



THE FUND *for* LAKE GEORGE



# NEWS RELEASE

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## FUND and Waterkeeper Release new FACT SHEETS on Use of Fertilizers and Pesticides, Status of Salmon in Lake George

*Use of fertilizers and pesticides pose acute danger to water quality of Lake George and is largely unnecessary throughout the Lake George watershed.*

*Status of Landlocked Atlantic Salmon in Lake George; non-native fish with limited habitat necessary to reproduce, yet coveted by anglers*

*FACT SHEETS are distributed via website download and in central office*

Lake George – The FUND for Lake George and Lake George Waterkeeper today released three new LAKE GEORGE FACT SHEETS, the third batch of a formal new series. These FACT SHEETS provide information on the many issues involved with use of fertilizers as a lawn maintenance practice around Lake George as well as issues involved with use of pesticides, herbicides, and insecticides. A new FACT SHEET also provides information on the status of Landlocked Atlantic Salmon in Lake George.

“When you fertilize your lawn you are also fertilizing aquatic plants and algae in Lake George” said Kathy Bozony, Natural Resource Specialist with the Lake George Waterkeeper. “Large amounts of fertilizers are spread on lawns around Lake George, far beyond what the grass can absorb, and the excess is washed into the lake. When we investigate algae blooms in the water around Lake George we often see a heavily fertilized landscape on shore.” The FUND and Waterkeeper recommend not using fertilizer on lawns within the Lake George watershed. “This area is rich in native species, which are beautiful and at the same time do not require fertilizers and extensive watering” said Bozony.

In addition to fertilizer use, another major issue is use of pesticides, herbicides and insecticides on properties within the Lake George watershed. Many of these chemicals are routinely applied to lawns and gardens around the lake. Large amounts are similarly washed into Lake George with stormwater. “Warning labels state on many lawn care herbicides and pesticides that they should not be used near lakes, streams or wetlands, but these are not usually followed. This is a negative impact on aquatic organisms” said Peter Bauer, Executive Director of the FUND for Lake George. “Good stewardship of Lake George requires that homeowners eliminate or minimize their use of these products.”

“Salmon were introduced to Lake George in the latter part of the 19 century. They are a highly coveted sport fish by anglers because of its large size and how it fights” said Dawn Keppler, Stream Assessment Project Coordinator. “Long-term viability has always been a question because Lake George does not have the stream habitat to support large-scale spawning and the early years of young salmon. The salmon population is largely a result of consistent stocking.”

The new FACT SHEETS will be available at the FUND ([www.fundforlakegeorge.org](http://www.fundforlakegeorge.org)) and Lake George Waterkeeper ([www.lakegeorgewaterkeeper.org](http://www.lakegeorgewaterkeeper.org)) websites via a download, at various locations around Lake George and at the FUND-Waterkeeper office in Lake George. “The FUND and Waterkeeper plan to continue a steady stream of informative FACT SHEETS about an array of issues concerning land stewardship, the ecology of Lake George and surrounding watershed, low impact development practices, among other topics. New FACT SHEETS will be published weekly through the end of 2009 and regularly thereafter” said Peter Bauer Executive Director of the FUND for Lake George.

“The new FACT SHEET series is a response to people around Lake George who have contacted the FUND or Waterkeeper about a variety of issues where they’re looking for basic information to help them manage their property to protect the lake or learn more about a specific issue” said Chris Navitsky, the Lake George Waterkeeper. “We’re now going to publish FACT SHEETS that will provide people with the answers they’re seeking.”

### **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](http://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](http://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.