

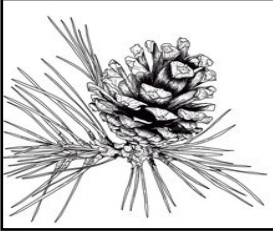
# The Northwoods News

Lake Luzerne

New York



Spring 2024



**The Northwoods News** is a publication of the  
**Northwoods Association**  
2 Tall Pines Dr.  
Lake Luzerne, NY 12846

Our mission is to maintain, enhance, preserve, improve and protect any property of the Association for the benefit and recreation of its members.

#### NWA Officers

Rose O'Boyle, President

Jerry Artale, Vice President

Cathie Wall, Secretary

Bill Fitchett, Treasurer

#### Board of Directors

Robert Comba

Sharon Herlihy

Don Kline

Neil Rotman

Lauren Scutari

Visit our website at [NorthwoodsAssociation.com](http://NorthwoodsAssociation.com)



Aerial view of Forest Lake, Lake Allure and Lake Vanare. Photo by Jason Trackey

## Welcome New Members

We look forward to meeting you! A great first opportunity to do that is the July 6<sup>th</sup> General Membership meeting, followed by the annual NWA picnic that afternoon. You are encouraged to become an active member of our community by attending General Membership meetings. They are important opportunities for you to understand what is being done to improve/maintain our beautiful community, and to be able to ask questions and voice your opinions in a relaxed atmosphere. There will be other opportunities to meet your neighbors and make new friends that we hope you'll be able to take advantage of as well (see the NWA Calendar in this newsletter).

The Northwoods Membership Committee strives to greet each new member and provide beach and boat passes as well as trail maps and other useful information. We hope you have had a chance to explore and enjoy our beautiful beaches and woodland trails. If you have not done so, please send us your name, address, email and phone number. We do our best to keep the members informed of upcoming events and valuable information. There will be times when we call for the help of volunteers to maintain our properties and plan events. Contact Lauren Scutari [lscutari@hotmail.com](mailto:lscutari@hotmail.com) or Cathie Wall [cmwall28@aol.com](mailto:cmwall28@aol.com) and we can keep you informed.  
Hope to see you on the 6<sup>th</sup>!

# Northwoods Update

**NWA Elections** – Annual elections were held at the September 2023 General Membership meeting. Anne Reed decided not to run for a fourth term and her position was filled by Robert Comba. Anne has worked tirelessly during her seven years on the Northwoods Board. As chair of the membership committee, she welcomed new neighbors with information, beach passes and home-made treats. Anne will continue to coordinate the volunteers who keep the beach landscaped. We have always been able to rely on Anne to get things done. She will be hard to replace but Robert is already stepping up to the task. He and his wife Christine have been members for a few years, and are helping to support the Northwoods. The Board welcomes Robert and we look forward to working with him.

**Woodlands** – The marking of trails with new metal trail markers was completed in record time by Mike and Megan Goldfuss, Jeff and Jennifer Hedden and Neil Rotman. “Happy Trails” to all hikers and don’t forget your trail map. It can be downloaded from our website at [www.NorthwoodsAssociation.com](http://www.NorthwoodsAssociation.com).



A little more logging was done this winter although the weather was not very cooperative. Loggers like to work on frozen ground, so the skidded logs don’t tear it up. The Northwoods is very appreciative of the Bennett family for allowing access through their property and for being a wealth of information and assistance to our For-ester.

**Beaches** – You may have noticed the beach erosion caused by stormwater running off the road during heavy rains. We worked with Warren County Soil and Water



Conservation District for remediations. They have come up with a plan to divert the flow of water toward the grassy area and safely into the lake. WCSWCD are also providing grant money for materials. With the help of volunteers to do the work, the improvements will be made at little or no cost to the Northwoods.

**Aquatic Plant Survey** - We are long overdue for an Aquatic Plant Survey and have contracted Larry Eichler to do one this summer. The survey will identify each plant species and its relative abundance, as well as any invasive species that may have made their way into the lakes. Mr. Eichler will also be surveying Lake Vanare, Fourth Lake and Lake Luzerne, giving us a clear picture of the aquatic vegetation in our entire watershed. This is the first time such a comprehensive survey has been done and will provide a much broader picture of the aquatic environment.

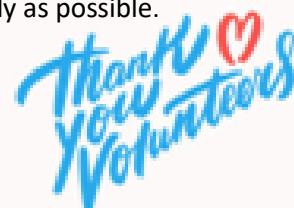


**Spring Cleanup** – did not go well this year as so many people were busy that weekend. Thankfully several volunteers have found time to work on their own and have cleared much of the debris on the main spillway. Lake Allure remains to be done. Volunteers are greatly appreciated!

