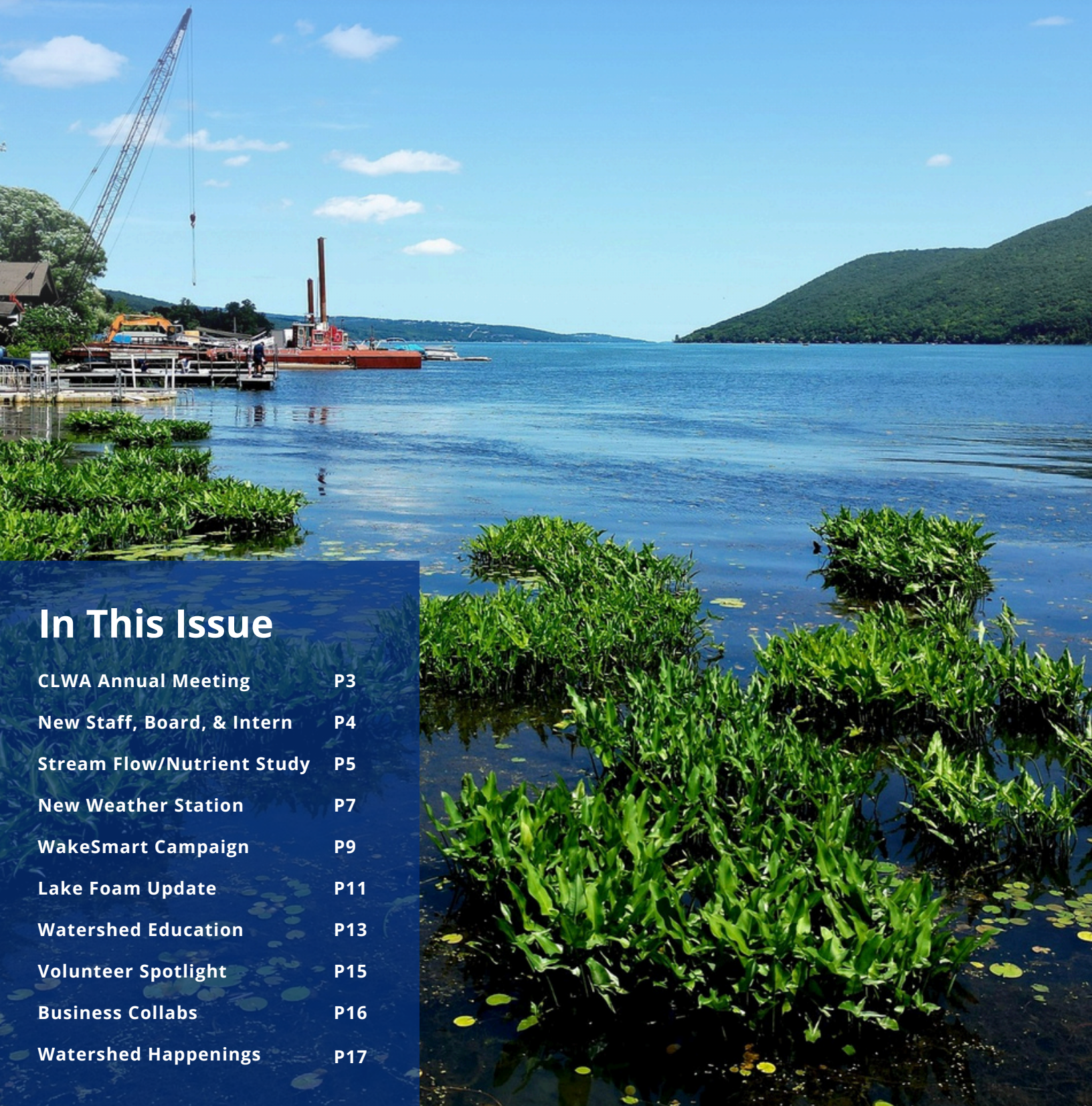


Summer 2026

THE LAKE REPORTER

A CANANDAIGUA LAKE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION PUBLICATION



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From the Director's Desk



What a busy season it has been so far! After last year's low lake levels—this spring saw high lake levels and flooding across the region.

The annual meeting in June was such a great time to share all our progress, connect with members, and start to think about the year ahead. 2027 will be our 80th anniversary as an organization!

July was Lake Appreciation Month. We were so honored to be presented with a copy of the signed NYS Legislative Resolution from New York State Senator Pam Helming and Assemblywoman Andrea Bailey recognizing the critical role lakes play in New York State's economic and environmental health and honoring CLWA's work stewarding the health of Canandaigua Lake and its watershed.



We have been busy with our Education and Outreach programming, celebrating 20 years of our Watershed Education Program with additional programming such as our Community Science boat ride in late July. Our citizen science volunteers have been staying busy, measuring water clarity and temperature, monitoring for harmful algae blooms, taking stream flow measurements and more.

None of this work happens alone. Every volunteer hour, membership renewal, donation, and act of stewardship helps strengthen our ability to protect and celebrate Canandaigua Lake. Thank you for your continued support and passion. Together, we are proving that when a community cares deeply for a place, remarkable things are possible.

- Emily



Rain barrels are a great way to conserve water - by repurposing rain water for your yard and garden.

Everyday Actions Make a Difference

Simple Actions. Cleaner Water. Healthier Canandaigua Lake.

CARE FOR YOUR YARD

Skip Phosphorus Fertilizer

Excess phosphorus feeds harmful algae.

Keep Clippings + Leaves Off Roads

Storm drains lead directly to our streams and lake.

Plant Native Trees & Shrubs

Deep roots reduce runoff while providing wildlife habitat.

SMART YARDS = CLEAN WATER

Healthy yards keep nutrients and pollution out of the lake.

MANAGE RAINWATER

Slow it Down

Reduce pavement and use permeable surfaces whenever possible.

Plant a Rain Garden

Capture runoff in a rain garden before it reaches the lake.

Install a Shoreline Buffer

Native vegetation filters pollution and prevents erosion.

Direct Downspouts to Lawn

Let rain soak into the ground instead.

2026 CLWA Annual Meeting Celebrating Our Shared Commitment to the Watershed

On June 16, CLWA and more than 100 members, donors, partners, and local officials gathered at FLCC to celebrate the CLWA's work and our shared commitment to Canandaigua Lake and its watershed.

It was a pivotal year for CLWA—with much to celebrate! We recognized CLWA's Executive Director Emily DeBolt's first anniversary as our Executive Director and the vision she brings to CLWA. We commemorated 20 years of CLWA's Watershed Education (WEP), its educators, and more than 45,000 students experiences since 2006. We acknowledged the ongoing work of our 74 citizen scientists who staff our 102 monitoring sites and provide our HABS data. We also recognized CLWA's many partners who support our work and promote it through the watershed.

