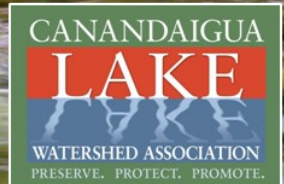


The Lake Reporter



SPRING 2016

CLWA Annual Appeal: Priorities for Action in 2016

Three previous Annual Appeals have proved to be tremendous successes. We appealed to you for funds to carry out special projects that went above and beyond what membership donations cover. You responded *dramatically* both in dollars raised and from a high percentage of donors.

Thanks to YOUR support, in 2015 CLWA was able to fund the continuation of the Watercraft Steward program at two boat launches on the lake (14,000 boats checked for aquatic invasives!), a habitat restoration project in the Sucker Brook watershed, and the next phase of the Natural Capital Study- a GIS based program with the capability to assign an ecologic value to lands within the watershed (more to come in a future issue of The Lake Reporter). Our profound thanks to all who donated the \$25,000 raised!

Success breeds success so our expectations and hopes are high for 2016. You can expect to receive a solicitation from CLWA in May. These are the projects we hope you will support in 2016:

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program

Research has shown that boats and recreational equipment are the main vectors of hitchhiking aquatic invasive species. Prevention is the most cost effective option for protecting the lake. For the last 3 years, CLWA and its partners have established a multifaceted AIS program to prevent the further spread of AIS in Canandaigua Lake through public education, watercraft checks at the two major launches, and strategically placed signage and disposal stations at 15 locations around the lake. Though much work has been done, the continuation of the AIS program is critical to ensure our lake remains protected from the threat of aquatic invasive species. Read more about our plans for 2016 on Page 3.

Buffer Strip Initiative

Tests conducted on all the main tributaries that flow into Canandaigua Lake show that, during rainfall events, harmful contaminants, nutrients and sediments are flowing into the lake. The introduction of these pollutants is having a very negative impact on the ecological balance within the lake and quality of water, possibly contributing to the 2015 Blue Green Algae blooms. The best solution

is to prevent these harmful pollutants from reaching the lake. CLWA is working with the community on an initiative to install buffer strips of trees, bushes and grasses along tributaries and the shoreline to improve and protect the quality of water flowing into the lake.

Meet Scientific Research Needs for Emerging Issues such as blue-green algae, lake foam, plastic micro-beads, invasive species, etc.

Scientific testing often provides the only effective answers to complex problems. As testing programs progress, new information needs are discovered. CLWA has recently supported enhanced testing by contributing to the purchase of advanced equipment for the FLCC faculty monitoring the lake and watershed (See article, page 3). The September 2015 bloom of toxic blue-green algae is a major challenge to our understanding of the causes, and solutions, to this problem.



Support Finger Lakes Land Trust Land Purchases

Preserving natural lands in the watershed serves the water quality goals of the Watershed Association as well as the habitat protection goals of the Land Trust. In past years, CLWA has assisted FLLT with acquisitions at Bare Hill, South Hill, Grimes Glen and Parrish Gully. FLLT's acquired lands and conservation easements are managed ecologically. CLWA will assist FLLT in acquiring lands and easements on additional properties with the greatest potential for water quality protection and enhancement.

Improvements to Sucker Brook

Sucker Brook is by most standards the most polluted tributary to Canandaigua Lake. Freshwater wetlands in the watershed have been eliminated by agricultural and development activities. Drainage from most of the City of Canandaigua's streets is carried to Canandaigua Lake by Sucker Brook. CLWA will invest in projects that improve the condition of Sucker Brook, including stabilizing its banks, restoring lost wetlands, moderating flows, and removing pollutants.

Continued on page 13

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President's Message*What a Difference a Year Makes*

As I write this it is officially the first day of spring 2016. Cloudy and 41°, very little wind, the lake had a few ripples, no ice, although early this morning there was a thin layer reflecting the almost full moon as Harry, our golden retriever, and I peered out over the lake. The lawn was greening before our eyes. The local population of song birds was emptying our two bird feeders-filled just yesterday. Last weekend we had cleaned, raked and fertilized the raised beds on the east and south sides of the house where we would be putting the vegetable plants we had just started in small containers placed in 9" x 12" aluminum cake tins with clear plastic covers from Dollar General. Daffodils, Narcissus, Tulips and Hyacinth are already two or three inches above ground... On St. Patrick's Day we had been to Big Oak for our second warm up session for the coming golf season - friends having already played a couple of rounds. The parking lot at the NYS Boat Launch was full and there were dozens of fishing boats on the water. Two weeks before, the huge flocks of Canadian Snow Geese that usually show up around St. Patrick's Day had been and gone. A few stragglers could still be found in the corn fields of Gorham and Middlesex. Likewise the swans of spring had been and gone from Canandaigua Lake back to the local ponds where they would nest, breed and raise their 'ugly ducklings' for another year.