**Boaters** – Thank you for your cooperation in getting boats off the lake for the winter. You are welcome to bring them back to the lake for the summer. Please clean, drain, dry, dock it so that people can get around it easily and keep boats inverted so they don’t fill with rain-water and become a breeding ground for mosquitos.

**Tax District** – We are finally beginning to make progress toward restoring our tax district. It will allow us to work with the Town of Lake Luzerne to access funding for the very necessary and costly dam repairs. Although we don’t expect to do the repairs until the fall of 2025, we have completed step one of a long process. We are asking for your support of the tax district and the repairs to the dam.

**Volunteers** – Thank you to the volunteers who work year round to keep our spillways clear of branches and debris. During the cold winter months the beavers work all night to block the flow of water with branches and mud. The volunteers work all day to remove the debris. With each storm, branches and even entire trees fall into the lake and pieces flow down to the spillway adding to the mess. Please do your part by removing trees and limbs from the water as quickly as possible.







## 2024 Calendar of Events

**Spring Clean-up**

*May 18 @ 9:00 am*

**Spring Board Meeting**

*May 19 @ 3:00 pm*

**Summer Board Meeting**

*June 29 @ 3:00 pm*

**General Membership Meeting**

*July 6 @ 10:00 am - beach*

**Annual Picnic**

*July 6 @ 2:00 pm - beach*

**Fall Board Meeting**

*TBA*

**General Membership Meeting**

*August 31 @ 10:00 am - beach*

**Holiday Party**

*TBA*

**Thank you to the many who have paid their Northwoods Dues for 2024.**

If you haven't paid yet, please remit \$250 to "Northwoods Association, Inc".

Mail checks to:

Bill Fitchett – Treasurer

2 Tall Pines Drive

Lake Luzerne, NY 12846



## **All Are Welcome**

### **Annual Northwoods Picnic**

**July 6, 2024 at 2pm**

**\$5 for adults 16 and over.**

***Fun and games for young and old***

***Meet old friends and make new ones***

Burgers, dogs, soft drinks and water provided.

Please bring a salad, dessert or special treat to share.

You will be reimbursed for the expense of cooking a tray of sausage & peppers, chicken, pulled pork, London broil and other entrees.

### **Fishing is great in the Northwoods**



It can reduce stress & anxiety, improve concentration & patience and boost self esteem.

### **Planning a Party this Summer?**

Think about having your party under the tent on the Northwoods beach. The tent is up all summer with several picnic tables, a charcoal grill, fire pit and outhouse available for your use. Your guests can enjoy the use of the lake and there is plenty of parking. All you need to do is reserve your date with Rose O'Boyle at [wboyle@roadrunner.com](mailto:wboyle@roadrunner.com). We ask that you

leave the grounds the way you found them and that you will be responsible for your guests' behavior and safety.



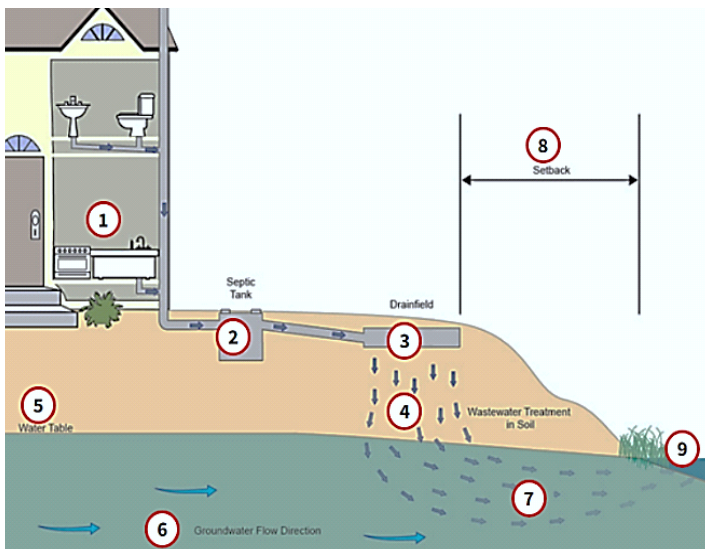
## How often do you think about your septic system?

Probably not much unless a problem arises; then thoughts of costly repairs and inspections weigh on your mind until all is well again. However, there is much less anxiety in deliberately thinking about preventive maintenance before a problem arises.

The 2024 NYSFOLA (New York State Federation of Lake Associations) annual conference featured two sessions that provided us with good information on septic systems; one largely on positives of prevention while the other was more about remediation. Following is a synopsis.

Forest Lake and Lake Allure are in good shape right **NOW**. We know this because the lake water is monitored throughout each summer. Why is there a need for concern then? Because it is critical that we **KEEP** our lakes and those downstream of us in good shape. The adage “an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure” applies.

What do septic systems have to do with that? The following information is taken from the US EPA’s “Septic Systems and Surface Water”.



