

# —THE LAKE— REPORTER



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Working to protect the water quality and overall environment of the Canandaigua Lake Watershed... with your help.

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2015 CLWA Photo Contest—  
Calling all entries!

## CLWA Annual Appeal: Past, Present, Future

The Annual Appeals of 2013 and 2014 proved to be tremendous successes. We appealed to you for funds to carry out special projects that simple membership donations wouldn't cover. You responded dramatically both in dollars raised and from a high percentage of donors.

The proceeds from the 2014 Annual Appeal were used specifically to cover support of the Watercraft Steward program at two boat launches on the lake, a habitat restoration project near Sucker Brook in the Old Brookside development in the Town of Canandaigua, and the creation of a special fund to assist willing donors of land or conservation easements in the watershed to the Finger Lakes Land Trust with legal and/or survey costs (only the Land Trust can nominate prospective recipients). Our profound thanks to all who donated the \$25,000 raised.

Success breeds success so our expectations and hopes are high for 2015. You can expect to receive a solicitation from CLWA at the end of May. The projects we hope to support in 2015:

- \* *Further invest in the 2015 Aquatic Invasive Species program that includes Watercraft Stewards at the lake's public boat launches, public education, warning signage and disposal boxes at all public and private launch sites.*
- \* *Water quality improvements to Sucker Brook: support remediation efforts in partnership with the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council and other entities to create enhanced wetlands to improve the water quality in the Sucker Brook watershed.*

- \* *Support a program to control the spread of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and Emerald Ash Borer which can decimate, respectively, the hemlocks and ashes of the watershed resulting in increased erosion polluting our waters.*
- \* *Funding for research completion and presentation materials on the joint CLWA / Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council Natural Capital study, which details the ecological services provided by open land, forests and wetlands in the watershed and expresses their value in monetary terms.*
- \* *Support additional research on problems such as: increasing lake surface temperatures, sources of phosphorus pollution, blue-green algae, microbeads, hormone disrupters in water, and other developing issues.*

We have added the Annual Appeal to our solicitations of the CLWA membership because there were simply more projects than membership monies would support. We know you support our goals and hope you will continue to be members of CLWA as well as contributors to the Annual Appeal. We have scheduled the Annual Appeal (May/June) as far away from the Membership Campaign (October/November) as possible to prevent confusion.

We greatly appreciate your support to keep CLWA a strong advocate for the lake and its watershed.

-By Stephen Lewandowski

## President's Message - Spring 2015

Back in the 1950's, when I first learned to fish Canandaigua Lake, there were no motorized personal water craft, no plastic/fiberglass kayaks, no pontoon party boats and very few outboard motors over 25 horsepower. We had flat bottom row boats, beautifully crafted Penn Yan wooden boats, sleek but very noisy Chris-Craft inboard motor boats, canoes (some with transoms and a little outboard motor) and for one summer Donald Campbell's Bluebird. There was no boat launch at Sucker Brook and no 'yellow sea' at the north end of the lake off Roseland and Kershaw Parks. No marker buoys to warn boats away from docks, diving floats, platforms and swimmers. There was relative peace and quiet, even on weekends, except for the three major summer holidays. Sport fishing was a major part of life on the lake with techniques and skills passed from generation to generation.

Dad and I built a little dinghy, an 8 foot Chris-Craft kit, in our basement in Gates. Surprise! We couldn't get it out of the basement! Had to call a contractor to come expand the opening into the outside areaway to get our 'personalized watercraft' out of the basement. It joined the little green rowboat as part of the family fleet. Somewhere along the line we used dad's Kodak bonus to buy a 16 foot aluminum boat with a 5 horsepower Johnson motor from Waldorf's, now Seager Marine, at the City Pier. That was our fishing fleet until the early '60's, when another bonus got us a 25hp Johnson and a pair of water-skis.

We used our little fleet to fish Canandaigua Lake. We trolled, drifted and anchored, depending on whim, wind and weather. We used casting rods, fly rods, spinning rods and pulled copper. We fished shallow and deep, day and night, rain or shine. Once we had the outboard we expanded our range to cover the entire lake. We pulled copper from Meadowview Beach

(across from the water station) to Deep Run Park and back. We dug for worms, went night crawler hunting on area golf courses, put out minnow traps, used a dip net for minnows and, when dad or uncles were buying, we bought soft-shell crabs and bass bugs at Art's bait shop on City Pier. We fished the Hay Mow, Pump Station and Rock Island for bass; Deep Run and the High Banks for trout, walleyes and an occasional salmon; Whiskey Point for trout and bass; Woodville and the mouth of Naples Creek for largemouth bass. We loved to find quiet, undeveloped shoreline to cast bait or lures, under tree limbs, as close to shore as we could, for bass and pan fish.

