



## 2016 Watercraft Steward Report *By Stephen Lewandowski*

This year, the State boat launches at Canandaigua and Woodville on Canandaigua Lake were monitored by trained Watercraft Stewards from 8 am until 6 pm from May 27 until September 30, a total of 127 days. The State Parks Launch at Canandaigua was monitored by a Parks Steward from Thursday through Sunday from June 16 until August 26. Another Steward was supplied by the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council on Tuesdays. Staffing at both sites was heavier on weekends and holidays so as to facilitate traffic.

As in years past, the Finger Lakes Institute at Hobart and William Smith Colleges played several crucial roles in the Canandaigua Lake Watercraft Steward program by training and scheduling the stewards, as well as providing insurance and payroll services. Our profound thanks to them.

In sheer numbers, about 14,781 boats were checked for invasive species at the launches. About twenty-two percent of the boats had plants or animals removed during to the inspection. About twenty-eight percent of the boaters indicated that they had last been in another body of water than Canandaigua Lake.\*

With the intense heat and lack of rainy weather this summer, thousands of boats passed through the launches, even as lake levels fell due to the drought. As usual the Canandaigua launch handled about twice as many boats per day as Woodville. Most of the boaters entering via Canandaigua were recreational, and a sizable portion of those at Woodville were fishermen. Woodville also hosted more canoes and kayaks.

Partners in funding and staging the Canandaigua Lake Watercraft Steward Program include CLWA, the Watershed Council, the Finger Lakes Institute, NYS Office of Parks and Recreation and New York State.

The stewards who served on Canandaigua Lake this summer include Kim Falbo, Cynthia Smith, Briante Najev, Emily Cosgrove, Colin Clark, Daria Sparks, Dylan Hurn, Neal Burtner, Alex Colling, Scott Buckingham, Tasha Slughter, Ian Gooding and Alyssa Burgio. We thank them for their service and wish them well.

*\*A word about these numbers: the sheer amount of data collected during the Watercraft Steward program makes data management a challenge. At present all are estimates but we expect little deviation from the final numbers when they become available.*



Boats Inspected



Had plants or animals removed at inspection

**Fall Viewpoints:**  
Alien Invasives Threaten Canandaigua Lake  
Tuesday, November 1st  
6:30 - 8:00 PM  
FLCC Stage 14

Join us on Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 PM to learn about the programs that are happening within the Canandaigua Lake Watershed to monitor and control invasive species.

Representatives from the Finger Lakes PRISM (Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management), the Finger Lakes Institute, and CLWA will highlight several important initiatives that aim at preventing the spread of unwanted invasives including: the Watercraft Steward Program, Water Chestnut Removal in the West River, and Hemlock Woolly Adelgid programming in the watershed.

Attendees can expect to hear more about these important activities, how they can become involved in the fight against invasives.

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Cover Image by Dave Ducharme

## President's Message - Fall 2016

By CLWA President Wade Sarkis



It is a great honor to represent CLWA as your new President. I wanted to give you a bit of my background and thoughts as the Association moves forward.

My family moved to South Bristol in 1973. I attended Naples Central School from 6<sup>th</sup> grade through high school graduation. I've spent every summer since on the Lake – except for two post college years. My wife, Joscelyne, and I have lived in the City of Canandaigua since 1986 and we've enjoyed our rustic cottage in South Bristol the past 18 years. We raised our three sons here and the Lake is now in their blood, wherever they may roam.

I joined the Board six years ago because of my passion for the Lake and concerns about intense development pressures along the shoreline. At that time, the organization had recently been formed as two advocacy groups merged into one. We spent a significant amount of time redefining our mission, goals and committee structures. I know we are all proud of the progress we've made in bringing the Association to where it is today. We all owe a debt of gratitude to the recent leaders of CLWA, including Bob Brancato, Lynn Thurston, Brenda Keith, Jack Dailey, and Tom Zimmerman. I would also like to recognize the efforts of our Watershed Consultant, Steve Lewandowski, our technical assistant, Edith Davey, and our Administrative Coordinator, Lindsay McMillan.

