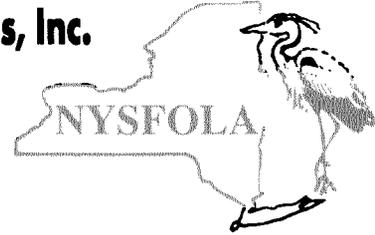


New York State Federation Of Lake Associations, Inc.

2701 Shadyside Drive, P.O. Box 342, Findley Lake, NY 14736

Phone/Fax 1-800-796-FOLA

E-mail: fola@nysfola.org



Eagle Lake Assn.
C/o Rolf Tiedemann
358 Electric Ave.
Rochester, NY 14613

Dear Lake Association,

This letter is to officially inform you that, starting in 2002, the New York Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment (CSLAP) Program will no longer be free to participating members of the NYS Federation of Lake Associations (NYSFOLA). Although we have been able to maintain an adequate funding base to keep CSLAP operating since 1986, there have been a number of recent events which have precipitated the need to begin charging a fee for CSLAP participation. The most significant of these is that the NYS Department of Health (NYSDOH), which has provided analytical services for CSLAP since its inception, can no longer provide these services *gratis* to the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), due to staffing shortages and a shift in laboratory priorities triggered by larger human health issues (West Nile virus, AIDS, etc.). The State of New York is also experiencing other budget woes, in part due to the events of September 11th, which are being felt by all agencies and programs. In short, supplemental funds are required to either pay for additional NYSDOH staff, or utilize these funds to provide similar services at another qualified laboratory.

You may have recently received a letter from the NYSDEC outlining some necessary changes planned for the 2002 CSLAP. Perhaps the most significant of these changes involves a new \$200.00 annual participation fee to be paid by all CSLAP lake associations to defray analytical costs. **This fee is to be paid to NYSFOLA, along with annual membership dues, prior to the start of the sampling season.**

The letter from NYSDEC was not intended to be a solicitation of funds for NYSFOLA since that would not be permitted by state law. Instead, the letter was intended to convey the details of decisions made by the NYSFOLA Board of Directors regarding future implementation of the program, including the need for participating lake associations to pay for analytical services through NYSFOLA. In hindsight, it is clear that this letter should have come directly from the NYSFOLA Board of Directors to its member lake associations rather than from the NYSDEC.

It should be noted that this payment represents only a small portion of the overall annual cost of CSLAP borne by NYSFOLA and the NYSDEC. These fees will also be used as possible matching funds to apply for other state and federal grants to support the program. Funds will be used for NYSFOLA obligations associated with CSLAP, particularly the analytical services contract between NYSFOLA and the laboratory that will provide these services. It should also be mentioned that NYSFOLA will be taking a more active role in the day-to-day operations of CSLAP once again. As you may be aware, Betsy Hohenstein served for many years as the Assistant CSLAP Coordinator for NYSDEC. Betsy has transferred to a new position within the agency, and her vacancy is not likely to be filled within the foreseeable future. I will be assisting Scott Kishbaugh with the program. Specifically, I will be coordinating with the laboratory and

keeping the database (membership and CSLAP) up to date.

We believe that the new fee is still substantially lower than costs incurred by lake associations seeking to conduct comparable monitoring on their own. This income will provide for the continuation of at least biweekly monitoring on a single site as currently used at each sampled lake for at least the usual suite of water quality indicators.

NYSFOLA and the NYSDEC are working vigilantly to be certain that this laboratory arrangement is fully in place by the start of the 2002 CSLAP. This new arrangement will also include an obligation that the laboratory provide results much faster than has been the case in recent years. This will allow a faster turn-around time for the annual interpretive reports to participating lake associations much earlier than in 2001 and previous years.

In the past, we have only allowed lake associations to continue sampling in CSLAP for five years, to be followed by a five year "dormant" period, with this "5 Year On - 5 Year Off" cycle continuing *ad finitum*. We have now decided to allow any lake association to continue uninterrupted participation in CSLAP for as long as desired, as long both the annual participation fee and NYSFOLA membership dues are paid. We will continue to request that lakes participate in CSLAP and be sampled for at least five years, to build a long-term database for each lake and to minimize the short-term-only use of training and equipment resources.

I have attached a copy of the updated NYSFOLA and CSLAP membership form. For existing CSLAP participants, this form can be used to sign up for participation in the 2002 CSLAP. Starting next spring, sampling kits (bottles, renewed supplies, paperwork, etc.) will be provided to all CSLAP lake associations that have paid their \$200 participation fee and their NYSFOLA membership dues to the NYSFOLA office by **March 1st**. Supplies, materials, and other sampling "needs" will NOT be provided until these fees have been paid. We realize that this may be difficult for some lake associations that do not meet until later in the summer, but we hope that all lake associations can utilize the "down time" during the fall, winter, and early spring to determine if they are interested in continuing to participate in CSLAP and to get these payments to NYSFOLA in a timely fashion.

We apologize for the need to change one of the basic tenants and appeals of this program. Please be aware that NYSFOLA and the NYSDEC greatly value your continuing participation in CSLAP, and we will continue to utilize your data and input in evaluating both your lake and the broader regional and statewide issues of concern.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this matter in greater detail, please don't hesitate to contact me at 315-677-9987, or Scott Kishbaugh from the NYSDEC at 518-402-8282. Thank you for your participation in the 2001 CSLAP, and for your continuing support of CSLAP.

Sincerely,



Nancy Mueller, Manager

Cc: George Kelley, Scott Kishbaugh

New York State Federation of Lake Associations, Inc.
www.nysfola.org



2002 Membership Fees- (computed on calendar year)

Lake, Watershed and other Associations;

- Small Association, 10 -74 members \$35.00
- Medium Association, 75-149 members \$75.00
- Large Association, 150 or more members \$150.00
- Park Districts (Town, County etc.) _____ \$200.00
- Individual Membership _____ \$20.00
- Member of Lake Assn. in good standing _____ \$10.00
- Corporate Membership _____ \$200.00
- Student _____ \$10.00

Member Information:- (Please Print or Type)

Lake Association _____

Contact Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____ Lake location (county) _____

The Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP) will generally be available to all New York State Lake Associations that are members of NYSFOLA by March 1, 2002. This new program will be funded by the participating lake, NYSDEC, NYSFOLA, grants and other entities. A complete application is available on the NYSFOLA web page for your use, and must be included with this form. Contact the office for further information if needed.

CSLAP participation _____ \$200.00

CSLAP contact- _____

address _____

City, State, Zip- _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Membership fee \$ _____ CSLAP fee \$ _____ Donation \$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Send payment to;
Phone/fax- 1-800-796-FOLA
E-mail— fola@nysfola.org

NYSFOLA
2701 Shadyside Rd. PO Box 342
Findley Lake, NY 14736