A year ago, the lake was frozen solid from Woodville to Canandaigua. It would remain that way for another month. There was still a foot of snow pack on the ground and we were in the midst of another arctic blast of sub zero temperatures. The horrific rains, snow melt and localized flooding of the spring of 2015, had yet to arrive. We had no idea what was about to be the most unusual Spring and Summer season many of us old timers could remember, except of course for Hurricane Agnes 44 years ago.

Ultimately, as always, the ice melted and the spring rains came, except, unlike always, both happened swiftly and in concentrated doses right on top of one another! The deluge repeated itself, albeit at different locations until Memorial Day and beyond..

The spring of 2015 was as unique as it was nasty! It was a major disruption to many of us. Coupled with a very long hot summer it contributed to a severe upheaval in the ecosystem of Canandaigua Lake and its Watershed. It was not just the 17 mile long lake that was effected, it is the 350 miles of tributaries that feed into it. It is the farms, the gullies, the subdivisions and the individual single family parcels that send run-off into the lake - every year - not just in the years of anomalous events.

What can we do as residents of the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Ecosystem to keep our lake clean and the water taken from it for public use as pure as possible? Read on in this Newsletter for some ideas! Visit our website at canandaigualakeassoc.org; attend our "Lake Friendly Living" viewpoints event on April 21st; actively participate in our Aquatic Invasive Species Program by cooperating with our Watercraft Stewards; clean your boat before and after launching it into and removing it from the Lake.

Share the Memories, Live the Legacy, Do No Harm! And, Thank You!

Tom Zimmerman, CLWA President

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program Update

By Al Kraus, AIS Program Manager & CLWA Board Member

In November 2015 we held an After Action Review with our many partners to review how the AIS Program was conducted in 2015 and look for ways it could be improved in 2016. Below are listed some of the improvements we are going to try to make in 2016:



- Increasing coverage by Watercraft Stewards on weekends
- Scheduling extra Watercraft Stewards during all fishing tournaments
- Adding two more Disposal Stations at the State Parks launch site
- Adding a 4 x 5 foot sign emphasizing the importance of helping to prevent the further spread of AIS at the entrance to both the State Parks and DEC launch site
- Developing a new brochure to be used in many ways to further enhance the AIS Program
- Partnering with Robert Marchese, owner of the Auto Wash on Route 332, who is now offer a \$2, 7.5 minute, self-serve boat and trailer wash to boaters using that facility during regular operating hours (see attendants to get special offer)

This continues to be one of the most important programs being conducted to help protect Canandaigua Lake. Please do your best to help us to fight the further spread of AIS by complying with actions designed to fight the spread of AIS, spreading the word about the importance of this program, and continuing to help fund this critical program by earmarking your dollars when you respond to the Annual Funding Appeal. Many surrounding lakes are suffering from tremendous infestations of very troublesome and/or toxic plants, and we need to do everything we can to prevent a similar disaster from happening at Canandaigua Lake.

CLWA Makes Contribution Towards Purchase of New Water Quality Sonde

Equipment will be used to obtain real-time data on blue-green algae levels

With majority funding from the college, and significant contributions from other sources including the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association, FLCC was able to acquire a new YSI (Yellow Springs Instrument Company) water quality sonde, data logger and two connecting cables - one for use in deep lakes like Canandaigua and the other for use in shallow lakes like Honeoye as well as in tributary streams. Cables allow for the continuous collection of water quality information from the water surface to the farthest reach of the cable, including right to the bottom of Canandaigua Lake. The sonde contains multiple sensors: water depth, dissolved oxygen, conductivity, temperature, pH and blue-green algal pigment concentrations. The dissolved oxygen sensor is the newest technology available and this sonde is the first one on the FLCC campus that has the ability to provide real time data on the levels of blue-green algae in the water column. This water quality unit will be used monthly (April through November) as part of the long-term sampling and monitoring program that has existed on Canandaigua Lake since 1994.