We took our catch home, cleaned and ate it the same day or froze it 'til later for chowder or a family dinner.

There were always great stories to tell, especially when we stayed out too long and managed to get into the boat hoist just as a giant thunderstorm rolled across the lake from the west. And, of course, the biggest fish always got away, having taken all the line from the reel, still racing for the bottom trailing a new, temporary monofilament tail.

**Share the Memories, Live the Legacy, Do No Harm!**



Tom Zimmerman, CLWA President

Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association

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The Lake Reporter is published quarterly and distributed free to members and supporters. We invite submissions. Please send via postal mail or email to:  
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**Looking to renew your membership?**

Give our office a call, or visit our website to renew via paypal.

## The Land Use Work Group Marches Forward

By Jack Dailey, CLWA Board Member

As reported in our July '14 issue, a work group had been formed to review land use standards for communities around the lake. The group consists of representatives from each of the towns around the lake, Ontario and Yates County planners, the Watershed Council (Kevin Olvany) and members of the CLWA. In addition to reviewing current standards, the group was charged with developing comprehensive guidelines that might be considered by each lakeshore community promoting common values for land use in the watershed. In developing guidelines, the work group seeks to identify the best practice standard by towns in our watershed as well as best practices in similar communities. Towns would be encouraged to adopt these standards as they update their land use regulations.

To date, the working group has concentrated on dimensional requirements of parcels adjacent to the lake. The final draft includes:

- \* Side yard setbacks of 12-15 feet.
- \* Lake front setbacks of 50 feet from the mean high water mark.
- \* Lot coverage for impervious surfaces (structures, walkways, driveways, etc) no greater than 25-35%.
- \* Natural land features such as swales, steep slopes, ponds on the parcel would not be included in measuring the of the parcel.

- \* Construction within 100 feet of a brook or stream would be precluded; the definition of a brook or stream as defined by the DEC would be the guide.
- \* For parcels divided by common private drives or right of ways; 50% coverage on the Lakeside, 25-35% coverage overall with exclusion of the private drive or ROW land area from the calculation of coverage.
- \* No new run-off into the lake caused by the construction of additional impervious surfaces. Such construction would have to include filtration systems providing more natural flow of run-off into the lake.

In the months ahead, the group will be working in the areas of site plan approval, steep slopes, ridgeline development, septic systems and watershed management.

### Why is the work of this group so important?

Over the past years we have witnessed the continual degradation of the lake; whether it be phosphorous run-off from lands around the lake, increased turbidity due to sediment run-off, invasive species, weed growth, mud slides, or loss of aesthetic beauty due to overdevelopment and clearing of natural habitat.

Do YOU want this continue...IF NOT...let your town leaders know the importance of this group's work and the need for your town to consider and adopt the recommendations that are formulated.

## Early Spring Lake Levels

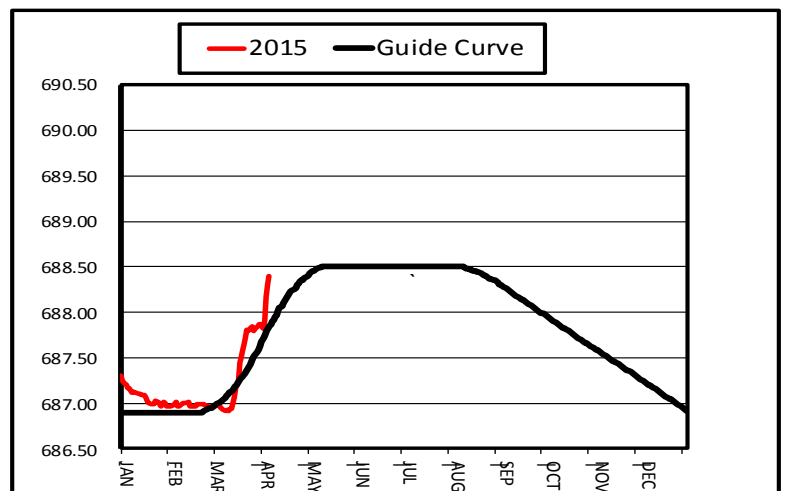
By Stephen Lewandowski

Nothing to complain about! Except the weather...

The lake froze entirely again for the second time in two years though not for as long as last year, a record year.

A few weeks ago, it looked like we might be heading toward a catastrophe with all that snow stored up in the hills, but the advent of spring has been gradual enough, with cold nights interrupting the melt, so that the spring thaw has been gradual and likewise runoff. Undoubtedly a lot of the melt either evaporated or soaked into the ground, replenishing groundwater that's been low for the past few years. It will certainly be one of the latest, and most anticipated, springs ever observed in these parts.

