



THE LAKE REPORTER

FALL 2017

ENCOURAGING STEWARDSHIP THROUGH EDUCATION : A look inside the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Education Program

By Special Contributor Leanna Landsmann

"I wish ALL our science classes excited kids like this!" An appreciative Canandaigua elementary teacher whispered that compliment to Beth Altemus and Becca Jensen, Outreach Educators for the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Education Program (CLWEP) as they were packing up their interactive model that demonstrates how watersheds work.

If there's one thing researchers agree on, it's that getting kids excited about a topic is the key to mastering it.

When the topic is "watershed stewardship" you might think it's hard to captivate kids, but Becca and Beth know how to pique their interest. They've created a curriculum that rivets kids' attention with discussions, games, challenges and hands-on simulations of how a body of water can become polluted through various land uses.

CLWEP, a joint project of the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association and the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council, was launched in 2006 and serves the three districts in the watershed - Canandaigua, Marcus Whitman and Naples.

Naples Elementary was one of the first schools to embrace the program. Seth Almekinder, fifth-grade teacher, saw just how effective Beth and Becca are at introducing important



Smiling faces after a morning of stream sampling!
Photos provided by Seth Almekinder

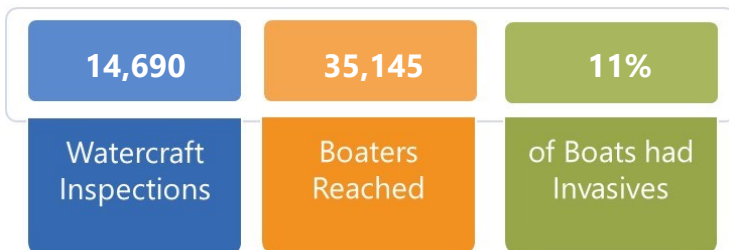
conservation topics that kids can relate to right outside their doorsteps. "Their lessons are carefully crafted not only to teach important concepts, but to help kids develop an appreciation and stewardship for Canandaigua Lake and the land that surrounds it."

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CONTINUING THE FIGHT AGAINST AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES

By CLWA Board Member Al Kraus

PRELIMINARY 2017 SEASON NUMBERS



Numbers reported represent a compilation of data collected at Canandaigua Lake launch sites by the Finger Lakes Institute and the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation

During the 2017 boating season the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association has continued to work with many partners (primarily the Finger Lakes Institute, Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council, State Parks and DEC) to fight the further spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) in Canandaigua Lake. It is very critical that our AIS Program be continued every year; any lapse in this program can have dire consequences for the lake and people of this region. Studies have shown that many of the bodies of water surrounding Canandaigua Lake contain AIS that are not already present in our lake. And studies have also shown that over 25% of the boats launched into

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Wade Sarkis



No matter the cause, climate change is real and impactful. This year we've witnessed a procession of Atlantic storms gather strength, get a name, and wreak havoc on anything in their path. For the storm victims, the devastation is real, immediate and overwhelming. Their world has been narrowed to the immediate concerns in their own neighborhoods. While the climate is universal, climate change impacts are local.

Meteorologists attribute more frequent and intense storms to warming ocean waters. Our local weather reflects a similar pattern and we've seen warmer waters in the Great Lakes and Finger Lakes, as well. According to the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Management Plan (2014), the summer average surface temperature of our lake increased 2.6°C between 1996 and 2013, documenting one impact of climate change locally.

To understand further impacts of our more intense weather, we can simply look back at the afternoon of July 23rd this summer. The Town of Gorham saw a powerful localized storm that dropped 3 ½ inches of rain in 30 minutes. That level of precipitation qualifies as a "500 year" storm, and it fell on already saturated ground. Incredibly, just a few miles to the south, the Town of South Bristol was dry. Localized torrential storms are the new normal.

This storm created flooding conditions as a 300 acre collection basin forced roughly 150,000 gallons of water per minute to flow through narrow drainage areas heading for the lake. Along the path were former streams since filled and replaced with lower volume pipes, as well as buildings and homes built close together. Road drainage ditches were easily overwhelmed and water followed the path of least resistance down driveways, through yards and homes, directly into the lake carrying mud, stones and assorted material with it. For those residents directly impacted, questions and frustrations abound. For the Lake, the sediment load will have potential long term impacts on water quality. Along with warming waters, increased levels of nutrients reaching the Lake provide the ingredients for trouble, especially in the form of harmful algal blooms. Is it coincidence that late season algal blooms were identified in locations of summer flooding?

We can't control the climate. And frankly, we have legacy development that, by design, is problematic at best. Extensive lot coverage by impervious surfaces redirect stormwater to sloped land sending torrents to neighboring downhill properties, and eventually— the Lake. Unfortunately, this has been the trend in our watershed. We are losing the protections provided by undeveloped land.

