

Our Song Lake Watershed

Volume 8

FIREWORKS AND OUR LAKE

Environmentalists are such humbugs! And here we go again. The truth is, fireworks create an exciting celebratory display. The other truth is, they are made of elements and chemicals that can seriously contribute to health risks and diminished water quality. Consider:

Barium is used to make the glittery greens. It bio-accumulates up the food chain. It causes general gastrointestinal problems and muscle weakness, but at high doses can cause paralysis and death.

Perchlorates are commonly used as propellants. They contaminate surface and ground water and disrupt thyroid functions. *Pregnant woman and children are highly vulnerable to perchlorates. Perchlorates are chemicals of concern for hypothyroidism and thyroid cancer.*

Copper creates those pretty blues. It also initiates the creation of dioxins when mixed with perchlorates. Dioxins are toxic to humans at any level.

Cadmium creates a wide range of colors. It is a known carcinogen.

Debris of cardboard, plastic, and metal also fall to the ground, littering our waterfront and contaminating the aquatic ecosystem. These often work their way up through the food chain.

There are a host of other elements including strontium, rubidium, aluminum, antimony, and lithium.

The adverse effects of fireworks over the lake will also increase phosphorus. This is our main water quality issue on Song Lake and it will only assist to accelerate our heightened algae issues, decrease bottom oxygen, and impact the health of both the fish, and the people around the lake.

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and Department of Health further warn that fireworks irritate the eyes, nose, and throat causing coughing, sneezing and shortness of breath. Exposure can also worsen medical conditions such as asthma and heart disease.

We all enjoy the beauty and excitement of a good firework display, however, just like the Disney Corporation, we have decided to seek alternatives for ourselves. Because of known hazards, Disney now uses laser light displays.

This year, please join us and consider alternate celebratory displays, such as laser lights, candles and bon fires.

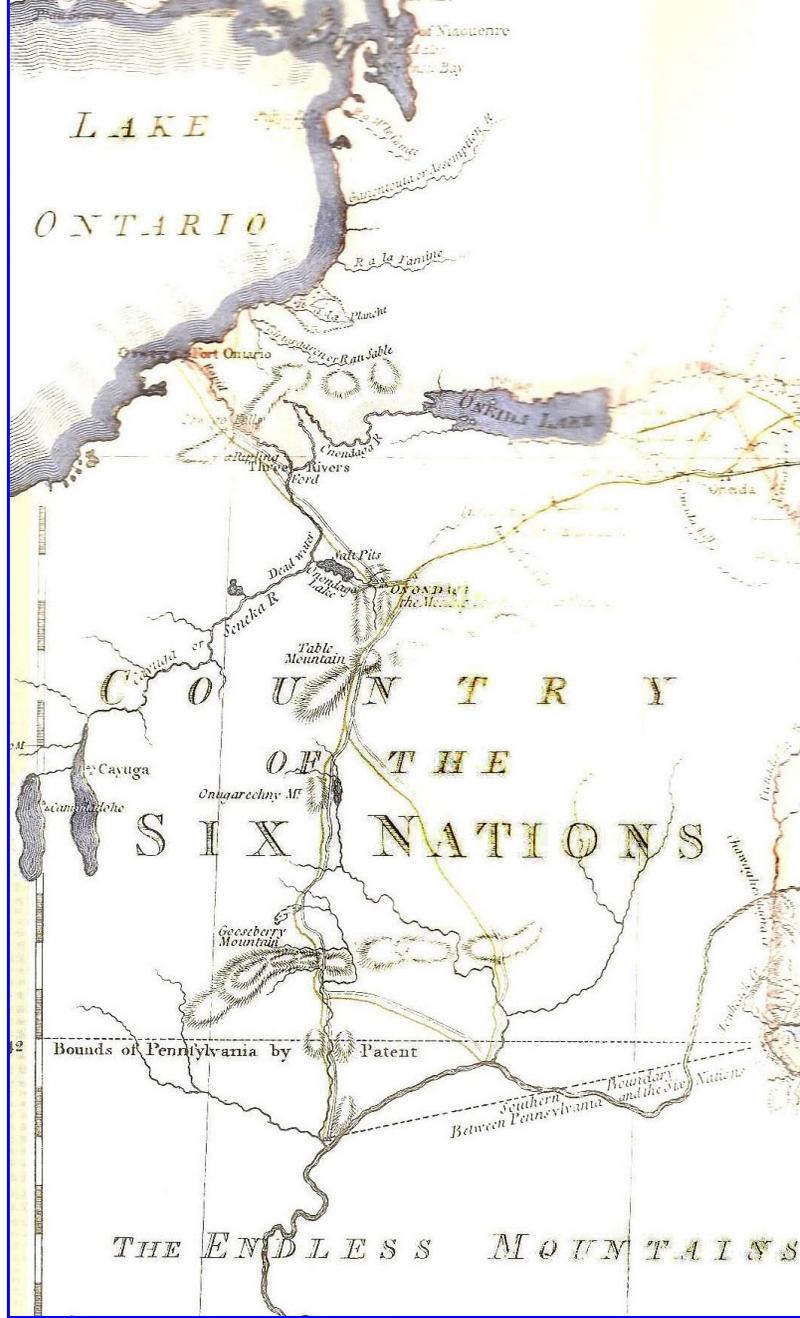
If you do choose a private fireworks display, it is your liability and responsibility.

