

# MOON LAKE NEWS



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



## Volunteers needed!

Did you know that snapping a few plant photos or spending just 15 minutes a month on grant searches could land us NYS funding? With just a small bit of your time, we can achieve a lot!

### **Coming Up:**

**Sat. June 21 & Aug 2 Ice Cream Social**

**Sat Aug 2 C&R Fishing Derby**

### **CONTACT INFO:**

**Email:**

[moonlakepreservationcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:moonlakepreservationcouncil@gmail.com)

**Facebook:**

Moon Lake Preservation Council  
Moon Lake Billboard

**Website:**

[www.moonlakepc.com](http://www.moonlakepc.com)

**US Postal Address:**

PO Box 312 Theresa NY 13691

### **LATEST & GREATEST:**

- June 6th IRLC Water Quality Meeting @ Redwood Hill Preserve
- Sat. Aug 2 C&R Fishing Derby
- Donations can be made by going to [www.PayPal.me/moonlakepc](http://www.PayPal.me/moonlakepc)
- MLPC Gear - \*\* NEW SITE \*\* more products better prices!

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

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## 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!

### FACTS about email correspondence from MLPC

We don't share your email with any person or business.	We only send a handful of emails a year. 1 newsletter, summer event flyers & monthly meeting reminders.
We don't sell your info.	You can be removed at anytime by sending us an email or talking with your tract rep.
We don't send advertisements.	Most owners on the lake are not signed up for emails.

## *What's New?*

### New to the LAKE:

Wicks Tract -- Matt Bentley  
Smith Tract -- Michael & MaryAnn Nelson  
Webster Tract -- Jon & Belinda Byron

### For Sale:

32148 Webster Tract unit 156  
County Road 22 lot 33  
40060 Woodduck Dr

Welcome to the lake!

Sorry to see you go,  
best wishes!

# MOON LAKE NEWS

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## *President's Report*

Welcome to the May Newsletter!

As summer gets closer and we all start thinking about days on the water and evenings by the fire, I wanted to take a moment to look back on what we've accomplished together this past year.

Serving as your Preservation Council President continues to be a real privilege. What makes it so rewarding is all of you—the energy, care, and love this community puts into protecting Moon Lake is nothing short of amazing.

This year brought some exciting progress. One of the biggest highlights has been teaming up with SUNY ESF to update our Lake Management Plan. With their help, we'll get a clearer picture of the lake's health and make smart decisions to protect it for the long haul—especially when it comes to water quality and managing invasive species.

We also kicked off the grant writing process, which is a big step toward getting the funding we need for future lake projects. It's still early days, but this lays the groundwork for some really impactful work in the years ahead.

Beyond this, it was so good to see so many of you at our social events this past year—from the ice cream social to the annual meeting. These moments remind me why we all love it here. It's not just about the lake—it's about the people around it.

And a huge thank-you to everyone who supported our fundraising efforts. Whether you chipped in, volunteered your time, or just showed up to be part of it, you made a difference. Every bit helps move us closer to a cleaner, healthier Moon Lake.

There's still work ahead, but I'm more optimistic than ever. We've got momentum, we've got heart, and we've got each other. Let's keep it going.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon—on the water, at an event, or just around the lake.

Chris Lemay

### **MLPC Board Members:**

President - Chris Lemay

Vice President - Lynn Beckley

Secretary - Carolyn Jukic

Treasurer - Ginger Butler

Social Media Coordinator - Alec Litster

### **Tract Representatives:**

Webster- Lari Jukic

Smith - Miriam O'Donnell

Wicks - Open

# MOON LAKE NEWS

## *A message from our IRLC partners!*

Dear Moon Lake Neighbors,

Spring is in full swing across the Indian River Lakes, with the return of birdsong, budding trees, and the promise of another season on the water. Whether you're already enjoying the longer days or planning time on the lake soon, we're excited to share what's happening—and how you can be part of it.

The Indian River Lakes Conservancy has now helped protect 2,759 acres of shoreline, wetlands, and forests for future generations.

This year, we're focused on stewardship, expanding access, and working closely with communities like Moon Lake to better understand conservation priorities and connect residents with the tools and resources needed to protect these cherished waters.

