

MOON LAKE NEWS



The latest news and updates from the
Moon Lake Preservation Council!



Volunteers needed!

Did you know that taking a few photos of plants or dedicating just 15 minutes each month to search for grants could help us secure NYS funding? With just a little of your time, we can accomplish a great deal!

Coming Up:

Sat. June 27 & Aug 1 Ice Cream Social
Sat Aug 1 C&R Fishing Derby
Sat Aug 29 Annual meeting

CONTACT INFO:

Email:

moonlakepreservationcouncil@gmail.com

Facebook:

Moon Lake Preservation Council
Moon Lake Billboard

Website:

www.moonlakepc.com

US Postal Address:

PO Box 312 Theresa NY 13691

LATEST & GREATEST:

- June 5th IRLC Water Quality Meeting @ Redwood Hill Preserve
- Sat. Aug 1 C&R Fishing Derby
- Donations can be made by going to www.PayPal.me/moonlakepc
- MLPC Gear - ** NEW SITE ** more products better prices!

<https://shop.printyourcause.com/campaigns/moonlakepc>

MOON LAKE NEWS

Our Mission Statement:

Actively preserve and protect the lake's water quality.

You might be wondering why this initiative matters. Simply put, to secure grants and protect our lake. We need a unified group that represents the majority of property owners. Without it, we're ineligible for funding.

What does this mean for you?

We want to hear your thoughts and ideas—your input helps shape the future of the lake. Getting involved doesn't require much time, and there's no cost to join the council.

Donations are always welcome!

Share w/Moon Lakers:

Pictures, stories, support for local businesses on Facebook Moon Lake Billboard.

- We have 2 Ice Cream Socials on Saturdays; June 27th 2pm - 4pm AND Aug 1 from 12pm-2pm @ the NYS boat launch. This is a chance to get to know your fellow Moon Lakers. Please stop by to chat with other Moon Lakers and see how you can get involved.
- CSLAP water collection for the health of the lake will take place again this year. Many thanks to Chris L, Mike C, Chuck F, Miriam O, Ginger B and Lynn B for volunteering for water collection. There will be 4 collections this year and NYS is now paying for testing.
- Our 2nd Catch n' Release Fishing Derby will be held Sat. Aug 1st see page 11 for more information. This is same day as our ice cream social.
- We have a new MLPC gear (merchandise) site. We are excited because there is many more choices of materials and products to choose from. We still get a little something back from what you buy but prices are much better along with the many options. If you are looking for something you don't see, let us know and we can search for it. More options will pop up so check regularly.

<https://shop.printyourcause.com/campaigns/moonlakepc>

MLPC Board Members:

President - Chris Lemay
Vice President - Lynn Beckley
Secretary - Open
Treasurer - Ginger Butler
Social Media Coordinator - Alec Litster

Tract Representatives:

Webster- Open
Smith - Miriam O'Donnell
Wicks - Open

MOON LAKE NEWS

Presidents Report

Moon Lake Residents,

As we head into another summer on our beautiful lake, we want to first say how exciting it is to see everyone getting ready to enjoy all that makes Moon Lake such a special place.

After a great deal of thought, the Moon Lake Preservation Council Board has decided that we will be suspending MLPC activities at the end of the summer due to a lack of community engagement.

This is not an easy decision. We are proud of what we were able to accomplish together, including:

- Working with ESF on a new lake report
- Conducting water sampling each year
- Engaging with IRLC water quality conferences
- Organizing the fishing derby
- Leading fundraising efforts
- Developing new logos
- Starting social media engagement and a website presence

While it is sad to put MLPC activities on hold, we remain optimistic about the future of Moon Lake. One thing has always been clear: the more residents who are involved and have a say, the better the future of the lake will be. Community engagement is key.

We absolutely believe the residents will restart in the future. When the community is ready to come together and actively participate, the Moon Lake Preservation Council is ready to reactivate.

Thank you to everyone who helped, volunteered, supported events, contributed ideas, and believed in this effort. We are proud of what this community is capable of, and we know there is more to come when the time is right.

We hope to see everyone out on the lake this summer.

