

# The Lake Reporter



JULY 2012 • VOLUME 10 • ISSUE 3

## Making Our Mark CLWA's Storm Drain Marking Project

This spring, CLWA educators Sharon Radak and Nadia Harvieux worked with two groups to place storm drain markers in our community. These colorful markers remind local residents that curbside structures called 'drop inlets' drain storm water, and whatever it carries, directly to Canandaigua Lake.

FLCC's Finger Lakes Environmental Action (FLEA) club celebrated Earth Day in April by placing storm drain markers around the campus' new Student Center. Along the way, students picked up litter and debris from the parking lots and sidewalks. FLEA club treasurer, James Beach, commented on the project, "I hope people will see these markers and realize the importance of keeping litter out of the storm drains- anything that goes down into the drain will be carried right into Canandaigua Lake!"



In June, the 7th Grade Cadets Girl Scout Troup 1216 placed over one hundred markers on storm drains along the Middle Cheshire walking trail in the Town of Canandaigua, as well as in the nearby Fox Ridge neighborhood. Their participation in

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## ***YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CANANDAIGUA LAKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION***

**Saturday, August 18, 2012 • 9 am**  
Steamboat Landing • 205 Lakeshore Drive

### **Program**

8:30 am for coffee and conversation  
9am Annual Meeting  
Featuring a Talk on Steep Slopes  
Update on Hydro-fracking  
Update on Invasive Species

Year in Review  
Stewardship and Rohrer Awards  
Financial Report  
11:30am Conclusion

### **Admission and Light Refreshments are Free**

To reserve a place at the Meeting, call (585) 394-5030 or email Steve Lewandowski at [stachu14512@yahoo.com](mailto:stachu14512@yahoo.com) by Thursday, August 16.

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# From the Chair

By Brenda Keith

It hardly seems to have been a year ago when at the Annual Meeting I was elected President of CLWA. But the year has passed quickly and another Annual Meeting approaches. On August 18, I hand the office over to the capable hands of Jack Dailey. I hope our membership and Board will support him as you have supported me.

It has been a good year for me and for CLWA. As is customary, I want to note the Watershed Association's accomplishments. Many of them are long-term accomplishments, that began before my term and that will continue to benefit the lake, watershed and community for years to come.

## CLWA ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Increased CLWA visibility to Towns of watershed
- Promotion of adequate municipal regulation of the development of steep slopes
- Completed Phase One of the Natural Capital study
- Completed new regulations pertaining to Uniform Docks and Moorings on Canandaigua Lake
- Partnered with the Finger Lakes Land Trust on acquisitions at Parrish Gully and Grimes Glen
- Supported storm-drain marking projects by FLEA, Girl Scouts, and schools
- Established new CLWA investment policy
- Led in formation of Finger Lakes Regional Watershed Alliance for nine lakes
- Partnered with Canandaigua and Victor Chambers

of Commerce, Ontario County Tourism and FLCC on sustainability and Green Survey

- Increased CLWA membership, especially among local business community
- Developed new CLWA database to facilitate communication with membership
- Revised and updated the CLWA website and Facebook presence
- Continued presence of CLWA Watershed Education Program in three school districts and special programs
- Obtained the Blue Water Grant to expand educational services
- CLWA Watershed Education Program is noted as special Friend of Education by the Canandaigua City School District
- Expanded Take-a-Dip Secchi disk monitoring program from 4 to 9 to 13 participants
- Developed seminars on hydrofracking at FLCC and took position on that practice
- Published and distributed the quarterly newsletter
- Contributed to mapping of on-site wastewater treatment systems in the watershed
- Presented three Field Camp Scholarship to FLCC students per year
- Promoted passage by NYS Legislature of a Phosphorus Limiting Bill
- Promoted Ring-of-Fire and Seneca Heritage Day

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## CANANDAIGUA LAKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brenda Keith	President
Lynn Thurston	Past-President
Jack Dailey	President-Elect
Frank Kerwin	Treasurer
Thomas Harradine	Secretary
Stephen Lewandowski	Consultant
Edith Davey	Technical Assistant

Bob Brancato, Ted Carman, Marty DeVinney, John Fayko,  
Katrina Busch, Wade Sarkis, Don Sheive, Rod Smith, Tom Zimmerman

**Watershed Education Program:** Nadia Harvieux, Sharon Radak

### Please contact us at:

CLWA, Box 323, Canandaigua, NY 14424

**Phone:** 585-394-5030

**E-mail:** stachu14512@yahoo.com

**Website:** www.canandaigualakeassoc.org

The Lake Reporter is published quarterly and distributed free to members and supporters. We invite submissions. Please send them via e-mail to stachu14512@yahoo.com or to PO Box 323, Canandaigua, NY 14424.

