

Winter 2026

# THE LAKE REPORTER

A CANANDAIGUA LAKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION PUBLICATION



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# From the Director's Desk

As we move into 2026, I want to pause and reflect on what a strong and meaningful year 2025 was for our organization. Thanks to your continued support and commitment, we ended the year strong, exceeding our goals for both annual membership dues and our year end appeal. With more than 700 individuals choosing to give throughout the year, your generosity sends a powerful and affirming message: **you value Canandaigua Lake and believe in the importance of the work we do to protect it.**

That momentum is carrying us forward. I'm incredibly excited about the work ahead and the opportunities this year holds. CLWA has been the steady voice for our lake and watershed—advancing research, safeguarding water quality, and building a strong community of lake stewards. We have made real progress—strengthening partnerships and deepening our impact across our Canandaigua Lake Watershed community. **This year we will be celebrating 20 years of our K-12 watershed education program.** It is awe-inspiring to see how this program has grown and how many future lake stewards have benefitted.

Together, we'll continue building on what we've achieved and take on new challenges that move our mission forward in powerful ways. **Thank you for being such an essential part of this work—I'm grateful to be on this journey with you.**

- Emily

This cold winter weather has brought about more ice than usual on the lake. Please remember, no ice is safe ice! Ice thickness can vary greatly, so never venture out alone and always check it as you go. Enjoy the ice—safely!



## ICE SAFETY GUIDE

(FOR NEW, CLEAR ICE ONLY)

ICE THICKNESS TABLE		
2 Inches or less	STAY OFF	 STAY OFF
4 inches	Ice fishing or other activities on foot	
5 inches	Snowmobile or ATV	
8-12 inches	Car or small pickup	
12-15 inches	Medium truck	

Always use caution and check ice conditions before going out.

Ice fisherman out of Woodville Boat Launch Feb 1, 2026

# Wegmans Make A Splash Campaign



## Make A Splash Campaign Raises \$29,250

The Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council and Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association are pleased to announce that the Wegmans Make a Splash campaign raised \$29,250.05 this past summer to support projects and programs that protect and restore the Canandaigua Lake watershed.

Running from July through early September, the Wegmans campaign invited customers to join in lake protection by purchasing a limited-edition Make a Splash reusable bag and/or contributing through donation at checkout at the Canandaigua store. Funds raised through the campaign were shared equally between the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council and the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association.

## Funding Restoration and Flood Resilience

The Watershed Council will use its portion to advance on-the-ground projects that restore natural systems and promote flood resiliency, while the Watershed Association will direct its share toward education, outreach, and community science initiatives that engage residents in lake stewardship. "This effort highlights what can be achieved when the public, private, and nonprofit sectors work together for a shared goal," said Jared Simpson, past Canandaigua Town Supervisor and Co-Chair of the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council. "We are incredibly grateful to Wegmans and to everyone who participated in the campaign for helping us make a lasting impact on water quality and the health of the lake."

The Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council works on behalf of the 14 watershed and water purveying municipalities to protect and restore Canandaigua Lake and its tributaries. Through science-based lake management and watershed restoration projects, the Council aims to reduce the nutrients and sediment that fuel harmful algal blooms (HABs). Recent efforts include water quality and flood mitigation work across the watershed with a specific focus on the Sucker Brook subwatershed. Sucker Brook is a significant a major tributary running through the City of Canandaigua that has experienced repeated flooding, affecting both residents and water quality. "A portion of these funds will be put into action as part of a larger strategy to increase flood resiliency in the city and town of Canandaigua", said Bob Palumbo, past City of Canandaigua Mayor and Treasurer of the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council.

## Supporting Education and Lake Stewardship

The Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association uses community contributions to further citizen science programs—such as harmful algal bloom (HAB) monitoring—and educational initiatives that engage K–12 students in hands-on learning experiences rooted in lake stewardship. For example, this summer's CLWA Water & Wildlife Camp introduced dozens of local students to the science of watershed protection, and over 70 trained volunteers participated in HABs monitoring around the lake all summer and fall. "Repeated summers of HABs have been a wake-up call for our community, and it has brought to light the amount of care and concern people have for our watershed," said Emily DeBolt, Executive Director of the Association. "Funds raised will go a long way in supporting CLWA's efforts to engage more residents and volunteers in lake protection."

Together, these efforts demonstrate the power of local collaboration in preserving one of the Finger Lakes region's most treasured natural resources for generations to come.



**We are so grateful to Wegmans and all of our community members who participated in this campaign while doing their grocery shopping!**

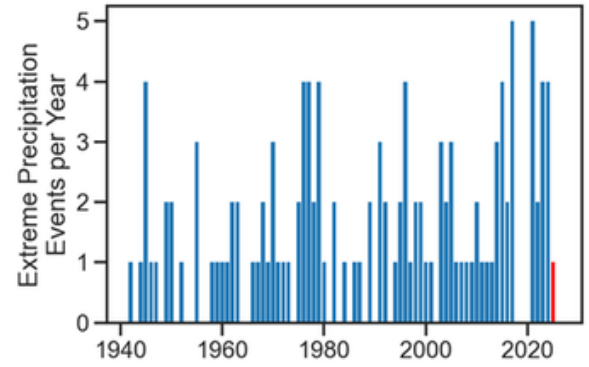
# 2025 HABs Season Data First Look

2025 was a much better year for cHABs in Canandaigua Lake compared to 2024, with 92 blooms reported by our volunteer network. Bloom season also peaked later than usual, with reports spiking in mid-to-late September. This is a stark contrast to the 2024 season, which saw 281 confirmed blooms and broke lake records for the earliest confirmed bloom (6/20), the latest bloom (11/17).

## Why were these two seasons so different?

Juxtaposing our year-on-year bloom reports against environmental data provides us some clues. Runoff from extreme rainfall can carry nitrogen and phosphorus from sewage, fertilizer and manure. Those nutrients promote cyanobacterial blooms. An "extreme" rainfall event can be defined in several different ways (see figure below), but regardless of how you define it, extreme rainfall is becoming more intense and more frequent in upstate New York. Four extreme rainfall events occurred in 20, but just one occurred in 2025, on June 18. Total precipitation for 2025 was also lower than normal. These conditions could decrease nutrient input to the lake and limit cyanobacterial blooms. In short, as an unusually dry year amidst worsening wet years, 2025 could be the exception that proves the rule.