Two and a half years ago, when I accepted the President-elect position, terms like "cyanobacteria", and "Hemlock Woolly Adelgid" were not part of my vocabulary. Now we know them to be both immediate and long-term threats to the health of Canandaigua Lake. While the mission of protecting the Lake remains the same, the threats constantly change requiring vigilance and cooperation from our partners (like the Watershed Council, Finger Lakes Land Trust and Finger Lakes Institute), our local municipalities, the agricultural community and our membership.

As the threats to the Lake change over time, the most harmful invasive species remains the same. It's us. Our behaviors, whether through development, waste disposal, recreation or agriculture, result in impacts that influence Lake quality. The challenge moving forward is to balance the short term needs of human invasives with the long term health of the lake. It's a big challenge and one we are getting better at facing. But it takes time, effort and patience to implement acceptable changes for all watershed stakeholders.

We have experienced firsthand how the health of the lake can change quickly. The heat and lack of precipitation this summer kept us alert for signs of another harmful algal bloom like we saw last year. Low lake levels impacted the quality of enjoyment for many of us. While we are at the mercy of Mother Nature for some lake quality threats, we can and will be proactive in protecting the lake from others. But, we also need your help. Consider donating some time to this organization or one of our partners. Get involved in your local municipal government. Adopt lake-friendly habits within the watershed. The Lake can't advocate for itself; it needs your voice – please be a lake steward, and help others to do the same.

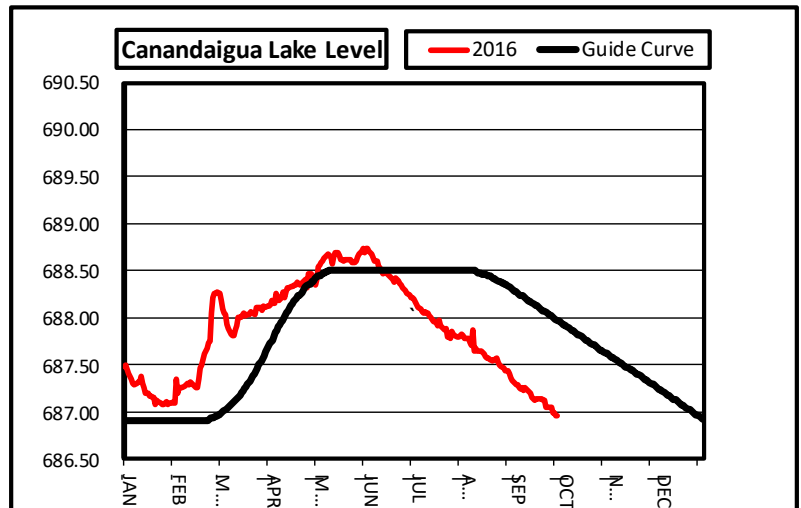
On behalf of the Board, I want to thank you for your ongoing support. We are excited about expanding our efforts in promoting the CLWA mission and meeting the challenges that lie ahead. As always, we'll keep you posted on our progress.

## Lake Levels: A Year of Almost No Big Rainfalls

By Stephen Lewandowski

Despite a spritz of rain yesterday and today, our region is mired a long pattern long drought extending back into last winter. Last winter, the lake remained clear of ice cover for most the winter, and the wooded areas of the watershed had almost no snow and ice. In early March what there was of winter's snow ran off in a few days. Normally the spring period is when ice and snow, especially in the woods around the lake, melts slowly and much of it seeps into the ground to become "groundwater" that feeds seeps, springs and wells.

A relatively normal spring of rainfall kept the streams running and the lake level increasing until mid-June. And then the rains stopped. And the heat started. We are told this was one of the hottest summers on record, since records began to be kept.



With no extra groundwater and decreasing flows in streams, the June lake level began a fall that has continued into October. Lake level on October 1, 2016 was 686.95 feet above mean sea level. The lake reached its intended winter level, two months early.