Dr. Bruce Gilman, Professor of Environmental Conservation at FLCC is excited about the opportunity this new equipment brings to students : "I am confident that this piece of equipment will also be used by students in several FLCC classes as they learn about aquatic environmental conditions and levels of pollution in many water bodies of our region."

Draft Onsite Wastewater Treatment System Law Seeks to Protect the Lake

By Kevin Olvany, Canandaigua Lake Watershed Program Manager

After you flush a toilet or run your faucet, your wastewater is treated by either a centralized wastewater treatment plant or an individual onsite wastewater treatment system (often referred to as a septic system) on your property. Only 5% or 5,000 acres of the Canandaigua Lake Watershed are served by centralized wastewater treatment facilities, including the City of Canandaigua, the northern one-third of the shoreline on both sides of the lake, the larger developments along State Rt. 364 and Middle Cheshire Road, the Bristol Harbor area, and the Village of Rushville. These wastewater treatment plants are highly regulated by NYS Department of Environmental Conservation to prevent water quality degradation.

The other 95% of the watershed area is served by individual onsite wastewater treatment systems to clean their wastewater. There are over 4,000 individual onsite systems in the watershed. Properly designed and maintained onsite wastewater treatment systems are very effective at removing solids, bacteria and nutrients from wastewater. However, improperly designed, located (too close to the lake or running stream), or maintained systems often show no signs of malfunction to the owner but are not fully cleaning wastewater. Many times the only way to detect a problem is through a proper system inspection.

Currently, New York State does not regulate the on-going maintenance of existing onsite wastewater treatment systems nor does it require regular inspections of existing onsite wastewater treatment systems. Without local municipal regulations, improperly functioning systems can go unnoticed for years and can be an on-going source of nutrients to the lake, contributing to algal blooms and weed growth. Many communities across New York State have recognized this as a risk to water quality and have passed local regulations for onsite wastewater treatment system inspections.

A new model local law for onsite systems was recently developed for municipalities within the Canandaigua Lake Watershed. Code enforcement officers, municipal staff and residents from across the watershed worked collaboratively to develop the law. We utilized our own experience and expertise along with analyzing example laws from across the state to develop a law that could work within our local municipalities. The concepts in our draft local law are not new, as everything that is proposed is already being done somewhere else in the state. Keuka Lake, Sodus Bay, and Owasco Lake are just some of the examples of lakes with requirements that are as strict or even stricter than this model law.

Highlights of our proposed law are provided below and are broken down into the two main areas, Town wide and parcels within 200 feet of the lake. Here is a link to the latest version of the draft law:

www.canandaigualake.org.

Town-wide Requirements

Inspections

- On-site wastewater treatment system inspections are required for
 - deed transfer,
 - change in use of the property (e.g. from residential to commercial),
 - if there is an expansion/change to the property, defined as
 - addition of one bedroom,
 - increasing the building or dwelling existing square footage by greater than twenty-five (25) percent of the square footage, or
 - altering a building or dwelling such that the work area exceeds 50 percent of the aggregate area of the existing building
 - For any change to the absorption field or change in the type of on-site wastewater treatment system
- Inspections will follow the Onsite Training Network (OTN) procedures and will be conducted by an OTN registered inspector. Trainings will be provided to the private sector, so that both municipal and private inspectors are able to conduct these inspections. This is in contrast to other local laws, which require a government inspector to complete the inspection.
- All failing systems are required to be upgraded to the standards within the law.

Design and Maintenance Standards

- The design must be completed by a licensed professional and include, as a minimum, a design load of 130 gallons/day/bedroom to provide a higher level of protection.
- A maintenance agreement is required for all enhanced treatment units and holding tanks to make sure these systems are being properly maintained.

Authority

- The municipality will have the enforcement authority through the Code Enforcement Officer. However, the Watershed Inspector can issue notices of violation and will provide administrative and technical support for implementation of the law.

Additional Requirements for Parcels within 200 feet of Canandaigua Lake

There are approximately 760 parcels within 200 feet of the lake that have onsite wastewater treatment systems. For 175 of these parcels, we have no information on the location or quality of the onsite wastewater treatment system. Onsite systems in close proximity to the lake have a greater likelihood of not properly treating nutrients (that feed algae blooms and aquatic weed growth) from the wastewater effluent before the effluent reaches the lake. Therefore, the draft law has additional criteria for these systems within this critical area.

