



Save The River River Watch

Your Membership Matters

Save The River Calls for Delayed Opening of Seaway

By John Peach, Executive Director and Upper St. Lawrence Riverkeeper®

As this spring 2020 River Watch heads to press, Save The River has continued to call upon authorities to delay the spring opening of the shipping season until the beginning of the Ottawa River freshet to allow the International Lake Ontario St. Lawrence River Board (ILOSRLB) to drain more water out of the system. All indicators from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and reports from the Great Lakes point to another high water year due to five years of the highest recorded precipitation in history. We remain very concerned about the effects of another extreme high water year on our River businesses, residences, and the marinas that support the boating industry.

However, there is some good news on water levels. Save The River sent out this announcement of a delayed Seaway opening on February 26:

“Save The River applauds the Seaway’s announcement that the opening of shipping season will be postponed until April 1. We understand they were previously considering a date between March 20-25. [Click here](#) to read an article from the Brockville Recorder and Times preceding the Seaway’s announcement. While this delay validates Save The River’s water level advocacy, we will continue to pressure the Seaway to further delay the opening until mid-April or the beginning of the Ottawa River freshet. This will allow for the highest possible outflow rates and bring more relief to shoreline owners. We will persist in stressing to the IJC the importance of an early completion and publication of the GLAM committee recommendations, as well as the need to keep outflow rates as high as possible to lower the extreme high water levels caused by years of record precipitation throughout the Great Lakes.

This delay of the opening is a beneficial step for shoreline and business owners along the River and Lake Ontario. We want to thank you again for your support of Save The River. Your support makes it possible for us to complete our mission to restore, preserve, and protect the Upper St. Lawrence River now and for generations to come through advocacy, education, and research”.

Following closely upon the announcement to delay the Seaway opening until April 1, the IJC put them on notice via memo that the ILOSRLB plans the following “If, at the end of March, Lake Ontario water levels and inflows to the lake indicate the need for extraordinary action, and if conditions in the St. Lawrence River provide an opportunity for increased outflows, the IJC has directed the Board to maximize outflows from Lake Ontario over the period April 1 to April 15.”

The full body of the memo reads:

“The International Joint Commission (IJC) announced today that it supports the strategy of its International Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River Board (Board) to set maximum Lake Ontario outflows until March 31, before the start of the navigation season on April 1.

If, at the end of March, Lake Ontario water levels and inflows to the lake indicate the need for extraordinary action, and if conditions in the St. Lawrence River provide an opportunity for increased outflows, the IJC has directed the Board to maximize outflows from Lake Ontario over the period April 1 to April 15. Under such conditions, all interested parties would be provided with advance notice of any outflow increases that might create unsafe conditions for commercial navigation.

(continued on page 3)

Protecting the St. Lawrence River through advocacy, education and research.



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Save The River's Mission • Vision • Values

Mission

Save The River is a nonprofit, environmental organization whose mission is to restore, preserve and protect the ecological integrity of the Upper St. Lawrence River now and for generations to come.

Vision

Save The River envisions a healthy Upper St. Lawrence River that provides safe drinking water, is home to a thriving range of indigenous species and supports sustainable economic activity.

Values

The River is a commons to be nurtured and passed on undiminished for future generations to share.

Heidi Blackwell

Save The River / Upper St. Lawrence Riverkeeper

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Waterkeeper Alliance, the largest & fastest growing

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preserves & protects water by connecting local organizations worldwide. Our goal is swimmable, drinkable & fishable water everywhere. Today, Waterkeeper Alliance is made up of over 300 Waterkeeper Organizations & Affiliates protecting rivers, lakes & coastal waterways on six continents.



New Office Addition

This magnificent Great Blue Heron now graces Save The River's front door. The heron and refit of the door are the creation of 1000 Islands artist Doug Drumm. The idea of creating this special door came during an afternoon get together at Doug's beautiful River cottage, which is filled with his very special sculpture and art.

Doug is self-taught and works in several different mediums, mostly wood and driftwood. He also works in ceramic, steel, and copper. His creations include unique furniture, carvings, and sculpture.

Doug's work can be seen on Facebook at [Doug Drumm Creations](#) and at the Bay House Artisans and Dark Island Distillery. His website is dougdrummcollections.com. He can be reached at (315) 447-8430 to set up an appointment to see his wonderful creations.



