



THE FUND *for* LAKE GEORGE



NEWS RELEASE

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Town of Lake George Passes New Law Banning Use of Fertilizers Containing Phosphorus

New law is a model for other communities around the lake.

Law takes effect on September 1, 2010.

Lake George – The FUND for Lake George and Lake George Waterkeeper applaud the action last night by the Town of Lake George to pass a new law that bans the use of fertilizers that contain phosphorus. This law is modeled after many other communities in New York, including Westchester County, and statewide bans by Maine, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. This new law is the first of its kind in the Lake George watershed.

“Hats off to Supervisor Frank McCoy and the Town Board for taking this bold step. Lake George today receives triple the level of phosphorus above natural loading due to land use actions, such as using fertilizers and stormwater runoff” said Peter Bauer, Executive Director of the FUND of Lake George. “Laws that ban phosphorus based fertilizers have been found to be one of the most effective, efficient and cheapest ways to protect water quality.”

“Throughout the Adirondack Park and the Lake George watershed, fertilizers are not needed. We have hundreds of beautiful native plants that grow well in local conditions and do not need fertilizers, pesticides and watering” said Kathy Bozony, Natural Resource Specialist with the Lake George Waterkeeper. “It’s important to note that much of the fertilizer applied to lawns around Lake George are washed into the lake with each rainstorm.”

The Lake George Village Bay area at the southern most point of Lake George has been found through long-term research to be the most polluted on the lake. This part of the lake is the most highly developed and has the highest rates of nutrient (including phosphorus) and pollutant loading to the lake. The result is frequent algal blooms as well as the annual creation of an

oxygen deprived hypoxic area, commonly referred to as a dead zone, that forms in the southern basin in late summer each year.

The Lake George Waterkeeper's Algae Awareness Project has documented a significant increase in algal blooms. These are tied to property management decisions, including heavy use of fertilizers and pesticides.

The FUND and Waterkeeper have published a series of Lake George FACT SHEETS that include lists of native trees, plants and shrubs, information about the hazards of fertilizers and pesticide use, among many other issues. These are available at www.fundforlakegeorge.org and www.lakegeorgewaterkeeper.org.

The FUND for Lake George

The FUND for Lake George is a not-for-profit, privately funded organization dedicated to the protection of Lake George. Formed in 1980, the FUND takes a science-based approach to the protection of Lake George water quality and the overall health of the Lake George watershed. The FUND pursues this mission through support for long-term scientific research on the lake, launching new initiatives, advocacy for new protections, and partnerships with other organizations and local governments. The FUND is the sponsor of the Lake George Waterkeeper, among other programs on Lake George. The FUND for Lake George is managed by a Board of Trustees and maintains an office in Lake George. See www.fundforlakegeorge.org.

The Lake George Waterkeeper

The Lake George Waterkeeper was launched in 2002 with a mission to defend the natural trust public resources of Lake George and its basin, which provides for the common good of the community and the watershed. The Lake George Waterkeeper is a resource for concerned citizens in the Lake George Basin who are concerned about land use and water quality. The Waterkeeper responds to all public inquiries and acts as an ombudsman with respect to issues having an environmental impact on Lake George and its watershed. The Waterkeeper monitors and intervenes in development proposals around Lake George and provides professional analysis by a licensed engineer to local and state regulatory agencies. The Lake George Waterkeeper (www.lakegeorgewaterkeeper.org) is a program of the FUND for Lake George. The Lake George Waterkeeper is a member of the Waterkeeper Alliance, which represents over 180 water bodies nationally and internationally.

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