



# THE LAKE REPORTER

## 2017 ANNUAL MEETING

THURSDAY AUGUST 17  
FLCC STAGE 14 AT 6 PM

Light refreshments will be provided.  
A donation of \$5 is suggested. RSVP to  
info@canandaigualakeassoc.org  
or 394-5030.

### The Annual Meeting is a great place to hear more about current initiatives and watershed topics.

Join us for a business meeting with officer elections, reports from the Chair and Treasurer, and award recognitions. Stay for two great presentations that are sure to be of interest to all watershed residents.

#### **Mission of the Finger Lakes Water Hub**

Anthony Prestigiacomio, Research Scientist with the Finger Lakes Water Hub, will introduce us to the group's mission of addressing water quality issues across the Finger Lakes region.

#### **"State of the Lake" Presentation**

Kevin Olvany, Watershed Program Manager (Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council) will deliver the evening's keynote presentation on the current water quality status of the Canandaigua Lake watershed. Kevin will share water quality data looking at long-term trends from the last 20 years of monitoring, and will identify potential threats to the health and overall environment of the lake. Impacts of the area's recent storm events will also be discussed.

We hope you will join us on August 17th to learn more about what your membership dollars help support.

## CITIZEN SCIENCE IN ACTION!

By Nadia Harvieux, CLWA Community Outreach Committee

The Community Outreach Committee has launched three citizen science initiatives for the 2017 summer lake sampling season. With the goal of understanding our lake ecosystem better, CLWA is partnering with local, regional and state water quality experts to train volunteers in collecting a wide range of data about Canandaigua Lake. Volunteers are trained using standardized sampling protocols and contribute high quality, valuable data that the research community can use to better understand the Canandaigua Lake ecosystem. We are very excited about the following initiatives and are extremely appreciative of our volunteers who are participating!

CLWA is partnering with the NYSDEC and New York State Federation of Lake Associations (NYSFOLA) to participate in the Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP). The CSLAP program started in 1985 and currently includes over 250 New York State lakes. The goals of this program are to collect water quality data that will help identify changes in lake ecosystems over time and to educate the public about lake management strategies and water quality issues. This year, there is an increased focus on CSLAP participation in the Finger Lakes Region. CLWA Volunteers Ted Carman and Dee Crofton will be collecting bi-weekly samples from two set monitoring locations from June through September. Samples will be analyzed at a certified lab for a wide range of water quality indicators. The NYSDEC

and NYSFOLA will report the results of the sampling in early 2018. Stay tuned!

The second citizen science program CLWA is participating in is a pilot

project to monitor macrophytes (aquatic plants) in the nearshore environment. With a number of invasive plants threatening to make their way into Canandaigua Lake from nearby waterbodies, it is important to monitor what is (and isn't!) in our lake. Volunteer monitors are trained in the collection and identification of native and invasive aquatic plants and their data will be used to monitor the presence or absence of specific invasive species. CLWA volunteers Saralinda Hooker, Lynn Klotz, Jeff Page and Terry Smith will be this summer's "Invasive Detectors" on Canandaigua Lake. This program is an important initiative of the Finger Lakes Institute and Finger Lakes PRISM to protect our lakes from aquatic invasive species.



Scott Kishbaugh, Chief of the Lake Monitoring and Assessment Section of the NYS DEC trains CSLAP volunteers on sampling protocols.



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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: info@canandaigualakeassoc.org

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Officers:

Wade Sarkis, President  
 Carol Benner, Treasurer  
 Robert McCarthy, Secretary  
 Neil Atkins, President-Elect  
 Tom Zimmerman, Past-President

### Board Members:

Katrina Busch, Ted Carman, Jack Dailey, Cecelia Danahar, Marty DeVinney, Linda Dworaczyk, Rob Gray, Nadia Harvieux, Jodi Kaufman, Al Kraus

### Resource Personnel:

Lindsay McMillan,  
 Administrative Coordinator

### Watershed Educators:

Beth Altemus  
 Becca Jensen

Cover Image:  
 Sarah Wegman, 2016 Photo Contest

## CITIZEN SCIENCE, continued from page 1

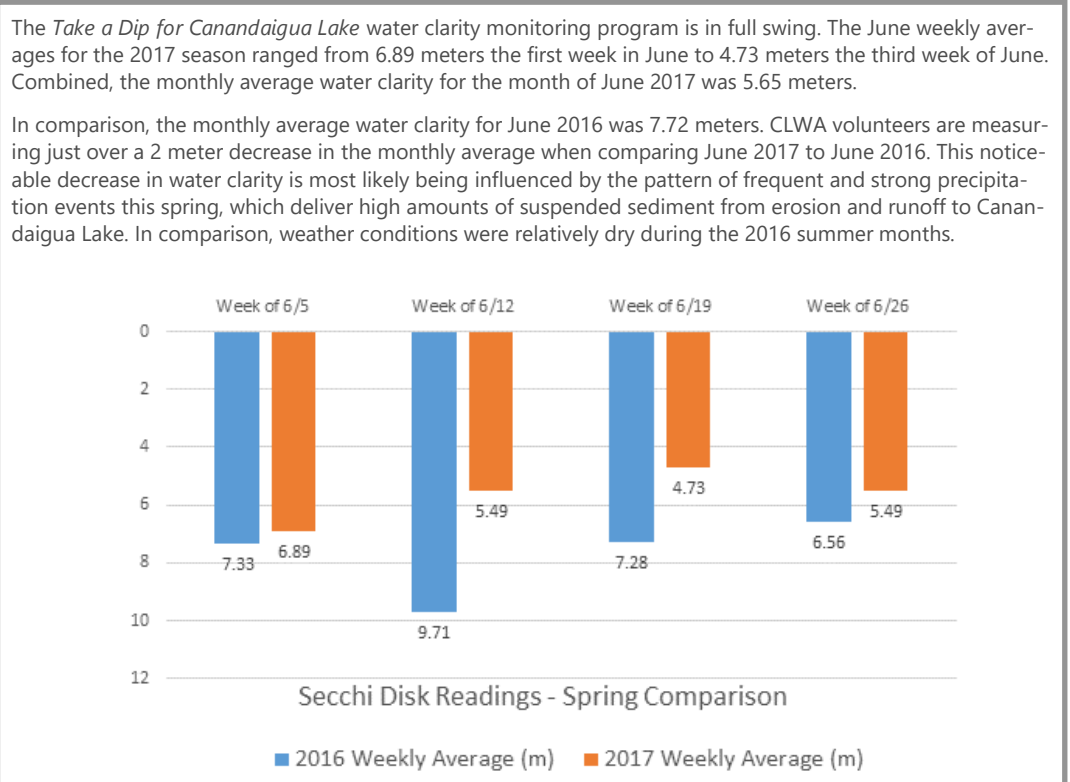
The third citizen science initiative is the expansion of the popular "Take A Dip" program for Canandaigua Lake water clarity monitoring. Since 2010, CLWA has engaged volunteer monitors to measure water clarity on a weekly basis from June-September. Volunteers new to the Take A Dip program were trained by Patty Thompson, faculty member of FLCC's Environmental Conservation



