

# MOON LAKE NEWS

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



## Volunteers needed!

**DID YOU KNOW THAT SIMPLY SNAPPING PHOTOS OF ALGAE OR PLANT LIFE, OR DEDICATING JUST AN HOUR A MONTH TO UPDATING THE MANAGEMENT PLAN, CAN HELP US SECURE FUNDING FROM NYS? WITH JUST A SMALL COMMITMENT OF YOUR TIME, WE CAN ACHIEVE SO MUCH MORE!**

### **Coming Up:**

**Sat. June 29th & Aug 3rd  
@ 2-4pm - Ice Cream Social!  
@ State boat launch  
Meet n' greet other Moon Lakers**

### **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:**

- Lake Management Plan update- Need Volunteers to help complete.
- June 7th IRLC Water Quality Meeting @ Redwood Hill Preserve
- Aug 3rd C&R Fishing Derby
- Donations can be made by going to [www.PayPal.me/moonlakepc](http://www.PayPal.me/moonlakepc)
- Merchandise available- New Logos available! [www.cafepress.com/moonlakepcstore](http://www.cafepress.com/moonlakepcstore)

# MOON LAKE NEWS

## Our Mission Statement:

To actively work to preserve and protect the water quality of the lake.

You are probably asking why we need to do this. It is simple. We need to have a group on the lake to represent what the majority want to maintain and improve our lake. We are not eligible for grants unless we have an official group and have a large number of the property owners be a part of the group.

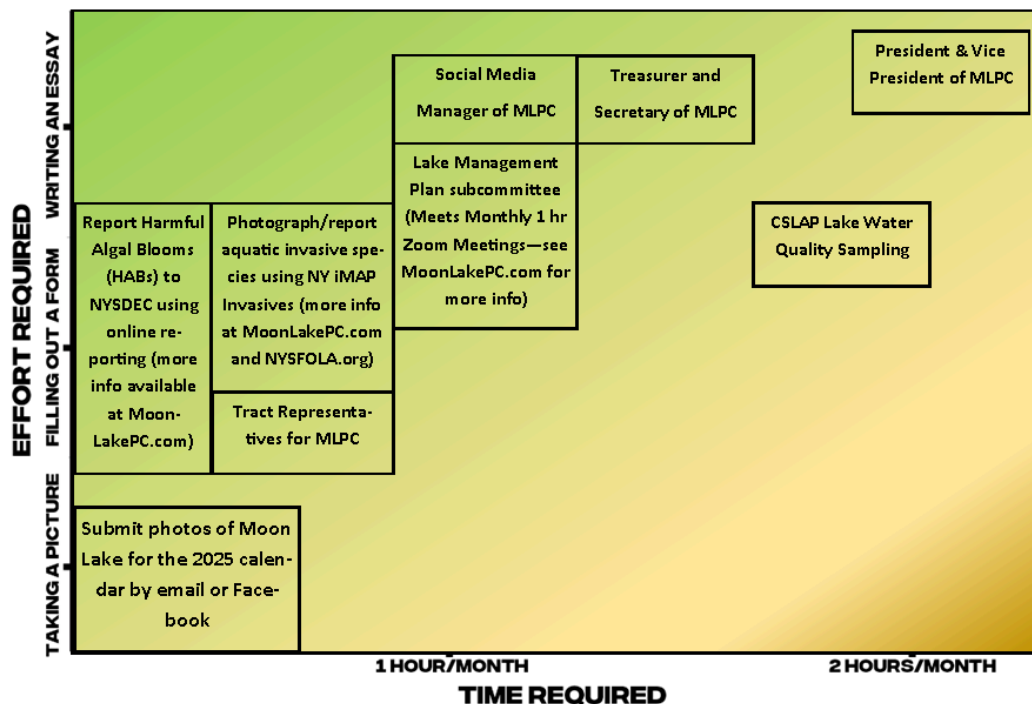
What does this mean for you?

We need your input to understand what you would like to see changed. We need your participation. That does not mean hours of work, just sharing your thoughts and ideas and signing up to be part of the council.

There is no fee to be a part of the council, but donations are always welcome.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

### LEVEL OF COMMITMENT



## What's New?

### New to the LAKE:

On Wicks Tract --  
 On Smith Tract -- 31432 Scobey Ln  
 On Webster Tract -- 5 acre lot sold Jan  
 Welcome new Moon Lakers!