Canandaigua's level has fallen for several major reasons, listed here in order of importance: evaporation, releases of water to dilute effluent from the Canandaigua Sewage Treatment Plant, and withdrawals for drinking water.

When water levels are high, two gates can be opened at the north end of the lake to draw it down, but when levels are low, there are no gates to open or close because there is only the water provided by rain or snow fall to raise the levels. The water that keeps the lake full comes slowly through the ground and more quickly through the many streams, ditches and other watercourses of the watershed.

We have had rainstorms during this period but they were small in extent. My rain gauge has captured less than six inches of rain since mid-June, leaving us short about six inches.

So, this winter, join our friends at the ski centers in praying for snow at the appropriate times and rainfall sufficient to keep our lake both blue and full.

## Lake Foam Follow up - Ongoing Analysis

With over 100 people in attendance at the CLWA Annual Meeting in August, it was clear there is great public interest in getting to the root of the lake foam issue.

At the meeting, SUNY ESF Chemistry Professor Dr. John Hassett presented the methods his laboratory is using to examine the composition of foam collected on both Canandaigua and Skaneateles Lakes, looking for chemical indicators of the foam's origin. Research has focused on indicator sterols and fatty acids, which are used to rule out (or in) various potential sources (read more about Dr. Hassett's presentation on page 8).

While Dr. Hassett's research did rule out synthetic surfactants (detergents, soaps) as well as the likelihood that foam is caused by human bacterial waste (faulty septic systems), a specific cause for the foam we have been seeing on Canandaigua Lake was not pinpointed. Re-

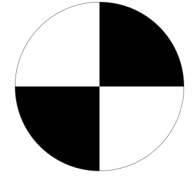
search conducted so far considers potential sources of plant and/or animal origin, including: aquatic plants, green algae, zebra or quagga mussels.

The CLWA Board believed we would have a more conclusive report from Dr. Hassett at the meeting and implied we would in the meeting announcement. There was clearly a miscommunication and we apologize for that oversight.

The Association and the Council will be continuing our partnership with SUNY ESF, and have approached Dr. Hassett with a funding offer to obtain further analysis and conclusions. It is our firm intention to get the most conclusive results that are able to be drawn from this phenomenon into the hands of our members as soon as available. Stay tuned.

# Secchi Disk Water Clarity Testing Results for 2016

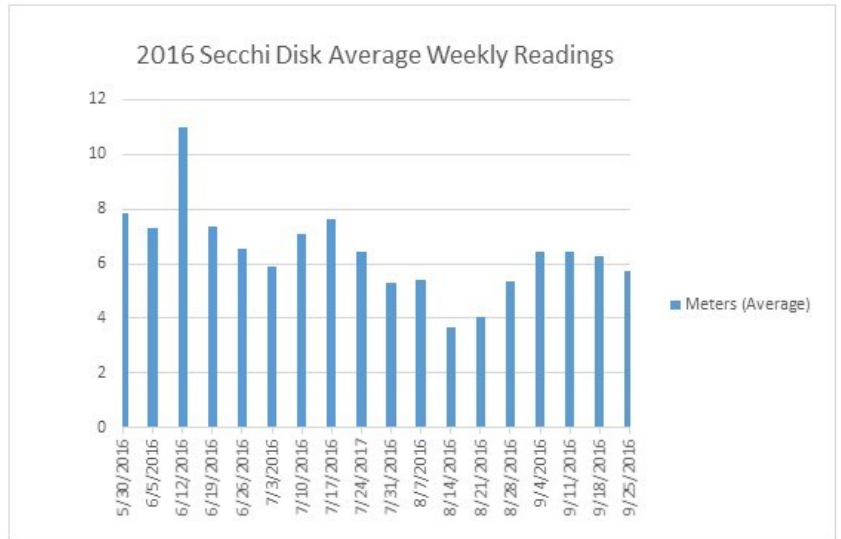
*"Best year since our testing began"*



*By Stephen Lewandowski*

Since its beginning in 2010, the Take-a-Dip program which uses Secchi disks to measure water clarity has expanded from four volunteers to thirteen this year. We encourage others to sign up as volunteers because it's a big lake with varying conditions, north to south and east to west, and more coverage would always be better. Our volunteers' findings are used to give context and more detail to the clarity readings taken by Bruce Gilman and Kevin Olvany at two locations on the lake.