Introducing our newest "Take a Dip" Volunteers, with FLCC Faculty Patty Thompson

Department, to use a Secchi disk to measure the clarity of the water, which can be impacted by many factors, most commonly algae and sediment from runoff. Weekly data helps augment the Watershed Council and FLCC's monthly lake monitoring program and will become especially important as we get later into the algae growing season. Thanks go out to our returning volunteers: Dee Crofton, Gary Helming, Kevin Hefner, Scott Hill, Bruce Kennedy, Marty Lasher, Wade Sarkis, Lynn Thurston, Vickie Tucker, Bill Yust, and Steve Zumbo. We also welcome our NEW volunteers for 2017: Kathy Bromley & Greg Talomie, Amy Bowen, Rob Gray, Nadia Harvieux, Bill Mehls, and Brian & Dolores Perkins!

CLWA is deeply committed to protecting Canandaigua Lake water quality and is strengthening that commitment by engaging with the scientific community to collect important water quality data to better understand Canandaigua Lake. To our partners and volunteers, thank you for your time and effort throughout the 2017 summer monitoring season!





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer 2017

By Wade Sarkis

The Canandaigua Lake Watershed is a community of 12 municipalities and 350 miles of tributaries. The Lake itself is only 14% of the watershed area and is bordered by six municipalities within two Counties; Ontario and Yates. They include the towns of Canandaigua, South Bristol, Gorham, Middlesex and Italy as well as the City of Canandaigua. As such, there are six different local ordinances, or laws, which determine what can or can't be developed adjacent to the Lake. We rely on the good stewardship of our local municipalities to make rules that help protect water quality while allowing for reasonable development and growth.

While the Lake (and the land beneath it) is the property of New York State, protection of our water is dependent upon the municipalities. Nearly all our local Towns have implemented zoning changes to help protect water quality, and most are in the process of additional updates. These local laws address steep slopes, lot coverage, logging, and site plan review, etc. The Towns of South Bristol and Canandaigua have both just passed new on-site wastewater treatment laws which will help reduce threats that failing septic systems present to the watershed.

Several Towns are also getting more active in wetland protection and land conservation and some are updating their comprehensive plans. However, laws can vary from town to town and adjacent properties may be in different towns and subject to different rules.

There is only one consistent law among all municipalities on Canandaigua Lake; the Uniform Docking and Mooring Law. Each municipality has the identical code on their books as a result of an agreement with NY State to allow local towns to regulate the

construction of docks over State owned-land. The UDML controls design and dimensions, as well as the number of docks permitted which is determined by the linear feet of shoreline held by the landowner. The UDML is dependent on the "land use" zoning designation of the lake shoreline property which may be residential, commercial or transient. Each "tier" designation has different rules with "residential" being the most restrictive. Each Town enforces the Law and there should be no difference in interpretation.

Because the UDML is dependent upon the land use zoning of lake-adjacent land, zoning change decisions by local towns can have significant impacts on the density of docking structures and potentially to water quality. For example, a zoning change from residential to commercial (or any other non-residential status) would permit the landowner many more boat slips than the residential allowance. In theory, this could allow a developer with limited waterfront to create a large docking system for their customers/residents contrary to the intent of the UDML. While many commercial and planned development zones exist on the lake, they are all grandfathered; they were in place before their respective towns had land use rules in their local ordinances. No town has rezoned residential land to commercial use on Canandaigua Lake. This is an important reference point as there are currently pending decisions for zoning changes within our Watershed as well as a request for private docks on public land in the City of Canandaigua.

Sensible zoning laws are important to provide consistency from property to property. More and more, we have to rely on local laws to protect water quality in the watershed. Towns have to balance new laws with property owner rights and development needs as they update their codes. Town governments are tasked with the responsibility for stewardship of Canandaigua Lake and their decisions must be guided by this standard. Inter-municipal cooperation is a must. On matters of protecting the Lake, municipalities need to hold each other responsible as the actions of one can impact the entire community.

## CLWA BOARD OF DIRECTORS POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Do you have a deep commitment to protecting the health of Canandaigua Lake and its surrounding watershed? Have you been looking for a way to get more actively involved with water quality protection? The Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association has a volunteer opportunity for you!