Sincerely,
Moon Lake Preservation Council Board

MOON LAKE NEWS

A message from our IRLC partners!

Hello Moon Lakers,

I am sure everyone is looking forward to a beautiful summer on the lake, especially after the long cold winter!

The IRLC is moving forward with many of the same activities we have done in the past. We just finished up our Water Quality Conference which highlighted the results of the Love of the Lakes Survey. We partnered with the Community Studies Group at Jefferson Community College to see what concerned people the most. The majority of the respondents to the survey were lakefront property owners and it probably doesn't surprise you the biggest concern is water quality, especially on the shallower lakes. The results of the survey are posted on our web site; [IRLC-Love-Your-Lakes-Survey-2026-Final-Report-3-31-2026.pdf](#). It was our hope that the survey would help guide Lake Association Leaders by getting feedback from lake users.

On July 10th we will again be having an event at the Yellow Barn in Hammond. "The Places We Call Home: IRLC's Nature Meets the Arts Evening" will be a relaxing gathering of IRLC supporters. Come savor the beauty of work by featured artists Gretchen Martin (Lake of the Woods) and Joan Applebaum (Grass Lake), among others. Later in July we kick off Kid's Camp. "Outdoor Adventure - Elizabeth May Duvall Foundation Nature Grows Kids Camp", at this time we have over 60 children signed up! Then we round out our summer activities with our largest gathering of the year the Celebration of the Lakes on August 2nd at the Thousand Island Winery.

If you are looking for a beautiful place to go for a hike in the woods our Red Lake Preserve is right around the corner, you can park at the base of Honey Hill. Also consider exploring our Grand Lake property that has trails on both sides of Burns Road outside of Redwood. Those trails have frontage on Butterfield and Grass lakes.

Have an enjoyable summer on Moon Lake, be safe and catch a lot of fish!

Sincerely,
John O'Driscoll
Board Chairman IRLC



MOON LAKE NEWS

Easy ways YOU can impact the quality of the lake including phosphorus levels.



Raise lawn mower blade to three inches.



Vegetative barriers at the lakefront - grow ground covers or wildflowers on slopes.



Many soaps may contain phosphorus or surfactants. Choose a biodegradable and ecofriendly shampoo, soap, and detergent.



Place barley straw bales in the water by your docks to help control algae.



Maintain your septic system - pump every 2-3 years.



Request septic dye for self testing , email us at moonlakepreservationcouncil@gmail.com

Did you know that you can aid the lake's well-being by capturing images and marking the locales of weeds, plants, and algae? While you're out tackling those stubborn weeds along your shoreline, take a moment to play nature detective. It only takes a few minutes, and you can do it while soaking in the lake vibes. Just pull up Google Maps on your phone, drop a pin where you spot algae or plants, and grab the coordinates. You can enter the information right on DEC/CSLAP website without having to register or have an account.

It's super easy - and it helps all of us keep the lake healthy.

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/c32878596a0a47deb5f97ea5e07ec9c5>

MOON LAKE NEWS

Every little thing helps!

Self test your system by using the dye tablets we have for free.

Interested in upgrading your septic system?

If you are looking at upgrading your Septic System, Jefferson County secured funding for your project, offering up to 50% (up to \$10k). Contact Sam Wilson at (315) 785-3304 email:

swilson@jeffersoncountyny.gov

More info:

<https://www.jeffersoncountyny.gov/grants>

Septic Pumping Discount

Single house \$250 plus tax.

Group rate: 2 homes - save \$25 each. Reach out to neighbors for group rate savings!

Contact Tim Busler at 315-783-1099 of Busler Construction & Sanitation. Mention Moon Lake for the 2+ household discount. Contact us for more info.

MOON LAKE NEWS

Moon Lake is our cherished natural resource. Like many lakes across New York State, it faces growing challenges from nutrient pollution, invasive species, and harmful algal blooms (HABs) that threaten water quality and long-term sustainability.

In partnership with SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF), a comprehensive evaluation has been conducted to explore long-term solutions that could protect and restore Moon Lake's water quality. Each solution varies in complexity, cost, and impact—but all share a common goal: to reduce nutrient pollution and preserve the health of Moon Lake for generations to come.