Here are a few highlights:

- Caring for Trails and Preserves Year-Round – From the scenic cliffs and waters of Red Lake Preserve to the peaceful trails at Ferrone Woods and the accessible trails at Redwood Hill Preserve, our public preserves offer something for everyone. Grand Lake Reserve invites hikers and birders into the heart of a rich wetland complex, while Baker Woods Preserve offers trails perfect for exploring with children or simply taking in the quiet beauty of the forest. Volunteers play a vital role in maintaining these special places, and we welcome anyone interested in joining our stewardship team throughout the year.
- Listening to Lake Communities – We're launching a community survey, funded by the Land Trust Alliance, to hear directly from people who live on and love these lakes. Your input will help guide our efforts around shoreline protection, water quality, and lake health.
- Protecting Wildlife Across the Region – The Indian River Lakes are part of the Algonquin to Adirondacks (A2A) Corridor, an international conservation effort linking the Adirondacks to Ontario's Algonquin Park. We're proud to partner with the A2A Collaborative on projects that support resilient ecosystems and wildlife movement.
- Inspiring the Next Generation – From our WHIRL Teen Environmental Program to the Elizabeth May Duvall Nature Grows Kids Camp, we're nurturing the next generation of conservation-minded leaders through hands-on learning and exploration.

We hope to see you at one of our upcoming events:

- Birds, Blossoms, & Bugs Hike – Tentatively May 3
- Water Quality Conference – June 6 at Redwood Hill Preserve
- WHIRL Teen Environmental Program – Begins July 8
- Elizabeth May Duvall Nature Grows Kids Camp – July 15–17 at Redwood Hill Preserve
- Nature Art Show Preview Event – July 11 at the Iva Smith Memorial Gallery of Fine Art
- Celebration of Lakes Fundraiser – August 3 at Thousand Islands Winery
- Hikes & Paddles – Additional dates coming soon!

We're also looking for passionate, community-minded individuals to join our Board of Directors. If you love the lakes and want to help shape the future of conservation in this region, we'd love to hear from you.

To learn more, get involved, or share your interest in board service, visit [indianriverlakes.org](http://indianriverlakes.org) or reach out to us directly.

With gratitude,  
Heidi Sourwine  
Executive Director  
Indian River Lakes Conservancy





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## *Other Topics*

- We have 2 Ice Cream Socials on Saturdays; June 21st 2pm - 4pm AND Aug 2 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. Buy raffle basket tickets 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 this year. There will be 4 collections this year and NYS is now paying for testing.
- We'll be making calendars again for 2026 and will be accepting photo submissions starting now! Submissions must be in by the weekend of August 30. Send pictures to [moonlakepreservationcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:moonlakepreservationcouncil@gmail.com). We still have calendars for 2025 available if you would like to purchase, please contact us.
- Our 1<sup>st</sup> Catch n' Release Fishing Derby will be held Sat. Aug 2<sup>nd</sup> see page 11 for more information. This is same day as our ice cream social.
- Our Moon Lake Management Plan was developed in the late 90s and is in serious need of updating! We partnered with SUNY ESF and have some updates to share.(quick overview pg 9) Check out our website for the latest information: [www.moonlakepc.com](http://www.moonlakepc.com)
- 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.

Smith Tract - Miriam O'Donnell: 1-585-747-7508

Webster - Lari Jukic: [yukka\\_celik@yahoo.com](mailto:yukka_celik@yahoo.com)

Wicks - Open

### *Send Us:*

Pictures for MLPC calendar submissions  
Thoughts/ideas for lake improvements  
Algae and weed sightings with pictures

### *Save the MLPC Dates:*

Ice Cream Social 6/21 & 8/2  
Fishing C&R Derby Aug 2nd  
MLPC Meeting Sat Aug 30 @ 11am  
Annual Meeting & Vote in person or online