CLWA is currently seeking to fill three open Board of Directors positions. Directors are elected for three year terms and terms would start in the fall. Monthly board meetings are held the first Monday of the month from 6:30 – 8:00 pm in Canandaigua.

CLWA's many successful programs and initiatives are possible because of our dedicated Board and Committee Members! If you are interested in serving on this engaging and important community board, please send a letter detailing your interest in the Board of Director position and a brief bio to CLWA at [info@canandaigualakeassoc.org](mailto:info@canandaigualakeassoc.org). The deadline for consideration is August 10, 2017.

## CITY OF CANANDAIGUA DOCKING REQUEST DENIED

Though CLWA took no public position on the proposed Finger Lakes Resort, we felt obligated to comment on the recent request for a large docking system that came before City of Canandaigua officials these past several weeks. CLWA attended the June 27th City of Canandaigua Finance Committee meeting and presented our position on the request, and shared our concerns with Mayor Polimeni and City Council Members in written format. You can read CLWA's comments [here](#).

We are confident that the public's strong opposition to this docking request was heard by our City officials. Thank you to all that provided their comments and attended meetings to voice their concerns for health of the lake.

# ONSITE WASTE WATER TREATMENT

A New Law To Address an Age Old Environmental Issue

By Past-President Tom Zimmerman

While President of CLWA from 2014 to 2016, it was my good fortune to be invited to participate in the Land Use workgroup to provide input into the implementation process of the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Management Plan. The group was made up of local and county government officials whose communities border the Lake and fall within its watershed. Several members of CLWA participated (Ted Carmen, Jack Dailey, Marty DeVinney, Neil Atkins to name a few). We looked at issues identified in the Plan to make recommendations to assist local governments to improve their zoning ordinances and other City & Town ordinances to improve water quality and insure a long and healthy life for our Lake. We considered recommendations for more uniform treatment of zoning and variance issues; steep slope ordinances; and most recently On Site Waste Water Treatment (OSWWT) systems and issues. The latter are as outlined in Section 4.6 Wastewater Management, of the [2014 Comprehensive Update of the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Management Plan](#).

Canandaigua Lake has over 36 miles of shoreline and 110,000 acres of watershed land area. Less than half of that shoreline and about 5% of the land within the watershed is protected by sanitary sewer systems that convey wastewater to treatment plants to deal with

human waste in the adjacent communities. The balance of this shoreline (18 plus miles) and vast land area (some 104,000 acres) must rely on onsite waste water treatment systems (OSWWTs). There are over 750 shoreline and 4,000 OSWWTs across the watershed of various types and of widely diverse age. In recent years, studies of the extent of these systems revealed that for close to 200 lake front properties there is no record of these systems and whether they were adequately functioning. Think about it, that is likely about 4 miles of shoreline. Add to this the thousands of non- lake adjacent properties with OSWWTs with very limited, if any, regulatory monitoring. Most of these systems are maintained by specialty contractors, lovingly referred to in the vernacular as “honey dippers”, who are at the beck and call of property owners. Most are experienced, well-qualified and hard working folks, but they work on call and do not have any authority over compliance with commonly accepted standards for the environmentally safe operation of the systems they are called upon to service. They can identify the problem, they can recommend remedial action, but like many recent television service advertising, all they can do is monitor the problem – not solve it or protect the general public from the adverse consequences that result.

## ONSITE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM LAW QUICK FACTS

	TOWN-WIDE	ABSORPTION AREA WITHIN 200 FEET OF THE LAKE
When are inspections required?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At conveyance of real property</li> <li>New onsite wastewater treatment system</li> <li>Alterations to the absorption field or treatment system type</li> <li>Change in use of a building</li> <li>Substantial alterations or size increases to an existing building</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Every 5 years if the absorption area or holding tank is within 200 feet of the lake</li> </ul>
What are the inspection procedures?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Property owner chooses their inspector, who is either a registered OTN Inspector or licensed Professional Engineer</li> <li>Inspector follows the New York Onsite Wastewater Treatment Training Network (OTN) Procedures</li> <li>Access to property is by permission of property owner and will follow standard procedures</li> <li>For the 5-year inspections, the Watershed Inspector will organize the schedule and will notify property owners each January when the inspection is due for that year. The Watershed Inspector will copy the Town when notifying property owners.</li> </ul>	
What are the onsite system permit requirements?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Property owners will need a permit to install a new system, replace an existing system, or alter the absorption area, distribution box or septic tank.</li> <li>The permit requires an engineered design for all new systems and replacement/alterations to existing systems, except for the replacement of septic tanks and distribution boxes.</li> <li>Permit is approved by the Town with assistance from the Watershed Inspector.</li> </ul>	
What are the Design Standards?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law utilizes existing State standards (NYS DOH Appendix 75-A or NYS DEC Design Standards)</li> <li>Law increases design load to 130 gallons/day/bedroom</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Law utilizes existing State standards (NYS DOH Appendix 75-A or NYS DEC Design Standards)</li> <li>Law increases design load to 150 gallons/day/bedroom</li> </ul>
When are upgrades mandatory?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Only when system is in failure</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When system is in failure</li> <li>If the system does not meet the design standards (aka substandard system) AND if the absorption areas is within 200 feet of the lake – upgrades at the conveyance of real property</li> <li>For substandard systems with lot limitations, Town can approve permits for upgrades if they meet the design standards to the greatest extent possible.</li> </ul>

## ONSITE, CONT.

Over the last decade or more the State of New York attempted uniform regulation to mitigate the problems but the effort was abandoned as against public policy in New York, a staunch local rule state.