Algaecide (EarthTec)

Slows algae/cyanobacteria growth
Requires NYSDEC permit & certified applicator

Alum Treatment (Aluminum Sulfate)

Binds phosphorus in lake sediments
Applied every 3 years; prevents HABs, not future runoff

Dredging (Under Study)

Removes nutrient-rich sediment
Needs mapping, sampling, access planning

Mechanical Harvesting (Eco-Harvester)

Pulls weeds + algae by root
\$102K equipment, 1.5 acres/hour efficiency

Ultrasonic Buoys (LG Sonic)

Blocks algae growth with sound waves
Solar-powered; treatment + real-time monitoring

Phytoremediation

Aquatic plants absorb phosphorus
Requires planting, harvesting, and maintenance

Riparian Buffers

Native shoreline plants filter runoff
Reduce erosion, nutrients, and improve habitat

Selective Herbicide (Aquakleen)

Targets invasive Eurasian Milfoil
Cost-effective, minimal impact on native plants

Septic System Replacement

Replace ~40 aging systems; major source of phosphorus
Cluster systems may lower homeowner costs

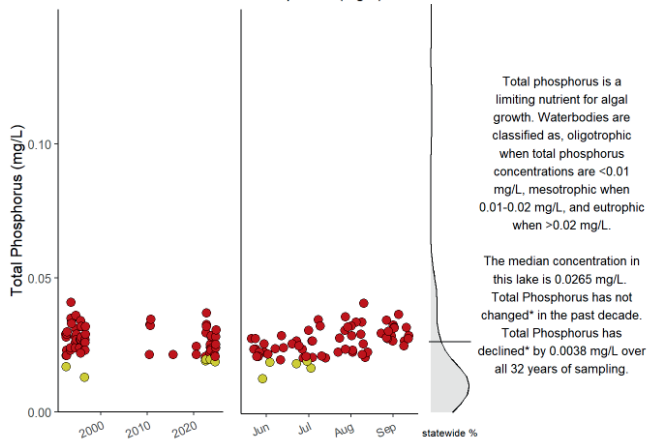
MOON LAKE NEWS

2025 CSLAP Water Testing Reports are here!

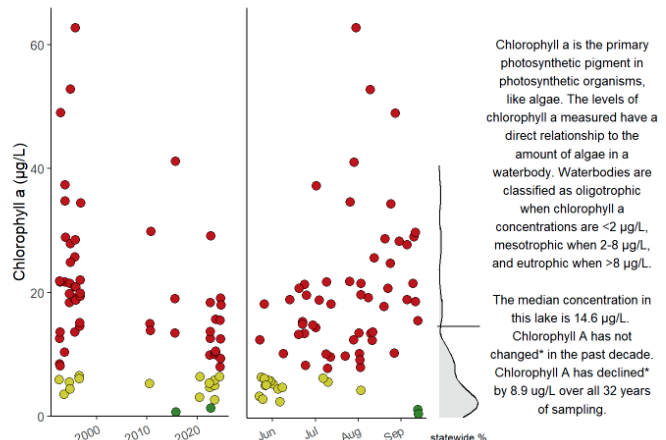
Trophic state indicates a waterbody's biological productivity. Moon Lake is Eutrophic. Each circle on the graph shows an observation, with colors for oligotrophic (green), mesotrophic (yellow), and eutrophic (red) conditions. Key metrics for the lake are Phosphorus and Chlorophyll.

Over the past decade, levels have not changed while levels have decreased slightly since testing began 32 years ago!