CLWA is grateful to those who attended the meeting and to everyone who continues to advocate for our much-loved lake and its watershed.



We are honored to recognize this year's CLWA Stewardship Award winners:



**CLWA Bud Rohrer
Stewardship Award**

Dr. Bruce Gilman



**CLWA Volunteer of
the Year Award**

**Elaine Messina
(and Moose!)**



**CLWA Lake Friendly
Living Award**

Heron Hill Winery
(presented to Jessie
Gorcica, Director of Sales
& Marketing)



**CLWA Lake Friendly
Living Award**

Wood Library
[presented to Jenny Goodemote
(Exec. Director) and Maria Bucci
(Dir. of Development)]

Meet Our New Board Members

As a nonprofit, we rely on community members who are willing to step forward and share their time and talents. New board members are essential to the sustainability of CLWA and to keeping this organization strong and moving forward. We're grateful to our newest members for answering that call and joining us in this important work.

Roxanne Browning
Membership



Roxanne brings to CLWA 40 years of experience as the mayor of a waterfront town on Long Island. Now retired, she enjoys the peaceful beauty of the Finger Lakes and believes we all share a responsibility to be thoughtful stewards of our watershed.

Connor Dixon-Schwabl
Communications



Connor grew up living, working, and playing on Canandaigua Lake and brings both a local perspective and entrepreneurial experience to CLWA. Connor is committed to protecting the watershed and making a lasting impact for the next generation.

Mike Goldman
Citizen Science



Mike spent 46 years working as a chemical engineer and patent attorney for major law firms and the U.S. Government. Mike and his extended family enjoy Canandaigua Lake from their lake house in Middlesex.

Andrew Strait
Membership



A longtime volunteer, Andy joins CLWA's board member after a 40-year career in corporate banking. Andy's connection to Canandaigua traces back several generations and he is passionate about preserving the health of Canandaigua Lake for future generations.

Meet our newest Staff Member and Summer Intern!



Susan Stim, Community Engagement Coordinator

Susan is CLWA's new Community Engagement Coordinator. She brings a background in communications and a passion for lakes and lake water. Susan grew up camping on the islands of Lake George and feels lucky to live in a state with so many beautiful, clean lakes. Susan is an avid swimmer—look for her swimming the buoys at Kershaw!

Sophie Tommasi, Summer Intern

Sophie was CLWA's 2026 summer intern. She is a rising senior at Lehigh University, studying environmental engineering. From Pittsford, NY, Sophie has been coming down to Canandaigua every summer since she can remember. This summer, she worked mainly with our citizen science team supporting stream monitoring and in-lake monitoring out in the field and helping us with data management and visualization back at the office.



New Stream Flow and Nutrient Study

A Closer Look at What's Flowing Into Canandaigua Lake

This year, the CLWA Citizen Science Committee launched a new stream monitoring project on Deep Run and Gage Gully to better understand how much water—and how many nutrients—these streams are carrying into Canandaigua Lake.

There are two key pieces to the project: measuring how much water is flowing through each stream and measuring the concentration of nutrients in that water. By combining these two types of data, we can estimate the total amount of nutrients being delivered to the lake over time.

This information will help CLWA and our partners better understand nutrient loading from these streams and identify where conservation projects could have the greatest impact on protecting lake water quality.

So, How Does It Work?

Pressure sensors, called pressure transducers, have been installed in both streams with guidance from SUNY ESF. These instruments continuously measure the height of the water in the stream. But knowing the water level alone doesn't tell us how much water is actually flowing. That's where our citizen scientists come in.

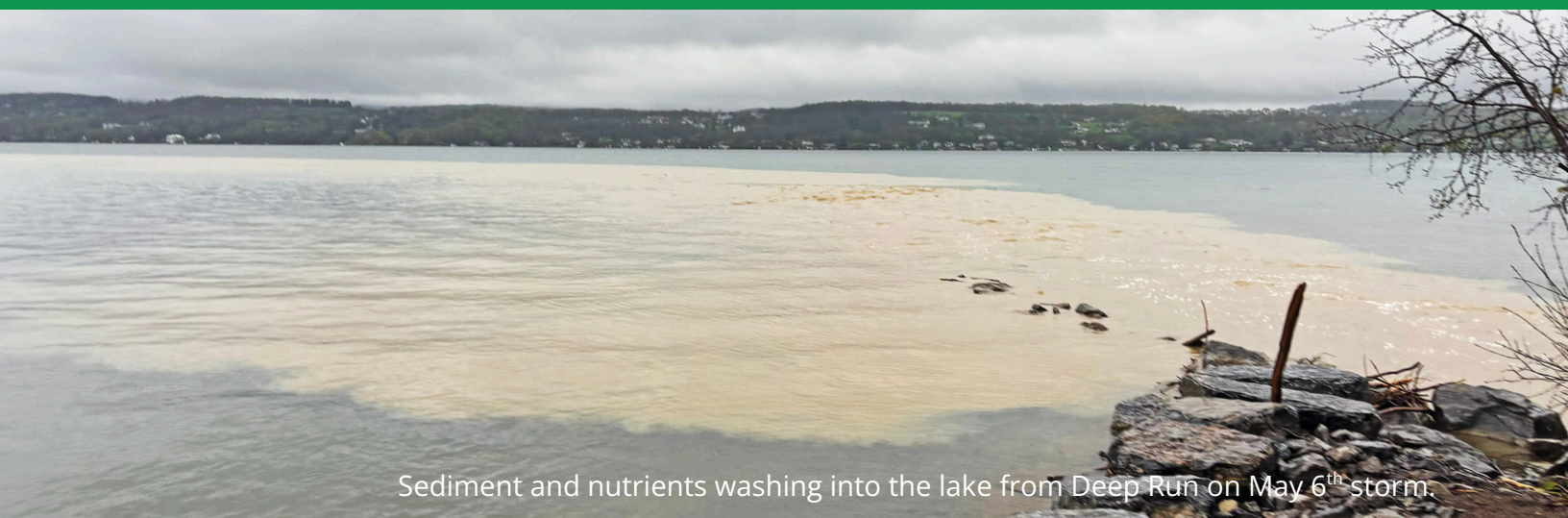
Each month, volunteers visit both streams to measure water depth and flow using a handheld flow meter. They also make additional measurements during storm events, when stream flow can increase dramatically. By comparing these measurements with the continuous water-level data from the pressure sensors, we can develop a mathematical relationship between stream height and the amount of water flowing through the stream. Once that relationship is established, we can estimate stream flow even on days when no one is there to take a measurement.