The lake is rising from winter levels but has so far flooded neither in the streams nor at the shore, though on April 4-5 some streams were approaching a "bank full" condition. Today (April 6) the lake is very close to summer levels (688.5 feet above mean sea level).



2015 Canandaigua Lake Levels

With thanks to Will Clark

## Initiative to Further Combat the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species in Canandaigua Lake

*By Al Kraus, CLWA Board Member*

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) are non-native animals and plants that enter into new areas and spread, causing damage to native species and their habitats. Many of these species can attach themselves to watercraft, on hulls, rudders and props. They can also be carried in ballast and bilge water, or as bait or attached to shellfish shells. As watercraft travel from one area to another, such invasive species can be inadvertently transported to new bodies of water where they pose a great threat to existing eco-systems.

- Invasive species cause damage to native species and their habitats, potentially introducing new parasites and diseases, and disrupting food supplies for native species.
- Newly introduced invasive species do not have predators or other aquatic competitors to keep them in check.
- Invasive species often negatively affect many very important quality of life issues, such as the quality of water, property values, agricultural productivity, public utility operations, native fisheries, tourism, outdoor recreation, and the overall health of the affected ecosystem.

Recent studies have shown that the numbers of AIS present in bodies of water in the northeast have substantially increased. They have also shown that human activity such as trade, travel, and tourism have all increased substantially, escalating the speed and volume of invasive species movement from one waterbody to another to unprecedented levels. Data collected in 2014 showed that **about 25 percent of the watercraft launching into Canandaigua Lake came just previously from other bodies of water.** Once aquatic invasive species are introduced into a body of water they are often difficult to detect, very costly and difficult to control, and in some cases, nearly impossible to eradicate.

To address this very dangerous and growing threat the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association (CLWA) is partnering with many other organizations, such as the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council, the Finger Lakes Institute, DEC, and State Parks, to greatly improve our efforts to combat the further spread of AIS in Canandaigua Lake. We also do not want to spread any of the 14 AIS already in the lake to other bodies of water.

### **This initiative concentrates on four main focus areas:**

1. **EDUCATE** everyone on the dangers posed by AIS and how to help combat them.
2. **PLACE SIGNAGE** at all 15 launch sites around the lake to guide individuals through the steps required to inspect and clean watercraft both before launching and after removal from the lake.
3. **PLACE DISPOSAL STATIONS** at all 15 launch sites around the lake; these stations will provide a place to safely get rid of suspected materials and further promote participation in the effort to combat the spread of AIS.
4. **PLACE WATERCRAFT STEWARDS** at the State Launch Site and DEC Launch Site. Stewards will help to inspect watercraft being used in the lake and educate watercraft owners about ways they can help prevent the spread of AIS.

We completed a planning document outlining our initiative during the latter part of 2014 and now we are now trying to collect enough funds to fully implement the program we designed. The total estimated cost of full implementation is \$80,000; thus far we have collected enough funds so we are going to start moving forward to hire six Watercraft Stewards. A seventh Watercraft Steward is being provided by the Finger Lakes Institute. For the first time this will allow us to inspect watercraft at our two largest public launch sites seven days a week and with extra heavy coverage on the weekend and during holidays.

To finance this part of our initiative we are primarily using membership dues and previous Annual Appeal donation, as well as special contributions recently made by several very generous donors to specifically support this initiative: Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council (represents 14 local municipalities), Wegmans, Ontario County Water Resources Council, Canandaigua National Bank, Canandaigua Lake Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Finger Lakes Extrusion, and Jane Parker and Fran Cosentino. Other possible donations and grant requests are pending.

We would also like to take a moment to thank U. S. Representative Reed, State Senator Nozzolio and Assemblyman Kolb, for their support and trying to try to help us to find the funding needed to support this initiative. And if you get a chance, please join us in thanking Assemblyman Kolb for asking the Invasive Species Council and Governor to substantially increase the Invasive Species Funding that comes to the Finger Lakes Region.

Our next goal is to collect the additional funds needed to fully implement the education, signage and disposal station portions of our initiative. Once we implement this very important program in 2015, then our biggest challenge will be to find the funds to sustain this initiative on into the future. It is estimated that it will take about \$65,000 per year to sustain this initiative. This truly is an example of an ounce of prevention being worth a pound of cure. Consequently, if you or your business would like to make a special donation to this particular initiative it would be greatly appreciated (please go to our website at [canandaigualakeassoc.org](http://canandaigualakeassoc.org) to find out how to do make a contribution).