This year the first readings were taken on May 22 and the program wrapped up on September 30, for 132 days of coverage. Our thirteen volunteers took 149 readings over this period. Volunteer coordinator Deidre Crofton recorded the readings as they came in.



As has been reported elsewhere (in the Lake Levels report), 2016 has been an unusual year for rainfall on the watershed, and the season's clarity readings reflect the oddity. In 2015, we had several damaging rainfalls in May and June that carried immense quantities of sediment and nutrients to the lake. In 2016, no such rainfalls occurred. The 2016 season as measured by our volunteers is a major rebound in clarity from 2015 and the highest of any of the seven seasons measured.

In 2016, the average lake water clarity was 6.48 meters, or 21.2 feet. In 2015, it was 14.76 feet, a variation of over six feet.

When the weekly average readings fell precipitously in the weeks of August 14 and 21, to 3.65 meters (12 feet) and 4.05 meters (13.3 feet), respectively, we feared that a bloom of cyanobacteria was imminent. Although several small and scattered cyanobacteria blooms were found, no repeat of the major bloom of 2015 was evident.

The lake has continued to clear, as it does every September and October, and current readings are 18.9 feet of visibility.



Did you know that if you are 70 1/2 or older, you can make direct distributions of up to \$100,000 per year from your IRA to the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association? These distributions can be counted towards your Required Minimum Distribution, and you won't need to include the distribution as part of your taxable income (nor would you claim a charitable deduction). A direct distribution to the Watershed Association may result in lower taxable income and thus may allow you to remain in a lower marginal tax bracket and avoid phase-out of itemized deduction and exemptions.

Please consult your tax advisor to learn more about how both you and the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association can benefit from gifts of assets.

## The 2016 Watercraft Steward Season: A Stewards Perspective

*By Kim McGarry, Watershed Program Technician, Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council*

With the warm weather winding down, this is a great time to reflect on the closing watercraft steward season. The beautiful weather this summer was perfect for boating, which kept us busy inspecting boats at the launches. Through a partnership between the Watershed Association, Watershed Council, Finger Lakes Institute and State Parks, we are able to have stewards at the two public boat launches 7 days per week and approximately 10 hours a day.

This was my second summer as a watercraft steward, working one day a week as a part of my regular duties at the Watershed Council (intermunicipal coalition of the fourteen watershed municipalities). I have enjoyed meeting so many boaters and fisherman over the past two summers and the unique opportunity to discuss invasive species with each through a one-on-one conversation.

The overwhelming majority of the boaters receive the program well. By the end of the summer, many boaters are so familiar with the inspection process that they can answer all of my questions before I even ask them. On the quieter days at the launch, I have seen many immediately begin pulling the vegetation off of their boats after coming out of the water. Others have not been on the lake in a few years and this is the first time anyone has explained to them the impacts of aquatic invasive species and prevention techniques. I often get asked what I am looking for, and when I explain, they respond with a "thank you" or "keep up the good work" or "I wish you were here years ago".



