

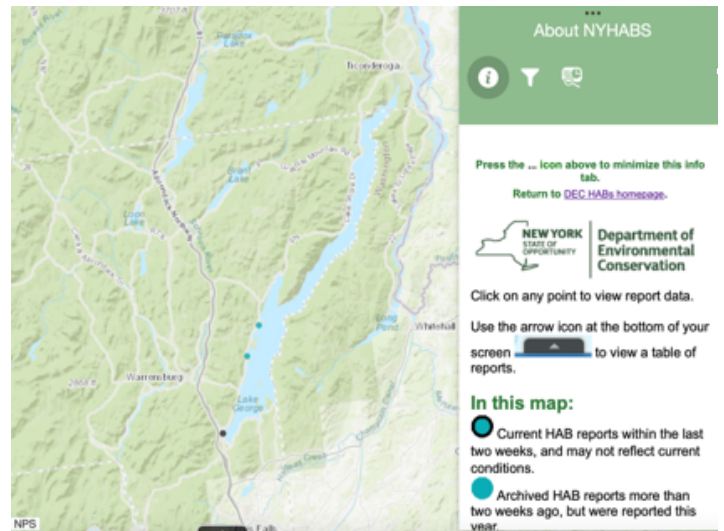
ASSEMBLY POINT WATER QUALITY COALITION

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HABs....again!

Harmful Algal Blooms, or HABs, continue to be a major threat to our Lake water. HABs are visible patches of cyanobacteria, also called blue-green algae. Cyanobacteria are normally present in fresh water in low numbers, but under certain conditions can multiply to form a “bloom.”

The first HAB in Lake George was in October 2020. Calm days, with abundant sunshine seem to support a bloom. Again, in October 2022, two HABs were documented by the DEC – one in Bolton, and a second in Basin Bay. In Harris Bay, an Assembly Point Water Quality member spotted a questionable bloom on October 26. By



NYS DEC HAB map - Lake George

the time the LGA came to take a water sample, the suspected bloom had dissipated. It is important to remember to immediately collect a water sample and contact the [DEC](#) to fill out a Suspicious Algal Bloom Report Form, and the [LGA](#) if you see a possible HAB.

Figure to the right shows the [NYS DEC HAB map](#). A colored dot, encircled with black shows a current HAB; without the black outline represents a HAB location older than 2 weeks.

Any bloom is an unhealthy sign in a waterbody and should be avoided, but some blooms can actually become toxic and cause health risks to people and pets. To date, none of the HABs on LG have been toxic, but we have no assurance that will be the case in the future. Whether a bloom is toxic can only be determined by laboratory testing. The lag time between spotting a possible bloom and obtaining lab results presents an uncertain time for those of us who draw our water from the lake. If a HAB is documented by testing, DEC will update the HAB map during their working hours, in season (the 2022 HABs notification season has just ended). The only way for a resident to know a HAB is present is to check the DEC map online. Some type of notification system is necessary for the safety of residents and guests who stay around the Lake. A Reverse 911 system has been suggested as a possible way to contact individuals who wish to be notified of (1) a potential HAB & (2) Confirmation of a HAB & lab results to determine if the bloom is toxic.

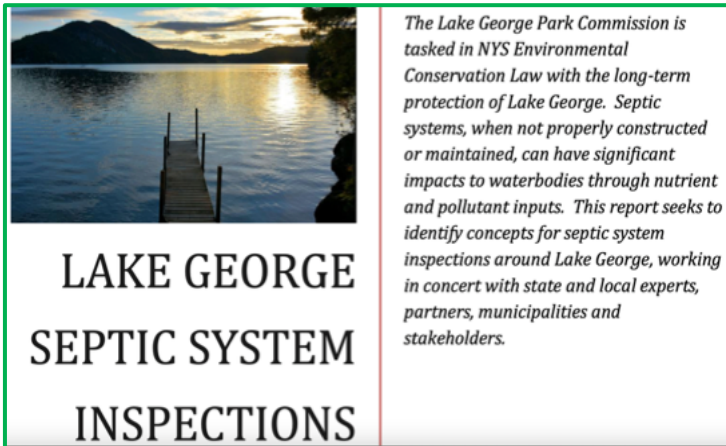
Septic Inspection Program Update

If you have any doubt about what a grassroots group can accomplish, please consider the status of the proposed Septic Inspection Management Program, which is currently under public comment after approval by Albany. This initiative started during Covid, on a Zoom meeting of the Assembly Point Water Quality Coalition with other members of water quality groups. Concerns of inadequately maintained/functioning septic systems and their negative effect on water quality called for action. The decision was made to go “right to the top” with a letter to Governor Cuomo who directed the Lake George Park Commission to take on the issue.

