



PRESS RELEASE

July 26, 2018

**PROTECT organizes Canoe-In for Motorless Weller Pond
On August 18, 2018 at 10 AM**

Floating demonstration will call for Weller Pond and Little Weller Pond to be managed as motorless areas. These ponds are just 2% of Saranac Lake Chain.

Canoe-In for Motorless Weller Pond is part of 20-year commemoration of Canoe-In for Wilderness at Little Tupper Lake on August 15, 1998

For more information:

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Protect the Adirondacks is hosting a Canoe-In for Motorless Waters on Weller Pond on Saturday, August 18, 2018. PROTECT is aiming to get 100 canoes and kayaks in a flotilla of protest calling for state action to make Weller Pond and Little Weller Pond motorless waters. The protest will start at 10 AM.

“Weller Pond and Little Weller Pond should be managed by the State of New York as a quiet waters area, made off-limits to motorized watercraft and only accessible by non-motorized vessels. These ponds should be managed by state agencies as a quiet and beautiful refuge and respite among the heavily motorized and extremely popular Saranac Lakes Chain,” said Peter Bauer, executive director of Protect the Adirondacks.

“We urge anyone who loves quiet, wild and peaceful waters to join in this protest flotilla and add your voice to the call for more motorless waters. This event is free and open to the public. For many people paddling their canoe into a serene and wild place is what the Adirondacks is all about. This Canoe-In will be fun and powerful,” said Peter Bauer.

It’s important that people who plan to attend register online at <http://www.protectadks.org/2018/07/join-the-canoe-in-for-a-motorless-weller-pond-on-august-18th/>

It’s important that event organizers know the number of people and total number of boats that plan to participate. Also contact us about boat rentals in the area.

Protect the Adirondacks!
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There are many reasons why the Weller Ponds should be a new motorless area.

1. The Weller Ponds would be the only motorless refuge on the popular and motorized Saranac Lakes Chain.
2. It would be easy to do. The State of New York owns the entire shoreline areas around both Weller Pond and Little Weller Pond. The state owns the lands around the navigable channel that connects these ponds to Middle Saranac Lake. The state has the authority to close these ponds to motorized boat traffic; it simply needs the will to do so.
3. Across the Saranac Lakes Chain, from Lake Flower to the Saranac River to Upper Saranac Lake, the area totals over 9,000 acres of open waters. Weller Pond and Little Weller Pond are just 190 acres – just 2% of the waters of the Saranac Lakes Chain. Why can't we set aside 2% of these waters as a motorless area?
4. Across the Adirondacks there are relatively few opportunities for motorless waters on large lakes and ponds. It's important to note that most of the major Adirondack lakes are open to all manner of motorized watercraft. A report published by Protect the Adirondacks in 2013 [The Myth of Quiet, Motor-free Waters in the Adirondack Park](#) found that of the 100 largest lakes in the Adirondacks, from Lake Champlain to Beaver Lake western Adirondacks, 77 are open for all manner of motorized boating and floatplanes, 14 lakes are privately owned and provide no public access, and just 9 are motor-free. Boreas Ponds, number 95 among the Park's biggest lakes, was recently purchased by state agencies and classified as Wilderness to create the 9th large public motorless waterbody. Of the nine motor-free lakes among the Park's top 100, just six are relatively easy to access and motor-free. Just 17 of the biggest 200 lakes are easily accessible and motor-free. The demand is high for motor-free experiences, but the supply is low. The public deserves greater opportunities for motor-free waters across the Adirondack Park.
5. The administration of a motorless Weller Pond is manageable because there is only one entrance point – the 1,000-foot channel from Middle Saranac Lake. A sign stating that no motorboats are allowed could be placed at the entrance to the channel and a short distance into the channel. The DEC campsite reservation system could be changed to state that the lean-to and three campsites on Weller Pond are available only for non-motorized watercraft. DEC could also advertise the motorless state on its website.

“Wild places grow more scarce with each passing year. The Adirondack Park offers great opportunities for hiking in wild places, where the longer one hikes the more remote the country one can access, but opportunities to do this by boat are limited. For many, canoe or kayak access is how they get to wild places and enjoy Wilderness. Greater opportunities are needed for motorless waters in the Adirondacks and Weller Pond is one such opportunity that must be seized,” said Peter Bauer.

“Join us and sign up to participate in the Canoe-In for Motorless Weller Ponds on

August 18th. Bring your friends and family. This will be an important event in advocacy for wild and quiet places in the Adirondack Park. This giant floating demonstration will be a day of action and a day to remember,” said Peter Bauer.

Canoe-In for Wilderness on Little Tupper Lake in August 1998

On August 15, 1998, the Canoe-In for Wilderness was held on Little Tupper Lake. Over 300 people in over 200 canoes, kayaks, guide-boats, rowboats, and one small sailboat, rallied on the open sloping lawns of the Whitney Headquarters on the shore of Little Tupper Lake and then paddled out onto the lake in a massive flotilla in the Canoe-In for Wilderness at Little Tupper Lake. This event was the biggest environmental rally in a very challenging and divisive time in Adirondack Park history. Those who gathered that day were unabashed in their support for a Wilderness classification for the newly purchased Little Tupper Lake. A number of important motorless waters were created in the years after the Canoe-In at Little Tupper Lake.

The Little Tupper Lake classification spawned a series of new motorless waters across the Adirondacks. The Little Tupper Lake classification marked one of the most active periods in the history of the Adirondack Park for the creation of Wilderness lands and motorless waters. The years after the creation of the William C. Whitney Wilderness Area saw the creation of the Madawaska Flow-Quebec Brook Primitive Area, classification of Henderson Lake as Wilderness, the reclassification of Low’s Lake to Wilderness, classifications of Bog Lake and Clear Pond as Wilderness, and motorless management of Thirteenth Lake, among other wildlands victories. These years also saw the creation of the Round Lake Wilderness Area and expansion of the Five Ponds Wilderness by more than 30,000 acres and near doubling in size of the Pepperbox Wilderness.

Protect the Adirondacks

Protect the Adirondacks, Inc. (PROTECT) is a privately funded, IRS-approved not-for-profit organization dedicated to the protection of the 6-million-acre Adirondack Park in northern New York. PROTECT was formed through the merger of the Association for the Protection of the Adirondacks and the Residents’ Committee to Protect the Adirondacks in 2009. PROTECT pursues its mission to protect the Adirondack Park and defend the public “forever wild” Forest Preserve through citizen advocacy, grassroots organizing, education, research, and legal action. PROTECT is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors of 22 members. PROTECT maintains an office in Johnsbury, NY in the Adirondack Park. For more information see www.protectadks.org.

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