Annual and Seasonal Total Phosphorus (mg/L) Concentrations



Annual and Seasonal Chlorophyll a (µg/L) Concentrations

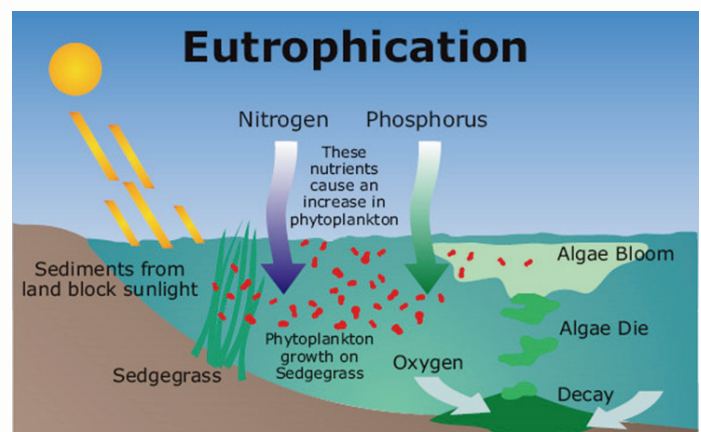


To read more about our lake's sampling results go here:

<https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/data/WQP/PWL/0905-0093.html>

What is Phosphorus and why is it important

- Phosphorus is a trace element that is essential to plant growth.
- Small amounts of phosphorus cause phytoplankton and algae in the lake to bloom.
- When algae dies, oxygen is decreased, causing more phosphorus to be released from decayed algae, causing more algae to bloom, depleting the oxygen – a spiral of lake degeneration. This is called *eutrophication*.



MOON LAKE NEWS

The beauty and perils of lily pads

Many lake residents enjoy the beauty of native water lilies along their shoreline, and for good reason. The fragrant water-lily (*Nymphaea odorata*) is a North American aquatic plant recognized for its striking white flowers, pleasant fragrance, and round floating leaves. Found in ponds, lakes, and slow-moving waters, these plants provide important environmental benefits when properly managed.

Water lilies do far more than enhance the scenery. Their floating leaves create natural shade that helps keep water temperatures cooler and reduces excessive algae growth. The pads also provide valuable shelter for fish of all sizes, reducing stress and supporting a healthier aquatic ecosystem. In smaller ponds or shorelines with limited natural structure, lily pads can serve as critical habitat for aquatic life.

However, too much of anything can cause problems. Native lilies are hardy and spread quickly through rhizomes and seeds. When left unchecked, dense mats of lily pads can reduce oxygen levels in the water, stress fish populations, and block sunlight from reaching other beneficial aquatic plants. Over time, mature root systems become thick and fibrous, making removal difficult and labor-intensive.

The key is balance. Maintaining moderate lily pad coverage can preserve shoreline beauty and habitat value while preventing overgrowth from impacting recreation and water quality.

For shoreline property owners looking to manage excessive growth in non wetlands areas, New York State provides guidelines for hand harvesting aquatic plants. Residents can learn more here: [NYS Hand Harvesting Guidelines for Aquatic Plants](#).

I spent a very pleasant afternoon in my kayak hand harvesting my shoreline in August 2024 and saw significantly lower growth by the same time the following season.






MOON LAKE NEWS



Second Annual Fishing Derby!

After the fun and success of last years fishing derby Jon and Jessica Pickett offered to organize the fishing derby again this year. It was a fabulous event so if you didn't get the opportunity to participate last year, make sure you don't miss out this year! All Moon Lake residents, plus their families and friends, are invited to join the fun!

Event Details

-  Date: Saturday August 1st, 7 AM to 12 PM.
-  Location: A weigh station will be located at the Pickett's dock, right next to their private boat launch at the end of Crisalli Lane.
-  Catch and Release: Fish must be at least 12 inches to make the cut.

Entry Fees

-  Adults: \$25.00
 -  Youth (12 and under): \$15.00
- All the funds will go to MLPC.

Starting late May, you can fish for an online registration form at moonlakepc.com, where you'll also find how to cast your luck in the 50/50 raffle and nab tickets for awesome baskets up for grabs on Derby Day. Keep your eyes peeled for updates on the MPLC Facebook page!

Thanks to a generous donation from Picky Wood Working, there'll be cash prizes for both Adult and Youth categories. Winners will be announced at the Ice Cream Social, happening from 12 PM to 2 PM at the NYS Boat launch.



We can't wait to see you making waves!

Picky Wood Working: pickywoodworking@gmail.com or 315-783-9199