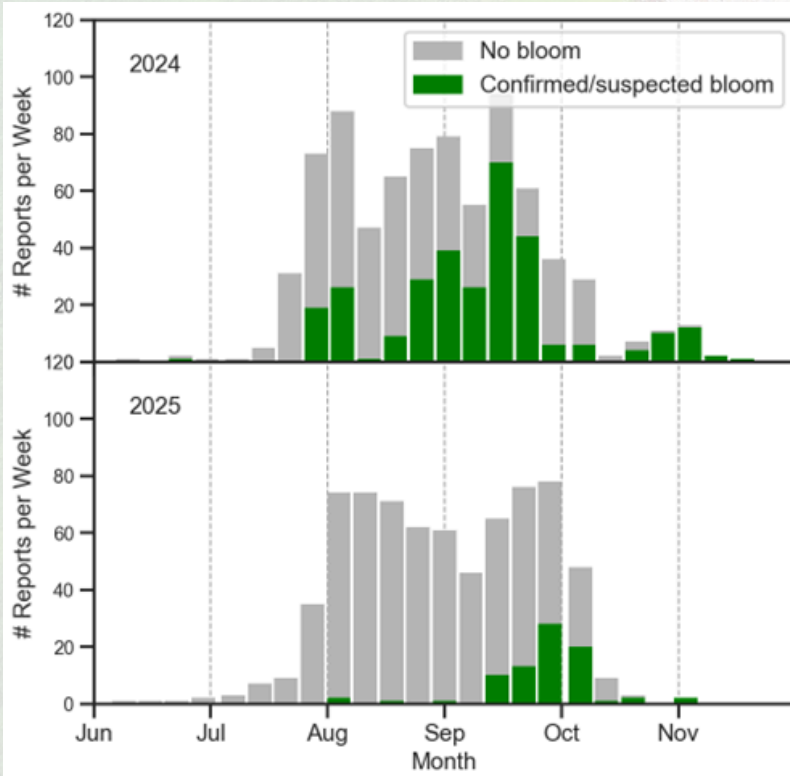
Stay tuned for more insights in our May newsletter!



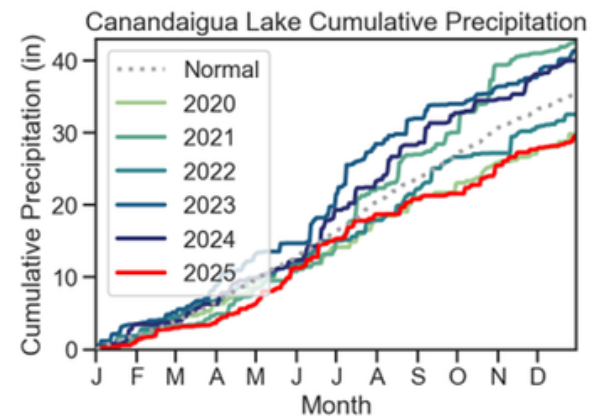
Above: Numbers of extreme precipitation events per year at Canandaigua Water Treatment Plant, where an extreme event is defined as the top 1% of daily precipitation totals relative to 1991-2020. 2025 is highlighted in red.



June 18, 2025 storm event with 2.5" of rain that caused localized flooding in Canandaigua delaying school buses driving elementary students home. This is the extreme precipitation event in 2025 shown on the chart above. photo by Emily DeBolt



Above: The number of volunteer reports each week in 2024 (top) and 2025 (bottom). Gray bars denote the total number of reports (bloom and no bloom) and green bars show the numbers of DEC-confirmed or suspicious blooms.



Above: Cumulative precipitation for 2025 (red) compared to recent years (blues). The climatological average cumulative rainfall (1991-2020) is shown by the dotted gray line.

Data analysis and summary prepared by Citizen Science Committee member Emma Reed, PhD.

# WOW! Now Celebrating 20 years of the Watershed Education Program (WEP)



Nadia Harvieux (left) and Sharon Radak

WOW! We have entered the 20<sup>th</sup> year of the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Education program. How incredible is that? This program has grown and evolved so much in the past 20 years and has **provided nearly 43,000 student experiences as we closed out 2025.**

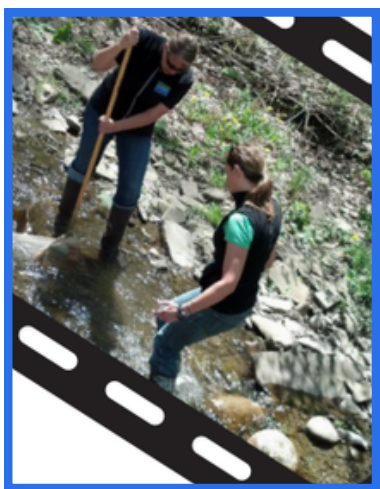
As we move into 2026 programming, some of our community education offerings will highlight the hands-on learning experiences we provide to students in schools and out in the field. Watershed community members will have the chance to experience firsthand how fun and engaging these education lessons can be. Stay tuned—program announcements are coming soon!

Throughout 2026, we will also share stories from students, teachers, and other folks that have been involved or an integral part of supporting the WEP. If you have experiences you want to share about the program, or your kids or grandkids experiences over the years, we would love to hear from you so we can share them with the broader watershed community.

The WEP was started in 2006 by two amazing women, Nadia Harvieux and Sharon Radak, who are still very active in local communities teaching and influencing the next generation of environmental stewards. We look forward to sharing their experiences and stories with the WEP and beyond, and to highlight other past WEP educators, Beth Altemus, Becca Jensen, and Emily Staychock, and hear from our current teachers. Thank you so much to all of you for making this program possible and for making your mark on the community!

Without the support of this fabulous lake community, this program would not have been possible. Board members and members of the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association (CLWA), Watershed Program Manager Kevin Olvany and Board Members of the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council (CLWC), and other key supporters, all saw the value and necessity of the WEP. The CLWC continues to support the WEP with funding assistance. We are so grateful to everyone who has supported, advocated, and participated in this program. It truly takes a village to make things possible, and that is what continues to happen to make the education program and all of our citizen science and advocacy efforts such a success—a huge THANK YOU to all of you. We are so grateful for your ongoing support!

*\*Photos from past CLWA newsletters\**



Canandaigua City Schools "Friend of Education" Award presented to (l to r) Sharon Radak, Ellen Polimeni of the Watershed Council, Lynn Thurston and Nadia Harvieux of the Watershed Association, on June 24, 2011.



Canandaigua 7th Grade Cadet Girl Scout Troop 1216.

# Invasive Species Updates

## Canandaigua Lake Boat Launch Steward Program

Watercraft inspections at busy boat launches help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species by checking boats for invasives and educating boaters on how to stop their spread. The Finger Lakes PRISM manages a boat launch steward program for the region - including Canandaigua Lake. The Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council (CLWC) received a state grant in 2024 to assist with three years of funding the program for our lake - and the CLWC and CLWA share the local match requirement needed for this grant.

Stewards detected 1,429 invasives at Canandaigua Lake State Marine Park (CLMSP) and 624 invasives at the Woodville Launch. The most common invasive species found during inspections at CLMSP were Eurasian watermilfoil (n=243), zebra mussels (n=104), and curly leaf pondweed (n=32). Water chestnut was found on two boats and rusty crayfish was found on two boats. For Woodville, the most common invasive species found during inspections were curly leaf pondweed (n=113), Eurasian watermilfoil (n=85), and zebra mussels (n=70). Water chestnut was found on three boats.

