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PROTECT and Adirondack Watershed Institute at Paul Smith's College complete 15th Year in 2012 of lake water quality testing on 69 lakes and ponds

Adirondack Lake Assessment Program (ALAP) is the largest water quality monitoring program in the Adirondack Park

2012 marked the 15th year of this successful partnership and program

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Protect the Adirondacks and the Adirondack Watershed Institute at Paul Smith's College have completed the 15th year of the Adirondack Lake Assessment Program (ALAP). In 2012, volunteers gathered samples in 69 lakes and ponds across the Adirondack Park were enrolled where volunteers gathered samples. The Adirondack Lake Assessment Program (ALAP) is a "citizen science" water quality monitoring project. PROTECT organizes volunteers across the Adirondack Park, mostly lake associations or individuals, who are trained in a scientific protocol for water quality testing. Analysis of samples, annual reports, and interpretation are managed by the Adirondack Watershed Institute (AWI) at Paul Smith's College.

Established in 1998, ALAP is one of the largest, most professional, volunteer driven water quality monitoring programs in New York. The goal of ALAP is to build many long-term scientific databases for lakes and ponds across the Adirondack Park so that water quality trends can be analyzed. This data is vital to landowners, residents, local governments, businesses and Park managers.

"A secondary goal of ALAP is too educate these citizen volunteers in Adirondack water quality issues. Many of these volunteers are board members for lake associations and other organizations. They will be better able to make informed decisions regarding Adirondack waters after experiencing first hand collection of water samples and yearly education and training" said Professor Michael DeAngelo with the Adirondack Watershed Institute.

"Adirondack waters are vital to the local economy, define the Adirondack experience for many people, and grealty contribute to the high quality of life in the Park, yet we know very little about the overall state of the water quality of most Adirondack lakes and ponds. ALAP is one tool to try and gather good data and bring this information to public use" said Peter Bauer, PROTECT Executive Director.

ALAP volunteers collect water samples for their lakes for 3-month or 5-month periods at roughly the same point each month. From these samples thirteen total measurements are analyzed. Volunteers also measure the transparency of their lake with a Secchi disk, collect a bottle of water to be analyzed for various chemical components, and filter a small sample of water for chlorophyll. The filter and water sample are kept frozen until they are transported to the laboratory at Paul Smith's College. Training for water quality measurement and sample collection by volunteers is provided by PROTECT or AWI prior to the start of their monitoring program.

"As a long-time sampler, I realize the dedication it takes to follow the scientific protocols which result in the ability to catch unhealthy trends in the lake or pond you really care about. Rising salt or phosphorus levels, for example, can only be noted and stopped if you have at least five years of data. Our volunteers are wonderfully dependable in their sampling efforts year after year with only minimal input from us and AWI after the original training," said Evelyn Greene, also a PROTECT BOARD member and ALAP Coordinator.

"Healthy, pristine lake ecosystems are precious. The data that is generated through ALAP provides concrete evidence for groups like PROTECT to advocate for practices that will keep Adirondack waters clean" said Nancy Bernstein, PROTECT Board Member and an ALAP Coordinator.

In 2012, 3-months of sampling (June thru August) at one station in a lake costs $140 and 5-months of sampling (May thru September) costs $220. Testing kits cost $250, but only need to be purchased once or can be shared with another monitor. Kits consist of a Secchi disk to measure water transparency, an integrated sampler and bottles for collecting samples for phosphorus, and filtering apparatus and bottles for chlorophyll-a samples. Annual sample bottles and filters are distributed by PROTECT every spring. In the past both PROTECT and AWI have received grants to provide free kits to volunteers and lake associations.
ALAP tests for the following 13 water quality parameters:

- PH
- ALKALINITY
- CALCIUM
- CALICITE SATURATION INDEX
- TOTAL PHOSPHORUS
- CHLOROPHYLL-A
- SECCHI DISK
- NITRATE
- CHLORIDE
- CONDUCTIVITY
- COLOR
- ALUMINUM
- DISSOLVED OXYGEN

For more information on the Adirondack Lakes Assessment Program (ALAP), contact PROTECT or AWI.