At the same time, volunteers collect water samples that are analyzed for total phosphorus, total nitrogen, soluble reactive phosphorus, nitrate/nitrite, and total suspended solids at the Finger Lakes Institute's certified laboratory.

By pairing the nutrient concentrations in the water with the amount of water flowing through the stream, we can estimate how much of these nutrients are being carried into Canandaigua Lake—including on days when we don't have a direct sample.



Stream Flow and Nutrient Study



Sediment and nutrients washing into the lake from Deep Run on May 6th storm.

The result is a much clearer picture of what is happening in these two streams throughout the year, including during high-flow events. Over time, this data will help us understand where nutrients are coming from, when the greatest loads are reaching the lake, and where targeted projects could make the biggest difference.

CLWA received grant funding from the Ontario County Water Resources Council to support the purchase of the pressure transducers and flow meter used in this project.

Why These Two Streams?

Many streams feed into Canandaigua Lake, but not all contribute the same amount of water or nutrients. Between 1997 and 2000, the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Task Force funded an intensive study of nutrient loads from six tributaries across the watershed.

Now more than 25 years old, that study provides an important baseline for understanding how conditions may have changed over time. Two of the streams identified as priorities in that earlier study — Gage Gully and Deep Run — remain of particular interest today. Observations over the years suggest that these two streams may contribute a disproportionately large share of the nutrient load entering the lake.

Since 2000, the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council (CLWC) has also collected stormwater samples from 17 tributaries around the lake, measuring total phosphorus, total suspended solids, and nitrate/nitrite during 55 storm events. Together, these data have helped build a long-term picture of how nutrients and sediment move through the watershed and were used in developing the watershed model for the 9E Plan.

Our new monitoring project builds on this foundation, adding continuous stream-flow measurements and more regular nutrient sampling at Gage Gully and Deep Run. This will give us a more detailed and up-to-date understanding of what these streams are carrying into the lake — and help us determine where conservation efforts can have the greatest impact.



We are so grateful to Dr. Stephen Shaw, Co-Director of the Center of Excellence (CoE) on Healthy Water Solutions and Chair of the Department of Environmental Resources Engineering at SUNY-ESF for his expertise and guidance in developing this new monitoring program with us.

New Weather Station

Every Raindrop Tells a Story: How Weather Data Helps Us Understand Canandaigua Lake

Weather plays an important role in the health of Canandaigua Lake. Rainfall, air temperature, wind, and sunlight all influence conditions in the lake and throughout the watershed. That's why CLWA has installed a weather station at Canandaigua BoatWorks to help us better understand the environmental conditions that surround our lake.

The station continuously collects local data on rainfall, air temperature, wind speed, wind direction, wind gusts, and Photosynthetically Active Radiation (PAR)—the amount of light available for photosynthesis. Each measurement tells us something different, and together they help us build a clearer picture of what is happening in the lake and watershed. The weather station data is available to the public through an online dashboard, allowing community members to see current and recent local weather conditions.



Scan here to view the live weather station dashboard



The weather station was funded by a grant from the Ontario County Water Resources Council. Thank you to our amazing citizen science volunteers who worked on getting the weather station ordered and installed. A **special thank you to Bruce Capron**, who went above and beyond to help us figure out how to set up and install the station at Canandaigua Boatworks. And **thank you to Canandaigua Boatworks** for partnering with us to install the station on their dock. We needed a location far from any nearby buildings or trees that would impact the data collection - so their dock was just the ticket.

Understanding Harmful Algal Blooms

Weather conditions can play an important role in when and where harmful algal blooms (HABs) develop. Wind can move blooms around the lake and influence where they accumulate. Warm temperatures can create conditions that encourage algal growth. Rainfall can wash nutrients from the watershed into streams and the lake, potentially providing nutrients that help fuel algal growth. By pairing weather station data with our volunteer HAB monitoring program, CLWA can better understand the conditions surrounding blooms and track how those conditions change throughout the season.

Connecting Weather, Streams, and the Lake

The weather station is also helping us connect what happens on the land with what happens in the lake. When a significant rainfall event occurs, we can look at weather data alongside stream flow and nutrient measurements to better understand how much water and how many nutrients are moving through the watershed toward the lake. Over time, these combined datasets of water flow and nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen, can help us identify patterns and better understand how the watershed influences lake water quality.

Sharing Our Data Beyond Canandaigua Lake

Our weather station is also part of NEWA—the Network for Environment and Weather Applications, a partnership of Cornell Integrated Pest Management, the Northeast Regional Climate Center, and Cornell University. Through NEWA, weather data collected by stations across the region is shared through a larger network and used to support a variety of environmental and agricultural applications. The data helps power tools and models that assist growers with crop management, integrated pest management, and other decisions that depend on accurate, real-time weather information. By participating in this network, CLWA is not only collecting valuable data for our own lake and watershed monitoring efforts—we are also contributing local weather information that can benefit researchers, growers, and communities beyond Canandaigua Lake.

Science That Serves the Community

Our weather station provides more than local weather data. Combined with information from volunteers, citizen scientists, researchers, and partners—including the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council who is working with our municipalities to install additional stations around the lake—it helps us better understand conditions across the watershed. The more we understand about our lake, the better equipped we are to protect it.

Congrats to our 2026 Photo Contest Winners!!

After reviewing over 100 incredible images capturing the beauty, wildlife and moments that make the Canandaigua Lake watershed so special, our judges have made their selections for the 2026 CLWA Photo Contest! Thank you to everyone who entered and shared your view of the watershed with us. We loved seeing this special place through your eyes. The winners and other selected images will be used in creating our 2027 calendars, so stay tuned on the sale of those this fall!

Thank you so much to our lovely judges for sharing their creative expertise this year. Peter Blackwood, Chelsea Dixon-Schwabl, and Alex Schnoeller — as they share what made these winning photographs stand out. We also want to give a huge shout out to the Lake House for their generous donation of a night's stay gift card for our 1st place winner. What a fantastic prize!



1st

1st Place :
"It's a Dog's Life"
By Melissa Batz

2nd Place:
"Flying into Summer"
By Sara Pragle

3rd Place:
"Sunrise on the Lake"
By Russell Lipp



2nd



3rd

Honorable Mention: "Waxing Moon. Fire on the Lake"
By Maria Bucci

Honorable Mention: "Bon Voyage"
By Fredyne Frey



HM



HM



MP

Most Popular:
"Her seashell Collection"
By Stacey Steele

WakeSmart Outreach Campaign Kicks Off

Wakeboats and their potential impacts on water quality—including shoreline erosion and lakebed sediment disturbance—have become an important topic nationwide, and we have been closely following the conversation.