(continued from front cover)

The IJC notes that it is working with the governments of Canada and the United States and all interests, including the Seaway, with the intent of releasing as much water as possible from Lake Ontario as conditions allow. IJC Commissioners commend the Seaway corporations for the collaborative efforts that resulted in the maximum outflow strategy through March 31.

The IJC recognizes that the potential Lake Ontario outflow strategy for April 1 to April 15 is designed as a response to unforeseen and exceptional conditions on Lake Ontario that would require extraordinary action. Implementation of the strategy could be affected by such factors as unfavorable ice conditions in the St. Lawrence River or downstream flooding.

The probability that the Board would have to resort to such action is currently relatively low but will be better known closer to the end of March.”

Since spring of 2019, Save The River has proactively met and advocated with members of the IJC, ILOSLRB, members of Congress, representatives of the Senate, members of the NYS legislation, and the Seaway urging them to take action that would lower the Lake and River levels when the opportunity exists to do so without causing further downstream flooding. Dozens of letters, meetings with authorities and elected officials, letters to editors, interviews and articles with news agencies have been held during the last year. After receiving no response from our proposal to either pattern shipping or close the 2019 season early, Save The River wrote to authorities to call for a delayed opening this spring.

When we heard that an obstacle to a delayed opening was that employment at the Port of Oswego and its surrounding manufacturers would be hurt because aluminum ingots would not get to Oswego in time, Save The River proposed shipment of those aluminum ingots by rail - as has been done in the past. That suggestion apparently fell on deaf ears.

While we wait to see what, if any, further action the Seaway will take to help alleviate the high water, we are hearing that there is progress being made analyzing the survey results sent to the Great Lakes Adaptive Management Committee (GLAM). This is the adaptive management review process that was built into Plan 2014 to allow for review and modification of the plan. Save The River has been calling for an accelerated review process since our 2019 meeting with IJC commissioners in Clayton. While there appears to be concern for the plight of those of us living and working on the shoreline, I do not get the sense that elected officials want to take on the shipping industry.

Governor Cuomo's REDI funds are starting to be allocated to shoreline businesses, and will be a help to rescue some of those facilities that have been most hurt by the high water. But longer term solutions are going to be needed as the extreme weather events caused by climate change are predicted to continue. Resilient shoreline programs, both large and small, are a good start. If you have not already done so, please take a few minutes to listen to the live feed of this winter's WEC presentation by [Barbara King](#) of Watersheds Canada. They have a program that is up and running that can advise shoreline owners on creation of natural shorelines that will help to alleviate the effects of flooding.

Another solution that must be considered is the creation of a basin wide program to buy back flood prone properties. Programs similar to this are already in place along the Gulf Coast and other shorelines. This will be an expensive proposition, and may have to be paid for in part by the shipping industry since they currently refuse to help riparians who are paying such a high price for damages caused by the high water. There has to be a sharing of the burdens on a common waterway, and the riparians have paid too much with no help from shipping or hydro power.

Our countries are facing a health and economic crisis the likes of which we have seldom seen. We need to keep the extreme water level situation in perspective, as we rally together to beat the Covid19 emergencies. Save The River will continue to advocate for lowering the water levels, while we all take care of our families, loved ones, and friends.

In closing, as we all look ahead to the time when we can return to the River and launch our boats, we need to remember to “Mind your wake.” Boating courtesy, which most of us were taught by our parents, will be especially important this summer. And this year especially, please support all our local businesses. They need our business more than ever. They are the backbone of our River communities!



Photo by Jeff Hannah

The Dan Tack Annual Muskie Catch and Release Tournament

The creation of Save The River's The Dan Tack Annual Muskie Catch and Release Tournament was announced in November 2019, by Jeff Garnsey, president of the Save The River's Board of Directors and vice-president of the Thousand Island Museum and Muskie Museum.

Named in honor of Dan Tack, a long-time seasonal Thousand Islands resident and supporter of many North Country nonprofits, the St. Lawrence River-based tournament will run from now on, for the entire Muskellunge Season (the third Saturday of June through December 15). Muskie are the apex predators in the St. Lawrence River, and the Thousand Islands were once world-renowned for its Muskie fishery. The angler with the winning entry will receive a plaque and have his or her name placed on the custom-designed tournament plaque to be housed at Save The River.

