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**Invasive Japanese Knotweed**

Living in the Adirondack State Park makes all of us environmentalists as we hear about threats to our lake and surrounding land and are asked to do our part to help minimize risks. One category of risk is **Invasive species**. Invasive species are living things, both plant and animal, that are not native to our area and cause economic or environmental harm or affect human health. The effort to control aquatic invasives, both plant (such as Eurasian milfoil) and animal (such as Asian clams & zebra mussels) is an ongoing challenge. But terrestrial invasives are proliferating also. They are found surrounding the lake, on public lands and in our yards! Terrestrial invasives compete with native plants and animals, taking over fields, forests, yards and wetlands. One such plant, Japanese Knotweed (JKW) is pervasive on



Assembly Point. The plant, which can grow from three to 15 feet tall, has bamboo-like stems and is sometimes called Japanese bamboo. It spreads rapidly, preventing and crowding out growth of healthy plants. Its roots grow horizontally, leaving soil underneath susceptible to erosion and once established, are extremely persistent and difficult to eradicate.

The current most acceptable method to rid of knotweed is repeated and persistent cutting from spring to the fall for 2 to 3 consecutive years.

Added steps with potential benefit include suppression by matting and cutting out the root system – a labor intensive task, as the roots go as deep as 6 ft. Caution must be taken to avoid further spread of the plants during these steps. The stalks and leaves that are cut and separated from the root balls must be killed by heat or by laying them on simply constructed pallets, called drying stacks for open air composting.



The town of Queensbury is supporting an APWQC project to eradicate an area on

*May 24 - Town of Queensbury Highway Dept cutting Knotweed on Assembly Point*

Assembly Point that is overtaken by knotweed – between Forest Road and Lake Parkway. The area will be repeatedly cut and mowed. Drying stacks will be built on the sites. The Queensbury Highway Department has offered to supply the labor and equipment for the 4 monthly cuttings starting in May and ending in August. After the last cutting, part of the area will be covered with a mat suppression barrier. At least one Coalition member will be present for each cutting. Volunteers will monitor the area for rogue sprouts and new patches that may occur during this season, assessing progress over the course of at least 2 seasons. Our goal is to determine the method that works best in our neighborhood and to inspire other areas on the Point to take similar action, avoiding the introduction of the chemical herbicide glyphosate injection because of our proximity to wetlands and water bodies. The sign shown below, explaining this process will be added to our Assembly Point Signage Trail.

**Assembly Point Water Quality Coalition  
Japanese Knotweed Manual Control Project**

Techniques to control the spread of invasive Japanese Knotweed are being used experimentally around New England. These include mechanical removal (cutting and pulling), suppression mats and chemical treatments.

This neighborhood project encompasses approximately 3000 contiguous square feet along the east side of southern Lake Parkway with the aim to eradicate the knotweed with manual and suppression control (no chemicals). Partners on this project include the APWQC, the Queensbury Highway Dept and Lake Parkway residents. The Highway Dept will cut the knotweed four times between the spring and fall of 2024, disposing of the infectious stalks at the town gravel pit. Volunteers will provide extra hand-trimming with disposal in a stacking bin and place suppression mats in early September. Without action, the knotweed will continue to spread and choke out native plants and trees, critical to a balanced ecosystem and forest.



Assembly Point Water Quality Coalition. For more information go to [www.assemblypt.com](http://www.assemblypt.com)  
Project courtesy of the Toubas Family Foundation

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### Storm Water Management Retrofit

Stormwater Runoff Is the **Single Biggest Threat to the Water Quality of Lake George.** The rainwater and snowmelt running across roofs, lawns, driveways and parking lots picks up grease, oil, chemicals such as pesticides, herbicides and fertilizer, pet waste and road de-icing materials and carries them directly into the lake. Stormwater runoff has increased with development, as the increase in impervious surfaces crowds out the buffering green spaces where runoff containing contaminants could be absorbed. Property by property, as trees have been cleared to allow homes and structures to be built and enlarged, absorptive surfaces have decreased. Along with existing stormwater management regulations, stormwater retrofit for all lakeside properties would best minimize the effects of land disturbance and provide for stronger lake protection.



The Lake George Park Commission (LGPC) is a New York State agency established to manage the resources of the Lake George Park, especially to oversee the lake's water quality. Stormwater runoff was already recognized as a threat to water quality in 1987 when the LGPC was created. The commission established stormwater regulations in 1990 to prevent further pollution of the lake and updated those regulations in 2021, attempting to balance future development with minimal environmental impact. These new regulations extended requirements for stormwater management to properties where improvements or minor construction projects would require drainage problems anywhere on the property to be corrected. While an important step, this overlooked critically needed stormwater management for all the existing properties around Lake George that were **not** doing modifications.