We need to reassess the way we think about future development in the watershed. Stormwater management ordinances need updating and engineering standards must be brought in line with current climate conditions and frequent "500 year" storms. Our neighbors in the agricultural community must continue to review their practices for moving water off their lands. And do lakefront cottage owners really need bright green fertilized lawns?

Clearly, changing weather has rendered traditional practices outdated. Along with new standards, wetland restoration projects will be crucial to temper nature's unpredictability and help decrease flooding and minimize sediment loading. Existing developments and farms that experience chronic runoff issues must be addressed.

While our super-charged micro storms don't compare to the devastating hurricanes that hit Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico, they can severely damage local properties and are negatively impacting the water quality of all the Finger Lakes. Our weather related problems demonstrate climate change is local. So must be the solutions.

STEWARD, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Canandaigua Lake had previously visited other waterbodies just prior to coming to Canandaigua Lake. Invasive species can potentially enter Canandaigua Lake in many ways, but the most likely pathway would be the transfer of invasive species that are attached to a watercraft and trailer when they are moved from one water-body to another.

We do not have to go very far away to see what can happen if we do not work diligently to protect our lake. Over in Cayuga Lake they are spending hundreds of thousands of dollars every year to try to eradicate a Hydrilla infestation that was first noticed in 2011. Hydrilla grows very rapidly, able to double its biomass every two weeks in summer. It can quickly form huge mats of vegetation that can shade out and out-compete ecologically important native submersible plants. Hydrilla can also seriously interfere with boating and other recreation uses of waterbodies, and can adversely affect water quality by altering water chemistry and oxygen levels. Hydrilla is just one example of the many types of AIS that are present in the northeast that we need to keep from spreading into Canandaigua Lake. Once AIS 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.

During the 2017 boating season we have continued our efforts to educate everyone about the importance of helping to protect the lake and how they can contribute. For example, we partnered with the Town of Canandaigua Environmental Conservation Board and others to conduct an AIS Identification and Prevention Presentation at Onanda Park in August. This presentation was very well attended by residents and included a hands-on identification workshop hosted by Dr. Bruce Gilman (FLCC).

We also continued our effort to maintain AIS signs and disposal stations at the majority of the 15 launch sites scattered around

Canandaigua Lake. One sign had to be completely replaced and others required maintenance to keep them serviceable. Likewise, we made a major effort to keep all of the disposal stations cleaned out and usable by the boating public.

The most complicated and expensive portion of the AIS Program was to provide Watercraft Stewards, 7 days a week, at the two largest launch sites at Canandaigua Lake; the State Parks launch site in the north and DEC launch site in the south. The Watercraft Stewards work to educate watercraft owners regarding how to inspect and clean their boats, and they try to prevent the further spread of AIS into Canandaigua Lake and the transport of AIS already in our lake to other bodies of water.

One of the new features of the AIS Program in 2017 was to extend the use of Watercraft Stewards at Canandaigua Lake, on weekends, to the end of October. The fall is a high risk period because many types of vegetation have reached their maximum growth level in many of the lakes within the northeast by October; hence, there is an extra-large amount of vegetation throughout the region. About how much is transferred. During the 2017 boating season, Watercraft Stewards employed through the FLI and NYS Parks inspected over 14,000 watercrafts!

We need to sustain a very robust AIS Program at Canandaigua Lake to protect the lake for future generations. We greatly appreciate all the watercraft owners who are actively working to help support this program and all the members of the Watershed Association who have generously donated funds to help sustain this program. We look forward to your continued support in the future; any lapse in this program can have dire consequences for the lake and people of this region.

MEMBER SURVEY HELPS GUIDE CLWA'S STRATEGIC PLANNING

In late 2016, CLWA conducted a survey to help us assess the attitudes and perceptions of our members towards the water quality concerns of Canandaigua Lake. The survey was created to gather baseline information on the specific issues and impairments facing Canandaigua Lake that you find the most concerning. Results of this survey were shared with our Board of Directors, and your thoughts and comments were a strong guiding component in our strategic planning process that took place over the winter months (2016/2017).

The survey was distributed electronically to 634 dues paying member households, and a link to access the survey was promoted in our quarterly newsletter. We received 130 member responses, (a 20.5% response rate).

The results reveal an increasing concern for degrading water quality and the effects from more intensive land use, including development pressures. So how do we, as stewards of Canandaigua Lake, make a meaningful impact on these concerns?

PERCEPTION OF WATER QUALITY

Several survey questions helped us gauge your opinions on the current water quality status of Canandaigua Lake.

- Overall, 68% of responders indicate good water quality, compared to 20% as excellent, 11% as fair, and 1% as poor.
- Forty-five percent (45%) report that the water quality is worse than it was 15 years ago, 30% indicate it is about the same, 10% think it is better than 15 years ago, and 15% are undecided.
- Among those that find water quality less than desirable, our members indicated excess plant growth, too much boating and recreational traffic, and cloudy or murky water as the impairments.