Kim McGarry, Watershed Program Technician and Watercraft Steward

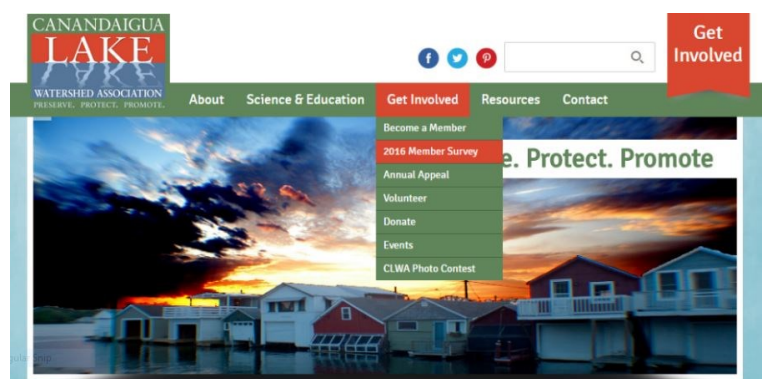
I believe the program has raised awareness about aquatic invasive species and has made "clean, drain, dry" a regular part of many boater's routine. This program is an integral part to protecting our lake and region. The partnership among the Watershed Association, Watershed Council and Finger Lakes Institute along with our state partners has made the program highly effective and much cheaper than trying to eradicate an invasive species such as Hydrilla if it were to make it into Canandaigua Lake. Feel free to call me if you have any questions about what we as watercraft stewards do to protect the lake from invasive species.

## CLWA Member Survey Now Available on our Website

*Help shape the future of the Association*

As a member of the Association, we invite you to participate in a brief survey about current watershed issues and CLWA programming. We truly value the input of our membership, and your responses will be critical as we embark upon a strategic planning initiative for 2017.

The survey has been live since the end of September, and early response has been powerful. If you have not had the opportunity to participate in the survey, we encourage all CLWA members to visit: [canandaigualeassoc.org/get-involved/2016-member-survey](http://canandaigualeassoc.org/get-involved/2016-member-survey) to fill it out. It takes about 5-10 minutes to complete.



# 2016 Annual Appeal Donors



We are proud to publish this incredible list of our Annual Appeal donors. Because of your support, CLWA will be able to fund several special projects that we have identified to have lasting impact on watershed protection - above and beyond what membership dollars support.

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## *In Memory of J. Douglas Martin*

CLWA offers our sincerest condolences to Doug's wife, Carol,  
as well as his family and friends.

Michael & Kim Blaha  
Cottage City Cove Association  
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The Frost Family  
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Tom & Priscilla Lenning  
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*Our profound  
thanks for major  
gifts  
received from:*

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Scott Conking  
David & Maura Sykes Family  
Fund  
Peter & Lisa Sykes Family Fund  
Wegmans Food Markets, Inc.

## *Minutes of the CLWA Annual Meeting Recorded By Edith Davey*

*Thanks to all that attended the CLWA Annual Meeting on August 10, 2016.*

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Zimmerman at 6:05 pm, Stage 14, Finger Lakes Community College.

Attendees were welcomed and appreciation expressed to J R Ryan of Ryan Wine and Liquor for their donation of wine for the occasion.

CLWA activities within the watershed were highlighted in the work of the Outreach, Marketing, Membership and Projects Committees. It was noted that a public meeting will be held on August 15th in the Town of South Bristol to provide information and receive feedback on the proposed Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Inspection proposal. Work with the Finger Lakes Land Trust, buffer strip initiative and Sucker Brook improvement projects will continue next year.

**Treasurer's Report** was printed for distribution and presented by Carol Benner. Assets total \$156,386.66. Income was reported at \$66,945 and expenses at \$54,684 to date for the year. Marty DeVinney moved that the treasurer's report be accepted. A second to the motion being received, the motion was approved. Tom Zimmerman expressed appreciation to the group for their generous financial support.

Kevin Olvany introduced Dr. John Hassett, SUNY ESF Department of Chemistry, who addressed the gathering on the chemical analysis of foam samples from Skaneateles (primarily) and Canandaigua Lakes procured in 2015. Dr. Hassett acknowledged the interest of shoreline residents and drinking water providers in ensuring high water quality within the lakes and explained analysis procedures undertaken when examining the foam.