In May 2022, the Lake George Park Commission submitted draft regulations for implementation of a Septic Inspection Management Program to Albany for approval. In September 2022, the regulations were approved, and the process advanced for public review and comment. The Commission has a public comment period open until Nov 30, and a public hearing was held on Nov 22, 2022, 4pm at Fort William Henry Conference Center in Lake George. Residents are encouraged to send letters of support to the [LGPC](#). Information on the creation and

content of the regulations can be found on the Commission’s website. After the public comment period ends and comments are reviewed, the Commission will vote on the program. If adopted, plans are to begin inspections in Spring 2023.

Under the program, all septic systems within 500 feet of the lake or 100 feet of a stream will be inspected every 5 years. Each homeowner will pay \$50 annual fee. Failed systems will need to be repaired or replaced within 6 months.



LGPC Cover page, Septic Regulations

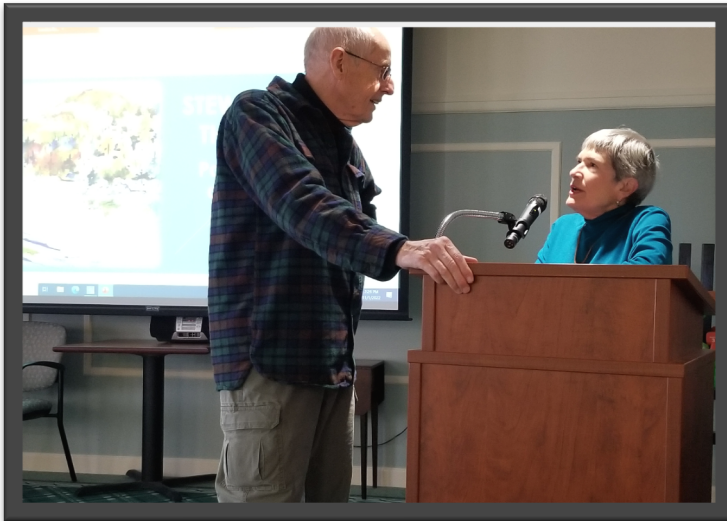
We applaud the Park Commission for responding to the need to oversee the function and maintenance of lakefront septic systems to ensure that they do not negatively affect Lake George water quality.

- ***New Funds Available for Septic Upgrades*** - Warren County has been awarded \$650,000 for septic upgrades. Property owners will be eligible for grants representing up to 50% of their upgrade, as much as \$10,000 per project. Eligibility depends on the property’s proximity to Lake George. Application forms, instructions can be found online at: warrencountyny.gov/planning/lakeshoreseptic.
- ***New York State Proposal 1, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act*** on the Nov. 8 ballot was approved by 59% of voters . This measure supports issuing \$4.2 billion in general obligation bonds for land conservation and recreation, natural resources, water infrastructure and climate change projects. At least \$650 million of the total amount will be for projects related directly to water quality - wastewater, sewage and septic infrastructure, waterfront buffers, stormwater and nutrient runoff reduction, and addressing harmful algal blooms.

Stewards of the Water

Published this spring, *Stewards of the Water*, was featured in a number of book launches around the Lake including at the Lake George Historical Association, Silver Bay, the Bolton Historical Society, and the Warren County Historical Society. All ten watercolors by Tom Ryan were exhibited at the LARAC where Ginger Henry Kuenzel and Lorraine Ruffing gave a presentation. Lorraine, as guest speaker, introduced the book to the Rotary Club of Glens Falls. Over 250 books have been sold.

Books can be ordered via lorraineruffing@hotmail.com



Assembly Point Water Quality Coalition Board Members

Congratulations to Pam and Ellen

We congratulate two of our Board Members on their appointments.

Pam Golde has been selected to serve on the Comprehensive Land Management Committee (CLMC)

Ellen Wetherbee has been selected as an alternate on the Queensbury Planning Board (PB).

Both positions require a significant time commitment, and we thank both Pam & Ellen for their willingness to serve. Both the CLMC and the PB look at projects in our neighborhoods with the purpose of balancing development with the protection of critical environmental areas.

We thank Bob Carbognin, who has served as our Board Chairman August 2019 to Dec 2022. This was a very active period for the Coalition when working towards a Septic Inspection Management Program. He will continue to work with the Coalition as a Board member in January 2023.

Perhaps you have heard the term “Sustainable Development” tossed around?

Sustainable development can be defined as an approach to economic development without compromising the quality of the environment for future generations. To translate that to our local concerns, it means promoting development that minimizes environmental problems. You have heard requests to save lakefront trees, preserve or plant buffers along the shoreline and decrease impermeable surfaces - all to decrease runoff into our lake water. With the many construction projects around the Lake, incorporating these principles into construction plans can help make lakefront development sustainable.

This Newsletter will be our last print version mailing to save on printing and postage. If you are receiving this newsletter via US mail, please send your email address to the Assembly Point Water Quality Coalition at apwqc7@gmail.com to continue receiving it.

We would welcome new members to join our Coalition. Please contact us at the above address.

Please consider a tax-deductible donation to the Assembly Point Water Quality Coalition.
Address: 66 Bay Parkway, Lake George

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.
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APWQC
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