## Our Apologies

Our apologies to the following individuals whose names were left out of the CLWA membership list published in the previous issue:

Jack Dailey  
John Motz  
Doug and Corrie Ward  
Joseph T. and Gail Gilbert

We do our best to maintain an accurate list but sometimes we slip up.

# Making Our Mark

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the storm drain marking project is part of their Silver Award. "We really wanted to focus our community service on protecting water quality in Canandaigua Lake," shared troupe leader, Sally Alling. "The lake is such an important part of our lives-- that is where our drinking water comes from and where everyone goes to swim in the summer." Co-leader, Katie Ferguson

"We are very proud of our girls for doing their part to raise awareness about protecting such a fragile and important natural resource."

CLWA's storm drain marking project is funded by the Royal Bank of Canada's Blue Water Grant awarded to our organization in 2011. To date, nearly 300 storm drains have been marked within the Canandaigua Lake Watershed.

If you know of a youth or school group in need of a service project, please contact the CLWA office at (585) 394-5030.

**CLWA**



FLCC's Finger Lakes Environmental Action (FLEA) Club

## Things you can do around your home to help protect water quality:

1. Pick up pet waste and dispose of it in the trash
2. Wash your car on your lawn or at the car wash
3. Limit the use of lawn fertilizers and pesticides
4. Never use the storm drain to dispose of chemicals, paints, motor oil, etc.
5. Educate your friends and neighbors about where the storm drain water goes!



FLEA Club members prepare to make a storm drain.



Canandaigua 7th Grade Cadet Girl Scout Troop 1216.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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Canandaigua 7th Grade Cadet Girl Scout Troop 1216.

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## Dog Kennel Furor in Gorham

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The proposal to site a 500-dog breeding operation in the Town of Gorham, first approved and then approval rescinded by the Town Planning Board in January, 2012, led the Town to pass a year-long moratorium in order to study the issue and to make improvements to the Town's regulation of such facilities if necessary.

CLWA reviewed the proposal and expressed its concerns to the Gorham Town Board and Planning Board at a public hearing in February, 2012. CLWA noted that a facility of this size would produce approximately 60 tons of waste and 60 dog bodies per year. CLWA doubted the ability of the proposed septic and composting systems to safely handle this much waste. In addition, CLWA reminded Gorham that the proposed facility was in the Deep Run drainage to the lake, and if the

proposed waste management systems did not work, Deep Run enters the lake very near both a public bathing beach and the Town's water intake.

During the moratorium, the Town of Gorham has formed a committee of citizens, with the Town and Planning Boards represented, to address the issue. That committee's recommendations will better define dog kennels and dog-breeding operations and distinguish between various kinds of domestic animal populations. Recommendations for further regulations will be made first to the Planning Board, who will review and revise them, and then present them to the Town Board for such legislative action as needed.

CLWA awaits with interest the results of these studies. **CLWA**

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## Take A Dip in Canandaigua Lake

*By Stephen Lewandowski*

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### Program Enters Third Year

The CLWA Take-a-Dip Program originated in the spring of 2010 and was coordinated by Nadia Harvieux with the help of Dr. Bruce Gilman of FLCC. Four volunteers were trained and began taking clarity readings at midlake off Deep Run, the Water Treatment Plant, German Brothers Marina and Walton Point. The program uses a visual measure of clarity by lowering a brightly painted disk into the lake until it "disappears" and recording that depth. In 2010, 26 readings were taken with an overall average of 6.04 meters (19.8 feet). The deepest reading was 8.1 meters (26.55 feet) on August 11, 2010.

