

# Network News

CAYUGA LAKE WATERSHED 2024 i3-4

FROM THE **Steward's Desk**

## Dear members and friends,



**AS** we reflect on the past year of watershed stewardship, we're reminded that our motto, "*It takes a Network to protect a watershed,*" is more than just words—it's the foundation of everything we do. This issue of the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network Newsletter is a perfect reflection of this collaborative spirit. Within these

pages, you'll find articles contributed by our dedicated partner organizations, each bringing unique expertise and perspectives to the table. We are also excited to highlight several collaborative events and programs that showcase the strength of collective efforts in protecting and preserving the health of Cayuga Lake. Together, we are creating lasting, positive impacts on water quality. As always, we are grateful for the ongoing support and commitment of our network—including you!

CHARLIE CAPPELLINO



# CSI & partners monitoring Cayuga Lake watershed water quality since 2002

**Grascen Shidemantle** Executive Director, Community Science Institute

*Since 2002, Community Science Institute (CSI) has partnered with hundreds of trained volunteers to monitor water quality in the Cayuga Lake watershed. CSI is an Ithaca-based non-profit organization and New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) state-certified water testing lab. Because we analyze water samples in a state-certified lab and follow a quality assurance project plan (QAPP) that adheres to EPA guidelines, the data collected through our Synoptic Sampling Program is considered regulatory quality. This means that the data can be used with confidence for management purposes.*

**CSI** volunteers in our Synoptic Sampling Program monitor their designated streams and shoreline approximately three times each year for water quality indicators: *E.coli*, nutrients (total phosphorus, soluble reactive phosphorus, nitrate+-nitrite-nitrogen, total Kjeldahl nitrogen), chloride, specific conductance, total suspended solids, turbidity, pH, total hardness, and alkalinity. Our data are used by local governments and scientific researchers. Read more on our website <https://communityscience.org> by scrolling down to the Power of Community-Collected Data blogpost.

All people have the right to understand the health and safety of their local water bodies. On our public Streams and Lakes Chemistry database, users can explore trends in water quality across space and time using interactive graphs and maps. The raw data can be downloaded into spreadsheets.

We also have a Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) database, where cyanobacteria blooms reported and sampled by CSI volunteers (our “HAB Harriers”) are posted in near-real time. CSI also provides data regarding the ecological health of our streams thanks to our biomonitoring program for benthic macroinvertebrates, found on our website under the Biomonitoring heading.

CSI volunteers also monitor the shoreline of Cayuga Lake, specifically for *E.coli*. On the west shore, CSI collaborates with the West Shore Neighborhood Association to collect approximately 15 samples for monthly *E.coli* testing from May–September. On the east shore, volunteers on our Salmon Creek monitoring team stop by Myers Park, Salt Point, and the surrounding area to collect

water samples three times each year.

CSI performs in-lake monitoring as well. Our Journey of Water series for kids collaborates with Discover Cayuga Lake (DCL) to take youth and families onboard the M.V. *Teal* to collect water

samples at the outfall of wastewater treatment facilities and the lake source cooling facility, as far north as Myers Point. Data collected during the three annual Water Quality Monitoring Cruises are found online under the



*CSI's Adrianna Hirtler taking a water sample, Cayuga Inlet.*

ALYSSA JOHNSON

Cayuga Lake monitoring set. This a critical piece of data collection and a wonderful opportunity to engage kids, in the hope that we inspire a future generation of water stewards.

We also monitor the water at swimming areas, partnering with Finger Lakes State Parks to perform weekly *E.coli* testing for swimming areas during the parks' swimming season. Every Monday, park employees drive to CSI's lab in Ithaca to deliver samples for testing. We provide the parks with next day results. If a swimming area tests above 235 colonies/100 mL (NYSDOH Contact Recreation Limit), the park must close the swimming area, and cannot reopen until the *E.coli* levels have dropped below the contact recreation limit. The NYS Parks Office has information and a map to view which swimming areas are open or closed, and see the results of weekly *E.coli* testing <https://parks.ny.gov/recreation/swimming/beach-results/>.

### **PARTNERS: Discover Cayuga Lake & Cayuga Lake Watershed Network**

There are several other organizations monitoring water quality in Cayuga Lake. The Cayuga Lake Watershed Network (CLWN) and Discover Cayuga

Lake (DCL) participate in the Citizen Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP). CSLAP is a volunteer lake monitoring and education program managed by the NYS Dept of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) and the NYS Federation of Lake Associations (NYSFOLA). CSLAP monitoring in Cayuga Lake started in 2002 and is essential for understanding the health of our lake and appropriate actions to protect it.