*"All water that falls on a piece of property must be managed on that property" (Lake George Park Commission, Subpart 646.8).*

A Stormwater management retrofit program would extend to every existing property within 500 feet of the Lake - the Critical Environmental Area (CEA). While such a program is not yet mandatory, as homeowners, we are all encouraged to take a look at our property, identify drainage issues and find ways to infiltrate runoff before it flows into the lake. Many retrofit stormwater projects are simple, such as rain gardens, gutters, shoreline buffers and trenches – all which absorb excess water. Some properties with significant uncontrolled stormwater might need an engineer to design a suitable solution.

Lake Tahoe has experienced a gradual decline in clarity over the past 50 years. Clarity was declining at a rate of about 1 foot per year. Over the last decade, the Tahoe Regional Planning Agency has slowed the loss of clarity and continues to work to improve Lake Tahoe's water quality via a Stormwater management program for all residential & commercial properties.



*Assembly Point Road - little buffer, steep drop off on a road tilted towards the Lake*

The Lake George Association (LGA) offers a free program, inviting you to "[Become a Lake Protector](#)". This program helps property owners develop an individualized plan to minimize any negative effects to the lake that development has caused, including stormwater runoff

(along with faulty septic systems, road salt and invasive species). Using Geographic Information System Mapping, 9,300 private properties in the LG Watershed have been analyzed according to multiple parameters, such as elevation, soil type, impervious surfaces and tree height to produce a very telling property map. The LGA website itself contains extensive information as well as numerous links to a wide array of property management issues and solutions.

Setting up an account as a Lake Protector allows you to view your property map and leads you stepwise through personalized suggestions to minimize negative effects on the Lake. One of the steps you can take is to request a property visit, where an LGA representative will walk your

property with you and help identify areas of concern and suggest possible remedies. However you choose to proceed, navigating the **Lake Protector** site becomes an educational experience that benefits all of us!

*“The LGA’s **Lake Protector Program** gives everyone with a relationship to the Lake — residents, businesses, visitors — a Lake Protector Profile to help you take actions that will protect Lake George.”*

### **ProcellaCor is in the News Again...**

The controversy over the use of the herbicide ProcellaCor to kill the invasive Eurasian Watermilfoil in Lake George continues. Early 2022, the Lake George Park Commission (LGPC) applied for permits to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the Adirondack Park Agency to use ProcellaCor in two bays, Blairs Bay in Glen Burnie and Sheep Meadow Bay in Hulett’s Landing. Approval by both state agencies was quickly followed by an



outpouring of public opinion against use of the chemical in Lake George (LG). Town boards passed resolutions against its use, petitions were signed, editorials and letters were written – all protesting the first ever chemical application to LG waters. In May 2022, the Lake George Association (LGA), the Lake George Waterkeeper, the town of Hague and a private citizen filed a complaint petition against the APA and the LGPC, claiming the permit was approved without sufficient consideration. The NYS Supreme Court heard arguments, both pro and con,

concerning the ProcellaCor application and issued an injunction against its use. Perhaps influencing the decision was the number of concerned citizens at the hearing, 300 letters of opposition and more than 4,500 signatures on a petition against ProcellaCor.

In February 2023, the LGPC applied again to the DEC and the APA for the same permits and obtained the same outcome. Aside from inadequate data on the science behind use of the herbicide, there was a procedural question on the APA’s approval process. Was a public hearing necessary before approval was granted? No public hearing had been held. In March 2023 the NYS Appellate Court ruled that a hearing should be held before the APA approved the permits for ProcellaCor use. Most recently, in May, a four judge panel reversed that ruling, stating “We cannot say that the APA lacked a rational basis or acted in an arbitrary or capricious manner in approving the permit applications.” The LGPC has applied to the APA to replace its expired permits. A decision could come at the next APA monthly meeting on June 20. If the APA approves the permits, ProcellaCor could go into Lake George soon after. Because of the growth cycle of milfoil and other plants, the permit would likely require that the treatment be done by the end of June, making for a very tight timeline.