Earlier this summer CLWA launched our “WakeSmart” outreach campaign to encourage wakeboaters to operate in deeper water and farther from shore when enjoying wakesports. Canandaigua Lake is a treasured resource and a vital economic driver for our region. By following a few simple practices, boaters can continue to enjoy wakesports while also helping to protect the lake’s exceptional water quality.

Enjoy the Wake - Protect the Lake.

Powerful wakes can damage shorelines, stir up lakebed sediment, and disturb aquatic life. Help protect Canandaigua Lake by following three simple practices:

Give Space

Stay at least 500 ft from shorelines, docks, and other boats.

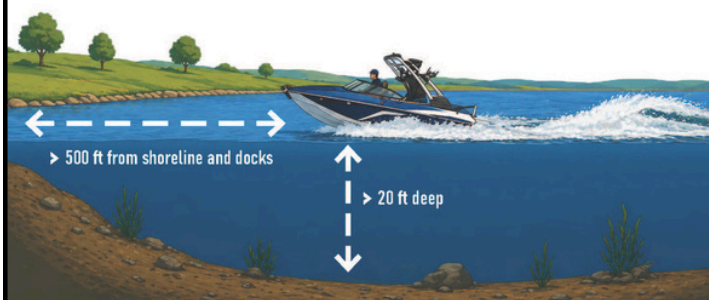
Stay Deep

Wakesurf in water at least 20 ft deep to avoid stirring up bottom sediments.

Change Course

Avoid repeated passes in the same area to reduce wave impact on the shoreline and lake bottom.

Recommended wake sports zone shown in dark blue.



Be a Good Neighbor on the Lake

Keep your music volume in check and your wake under control.

[CLOCKWORK / WISCONSIN MANAGEMENT](#)

The Wake Surfing Problem: Big Waves and Big Controversy Are Coming to a Lake Near You

In the Midwest where there are countless lakes of all sizes, massive wake boats and the waves they create are causing potential habitat damage and new regulations

By Christine Peterson / Published Jun 20, 2024 5:25 PM EDT



Wake boats run at slow speeds and generate large waves. Patrick Orton via Getty Images

As seen in this news article from the midwest- wakeboats are a topic of discussion across the country.

We are thrilled to be launching this new outreach campaign in partnership with our Canandaigua Lake marinas. Their support is key to reaching wakeboat owners and sharing this important message. We are hopeful that by coming together to proactively educate our boating community, we can find success through a collaborative outreach initiative.

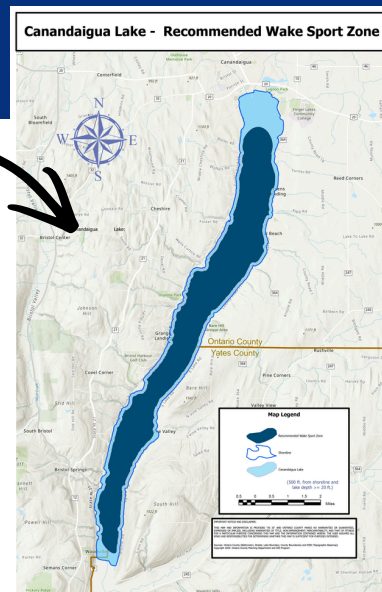
Our marinas understand that wakesurfing is an important part of the boating experience for many of their customers, but they also recognize that how and where these boats are operated can make a real difference for the lake. Thank you to Seager Marine and Freedom Boat Club, Sutter's Marina, German Brothers Marina, Smith Boys, and Canandaigua Boatworks for all joining us. The marinas have informational rack cards available and posters. They are providing training to their staff on the campaign message—especially their fuel dock staff—to help get the word out to the wakeboat users on the lake.

Besides the printed outreach materials available at the marinas, we also have a new webpage with information about the campaign and research references, as well as a map showing the recommended wakesports zone.



WakeSmart Outreach Campaign

A GPS enabled map showing the recommended wakesports zone was developed with the assistance of Ontario County. This map will soon be available on Avenza for download—a popular free trail map app. This way if boaters are unsure - they can pull up the map and see just where they are in reference to the recommended zone. As you can see from the map - besides keeping 500 ft away from shorelines, docks, and other boats—wakeboats should avoid operating in wakesports mode in the shallow north and south ends of the lake. That means staying south of the Canandaigua Yacht Club/Butler Rd and north of Smith Boys Marina.



Wakeboat Wake Main Concerns

- Shorelines: erosion and property damage
- Lake bottom: sediment and nutrient resuspension—impacts on aquatic plants and life
- Aquatic invasive species transport in ballast water
- Safety of other lake users

Powerful wakes for wakesurfing can accelerate erosion, damage docks and boats and endanger paddlers and swimmers when created too close to shorelines and other lake users. The strong downward propwash created by wakeboats can stir up sediments in shallow waters, releasing phosphorus trapped in the lakebed and making it readily available to algae in the water column.

How is this recommendation different from the current regulatory setback?

Under New York State Navigation Law, vessels on Canandaigua Lake may not travel faster than 5 mph within 200 feet of the shore, a dock, pier, raft, float, or an anchored or moored vessel. An exception applies when a vessel is operating near these areas to allow a person engaged in water skiing to take off on land. While many lakes in New York only have a 100-ft setback, Canandaigua Lake (and neighboring Keuka) has specific provisions in Navigation Law § 45-AA that establish this 200-foot setback and 5 mph speed limit. You can read the entire regulation here: www.nysenate.gov/legislation/laws/NAV/45-AA

Wakeboat Wakes. They aren't just 'bigger'. They have more **wave height**, more **wave energy**, and more **wave power** compared to non-wakesurf boats.

A recent study from the St. Anthony Falls Laboratory Healthy Waters Initiative characterized boat generated waves created by recreation powerboats and wakesurf boats. Links to the complete study and reports are available on our website -along with many other references. The study found that wakeboat waves are **2-3 times higher**, with **3-9 times more wave energy**, and **6-12 times more power** than non-wake boats operating at planing speeds. The study found that wakeboats require minimum operational distance of 500-600 feet from shore to achieve the same maximum wave height, total wave energy, and maximum wave power produced by a non-wake boat operating at planing speed 200 feet from shore.