Please reach out so we can add you to our mailing list

### For Sale:

31316 Scobey Ln

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## *President's Report*

Welcome to the May Newsletter!

As we eagerly await another summer season on our beloved lake, I find myself reflecting on the journey we've shared and the challenges that lie ahead. It's a pleasure to serve as your Preservation Council President, and I'm continually inspired by the passion and dedication of our community in preserving the natural beauty of our cherished lake.

Our mission is clear: to actively work together to preserve and protect the water quality of the lake. And while this task may seem daunting at times, I'm filled with optimism and confidence in our collective ability to make a difference.

We have some fantastic events and projects coming up that I'm thrilled to share with you. From revamping our Moon Lake Management Plan, Invasive Species mapping, to contributing to our fundraising events, there's something for everyone to get involved in. After all, it's our combined efforts that truly make a difference.

One thing I've come to realize during my time as President is that progress takes time. Instead of feeling discouraged by the challenges we face, let's focus on the positive impact we can make. Whether it's making small changes in our daily lives or being active in the Council, every action counts.

Let's continue to support each other and celebrate the beauty of our lake. Together, we can ensure that future generations of Moon Lakers will have the same opportunity to enjoy this incredible natural treasure!

Sincerely,

Chris Lemay

### **MLPC Board Members:**

President - Chris Lemay

Vice President - Lynn Beckley

Secretary - Carolyn Jukic

Treasurer - Ginger Butler

Social Media Coordinator - Ashley Rubacha

### **Tract Representatives:**

Webster- Lari Jukic & Mike Cruppi

Smith - Miriam O'Donnell

Wick- Open

# MOON LAKE NEWS

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## *A message from our IRLC partners!*

IRLC is gearing up for another exciting year. This year we are more focused than ever before on protecting water quality on our lakes.

This year's Water Quality Conference will be held on June 7th. Highlights include presentations on grant funding to improve water quality, microplastics in our water, the danger of eutrophication of our lakes, and more! Tickets can be purchased at [www.indianriverlakes.org/waterquality2024](http://www.indianriverlakes.org/waterquality2024).

We have updated our website and are currently in the process of developing a web page devoted to each lake, describing its uniqueness, history, and challenges etc. We will need help from representatives of each lake in developing this information. The lake association page will highlight our partnership with Lake associations and how we are working together to protect water quality.

We have also applied for a NY Conservation Partnership Program (CPP) grant to fund a survey geared to determine organizational capacity and resource needs for each of the 18 lakes communities. We look forward to updating all of you once we are notified that we have received the grant in early May.

### Key Dates:

April 20: Earth Day Cleanup @ Redwood Hill Preserve 9am-Noon

May 4: Birds, Bugs, & Blossoms Hike @ Grand Lake Reserve 9am-Noon

June 7: IRLC 7th Annual Water Quality Conference @ Redwood Hill Preserve 8:30am-4:30pm

July 9 - August 8: WHIRL Summer Intensive for Teens 9am-3pm (Tuesdays & Thursdays)

July 16 - 18: Elizabeth May Duvall Nature Grows Kids Camp @ Redwood Hill 9am-Noon

August 4: Celebration of the Lakes Fundraising Dinner @ Thousand Islands Winery 4-8pm

You can find out more information on these events on our website:  
[indianriverlakes.org](http://indianriverlakes.org), or give us a call at 315-482-4757.

James "Wylie" Huffman, III  
IRLC Executive Director



# MOON LAKE NEWS

## *Other Topics*

- We have 2 Ice Cream Socials on Saturday, June 29th AND Aug 3rd 2pm-4pm @ the 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 be 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. That will be 8 collections again this year.
- We'll be making calendars again for 2025 and will be accepting photo submissions starting now! Submissions must be in by the weekend of August 31st. Send pictures to moonlakepreservationcouncil@gmail.com. We still have calendars for 2024 available if you would like to purchase contact us.
- Be sure to join the Moon Lake Billboard on Facebook to share items for sale, pictures or questions regarding events on the lake, or just wanting share a bit about yourself to neighbors - feel free to post!
- Our Moon Lake Management Plan was developed in the late 90s and is in serious need of updating! To make this task more manageable, we're looking to develop a subcommittee of dedicated lake-goers. Please reach out via email or chat on our Facebook page to get more information!
- Don't hesitate to reach out to the Board or Tract Representatives about your ideas/thoughts. Collectively, this is our lake. We want everyone to have a say and be involved as time allows.
  - Smith Tract - Miriam O'Donnell 1-585-747-7508
  - Webster - Lari Jukic yukka\_celik@yahoo.com - Mike Cruppi - mcruppi69@gmail.com
  - Wicks - Open