Lake foam is ordinarily caused by natural biological sources within the lake releasing surfactants that lower surface tension. Fatty acids are found in all cell membranes and may be saturated, unsaturated or polyunsaturated. Types of algae may be identified by the kinds of fatty acids found. Part of the molecule is hydrophilic, the other end hydrophobic. Stacks of these molecules may create sterols.

Sterols are present in all eukaryote cell membranes, little or none is found in bacteria. Cholesterol is found in animal sources, coprosterol identifies excreta, phytosterols come from plants. Dr. Hassett noted that the lake foam "does not come from poop – at least not directly."

Potential sources considered include green algae, aquatic plants, zebra or quagga mussels and terrestrial runoff (mostly plants). Samples are freeze dried and processed to remove water. Unusually, the foam in question often retains its shape instead of collapsing. (Attendees were

urged to send samples in wide mouth, 1 quart Mason jars.)

Spectrometer analysis of the dried foam indicated high spikes of cholesterol with lower phytocholesterol spikes. The presence of foam during January was noted although sterols were not detected. Bacteria metabolize cholesterol into cholesterol. Bacteria living within the foam may contribute some fatty acids seen in the analysis.

Conclusion: plant sterols in the foam may indicate a plant origin. Samples from Canandaigua Lake will be further analyzed as time and staffing permit. Breakdown and renewal of foam is dependent upon wind patterns and internal circulation of the water body. Little has been known or published about lake foam to date.

Photo Contest winners were announced by Katrina Busch and their photographs displayed to the group. 154 entries were received and judged by Jack Haley of the Daily Messenger; Peter Blackwood, professional photographer, and Katrina Busch. The Most Popular photograph was Walton's Point by Hunter Ford, 3rd Place was Winter's Beauty by Steve Ratliff, 2nd was Evening Sunset Watching Geese by Jeremy Bedette, 1st place was Ring of Fire by Dana Besaw. Prizes were donated by Davidsons's Shoes, Peaches, Finger Lakes Coffee, Simply Crepes and Bristol Mountain/Roseland Water Park. The winners were congratulated and prize sponsors thanked.

**Stewardship Awards:** Tom Zimmerman presented a Preservation Partner in Protection Award to the Town of Middlesex for their dedication and perseverance in creating a steep slopes protection law to regulate development on severe and fragile hillsides. The regulation is being used by other municipalities as a model in creating other steep slopes protection laws.

Wade Sarkis presented the Rohrer Stewardship Award to Sharon Radak, recognizing her successful watershed education efforts in watershed area schools.

Ted Carman recognized Lynn Thurston and Leanna Landsmann for their formation of the Walton's Point Lake Neighbors to detect and combat the effects of the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid threat to hemlock trees in the gullies near the lake. Education of neighbors and treatment of trees by property owners on other points in the lake is part of their current efforts.

Tom Zimmerman recognized staff members Steve Lewandowski, Lindsay McMillan and Edith Davey, thanking them for their contributions to CLWA. Al Kraus was commended for his work on the Watercraft Stewards program and for constructing waste stations at the boat launches. Ted Carman was thanked for his efforts with the Projects Committee.

**Nominations for CLWA Board of Directors:**

Jack Dailey, Marty DeVinney, Bob McCarthy and Tom Zimmerman agreed to remain on the board. Chris Kansco has resigned. Wade Sarkis will be the new Chairman. Carol Benner has agreed to remain as Treasurer until a new volunteer replaces her. Marty DeVinney moved and a second received that the roster be approved as presented. Motion was carried.

Incoming Chairman Wade Sarkis spoke briefly of his long association with the lake and his appreciation of the past efforts of lake association officers and Steve Lewandowski, CLWA consultant. He noted that threats to water quality in the lake primarily come from one invasive species – people. Balancing the short term interests of residents with the long term health of the lake in an acceptable manner will require the efforts and interest of all.

Marty DeVinney moved that the meeting be adjourned at 8:17 pm.

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## Stewardship Awards *Presented at the CLWA Annual Meeting*

### *Partner in Protection Award - The Town of Middlesex*

In 2007, research on Canandaigua Lake's water quality identified stormwater runoff and erosion as major contributors to the lake's degradation.