- ① Bathrooms and Kitchens
- ② Septic Tank
- ③ Drain Field
- ④ Wastewater Treatment in Soil (chemical substances leached by the action of water passing through the soil)
- ⑤ Water Table
- ⑥ Ground Water
- ⑦ Nutrients in Surface Water (nitrogen, phosphorus)
- ⑧ Setback Distance
- ⑨ Streams, Lakes & Coastal Waters (surface waters)

When there are too many nutrients in surface water, they function as a fertilizer for fast-growing bacteria and algae. This rapid growth can cause algal blooms that can reduce water quality, kill aquatic animals and plants, and form toxins in the water. This process is called eutrophication. Harmful algal blooms (HABs) in lakes and streams can be toxic to humans and animals.

### Phosphorus:

Depending on your soil type, phosphorus from wastewater can be absorbed and retained in the soil. Unabsorbed phosphorus can travel in groundwater toward a water body and become a source of contamination.

### Nitrogen:

Some nitrogen may be removed as wastewater flows through the septic system and soil. But the remaining nitrogen can enter the underlying groundwater and flow towards a surface water body. If there are many septic systems in a small area, the nitrogen flowing through groundwater could overload a water body, causing eutrophication.

According to the US EPS, any septic system within 300 feet of a lake, stream or wetland is a source of nitrogen/phosphorus leading... potential for excessive growth of algae and plants. How can we as homeowners prevent problems? By following these EPA recommendations.

### Septic Tank

- Inspect and pump out once **every three to five years**

### Drain Field

- Annually inspect.
- Keep your car and anything heavier than your lawnmower off your drainfield.
- Plant trees away from the drainfield since tree roots can clog the field and cause the system to fail.
- Keep excess water from irrigation, significant rainfall, or drains off the drainfield

## Septic Tank & Drain Field

- Know where the components of your system are located.
- If you discover any of these warning signs, call a septic system service immediately.
  - Wastewater backing up or gurgling into household drains.
  - A strong odor around the septic tank or drainfield.
  - Bright green, spongy grass appearing on the drainfield.

## Bathrooms & Kitchens

- Conserve water (stagger use of water-based appliances among residents and guests).
- Be careful of flushing the following items down the drain.
  - paper towels, feminine hygiene products, condoms, latex gloves, cotton swabs, cigarettes, dental floss, etc.
  - water conditioner residuals
  - paint or other hazardous materials
  - kitty litter
- Don't install or operate garbage disposals and limit dumping kitchen grease/waste down drain.
- Avoid using caustic drain cleaners.
- Don't use bacterial additives. EPA does not make recommendations on individual septic system products. Commercially available microbiological and enzyme additives are promoted to reduce sludge and scum accumulation in septic tanks. However, these additives are not necessary for a septic system to function properly when treating domestic wastewater. Use caution when using additives in your septic system as they may decrease the performance of septic drainfields, which treat the wastewater from the septic tank. In general, do not use additives made of organic solvents or strong alkali chemicals because they pose a potential threat to soil structure and groundwater.

There is a wealth of information on the EPA website ([www.epa.gov/septic](http://www.epa.gov/septic)); the link has been added to the Northwoods website ([www.northwoods.com](http://www.northwoods.com)) for your convenience. Within the SepticSmart section of the EPA's website there are Quick Tips as well as informative brochures for homeowners that contain more material than this short article. They offer flyers that can be posted in rental properties for our tenants' education.

Take advantage of these resources for the health of your private property and for the shared property of the Northwoods Association.

## CLEAN DRAIN DRY



For canoes, boards, rafts, kayaks, rowboats, paddleboats, inflatables, sculls, and other non-motorized recreational watercraft:

**CLEAN** off visible aquatic plants, animals, and mud from watercraft, gear, paddles, floats, ropes, anchors, dip nets, and trailer before leaving water access. **Scrub** hull using a stiff brush. **Rinse** watercraft, trailer and equipment with high pressure hot water, when possible.

**DRAIN** water from watercraft, sponges, bailers, and water containing devices before leaving water access.

**DRY** everything five days or more, unless otherwise required by local or state laws, when moving between waters to kill small species not easily seen OR wipe with a towel before reuse.

*Dispose of unwanted bait, fish parts, and packing materials, in the trash; **do not dump them in the water or on land.***

Together the three steps of **CLEAN** - **DRAIN** - **DRY** greatly minimizes the risk of spreading Aquatic Hitchhikers into new locations.

### **REPORT NEW SIGHTINGS.**

If you think you have found an invasive species, note its exact location and, if possible, take a photo. Report new sightings to the appropriate authorities or use the USGS Sighting Report Form.

*More information available at:*

[Stopaquatichitchhikers.org](http://Stopaquatichitchhikers.org)



Northwoods Association, Inc.  
16 Commons Lane  
Lake Luzerne, NY 12846

## Forest Bathing is great in the Northwoods



Spending time in a forest can boost health and lower stress.