WATERSHED ISSUES & HOW TO IMPACT THEM

Questions to assess your concern for current watershed issues and how you think CLWA should address them was the most important component of this survey.

Members deemed all four watershed issues provided as "somewhat concerning" or "very concerning" (Land Use, Nutrient Loading, Invasive Species, Emerging Water Quality Concerns). "Land Use - including development, building on sensitive sites (steep slopes) erosion and sedimentation" ranked the highest level of concern among responders (82% indicated it is very concerning).

Continued on page 11

EDUCATION PROGRAM, continued from page 1

Becca and Beth participate in Almekinder's innovative program NOLA (Naples Outdoor Learning Activities). Kids and parents call it "Forest Fridays." Students spend Monday through Thursday in the classroom and on Friday, they head outside no matter the weather. The goal, says Seth, is hands-on exploration of the natural world they read and write about and discuss in class. Students hike up to six miles each Friday and are required to keep field journals on their treks, observing, recording, and interpreting what they're experiencing. One Friday might find them at Hi Tor, another observing a local beaver pond, another at the Sugar Shack, watching maple syrup being made.

CLWEP's lessons fit well into NOLA. Here's how it works. In the week preceding their visit, Beth says, "Seth preps his students about watersheds: from simple definitions to biological factors, current events reading, perhaps a discussion of a recent weather event, or topographical map work. Then we visit the classroom with maps and an interactive wetland model that demonstrates how watersheds and wetlands physically work."

Using the model, kids simulate drainage of pollutants (Kool Aid and cocoa powder) into the watershed's various land-use areas. Yep, it's messy but kids love it and it gets the point across.



"Kids are amazed (and disgusted) by the Kool-Aid contamination of their lake as we mimic the weathering events that transport materials to the base of the watershed," notes Beth. "After the simulation — and this is where Seth's approach is so helpful to introducing kids to CLWA's stewardship mission — we hike the very wetlands, identify the very land uses that are by location or personal experience--relevant to their daily lives, and sample the very streams that we had 'polluted' in the simulation in the classroom."

As a follow up in the spring, Beth and Becca will lead the class in public information projects such as storm-drain marking to prevent dumping. "This alerts the public that storm drains are



Beth and several students from Seth Almekinder's "Naples Outdoor Learning Activities" class review topographic maps of the watershed

'pollution highways'. They offer tips for students to share with the adults in their lives: for example, wash cars on the lawn not on the driveway. Doing so allows the soap and dirt to filter through grass and soil, rather than run directly into drains that empty into lake.

"We love being a part of Seth's program because we get to see the students more than once during the school year. We can watch them apply what they learn. It allows us to reinforce watershed concepts, and notice changed behaviors," says Becca.

On returning to a school, it's common for Beth and Becca to hear students say, "I remember you! You showed us how pollution gets into the lake!" Or "My parents don't wash the car on the driveway anymore after I told them why it's bad for the lake."

That's the kind of outcome Seth, Beth, and Becca hope for: when you motivate students with exciting hands-on lessons, they learn lessons for a lifetime.

HELP US INSPIRE YOUNG WATERSHED STEWARDS!

The Canandaigua Lake Watershed Education Program is a joint project of the CLWA and the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council. It reaches students in all three districts within the Canandaigua Lake watershed.

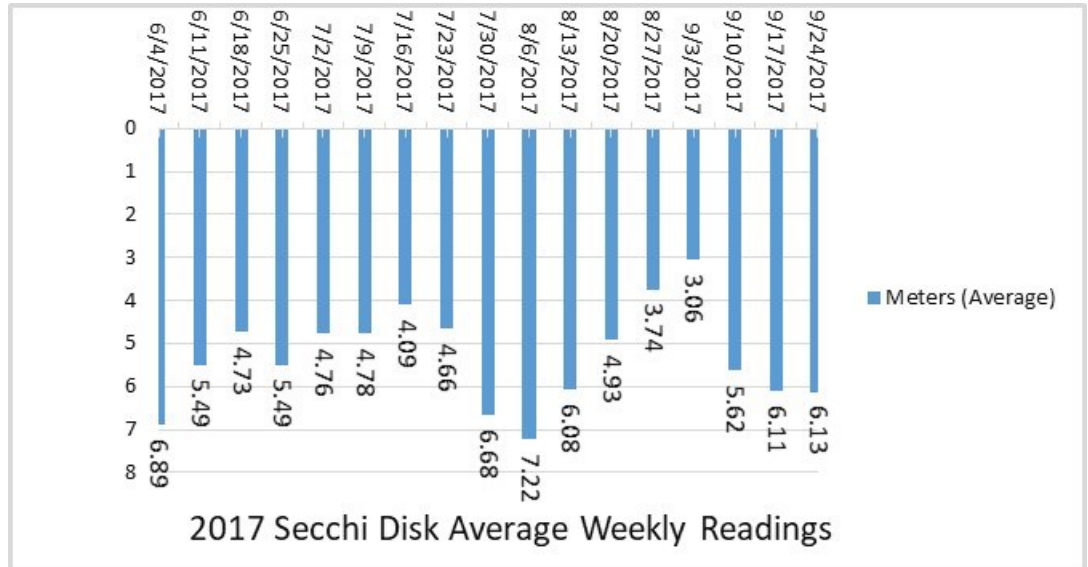
Since launching in 2006, more than 16,500 students have benefited from the program.