	Surveys Completed	Watercraft Observed	Successful Inspections
<b>Canandaigua Lake Marine State Park (CLMSP)</b>	4,478	4,557	4,267
<b>Woodville Boat Launch</b>	4,282	4,994	4,074
<b>Vine Valley Boat Launch</b>	41	41	41
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,801</b>	<b>9,592</b>	<b>8,382</b>

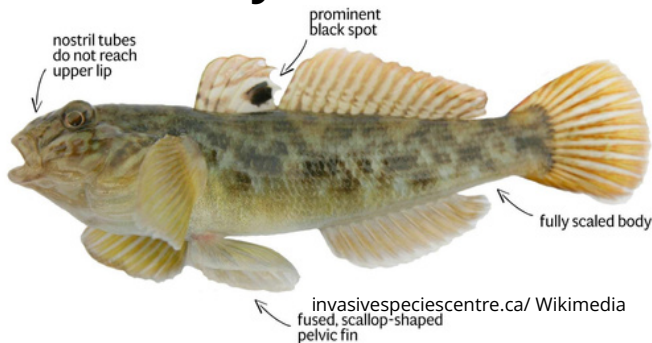
Results provided by FL PRISM



launch steward at Woodville Launch on July 19, 2025

# CLEAN. DRAIN. DRY.

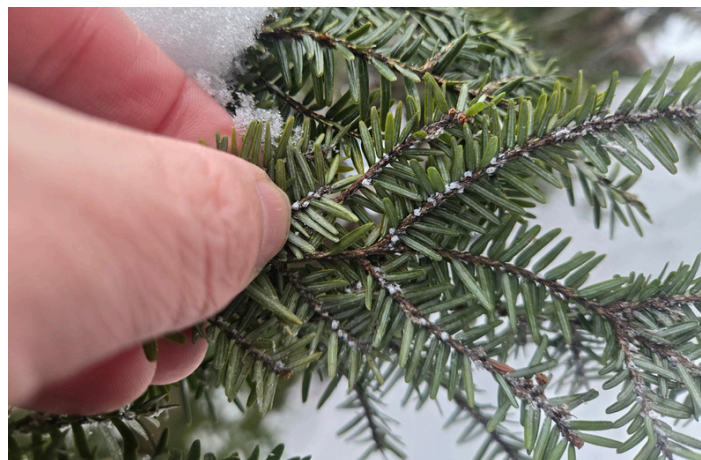
## Round Goby Found in Keuka Lake



Round goby (*Neogobius melanostomus*) is a highly invasive bottom-dwelling fish from the freshwater region of Europe's Black and Caspian Seas. They have voracious appetites which allows them to displace and outcompete native species. They have been linked to increased mercury content of sportsfish, botulism outbreaks among native fish and diving birds, and they act as a vector for viral hemorrhagic septicemia (VHS), a serious, fatal fish disease affecting many native species.

Round goby have made their way from the Great Lakes through the Erie Canal and Mohawk River to the Hudson River. They are found in Oneida Lake, Onondaga Lake, Cayuga Lake and more recently Seneca Lake. In September of 2025 their presence was confirmed in Keuka Lake for the first time - so far mainly the south end it seems. We do not want them in Canandaigua Lake! They can easily be confused with our native sculpin - as both are bottom dwellers - but the black spot on their dorsal fin and fused scallop-shaped pelvic are their key identifying characteristics. Unfortunately they are used as bait and can be introduced to new lakes that way. If you think you have found one in our lake - please photograph it, keep it, and reach out to us, the FL PRISM or regional DEC office right away!

## Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA)



small, woolly dots on underside of needles are HWA

HWA came to the U.S. from southern Japan where it is a native hemlock pest. Eastern hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*) is at risk for fatal HWA infestation since the trees lack natural resistance and have no natural predators to manage HWA populations.

HWA has been present in New York since the 1980s. It most likely arrived in the state on infested nursery stock that was sold and distributed near New York City and the Lower Hudson region. In 2008, HWA was found in the Finger Lakes Region.

HWA is a small (less than 1/16") and can be found on the underside of hemlock needles, where it sucks out starches from the tree. When HWA settles on a hemlock (blown by the wind, carried on clothing, fur, or feathers), it inserts a long feeding tube into the hemlock twig. When enough adelgids are present, the tree responds by shutting down food to the twig, killing the buds, needles, and finally the tree. From beginning to end, the process can take anywhere from six to twenty years in New York.

**Hemlocks are some of the largest and most beautiful trees in the Finger Lakes forest. Because they are shade tolerant, they often grow in gullies and help to stabilize slopes, support unique indigenous assemblies of plants and animals, and keep water and homes cool and shady.**

## Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Workshop

We had a great - albeit cold! - afternoon learning about hemlock woolly adelgid and how to survey hemlock trees for this invasive pest. Thanks to our partners at the Finger Lakes PRISM for co-hosting this workshop with us at Onanda Park in late January.

Learn how to spot HWA and what you can do to help protect our hemlocks through citizen science program with the Finger Lakes PRISM at <https://fingerlakesinvasives.org/citizen-science-programs/>. - its not too late to get involved!



# Road Salt, Chloride, and Water Quality

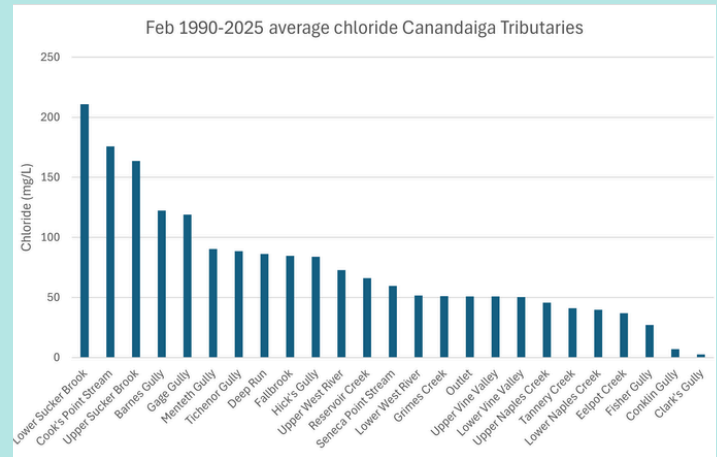
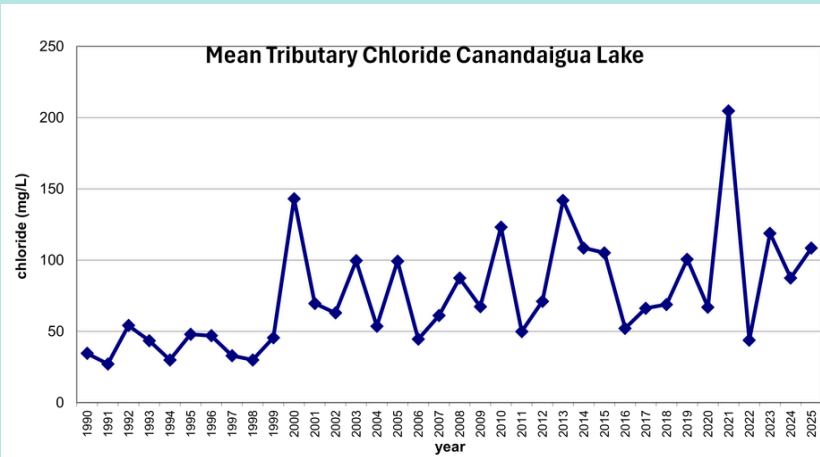
## Watershed Sources of Chloride

While we are thinking about phosphorus, nitrogen, and other pollutants coming into the lake through stormwater runoff for much of the year - this time of year we are busy thinking about road salt and its impact on the lake's water quality and the plants and animals living in the lake.