### ***Send Us:***

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

### ***Save the MLPC Dates:***

Ice Cream Social 6/29 & 8/3 - 2-4pm  
Fishing C&R Derby Aug 3rd More info TBA  
MLPC Meeting Aug 31  
Annual Meeting & Vote in person or online  
Saturday

### ***Share w/Moon Lakers:***


Pictures, stories, and love or dismay for local businesses on FB Moon Lake Billboard.


# MOON LAKE NEWS


## Ways You Can Improve Water Quality and Decrease Phosphorus in the Lake

 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)

### Big news from NYS!

**Moon Lake is part of this year's Septic System Replacement program. If you are looking at upgrading your Septic System, Jefferson County secured \$400k for the initiative, offering up to 50% (up to \$5k) for qualifying projects. Total amounts are still being finalized. To get on the list, contact Sara Freda at (315) 785-3144. More info: <https://co.jefferson.ny.us/departments/Planning/septic-system-replacement-program>**

**Looking for discounts on septic pumping?**

**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 Bustler at 315-783-1099 Mention Moon Lake for the 2+ household discount.**

**Contact us for more info!**



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## **Considering updating your Septic system? Read below on one of our residents journey with the Septic Replacement Program offered by Jefferson County/NYS:**

Hi Moon Lake neighbors. I was asked by the preservation council to share our family's experience regarding the replacement of our septic system and grant process. So here it goes.

On Labor Day weekend 2021, the Moon Lake Preservation Council conducted one of their meetings at the public boat launch and we attended. During the meeting, it was brought to our attention that NYS was offering a grant for cottage owners who were willing to upgrade their septic system. After the meeting, I talked with a cottage owner who had just applied for the grant. He shared with us the application process for the grant, and he gave us the name of the company he was using to design & install his septic system. Our cottage was built in the mid 60's and had a septic system installed in the early 70's. At the time, I did not know much about our septic system, and we were only having minor issues with ours. When we were at the cottage for more than a long weekend, we would sometimes notice an odor from the area of the septic system. Also, years ago the metal cover had rusted away, so we replaced the cover with pressure treated plywood and this was beginning to fail.

In years past, our family had discussed upgrading our septic system, but we were concerned about the cost and the permitting process that we would need to go through, so we decided to live with our current septic. But once we found out there was some assistance from the State and the process seemed to be straight forward, according to own or our cottage neighbors, we decided to move forward.

William Billings III septic services was recommended to us, and we were told he had completed numerous septic systems on Moon Lake. I contacted Bill about replacing our septic and soon thereafter, he came out to our cottage to look at our property and septic system. Within a short timeframe after his visit, he provided us with engineering drawings for a proposed new septic system and a quote to complete the project.

Once I had all this information from Bill, we applied for the grant. This process was done through the Jefferson County Planning Department. The application was straight forward, and it basically asked questions about our current system, problems we are having with it, who will be completing the new system and a cost estimate. We did not have much information on our current system, and we noted that in the questionnaire. We sent the questionnaire in at the end of September. At some point during the fall, a county representative came out to look at our property and review the proposal. As we all know, the wheels of government can work slowly, and it was not until June of 2022 that we were awarded the grant. At this time, we worked with Bill to see when he could fit us in to his schedule.

In August of 2022, work on our Septic system started. In all honesty, I believe it took a couple of weeks to complete, but I cannot recall exactly. I will say that Bill was amazing to work with. Our new system works flawlessly, and I would highly recommend Bill.

Once the work was complete, we were inspected by the town and given a Certificate of Occupancy. At this point we were able to fill out the paperwork to be reimbursed for the approved amount of the grant. The completed process from start to finish was a little over a year once we were reimbursed. The process was smooth, and I must say the Jefferson County Planning Department was very helpful when I called for information or questions. Also, I never had to make a specific trip to the cottage for any of this process. If you are considering replacing your septic, but are concerned about the process, based on our experience I would not be worried. It does take some time for the County to manage your application/grant, but in the end, it was well worth it.