In the 2011 season, nine volunteers took 59 readings between July 8 and September 25 with an average of 5.2 meters (17.0 feet) in depth. The deepest reading was 7.25 meters (23.76 feet) on August 16. Clarity diminished 14% for the season due to large runoff events in the spring and seasonal algal blooms. The program was coordinated by Carol Benner, assisted by Dr. Bruce Gilman and Steve Lewandowski.

The 2012 Take-a-Dip program will be coordinated by Carol Benner with assistance from Steve Lewandowski and Steve Connelly of FLCC. Thirteen volunteers began taking samples in mid-June and will continue until the end of September. The electronic filing of results with the coordinator yields real time reporting, which could be useful in tracking harmful algal blooms. Look for results in the next Lake Reporter.

On July 11, an article ran on the front page of the *Daily Messenger*, reporting on the citizen training for this project. This is the link to it:

<<http://www.mpnnow.com/news/x1903091309/Citizen-science-for-Canandaigua-Lake>> **CLWA**



Courtesy Julie Sherwood/Messenger Post Media

Volunteer learns to use Secchi disk to measure lake clarity.

# **The Watershed Education Program Summary Report for the 2011 - 2012 School Year**

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The Watershed Education Program is constantly evolving to adapt and respond to the changing need of local teachers. This year, changes in field trip policies, new state testing requirements and increased demand for in-class activities allowed us to develop several new programs and refine existing curriculum. As always, our goal is to provide the best educational experience for students to learn about the importance of protecting water quality in the Canandaigua Lake watershed.

In the past school year, we achieved many goals, including:

- Taught over 1,700 students in Canandaigua, Naples and Marcus Whitman schools about the importance of protecting water quality in the Canandaigua Lake watershed
- Held our 5th annual Watershed Week with Naples Elementary School-- 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students participated in hands-on lessons to learn about our watershed
- Held our first Watershed Week with Gorham Elementary School, modeled after the successful Naples program
- Developed a new 5th grade watershed program for Canandaigua Elementary School focusing on land uses and non-point source pollution
- Created a new introductory lesson for Canandaigua 6th grade science classes for students to learn about the stream environment and what types of stream settings aquatic insects prefer
- Created a classroom-based lab for Canandaigua 6th grade science classes to learn about macro invertebrates that incorporates the scientific method to make predictions about water quality and uses aquatic insects as water quality indicators
- Presented our 3rd annual All About Watersheds program for the Rochester Museum and Science Center
- Completed two storm drain marking projects (FLCC campus and Middle Cheshire Road/Fox Ridge in the Town of Canandaigua) with the \$5,000 Community Action Grant from the Royal Bank of Canada's Blue Water Project.
- Watershed Council and CLWA awarded the Friend of Education Award from the Canandaigua City School District at the end of the 2010-11 school year for their commitment to education in our community

As always, we thank you for your continued support of this very important program!

- Nadia Harvieux and Sharon Radak

## Introducing...President-Elect Jack Dailey

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Jack Dailey and his wife Joan have been Canandaigua Lake residents for over 30 years; first as summertime lake dwellers and more recently as year-round residents. The Daileys have two "twenty something kids" (Tim and Kate). As the children moved away from the area, it became time to consolidate homes, Pittsford or the lake? It was an easy choice.

Jack's professional background included corporate finance and operations having served as Treasurer of Goulds Pumps (now an ITT subsidiary) as well as senior positions with other companies in NYC and the Southern Tier. He is a native of Long Island but has lived in Western NY his entire adult life. A graduate of St. John Fisher College with an MBA from RIT, he serves as an alternate member of the Gorham Planning Board, a counselor to small business with the SBA thru Score, and is a former member of the Marcus Whitman School District Audit Committee. He has also served as a Board member of CLWA since its inception and was a Board member of its predecessor organization, the East Shore Association.

**Working with CLWA Board members and the watershed community, Dailey hopes to continue to build on the strong base the organization has established including:**

- continued growth of partnerships with other watershed stakeholders;
- further focus on educational programs which highlight risks facing the watershed and how to best address these threats; and
- continued work with public officials to assure zoning and development issues are balanced with the need to protect the watershed.



