

# State of New York



## Lake George Park Commission

A New York State  
Environmental,  
Planning and Public  
Safety Agency Devoted  
to the Preservation of  
Lake George and the  
Safety of its Users

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# NEWSLETTER

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## Preventing Invasive Species

Aquatic invasive species are any non-native plant or animal that, when introduced into a lake or stream environment, can grow out of control and create negative impact for that waterbody. These impacts can be many, including water quality declines, problems with boating and fishing due to dense plant beds, problems with clogged water intakes, economic impacts to recreation and tourism, and significant ecological changes to that waterbody. Lake George, luckily, has relatively few invasive species (five total). However costs of management of invasive species on Lake George since 1985 (primarily for Eurasian Watermilfoil and more recently Asian clam) have topped more than \$6 million.

Keeping any new invasive species out of Lake George has taken top priority with the Commission. Science shows that trailered boats from other infected lakes are the primary means that aquatic invasive species move from lake to lake, so considerable focus on this topic is underway. Over the past year, the LGPC has been developing an Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Plan and Environmental Impact Statement to develop the best ideas for keeping new invasives out of Lake George. The Commission contracted *(continued on page 2)*



## Coming Soon! Register Your Boat Online

New this year, the LGPC is adding the option to register your boat online through the Commission website! This is an effort to make it easier and more convenient than ever for boaters to register and pay for their sticker, saving time and effort for everyone involved. As always, you will still be able to buy your registration at any of 40 vendor locations throughout the Lake George region if you prefer.

The Commission expects online registration to be available mid April 2013. Please visit the Commission website at [www.lgpc.state.ny.us](http://www.lgpc.state.ny.us) for more information. Once you register online, you will receive your boat sticker in the mail within one week's time.

If you are a dock owner on Lake George, you will be pleased to hear that dock registrations will also be available online in the near future. When fully implemented, the Commission's online registration for your boat and dock will be seamless, quick and easy right from your home computer, laptop, or tablet. Please don't hesitate to contact the Commission office at 518-668-9347 if you have any questions. Have a great year on the lake!



# Invasive Species Management

## Asian Clam Battle

Year 2012 was extremely active in working to control the invasive Asian clams in Lake George. Uncontrolled Asian clam populations can reach densities of thousands of clams per square meter, and cause big problems with water quality and for beaches and swimming areas. Lake George has approximately 27 acres of lakebed with some level of clams. Funding was generated last summer and fall to control seven of those acres using plastic mats placed on the lake bottom to smother the clams. These mats have been left in through the winter, with the goal of total eradication of the clam populations. These mats will be removed in May of 2013, and surveys will be conducted to determine the success of the treatment. The success of last year's efforts will help determine future efforts on the lake. For more information, go to [www.stoptheasianclam.info](http://www.stoptheasianclam.info).



## Eurasian Watermilfoil Success

The time is approaching when we can finally eliminate all beds of milfoil in Lake George. Through over two decades of effort and almost \$5 million dollars, over 85% of known milfoil has been eliminated in the lake. Funding strategies are being worked on to address the remainder. For a full report, visit [www.lgpc.state.ny.us](http://www.lgpc.state.ny.us).

# Marine Patrol Report

Patrolling the waters of Lake George since 1962, the Lake George Park Commission's Marine Patrol has logged its 51st year of continuous service in 2012. Through the years, the Marine Patrol has built up a solid record of service dedicated to the protection of Lake George and its users.

The Marine Patrol consists of eleven uniformed patrol officers and two experienced sergeants. The Marine Patrol has traditionally operated seasonally from early May to late October. However, in 2012 the season was extended through mid December to assist with Asian clam control efforts. Full time operations occur from late June through Labor Day with a maximum of eight patrol vessels on duty, both day and night.

The Commission's emphasis is focused on ensuring the safety of and providing assistance to the public, as well as the protection of the Lake George resource. This mission is accomplished by ensuring compliance with the laws and regulations on Lake George, and through promoting education and awareness. A total of 4393 officer hours were logged in 2012, including all patrol and non-patrol hours. During this period, officers documented 2322 contacts with the public. These contacts included, among other things, 239 assists to boaters, 155 complaints, 7 vessel noise tests, 11 accident investigations, 281 cruiser sanitary inspections, and 1053 warnings for minor violations. A total of 210 appearance tickets were issued. The full 2012 Marine Patrol report can be viewed on the Commission's website.



# Invasive Species Prevention, cont.

with a well respected consulting firm (the LA Group) to help develop the draft Plan, and held dozens of meetings throughout the Lake George basin to gather the best ideas, input, and suggestions for how to move forward. Options under consideration include a voluntary program with boat launch stewards, a mandatory inspection program of trailered boats prior to launch, and a self-certification program in which people certify that they are invasives-free prior to launching on Lake George.

The Commission expects to adopt the Plan at their April 2013 meeting, followed by a public review and comment period. This is a very important issue for the future of the lake. For more information on how you can help keep invasive species out of Lake George, visit [www.protectlakegeorge.com](http://www.protectlakegeorge.com).

For More Information on LGPC programs, visit [www.lgpc.state.ny.us](http://www.lgpc.state.ny.us)

PLEASE HELP PROTECT LAKE GEORGE FROM AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES BY FOLLOWING THESE GUIDELINES:

### CLEAN

Clean and remove all visible plants, animals, fish, and mud from your boat, trailer, or other equipment and dispose of in a suitable trash container or on dry land.

### DRAIN

Drain water from bilge, live wells, ballast tanks, and any other locations with water before leaving the launch.

### DRY

Dry your boat, trailer, and all equipment completely. Drying times vary depending on the weather and the type of material. At least five days of drying time is generally recommended during the summer.

### WATERCRAFT CHECK POINTS