The LGA disagrees with the decision by the court. Procedure aside, the science behind the herbicide is not getting the attention it deserves. The LGA & LG Waterkeeper's concerns are numerous and fill many pages in their letter to the DEC ([See LGA detailed comments](#)). The herbicide is approved for use in slow moving waters, which is NOT descriptive of LG. The movement of the water can cause drift of the chemical beyond the treatment area. While a treatment dose will kill milfoil, a diluted dose in the drift areas might actually stimulate its growth. And there remains the question of risk and impacts to native aquatic life. Most recently, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture listed the active ingredient in ProcellaCor as a PFAS-containing pesticide. PFAS are known as "Forever Chemicals" that cause cancer and contaminate drinking water supplies across the country. NY state fights to keep PFAS **OUT** of water supplies ... Why would we purposely add such a chemical to our Lake without the assurance of no harm?

**These concerns must be addressed BEFORE the chemical is put into our Lake.**

The LGA has launched the [Not 1 Drop website](#) opposing ProcellaCor, with links to information and actions you can take to help protect Lake George. You can pick up a "Not 1 Drop" sign at the LGA office to post lakeside or roadside.

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### Signage Trail

3 new signs have been added to the Assembly Point Signage Trail:

Japanese Knotweed (shown above on page 2), Permeable Asphalt and Ice Eaters, both shown below.


Again, the town of Queensbury is assisting the Coalition by installing the posts.

The project continues with the support of the Touba Family Foundation.

Stormwater Management Option for Driveways near the lake:  
**USE PERMEABLE ASPHALT**

Why Permeable Asphalt for driveways?

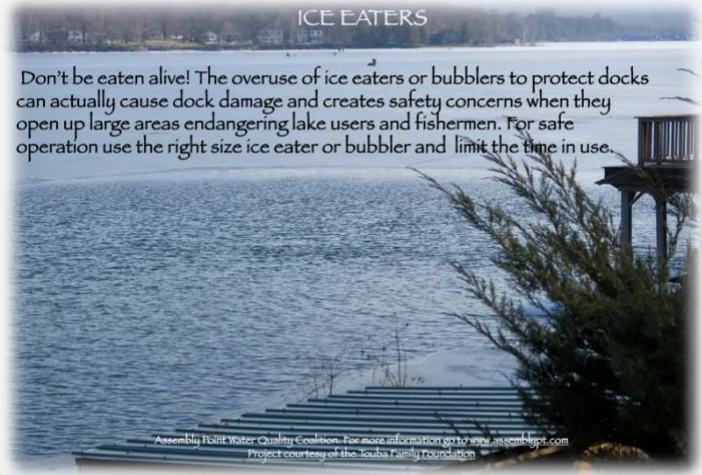
It reduces stormwater runoff and filters out pollutants, which protects our drinking water. The cost to install is less than that of permeable pavers. The Town of Queensbury permits permeable asphalt as a substitute for pavers when calculating total impervious surfaces. Permeable asphalt does not require driveway sealcoating thus preventing toxic chemicals from flowing into the lake.



Assembly Point Water Quality Coalition. For more information go to [www.assemblypt.com](http://www.assemblypt.com)  
Project courtesy of the Touba Family Foundation

**ICE EATERS**

Don't be eaten alive! The overuse of ice eaters or bubblers to protect docks can actually cause dock damage and creates safety concerns when they open up large areas endangering lake users and fishermen. For safe operation use the right size ice eater or bubbler and limit the time in use.



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Project courtesy of the Touba Family Foundation

## NOTES

- Assembly Point Water Quality Coalition invites you to our Summer Social Sunday August 4, 3-5pm at Sans Souci. Refreshments will be served. Guest speaker Mike Kelly, a seasonal resident on Assembly Point is a senior research engineer with IBM and PhD candidate at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI). Mike studies water quality with the Jefferson Project, a collaboration between IBM, RPI and the LGA. He will speak on LG water quality and how the seasonal cycling of temperature affects stratification, or “layering” in the Lake.
- Lake Protector Summit, sponsored by the LGA, June 14, 8am-12:30pm  
At Camp Chingachgook, 1872 Pilot Knob Rd, Kattskill Bay, NY 12844
- We welcome new members to join our Coalition. Your participation in our efforts would be greatly appreciated. The following committees are in need of members: Grant Procurement, Membership & Summer Social Planning, Newsletter Website & Design Team, APWQC Signage Trail Maintenance, Terrestrial Invasive Management Team, Action Team (attendance at planning/zoning board meetings, letter writing).
- Contact us via email @ [apwqc7@gmail.com](mailto:apwqc7@gmail.com) with your concerns, and if you wish to be removed from our email list. Please consider a tax-deductible donation to the Assembly Point Water Quality Coalition.  
Address: 66 Bay Parkway, Lake George, NY 12845

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 watershed.