So there you have it, in a nutshell, if we are to control human waste systems, it is the responsibility of local governments. With this in mind, the Land Use workgroup set about developing a Model On-Site Wastewater Treatment Law in late 2015. The final draft was ready for legal review in the summer of 2016. In early 2017, the final draft was endorsed by the Watershed Council and ready for consideration by local governments within the watershed. To date, The Towns of South Bristol and Canandaigua have adopted the law. The Town of Gorham is actively considering the law and the Town of Middlesex plans to review it soon.

The hope is that every town will adopt a similar law, but the Land Use workgroup understands that every town may not adopt the same identical ordinance because not every town will reach the same conclusions about the many separate issues that are involved. In general all who decide to adopt it will agree on a common, or at least similar, trigger mechanism, such as proximity to the lake and upon deed transfer of properties having an existing OSWWT facility. Here I must quote from the legal opinion by Jeffrey B. Graff, Esq. of Riley & Graff, LLP in Clifton Springs who rendered the following as part of his opinion:

“... it is ultimately up to each Town how they want to balance the needs of protecting the Lake and the public with the financial hardship imposing such protections would place on property owners... the revisions strike a fair compromise in balancing such competing interests. There are valid arguments for making either side of that balancing test more onerous ..., but there is no obvious right or wrong approach. Any of the participating Towns could opt to change this model draft to alter this balance prior to adoption.”

Graff further suggests a regular review by the participating municipalities to discuss what is working well and what is not. The Watershed Council and Watershed Association will be ready to assist in this critical feedback loop process.

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## TOWN / VILLAGE INFORMATION EXCHANGE SESSIONS

By CLWA Board Member Al Kraus



On May 22nd, CLWA launched the first Town/Village Information Exchange Presentation at the Canandaigua Town Hall. The primary purpose of this program is to exchange information with leadership personnel in the communities surrounding Canandaigua Lake on how we can help reduce the amount of sediments, contaminants and nutrients flowing into the lake. All of these pollutants adversely affect the health and quality of water in the lake.

This Program is designed for the various board members (Town/Village, Zoning, Planning, Environmental, etc.) that serve within the watershed municipalities. One of the unique aspects of this presentation is that we use a Watershed Model and Wetlands Model to give a very realistic visual representation of problems that can occur if we do not follow good practices related to construction activities, residential homes, commercial areas, farming, logging operations, steep slopes, and wetlands. CLWA Board member Al Kraus gives

opening and closing remarks, and Watershed Educators Beth Altemus and Becca Jensen give a demonstration using the models along with a slide presentation. Most of the time Beth and Becca are very busy with our Watershed Education Program, which is conducted in coordination with many schools within the Canandaigua Lake Watershed.

We plan to continue giving this presentation to various board members serving in communities around the lake. Our ultimate goal is to work with others to protect and preserve the watershed and lake for future generations.

This program is jointly funded by the CLWA and the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council.

# OAK WILT DISEASE IN NEW YORK STATE

By Mark Gooding – NYS DEC Regional Forester

Oak wilt is a tree disease caused by the fungus *Ceratocystis fagacearum*. The fungus grows in the water conducting vessels of host trees, plugging them and preventing water transport. As water movement within the tree is slowed, the leaves wilt and drop off. All oak species that are infected will eventually die – red oaks die rapidly while white oaks may take several years.

The disease was first discovered in Wisconsin in 1944 and has spread throughout the Midwest and Texas, killing tens of thousands of trees. In New York State, a small infestation was found in 2008 near Albany and appears to be under control. In 2013, oak wilt was discovered in Canandaigua, Brooklyn and multiple locations on Long Island.

Oak wilt symptoms include browning of leaves starting at the outer edge, branch die-back, sudden leaf wilting in the spring or summer and fungal spore mats underneath the bark. Symptoms on red oaks are often quite noticeable but can be hard to see on white oaks.

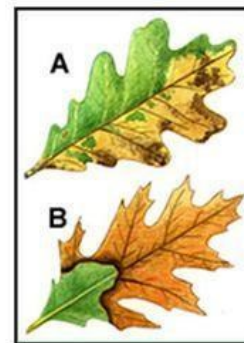
The disease is spread in two main ways. During the warmer summer months, transmission above ground occurs from beetles carrying fungal spores that are formed under the bark on some red oak trees. The beetles are also attracted to fresh oak wounds caused by pruning, storm damage or other wounding. Transmission below ground occurs when grafted roots pass the fungus from tree to tree.

Oak wilt management focuses on monitoring, control and education. Monitoring includes air and ground surveys and disease verification from twig samples. Control includes removing trees with proper disposal, trenching to break root connections, and establishing protective zones to prevent spread. Educating the public and working with interested organizations for monitoring will help increase detection and raise awareness. In larger areas like Long Island, management activities will focus on control and limiting the spread. Smaller areas like Canandaigua will be treated to attempt to eliminate the disease from the area.

In the Town of Canandaigua, we believe the disease was found early thanks to the actions of astute homeowners who realized something was abnormal about their trees dying. After getting assistance from Ontario County Cooperative Extension and the DEC, samples were taken and came back positive. An extensive air and ground survey found no other symptomatic trees. Two diseased trees were removed along with adjacent trees that may have root grafted and trenches were dug to prevent further spread. Monitoring the area this summer will consist of helicopter surveys in July and September and multiple ground surveys. To help prevent further spread, protective zones have been established which limit the movement of oak and firewood.