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These accomplishments represent significant partnerships with municipal governments, educational institutions, nonprofits, and other organizations of the watershed area. They reach beyond the Canandaigua Lake watershed to the greater Finger Lakes area and all of New York State. I am proud of extent to which CLWA serves as a model for watershed education and action in the region.

To all who have assisted and participated in these accomplishments, I offer my thanks. It is important that CLWA continue to fulfill its mission: "To preserve and protect our lake and surrounding watershed for future generations by supporting scientific research, sound public policy and community education."






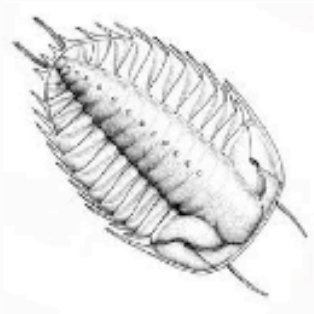






Brenda Keith

# Common Fossils of the Canandaigua Lake Watershed

## Have Fun Fossil Hunting in the Canandaigua Lake Watershed

Although you won't find dinosaur femurs in the fossil-bearing strata of the Canandaigua Lake Watershed, you will find many interesting remnants of Devonian-era creatures that lived here about 500-400 million years ago when this area was a tropical sea. Sifting through the shale along the lakeshore or looking at the layers of shale along the sides of a tributary to the lake will reveal these small treasures. Walk slowly and look carefully, though, Devonian-era fossils are generally small and gray to white in color, making them difficult to see if you hurry. Some fossils will be eroded or smoothed by tumbling in the water.

Not To Scale:

			
Crinoid	Crinoid stem sections	Brachiopod	Brachiopod
			
Trilobite	Trilobite	Horn coral	Horn coral
			
Cephalopod	Ammonite	Snail	snail

## Can You Name This Invasive Organism?

### Can You Name This Invasive Organism ?



**A.** This shellfish is a biofouler in water systems. It can alter below- water substrates and compete with native species for food and space. They appear to be capable of tolerating polluted environments better than many native clams and mussels.

- (1) Zebra Mussel
- (2) Asian Clam
- (2) Quagga Mussel
- (3) Brachiopod



**B.** These large crayfish displace native species, consume about twice as much food (aquatic plants) as native crayfish, increase fish predation on native species, and reduce food available for small fish. They are aggressive toward fish and human swimmers.

- (1) Rusty Crayfish
- (2) Mini Lobster
- (3) Carolina Crawdad
- (4) Crinoid Crayfish



**C.** Recently found in the Cayuga Lake Inlet, this plant grows aggressively and can choke entire lakes. It tolerates a wide range of water depths and temperatures, forms thick mats that severely damage fish populations and recreational uses. It will grow from plant fragments or tubers.

- (1) Purple loosestrife
- (2) Japanese knotweed
- (3) Water chestnut
- (4) Hydrilla



**D.** The most common vectors (means of spreading) of aquatic invasive species are:

- (1) boats, boat trailers and swimmers
- (2) boats, boat trailers and dogs
- (3) boats, bait buckets and gulls
- (4) boats, boat trailers, bait buckets and released aquarium plants

Answers: A (2) B (1) C (4) D (4)

# Don't Panic - Blue-Green Algae in Canandaigua Lake?

By Steve Lewandowski

Those of you who read the *Democrat & Chronicle* may have seen an article by Steve Orr several weeks ago specifically on blue-green algae/bacteria. Those of you who read closely will have noticed that Canandaigua Lake was mentioned as a water body containing this troublesome organism.

A little background about blue-green algae/bacteria is necessary. It is one of the oldest and most widespread organisms on the face of the earth. Only certain types are dangerous, however, because they can generate neurotoxins that, in high concentrations, pose a health risk to bathers or water drinkers.

Blue-green algae/bacteria have been appearing in upstate New York in increasingly high concentrations in recent years. Some may remember that beaches at Sodus Bay and Honeoye Lake were closed due to high concentrations in July and August of 2010. There is some evidence that the growth of their populations is favored by increased temperatures, shallow, enriched waters, and the presence of zebra mussels, which will browse other algae but spit the blue-greens out.