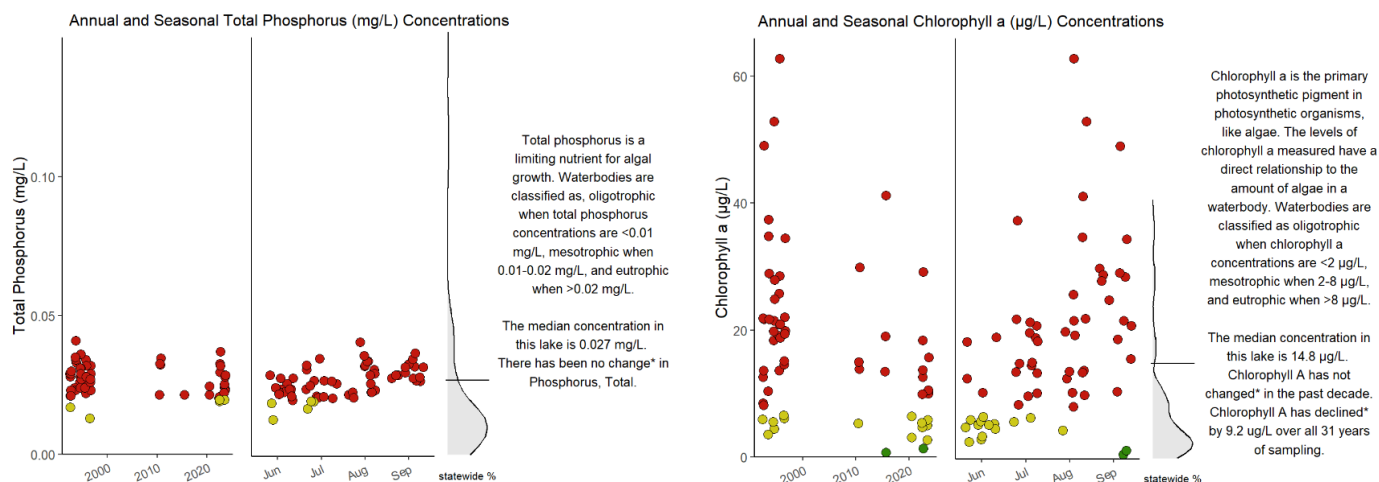
If anyone has specific questions about what we experienced and/or what our cost was for the project, please feel free to contact Jason and Kathy Gartland at 585-764-5947 or jcgart182@gmail.com. I will be happy to provide you with any information or questions you may have.

**Feel free to reach out to [moonlakepreservationcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:moonlakepreservationcouncil@gmail.com) for more details!**

# MOON LAKE NEWS

## 2023 CSLAP Water Testing Reports are here!

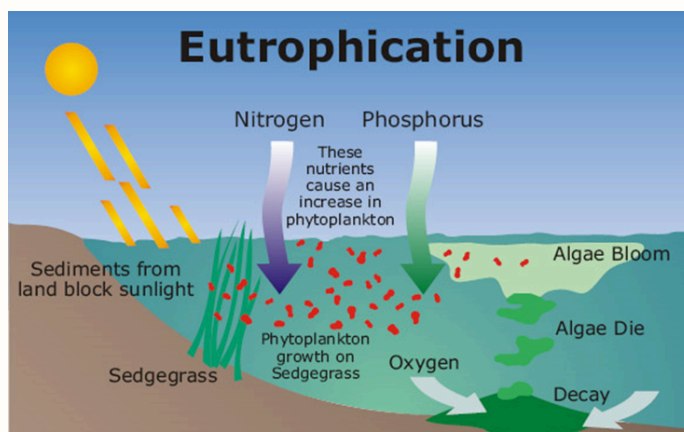
Trophic state refers to the overall biological productivity of a waterbody. The trophic state of Moon Lake is Eutrophic. Each circle represents a single observation and is colored to highlight oligotrophic (green), mesotrophic (yellow), and eutrophic (red) conditions. Two key metrics for our lake is Phosphorous and Chlorophyll. Phosphorous has remained relatively flat in the past decade where we have seen slight improvements in Chlorophyll.



To read more about our lake's sampling results head here:  
[https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/data/IF/CSLAP/2023\\_Lake\\_Report\\_Moon%20Lake\\_0905MOO0071.html](https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/data/IF/CSLAP/2023_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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Did you know you can help the lake by taking pictures and marking the locations of weeds, plants, and algae?