### *Share w/Moon Lakers:*


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


# 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](mailto:moonlakepreservationcouncil@gmail.com)

**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 Sara Freda at (315) 785-3144. More info:**

**<https://co.jefferson.ny.us/departments/Planning/septic-system-replacement-program>**

## Septic Pumping Discount

**Single house \$250 plus tax.**

**Group rate: 2 homes - save \$25 each. 5 homes - save \$50 each. Reach out to neighbors for group rate savings!**

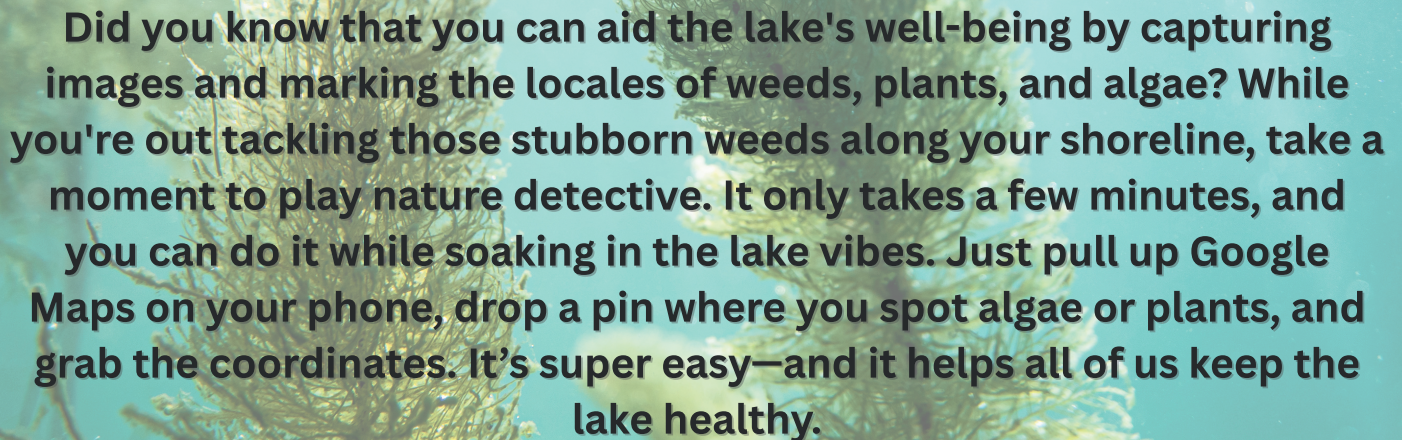
**Contact Tim Busler at 315-783-1099 of Busler Construction & Sanitation. Mention Moon Lake for the 2+ household discount. Contact us for more info.**

# MOON LAKE NEWS

## Every little thing helps!

Shout out to all of you that have taken advantage of the NYS/Jefferson County Septic Grants.

Many owners around the lake are taking advantage of the grant program. Moon Lake wants to say congrats on the new “outhouse” plumbing and many thanks!



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

## How do you want us to communicate?

Please checkout our website (surveymonkey link) or send in this portion via email, USPS or drop to us at an event. We want to hear from you!

### How do you prefer?

- ☐ By US Postal mail
- ☐ By Email
- ☐ By Social Media
- ☐ By Monthly Meeting
- ☐ By Phone

### How often?

- ☐ Monthly
- ☐ Yearly
- ☐ Major updates only

If submitting by mail - please include any of the below:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

