



THE FUND *for* LAKE GEORGE



NEWS RELEASE

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FUND and Waterkeeper Release New Publication: *Do-It-Yourself Water Quality: A Landowner's Guide to the Property Management that Protects Lake George*

Guide details ways that property owners can minimize their impacts to water quality through excellent property management.

60-page, large-format color publication includes over 25 specially made educational illustrations and charts.

Lake George – The FUND for Lake George and Lake George Waterkeeper have released *Do-It-Yourself Water Quality: A Landowner's Guide to Property Management that Protects Lake George*. This guide provides important information about the impacts of land use and property management on the water quality of Lake George. This is a large format color publication with over 25 specially created educational illustrations.

Whether lands are on a hillside, in a hamlet area, or along the lakeside, the way properties are managed impacts the water quality of Lake George. *Do-It-Yourself Water Quality* details the best ways to limit impacts to Lake George. From decisions about how and where to site a house, the hazards of fertilizer and pesticide use, improving stormwater control with rain gardens, creating or expanding a shoreline or stream buffer, septic system design and maintenance, to the protection of shoreline wetlands, there are many actions that a landowner can do to protect the lake.

“The beauty of *Do-It-Yourself Water Quality* is that landowners do not need to wait for new state or local regulations. There are a variety of actions any landowner can undertake to protect the water quality of Lake George or any other waterbody” said Peter Bauer, Executive Director of the FUND for Lake George. “Lake George is the most important economic asset in Warren County and the southern Adirondacks. Its protection and stewardship is vital to the long-term

future of this area. *Do-It-Yourself Water Quality* is a guide to stewardship of the lake that local governments, the state, and private property owners can all practice.” The sections of *Do-It-Yourself Water Quality* include:

- How Your Property Impacts Lake George
- Plan Your Site Carefully
- Build a Rain Garden
- Carefully Site and Maintain Your Septic System
- Create or Expand a Shoreline Buffer
- Create or Expand a Stream Buffer
- Protect Wetlands
- Minimize the Size of Grass Lawns
- Stop Using Fertilizers and Pesticides
- Grow Native Species, Stop Invasive Species
- Preservation Options for Landowners
- Native Plant Species Index
- Sources
- Do-It-Yourself Water Quality Assessment

“*Do-It-Yourself Water Quality* provides a detailed description of how land use activities impact the Lake George watershed through disturbance and clearing and explains the importance of such natural features as soils and vegetation for water quality protection. There is so much we can do to improve water quality through simple actions, such as the installation of rain gardens to lawn care maintenance. This information is beneficial to everyone whether you live on the lake or in the uplands” said Chris Navitsky, the Lake George Waterkeeper.

The FUND and Waterkeeper started research on this project in 2007 when it contracted with an environmental consulting firm to research linkages between development and land use impacts. The extensive “Sources” section includes a number of scholarly and professional articles and publications about minimizing water quality impacts.

“How we manage our property is a choice that we make. Properties around Lake George can be managed to have a minimal impact or major impact on the lake. Unfortunately, too many properties are adversely impacting the lake. The result is that land uses around the lake are causing a slow, steady decline of water quality. It’s possible for landowners to manage properties and landscape their yards in ways that minimize negative impacts. *Do-It-Yourself Water Quality* shows how this is done” said Kathy Bozony, Natural Resource Specialist of the Lake George Waterkeeper.

“Lake George's exceptional water quality is a result of a relatively small watershed with an incredible natural filtration process that consists of uneven topography, intact soils and mature vegetation. As land use and development occur, our goal is to maintain these natural processes, do as little as possible to disrupt them, and when they are disrupted to do so in a way that mimics natural processes. *Do-It-Yourself Water Quality* provides the information needed for the preservation of Lake George's exceptional water quality and shows the important role that private landowners play in the lake’s stewardship” said Chris Navitsky.

Do-It-Yourself Water Quality Public Workshops

Do-It-Yourself Water Quality is a complete guide for excellent property management that helps protect water quality. This publication is being accompanied by a series of public workshops where copies of the guide will be distributed. The initial public workshops will be held:

July 12th at 7PM at the Bolton Town Hall
July 14th at 7 PM at the Harris Bay Yacht Club
July 19th at 7PM at the North Queensbury Fire House
July 21st at 7PM at the Lake George Town Hall
July 22nd at 7PM at the Ticonderoga Town Hall
July 26th at 7PM at the Hague Town Hall
July 28th at 7PM at the Huletts Landing Fire House
August 4th at 7PM at the Silver Bay Conference Center
August 18th at 7PM at Wiawawka, Lake George

Copies are available at the office of the FUND for Lake George in Lake George, NY, or by request. For more information about the *Do-It-Yourself Water Quality* campaign go to the websites listed below or contact the FUND/Waterkeeper office; www.fundforlakegeorge.org, 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 190 water bodies nationally and internationally.

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