Canandaigua Lake's salinity has been increasing over the last 60 years. Chloride concentration in the lake had risen from less than 5mg/L in the 1960s to above 40 mg/L by 2015. Further increases occurred from 2005 to 2024 in both the lake and tributary creeks. Road salt has been implicated as a cause, as has winter salting of sidewalks, driveways, and parking lots.

Dr. Bruce Gilman, retired Finger Lakes Community College professor, has been collecting stream chloride data each February since 1990. This data shows how variable levels are in streams based on recent weather patterns and road salt applications, but they also show the slow steady increase in base chloride levels over time.

More recently, the CLWA Citizen Science team has begun additional stream sampling work, measuring specific conductance and chloride in lake and in many tributaries around the lake. This project began in 2024 and continued in 2025. Combined with the long term winter data available - our new monitoring will increase our understanding of where chlorides are coming from throughout the watershed to help prioritize locations for focusing on road salt reduction practices. In fact - work toward reducing road salt use is already well underway by many of the municipalities throughout our watershed.



Above left: This chart shows the mean tributary chloride levels sampled in February each year from 1990-2025. The streams sampled are listed below. As you can see - the levels are quite varied based on that year's winter weather conditions and road salt needed. However you can also see that the mean average level has more than tripled over time. Above right: Certain streams have very high chloride levels. Land use plays a big role here as expected. The streams with high chloride levels such as Sucker Brook are in highly developed areas with roads needing road salt in the winter. Streams such as Conklin and Clark's Gully have extremely low levels as expected based on the highly forested and undeveloped nature of these subwatersheds. Data provided by Dr. Bruce Gilman.

## Creeks Sampled 1990-2025

FALLBROOK • DEEP RUN • GAGE GULLY • FISHER GULLY • UPPER VINE VALLEY • LOWER VINE VALLEY • UPPER WEST RIVER • LOWER WEST RIVER • CLARK'S GULLY • CONKLIN GULLY • UPPER NAPLES CREEK • LOWER NAPLES CREEK • COOK'S POINT STREAM • TANNERY CREEK • GRIMES CREEK • RESERVOIR CREEK • EELPOT CREEK • HICK'S GULLY • SENECA POINT STREAM • BARNES GULLY • MENTETH GULLY • TICHENOR GULLY • UPPER SUCKER BROOK • LOWER SUCKER BROOK

## Working Together to Reduce Road Salt



Live edge plow technology follows surface contours for cleaner roads and reduced salt use.  
photo courtesy Ontario County SWCD.

The **Ontario County Soil and Water Conservation District** received \$250,000 in funding through the Central Finger Lakes Road Salt Reduction Project under round 20 of the Water Quality Improvement Program. This grant supports 18 towns and villages in purchasing equipment such as live edge plow blades, weather stations and sander technologies to help reduce the amount of salt used on our roadways in the winter months.

Public safety is a priority so the goal is to use new technologies to keep roads clear and safe for the community while balancing environmental concerns. Using live edge plow blades with independent moving sections allows the blade to have closer contact with the road surface and remove more material when plowing, ultimately reducing the amount of salt needed for treatment.

The **Town of Canandaigua, Town of Gorham and City of Canandaigua, in partnership with the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council**, received a \$187,500 NYS grant matched with local funds for a multi-year program to pilot advanced techniques. These municipalities represent urban, residential and rural communities and have consulted with Cornell Local Roads Program, other highway departments, and manufacturers. They have been utilizing live edge plow blades, pre-wet tanks, calibration equipment and software, and weather stations and have already seen a 30-40% reduction in road salt use per line mile. Through the leadership of the Town of Canandaigua Highway Department, other municipalities have learned and benefitted from the pilot program.



This Town of Canandaigua truck pre-wets salt before spreading, reducing bounce, scatter, and improving effectiveness.  
photo courtesy Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council

## Sensible Salting for Homeowners

It's not just up to our local highway departments to protect the lake from road salt. We can all play a part in protecting our lake by limiting the amount of salt we use on our properties as well.

- Shovel what you can first. Always remove what snow and ice you can first. This will reduce the amount of salt you need.
- Think twice before you spread salt - do you even need it? If so - use it sparingly. You only need 12 ounces to effectively melt snow and ice on an average 20 ft long driveway.
- Know the temperature. Rock salt is very ineffective below 15 F. Use alternative products that work in colder weather.
- Ask your plow contractor to minimize salt—use brine or mechanical removal when possible, focus only on high-risk areas, and choose providers trained in smart salting practices.

## Rock Salt

Doesn't Work in Extreme Cold!



Below 15°F, Rock Salt  
(Sodium Chloride)  
-15°F is Very Ineffective



Use Calcium Chloride  
Effective Down to -25°F



Use Magnesium Chloride  
Effective Down to 0°F



Try Calcium Magnesium Acetate



+ Add Sand for Traction

# Frozen Winter Wonderland



The last time the lake froze over completely was in 2015. In fact, it froze over two years in a row - in both 2014 and 2015. In 2014 the Lake was completely frozen over on February 9th, with ice off in early April. In 2015, it was frozen over on Feb 17th - with ice off sometime in March. In 2015, starting on Feb 13 - there were 9 days in a row where the minimum temperature was below zero.



Feb 2015 frozen lake. photo by Nadia H.



satellite image from Feb 2015. NASA Worldview

As of the writing of this article - the lake is about 99% frozen this year. There is one small spot of open water on the south end - visible from the scenic overlook on County Road 12 - across from Walton Point, close to where South Lake Road ends on the east side - that just doesn't seem to get the message that its cold out!

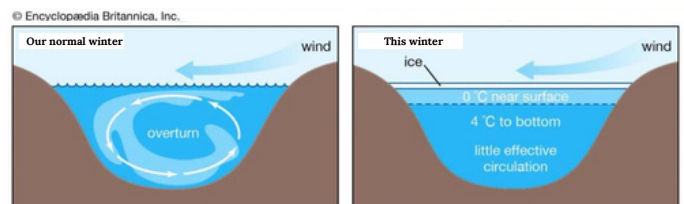
Ice fishermen have been taking advantage this winter - with ice shanties not popping up on just the north and south ends - but also along the sides. Anglers are heading out from Ontario County Beach Park and Deep Run on the east side, and Onanda Park and Butler Beach on the west.



