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## Water Quality and Fertilizer Use

The increased use of fertilizer for lawn care is contaminating Lake George. Fertilizers cause excess algae growth and algal blooms, depletion of oxygen resulting in “dead” zones and accelerated growth of invasive aquatic plants, all of which are degrading lake water quality. According to the Fund for Lake George, phytoplankton has increased by 33% throughout the Lake as a result of greater nutrient loading.

### Short notes:

- Special thanks to the Lake Champlain Basin Program for a grant for \$4000 to the APWQC
- Sealcoating follow-up: for alternatives see [assemblypt.com](http://assemblypt.com)
- The Town of Queensbury has contributed \$30,000 for boat inspection.
- The Hague Town Board adopted a resolution, **No More Roundup**, to use environmentally safe weed killers.
- A Salt Summit was held in Sept. 2015; each year 8,000 metric tons of road salt and 26,000 tons of sand are applied to LG basin roadways, tripling Lake salt levels since 1980.

The Towns of Queensbury and Lake George have adopted regulations more stringent than New York State that restrict fertilizer application within 50 feet of a waterbody. While their restrictions are laudable, they are difficult to enforce in the absence of inspectors and cooperative residents. The other lake municipalities have yet to adopt any regulations. If these towns do not adopt similar rules, the benefits from protective restrictions enacted by Lake George and Queensbury is diminished given the fluidity of lake waters.



During the last three years various proposals have been advanced to have the Lake George Park Commission (LGPC) establish a uniform fertilizer restriction, including a letter submitted in October from the Cleverdale/Rockhurst Stewardship Group. The LGPC maintains that each municipality should regulate the use of fertilizers although such an action is well within its mandate to protect, preserve and enhance the resources of the Park and Lake George.

The LGPC currently lacks adequate resources to fulfill its vital mandates. Without regulations for wastewater, stream corridors and tree cutting, protection of our waters is not possible. With only nine employees and a budget of \$1.4 million for 2015, the LGPC is concentrating mainly on invasive species. Albany should support the LGPC with the necessary resources to protect Lake George water quality and to enact uniform regulations.

Please consider a tax exempt donation to the APWQC this year!

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**Japanese Knotweed** by Mary Helen O'Keeffe

Zach Simek (Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program), Supervisor John Strough and concerned neighbors toured areas infested with Japanese knotweed along Crossover Lane, Shore Colony and Sunset Lane this fall to evaluate its spread on Assembly Point.



Knotweed is a perennial species of a very invasive and aggressive bamboo-like shrub. Its leaves are broad and oval and it has clusters of greenish-white flowers in later summer. It can reach more than 12 feet in height. It can grow 3-4 meters in just 10 weeks. It impacts the biodiversity of the area by excluding native plants and its detritus affects the food base of trout and reduces nitrogen. It is so invasive that it can penetrate foundations, streets, sidewalks, and septic systems. Its understory is devoid of vegetation and is prone to runoff during heavy rain events. It can be a fire hazard in the dormant season.

The group discussed eradication options and precautions and they can be found on



[assemblypt.com](http://assemblypt.com):

1. Knotweed invades areas where soil is exposed due to construction. Limiting the exposure and/or cultivation of soils can prevent invasion.
2. Cutting the weed or mowing may further spread the root system. Native trees and plants must be planted simultaneously to reduce reemergence.
3. Chemical control with a glyphosate- based herbicide is toxic and an endocrine disruptor in human cells and could also negatively affect our water quality.

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Beverly Pozzi

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**The Assembly Point Water Quality Coalition, Inc. is a 501c3 non profit corporation committed to improving and restoring water quality and compromised ecosystems in the Lake George Lake Champlain Basin by supporting policies, regulations and practices which preserve and protect waters and watersheds.**