- Inspections will occur every 5 years by a certified inspector. (Owasco Lake is every 2 years!)
- The minimum design is 150 gallons/day/bedroom on parcels within 200 feet of the lake to further increase the level of protection for the lake.
- Substandard systems (those that don't meet the design standards of the law but are not failing) must be upgraded to meet the design standards.
- Parcels with existing systems that have site limitations must meet the design standards to the greatest extent possible.

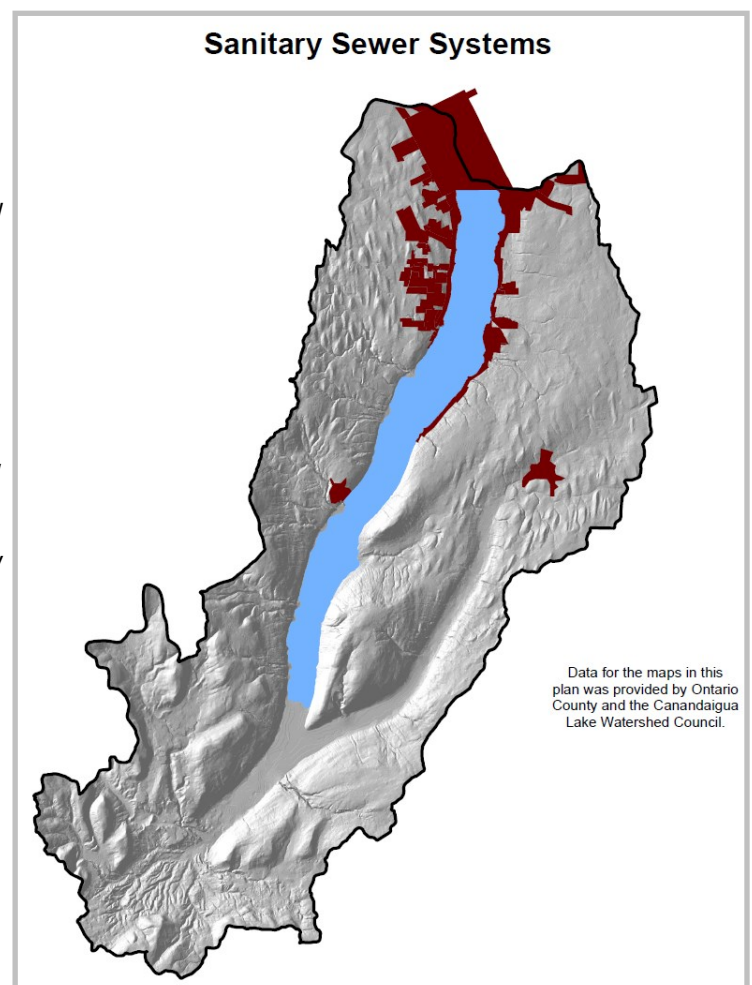
The model law is a tool to help municipalities address the ongoing concern with onsite systems and reflects the changes many other communities have already made across New York State. The Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council has endorsed the concept of the law. The next step is for each municipality to review the model law and decide if they would like to adopt the law as is, make changes to it, or not adopt it.

This model law is just one of many approaches that watershed municipalities are taking to reduce nutrient inputs to the lake. Nutrients come from many sources, so it is essential that diverse actions are taken. The recently updated Watershed Management Plan outlines numerous additional approaches, such as agricultural best management practices, reducing impacts from new and existing development, creating wetlands to remove pollutants, and increasing shoreline and stream bank protection along with many other actions. The only way to protect the lake from algae blooms and other issues is to tackle each source of pollution. This model law is designed to reduce pollution risks from onsite wastewater treatment systems to the lake.

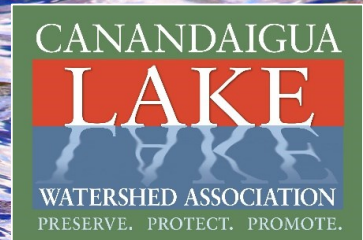
We will work with our respective municipalities to go through the review process over the next few months. Public feedback will be critical to make sure we craft a law that will work for each of our municipalities. Please feel free to contact us and/or your municipality to get further information or provide comments. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at:

Canandaigua Lake Watershed Program Manager Kevin Olvany - Kevin.Olvany@canandaiguanyork.gov
(585) 396-3630

Watershed Inspector George Barden - George.Barden@SWCD.com (585)-396-9716



Upcoming EVENTS



Thursday, April 21st 6-8 PM
FLCC Stage 14

Healthy Land, Clean Water: *Best Practices for Lake Friendly Living*

Join us to learn simple strategies that we can incorporate into our lawn and landscape practices to protect the health of the lake. Environmentally minded professionals will teach us how to minimize runoff, eliminate pollutants, and how to best capture and infiltrate rainwater to protect water quality. Special emphasis on landscaping with native plants, and the creation of rain gardens.