To find more about New York State Laws and other safety issues, go to:
<http://www.americanpyro.com/>



WE WOULD LIKE YOUR OPINIONS ~ WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

The production of these newsletters has been possible through generous donations to the Song Lake Watershed Fund through the Song Lake Property Owners Association. To help sponsor our next issue, please contact Tarki Heath at 696-5262. Let us know what you think of our newsletter by emailing your comments to SongLakelssues@aol.com.



Section of **New York and New Jersey:1776** C.J. Sauthier, map showing Song Mountain and what appears to be Song Lake in the Six Nations Territory. The Mountain is called Onogarechny, the lake is unnamed.

Song Lake Watershed Committee

Project List-2010

CSLAP—Year 4

Quality Assurance Project Plan

Working with Cortland County Soil and Water and EPA
Eight, in-lake and two groundwater “hot spot” testing sites

Algae Testing

Working with Professor Kimberly Schulz, ESF on rapid response, toxicity monitoring

Carp Remediation

Working with Dr. Will Harman, Director of
Otsego Lake Biological Field Station

Phosphate Campaign

Fertilizer: Look for the “O” in the Middle

Survey Compilation

Newsletters

Website and Blog

[www. Songlakewatershed.org](http://www.Songlakewatershed.org)
Songlakewatershed.blogspot.com

Lake Water Budget

Working with Cortland County Soil and Water

C-OFOKLA

Leadership in Cortland-Onondaga Federation of
Kettle Lake Associations, Inc.

Welcome Summer!



With the anticipation of another beautiful summer season upon us, we are reminded of our participation in the ongoing beauty and safety of our lake. Please take a moment to remind ourselves of the steps we can all take to ensure our continued ability to enjoy our lake in a safe and healthy manner for many more years to come.

Environmental Concerns

Phosphates - Don't color our water green

Too many phosphates in our water increase the growth of algae, coloring our water and deteriorating its quality. We can easily stop the increasing levels of phosphate in our lake water. Purchase "phosphate free" soaps and dish detergent. **If you fertilize your lawn purchase phosphate free fertilizer Look for the second number to be "0" such as 24-0-16**

Zebra Mussels - Ouch Keep them out!!!

So far we have no Zebra Mussels in our lake, but they can easily invade if we are not careful. Thoroughly clean any boat that has been in another body of water prior to placing it in Song Lake. Make sure that your guests do this as well. Remove all plants and animals you see from your trailer or boat. Empty your motor, live well, and bilge on land far away from the lake. These procedures will also help keep out milfoil and other unwanted and harmful species. Clean your boats and jet skis.