In 2008, a Land Use Committee was formed by the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council, an agency of elected officials from the Towns located in the watershed or that draw water from the lake for public water supply. The Town of Middlesex was an active participant in the committee which was staffed by planning professionals from the Genesee-Finger Lakes Regional Planning Council.

There was unanimous consent among the participating municipalities that the most needed new ordinance to protect the lake was a Steep Slope Law to address problems resulting from development activities on the steepest, most fragile and erosion-prone areas of the watershed. Some of these areas were located in the Town of Middlesex. A model Steep Slopes Law was developed by the planners.

The Town of Middlesex considered this model law for several years. Increasing public and private property damage from storms proved the need for action. A draft was put forward for discussion to the Town Board, Lu Engineers, town residents, Yates and Ontario County agencies.

Changes were made to the draft law based on these comments and to reflect the special conditions found in the Town of Middlesex.

In 2012, the Town of Middlesex began the formal process of adopting a Steep Slopes Law. The Town's Planning Board Chairman framed the question the Town would have to answer: "The draft law highlights the question of balance between the town's responsibility to protect its residents "health, safety and general welfare" and residents' individual property rights."

Numerous discussions at the Middlesex Town Board and Planning Board meetings as well as public hearings at the Town and County level ensued. Maps were produced that showed the draft law's potential impact on specific properties. The draft law was fine-tuned to meet objections and suggestions.



Town of Middlesex Representatives were in attendance to receive a Stewardship Award for efforts on Steep Slopes protection

Town of Middlesex, *continued from page 9*

On December 11, 2014, the Middlesex Town Board unanimously passed "A Local Law for the Protection of Steep Slopes in the Town of Middlesex."

We acknowledge the fortitude of the following individuals in the long process of listening to the public, then framing, revising and finally passing this law: Supervisor Robert Multer, Planning Board Chair Martin DeVinney, Watershed Council's Kevin Olvany, Wayne Dunton, Allan Button, Peter Gerbic, Leon Button, Bruce St. Lawrence, John Gilbert, Lynn Lersch, Bob Mincer, and Dan Paddock.

CLWA anticipates that the Middlesex Steep slope Law will become a much-used model in New York State and beyond for legislation that effectively protects natural resources. We thank the town of Middlesex, its officials and citizens for their careful, sensitive and persistent effort.

*Rohrer Stewardship Award - Sharon Radak*

We are pleased to be presenting the CLWA Stewardship Award to an individual who has made an incredible and positive impact on watershed awareness and education in our community. Ten years ago, Sharon Radak co-founded the CLWA Watershed Education Program with the mission and vision of bringing hands-on watershed education to students in the Canandaigua, Naples and Marcus Whitman schools. Partnering with the our local school districts, the Watershed Council, Ontario County Soil and Water Conservation District, Water Resources Council, youth service organizations and others, this program had served over 19,000 local students since its inception! What a tremendous accomplishment!



Sharon Radak celebrated 10 years with the Watershed Education Program

Whether trekking through creek beds looking for aquatic insects or creating watershed models with 4th graders in the classroom or hosting watershed activities for 250 + Canandaigua 3<sup>rd</sup> graders at Onanda Park (in the rain!), Sharon's enthusiasm, passion and commitment to the environment is clear. Long-time friend and colleague, Nadia Harvieux shares that "Sharon is one of the most gifted educators I've ever worked with. She inspires students and teachers alike with her mindful, inclusive perspective of our watershed and the importance of Canandaigua Lake for environmental health and to our community."