Ice fishermen with sled at Woodville

## What does all this ice mean for the lake?

Typically the lake's water stays mixed all winter. This year with the cover of ice - thermal stratification should set up with the densest 4 degrees C water at the bottom and colder water on top. This could result in cooler lake temps early in the season, and could also potentially affect phytoplankton growth. We won't really know if we can see a difference until this spring when we see how our normal lake water temperatures and secchi disk readings are looking compared to past years - so stay tuned!



normally the lake stays mixed all winter but this year the ice cover will change that

# Ice Harvesting History

Winters used to be much colder with much more lake ice in the winter. Harvesting natural ice was a big industry in the late 1800s and early 1900s. In fact, Canandaigua Lake had multiple ice companies. In 1907 C.J. Brady, the largest ice dealer in Canandaigua, advertised that residents could have 15 pounds of ice delivered daily for \$1.40 per month. When everything was working smoothly with the harvesting process, an estimated 100 tons of ice could be harvested and housed per hour! With the uncertainty of winter weather, the advent of mechanical refrigeration, and growing demand for it, the natural ice industry slowly declined - and was not significant by the 1930s.



**Brady ice company advertisement.**  
Canandaigua City Directory, 1906-7. (p. 91)

sourced from *Along the North Shore: Canandaigua Lake*, by Preston E. Pierce, Ontario County Historian.



**Harvesting ice on Canandaigua.** Photo from the archives of the Naples Historical Society



**Brady's Ice House.** Photo from Ontario County Historical Society.



**McCormick Ice House.** Photo from Ontario County Historical Society.

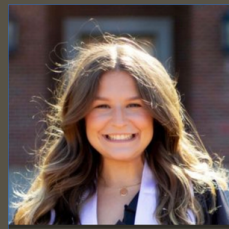
## Welcome to new CLWA Board Members!

*Bonnie Dorschel*



Bonnie is retired from teaching and will be a great asset to our Education and Outreach Committee. *Do you have a favorite memory or place on the lake?* Sailing adventures on our 19' O'Day Mariner, in all kinds of weather, brings back great memories.

*Shayna Lenney*



Shayna works at Genesee Regional Bank in Rochester and has stepped right up to join our Audit Committee. *What inspired you to join the CLWA board?* I wanted to join an organization that loved the lake as much as I do.

*Kevin Fager*



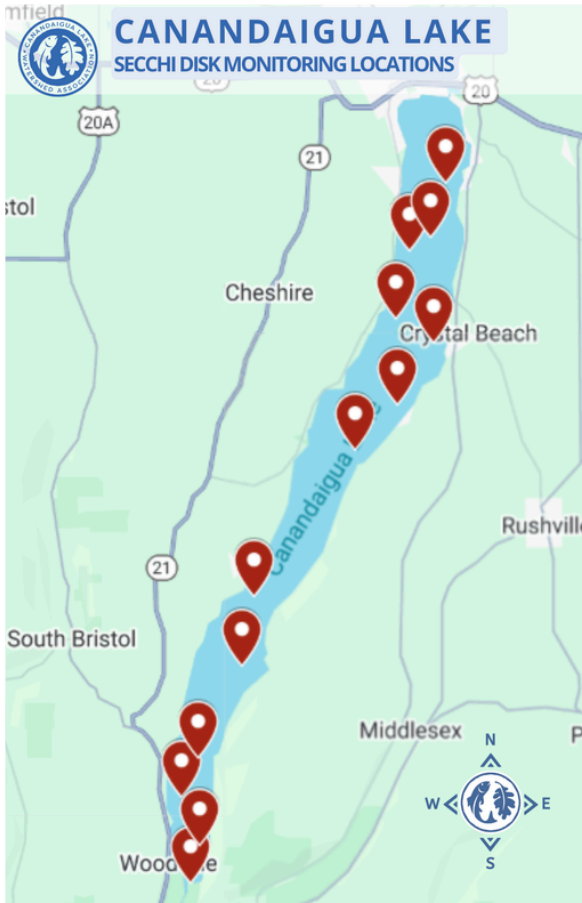
Kevin is a retired teacher, and is a very active member of our Citizen Science Committee. *Do you have a favorite memory or place on the lake?* We enjoy the meteor showers throughout the year afforded by the dark skies.

*Sue Gauthier*



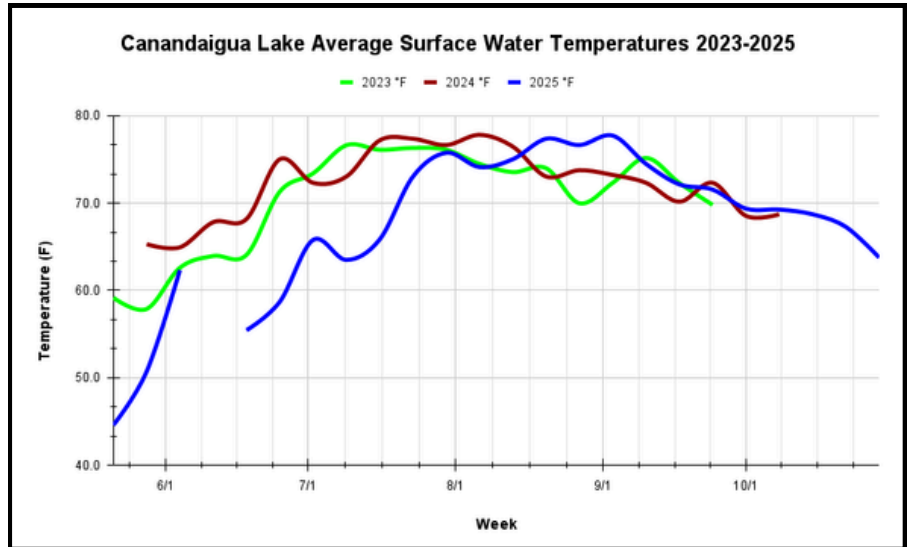
Sue is a retired communications professional and is part of our Communications and Membership Committee. *Do you have a favorite memory or place on the lake?* I love Kershaw Beach where the boats tie up. We spend many summer weekends boating there.

# Citizen Science Monitoring



current Secchi disk volunteer locations.

Thanks to our many dedicated volunteers, we have secchi disk clarity and lake surface temperature measurements that we can compare year to year. While these measurements go back 16 years - looking back at 2025 compared to just the most recent prior years - we are reminded that May 2025 was cold and we had a slow start to the year - but then the lake warmed up and was actually warmer than recent years by late summer. After the ice cover this year - it will be very interesting to compare our 2026 temperature with these prior years.



## SECCHI DISK VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

(pronounced *seh-chee*)

Are you interested in getting involved with citizen science efforts with the CLWA? We are looking for 3-7 new secchi disk volunteers this year in areas where we have gaps of coverage. The map above shows our current volunteer locations. Areas that could use coverage are mid-lake, Kershaw, between Deep Run and Ontario County Beach, between Menteth Point and Davidson Landing, and a couple other locations.