Additionally, Save The River announced changes to their long-running [Muskie Catch and Release Program](#) with the goal of giving more anglers the opportunity to be rewarded for successfully catching and releasing a Muskie.

To enter the Dan Tack Annual Muskie Catch and Release Tournament, anglers must successfully catch and release a Muskie on the St. Lawrence River and submit a record of the event by completing Save The River's Muskellunge Release Affidavit along with a photograph of their catch (a photograph is required for entry into The Dan Tack Tournament but is not required for the general Muskellunge Release Award).



Josh Garnsey with Dan Tack



2019 tournament winner John Powers on board Finlander holding the winning 58" Muskie.

Every angler who catches, measures, photographs, and successfully releases a Muskie will be eligible to enter the tournament. The winner of the tournament will be the person who catches and releases the largest fish of the season. Participants will have 30 days after the December 15 close of the season to report their catch.

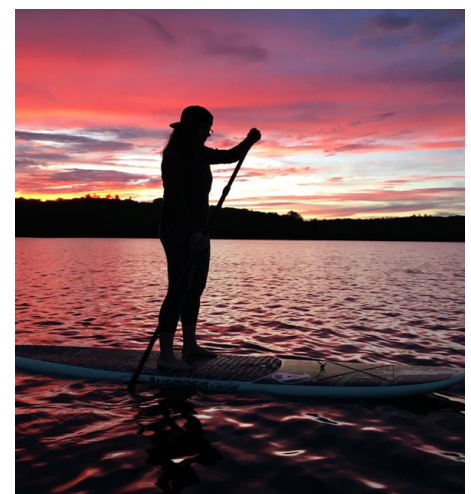
In an effort to reward more anglers, Save The River has made the following change to the long-running Muskellunge Release Award program: all anglers who catch and release a Muskie of any size (previously limited to legal size catches only) are eligible to receive a limited edition 16" x 20" print by renowned St. Lawrence River artist, Michael Ringer. The print, titled Sovereign, is available exclusively through Save The River's Muskellunge Release Award program and cannot be purchased. To receive a Muskellunge Release Award, anglers must complete and submit the Muskellunge Release Affidavit.

Summer Raffle Preview

We will be offering a Bass Pro paddleboard for our 2020 Summer Raffle. Tickets will be available soon. Raffle tickets will be mailed to Save The River members in the coming weeks and can also be purchased by contacting us at info@savetheriver.org. Tickets will be available for purchase: one ticket for \$5 or five tickets for \$22. The drawing date is still to be decided.



Thank you to Bass Pro Shops of Utica for continuing to sponsor and donate to our Summer Raffle. We encourage our River Watch readers to support businesses that support Save The River: visit Bass Pro Shops at 710 Horatio Street, Utica, NY.



31st Annual Winter Environmental Conference

153 members of the River community came together at the 1000 Islands Harbor Hotel on Saturday, February 1, for Save The River's 31st annual Winter Environmental Conference. Program attendees had the opportunity to hear from and engage with a diverse group of speakers discussing a variety of topics related to the environmental health of the St. Lawrence River.

Executive Director, John Peach, opened the conference with a review of Save The River's programs and threats facing the River. During his talk, he called on conference attendees to sign a petition backing Governor Cuomo's proposed legislation to ban polystyrene takeout food containers and packaging fill material made of polystyrene. Peach said "As part of our *Replace Single-Use Plastics* program, we are urging everyone to get behind this very important piece of environmental legislation that will help rid the River of microplastics."

[Barbara King](#), Executive Director of Watersheds Canada, kicked off the conference with tips and tools for engaging property owners to work towards long-term shoreline health. King discussed Watersheds Canada's Natural Edge Program, a program to design natural and resilient shorelines using native plants and materials for sustainable, environmentally friendly beaches. Replacing bulkheads and riprap seawalls with natural materials will aid in ground water retention and encourage native species to return to the shoreline. Watersheds Canada is planning to make "toolkits" of their shoreline design process available to landowners and environmental organizations.



Andrew Reeves signing copies of his book "Overrun: Dispatches from the Asian Carp Crisis"

[Andrew Reeves](#), award-winning environmental writer and the author of **Overrun: Dispatches from the Asian Carp Crisis**, presented on the definitive history of this invasive species in North America. Reeves' research of Asian carp dispels the often repeated story that the Asian carp crisis began when they broke out into the southern rivers due to a flood of an aquaculture project. His work led him to discover that Asian carp were distributed by federal, state, and university backed programs to farmers, water districts, and others attempting to control weeds and aquatic plant life. They quickly spread through middle American waterways and are today swimming towards the Great Lakes.