If you'd like to support the activities of the Watershed Education program, go online at canandaigualakeassoc.org or send a check to CLWA and mark it for the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Education Program.

TAKE A DIP PROGRAM EXPANDS IN 8TH YEAR

In the 8th season of CLWA's Take-A-Dip program, 20 volunteers signed up to monitor lake clarity weekly at 18 locations around the lake. The program has grown from 4 dippers in 2010! This season's volunteers collected 182 readings from June through September, our highest number of readings to date. Volunteer secchi disk readings supplement Dr. Bruce Gilman's water clarity data taken at two mid lake stations throughout the summer months.

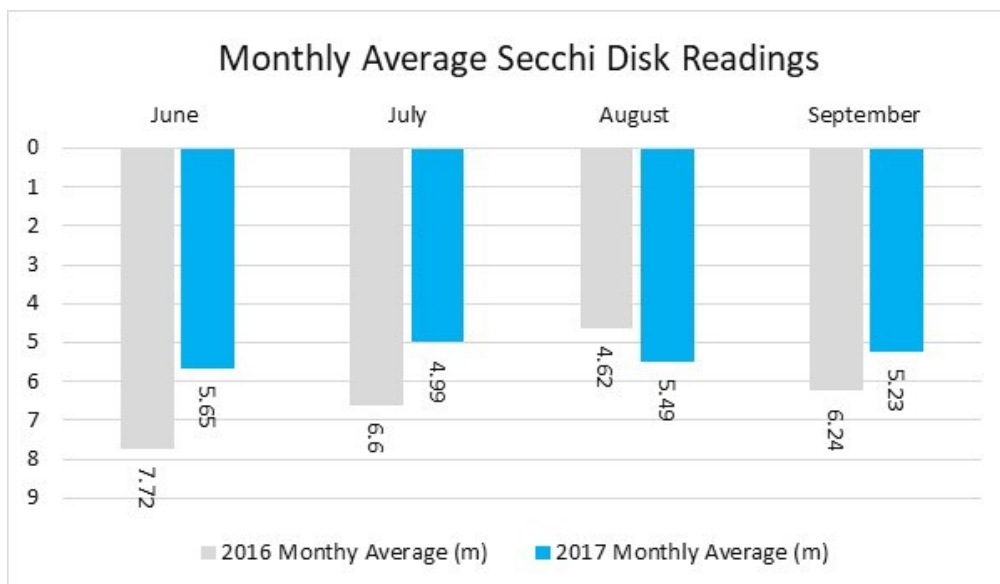
Overall, the greatest average monthly clarity was documented during the month of June at 5.65 meters, and the lowest average monthly water clarity was recorded in July at 4.99 meters. June's clarity readings started out great at almost seven meters, then dropped throughout the months of June and July as a result of several significant storm events that blew through the watershed, causing sediment to make its way into the lake. Clarity then increased in August before dropping again at the end of August and early September. This is becoming an observable pattern over the last few years as algal abundance increases in the water column in late summer. Comparison of 2017's monthly averages to 2016's indicates reduced clarity, likely due to this summer's heavy rains as compared to the drought of 2016.



Secchi Disk volunteers also function as those "extra sets of eyes" on the lake to alert us of signs of blue green algae. This year volunteers submitted photos and location of suspicious algal activity, making real-time response to a possible critical situation possible. Our partners at FLCC and the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council evaluate the information and determine if water samples should be collected from these sites for further analysis at SUNY ESF. Thanks go out to all volunteers and CLWA members that sent photos and let us visit their docks or shorelines to grab water samples.

CLWA would like to recognize the following volunteers for their participation in the 2017 Secchi Disk Program: Bruce Kennedy, Lynn Thurston, Steve Zumbo, Amy Bowen, Marty Lasher, Brian and Dolores Perkins, Bill Mehls, Bill Yust, Wade Sarkis, Dee Crofton, Kathy Postma, Nadia Harvieux, Scott Hill, Rob Gray, Gary Helming, Alan Krautwurst, Saralinda Hooker, Kathy Bromley and Greg Talomie. A very special thank you goes out to Dee Crofton for all of her efforts to collect data from the volunteers!

If you are interested in participating in Take-A-Dip in 2018, call Lindsay McMillan at the CLWA office at 585-394-5030.