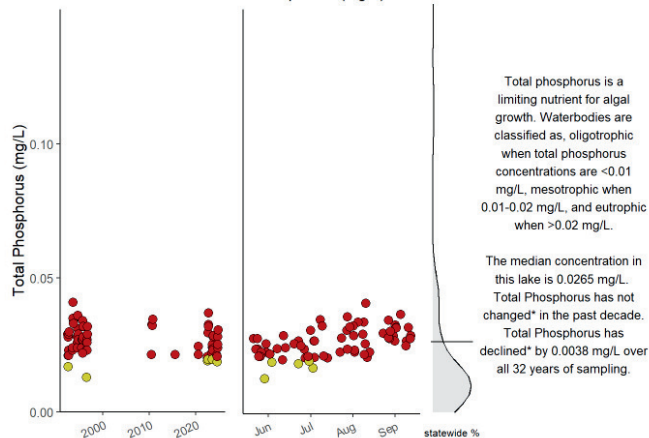
# MOON LAKE NEWS

## 2024 CSLAP Water Testing Reports are here!

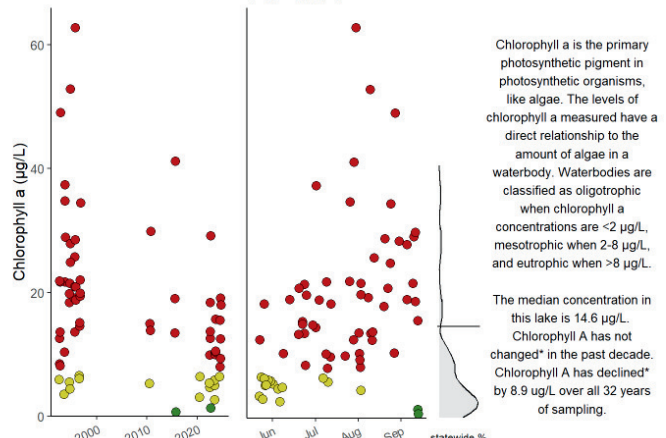
Trophic state indicates a waterbody's biological productivity. Moon Lake is Eutrophic. Each circle on the graph shows an observation, with colors for oligotrophic (green), mesotrophic (yellow), and eutrophic (red) conditions. Key metrics for the lake are Phosphorus and Chlorophyll.

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



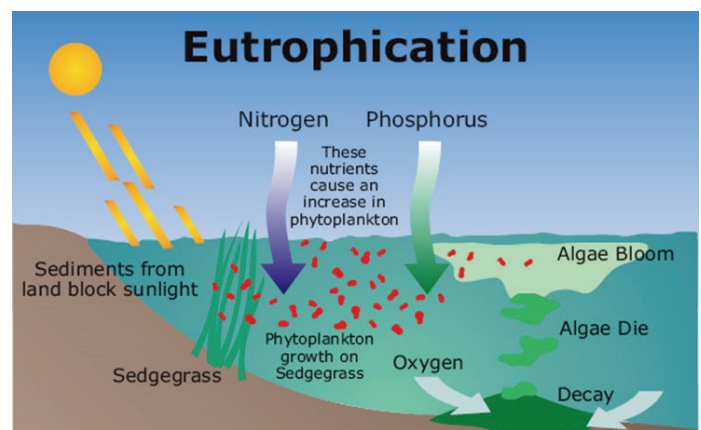
Annual and Seasonal Chlorophyll a (µg/L) Concentrations



To read more about our lake's sampling results go here:  
[https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/data/IF/CSLAP/0905MOO0071/2024\\_Lake\\_Report\\_Moon%20Lake\\_0905MOO0071.html](https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/data/IF/CSLAP/0905MOO0071/2024_Lake_Report_Moon%20Lake_0905MOO0071.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*.





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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.

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## 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

**We put out a call for winter stories, with a short deadline, our neighbor Ed D. kindly shared one that we think you'll enjoy and find helpful!**

Some educational information on Moon Lake ice fishing that may help folks with curiosity about ice fishing on our little slice of heaven.

The New York winter of 2024 was not the ideal year for us die hard ice fisherman looking to cure the winter blues. The warm winter made it impossible to fish on many of the NY lakes, however Moon Lake did have a few weeks in January that had "safe ice". 4 inches is considered safe for all walkers. Given that it's shallow it's one of the first lakes to freeze and believe me when I say it's memorizing when that first black ice forms. It's like walking on water ...ice cleats are a must! Black ice is the strongest ice vs "honey combed ice" which can be dangerous. In fact one rare occurrence was on our neighbor Red Lake in the end of December roughly 15 years ago. The temperature dropped so quickly the water froze 2 to 3 inches thick by morning. The result was catastrophic to hundreds of small panfish, literally frozen in the ice probably due to oxygen depletion....not to speak of the view. I wish I had my smart phone then!

Easy access, easy walking ,no crowds and plenty of action with tip ups or just jigging. Great for kids and those new to the sport.

Probably the best part of the ice fishing on Moon Lake is that it gives our family and friends a memory that lasts forever.

Thank you for sharing Ed!






# MOON LAKE NEWS



## A Special Thank You and Fishing Derby Announcement

Get ready to reel in some fun! We're sending out a massive thank you to Jon and Jessica Pickett for jumping in to organize a fab fishing derby fundraiser. All Moon Lake residents, plus their families and friends, are invited to join the fun!

### Event Details

-  Date: Cast off from 7 AM to 12 PM.
-  Location: A weight 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: It's all about the catch and release, folks! 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](http://moonlakepc.com), where you'll also find how to cast your luck in the 50/50 raffle and nab tickets for two 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 swimming around for both Adult and Youth categories. Winners will be revealed 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](mailto:pickywoodworking@gmail.com) or 315-783-9199