Save The River's executive director, John Peach, says "I highly recommend Overrun to anyone living near the St. Lawrence River or Great Lakes as a very readable and highly informative discussion on the multi-generational threat of Asian carp. If they ever get into the Great Lakes, it could be the end of the fisheries as we know them in these waters."

Save The River has been advocating for years for the construction of the Brandon Road project to block the forward progress of Asian carp towards the Great Lakes. We plan to reach out to our members and followers to ask them to urge their Congressional Representatives to fund the project in the 2020 WRDA bill."

Save The River's Program Manager, [Patricia Shulenburg](#), presented on the current status of Save The River's educational programs. Shulenburg provided an update based on 2019 and upcoming 2020 plans. Since the beginning of Save The River's On the Water and In the Schools eleven years ago, over 11,000 North Country community K-12 students have been educated using curricula developed to teach about the St. Lawrence River environment. Several students who have participated in Save The River's education programs talked to the attendees about their experiences. Save The River thanked Fresh Sound Foundation for providing funding for In the Schools and On the Water since their inception many years ago.

Following the lunch break, Mr. Peach presented the Friend of the River Award™ honoring Ann Ward for her longtime contributions to protect the St. Lawrence River. Peach said "Ann Ward first came to the St. Lawrence River over 70 years ago with her beloved husband Sherman. Ann has been a member of Save The River's Board of Directors since its very early years, serving in many



Ella Harrington, Dakota West and Grace Harrington presenting about Save The River's In-The-Schools Program

(continued on page 6)

...31st Annual Winter Environmental Conference

roles including Board President, Chairwoman of the Education Committee and an engaged member of each of our committees. Ann is relied upon as a greatly respected Board parliamentarian and active volunteer. She always encourages strong discussion on issues in meetings and often serves as the editor of important Save The River written statements.”

[Dr. Andrew Gronewold, P.E.](#), Associate Professor with the School for Environment and Sustainability (SEAS) at the University of Michigan, presented on his research of understanding Great Lakes water level variability. Dr. Gronewold conducts research through a range of hydrological science projects that explore methods for quantifying and communicating uncertainties arising within long-term hydrological monitoring networks and data and incorporating those uncertainties into models and risk-based water resources management decisions. His recent research has focused on monitoring, analyzing, and forecasting the long-term water budget and water levels of the Great Lakes. Dr. Gronewold was joined for a Q&A session by ILOSLRB member Tom Brown. Dr. Gronewold’s research has determined that over the last five years the Great Lakes basin has experienced the highest amount of precipitation on record and is the cause for the current high-water years that we are experiencing on the River and Lake Ontario. He expects that we will see more years of high water due to the continued high levels of precipitation caused by climate change.



Dr. Andrew Gronewold, P.E.

A key point made by Dr. Gronewold is that there is a very real need for a seamless or joint (Canadian & US) weather forecasting system that would allow meteorologists to do better forecasting across the Great Lakes basin. Save The River asked all attendees to sign petitions to Governor Cuomo and Ontario’s Premier Ford to take action to delay the 2020 opening of the Seaway to allow the ILOSLRB to remove as much water as possible from the system prior to the start of the Ottawa River freshet.

[Dr. Nina Schoch](#), Executive Director for Adirondack Center for Loon Conservation, presented her findings on how climate change is affecting the loon population. Dr. Schoch discussed the health of the Adirondack and St. Lawrence River loons, and that many of their shoreline nesting areas have been destroyed by the recent years’ highwaters caused by record precipitation. She is also concerned by the effects that climate change is having on loons, as the icing over of lakes and the River have changed the migratory patterns of these beloved water birds. Dr. Schoch informed the audience that increased predation by the resurgent population of bald eagles is now being seen throughout the Adirondack area.

[Rob Hoehn](#), former Save The River intern and CEO of IdeaScale, spoke about climate change and suggested action ideas for Northern New York. His charts and slides on the effects of carbon-based power generation and petroleum-based cars and trucks were very sobering to the conference attendees. Rob talked about his own experience with an electric car and educated the conference about the rapid changeover that is happening in the electric utility industry as it converts to solar and wind projects.