WATER QUALITY NOTIFICATIONS

Secchi disk data is updated weekly on the CLWA website throughout the summer months.

Updates are sent electronically when we are experiencing impaired water quality. We encourage all our members to sign up for electronic notifications if you have not done so already. If you have previously sent CLWA your email address and are not seeing updates, be sure to check your spam or promotions folder and mark CLWA as a "safe sender".



We are proud to publish this list of our 2017 Annual Appeal donors. Because of your financial investment, CLWA will be able to fund several special watershed protection initiatives beyond what membership dollars support. Thank you for your contributions!

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Faith Deborah (Sterling) Lewandowski**

August 24, 2017 at the age of 92
Lifelong Canandaigua Resident

Always thought "Somebody oughta do something about the Lake"

Donations in her memory made by:
Meg LaDouce Ewing
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**IN HONOR OF
HOWARD & JEAN TENNENT**

From Susan Carpenter

MINUTES OF THE 2017 CLWA ANNUAL MEETING

Thanks to all that attended on August 17, 2017 at FLCC Stage 14

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Wade Sarkis at 6:07 pm.

Attendees were welcomed and CLWA board members and elected officials in attendance were recognized.

CLWA activities within the watershed were highlighted in a year-in-review presentation by Chairman Sarkis. The work of the Outreach/Education Committee, Marketing Committee, Membership Committee, and the Projects Committee were featured. Notable initiatives this year include the Municipal Education Program, the Agricultural Best Practices Workshops held in conjunction with Ontario County Soil and Water, and the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Survey Program. Accomplishments of the organization were also featured in the 2017 Annual Report, which was distributed to all meeting attendees (also available on the CLWA website).

Treasurer's Report was distributed and presented by Carol Benner. Assets total \$177,646. Income for the 2016 fiscal year was reported at \$121,407 and expenses totaled \$100,982. Billing for 2016 Watercraft Steward Program at the cost of \$8,882 was paid in early 2017, due to the grant cycle. Excess above expenses in 2016 totaled \$11,542.

Chairman Sarkis introduced Tony Prestigiacomio, Research Scientist with the Finger Lakes Water Hub, who discussed the Hub's overarching goal to safeguard the water quality of the Finger Lakes region. The Hub was initiated by Governor Cuomo's office in October 2016 and consists of three technical staff and a watershed coordinator.

The Hub will collaborate with local stakeholder groups to develop strategic work plans, fill data gaps, and improve the quality of data with the goal of using research findings to find funding for well informed, targeted improvement projects. It will also coordinate the development and implementation of a Finger Lakes Action Agenda.

Photo Contest Awards were announced by Katrina Busch and photographs were shared with the group. 134 entries were received and were judged by Peter Blackwood (Peter Blackwood Photography), Jack Haley (Messenger Post Media) and Rob Gray (CLWA Board Member). The "Most Popular" photograph was "Sunset" by Kaitlin Franklin, 1st Honorable mention was "High Tor Snowy Pine Reflection" by Dave Ducharme, 2nd Honorable Mention was "All in at the Point" by Jennifer Bomwell, 3rd Place was "Tannery Creek" by Paul Yarnall, 2nd Place was "Dangerous Adventures" by Ron Papa and 1st place was "Following Footsteps in Fishing" by Kathryn Cernis.

The following prize sponsors were thanked: Constellation Brands, Twisted Rail Brewing, Monica's Pies, Eric's Office, Hollywood Nail and Spa, Laurie Mitchell Acupuncture and Herbal Medicine, Finger Lakes Coffee Roasters, and Sweet Expressions.

Stewardship Awards: Wade Sarkis recognized Dave Sauter, Margaret Hollister, and Wada Polisseni (not in attendance) with the Partner in Protection Award for their efforts to work collaboratively with the Town of Canandaigua and the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council on the 5 & 20 wetland restoration project.

Nadia Harvieux presented retired CLWA Consultant Stephen Lewandowski with the Rohrer Stewardship Award for this dedication to forwarding water quality protection goals in the Canandaigua Lake watershed for the last several decades.

Chairman Sarkis then introduced keynote presenter Kevin Olvany, Watershed Program Manager of the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council. Kevin began by highlighting the local partnerships that collaborate on five protection themes: research, education, open

space protection, restoration, and regulation. Studies have noted an up to 71% increase in extreme rain events in the Northeast over the last decade, which are now bringing to light many of the challenges we face as a community to protecting water quality. As the watershed experiences increased runoff events, the risk for blue green algae increases, as was demonstrated in 2015.

Data was presented from the 2016 monthly sampling program with FLCC. Data slides emphasized: a decrease in clarity from 2015, an overall increase in algal abundance the last 4 years, and a Total Phosphorous monthly comparison showing lower levels of P in 2016 as compared to 2015 (high runoff year). An overall pollution ranking of streams place Sucker Brook, Vine Valley, Deep Run, and Fallbrook as the top polluted streams.

