm	Watson's Boathouse
July 8 & 9	Boating Safety Course	9am–1 pm	Santa Clara Community Room
July 13	USLA Membership Meeting	8:30–11:30am	Wild Center
July 14	Mysteries at the Trudeau Sanitorium	3–5 pm	Bartlett Carry Club
July 15	USLA Picnic	5–7:30 pm	Wild Center Tent
July 27	Saranac Inn Memories	5–7 pm	Saranac Inn Golf Club
July 29	USLA Scholarship Golf Tournament		Saranac Inn Golf Club
August 3	Zone 2 & 3 combined party	5 pm	Details to be announced
August 6	Poetry, Music and Art Salon	5–6:30 pm	5118 State Route 30
August 10	USLA Annual Meeting	8:30–11:30am	Wild Center
August 10	Family Movie Night	8 pm	Fish Creek Pavilion #1
August 12 & 13	Boating Safety Course	9am–1pm	Santa Clara Community Room

Announcements

Lost and Found Items

If you find or lose an item on the lake, remember to look on our website under Classifieds <https://www.uppersaranac.com/classified/> to see if someone has lost or found the item. Many times docks, canoes, kayaks, and water toys are lost out in the water. If you find an item, email classifieds@uppersaranac.com to let them know!

Zone 2 & 3 Party

Zone 2 & 3 combined party will be held August 3, 2019 at 5 pm. It will be at the Randall Camp. More details to be announced

MAILBOAT

MAY 2019

Upper Saranac Lake Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 892

Saranac Lake, NY 12983



IN MEMORIAM

NANCY BRALEY

Nancy passed away on March 20, 2019. She is survived by her husband Ted; children Scott (Mary Ellen), Karen (Gary) Kostera, Tammy (Terri) Braley; granddaughter Amy Braley and several nieces and nephews.

RIDGELY WEBSTER HARRISON, III "CHIP"

Ridgely "Chip" Harrison, III, 67, died unexpectedly in a bicycle accident on April 22, 2019, on Longboat Key, FL. He passed immediately with no pain while doing something he loved. Chip was born in 1951, to Jeannie Frey Harrison (Drake) and Ridgely Harrison, Jr. in Montclair, New Jersey, and grew up loving the outdoors, music, and sports. He attended Newark Academy where he was a Hall of Fame swimmer, and was then recruited to swim at Cornell University, where he graduated in 1974. His marriage to Lynn Harrison began in 1976.

In his 26-year career at The Minwax Company, Chip rose from salesman to president, retiring in 2000. He was then a board member at Cabot Stain, Trustee at Morristown Beard School in Morristown, NJ, and a stay-at-home dad. An avid golfer, he was a member of Canoe Brook Country Club since 1983. Chip and Lynn lived in Flanders, NJ for 32 years, where they raised three children, Ridgely, Katie, and Willie. In 2006, Chip moved to Saranac Lake, NY in the center of the



Adirondack Park, his longtime dream. Until 2012, he worked as Practice Manager of Medical Associates in Saranac Lake when he truly retired.

Chip spent his most recent years hosting friends and family at their Upper Saranac Lake home, enjoying golf, bicycling, boating, cross country skiing, moving wood around, and the cold. He was also the current Secretary for the Upper Saranac Lake Association.

Chip was unassuming and generous, dedicated and hard-working, and a person so many of his family and friends admired and loved. He will be truly missed.

Chip is survived by his wife of 43 years, Lynn; two brothers, James (Barbara) and Michael (Patti); step-brother, Thomas Drake, step-sisters, Darby Viola and Christelle Drake; three children, Ridgely (Rachel), Katie (Joseph), and William; three grandchildren, Hayden, Claire, and Dean; and several nieces, nephews, and cousins. He is predeceased by his parents, Jeannie Frey Drake, Ridgely Harrison, Jr., and step-father, William Charles Drake.

From Susan Hearn, President USLA:

Chip was recently elected to the USLA Board of Directors, serving as secretary. He embraced his new responsibilities enthusiastically, wanting to make sure he got it right. He helped the board and the USLA community with the recent strategic planning process. Chip generously offered his most valuable commodity to the community: his time in this very special place.