Bait- Keep our Fish healthy – They Bite Better

Bait that is not certified can introduce harmful bacteria and unwanted organisms into the lake, infecting the fish. Who wants dead fish floating on the surface? Any bait that originated from a body of water other than Song Lake should be not used. Worms do not have to be certified. Certified bait is farmed and is free of contaminants and disease.

Boater Safety – New York State Law

Age Limitation to Operate a Boat

Age 18 years or older/ Below 18 must be accompanied by someone 18 years or older.

Age 10 -18 must successfully complete an approved NYS boater safety course.

Age Limitation to Operate a Jet Ski or PWC

Age 14 and older—any age must have a certificate of successful completion of NYS 8 hour boating safety course.

Proper Distance and Speed—Within a 100 feet of the shore, dock, pier, raft or float or an anchored or moored vessel speed limit is 5 MPH.

Reckless Driving—Jumping the wake of another vessel too close to that vessel, weaving through congested traffic, and overloading a vessel beyond the manufacturer's recommended capacity.

Personal Floatation Devices—All vessels must be equipped with US Coast Guard approved life jackets, one for every passenger. Children under 12 years of age must wear a life jacket at all times. Any person riding a PWC, regardless of age, must wear a life jacket at all times.

Spotters—Any vessel pulling either a skier, tuber, wake boarder etc. must have on board, in addition to the operator, an observer specifically charged with watching out for the person being towed. This spotter must be at least 10 years of age.

Courtesy - Help Everyone Enjoy the Lake

It is important that we all exercise common courtesy when operating a vessel on Song Lake. Try and stay as far away as possible from a stationary fishing boat or any non-powered vessel such as kayaks, row boats, canoes and sail boats. Reduce your wake for it can capsize them. Try not to run your vessel in one area for too long a period of time as not to annoy your neighbors. Try and keep your wake to a minimum as this will protect our shoreline from erosion. Be careful of swimmers – keep your distance, and cut your speed and wake as they are very vulnerable. If we all follow just a few simple guidelines, we can all enjoy Song Lake in a safe and courteous manner.

Avoid Accidents: All boats should sail in the same direction. The shoreline should be on your right.

ENJOY OUR WONDERFUL SONG LAKE!

NYS Boater's Guide at http://www.nysparks.com/boating/docs/boaters_guide.pdf

Phosphorus — What's all the fuss?

In nature, phosphorus usually exists as a phosphate molecule. It can be organic or inorganic. Even a small amount of excess phosphorus can greatly impact the balance of a water-body. In excess amounts, it stimulates plant growth and algae blooms. The decomposition of these plants then reduces the available oxygen needed by fish and other aquatic life, causing stress, disease, suffocation and death. Excess plant growth and algae can impair the look of the lake as well as creating unpleasant odors and taste. In Song Lake, the potentially toxic blue-green algae thrive on phosphorus.

What are the Sources of Phosphorus?

Human activity contributes a significant amount. Poorly maintained septic systems (human waste), detergents, cleaners, fertilizers, runoff, yard waste, erosion, pet and livestock waste, can all contribute excess phosphorus.

What can we do?

- Read labels carefully and **avoid products containing phosphates**. Not all products labeled biodegradable are free of phosphates.
- Fertilize responsibly and use only **zero-phosphate fertilizer**, unless a soil test shows the need. Fertilize only in fall and never during wet weather. Never fertilize near drains or waterways.
- Create healthy lawns and buffer zones. Plant the correct grass mixes and Dutch clover. A low maintenance lawn will stabilize soils; **reduce erosion**, and slow runoff while filtering pollution. Consider a natural landscape that will prevent erosion using native plants along your shoreline.
- **Maintain your septic system**. Wastewater contains not only phosphorus but bacteria. Septic systems that are not properly inspected, pumped and maintained, can seriously contaminate our lake.
- Manage yard and pet wastes. Compost leaves, and allows grass clippings to remain in the lawn to provide a natural fertilizer.

Look for the "0" in the Middle