Dr. Bruce Gilman gave a brief update on the 2017 sampling season. Data collected on the morning of August 17th recorded an increase in clarity from 2 weeks prior. A plankton tow showed that the dominant algae in the water column is microcystis and diatoms, which is typical for this time of year. Chlorophyll levels are still low. Additional sampling sessions have been added to August and September.

Kevin Olvany reviewed the connection between flood resiliency and water quality by showing images and video of several summer storm events, focusing on the impacts in the FLCC and Cottage City areas, where several significant flooding events have occurred. These events also brought significant loads of sediment and nutrients to the lake. Projects to address some of these impacts are being implemented with additional projects being explored throughout drainage basin mapping and a review up the upland and lowland systems. These projects will help build our natural capital to reduce flooding impacts and improve water quality. New and continuing projects include:

- The 5 and 20 stormwater wetland project within the Sucker Brook subwatershed.
- The Cottage City Drive Flood Resiliency Area: a proposed flood resiliency and water quality improvement area design that will capture runoff from approximately 50 acres in the upper portion of an approximately 300 acre drainage area.
- Naples Creek Floodplain Restoration Project (Route 245): a 200 acre floodplain restoration project with the Nature Conservancy to restore natural capital to the area.
- Fallbrook sub watershed: an important source of potential pollution, project will integrate a rock weir structure and increased berm to help capture and infiltrate stormwater before it enters the lake.

Olvany stressed the role of partner groups and municipalities in defining issue areas and identifying solutions. The role of public / private partnerships will be critical to protect what we have and restore what has been lost. Comprehensive protection is needed, as it is never one issue or source causing algae blooms and water quality concerns.

Nominations for CLWA Board of Directors: Katrina Busch, Ted Carman, and Neil Atkins all renewed their terms for board positions. Linda Dworaczyk and Susan Carpenter were welcomed as new board members. Marty DeVinney, Jodi Kaufman and Cecelia Danahar are resigning. Nominations for CLWA Officers: Neil Atkins will now serve as President Elect and Linda Dworaczyk as Treasurer. It was moved that the roster be approved as presented. Motion was carried.

Chairman Sarkis explained CLWA's decision to discontinue our involvement in the sale of flares in the community, as the impacts of burning flares are detrimental to the watershed and against CLWA's mission of promoting clean water. CLWA will continue to support the Native American traditions of the Ring of Fire story with our sponsorship of the Seneca Heritage Day at Bare Hill.

Ongoing CLWA programs such as the HWA monitoring program and wetland restoration initiatives in watershed remain important to protect water quality. The new trend of rental properties through online rental sites poses a new challenge to onsite wastewater treatment systems and will need to be monitored.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 pm.

CLWA STEWARDSHIP AWARDS

Rohrer Stewardship Award

Presented to: Stephen Lewandowski



Award recipient Steve Lewandowski with CLWA Board Member Nadia Harviéux

There is one person above all who has been involved in the formation of the umbrella organization established to coordinate the efforts of the coalition of community groups, public agencies, organizations and individuals working with the municipalities in the watershed to preserve and protect the watershed and the lake.

The original organization, The Canandaigua Lake Watershed Taskforce, which evolved into the present Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association, was formed in 1989, as a consequence of a series of meetings initiated by the City of Canandaigua.

Since then Steve has been involved with the evolution of this organization, making significant and numerous contributions. His first major accomplishment was being part of the grant-writing team that was selected to receive \$50,000 from the DEC to "field-test" the Draft New York State Water Quality Planning Guide which the Taskforce used to produce the first Watershed Management Plan approved by DEC in NY. This seminal work has provided information to community planners, elected officials, and interested citizens necessary to protect the integrity of the watershed. And it has been honored by being used as a resource by other watershed groups across the state.

The Watershed Guide identified many water quality issues that need to be addressed and prevention measures which need to be developed. Steve has used the information in this plan to better focus the issues and projects that CLWA has addressed in the past and should address in the future.

His other contributions are too numerous to list. Generally, Steve has individually or teamed to write many successful grants for the organization's operation and projects. He worked with the agricultural community to establish the Watershed Friendly Farmer program, he has trained volunteers who have participated in many of CLWA's projects and directly participated in many more, and he has been the source of CLWA's site and environmental analyses of many of the proposed large developments in the watershed. Also, as a proficient and polished writer, Steve has written many position statements and articles for the newsletter, and for a duration was responsible for getting out CLWA's well-received newsletter.

Partner in Protection Award

Presented to: Dave Sauter, Margaret Hollister, and Wada Polisseni

As we are all aware – especially this summer – climate change has brought more frequent and more severe weather events. The added water volume in our tributaries means more sediment loading in the Lake. Our watershed wetlands provide a crucial barrier for sediment flow by acting as retention and filtration systems along Lake tributaries. However, over the years we have seen extensive removal or alteration of natural wetlands due to development and agricultural use. More storm events and less effective wetlands combine to add higher levels of sediment and nutrients with negative impacts on water quality.