After the initial research into wave energy, the next study focused on the hydrodynamic components of the impacts on the water column beneath the boat and at the lake bed. This study was just released in July 2025 and it investigated bow and pressure waves, transverse gravity waves, and propeller wash. The findings from this study indicated that wakeboats should operate in 20 ft of water or greater when in wakesurf mode to minimize impacts to the lakebed.

These summarized studies and many others are all available through our website. www.canandaigualakeassoc.org/wakesmart

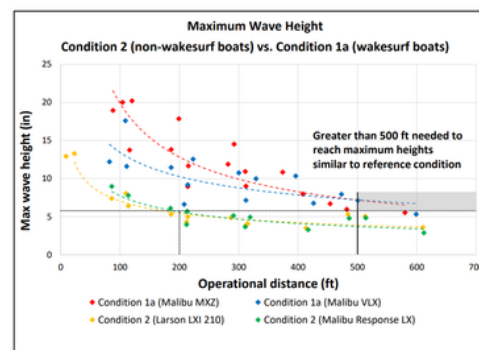


Figure 45. Illustration of a potential method for estimating the operational distance needed to reduce the maximum wave height of the wakesurf boat to reference levels associated with Condition 2 (planing) of the non-wakesurf boats (black horizontal dashed line).

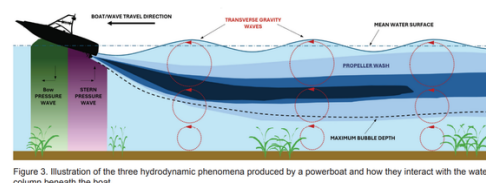
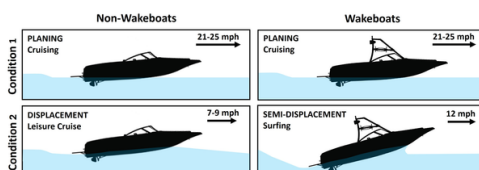


Figure 3. Illustration of the three hydrodynamic phenomena produced by a powerboat and how they interact with the water column beneath the boat.

above images from St. Anthony Falls Laboratory Research

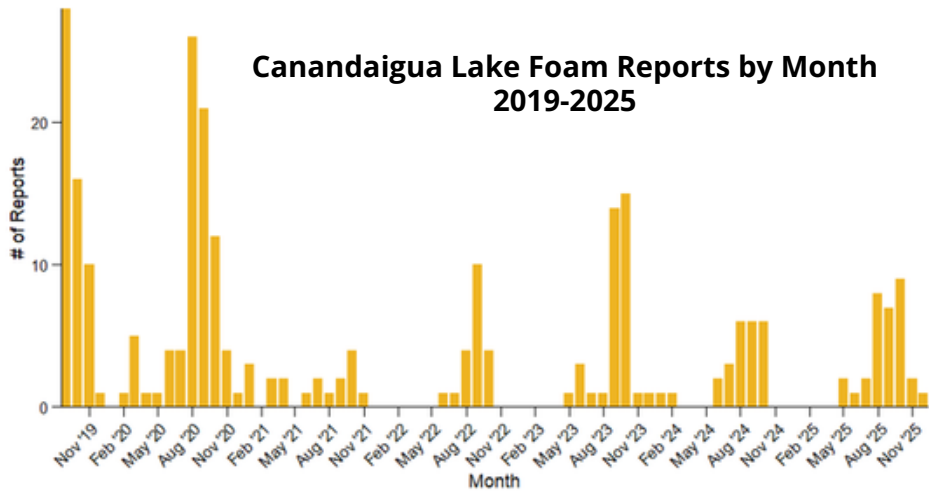
Lake Foam Update

by Rick Smith, Ph.D.
Senior Consultant, Global Aquatic Research

Thanks to the hard work and diligence of Canandaigua Lake’s many volunteers, we now have 7 years of foam reporting data (2019-2025). This has given us critical insights into the quantity and appearance of foam, its seasonality, and the locations where it is most abundant.

The expansion of the foam reporting tool to all 11 Finger Lakes in 2025 shows the potential of Canandaigua Lake, through our collaborative partnership with CLWA and citizen scientists, to be the location where new discoveries and approaches are made to combat modern environmental change. This was recently recognized by foam researchers internationally with a mention of CLWA and the reporting tool in a scientific article, *Insights on foaming in surface waters: A review of current understandings and future directions* (Das et al., 2024, page 16).

Let’s look into the data. While reports are already coming in for 2026, this analysis covers from the start of the program, September 2019, to February 2026 when we last downloaded and curated the dataset. Over this period we received a total of 265 foam reports! Grouping reports by month (Figure 1), we can see that foam formation peaks between August and October. This coincides with the timing of blue-green harmful algae blooms (HABs), which makes sense as we’ve found they likely play a role in foam formation. While this graph seems to show there was more foam in 2019 and 2020 compared to later years, this is likely an artifact of user engagement as this was the period of our foam source study carried out with CLWA volunteers.



Canandaigua Lake foam July 20, 2026

CLWA began working with Rick Smith and Stella Woodward - co-founders of Global Aquatic Research (GAR) - in 2019 to better understand the lake foam. This initial foam study with GAR examined the chemical composition and potential sources of foam on Canandaigua Lake. Results indicated that the foam is most closely associated with polysaccharides produced by *Microcystis* cyanobacteria, the same organisms responsible for harmful algal blooms (HABs).

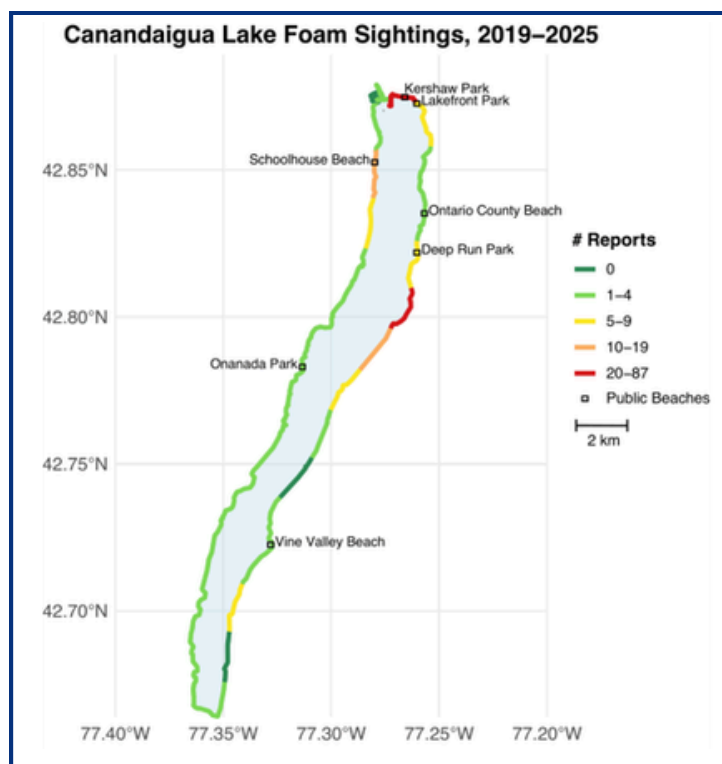
In 2023 CLWA teamed up again with GAR to investigate the potential of lake foam to accumulate the emerging contaminant, PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances). The full data report is available on our website.