Some blue-green algae/bacteria do pose significant health risks. But high populations of these algae/bacteria or their neurotoxins have not been found in Canandaigua Lake. Regular testing of Canandaigua Lake's water carried out by Dr. Bruce Gilman of FLCC has turned up some blue-green algae/bacteria, but similar testing would almost certainly find similarly low populations in almost any local body of water.

This year 13 CLWA volunteers will be dipping Secchi disks into Canandaigua Lake on a weekly basis, and the data they gather about the lake's clarity (a measure of algal populations) will be reported immediately to the program coordinator. Sudden changes indicative of increased algal populations will be further investigated. In addition, the volunteers have been given a tutorial of the appearance of blue-green algae/bacteria and asked to collect a sample and report any incidence. In the unlikely case that suspicious algae/bacteria are found, scientists at SUNY Brockport have volunteered to more closely identify the species and assess the risk. **CLWA**

## Find Us Online Anytime!

By Katrina Busch

### The new CLWA Website and Facebook Page

[www.canandaigualakeassoc.org](http://www.canandaigualakeassoc.org)

Our brand new website is now up and running. Here you'll find information about our organization including the education programs, hot topics, helpful links to other resources and even past CLWA newsletters. Be sure to visit often and be up to speed with what is happening in our watershed.

Find us now on Facebook too! We hope to increase our reach to lake lovers near and far in effort to continue to gain support in what we are all drawn together by: preserving, protecting and promoting our wonderful natural resource. Please comment and share your stories and pictures. We'd love to hear about what the lake means to you and what you are doing to help. We will post information about what's happening in the watershed and helpful hints on how everyone can help keep our land healthy and water clean.



Find us on  
**Facebook**

## NYS Representatives Canandaigua Lake Watershed

### Senate

\*Senator Michael F. Nozzolio, 54th NYS Senate District, 119 Fall St., Seneca Falls, NY 13148 (315) 568-9816 (Towns of Farmington, Manchester)

Senator Thomas O'Mara, 53rd NYS Senate District, 105 E. Steuben St., Bath, NY 14810 (607) 776-3201 (Towns of Middlesex, Italy, Potter)

Senator Patrick Gallivan, 59th NYS Senate District, 143 N. Main St., Warsaw, NY 14569 (585) 786-5048 (Towns of Hopewell, Gorham, Canandaigua, Bristol, S. Bristol, and Naples, City of Canandaigua)

### Assembly

Assemblyman Philip Palmesano, 136th NYS Assembly District, 105 E. Steuben St., Bath, NY 14810 (607) 776-9691 (Towns of Middlesex and Italy)

Assemblyman Sean Hanna, 130th NYS Assembly District, 3045 E. Henrietta Rd., Henrietta, NY 14467, (585) 334-5210 (Towns of Farmington, Bristol, S. Bristol and Naples, Village of Naples)

Assemblyman Brian M. Kolb, 129th NYS Assembly District, 607 W. Washington St., Suite 2, Geneva, NY 14456 (315) 781-2030 (Towns of Hopewell, Gorham, Canandaigua, City of Canandaigua)

\*Does not represent the watershed per se but sometimes takes an interest

## Lake Levels

By Stephen Lewandowski with thanks to Will Clark

Though *The Daily Messenger* has discontinued publishing daily lake levels in its *Weather* column, Canandaigua Sewage Treatment Plant Operator Will Clark continues to record the lake levels measured by the USGS gauge at the pier.

As of June 26, Canandaigua Lake was right on the mark for summer levels, 688.50.

Prior to the 26th Canandaigua Lake was cruising at a few inches above the spring and summer levels, but intense heat = much evaporation. It's hard to believe the evaporative losses happening on a few hot, sunny days.

Now in the second week of July, the lake level is several inches below the Guide Curve, at 688.24 and dropping at about 2 inches per week due to lack of rain and evaporation.

Through manipulation of the gates at the two lake outlets, flow out of the lake can be closely regulated. The main gates behind Wegmans are closed. The City is required to maintain flows of at least 35 cubic feet per second (cfs) to dilute the treated effluent leaving the city's sewage treatment plant on Saltonstall Street. By manipulating the Feeder Canal gates off Lakeshore Drive, they City can meet the dilution/flow standard but minimize lake level loss. At present the City is keeping flows between 35 and 40 cfs.

