

FALL NEWSLETTER
2009

The leaves are starting to turn. The morning air is getting cooler and the activity on the lake has slowed to a crawl. Fall is here. It has been an active summer for our Association and we wanted to highlight what has been happening. We are all hoping for a prolonged Indian summer and we wish everyone a happy and healthy winter.

1. Environmental Committee:

The biggest project has been mapping the location of Eurasian Milfoil. A group of 10 volunteers, under the leadership of Tom Jorling, have been out scouring the shoreline identifying its location and density. They've spent in excess of 20 hours working on this project. This information will be sent to Tyler Smith, who is an aquatic invasive species specialist at the Adirondack Nature Conservancy. Tyler will compile the data and map the locations. That information will then be made electronically available to everyone on our association web site. We will then have a current baseline for future measurement and evaluation of this issue. This is a necessary first step in formulating any future plans to manage this problem. We owe Tom, the many volunteers and Tyler our thanks for getting this done.

2. Communications and Membership Committee:

Our website at www.lowersaranac.com continues to chug along. As we go our separate ways during the winter, don't forget the web cam link on our website. It's a great way to stay connected to the lake. We want to thank Barbara Plumadore for her willingness to maintain our site and please don't hesitate to share any ideas for the website with her.

You may also recall that we handed out a survey form at our annual meeting to get your feedback on additional association activities. To date we've received no responses! Therefore, if you have some suggestions, please forward them on to Penny and we can consider them for next year.

3. Community Relations Committee:

We'll continue to stay in contact with the Harrietstown Board in reference to our request for a 5mph speed limit for the northeast end of Ampersand Bay. If you're interested in reviewing the background for this request, there are numerous references on our website. As you may recall, our request came from a meeting held last year for anyone interested in the issue. There was a unanimous vote to make the request and we are proceeding accordingly.

4. Executive Board:

The Board was directed at our annual meeting to explore several issues. They were creating a tax exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the tax code, scheduling our annual meeting on a date that was not on Sunday and did not conflict with the Iron man event and to review the level of dues. Those findings will be reported at our next annual meeting.

5. President's Message:

First, I want to thank all of you who have volunteered to participate in the various initiatives of our association. You are the ones who determine what we can accomplish. While we've made some definite progress, I think we are at a point where we need to evaluate where we go from here.

As is the case with most groups, a small number of members typically do most of the work. That works until members of that group lose interest or are not able to serve anymore. That works until there is a need for new ideas and energy to maintain or move the organization forward.

Therefore, we need people to join in and continue to build on what has been started. We currently need a vice president and a recording secretary. My three year term as president ends at next year's annual meeting and Penny and Brigitte have been acting in their positions for years. Therefore, it could be argued that the issue of whether or not we should become a tax exempt entity or work toward becoming a proactive organization in dealing with local issues that could potentially impact us or even sponsor new activities is a mute point if we don't have the people to continue to build on what has been started.

Therefore, when you get a moment between now and our next annual meeting, give some thought to how you really want this association to function and what your role could be. Also share the names of those you think would be good for one of the positions we need to fill. We can then contact those individuals and determine their interest. If we want this to be a vibrant and proactive organization going forward, we'll need more participation than we have now.

I'd love to get your feedback. Thanks for listening and have a great winter.