If you're clearing weeds and plant life from your waterfront, now's a great opportunity to document what you discover. These efforts are crucial for maintaining the lake's health, alongside volunteering for the board or other projects. The best part? You can do this while enjoying the lake—it only takes a few minutes.

Use Google Maps on your phone to drop a pin and get coordinates for marking where you find algae or plants. For more details, visit our webpage at [moonlakepc.com](http://moonlakepc.com)



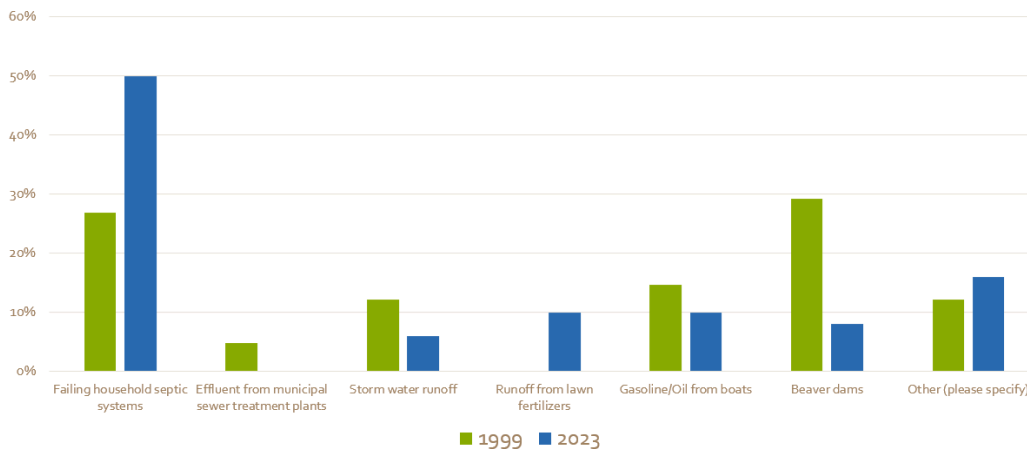
# MOON LAKE NEWS

## Moon Lake Survey Results - 1999 vs 2023

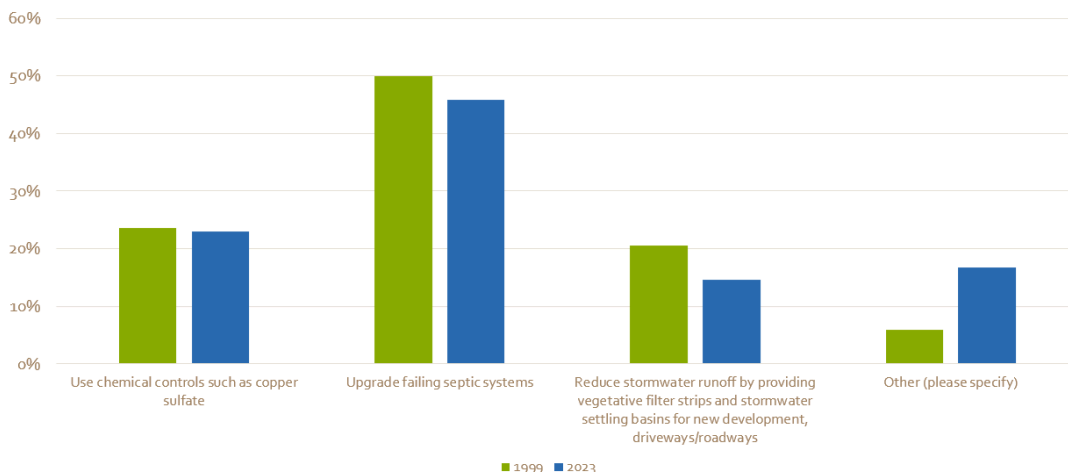
This survey reflects a detailed comparison of responses performed this past year with those outlined in our 1999 Lake Management Plan.

The findings summarize the progress since the inception of our management plan. Here are some of the results:

What do you suspect may be the cause of the most significant water quality problems in our lake?



Excessive algae growth due to elevated phosphorus levels is also a common concern. What do you believe is/are the best ways to deal with this problem?



We believe that this analysis will not only shed light on the efficacy of our current strategies but also provide valuable insights for future lake management initiatives. Full report and more details on above charts can be found here: <http://moonlakepreservationcouncil.blogspot.com/p/documents.html>