Kevin Olvany, the Watershed Program Manager, identified a location in the Suckerbrook sub-watershed with great potential to provide water quality treatment and flood resiliency. He then identified the land owners and approached the Town of Canandaigua. Then-Supervisor, now State Senator Pam Helming, was instrumental in gathering the parties to discuss the importance of the project.

Today, we recognize the landowners who saw the value in donating easements on their properties to allow the project partners to implement the plan, while at the same time protecting their property rights. As Kevin will tell you, their actions will improve water quality in Sucker Brook.

It is our pleasure to honor Wanda Polisseni, as well as David Sauter and Dr. Peggy Hollister with our Partner in Protection Award for 2017. It is their generous community spirit that allowed this important public/private partnership to move forward. They didn't do it for recognition – in fact they couldn't make tonight's meeting. They did it because it was the right thing to do and have set an example for the watershed with their generosity.

There will be other wetland projects identified in the watershed and we can only hope folks as open-minded as our award recipients agree to assist future endeavors. Wanda, Dave and Peggy, CLWA offers our sincerest thanks in being Partners in Protection.

CLWA WELCOMES NEWEST BOARD MEMBER SUSAN CARPENTER

Susan is the third generation to own the little cottage on the lake her grandfather built in the 1920's. She has heard tales of the lake from when the steamboats brought mail to the point a few doors down and the teenagers spent summers dancing at cottage city. News was from a guy who pedaled his bicycle around the lake and stopped at cottages for the latest, often who was visiting or what new challenges kids had taken on. She has recently retired from over 20 years as the Director of Land Protection and as Counsel to the Westchester Land Trust, and has a background in land use regulation, having served for years on the open space, conservation and planning boards in her Westchester County town and has a graduate degree in environmental science. She has aspired for years to retire and help preserve the land she grew up loving.

What made you interested in getting more involved with CLWA?

Canandaigua Lake is in my DNA I guess. My family has spent summers here for 4 generation now, at the little cottage my grandfather built. My mother lived here year around for many years, and now that I have retired I do as well. The lake and its watershed are the land I feel most connected to, and CLWA is the organization committed to preserving it. I am thankful for the talent and commitment of so many people in CLWA for their work over the years to understand and advocate for the lake and keep those of us who love the lake informed. Now that I'm retired and here all year I want to do whatever I can to contribute to these efforts.

What are your greatest concerns facing the Canandaigua Lake watershed?

I have seen so many changes in Canandaigua Lake over my years at the lake. Zebra and quagga mussels have brought maybe the most detrimental changes, but the ecology of the lake is complex and I expect we are just beginning to understand the impact on the lake of many changes in the environment. Increased water temperature due to climate change, loss of native species due to invasives, loss of the connection between the shoreline and the lake due to breakwalls and piping of natural streams, increased nutrients from erosion, fertilizers and overburdened septic systems, all these have impacts on the health of the lake. My biggest concern is that even if we understand the connection between many of these changes in the environment we will fail to make changes to preserve the lake, either because they are beyond our control or are too inconvenient. But there are many committed and talented people who are concerned with the health of the lake and its future, and that is what will save it.

While serving on the CLWA board, Susan would like to get more involved with programs aimed at informing residents who live in the watershed or use the lake about what we can do to minimize our impact on water quality.

CASE STUDY: CLWA PHILOSOPHY APPLIED TO A WATERSHED LAWN

By CLWA Member Stephen Smeulders

The CLWA philosophy on the use of lawn chemicals in the watershed is advertised regularly in its newsletter. When these chemicals ultimately find their way into the lake, from the organism's perspective, they are also beneficial to the accelerated growth of blue-green algae. Tall lawns by definition do not need fertilization. The author therefor interprets the CLWA philosophy as a tacit endorsement to also stop mowing lawns in the watershed. The author chose to experiment with the steep, hillside, portion of the yard, whose surface area is about 50% of the total. Tall lawns are deemed unsightly and a sign of neglect in most subdivisions, so for good measure, immediate neighbors were advised of this experiment in advance. A half dozen rows of wild flower seeds were also planted. The waterfront lawn saw no fertilization, but was mowed. The observations are outlined below.



Benefits:

- Mowing hills is inherently more strenuous than mowing flat surfaces. Mowing is completed in about 60-70% less time.
- Fertilizers are not free. Cost & time savings.
- Water run-off in heavy rains is slowed.
- Noticeable increase in beneficial insect, mainly bee, activity.
- Noticeable increase in rabbit sightings. If you are a dog-owner, your pet has something to chase.
- Swaying of tall grass in breeze (mid-July), unexpectedly added to the lake view.
- Peace of mind that when blue-green algae was sighted on Lake Canandaigua at the end of the season, this lawn's maintenance was not a contributing factor.
- Unexpected drop in Canada Geese traffic on waterfront lawn. Noticeable fewer goose droppings on waterfront. Author surmises that *Poa pratensis*, Kentucky bluegrass, is less tasty in the absence of fertilizers.

