

Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association
Virtual Annual Meeting Minutes
August 18, 2020 at 7 PM via Zoom

Call to Order

The 2020 Annual Meeting was called to order by Chairman Neil Atkins at 7:00 PM.

Year in Review

Association Director Lindsay McMillan presented the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association Year in Review. Volunteer efforts were highlighted as being a major driver of CLWA activities in 2020, with a total of 3,197 volunteer hours over the last year. The work of CLWA's Committees was also highlighted and major project include:

- The Volunteer Shoreline Harmful Algae Bloom Monitoring Program, which spreads awareness on water quality issues among the members, the public, and stakeholder groups. The program grows each season to include more volunteers; the 2020 program has 41 monitoring zones.
- The Cornell University / Finger Lakes Institute "Mobile Toolkit for Harmful Algae Bloom Screening". This research project will provide ecological insights into HABs community composition, in-lake dynamics, and toxins that cyanobacteria produce. It will also test the capacity for a new mobile handheld unit to screen for toxin indicators.
- A HABs "hotspot" Stream Monitoring Pilot Project in cooperation with Finger Lakes Community College Professor Patty Thompson that will look at the contribution of nutrients in two smaller sub-watersheds that have historically seen active blooms each year.
- The Lake Foam Research Project to look at the composition of the foam and potential toxins associated with the foam during HABs season.
- Involvement in ongoing research and monitoring projects including the Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program, Secchi Disk Program, and macrophyte monitoring.
- Continuation of the organization's support for the Watercraft Steward Program at the lake's two public boat launches, providing boat inspections and education to prevent the transport of invasive species.
- Support to wetland restoration initiatives, including the Fallbrook Restoration Project on the FLCC campus and the Naples Creek/Parish Flats project. Both projects were designed to allow for treatment of stormwater before entering the lake.
- Workshops and Outreach activities which includes:
 - Soil Health Workshop, attended by 140 members of the agricultural community covering topics like manure management, IPM and cover crops
 - "Viewpoints" talks on climate change, extreme weather, and lake friendly lawn care
 - Rain barrel workshop and Lakeside Lawncare webinar
- The Expansion of the Lake Friendly Lawn Care Program in the community. To date, 140 residents and businesses have taken the pledge to positively impact the lakes water quality by eliminating harmful fertilizers and pesticides. All CLWA members and encouraged to follow suit and act as lake friendly ambassadors in their neighborhoods. Several other Finger Lakes groups have modeled their own lake friendly programs after CLWA's and all group are working together to leverage out impact in the Finger Lakes community.

- CLWA Representation at public hearings and with various watershed protection groups like the Finger Lakes Regional Watershed Alliance and the Water Resource Council
- Expansion of electronic communications via Facebook, Instagram and YouTube Channel
- New Homeowner outreach via direct mailings and community engagement events
- The delivery of the Watershed Education Program by Educators Beth Altemus and Becca Jensen in the Canandaigua, Naples, and Marcus Whitman school districts. Highlights for this year included:
 - Marcus Whitman Living Environments Field Studies (stream monitoring)
 - Macroinvertebrate sampling with Naples Outdoor Learning 5th grade
 - Wetlands Exploration Field Trip
 - Conservation Field Days at Camp Bristol Hills
 - Development of 2 short macroinvertebrate videos
 - Work on curriculum guide to document lesson plans

CLWA members were thanked for their ongoing support and were encouraged to reach out with any questions or concerns to the CLWA office.

Treasurer’s Report

Annual Reports were distributed to dues paying members which included charts of the organization’s income and expenses.

The Treasurer’s Report was presented by Linda Dworaczyk:

CLWA exists primarily due to contributions in the forms of our two major fundraising drives - a membership drive and our annual appeal to members and the community. These sources of income support the organization, it’s projects and activities. CLWA also applies for and receives grants which are used for specific purposes. A small amount of our income is from our nest egg which we have grown by underspending our budgets and saving for the future. CLWA’s conservatively invested portfolio has provided a cushion to ensure the activities of our organization remain viable for the future of the lake.

2019 INCOME	
Membership	\$76,425
Grants, Contributions, Events	\$70,781
Investments	\$5,323
TOTAL	\$152,529

CLWA’s expenses can be characterized by our major initiatives and our overheads:

- Overhead – part time staff responsible for coordination and organization with our many volunteers including our active Board members. We could not provide the variety of programs without our staff or our volunteers working out of our small office on Main Street.
- Water quality updates and testing of water samples.
- Watercraft Steward program to keep invasive species out of our lake.
- Our Education program that introduces middle school children to lake friendly practices.
- Funding specific research like the Foam study - results to be shared in this meeting.