Future research could continue to assess the foam’s potential to accumulate heavy metals and industrial toxins (including PFAS) in addition to further investigation of microcystin toxins in the foam.

As part of this ongoing research initiative, we are documenting observations of lake foam from citizens using the Survey 123 app. Volunteer reports help us document the extent and timing of these foaming events, and may help make research decisions on sampling efforts.



We now have enough data that we can look at the regions of the lake most impacted by foam. Using the R programming language, we took the shoreline of Canandaigua Lake and split it into 2km sections. Each foam report, based on user submitted GPS coordinates, was 'binned' to the closest shoreline segment.



This map shows the number of reports associated with each shoreline segment. Red areas show where foam is most frequently reported – specifically, Cottage City and Kershaw Park. Green areas show where foam is least reported, particularly the western shoreline and southern portions of the eastern shoreline.

This map is also influenced by reporting bias – for example, Kershaw Park has many visitors, and Cottage City has several active volunteers. Some of the green areas may reflect an absence of volunteers focusing on those areas. However, the identified foam hotspots on the lake also make sense in terms of the prevailing wind direction, and despite the influence of reporting 'effort' in different regions we can pull valuable information from these types of maps.

We are actively seeking funding to take shoreline soil samples from around the lake to determine if frequent foam accumulation results in changes to soil chemistry, including public beaches that many people visit, and we can use the hotspot map as a basis for selecting areas of the lake to sample that are more or less impacted.

Please continue to report foam so we can keep building and strengthening this database. A few notes to help with your efforts this year.

1) Ensure you input the correct GPS coordinates into the survey form. There are many free tools online to get this info from your phone, and the coordinates are often embedded in your photographs. Keep in mind the survey form uses 'decimal degrees', so if your coordinates are in degrees-minutes-seconds you will have to convert using easily searchable online tools.

2) If you are having trouble reporting using the app, go to our website and use the browser version - <https://www.globalaquaticresearch.com/finger-lakes.html>. Directions are provided ("click here") at the top of the survey.

3) There are many moving parts to make the foam survey work, so if your submission is rejected let CLWA know so they can ensure the workflow is behaving.

Thank you, and we hope to see you all out on the lake!

-Rick and Stella, Global Aquatic Research LLC



Celebrating 20 years of the Watershed Education Program (WEP)

It's been an exciting year celebrating 20 years of the Watershed Education Program (WEP) being offered to our lake community! This spring, current watershed educators met with some of the programs past educators to reminisce and talk about the growth and successes of the program over the years. It was a really cool experience to hear all the stories and how the program was built. Refer to the article from our winter newsletter to learn more about how the program was created.

The overall consensus from past and present educators is that it was/is a fabulous experience being involved with WEP and having the opportunity to educate the next generation of lake stewards! There are so many stories we could share, and will have to continue to do so over time, but below are some quotes from our past educators, a student involved in the program, and from some teachers that WEP has been working with over the years to give a snapshot of their experiences and thoughts about the program.

"I am so proud to be part of the history of this program and grateful that CLWA continues to grow and develop watershed education with local schools. It has been amazing to see the program evolve with all that Sharon, Beth, Becca, Emily, Lindsey, Kathy, and Lynn have done for this program!"

- Nadia Harvieux, WEP Teacher 2006-2013

"Creating the program with Nadia, reaching out to schools to introduce the program, and having schools and communities embrace it was so fulfilling. Reaching hundreds of students as well. Seeing it continue, and grow is priceless."

- Sharon Radak, WEP Teacher 2006-2016

"There were so many wonderful memories, but my favorite times were getting outside in the fields, streams, and wetlands with kids and watching them find joy in exploring the natural world, even through rain, sleet, snow, heat, ankle deep mud, and knee high water!"

- Beth Altemus, WEP Teacher 2013-2021

"I loved interacting with students and their teachers, and watching the kids have fun while absorbing important concepts. The watershed model was, and continues to be, my favorite activity, and my work at CLWA inspired me to use watershed models in the jobs I've had since then. It's really cool to be able to create a model watershed community and actually see its impact on the lake - the kids love it!"

- Emily Staychock, WEP Teacher 2013-2014

"I liked the macroinvertebrate lab because it was interactive and the instructor didn't just show us the bugs, we got to identify them ourselves. We learned which bugs were sensitive and which bugs were tolerant, and why they lived where they lived."

- Natalia E., Canandaigua 6th Grade Student



Pictured from left to right: Nadia Harvieux, Beth Altemus, Sharon Radak, Lindsey Ayers, Emily Staychock for educator meet-up



Pictured from left to right: Nadia Harvieux, Sharon Radak, Beth Altemus, Lynn Ocorr and Kathy Conezio, past and current teachers



Becca Jensen, pictured in the middle, is one of WEP's past educators. She worked with the program from 2017-2020. Becca passed in 2024. She was an amazing teacher and is dearly missed. ❤️

Celebrating 20 years of WEP (continued)

"The CLWA education program has been an integrated part of my curriculum at Naples Central School. The hands-on lessons - learning about watershed impacts to biomonitoring water quality using macroinvertebrates to engage students and bring real world applications of science to the classroom. I look forward to working with CLWA each year." - **Seth Almekinder, Naples 3rd Grade Teacher**

"We are incredibly grateful for the dedication, knowledge, and enthusiasm of their staff, whose commitment to environmental education has made a lasting impact on our students. These engaging outdoor opportunities have strengthened our students' understanding of environmental stewardship and deepened their connection to our local watershed and community." - **Delana Hey, Marcus Whitman 5th Grade Teacher**

"For the past 20 years, partnering with the Watershed Program has provided our students with unforgettable opportunities to learn beyond the classroom. Through engaging school lessons and meaningful field experiences at Onanda, students discover that even small actions can make a big difference. They leave with a deeper understanding that protecting our community and keeping our lake clean is not just a responsibility, it's a legacy of stewardship they can carry with them for a lifetime." - **Heather Carson, Canandaigua 3rd Grade Teacher**

It truly has been truly amazing to see how this program has grown over the years and the overwhelming support the community has given the program. Thank you to the students and teachers for your continued enthusiasm and participation for this important program. The WEP would also not be possible without the continued support and generosity of CLWA members and the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council (CLWC).