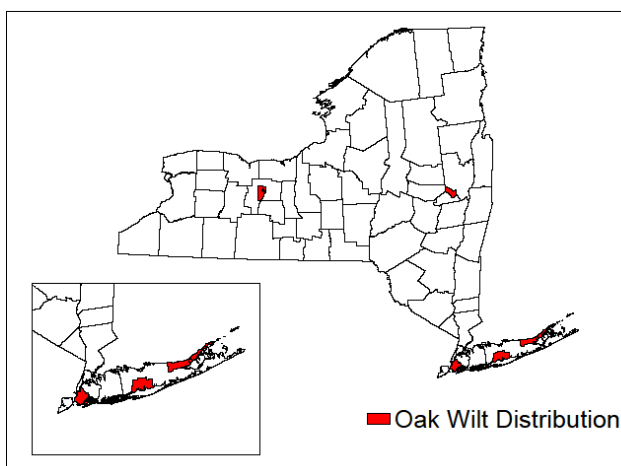
So, what can you do to help? Learn to recognize the symptoms of oak wilt and contact the DEC if you think you found an infected tree. Avoid pruning or wounding oak trees when beetles are active in the spring and summer. Adhere to the protective zone quarantine and follow the NYS firewood regulation which limits transport to 50 miles.

For more information visit [www.dec.gov/lands/46919.html](http://www.dec.gov/lands/46919.html). Contact DEC Forest Health at 1-866-640-0652 or [foresthealth@dec.ny.gov](mailto:foresthealth@dec.ny.gov)



Symptoms of oak wilt in  
A. white oak and  
B. red oak.

Image from NYS DEC website



The NYS DEC is encouraging the public to be on the lookout this summer for oak trees that suddenly lose all or most of their leaves during the months of July or August. These occurrences should be reported to DEC's Forest Health Information Line toll-free at 1-866-640-0652, or via email [foresthealth@dec.ny.gov](mailto:foresthealth@dec.ny.gov). Submitting pictures of oaks showing symptoms of oak wilt is highly encouraged.

CLWA members that suspect oak wilt can also call the Avon office for more direct assistance at (585) 226-2466. Ask for forestry.

# OAK WILT FACT SHEET

## What is oak wilt?

Oak wilt is a disease that affects oak trees. It is caused by *Ceratocystis fagacearum*, a fungus that develops in the xylem, the water carrying cells of oaks. All oaks are susceptible to the fungus, but the red oak group (with pointed leaf tips) often die much faster than white oaks (rounded leaf tips). Red oaks can take anywhere from a few weeks to six months to die and they spread the disease quickly. White oaks can take years to die and do not spread the disease.

## Why is oak wilt a problem?

The oak wilt fungus blocks the flow of water and nutrients from the roots to the crown, causing wilt, and usually killing the tree.

## How does it spread?

Oak wilt can spread below ground through tree roots and above ground by beetles. The roots of nearby red oak trees can graft (fuse together), creating a connection through which nutrients and some diseases can move. Most of the spread (about 90%) occurs through roots directly from one tree to the next.

Some spread is also due to sap feeding beetles and bark beetles (including *Pseudopityophthorus minutissimus* and *P. prunosus*). Fungal spore mats form just under the bark of diseased, dead red oaks. In the spring and summer, these fungal spore mats emit a sweet odor that attracts beetles. The beetles then crawl on the mats where fungal spores attach to their bodies. Beetles can spread the spores from infected trees to open wounds on uninfected trees, sometimes miles away. Transported wood poses a threat to oaks because it can harbor the fungus and/or beetles that can then pass it to other uninfected trees.



Dead Oak Tree

## Symptoms

Symptoms of oak wilt infection are often very noticeable in red oak species, but can be relatively nondescript in white oaks.

- Brown coloration can develop on leaves starting at the outer edge and progressing inward toward the mid-vein of the leaf.
- Branch dieback may be visible starting at the top of the canopy and progressing downward.
- Leaves suddenly wilt.
- Leaf loss during spring and summer. Leaves may fall when green or brown.



Diseased red oak leaves



Fungal spore mat under bark

## What can I do?

- Learn to recognize the symptoms of oak wilt including leaf discoloration, branch dieback, and fungal spore mats. If you think your tree is infected with oak wilt, contact DEC Forest Health (see Contact Information below).
- Avoid pruning or wounding oak trees in the spring and summer, when spore mats are present and beetles are the most active. If a wound occurs, it should be dressed immediately with latex paint. This will slow wound recovery but also deter beetles from landing on those areas.

## More information on oak wilt

- DEC website: [www.dec.ny.gov/lands/46919.html](http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/46919.html)
- New York State Invasive Species Clearinghouse website: [www.nyis.info](http://www.nyis.info)

This document was adapted from the NYS DEC Oak Wilt Fact Sheet

# CLWA ANNUAL APPEAL CAMPAIGN ... REQUESTING YOUR ASSISTANCE!

The 2017 Annual Appeal campaign is in full swing and we need YOUR support!

The challenges to protect watershed health have increased over the last few years, and we need the assistance of our members now more than ever to ensure that these threats are addressed through innovative programs, partnerships, and projects.

The CLWA Projects Committee has identified 6 key priority areas this year. Funds raised through this Appeal will determine the level of involvement that we can put into each program. We have set ambitious goals; there are many great opportunities to positively impact watershed health! If you have not done so already, here are the projects we hope you will support in 2017:

#### CONTINUATION OF THE AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM:

Though much work has been done, the threat of Aquatic Invasive Species is here to stay. Funding supports placement of full-time stewards at the lake's two busiest launch sites and educational outreach on the impacts of invasives.

**SUCKER BROOK 5&20 WETLAND RESTORATION PROJECT:** Sucker Brook has been identified as one of the watershed's most polluted tributaries. CLWA will support a wetland restoration project spearheaded by the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council and the Town of Canandaigua that is designed to divert 20% of the stream's flow into a constructed wetland to filter contaminants and to retain and control flood waters.