- Providing speakers on topics supporting our mission.
- Funding the local matching fund component for water quality improvement projects.
- Providing a Scholarship for a college student in a related field of study.
- Social media presence to remind people to protect our watershed.

2019 EXPENSE	
Services and Expenses	\$13,361
Rent and Equipment	\$8,382
Taxes, Ins and Payroll	\$42,141
Watercraft Stewards and Joint initiatives	\$15,900
Scholarships	\$2,283
Projects	\$18,168
Marketing, Membership and Outreach Committees	\$17,208
Educators	\$20,303
Other = Events	\$8,107.53
TOTAL	\$145,852.90

Katrina Busch motioned to accept the Treasurers Report, seconded by Neil Atkins.

Stewardship Awards

Wade Sarkis presented CLWA’s “Friend of the Lake” Award to past CLWA Board Member Nadia Harvieux. Nadia’s dedication and leadership on water quality issues has been an integral part of CLWA since she joined the board in 2006. Nadia founded the organization’s Watershed Education Program, forging strong relationships with K-12 educators and setting the groundwork for the program’s long-standing success in the Canandaigua, Naples, and Marcus Whitman school districts. She chaired multiple committees during her tenure, and her science background provided critical direction and focus for our Board. Nadia’s positive, can-do attitude always helped us recruit volunteers, several of whom now serve on our Board. When it comes to Canandaigua Lake, she always sees the big picture.

Wade Sarkis the presented the Rohrer Stewardship Award to Tom Zimmerman. In January, the Canandaigua Lake Watershed lost a true advocate. As a Past-President of CLWA, Tom provided an important perspective to the Board – experience with building, development and municipal regulations. He consistently reminded us that CLWA is not anti-development, rather, we support reasonable and sensible land use. Tom was a pragmatist and his no-nonsense approach helped guide the organization to its current level of success. In addition to his work with CLWA, Tom served the community on the FLCC Foundation Board and the Town of Gorham Planning Board. CLWA honors his memory.

Photo Contest Awards

The 2020 Photo Contest winners were announced by Katrina Busch and their winning photographs were displayed. CLWA received 152, which were judged by professional photographers Jack Haley and Peter Blackwood, and Rob Gray, CLWA Board Member. Prizes were awarded in the following categories:

- “Most Popular” with 1,059 Facebook votes – *The Chosen Spot* by Susan Chippero

- Honorable Mentions – *A Comet Among the Stars* by Brad Gray and *Enjoying the 4th* by Daniel Unrath
- 3rd Place – *He asked...She said Yes!* By Bill Calpus
- 2nd Place – *Early Bird* by Julie Marie Smith
- 1st Place – *Fireworks on the Fourth* by Gillian Barry

Member Vote: Nomination of Board Members and By-law Updates

Wade Sarkis presented the slate of board members and officers:

New Board Members	Township	Term Ends
Joel Pasternack	Town of Gorham	2023
Ellen Polimeni	City of Canandaigua	2023
Renewing Board Members	Township	New Term Ends
Katrina Busch	Town of Gorham	2023
Ted Carman	Town of Middlesex	2023
Neil Atkins	City of Canandaigua	2023
Susan Carpenter	Town of Gorham	2023
Dee Crofton	Town of South Bristol	2023
Officers for Election	Position	Term Begins
Lynn Klotz	President-Elect	2020

Also presented were suggested language changes to the CLWA By-laws effecting the manner in which directors and officers are elected. Summary of these changes includes:

1. In Article II Sections 3 and 4, we are proposing the Past President and President Elect, who are officers of the corporation, be elected for two year terms making their terms the same as the other officers, and we propose to clarify that an officer’s position that becomes vacant between annual meetings may also be filled by the Directors until the next annual meeting.
2. In Article IV section 3 we propose adding the Past President to the executive committee in order to best utilize the experience of that officer to the organization.
3. In Article V Section1 and 2 the Directors propose changing the language to provide that the President serves a 2-year term, as is consistent with Article II, and in Section 2 that all officers shall serve a 2-year term as is consistent with both the existing and proposed Article II as set forth above.
4. In Article VI we propose adding a new section 4 providing for the Annual Meeting to be held with virtual participation of members in the future. This year the NY Attorney General has issued an Executive Order permitting all NY not-for-profit corporations to hold their annual membership meeting virtually because of the current pandemic. We propose changing the By-laws to allow for participation virtually in the future for members who may be unable to attend in person. Proposed amendment is as follows:

Section 4. Virtual Participation of Members at Annual Meeting. Unless otherwise restricted by the Certificate of Incorporation or By-laws, any one or more Members who is not physically present may be present for purposes of participation in the meeting and constituting a quorum by electronic communication, or delivery of a proxy to a Director or to any person who is present in person at the

meeting, for all purposes including presence of a quorum, and to provide for the person holding the proxy to cast the Members vote on any question properly brought before the Annual Meeting. Participation by such means shall constitute presence at the meeting as long as the Member so participating has been provided with proper notice of the content of actions to be taken at the meeting in written form prior to the meeting and is given an opportunity to communicate with other members either present in fact or electronically or through written statement to all members if presence is waived by way of a proxy.

CLWA Members were offered three ways to participate in the vote for members and officers and By-law changes: via paper ballot that was included in the CLWA Annual Report, via an online survey on the CLWA website (also sent out in an email blast), and they could participate in a live poll during the meeting. Results are as follows:

- Online voting via Survey Monkey = 59 votes in favor
- Poll voting via Zoom = 35 votes in favor
- Paper ballots via Annual Report = 5 votes in favor

In total, there were 99 votes cast in favor of approving the slate of CLWA officers and members, and By-law changes.

Keynote Presentation:

Lindsay McMillan introduced **Dr. Richard Smith and Dr. Stella Woodard of Global Aquatic Research**, who presented information on the 2019 Lake Foam Research on Canandaigua Lake.

Global Aquatic Research (GAR) and CLWA surveyed and sampled lake foam with the help of citizen scientists throughout the late summer and fall of 2019. Many chemical analyses were performed on the foam and the results were compared with the chemical signatures of tributary streams, lake water, invasive mussels, plankton, and seaweed, in order to identify the source of the foam.

Carbon isotope and fatty acid signatures indicate the source of the foam comes from within the lake. Very high concentrations of carbon and low concentrations of nitrogen in the foam suggest it is enriched in one type of biological component that is low in nitrogen. This means that invasive mussel proteins are not the source. FTIR (fourier-transform infrared spectroscopy), an advanced technique used to identify organic substances, indicated the foam is primarily made of carbohydrates, in particular polysaccharides, which are long chains of sugars. A range of aquatic organisms commonly produce these, but the FTIR signature of the foam was most similar to the phytoplankton sample from the lake.

All measurements were consistent with *Microcystis* algae, the cyanobacteria that are responsible for the harmful algal blooms (HABs) and produce the microcystin toxins responsible for beach closures, as the source of these foam-causing polysaccharides.

Plankton, which include all microscopic plants and animals suspended in the lake water, are filtered by the invasive zebra and quagga mussels. *Microcystis* cyanobacteria are a poor food source for the mussels. The mussels eat other plankton and spit the cyanobacteria out. Over time this selectively concentrates the cyanobacteria in the water. Phosphorous and nitrogen concentrations in the lake support phytoplankton growth, and during the summer when sunlight is abundant, cyanobacteria grow at fast rates. *Microcystis*

cyanobacteria release polysaccharides outside of their cells in order to create large colonies and to regulate their environment. These “exopolysaccharides” or “EPSs” are produced in large quantities during phytoplankton blooms and change the chemistry of the surface of the lake. Invasive mussels get "sick" when feeding on the cyanobacteria and start producing polysaccharide rich mucus of their own while recycling and ejecting the cyanobacteria EPSs, exacerbating the problem. Over time, these EPSs, which are not very soluble in the water and are stable in the environment, accumulate in the SML (see Foam Facts) and provide the right conditions for foam production. In fact, these types of polysaccharides are used in industries to stabilize foam and create emulsions.

As for the safety of the foam: some foam can concentrate pollutants at much higher levels than in the surrounding environment. This part of the study is ongoing. However, microcystin toxins have been found in the foam at higher concentrations than in nearby lake water, and in a few cases, higher than the NYS Department of Health’s recreational limit.

Future research should assess the foam’s potential to accumulate heavy metals and industrial toxins (including PFASs) in addition to further investigation of microcystin toxins in the foam. CLWA and GAR are developing a phase 2 plan to assess 4-season sampling and further testing for pollutants.

Adjourn

CLWA President Neil Atkins thanked the members for their continued support through funding, guidance, and volunteer hours. Members are encouraged to get more involved with CLWA by joining committees or serving as board members.

Neil Atkins made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Wade Sarkis. Meeting ended at 8:23 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lindsay McMillan

September 15, 2020
Date