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Protect the Adirondacks
Adirondack Watersheds Institute

Adirondack Lakes Assessment Program (ALAP)

Number	Lake	Town	County
1	Fern Lake	Black Brook	Clinton
2	Silver Lake	Black Brook	Clinton
3	Upper Chateaugay Lake	Dannemora	Clinton
4	Arbutus Lake	Newcomb	Essex
5	Augur Lake	Chesterfield	Essex
6	Balfour Lake	Minerva	Essex
7	Catlin Lake	Newcomb	Essex
8	Chapel Pond	Keene	Essex
9	Deer Lake	Newcomb	Essex
10	Long Pond	Willsboro	Essex
11	Hewitt Pond	Minerva	Essex
12	Rich Lake	Newcomb	Essex
13	Upper Cascade Lake	North Elba	Essex
14	Wolf Lake	Newcomb	Essex
15	Amber Lake	Hopkinton	Franklin
16	Hoel Pond	Santa Clara	Franklin
17	Indian Lake	Bellmont	Franklin
18	Jordan Lake	Hopkinton	Franklin
19	Kiwassa Lake	Harrietstown	Franklin
20	Lake Colby	Harrietstown	Franklin
21	Lake Titus	Malone	Franklin
22	Loon Lake	Franklin	Franklin
23	Lower Chateaugay Lake	Bellmont	Franklin
24	Lower Saranac Lake	Harrietstown	Franklin
25	Lower St. Regis Lake	Brighton	Franklin
26	Middle Saranac Lake	Harrietstown	Franklin
27	Mountain View Lake	Bellmont	Franklin
28	Osgood Pond	Brighton	Franklin
29	Otter Lake	Hopkinton	Franklin
30	Spitfire Lake	Brighton/Harrietstown	Franklin
31	Stony Creek Ponds	Harrietstown	Franklin
32	Upper St. Regis Lake	Brighton/Harrietstown	Franklin
33	Simon Pond	Tupper Lake	Franklin
34	Tupper Lake	Tupper Lake	Franklin
35	Canada Lake	Caroga	Fulton
36	Pine Lake	Caroga	Fulton
37	Blue Mountain Lake	Indian Lake	Hamilton
38	Brandreth Lake	Long Lake	Hamilton
39	Eagle Lake	Indian Lake	Hamilton
40	Indian Lake	Indian Lake	Hamilton
41	Lake Abanakee	Indian Lake	Hamilton
42	Lake Adirondack	Indian Lake	Hamilton
43	Lake Durant	Indian Lake	Hamilton
44	Raquette Lake	Long Lake	Hamilton
45	Upper Dug Mountain Pond	Lake Pleasant	Hamilton

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Adirondack Lakes Assessment Program (ALAP)

Number	Lake	Town	County
46	Big Moose Lake	Webb	Herkimer
47	Easka (Okara)	Webb	Herkimer
48	Moss Lake	Webb	Herkimer
49	Tekeni (Okara)	Webb	Herkimer
50	Twitchell Lake	Webb	Herkimer
51	Lake of the Pines	Greig	Lewis
52	Pleasant Lake	Greig	Lewis
53	Little Long Lake	Forestport	Oneida
54	White Lake	Forestport	Oneida
55	Lake Ozonia	Hopkinton	St Lawrence
56	Cranberry Lake	Clifton	St. Lawrence
57	Gull Pond	Piercefield	St. Lawrence
58	Star Lake	Fine	St. Lawrence
59	Sylvia Lake	Fowler	St. Lawrence
60	Austin Pond	Johnsburg	Warren
61	Eli Pond	Chester	Warren
62	Garnet Lake	Johnsburg	Warren
63	Lens Lake	Stony Creek	Warren
64	Oven Mountain Pond	Johnsburg	Warren
65	Sherman Lake	Horicon	Warren
66	Snowshoe Pond	Johnsburg	Warren
67	Thirteenth Lake	Johnsburg	Warren
68	Tripp Lake	Warrensburg	Warren
69	Trout Lake	Bolton	Warren