These data were used in DEC's 2018 Finger Lakes Water Quality Report [https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/docs/water\\_pdf/2018flwqreport.pdf](https://extapps.dec.ny.gov/docs/water_pdf/2018flwqreport.pdf), currently being updated with new data through 2023. On Cayuga Lake, CLWN sponsors four sampling sites via volunteers trained by NYSFOLA to collect water quality data and samples twice a month from June through September. The four sites include the far north end, two mid-lake points, and the southern shelf of Cayuga Lake. The south shelf site near Ithaca is monitored by DCL from their familiar community tour boat, the *M.V. Teal*. Over twelve water quality parameters are collected from surface water at all

sites, as well as at depth at the mid-lake sites. Learn more about CSLAP and find data reports at the NYSFOLA webpage <https://nysfola.org/>. Locally, CLWN and Cayuga Lake Environmental Action Now (CLEAN) have also taken on more

site specific water quality research studies conducted by volunteers in the lake and creeks.

Hundreds of volunteers with CSI, CLWN, DCL and CLEAN have worked diligently for years to collect these data, often braving difficult conditions and sacrificing free time. There are over 85,000 Cayuga

Lake watershed water quality data items from 2002 to present, available on CSI's Streams and Lakes Database. Anyone curious about water quality on Cayuga Lake and its tributaries can visit CSI's database to explore the data. Residents and visitors can feel empowered to make informed decisions about the safety of recreation in these waterbodies.

The federal Clean Water Act calls for citizen involvement in water quality issues. I encourage everyone who cares about our shared water resources to engage with Community Science Institute

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**Thank you  
to all the  
dedicated  
volunteers  
who make  
data collection  
possible!**



## **Volunteers from across the Cayuga Lake Watershed...**

monitor water quality and take action to care for our lake, waterways, and community! Pictured here are CLWN volunteers Jessica Glick and friends after a successful "Embrace the Lake!" litter cleanup at East Shore Park.

# Partners Protecting Hemlocks for Watershed Health

**Isaac Walker** Watershed Manager, Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization

Recently, the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (CWIO) assisted the Finger Lakes Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management (FL-PRISM) and NY State Parks on a project to treat Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA), a non-native invasive insect that can harm and eventually kill hemlock trees (*Tsuga canadensis*).

The project focused on areas within 25 feet of streams in four state parks, Buttermilk Falls, Robert H. Treman, Filmore Glen, and Watkins Glen. Roughly 1000 trees were treated with insecticide. This treatment of trees in riparian areas is key to continuing watershed health. Hemlock trees provide shade that is essential in keeping stream temperatures cool enough for many trout species. In addition to shade, these trees provide stabilization of the steep banks found in many of these parks.

The culmination of the project was an educational site visit to Buttermilk Falls on November 7th, hosted by CWIO Watershed Manager, Isaac Walker. The visit provided watershed groups, municipalities and other partners the opportunity to ask questions of the contractor that did the

treatment, ARMO Forestry. Artem Treyger, Executive Vice President of AMRO, was able to answer questions about cost, what type of trees are eligible for treatment, and the different types of treatment available. This information was valuable for the lake associations in attendance, many of whom are interested in treating HWA on private land. This treatment is also useful for municipalities who are actively using it in parks and open spaces. Artem also gave a demonstration of the ArborJet insecticide treatment system, which was used on this project.



*The white growth of Hemlock Woolly Adelgid is shown on the needles of the tree used to demonstrate treatment.*

## Public participation and further information

Public participation is a key component of HWA management, in addition to treatment. This includes the FL-PRISM's HWA Survey <https://fingerlakesinvasives.org/invasive-survey/>. This program allows anyone to volunteer to look for HWA on their land, when they are hiking, etc. Trainings start in January and allow people to know what to look for and how to report it to New York State's iMapInvasives database <https://www.nyimainvasives.org/>. More information can be found by contacting Isaac Walker at [iwalker@hws.edu](mailto:iwalker@hws.edu).

Another useful source of HWA information and advice is the New York State Hemlock Initiative <https://blogs.cornell.edu/nyshemlockinitiative/>, a Cornell University project that researches the Integrated Pest Management and Biological Control of HWA. NYSHI works with scientists, natural resource management professionals, and New York residents that are united in their love for hemlock trees and their dedication to hemlock conservation.