Wildflower production was disappointing, as the grasses clearly outcompeted these.

CLWA MEMBERS HUNT FOR INVASIVES!

This summer, the Finger Lakes Institute initiated a Macrophyte Survey Pilot Program across the region, enlisting volunteer participation from seven of the eleven the Finger Lakes to search for aquatic invasive species. The goal of the program is to get the community involved in learning about aquatic species, to promote stewardship, and be the eyes on the ground for what is in our lakes.

On Canandaigua Lake, three volunteers enthusiastically signed on and participated in a two hour training session in Geneva consisting of plant identification, sampling protocol and data reporting. Volunteers were equipped with a survey kit containing all the materials needed to perform rake tosses once a week at their own convenience. Surveys could be performed off the end of a dock or from a boat.

Surveillance methods focused on volunteers detecting the presence or absence of three problematic species in the Finger Lakes- hydrilla, stary stonewort, and water chestnut. Volunteers that were interested in diving a little deeper into identification were encouraged to do so. Program Coordinator Patty Wakefield-Brown and Dr. Bruce Gilman of FLCC were helpful to volunteers as they sought out names of other commonly found species.

Results

Canandaigua Lake volunteers Saralinda Hooker (Town of Canandaigua), Lynn Klotz (Town of Gorham), and Terry Smith (Town of Gorham) performed 74 rake tosses from July 15th – September 30th, surveying multiple sites in the northern basin of the lake and a site at the mouth of the West River. Curly leaved pondweed and Eurasian watermilfoil (two common invasives across the region) were found, as was stary stonewort.

As stary stonewort is a relatively new invader to Canandaigua Lake (found in 2014), mapping populations is crucial to tracking the speed of its progression throughout the lake. Data collected in this volunteer pilot program will augment the macrophyte survey work that was done by Dr. Bruce Gilman and Kim McGarry of the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council in the Fall of 2016 and Summer of 2017 (a full report on their findings to come in the Winter edition of the Lake Reporter). The more data acquired on the frequency and magnitude of these aquatic invasive populations will be helpful as we look towards management strategies in the future.

The FLI program will continue in 2018 and additional volunteers are encouraged to get involved. If you are interested in participating next summer, contact the CLWA office at 585-394-5030. Materials and training are provided.



Macrophyte survey volunteers listed left to right: Margot Bliven (Keuka), Lynn Klotz (Canandaigua), Nancy Feinstein (Keuka), Saralinda Hooker (Canandaigua), Tim McAuliffe (Honeoye), Terry Smith (Canandaigua) and FLI Invasive Species Outreach and Volunteer Specialist Patty Wakefield-Brown

SURVEY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

CLWA FOCUS AREAS

We provided eleven initiatives that CLWA is (or should be) involved in and asked you to select the top 5 ways that you would like to see us focus our efforts. While all options had interest, the ones with the most pull included:

1. Continuing our efforts to promote sensible zoning, site plan review, and steep slopes protection with local municipalities
2. Supporting programs to assist the agricultural community with nutrient runoff and erosion control
3. Improving private and public wastewater systems (septic and sewer)
4. Proactive monitoring of development
5. Expanding Invasive Species programs, both aquatic and terrestrial (watercraft stewards, hemlock woolly adelgid)

CLWA PROGRAMS AND OUTREACH

We were thrilled to find that 65% of our members have attended a CLWA sponsored talk, workshop, or meeting. Education has long been a cornerstone of our organization and we appreciate that our members are talking advantage of the opportunities that we strive to

bring to you. Sixty-four percent (64%) want to see a “State of the Lake” presentation and many hope to see the watershed speaker engagements (Viewpoints events) continue in the future. Nearly 22% of our responders want to be more involved with CLWA through volunteer opportunities.

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

Using survey results, the board underwent a three-month strategic planning process, focusing on the redefining the goals and action steps of each committee and the vision of the board as a whole. This process was facilitated by CLWA Past President Bob Brancato. CLWA Committees identified their priorities using knowledge gained from survey results and phone calls to members. Copies of each committee’s strategic plans can be found on the CLWA website and will be featured in a future issue of The Lake Reporter.

We have an exciting slate of initiatives and hope that you support our plans! The CLWA Board would like to thank those that took the time to provide guidance through this process. We encourage you to reach out to us at the CLWA office anytime if you’d like more information on the programs and projects to support water quality or if you’d like get more involved on a CLWA committee.



CLWA

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2018 Membership Drive is in Full Swing!

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)

Membership year will begin with receipt of your application and extend to December 31, 2018.

Name / Business Name _____

Principal Address: _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

Lake area township: _____

THANKS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!