Secchi disk monitors collect a weekly clarity reading using a secchi disk from their own boats to help track changes in water clarity throughout the summer months, providing us with an ongoing picture of the changing internal lake dynamics. We provide you with the secchi disk and show you how to use it. This is a great opportunity to get involved if you are new to water quality monitoring. If you are interested in volunteering, fill out a volunteer form online or email us at [info@canandaigualakeassoc.org](mailto:info@canandaigualakeassoc.org).

**Using a Secchi Disk to Monitor Water Clarity**

**What is a Secchi Disk?**  
A black and white disk used to measure water transparency.

**Lower the Secchi Disk into the Water**  
Slowly lower the disk on a marked line.

**Watch for the Disappearance Point**  
Note the depth where the disk is no longer visible.

**Record the Secchi Depth**  
Measure and record the depth where the disk vanishes.

**Indicates Water Clarity**  
Clear Water = Deeper Secchi Depth  
Murky Water = Shallower Secchi Depth

# CLWA 2025 Volunteers: Making a difference in OUR MISSION

Looking back on 2025, we want to recognize and give special thanks to all our amazing volunteers! We truly appreciate your assistance and support and look forward to working with you again in the future.

## CITIZEN SCIENCE VOLUNTEERS

Collecting data to help us better understand threats and changes in watershed health.

*Volunteers on this list assist with one or more of the following programs: Shoreline HAB Monitoring, Secchi Disk Water Clarity Monitoring, Temperature at Depth Study, ioLight project, CSLAP, and YSI Stream Sampling.*

Neil Atkins  
Stuart & Kelli Becka  
Ted Bogleione  
Amy Bowen  
Brad Braddon  
Barbara Braun  
Patti Brazill  
Muriel Burkhart  
Susan Carpenter  
Debbie Cole-Wenderlich  
Bob Cownie  
Dee Crofton  
Kevin Fager  
Madeline Faria  
Nancy Fedick  
Beth Fladd  
Mary Freishlag  
Cathy Gardner  
Donna Graham

Rob Gray  
Marilyn Grzenda  
Nadia Harvieux  
Gary Helming  
Scott Hill  
Mallory Hill  
Tracey Howe  
Nancy Kanniaainen  
Martin Kaufman  
Shelby Kemp  
Greg Kern  
Kathy Kirsch  
Martin Kleinman  
Lynn Klotz  
Kay Kraatz  
Alan Krautwurst  
Richard Krebs  
Marty Lasher  
Charlotte & Sophie Mann

Kevin Marcell  
Lisa Maslyn  
Ann McCormick  
Richard McGavern  
Elaine Messina  
Carolyn Morehouse  
Sally Napolitano  
Nina Neu  
Kevin O'Brien  
Margie O'Jea  
Thomas & Maureen O'Rourke  
Lynn Ocorr  
Joel Pasternack  
Brian & Dolores Perkins  
Ron Pluta  
Isabell Posner  
Kathy Postma  
Emma Reed  
Dorothy Roach

Paul Rowan  
Janie Runion  
Wade Sarkis  
Cindy Scoda  
Joel & Ann Shamaskin  
Amanda Slisz  
David Smith  
Cindy Mellen Smith  
Sean Stamp  
Andy Strait  
Lynn Thurston  
Carol Vecchi  
Judy VonBucher  
David White  
Chuck Wochele  
Bill Yust  
Steve Zumbo

## LAKE FOAM REPORTS WANTED

FOAM is a year-round occurrence and researchers are interested in tracking its presence throughout the seasons.

Researchers from Global Aquatic Research (GAR), who have done foam studies on Canandaigua Lake, are now collecting foam reports across the Finger Lakes as a result of work done here. CLWA staff and interns helped to update this foam reporting tool to be expanded regionally. Thank you to GAR for all their important work! Find the link to the new report on our foam page. We are still tracking foam reports as part of this expanded regional project. Visit the CLWA website [Lake Foam page](#) to file a report.



# Partner Spotlight: Heron Hill Winery—A Legacy of Wine and Stewardship in the Canandaigua Watershed

Article provided by Heron Hill



Heron Hill Winery has been a fixture of the Finger Lakes wine region for over five decades, and its story begins with inspiration, curiosity, and a love for the land. In 1971, John Ingle, a former English teacher in Colorado, and his wife Josephine worked in a neighbor’s vineyard picking Concord grapes. “As I stood on that sun-drenched hillside, breathing in the smells of fresh air and ripe grapes, I realized this was satisfying to me,” John recalls. That moment set them on a path toward a life devoted to vineyards, winemaking, and the rhythms of the farm.

## Planting Roots in the Finger Lakes

In the spring of 1972, John and Josephine planted 20 acres of grapes—including Chardonnay and Riesling—overlooking Canandaigua Lake. Clearing the land, pounding posts, stringing wires, and battling pests and weeds, they nurtured 12,000 vines by hand. By 1977, Heron Hill Winery was officially established, joining a vibrant community of Finger Lakes vintners.

Over the years, the winery has grown in reputation and scope. In 2000, a new retail facility designed by architect Charles Warren transformed Heron Hill into one of the most innovative and scenic wineries on the East Coast. The design honors the region’s history with references to farm silos, Greek Revival architecture, and locally quarried stone, creating a uniquely Finger Lakes aesthetic.

## Sustainability and Stewardship

Heron Hill’s commitment extends far beyond making exceptional wine. Sustainability is at the heart of everything they do, from hand-maintaining the vineyards to protecting soil health, preserving water quality, and supporting local biodiversity. As John often says, Heron Hill has “boot prints in its vineyards, not tire tracks,” reflecting a hands-on approach that values the land and the lake.



Heron Hill also partners with organizations like the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association (CLWA) to give back to the community. The winery created special Cabernet Franc and Chardonnay wines for the CLWA, donating \$24 per case sold. In addition, a portion of tasting fees from the last quarter of wine tasting sales was donated, bringing the total contribution from both bottle sales and tasting fees to approximately \$4,300.

## A Living Legacy

Today, Heron Hill Winery produces award-winning wines. Recognized by Travel + Leisure as one of the “Top 10 Most Spectacular Tasting Rooms in the World,” the winery continues to attract visitors from near and far.

Through dedication, vision, and a love of the land, John and Josephine Ingle have cultivated not just grapes, but a sustainable future for the Finger Lakes. By caring for the watershed and nurturing the vineyards by hand, they’ve created a legacy where great wine and environmental stewardship go hand in hand.

# Wonderful Winter Water Fowl

## Meet the Divers

As the name implies - diving ducks all dive completely underwater to forage for food. Their legs are positioned further back on their bodies compared to dabbling ducks (like mallards), which makes them powerful swimmers but clumsy on land. They also need a running start across the water to take off, they cannot rise straight out of the water like dabbling ducks.



## Redhead

males have chestnut red heads, black chests and gray bodies. medium sized duck with gray bill with black tip. very social forming large winter flocks.



## Canvasbacks

males have rusty red heads, black chests and white bodies. large sized duck with black bill.