Clean, usable water is an essential element of life and one of our most valuable natural resources. We all need to work together to preserve and protect the great water resources we have here in Canandaigua Lake for future generations. You are our first line of defense against AIS. Please take the time to drain, clean and dry your watercraft before launching and after leaving the water (it is now a law in New York that all watercraft owners exercise these precautions).

**Please spread the word and make sure others in your family and neighborhood fully understand the dangers and know how to help protect our lake.**

## Ace Fisherman: An Interview with Don Beusman

By Stephen Lewandowski

You know that bumper sticker that reads "Fish tremble when they hear my name"? Well, there is such a person. And for the past 58 years he has been trying to empty all the lake trout out of Canandaigua Lake. Sometimes he takes a break to go hunting or fishes another lake.

His name is Don Beusman and he said, "Lord, I've found my place on earth," when he first visited Vine Valley in 1957 to check out the brand new Indian Village Campground owned by the DeVineys. Back in the 50s, Don was a young teacher in Churchville-Chili but originally from Brooklyn. He was trained in local hunting and fishing by several teachers. The primary instructor in local ways was Elnora Fisher who lived to 102 and whose family gave Fisher Gully and Fisher Point their names. Pershing Rolf and Jerry Tyler (on Keuka Lake) also gave young Don lessons.

Elnora Fisher (who as a telephone operator knew everything about the area) found a place for Don and his wife Sue to buy. Seven hundred and seventy square feet with 85 feet of lake frontage for \$1500. She also engineered another land sale that allows the Beusmans a little more room.

There's no such thing as having a "little talk" with Don when it comes to fishing. He participates in the NYS DEC Fishing Diary program, so he keeps close track of his personal record. He teaches fishing to both youngsters and adults. He loves to get

letters back when his students have piscatorial success. He has a wealth of information going all the way back to "the Father of Modern fish Culture, Seth Green" though he didn't know him personally. Don builds his own homemade fishing equipment, whether he intends to ice fish, stream fish or troll (or pull copper) for trout.

Now 80, Don Beusman shows no sign of giving trout a break. He tells a funny story on himself. He'd been having some down time and health treatments in 2014 that were sapping his strength. One day on the way home from a treatment, his wife Sue suggested he might want to try a little stream fishing in Vine Valley Creek (which he remembers was once called Boaters Creek). She thought a little fishing would improve his spirits.

So he cast a line into Vine Valley Creek (over very steep banks where it passes through the trailer park) and low and behold, he hooked into a big trout. In fact, it was too big a trout to safely land and he didn't want to lose it by horsing it. So looking desperately for help, he handed the pole to Sue to keep the line taught and free while he raced back to his house for hip boots. Racing back, he found Sue holding the fort, and the line, and jumped down in the creek, grabbed the fish and threw it flapping wildly up on the bank beside his wife.

Out of eighteen inches of water in the creek, he threw a 10 pound nine ounce rainbow trout.



Don Beusman with his 10 lb rainbow trout  
April 2014

Canandaigua Lake is cold and deep enough to have supported several types of trout. Its waters were avidly fished by the Iroquois who preceded the first white settlers, both from shore with lines, with nets and from boats.

Originally, Canandaigua Lake supported populations of Lake trout (*Salvelinus namaycush*) and Cisco (*Coregoninae* or whitefish). The watershed streams were populated by Brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*). Both species are considered by scientists as Char (*Salmonidae* but slightly structurally different than *Salmo*).

Now, Canandaigua Lake and its tributaries supports introduced Brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) from Germany and Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) from California as well as the native Lake trout. For whatever reason, Lake trout have been experiencing trouble spawning in the lake, and Brook trout are almost gone from the watershed streams.

Lake trout are generally only found in the lake but in different seasons can be fished for in deep water from boats and in shallower water from shore. Rainbow trout spend parts of their lives in the lake and then run to spawn in the spring when they are avidly taken during the Naples Trout Derby. Brown trout spend most of their lives in streams and are often caught there but may occasionally be taken from the lake.

## Thank you for your 2015 Membership Support!

*The Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association is grateful to publish this list of our 2015 CLWA members and business supporters. Your generosity and support makes it possible for CLWA to execute its ongoing mission to preserve, protect, and promote the Canandaigua Lake Watershed for future generations.*

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## *In Memory*

A gift was made in memory of:  
**John Bodwell III**  
From Scott and Michelle Harris

# From the Watershed Education Program

By Beth Altemus



Sharon Radak and Beth Altemus, of the Watershed Education Program

January through March is a busy time of year for the Education Program. We visit the Canandaigua third and fifth grades, Marcus Whitman third grade and Naples grades three through six. Third grade is generally the first year that students begin participating in the program, so we got to meet a whole new class at each school. For most, this will be the first of four years that we will visit them. We introduce third graders to the concept of a watershed through a mapping activity as well as with the EnviroScape Watershed Model. The latter is a wonderful three dimensional visual illustrating how water flows over land, streams, ditches and storm drains to reach the lake, but also how it can pick up pollution from various land uses along the way. Lots of food coloring and cocoa powder make for a dramatic presentation that the kids always love.