Rob offered the following suggestions to all of the conference participants

“A few things you can do to take action on climate change:

1. Join a local group such as Save The River, allinthesameboat.green, or Thousand Islands Land Trust (TILT).
2. Invite your local community to action with a blog post, op-ed, or social media post.
3. Caucus with your party this election season and make climate change a priority.
4. Make a plan with the organizations you are a part of to go carbon neutral.”

[John Farrell, Ph.D., SUNY ESF](#) professor and director of the Thousand Islands Biological Station (TIBS), discussed his work on Muskellunge population revitalization on the St. Lawrence River. He talked about the history of Muskie fishing in the 1000 Islands, and how overfishing was a major factor in the depletion of this apex predator of the River. He informed those in attendance that the introduction of invasive species, including zebra mussels and round goby, through ship ballast water exchange may have contributed to the VHS virus that killed so many mature St. Lawrence River Muskie a few years ago. Dr. Farrell credited Save The River’s Muskie Catch and Release Program with helping his research program gather statistics on the health of the River population of these magnificent fish. His slides and charts of the population catch throughout the past few decades informed the conference attendees about the size limits of the fish, and the catches of juvenile fish in his research nets in the River. He also showed slides about their work at TIBS to hatch and release native Muskie back into the 1000 Islands waters. As part of Dr. Farrell’s presentation, Anna Conklyn, a Ph.D. candidate at SUNY ESF studying under Dr. Farrell, gave a brief presentation on her doctoral research on Muskie.

After the featured speakers concluded, Save The River Board President, Jeff Garnsey, presented the 2019 winner of The Dan Tack Annual Muskie Catch & Release Tournament Award to John Powers, who caught and released a 58" Muskie on Captain Chuck Constantino's Finlander on November 2, 2019 near 40 Acres Shoal. This new award is part of Save The River's on-going Muskie Catch & Release Program to highlight and protect the muskie population on the St. Lawrence River, named in honor of Dan Tack - a longtime supporter of Save The River.

"Preparations for the winter conference begin during the previous February, so for months we have been anticipating bringing these speakers to the River to share their vast knowledge. Throughout the day we heard positive feedback about the quality of the outstanding speakers and their presentations," said John Peach, Upper St. Lawrence Riverkeeper and Save The River Executive Director. "We are proud to put together this important event and showcase an array of River-related topics from creating resilient shorelines, Asian carp, causes of rising water levels in the Great Lakes, climate change and its effect on loons and the River, and a path to revitalization of muskies. Also, the update on Save The River's In the Schools and On the Waters education programs funded since their beginnings by the Fresh Sound Foundation, now entering their 12th years, was very interesting to our audience."

For the second year, Save The River was able to offer a live stream feed of the entire conference. Working with Steve Weed Productions, the speakers were able to reach an even wider audience. All presentations can be viewed on [Save The River's YouTube channel](#).

Next year's Winter Environmental Conference will be held on Saturday, January 30, 2021.

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Spring Raffle - Hand Carved Bass

Save The River is proud to offer this magnificent smallmouth bass carved by 1000 Islands master carver Glenn Sweet of [Thousand Islands Decoy Company](#). The bass itself is carved from local butternut, the driftwood stand was picked up on Cedar Island, and the luster on the base of local oak comes from three coats of tung oil. Glenn mixed the stain for the bass himself, and coated the finished product with a slightly tinted urethane. Glenn began carving at age 10 under the tutelage of his grandfather, Ed Sweet, who was a lightkeeper at several 1000 Islands region lighthouses including Crossover Island and Tibbetts Point. Glenn Sweet's carvings are highly valued by collectors and he is excited to be able to support Save The River's work to restore, preserve, and protect the St. Lawrence River through the donation of this beautiful carving.



Purchase your raffle tickets to win this beautiful bass carving – the winner will be drawn on July 15, 2020!

One ticket for \$5 or five tickets for \$22. Contact us at info@savetheriver.org to purchase your tickets.

[Tickets can be purchased online here.](#) Please make sure to include your phone number to be notified if you win.

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The annual donor report is updated as of March 24, 2020. If you have any questions about the status of your membership or contribution, please contact Bridget Wright, Development Director at bridget@savetheriver.org or by calling (315) 686-2010.

