



Remember this? Spring, 2008 (photo by Julie Annotto)

Special Edition Shore Lines Extra

Saratoga Lake Associatio
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SPRING RUNOFF/ICE-OUT ACTION ALERT

On March 20, 2011, following some early spring rains, the SLA staff gauge at Stafford's Bridge indicated the adjusted lake level was at 205.5'. This high water level is comparable to some of the highest recorded water levels over the past 10 years. It is not a record breaker, however, as it reached 205.9' in April, 2007 and 205.7' in July, 2008. More recently, with the return of relatively dry, cold weather, the lake level has been dropping.

At Winnie's Reef, pursuant to the agreement with SLPID, the sluice gates have been wide open and all the flashboards have been removed for months now, thereby minimizing any impact of the dam on lake levels and discharge in Fish Creek. The present "wide open" status of Winnie's Reef is typically retained until after spring runoff subsides, usually mid-May or so.

Record setting snowfall this past winter has produced a deep snowpack in the lake watershed, and much of that snowpack is still in place. In addition, most of the lake is still covered with relatively thick ice. It is possible that the snowpack and lake ice will melt gradually with little impact on lake level and lakeside property. **Unfortunately, it is also possible that spring rains falling on the deep snowpack in the lake watershed will produce very high runoff that enters the lake faster than it can be discharged from the lake via Fish Creek, thereby causing the lake level to rise to very high levels. Lakeside property owners should be aware of this possibility and take appropriate precautions to protect their property and belongings. These precautions should also consider that the lake ice, if blown onshore by winds during very high water, can be especially destructive.**

SLA would like to try to keep lakeside property owners and the general public aware of lake levels during the upcoming spring runoff period using our website, www.saratogalake.org. With the old, automated gauge at the 9P bridge, this would be a simple task. Unfortunately,

the old gauge was destroyed with the old bridge, and has still not been replaced, so until it is, to keep everyone informed about lake levels, we will need a team of 7 volunteers to take daily lake level readings at the SLA staff gauge at Stafford's Bridge over Fish Creek, and enter the information on our website. Each member of the team will be assigned a day of the week to be responsible for obtaining and posting the reading for that day. The work should start as soon as possible and continue to mid-May or so. I will conduct a training session on site for all interested parties. It's easy. Anyone can do it. To volunteer, contact Kay Sanford at dsanford001@stny.rr.com or by telephone at 607-278-5868.

Hoping for a gradual spring thaw.....

Kay Sanford, Chair
The Lake Level Initiative



How about this one sent in by Doc and Patti Salvatore?

Good Morning Saratoga Lake!

Breakfast
Saturday, April 9
Mangino's Ristorante
9 a.m.
\$5 at the door per person
(please bring exact change)

RSVP no later than Monday, April 4 to Lisa Morahan at
(518) 584-3935 or lmorahan@nycap.rr.com.

This is a great way to welcome the spring and renew acquaintances. Give Lisa a call and we'll see you there!

The Stillwater Area Community Center's Annual Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

is Saturday, April 16, from 9 a.m. - 11 a.m., at the Center, 19 Palmer Street, in the Village. \$5 for breakfast, free for children 5 and under, \$15 max per family. Enjoy pancakes, eggs, and more with the Easter Bunny, followed by an Easter egg hunt, Easter basket raffle, and other fun activities. To volunteer, or for more info, please call 664-2515 x 23, or email: sacc@nycap.rr.com.



New Improvisation for Teens class at the Stillwater Area Community Center, 19 Palmer St. This fun and creative workshop for teens (7th -12th grades) will develop skills such as "thinking on your feet" and knowing what to say in any situation. Feel better about speaking in front of groups, practice your acting, or join for the fun improv skits. Wednesdays, April 13, 20, 27, and May 4; 4:00 to 5 p.m. Class includes a public show May 14th, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. For more information and to register, contact SACC at 664-2515 x 10, or email sacc@nycap.rr.com.

Fun Family Event by Saratoga P.L.A.N. and Children and Nature

Saturday, April 16, 10 a.m.
Wild Lupine Planting Party – Educational and fun
Karner Blue Butterfly Management Area,
Ushers Road, Clifton Park

Come and learn about the history of Glacial Lake Albany, the Saratoga Sandplains, the Karner Blue Butterfly and what all of this means for gardening in our own backyards.

Saratoga Rowing Club Silent Auction

The SRA invites you to attend the final fundraiser of the year.

Please join us at Longfellow's Restaurant on Thursday, April 14 at 6 p.m. Enjoy lavish hors d'oeuvres and live music while supporting your boathouse. We will also be honoring several SRA benefactors during a boat naming ceremony.

Tickets are \$40 per person (\$30 per person for the under 30 crowd) or \$70 per couple. We look forward to seeing all of you there.

If you are unable to make the event, please consider making a tax-deductible donation. The success of this fundraiser directly impacts your boathouse! Contact Susan at the office and check the mail for your invitation!! (*The Silent Auction Committee*)

Roadside Clean-up Scheduled

Our annual Spring Season "Adopt a Highway Roadside Clean-Up" effort is currently scheduled for Saturday, May 7, 2011 (the day before Mother's Day), and anyone who can spare a couple hours of their time to help out will be greatly appreciated.

Volunteers will be gathering at approximately 9 a.m., at the South End Stewarts (on the corner of Routes 9P & Lake Road), from where we'll team up in small groups, and then head out to pick up the trash & debris that



has collected along the roadside around the lake over the past winter months. If you can't join us on the scheduled pick-up day (but still wish to lend a hand), official orange D.O.T. trash collection bags can be delivered to your residence, which may be utilized to pick up the debris around your property at your convenience - We will then collect your filled bags on the afternoon of the official clean-up effort.

Note that if the weather does not cooperate, we will get together at the same time & place the following weekend (Saturday, May 14). Please contact Mike Kopchik (via Email at mkopchik-mja@nycap.rr.com, or by phone during the evening at 580-0022) if you have any questions, or would like a few collection bags delivered to your residence - Thanks!"

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS TO THE SPRING EDITION OF SHORE LINES IS APRIL 1!!!