Naples fourth graders got to make their own watershed models using freezer paper, markers and spray bottles after watching a short video summarizing the concept of what a watershed is and how it functions. This is a simple but very effective activity that gives them a great hands-on way to see watersheds in action.

For the fifth graders in Naples and Canandaigua we build upon the lessons from prior years with an activity called "Sum of the Parts". After a discussion of land uses and sources of pollution commonly found in the Canandaigua Lake Watershed, students are tasked with "developing" a parcel of waterfront land (represented on a piece of paper) according to one of the major land uses. Students then come together as a group and discover that their lands are pieces of a big puzzle which forms the Canandaigua Lake watershed. A discussion of how their development can impact water quality in the lake follows.

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## From the Membership Committee: Share Membership Opportunities with your Friends!

The Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association has a strong base of supporters and a long history of protecting Canandaigua Lake and its watershed. Because of many complex and escalating challenges to the health of the watershed, we need YOUR support. If you are already a member, consider sharing this newsletter with a neighbor or friend so they can learn more about watershed related issues.

Please choose your tax-deductible level of support.

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 45 Guardian
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 60 Partner
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 100 Lake Leader
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 250 Watershed Steward
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 1000 Benefactor (your gift supports our environmental education efforts)

**Membership year will begin with receipt of your application and extend to December 31, 2015. All information you provide will be used for the sole purpose of communicating with you. We will not share it with others. Mail to: CLWA PO Box 323 Canandaigua, NY 14424**

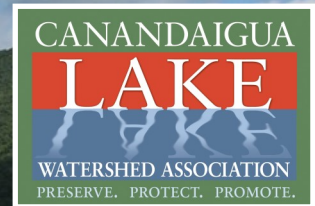
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## From the CLWA Outreach Committee

Join us for our Spring Viewpoints Event:  
Thursday, May 14th 2015



## Current Water Quality Status of Canandaigua Lake

**Presented by:**  
**Kevin Olvany, Watershed Program Manager and Dr. Bruce Gilman, Professor of Horticulture and Conservation, FLCC**

Join us for this informative presentation, which will review the current water quality status of the Canandaigua Lake watershed. Kevin Olvany and Dr. Bruce Gilman will report on long term trend data from almost 20 years of water quality monitoring, and will look at the potential threats to the lake.

They will also cover what steps residents can take to reduce our impact on the lake.

## Event Details

**WHEN:**

Thursday, May 14th, 2015  
6:00 PM

**WHERE:**

City of Canandaigua Department of Public Works Building  
205 Saltonstall Street  
Canandaigua NY 14424

**RSVP:**

(585) 394-5030 or via email:  
info@canandaigualakeassoc.org

**Hope to see you there!**

### Also coming up soon...

**June 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Canandaigua Lake Trout Derby:** The Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association will have members present at the weigh station tents to provide hand out materials related to the threat of various invasive species that would endanger the lake. Of most immediate concern is Hydrilla, an aquatic plant which has already caused a major problem in the Cayuga Lake inlet near Ithaca. Almost everyone has heard of zebra mussels and quagga mussels, but many boaters are unaware of the threat to the Finger Lakes and other bodies of water due to easily transplanted Hydrilla. Even small fragments of Hydrilla which get transported between bodies of water on boats or trailers can result in a new infestation of this rapidly growing plant at a new site. We will be present at both the Woodville and the Canandaigua weigh stations.

**Good luck fishermen and fisherwomen!**



CLWA Student intern Joe Giro assists CLWA Board member Rob Gray at opening day in Naples.



PO Box 323  
Canandaigua, NY 14424

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# Photo Contest

*Show us how you*  
**love**  
the Canandaigua  
Lake Watershed

The contest, sponsored by the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association, is open to amateur photographers with prizes awarded for winners.

Entries will be judged by a panel of professional photographers and friends of CLWA based on degree of creativity and overall aesthetics. Winners will be announced at our August Annual Meeting.

**Entry period is May 1 - July 17, 2015**

Enter on our Facebook page or email Lindsay for an entry form:  
lindsaym@canandaigualakeassoc.org



Pan Olmstead, 2014 Photo Contest