CLWA



### You've Enjoyed the Lake - Now Consider a Gift That Continues Giving...

Make a contribution to acknowledge or commemorate a friend or family member. We will print acknowledgements and memorials in *The Lake Reporter*.

Consider including the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association, Inc. in your will or estate plan. Provide for the future of Canandaigua Lake by making a new will, modifying your existing will, or by including the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association, Inc. in your evocable trust. Consult with your attorney or financial planner. Here is some sample language for an unrestricted bequest for general purposes: "I hereby give, devise and bequeath to the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association, Inc., a nonprofit corporation in

New York State, for its general purposes \_\_\_\_\_ dollars, or \_\_\_\_\_ percent, or all the rest, residue, and remainder of my estate."

Our official name is the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association, Inc., and this name should be used on all legal documents. Gifts to the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association, Inc. qualify as charitable contributions to a 501(c)3 organization for federal income, estate and gift tax purposes.

# Is Watershed Management Possible?

By Steve Lewandowski

"Watershed management." Our community has been talking about this concept in meetings and in these pages for at least two decades. The idea behind the term—that a watershed can be managed to produce better quality runoff and water bodies—has been around for a couple hundred years.

At first, foresters and scientists discussed the influence of forests on weather and debated whether the presence of forests caused more rain to fall in certain "catchment" areas. It turned out to be only partially true and couldn't be used to increase the "catch." But they learned that the quality of water running out of forested watersheds was superior to that coming from built-up watersheds. Forest root systems better held the soil in place and caused more water to enter the groundwater cycle and less to run off.

So a watershed could be managed to produce better water quality. All you had to do is own a whole watershed and be willing to let forest grow on as much of it as possible.

But that's hardly possible in the 173-square mile Canandaigua Lake watershed with an estimated watershed population of 20,000 owning 10,000 separate parcels of land, including 1,400 at the shoreline.

Consider not only all the owners of land but all the decisions they make that may affect water quality in any period of time. Thousands and thousands of decisions large and small.

So watershed management in a heavily populated area demands a process of public education. CLWA's Watershed Education Program makes an important start at primary and elementary school levels, but adults need to be reminded as well: Why should I wash my car on the grass rather than the pavement? Because the grass will retain the soap and other materials used whereas the pavement will drain the wash water directly to a stream and the lake.

Sometimes those of us involved in watershed management feel like scolds, unable to be pleased, always critical. But there are times we have to speak up, to remind our fellow citizens about the connections we have become aware of, how water links us together, for better and worse, and defines the community we live in.

To have real watershed management, then, requires the awareness, interest and cooperation of the community. "It takes a village to raise a child?" Well, it takes a caring community to maintain and protect a beautiful watershed and lake. Concerned individuals can make a mark, but it will take more general actions by a larger segment of the population to protect a lake. **CLWA**



Ink Drawing by John Almekinder

Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association  
P.O. Box 323  
Canandaigua, NY 14424

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A Publication of the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association  
Vol. 10 Issue 3

***Be a Friend of Canandaigua Lake***

The Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association has a strong base of supporters and a significant history of Protecting Canandaigua Lake and its watershed. Because of numerous and complex challenges, we need YOUR support.

Please return this form (or a copy of it) with your contribution. Remember your contribution is TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

*Your 2012 membership benefits include a quarterly newsletter, committee participation and reports, special alerts on crucial issues, invitations to events and the Annual Meeting, but most important, you will know you're doing YOUR PART to protect this precious resource.*

Yes, please process my 2012 tax-deductible membership in the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association.

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 **Supporter** (student rate)
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$35 **Guardian**
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 **Lake Leader** (your gift at this level helps to pay for water testing)
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$250 **Watershed Steward** (says it all)
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$1000 **Benefactor** (your gift at this level supports our education program)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Principal Address \_\_\_\_\_

I own property in the watershed town of \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Principal phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate phone number \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail this membership form and your check to:  
CLWA, P O Box 323, Canandaigua, NY 14424**