## Hooded merganser

males have sharp black-and-white patterns with chestnut flanks, thin serrated bills. find mixed in flocks with other small divers.



## Bufflehead

small sized duck with a large head. males are black and white with glossy green and purple coloring on their head.

Canada geese and mallards are common throughout the summer, along with cormorants seen perched along the breakwall by the pier. And while the geese and mallards stick around in the winter a new flock arrives with very large rafts of diving ducks congregating in a few areas around the lake such as the northwest side in the area of Butler Beach.



**One of these birds is not like the others!** If you look closely you will notice a male canvasback in the group of redheads. These large diving ducks have a sloping forehead and a stout neck. Redheads are smaller than canvasbacks and have a gray/blue (not black) bill, a steeper forehead, and a gray back (not white).

While many of the large rafts of ducks are redheads, if you look closely there are some other mixed in. Canvasbacks, hooded and common mergansers, buffleheads, and the common goldeneye are a few that are also seen on Canandaigua Lake in the winter. This year with so much of the lake frozen, the birds are gathered in small openings along the shoreline at docks with bubbler or ice eaters creating open water. You can get a good look at them since they are closer to the shoreline instead of out farther in the lake like usual. There are also some swans mixed in occasionally - both native trumpeter swans (black bills) and non-native mute swans (orange bills).



# Upcoming Events



February 24<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 - 7:30 PM - Zoom

## Native Plant Alternatives

Join CLWA Executive Director for a discussion on native alternatives to invasive plants. What makes a plant invasive, and beautiful, easy-to-grow native plants will be highlighted.



March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6:30 - 7:30 PM - FLCC

## A Living Canandaigua Lake: How Wildlife Shape Watershed Health

Join the CLWA for a presentation on watershed wildlife by FLCC professor, John Bateman. This will be an engaging presentation with lots of great visuals.



April 8th, 6:30 - 7:30 PM - FLCC

## Canandaigua Lake Fishery Update

Join the CLWA for a presentation by DEC Aquatic Biologist, Pete Austerman. Summarizes of recent fish sampling on Canandaigua Lake and habitat enhancement work on Naples Creek will be shared.

## Other Upcoming Events:

- Rain barrel workshop - May 12<sup>th</sup> 2026
- Rain garden presentation - May or June 2026
- Private water systems - TBD
- Events to highlight 20 years of our education program!
- And more! Stay tuned for more event announcements



To register, scan code or visit: [www.canandaigualakeassoc.org](http://www.canandaigualakeassoc.org)

# Cheers to Naples Brewing Company

Naples Brewing Co. closed its doors in November of 2025. We at the CLWA want to give our heartfelt gratitude and a huge shout-out to the crew that owned Naples Brewing Company for their support these past few years – from their generous donations, event partnerships, their passion to protect Canandaigua Lake and its watershed, and our beer collaboration. They were an incredible community partner and CLWA wishes them all the best in their new endeavors ahead. Their business will be truly missed in the Naples community. Below is a quote from the owners of Naples Brew Co.

“When the brewery was in its earliest planning stages, we identified a few organizations that we hoped to collaborate with and support. This really came to life with CLWA! It was so fulfilling to work with the organization over the years, developing the plan for our Lakeside Cream Ale collab and various events, like rain barrel workshops and other meetings. The opportunity to partner so closely is something we'll always look back on fondly!”

**Thank you again for all your support and generosity to the CLWA!**



# Welcome CLWA's New Intern Meghan Giessler



We are excited to have Meghan Giessler join us for an internship during her spring semester at college. She will be providing support to our outreach, education, and citizen science programs. Thanks for joining the team Meghan!

Meghan Giessler is a senior Global Sustainability major at Nazareth University with minors in Environmental Science, Toxicology, Business & Leadership, and German Studies. While a student at Fairport High School, she was a founding member of the District's Sustainability Committee. As a summer research student at Nazareth, she investigated mycorrhizal impacts on soil fertility. For her Senior Capstone project, she proposed a comprehensive solution for mitigating HABs in Canandaigua Lake. She is excited to be part of CLWA's efforts to preserve, protect, and restore her "chosen spot." In her free time she enjoys reading, singing, learning new things and paddle boarding on Canandaigua Lake.

# 2025 Annual Appeal Success!

We are so incredibly grateful to all our amazing supporters who made our annual appeal such a huge success this year. Every year, your support and generosity warms our hearts.

All of us know how important it is to protect this amazing lake and watershed, and we look forward to continuing our work in partnership with our amazing lake community. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your continued support!!! You can still donate at:

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



# CLWA is Seeking a Community Engagement Coordinator

We are excited to share that CLWA is currently looking for an enthusiastic communications professional who loves connecting communities and advancing environmental conservation to serve as our next Community Engagement Coordinator.

## Position Overview

The Community Engagement Coordinator is a part-time (20 hours per week) professional role supporting our membership, fundraising, and communications efforts. This position is well suited for an experienced nonprofit or communications professional who brings strong organizational skills, sound judgment, and the ability to manage responsibilities independently while collaborating closely with a small team.

The complete job description and how to apply is available on our website at: [www.canandaigualakeassoc.org/about/careers/](http://www.canandaigualakeassoc.org/about/careers/).

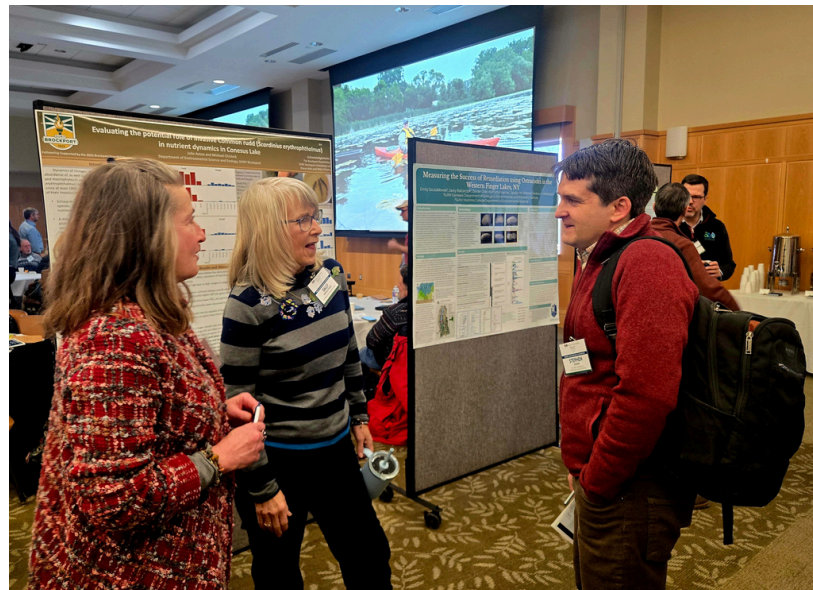
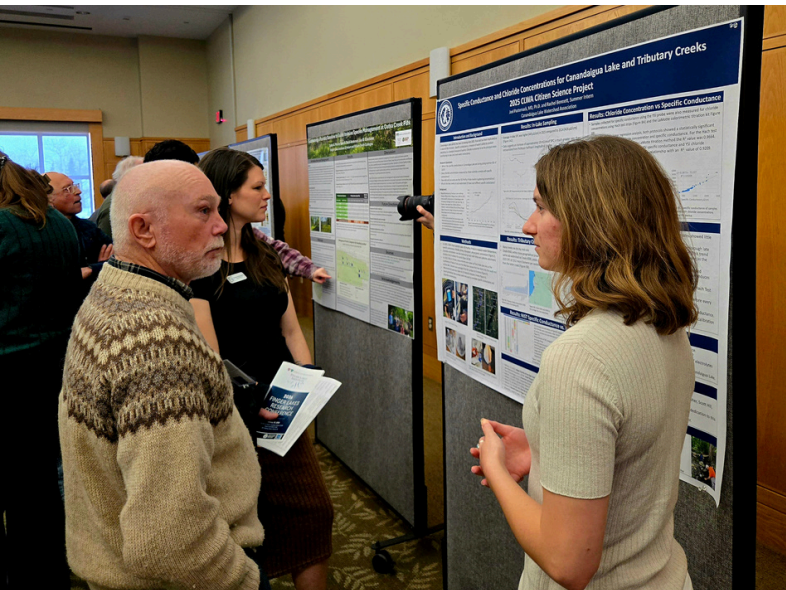