**WATERSHED POLLUTION PREVENTION INITIATIVE:** CLWA has developed a series of educational "Best Practices" Workshops tailored to educate the agricultural community, landowners, and

community planners on how they can help reduce water quality problems throughout the watershed.

**HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGID PROGRAMMING:** CLWA will continue HWA monitoring and education efforts, and develop a program that will allow landowners to gain access to affordable treatment options, and support the development of insectaries for bio-controls.

**ENHANCED WATER QUALITY MONITORING:** CLWA will collaborate with watershed stakeholder groups to gain a more thorough understanding of blue green algae dynamics on Canandaigua Lake through an enhanced water quality monitoring program for 2017. Funding will support increased sampling, tributary monitoring, an expanded secchi disk water clarity program and the addition of two CLWA sampling sites.

**SUPPORT TO THE FINGER LAKES LAND TRUST:** Preservation of natural lands in the watershed serves the land protection goals of the Finger Lakes Land Trust and the water quality goals of CLWA. CLWA will assist FLLT in acquiring lands and easements in the watershed on your behalf.

We ask that you consider matching last year's donation, or moving up the giving ladder. Help us take the next step towards maintaining healthy land and clean water!

A response sections is included on the back of this newsletter. You can also visit [canandaigualakeassoc.org](http://canandaigualakeassoc.org) to donate online.

*Thank you for finding value in our work and for making a financial contribution to help us expand our efforts.*

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## INTRODUCING CLWA'S NEWEST BOARD MEMBER, LINDA DWORACZYK



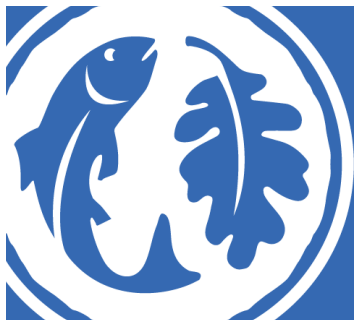
Linda and her husband Chuck Wochele moved to Canandaigua in 2009. She retired from over 30 years of corporate life, working for Corning, Kodak and Arthur Andersen & Co to focus on service work and volunteering. Linda currently serves on the Town of Canandaigua Town Board and joined the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association Board in February 2017. She is a volunteer mediator with the Canandaigua Center for Dispute Settlement, served for 8 years as Treasurer for the Landings HOA, and volunteers with the Plein Air Festival. Her business experience has provided the tools to use facts and data to make good decisions.

**What made you interested in joining the CLWA Board?** As I live on the lake and spend time boating and floating in the lake I am always grateful that we have such a wonderful resource in our community. I heard the Board was looking for a new Treasurer and thought it would be a good way to serve our community and use my skills and business/financial background for the CLWA.

**Do you have any specific areas of concern regarding watershed protection?** Water quality and lake protection. I have been concerned about the muddy runoff during the major storms that have occurred on a more frequent basis recently.

**On her new role on the Town Board of Canandaigua:** I think the town and the CLWA have very similar goals relative to the environment and both have a role in protecting our lake. I will be running for election in November and am personally glad that the Town of Canandaigua and the other municipalities on the lake have been actively protecting our lake.

**Are you interested in serving as a CLWA Board Member?** See our announcement on page 3.



# CHECK OUT THESE GREAT EVENTS AROUND THE WATERSHED!

## MIDDLESEX HERITAGE GROUP TO HOST 26<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SENECA HERITAGE DAY

By Win Harper

In recognition of this area's original Seneca people and their cultural and societal legacy—especially their impact and influence on the early Suffragists—the Middlesex Heritage Group hosts its 26<sup>th</sup> annual Seneca Heritage Day on Saturday, September 2 from 2-4 pm. The free, family-friendly event takes place on the grounds of the historic Overackers Corners Schoolhouse in Middlesex, NY.

As is tradition, the Middlesex Heritage Group invites representatives from Ganondagan State Historic Site to teach the public in their own words about the history and contributions of the Seneca Nation. This year, in honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Women's Suffrage, Ganondagan's Peter Jemison and Ronnie Reitter will talk about women's roles in the Iroquois Confederacy and their influence on early Feminists. The afternoon also features performances by Seneca singers and social dancers in traditional regalia, and a children's storyteller. Free ice cream will be served and pies will be available for purchase.

"Seneca Heritage Day is our way of honoring the original people of the area and their contribution to our culture and way of life," said Win Harper, president of the Middlesex Heritage Group. "The Seneca language has given us the names of many of our lakes and towns, and the Iroquois Confederacy was an inspiration to Ben Franklin and the authors of our Constitution." The program is held under a tent, but attendees are encouraged to bring their own lawn chairs. The Schoolhouse will also be open for tours after the event.

Overackers Corners Schoolhouse was built in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It is located at the intersection of Route 364 and North Vine Valley Road. Event sponsors include The Mitchell Foundation - Rochester Area Community Foundation, Wegmans, and Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association.



## BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY! AIS IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP

The Town of Canandaigua Environmental Conservation Board and the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association invite you to join us on Thursday, August 10th from 6-8 PM at Onanda Park for a family friendly event all about invasives! Dr. Bruce Gilman (Finger Lakes Community College) will provide a hands on workshop for aquatic plant identification. Learn how to identify natives and keep a trained eye out for invasive species. Special emphasis will be placed on the identification of three "red alert species" - Water chestnut, Starry stonewort, and Hydrilla, which is considered the most problematic aquatic plant in the United States. A Watercraft Steward will also be on site demonstrating the proper Clean, Drain, Dry techniques.