RSVP by April 19 at 394-5030 or info@canandaigualakeassoc.org

Wednesday June 8th 6-8 PM
Naples Town Hall

Love Your Land? Learn about Land Protection

Elizabeth Newbold of Finger Lakes Land Trust will discuss conservation tools available to private landowners. A landowner from the Canandaigua Lake watershed will offer a personal perspective on working with the Land Trust and motivation for conserving their land. There will be plenty of time available for questions! Sponsored by CLWA.

Thursday, June 16th 6-8 PM
Crouch Hall, Onanda Park

Native or Not? Discover the Aquatic Plant Species Near the Shoreline

Shorelines host a unique community of aquatic plants – some native, and some invasive! Join us for a hands-on workshop to learn more about the species you may encounter at the water's edge. Residents are invited to bring plant specimens (in sealed plastic bags) for identification. Watercraft Stewards will also be on hand to demonstrate proper Clean, Drain Dry techniques to help reduce the spread of unwanted invasives.



Event is sponsored by the Town of Canandaigua Environmental Conservation Board and CLWA.

SAVE THE DATE! CLWA Annual Meeting

Wednesday, August 10th from 6-8 PM at FLCC Stage 14

Check out the events page on canandaigualakeassoc.org for more!

4th Annual Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association

Photo Contest



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

Capture the beauty of the woods, hills, streams, valleys and lake that define our amazing watershed.



2015 Entry, Dave Ducharme

Contest is open to amateur photographers with prizes awarded in both adult and youth divisions. Entries will be judged by a panel of professional photographers based on degree of creativity and overall aesthetics.

Entry is Easy. Enter by 7/31/16.

1. Snap your photos around the watershed
2. Log in to **Facebook**
3. Find and Like Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association
4. Click on the Photo Contest icon
5. Follow the upload directions
6. And then share!

Note: You can also email us for an entry form:
info@canandaigualakeassoc.org or call 394-5030.



2015 Entry, Sherry Widmer

Contest is open May 1st – July 31st 2016

Thank you for your 2016 Membership Support!

CLWA is grateful to publish this list of our 2015 Members and business supporters. Your generosity makes it possible for CLW to execute its ongoing mission to preserve, protect, and promote Canandaigua Lake and its watershed for future generations.

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From the Watershed Education Program

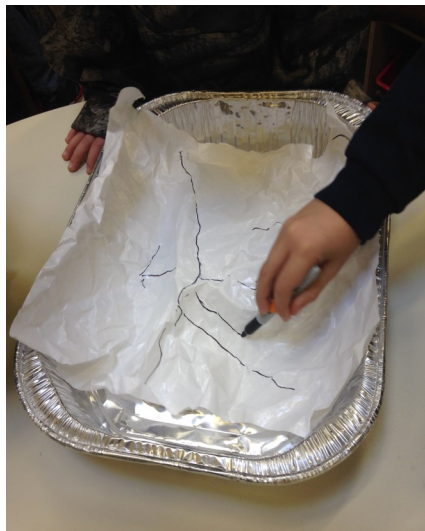
By Sharon Radak and Beth Altemus, Watershed Educators

Students in Canandaigua and Naples have been busy this winter learning about our watershed!

Third graders in both districts were introduced to the concept of a watershed through the use of a 3-D Enviroscape model. This hands-on activity not only showed them how pollutants are carried through a watershed, but what is being done (including what *they* can do) to decrease pollution from entering the lake. Fifth graders built upon their knowledge of how a watershed works by creating a puzzle that depicted all of the ways that we use the land. In addition, solutions to the pollution issues were discussed. Naples fourth grade students learned about landforms and watersheds by creating their own model out of freezer paper and sixth graders studied aquatic insects (macroinvertebrates) and how we can use them as indicators of water quality.