**Please help spread the word about this position to help us broaden our reach!**

## 2026 Finger Lakes Research Conference

The Finger Lakes Institute at Hobart and William Smith Colleges hosted the 2026 Finger Lakes Research Conference on Thursday, January 29, 2026, at the HWS campus.

CLWA staff and volunteers attended this great event to hear research updates from across the region. We were thrilled to have summer intern Rachel Bennett join us at the conference to present a poster sharing our summer citizen science sampling results of chloride and specific conductance both in lake and in various creeks this past summer. Thanks to Citizen Science Volunteer extraordinaire Joel Pasternack for collecting this data and working with Rachel on developing the poster.



# OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE FOR GIFTS MADE IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

## DR. E. DAVID APPELBAUM

BARBARA APPELBAUM

## PAUL BABITZ

CAROL ZIMMERMAN

## CHARLES BRIGHAM

JOYCE KEENEY

## JEAN G. BROWNING

PETER BROWNING

## MARTY DEVINNEY

LYNN LERSCH

## ELIZABETH DONNER

BRAD & MICHELLE DONNER

## SUSAN HARTWELL

SARAH HARTWELL

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BRENDA & PAUL BABITZ

GAIL HERMAN

CAROL ZIMMERMAN

PETE ZIMMERMAN

## DOUG LLEWELLYN

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DEBBIE STACK

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NEIL & MAGGIE ATKINS

BETH LATINI & DEBORAH

SKIVINGTON

## JOE PAGANO

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## P. OKKE POSTMA

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## LARRY SIMMONS

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MARYANN WHITMORE

## ELAINE TUYN

ANDREA TUYN

## JOHN R. TYLER

JANET M. TYLER

## DAN WIESMORE

TIM & ANGELA WIESMORE

## DAVID L. WINSLOW

SUZANNE WINSLOW

## TOM ZIMMERMAN

CAROL ZIMMERMAN

ROBERT & NICHOLETTE ZIMMERMAN

# THE FOLLOWING GIFTS WERE MADE IN HONOR OF:

## KATRINA BUSCH

WADE SARKIS

## SONYA CARNEVALE

HEIDI SCHWARZ

## KARIN DRISCOLL'S FAMILY

KAREN DRISCOLL

## JIM & ELLIE FRALICK

MOLLY PAGE

## BILL FUGE'S 80<sup>TH</sup> B-DAY

MARY ALLHUSEN

## SARALINDA HOOKER

MARIANNE HOOKER

## TERESE GENECCO

MARIA & TIM STOTZ

## LYNN KLOTZ

HEIDI SCHWARZ

## DR. & MRS. R.M. PRICE

MARIA & TIM STOTZ

## SHAYNEE RAINBOLT

MARIA & TIM STOTZ

## WENDE YOUNG MD

PATRICIA SOMERVILLE

*Photo by Jason Cernis*

## CLWA MEMBERSHIP FORM

### YOUR SUPPORT LEVEL

- \$50-299 Lake Guardian   
  \$5,000 + Lake Champion   
  I would like this gift to be anonymous  
 \$300-999 Lake Partner   
  \$10,000 + Lake Legacy Circle   
  This gift is in honor/in memory of \_\_\_\_\_  
 \$1,000 +Lake Leader   
  Other Amount \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBER NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

EMAILS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

BUSINESS NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

NAME:

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

RECEIPT PREFERENCE

MAIL     EMAIL

INTERESTS/SKILLS TO SHARE:

YES     NO



### Make checks payable to:

Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association

144 Mill Street, Canandaigua, NY 14424

Or renew online via credit card at [canandaigualakeassoc.org](http://canandaigualakeassoc.org)

Tax ID # is: 16-1071349

*We respect your privacy and preferences; visit [canandaigualakeassoc.org/about/privacy-policy](http://canandaigualakeassoc.org/about/privacy-policy). If you have questions about your membership, please call 585.394.5030 or email [info@canandaigualakeassoc.org](mailto:info@canandaigualakeassoc.org).*



**CLWA**  
144 Mill Street  
Canandaigua, NY  
14424

## CLWA MISSION

To inspire the entire watershed community to become stewards of Canandaigua Lake through education, scientific research, and advocating sound public policy. By engaging all stakeholders, we strive to preserve, protect, and restore the lake and its watershed for current and future generations.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Officers:

Susan Martenson, President  
Lynn Klotz, Past-President  
Martin Lasher, Secretary and Treasurer

### Board Members:

Neil Atkins, Katrina Busch,  
Dee Crofton, Bonnie Dorschel,  
Kevin Fager, Sue Gauthier,  
Shayna Lenney, Douglas Merrill,  
Joel Pasternack,  
Karen White, Casey Wood

## STAFF

Emily DeBolt, Executive Director  
Lindsey Ayers, Program Manager

### Watershed Educators:

Lindsey Ayers  
Lynn Ocorr  
Kathy Conezio

## STAY CONNECTED

Phone: (585) 394-5030  
Email: [info@canandaigualakeassoc.org](mailto:info@canandaigualakeassoc.org)  
Website: [canandaigualakeassoc.org](http://canandaigualakeassoc.org)



Front and back cover photo by Emily DeBolt

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# Reduce Salt.

## Protect Canandaigua Lake.

- ### 1 Shovel First



Clear snow and ice before reaching for salt.
- ### 2 Use Less



Just 12 oz melts a 20-ft driveway.
- ### 3 Check the Temp



Rock salt won't work below 15°F.

**Help Keep Our Lake Healthy.**

 Small changes can make a big impact. 