Our sincerest appreciation for recent gifts made in memory of :

**Chris Ragus**

From:

*Rodger & Suzanne Shenkel  
Philip Tramdack & Marianne Hooker*

**Charles H and Bruce W Brigham**

From:

*Joyce A. Keeney*

**John Higenbotham**

From:

*Lawrence & Yvonne Chavez*

**Nancy Swett**

From:

*Leanna Landsmann & Chip Block  
Charles & Jennie Ryan*

## CLWA and the Watershed Council Welcome Becca Jensen to the Watershed Education Program!



Becca brings to the CLWA a passion for protecting our shared natural resources as well as a B.S. from SUNY ESF in Environmental and Forest Biology with a concentration in nature interpretation and science education. Additionally, she draws from 15+ years as a community and homeschool educator where she has promoted high-standard stewardship principles through hands-on science, art, literature, and outdoor programming for students from one to 91! Becca has either created and delivered or facilitated educational programs at the Naples Library, Cumming Nature Center, Vine Valley Community Center, Naples Farmer's Market, Steuben County 4-H, Syracuse City School District, and in multiple homeschooling venues.

Currently, Mrs. Jensen owns and operates Grateful Gardener's Home Services, a gardening and home cleaning business that keeps her hands delightedly in the dirt--or tidying up with homemade, non-toxic cleaning products until the snow flies... when

she sheds her summer role and takes up her winter habit as a substitute teacher and certified lifeguard for the Naples School District. She plans to soon pursue a Master's degree in Science Education.

Becca, her husband Nick Jensen, and their children reside on a 100-acre homestead in Prattsburgh, NY that -fun fact - sheds water to both the Chemung and Oswego basins. The family enthusiastically spends their time managing their much-valued land resource for habitat and wildlife diversity, timber stand quality, watershed protection, organic eatables, and renewable energy (they are partially solar-powered). When not 'on the land,' they may often be found hiking, kayaking, camping, or swimming in other wild places or cooking up new and delightful culinary creations from their big, unruly garden and flock of equally unruly chickens.

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## Its About the Lake.

*By Tom Zimmerman, CLWA Past-President*

If we live, work and play in the Canandaigua Lake Watershed, our lives here should be about the Lake. Not front and center, not back of mind, but always there – a steady stream of consciousness informing all that we do within the watershed. It's not about our neighbors or pointing fingers - it's about us!

It is no small task.

Being a good steward of our watershed does not demand ferocious, fanatical, tree hugging obsessive behavior. It does require a keen sense of awareness of the environmental impacts our behavior has in our daily lives. We can only control our behavior! Do we litter, dump, trash, create open sores when we dig or rework our 'private' landscape? Do we collect and compost leaves or otherwise properly dispose of them? Do we obstruct natural drainage ways, or maybe worse, strip them of flow retarding vegetation? Do we cut down trees to improve our views or clear the land without regard to the impact on soil erosion or animal habitat?

Do we fertilize with products having no phosphorous? Are we careful to keep harmful chemicals out of natural drainage ways. Do we keep ditches and culverts clear of obstructions? Do we properly dispose of prescription medicines and chemical waste (old paint, gasoline, oil, paint thinners, etc.)?

Do we still smoke and toss the ashes and butts hither and yon? Do we make sure our yard maintenance and snow removal equipment is regularly serviced to protect against fuel and lubricant leaks? Same for our fuel powered watercraft.

And, speaking of watercraft, are we careful to inspect them before and after use at other bodies of water to be sure we don't carry invasive species back home to Canandaigua Lake or from here to another nearby pond, stream or lake.

Bottom line – if we live, work and play here – be conscious and concerned about protecting the watershed.



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## Become a Friend of Canandaigua Lake.

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.

Please choose your tax-deductible level of support.

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 50 Guardian
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 75 Partner
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 100 Lake Leader
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 250 Watershed Steward
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 1000 Benefactor (your gift supports our environmental education efforts)
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$ BUSINESS MEMBER (Business Memberships start at \$100 and include a special listing in an upcoming issue of **The Lake Reporter**)

**Membership year will begin with receipt of your application and extend to the end of the calendar year. All information you provide will be used for the sole purpose of communicating with you. We will not share it with others.**

Name / Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

Principal Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

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

Lake area township: \_\_\_\_\_