## WHAT LIVES IN GRIMES GLEN?

Join Environmental Educators Edith Davey and Steve Lewandowski on Saturday, August 26th as they lead a workshop focused on macroinvertebrates - creatures without backbones but visible to the naked eye. Learn how the presence or absence of certain aquatic indicator species is a marker of stream health. Great for kids and adults alike! Be sure to wear shoes that you don't mind getting a little wet.

Meet Steve and Edith at the mouth of Grimes Glen at 9:45 am (at the end of Vine Street in the Village of Naples) Turn between the Bristol Valley Theater and the Fire Hall.

No registration required: free and open to the public. Except in the case of extreme weather, the walk will be on rain or shine. Check our Facebook page for updates!



# WATERSHED EDUCATION PROGRAM: Year in Review

By CLWA & Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council Educators Beth Altemus and Becca Jensen

This was indeed a busy and exciting year for the Education Program. In addition to our usual compliment of programs and field days, we expanded our outreach to some new classrooms and engaged students in more outdoor science exploration this year. We also collaborated with Lindsay McMillan, Katrina Bush and the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council to revive our seasonal mini-newsletter, a one page flyer for families highlighting current issues and events within the watershed. This will be sent home with every student, no small exposure as this year we engaged over 1600 students and community members!

We are happy to report that this year the Marcus Whitman 6<sup>th</sup> grade science classes came on board the program. While we have worked with the 6<sup>th</sup> grade ECO class for many years, the rest of the grade has not been included in our programming, so we were thrilled to visit Kellie Fritz's science classes this spring and hope to continue working with them in the future. We also visited several of Andrea Robertson's high school science classes at Whitman to demonstrate the watershed and wetland models.

Also adding to our fun this year was collaborating with Nadia Harvieux to get students out to their local streams to collect data for the Finger Lakes Regional Stream Monitoring Network. Over the course of the fall and spring we brought middle schoolers from St. Mary's School and Marcus Whitman out to Sucker Brook and the Upper West River, as well as a pond on the FLCC campus. They collected macroinvertebrates and performed chemical tests to get a picture of overall water quality.

Perhaps our most adventurous (and wettest) new endeavor was developing a "Wetland Walk" for Seth Almekinder's 5<sup>th</sup> grade class at Naples Elementary. We joined them for a day in early April, which began in the classroom with a demonstration of the wetland model. We then spent the remainder of the school day walking a portion of the Middlesex Rail Trail as it passes through the West River wetland. Along the way, we collected and compared macroinvertebrate samples from a small, flowing stream and from the still, shallow wetland waters. We viewed maps and observed the surrounding topography to see how the West River wetland plays an important role in protecting the water quality of Canandaigua Lake. The highlight from this day, however, just may be when we had to wade through 18 inches of water for a good section of the trail. Kudos to the kids, who trekked on with smiles and shrieks of (shivering) joy!

Overall, we had a full and very fruitful year. It is always a privilege to be involved with the Education Program and we are grateful for the chance to work with so many fantastic teachers and their energetic students. We witness time and again how much kids care about protecting our environment. To be able to share with them knowledge to help them better care for it is truly a gift. We already look forward to next year!



*Naples 5th graders on the West River Wetland Walk!*

## CLWA would like to thank the following individuals who donated their time and expertise at the 2017 Watershed Exploration Days at Onanda Park!

Rose Hancock , Master Gardener

Pat Bartholomew, Master Gardener

John Bateman, SUNY Brockport

Jodi Simons-Caruso, Open Arms Yoga

Edith Davey, Ontario County Soil & Water

Vincent Feucht, Cumming Nature Center

Emily Staychock, Yates County Cooperative Extension

Nadia Harvieux, FLI and FLCC

Sharon Radak, St. Mary's School

Angela Cannon, Cumming Nature Center / FLCC

Maura Sullivan, FLCC

.. As well as our community volunteers Molly Jensen and Kate Jensen!

IN HONOR OF  
JIM & ELLIE FRALICK'S  
50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY!