Pictures from the early years of the WEP including a watershed model lesson, land use lesson, and aquatic macroinverte lesson



Pictures from current years of WEP including simple watershed lesson, stream sampling, storm drain marking, and water sampling on the lake

Volunteer Spotlight: Lynn Thurston's Story



Every lake has its own character. I grew up in the Muskoka Lakes region about 2 hours north of Toronto, Ontario. The province has more than 250,000 lakes which account for 20% of the world's freshwater. It has over 100,000 kilometers of rivers. I've seen my share of lakes and rivers, but Canandaigua Lake, its tributaries and remarkable gullies, is special, as are the people who work to protect it.

In 1982, over 40 years ago, I was introduced to the Canandaigua Lake watershed by my husband's parents who had a small fishing cabin on Walton Point. The road to the lake was nestled between two treacherously steep hills, as was the lake - deep, quiet and ribboned by a shale beach. The hills held the culture of the Seneca Nation. I was immediately curious about the lake's origin story and its deep, beautiful waters. Our family moved to the lake ten years later. Under the guidance of many talented environmentalists,

members of non-profit organizations, and local government leaders, I started the process of learning about the lake. Thirty years later, I can honestly say that volunteering to help protect the lake is a welcoming, essential, and deeply meaningful experience. It's also fun and a great way to meet new people. I've served on Boards, co-founded the Finger Lakes Regional Watershed Alliance and supported the work of the Finger Lakes Land Trust and local governments who have bravely introduced new environmental policies. I've waded through streams, dipped measuring devices in the lake, watched little zooplankton squiggle happily under a microscope, and participated in educational events about challenges, such as harmful algae blooms. I now have some truly wonderful friends. All from simply being curious and asking "how can I help." I highly recommend it. - [Lynn](#)

Share your Canandaigua Lake Stories

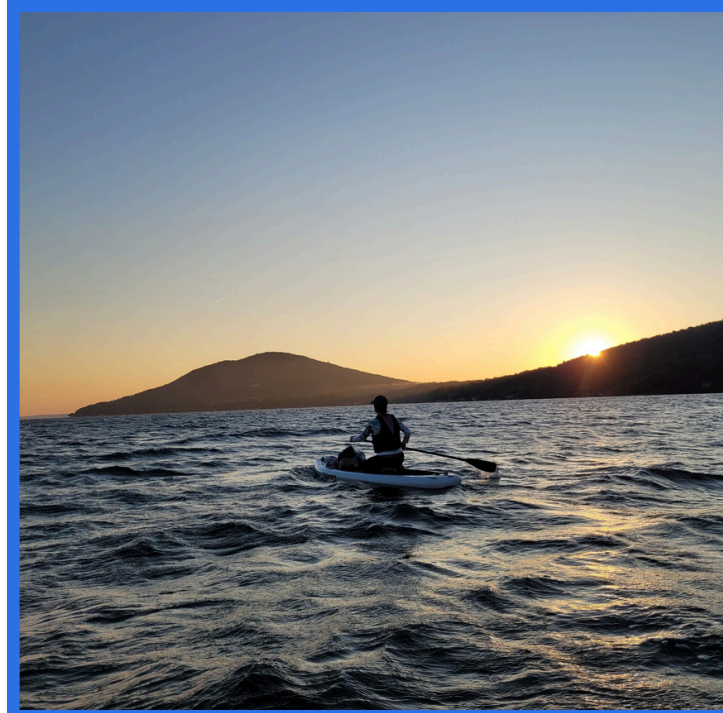
We would love to hear your stories about the special times and experiences you have on Canandaigua Lake. We all have our own reasons why we love the lake so much. The memories we make with the lake and the stories we share with one another can inspire us and continue our passion to protect the lake for generations to come.

Here is my recent experience I would love to share. I have many fond memories with Canandaigua Lake, such as sitting at Kershaw enjoying its beauty with those I love, and being out boating and swimming, but a recent experience I had really touched my heart. My best friend Stephanie and I paddleboarded the entire length of the lake from Woodville to Kershaw. It had been on our bucket list for awhile and we finally did it this summer! It was truly a magnificent experience. It was challenging, but not, invigorating, peaceful, and such a gift to be out on the lake doing something we love! I will cherish this experience forever!

- LINDSEY AYERS, CLWA PROGRAM MANAGER

Please reach out to share your own story!

Email info@canandaigualakeassoc.org.



CLWA Program Manager, Lindsey Ayers, paddleboarding the length of Canandaigua Lake starting from Woodville to Kershaw on 7/31/26

Nolan's and Heron Hill Savor the Flavor



We are happy to be in partnership with Nolan's on Canandaigua Lake again this year where they offer lake lovers an opportunity to enjoy exceptional local cuisine while supporting Canandaigua Lake.

This special collaboration features a Nolan's exclusive entrée paired with our limited-edition Heron Hill Chardonnay, crafted especially for CLWA. With every bite and sip, you'll be helping to promote lake-friendly living—simple choices that protect water quality and preserve the beauty of Canandaigua Lake for generations to come.

CLWA is also thrilled to be celebrating another fantastic year of our special partnership with Heron Hill Winery.

Heron Hill offers two CLWA labeled wines - a Chardonnay and a Cabernet Franc. These two private label wines have been crafted from grapes grown at Heron Hill's Ingle Vineyards. A portion of the sales of these wines benefits CLWA. These are sold at the Heron Hill Tasting Room on Canandaigua Lake, Ryan's and the Cabernet Franc is now being sold at the NY Kitchen's tasting room. If you are interested in selling the wine at your establishment, please reach out to Heron Hill!



Wegmans Make a Splash Campaign



We are so excited to be a part of the Wegmans Make a Splash campaign for a second year in a row. The campaign runs through early September. **Help protect Canandaigua Lake** every time you shop at Canandaigua Wegmans. Here is how you can help support Canandaigua Lake:

- Donate at checkout
- Purchase a reusable "Make a Splash" bag
- Become a CLWA member or volunteer

Funds support local education and community science, including our HABs monitoring program. We are incredibly grateful to Wegmans for their continued support and generosity. THANK YOU for this amazing opportunity!

Make a Splash is a collaboration between the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council and Watershed Association with Wegmans to raise awareness and funds for local projects and programs to help protect and restore the watershed.

Watershed Happenings

CLWA has been busy all around the watershed this summer working with our partners to help protect Canandaigua Lake through talks, hands-on programs, and even a concert!