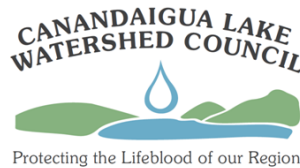
Educator Sharon Radak showing 5th graders at Canandaigua a map of the watershed boundaries



4th grade students at Naples Elementary construct their own watershed models

We will be busy through June continuing our work in the three districts within the Canandaigua Lake watershed, including our big day in June when all of the Canandaigua 3rd graders will participate in our 4th Annual Watershed Exploration Days at Onanda Park. Stay tuned!

The Watershed Education Program has been co-sponsored since 2006 by:



A Call for Volunteers Spring is here!

As the warm weather draws closer, we hope you will consider getting involved with CLWA Secchi Disk Water Clarity Monitoring!

Secchi Disk volunteers use their own boats to go out on the lake and take weekly recordings on lake clarity. Findings are reported electronically, which makes real-time response to a possible critical condition possible. The additional data gathered by volunteers helps us supply more detail to the ongoing "picture" developing of Canandaigua Lake. Volunteers are especially needed on the South end.

To volunteer, call the CLWA office at (585) 394-5030. CLWA will provide equipment and training.



Love the Lake, Love your lawn

By Rob Gray, CLWA Board Member



Most lawns don't need fertilizers to be healthy, however many advertisements this time of year might make you think otherwise. Instead, try aeration. This procedure punches small holes in the turf which allow oxygen to enter the soil where earthworms and beneficial microbes use it to stay alive and well. They digest and decompose organic material in the soil, leaving behind nutrients which grass and other plants need. Problems arise when home owners overuse commercially prepared fertilizers which contain nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium (N P K percentages are printed on the bag). Knowing that phosphorus nutrients in lawn fertilizers often cause undesirable plant growth in bodies of water, New York State has prohibited

their use in most lawn fertilizers. Look for 0% P on the bag. In addition, phosphates have been eliminated from many detergents and other cleaning products for the same reason. Even 0 % P products which contain nitrogen can be harmful to the lake because they also promote excessive plant growth. Heavy rains cause fertilizers to run off into storm sewers and near-by streams, and eventually into the lake.

Farms in our watershed also use fertilizers, but farmers are generally careful not to over-fertilize; it is wasteful and not good for business. Unfortunately, heavy rains last spring caused soil erosion in many fields and the run-off brought large volumes of soil and N P K nutrients into the lake. This may have been the number one cause for the blue-green algae blooms that curtailed swimming and other in-the-water activities at the end of the 2015 summer.

Although blue-green algae has not been a problem in Canandaigua Lake in previous years, the critical problem of accelerated growth of aquatic plants threatens the lake every year. Nutrients entering the lake as the result of fertilizer run-off, animal waste and faulty septic systems have increased the distribution and the density of weed beds. Masses of aquatic plants inhibit swimming, boating and fishing. More importantly, when these plants die and decay, the oxygen content of the water and hence, water quality is diminished. This has a negative effect on the ecosystem of the lake.

If you value the lake and the high quality water it provides for drinking and healthy recreational activities, you should avoid the use of commercial lawn fertilizers. Rather, cut your lawn no shorter than three inches, and adjust the frequency of mowing so that no more than one inch at a time is removed. Leaving clippings in place provides most of the N P K nutrients your lawn requires. Finally, provide one inch of "rain" each week (early in the morning is best) if Mother Nature fails to do so. This will assure a healthy lawn and improve the health of the lake as well.

CLWA is sponsoring a Viewpoints program April 21st at Stage 14 on the FLCC campus from 6 to 8 PM. Three lawn and garden experts will be providing additional steps you can take to love the lake and love your lawn and garden too. Check out the flyer included in this newsletter for more details!

Annual Appeal Priorities *Continued from Page 1*

Information/Tracking and Treating Hemlock Woolly Adelgid

A tiny pest, the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, has been found in the watershed infesting Hemlock trees that often grow in gullies leading to the lake. Once infested, these trees will die within ten years, leaving the gullies without the protection of their roots and shade. Tracking the progress of this pest, informing the public about the threat, and assisting with biological control measures developed at Cornell will be the thrust of this project's expenditures.



Learn more about HWA at:
canandaigualakeassoc.org

We have added the Annual Appeal to our solicitations of the CLWA membership because there were simply more projects than membership contributions would support. We know you support our goals and hope you will continue to be members of CLWA as well as contributors to the Annual Appeal. We greatly appreciate all of your support to keep CLWA a strong advocate for the lake and its 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.

- _____ \$ 45 Guardian
- _____ \$ 60 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.

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