Fall Non-Gala

Last fall we bid farewell to another summer on the St. Lawrence River and invited you to join us in a "toast to summer".

This fundraiser was sponsored by Cerow Agency Inc. / Audie & Laura Cerow and a total of \$4,760 was raised.



Exclusive 2020 Raffle for Save The River Members

Save The River /Upper St. Lawrence Riverkeeper is proud to present an exclusive raffle for our membership. You have the chance to win a set of four inflatable life jackets (two Bass Pro Shops A/M 24 and two Bass Pro Shops Inflatable PFD Deluxe by Mustang Survival), generously donated by Bass Pro Shops of Utica, NY. These modern PFDs are a lightweight and comfortable way to remain safe while boating all year round.



This four pack raffle prize has a value of over \$500!

How do I enter the raffle?

Current Save The River members: When you renew your membership between November 1, 2019 and November 1, 2020, increase your annual giving amount by at least \$50 and you will be entered into the raffle. Example: if your current membership is \$25/year, increase to \$75 to enter the raffle.

New Save The River members: When you become a new member between November 1, 2019 and November 1, 2020, start your new membership giving amount at \$50 or above and you will be entered into the raffle.

What if I would like to purchase additional chances in the raffle? After receiving your first chance in the raffle (either through a \$50+ increase in membership or a \$50+ new membership), you can purchase additional chances at \$50/entry.

The winner will be drawn on Monday, November 2, 2020.

Good luck and thank you for your support!

Tern Colony Shelters

By James McGarry

For ten years I have been tending tern colonies as part of Save The River's [tern restoration program](#). The problems that such colonies face are numerous, and in many cases there is little that wildlife management volunteers can do. Still we try.

Our attempts to deal with issues like avian predation by owls and falcons, and thermal related deaths in chicks have led us to the development and field testing of a ground nesting shelter. The results have been excellent. The shelter provides indoor space for chicks to escape a blistering sun or a marauding owl. And the outdoor shade under each wing of the shelter is a popular spot for terns to lay their eggs.

When we visit the colonies to take census data we always have to lift each shelter and count the chicks within. They are popular hideouts when the chicks perceive danger.

Over the years our tern program has come to the attention of Cornell University's Laboratory of Ornithology. Last summer they contacted us and requested permission to publish [plans for building our ground nest tern shelter](#) on their website. It must have taken me three-tenths of a second to say yes.

As of this date the construction plans for our tern shelter have been downloaded from the [Lab of Ornithology website](#) more than 200 times! It's nice to think that our tern program is having a beneficial impact beyond our own geography.



Tern shelters on Navcell 180

2020 Events Schedule

[Drivers of St. Lawrence River and Great Lakes Water Level Variability](#) - Dr. Andrew Gronewold, P.E. • Wednesday, July 8, doors open at 6:30pm/talk begins at 7pm

Clayton Opera House • Clayton, NY

[Click here to learn about sponsoship opportunities.](#)

[18th Annual Run for the River™ 5K/10K](#) • Saturday, July 25* Virtual Event

Virtual Run

Due to continued concerns regarding the COVID-19 virus, Save The River has decided to change the format of the 18th Annual Run for the River™ 5K/10K to a virtual run. Development Director, [Bridget Wright](#), is working hard to provide more information for this updated event. Details will be made available on our [Run for the River webpage](#).

Volunteer Appreciation Event • Thursday, August 13, 5 -7pm

Rift Camp • Wellesley Island, NY

Staff and board directors honor Save The River's dedicated corps of volunteers.

Annual Membership Meeting • Thursday, August 27, 4pm

Save The River • Clayton, NY

Save The River members are invited to attend the Annual Membership Meeting to vote for the election of Save The River Directors, receive a report on the organization's finances, and consider any other matters that may come before the meeting.



2019 Volunteer of the Year Janet Burrows, with Program Manager Patricia Shulenburg at the 2019 Save The River Volunteer Appreciation Party

From the Riverkeeper

Welcome from The River. The ice has disappeared, and my favorite winter ducks are returning. Whistlers, old squaw, mergansers, and other cold-weather ducks are in the open water. The whistling sound made by American Goldeneye is one of my favorite River sounds of the early winter and spring.