Rain Barrel Workshop: May 12

Ontario County Soil and Water Conservation District joined CLWA to put on another fantastic Rain Barrel Workshop at Star Cider in May. We had a lot of great folks come out and learn about the benefits of rain barrels and other ways to manage stormwater on their properties in order to help protect water quality. Thank you to everyone that attended - and special thanks to our partners - OCSWCD and Star Cidery.

Plant Paddle: June 23

In June, we partnered with the Canandaigua Botanical Society and had a great time paddling at the south end of Canandaigua Lake and learning all about the native- and invasive- plants growing there. We identified both emergent, floating, and submerged aquatic plants and a few shoreline plants as well.



Jack Johnson Concert at CMAC: July 1

Jack Johnson's Ohana Foundation invited CLWA to table at the Village Green at Jack Johnson's concert at CMAC in July. It was an amazing opportunity to engage with community members and talk about CLWA's work in the Canandaigua Lake Watershed. Jack even came out and met everyone before the concert! As part of our partnership with Jack Johnson's foundation, the foundation promised to MATCH any donations (up to \$2500) made to CLWA through October. Great news: WE MET THE MATCH! Thank you to all our generous donors for helping us meet this goal! Special thanks to Jack Johnson and the Ohana Foundation.

Ontario County Historical Society Garden Tour: July 11

CLWA joined the Ontario County Historical Society Garden and Historic Building Tour on July 11th at the Wood Library. We highlighted the importance of planting native plants and the many benefits of rain gardens on properties to help manage storm water in order to protect water quality. Thank you to the Ontario County Historical Society for including us.



Watershed Happenings

Wood Library Rain Garden Talk: July 14

We continued our celebration of Lakes Appreciation Month with more than 25 people at the Wood Library for a special talk on rain gardens and how they can help protect Canandaigua Lake. Emily DeBolt, CLWA's Executive Director, discussed how simple, attractive landscape features can capture and filter stormwater and reduce runoff that carries nutrients and pollutants into the lake. The evening ended with a tour of the Wood Library's own rain garden.



Main Street Music and Arts Festival: July 17-19

CLWA attended the Canandaigua Art and Music Festival on Main Street in July. It was inspiring to meet other lake lovers who stopped by to learn about lake friendly living and other CLWA programs. We appreciated being part of this community event and the opportunity to get the word out about CLWA's efforts to protect the lake.

Seager Marine, Community Science Boat Trips: July 22

CLWA's partner Seager Marine Freedom Boat Club sponsored a educational evening of Community Science Boat trips on July 22. CLWA's passionate educators, Jamie and Lynn, and Seager Marine's skilled captain, Laurali, ran three different boat outings of science exploration and water quality monitoring. This event mirrors what our middle school Water and Wildlife Campers experience at CLWA's summer camp every August at Onanda Park.



Invasive Species Pull: July 29

Despite rain and cool temps, we had more than 22 enthusiastic volunteers, Finger Lakes PRISM, and CLWA staff come out from the West River at the South End of the lake to help pull 900 pounds of European Frogbit – an invasive that has been growing in population in recent years. Some good news: We saw very little water chestnut – another common invasive – showing us that local efforts to remove this invasive have been successful. Thank you so much to our incredible partner, Finger Lakes PRISM, for organizing this important event for us!

Canandaigua Mile: August 2

Over 100 people came out for the 4th year of the Canandaigua Mile in support of water quality! A huge thank you to organizers, Abbie Sullivan and AJ Beers of Higher Peaks Racing, and their team for running the event. Abbie is a Canandaigua native who comes back to the area to put the event on because Canandaigua Lake has always been special to her. To offer this event in support of water quality efforts shows how much she cares for the Lake and it is truly inspirational. A huge thank you to New York Kitchen as well for donating the use of their gorgeous upstairs event space for the after party.



OUR DEEPEST GRATITUDE FOR GIFTS MADE IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

TOM ALBRECHT

CARISSA ADAMS

WILLIAM K. BARTLETT SR.

MURIEL BURKHART

NANCY BRIGGS

CHARLES RYAN

ROBERT CARR

MARILYN CARR

JAMES F. DECLERCK

TED & MARCIA ZORNOW

JOANNE KREHER

SCOTT KREHER

BONNIE LEWIS

DALE LEWIS

THOMAS F. LEGRETT

SAMANTHA LEGRETT

BARBARA LAZOR

AMY & DAVID BOWEN

MICHELE DRYER & FAMILY

ILENE FLAUM

JOHN & LINDSAY GARRETT

MARY GULICK

PETER & SUSAN HERMANN

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NEIL ATKINS

WADE & JOSCELYNE SARKIS

DR. & MRS. ROBERT HAGGERTY

DON & NANCY JEFFRIES

SUSAN MARTENSON

SARAH HAMLIN & CURTIS HILL

JUDITH HYDE

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KAYLA & JAYE'S MARRIAGE

MARY W. ALLHUSEN

KATHY VANAS

NANCY PALVINO

KEVIN & KATHY FAGER

KIM & JIM FLYNN

Photo by Jason Cernis

CLWA MEMBERSHIP FORM

- ☐ \$50-299 Lake Guardian
 ☐ \$5,000 + Lake Champion
 ☐ I would like this gift to be anonymous
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 ☐ This gift is in honor/in memory of _____
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PHONE:

BUSINESS NAME

ADDRESS:

GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

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EMAIL:

ADDRESS:

RECEIPT PREFERENCE

☐ MAIL ☐ EMAIL

INTERESTS/SKILLS TO SHARE:

☐ YES ☐ NO



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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.

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Phone: (585) 394-5030

Email: info@canandaigualakeassoc.org

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Back Cover by Cindy Merrill

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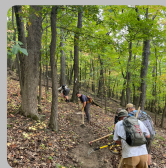
UPCOMING FALL EVENTS



Heron Hill Vineyard Tour

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH , 6:00 - 7:30 PM

You will learn about the history of the vineyards, its day to day operations, and all of their sustainability efforts to preserve water quality.



Trail Work with FLLT

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16TH, 10:00 -12:30 AND 1:30 - 4:00 PM

The main focus of the day will be side-hilling and working on switchbacks. All gear, including gloves and clippers, will be provided by FLLT.



Mayflowers Native Plant Open House

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND, 6:00 -7:30 PM

You will tour Mayflowers Nursery and Garden Center and learn more about the benefits of native plants, their native plant offerings, and things you can do to be lake-friendly.

STAY TUNED FOR OTHER UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- Fall Plant Walk
- Microplastics
- Clean-Ups