*From Leanna Landsman  
and Chip Block*

IN MEMORY OF  
CHARLES H BRIGHAM  
& BRUCE BRIGHAM

*From Joyce Keeney*

# CANANDIAGUA LAKE LEVEL UPDATE: What a Difference a Year Makes!

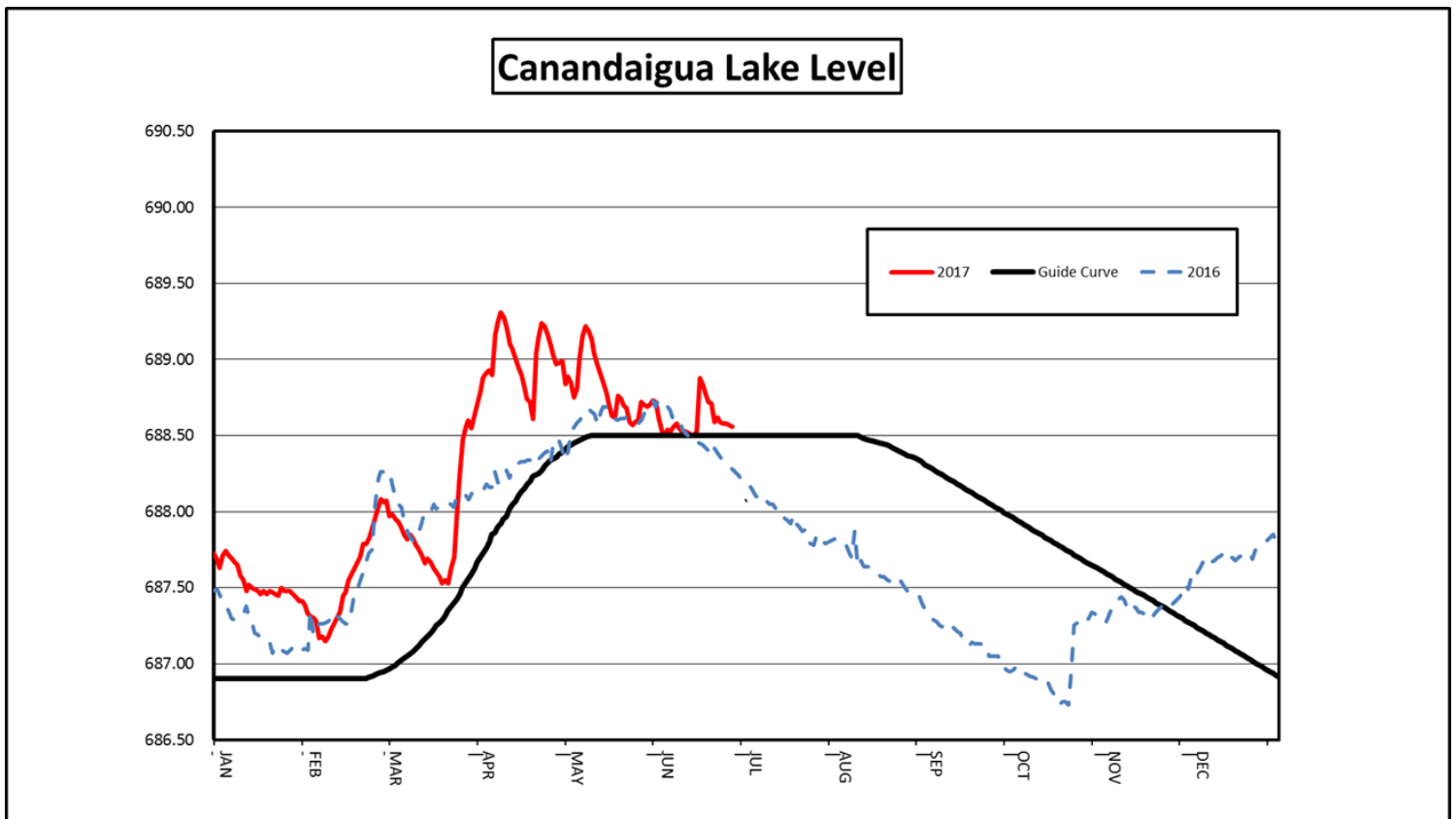
By Kevin Olvany, Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council

As of June 27, 2017 the lake level is 688.56 feet above sea level- which is 0.06 feet (less than an inch) above the guide curve of 688.50. In 2016, the lake level was 688.28- which is about 4 inches lower than this year. This does not sound like a big difference, until you look at the Lake Level chart, which shows lake level information for both 2016 and 2017 along with the Guide Curve. The Lake Level Chart tells an important story regarding the impact of precipitation on Canandaigua Lake levels along with the amount of runoff from the surrounding watershed entering the lake in 2016 as compared to 2017. Big spikes in lake level represent substantial runoff events that can carry significant nutrients, sediment and other pollutants into the lake. The northern half of the lake has definitely experienced these type of events this year as compared to last year. The one benefit of the increased precipitation is that it has also increased ground water levels which will help sustain base flows into the lake, thus supporting the summer lake level for a longer period of time.

What is not shown on the Lake Level chart is how many days the City had the main outlet gates (behind Wegmans in Lagoon Park) opened to avoid flooding conditions along the lake. This is an important piece of information to better understand how much water entered the lake as runoff and also leaves the lake through the outlet. As of June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017, the gates have been open for 121 days, while they were only open for 39 days at this point in 2016- an 82 day difference. The amount of flow through the outlet is primarily based on the level of the lake- the higher the level- the more outflow. As a general average, when the outlet gates are open, approximately 300 million gallons per day can be released, which is equivalent to about one inch of lake level. Since the drainage area to the lake is over 10 times the size of the lake surface, flows to the lake during substantial storm events can greatly exceed outflow from the lake. This is why the lake can still go up quickly even though the gates are open.

With the main gates open 82 more days and outflows averaging approximately 300 million gallons per day, the outlet flows in 2017 were approximately 25 billion gallons more than 2016! This increased outflows is also a surrogate to tell us how much more runoff entered the lake in 2017 as compared to last year.

The intense rain events of 2017 have not only increased the lake level, but also carry pollutants to the lake and have caused flooding issues along the many drainage systems that enter the lake. This is especially true in the Crystal Beach/Cottage City/East Lake Road section and also on the west side of the lake. How we adapt as individual property owners, developments, and municipalities along with county/state highway managers will be one of the topics that I cover at the annual meeting. I hope to see you there!





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# SPECIAL REQUEST: 2017 Annual Appeal

As seen on page 8 of this newsletter, the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association’s Annual Appeal Campaign is now in full swing and we’d love your help.

We are asking for your support—above and beyond what your membership dollars already help us accomplish. Your donations to CLWA will help us move these projects forward NOW. Please help us better serve our watershed by making a donation to the CLWA Annual Appeal.

Name / Business Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Principal Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Lake area township:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Please circle your donation amount and return with payment.**

\$25   \$50   \$100   \_\_\_\_ other

**Mail your payment to CLWA:**  
P.O. Box 323 Canandaigua, NY 14424

**Or pay via PayPal at:**  
www.canandaigualakeassoc.org

**100% OF YOUR GIFT WILL BE SPENT ON THE PROTECTION OF THE LAKE AND WATERSHED.**