Save The River's 2020 Winter Environmental Conference (WEC) was a great success; details of the conference can be found [here](#). Since WEC, there have been several examples of subsequent benefits from hosting such a robust conference:

Lawrence Gunther, of Blue Fish Radio and a previous WEC speaker, heard John Farrell's excellent presentation on Muskies through our WEC live feed and immediately contacted me about setting up an interview with John.



John Peach, Riverkeeper & Executive Director

Interest created by hearing Barbara King's presentation on Watersheds Canada's program on natural shorelines has created a working group of several interested agencies to explore bringing this program over to the U.S. side of the River. Peter Annin, last year's WEC keynote speaker and author of "Great Lakes Water Wars", had this op-ed piece published in February 13, 2020 NY Times: "Along the Great Lakes, It's Time to Prepare for Extremes". Following right on the heels of Dr. Drew Gronewold's presentation "Understanding Drivers of Great Lakes Water Level Variability" at this year's WEC, Peter's excellent piece informed thousands of readers about the change in the Great Lakes' climate after five years of record precipitation. Also, "Thousand Islands Life", the magnificent online magazine of the 1000 Islands edited and published by former Save The River Board member Susie Smith, published an article on Muskie fishing and the Dan Tack Annual Muskie Catch and Release Tournament.

Save The River owes a huge thank you to the visionaries who started WEC 32 years ago! The educational conference is paying large dividends as more and more people use the content and view it online and our newly revised website.

We are very proud to see the results of our website overhaul which was the culmination of a lot of work by Outreach Coordinator, Margaret Hummel, and local consultant Christopher Bogenschutz. We were well aware of the limitations of our antiquated website and were very fortunate to receive a grant from the Leonard C. & Mildred F. Ferguson Foundation to update the website. The new site went live this winter, and bringing it up to speed has been and will be an ongoing project. Our website can be viewed at savetheriver.org to see any new and current information. Having an active online presence complements our traditional methods of communicating with our membership.

Due to continued concerns regarding the COVID-19 virus, Save The River has decided to change the format of the 18th Annual Run for the River™ 5K/10K to a virtual run.

Save The River's goal in continuing this event as a virtual 5K/10K event is to give our runners and walkers a way to keep their run/walk goals and remain part of a great event and important fundraiser. Our utmost concern is for the health and safety of our participants and community members, making a virtual run an ideal platform to engage in the fun at a safe distance.

Save The River's annual Run for the River is the organization's largest fundraiser allowing the proceeds to provide funding for our advocacy and educational programs. We hope you will consider joining our virtual run or making a donation to Save The River to help us to continue to achieve our mission.

Interns - Save The River traditionally hires several summer interns. However, with the Covid19 virus closing down most New York businesses, we have put the hiring of those interns on hold.

Going into the summer season, Save The River has many opportunities for volunteers to help with our mission to restore, preserve, and protect the Upper St. Lawrence River now and for generations to come. We need shoal marking volunteers willing to adopt one or more shoal markers and splash and retrieve them in the spring and fall. It is a wonderful generational sharing opportunity to spend time on the River working on these markers with your children. Patricia, our Program Manager, is always looking for volunteers to assist her with class trips on tour boats as part of our "On the Water" educational programs. There will be shoreline cleanup opportunities as the summer develops - watch the website and social media for announcements of those events.

I look forward to seeing you soon on the River.

John Peach



Yes! I want to support Save The River

RWS2020

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Advocate	_____	\$100
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Steward	_____	\$500
River Partner	_____	\$1,000
River Patron	_____	\$2,500
River Defender	_____	\$5,000+
Other	_____	_____

Give monthly and receive a set of two etched rocks glasses, exclusively available to **River Guide** members
\$20 monthly minimum contribution



As a **River Guide**, your membership is an on-going, monthly payment of an amount of your choosing (minimum of \$20) charged to your credit card.

Become a "River Guide"

- Your gift is a dependable source of support for Save The River throughout the year & is a convenient way to plan your donations in your personal budget
- Your gift will appear each month on your credit card
- You will not receive phone or direct mail solicitations from us
- Your donation goes where it is most need
- You can change your gift at any time by contacting us

____ Sounds great, sign me up!

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Address: _____

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Payment - Enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____

Check _____ Cash _____ Credit Card _____

Credit Card #: _____

Exp. Date (MM/YY): _____ CVV#: _____

3-digit code

Return this form to: Save The River 409 Riverside Drive Clayton, NY 13624

Contributions can also be made online at: savetheriver.org/donate