*Artem Treyger of ARMO Forestry demonstrates where to drill holes for insecticide injection in a hemlock tree infested with HWA.*

# NYS Officials Share Water Protection Bills and Honor Stewards

**Adam Effler** Executive Director of the Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council (OLWMC)

**ON** June 14, 2024, people from across the region who care about the health of our lakes gathered at Ventosa Vineyards in Geneva, to make connections and learn about proposed NYS legislation aimed at mitigating environmental threats to the Finger Lakes.

NYS Senator Rachel May and Assemblymember Anna Kelles, two environmental champions in the NYS Legislature, spoke about bills they are cosponsoring to address Harmful Algal Blooms, the discharge of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) into our waterways, and other conservation efforts. Also, these legislators honored the Lake Friendly Living Coalition through presentation of a NYS proclamation commemorating the Finger Lakes' Community Celebration of Lake Friendly Living in May, 2024.

## The proposed bills were summarized as follows:

The New York Open Water Data Act (Senate 239E/Assembly 3299A) would enable better water governance statewide by asking water-related agencies to come together to create a common set of water data standards for the state, and a public-facing interface where such data can be shared, viewed, and used by interested parties.

The Harmful Algal Bloom (HABs) Monitoring and Prevention Act (Senate 8356/Assembly 8867A) would develop and maintain a comprehensive state 'clearinghouse' to bring together existing and new available statewide cross-sectional and longitudinal

data and information on harmful algal blooms, potential and known causes, best practice interventions, expertise, and funding resources. These data and the subsequent report would enable the state to effectively and efficiently administer a grant program supporting data-driven best practices in prevention and mitigation of harmful algal blooms.

The PFAS Discharge Disclosure Act (Senate 227B/Assembly 3296) would require those proposing to discharge pollutants into New York's waterways disclose whether their existing or proposed discharges contain PFAS.

The Biosolids Spreading Ban (Assembly Bill A8317) would prohibit the sale or land application of biosolids from wastewater treatment facilities unless such biosolids are treated and tested to not exceed the maximum contaminant levels established in the public health law.

Of particular interest for the protection of Owasco Lake is the Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring and Prevention Act. Owasco Lake has been the 'canary in the coal mine' with regards to HABs. One of the first Finger Lakes to document the HABs phenomenon, Owasco Lake's managers responded quickly when in 2016, cyanotoxins were observed within the water poised for purveyance to well over half of Cayuga County's population. The City of Auburn and Town of Owasco were forced to expedite the installation of carbon filtration systems for cyanotoxin removal. Concerns remain regarding the efficacy of these systems.

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*Members of the Lake Friendly Living Coalition including Cayuga Lake Steward Liz Kreitinger and leaders from Otisco, Skaneateles, Owasco, Seneca, and Canandaigua Lakes receive a NYS Proclamation commemorating the Finger Lakes' community celebration of Lake Friendly Living Awareness Month in May, 2024. All 11 Finger Lakes participate in this important regional program.*



## CSI & partners monitoring Cayuga Lake watershed water quality since 2002

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and partner organizations such as Cayuga Lake Watershed Network and Discover Cayuga Lake. Volunteer with us, become a member of our organizations, subscribe to our email lists, use our outreach and education materials, and tell your friends and family about these organizations doing important work to monitor and protect water quality. You can also get involved with municipal or county committees dedicated to water quality or water resource protection. I am inspired by the work that local governments and agencies such as the county-level Soil and Water Conservation District offices are doing to protect water quality.

I want to thank and acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the volunteers who make this data collection possible. I am grateful to be a part of a community that cares so deeply about our unique freshwater resources in the Finger Lakes region.

*This article is a shortened and lightly edited version of the one first published in the August 15, 2024 issue of the Ithaca Times.*

### Learn more about and support:

- Community Science Institute  
<https://communityscience.org>
- Discover Cayuga Lake  
<https://discovercayugalake.org/>
- Cayuga Lake Environmental Action Now  
<https://cleancayugalake.org/>



## NYS Officials Share Water Protection Bills and Honor Stewards *continued from page 5*

The OLWMC uses a data-driven approach to advance watershed protection and restoration. Reducing nonpoint source pollution is difficult due to challenges with identifying relevant sources, and with motivating behavioral change in the watershed community. Nearly two years ago, Owasco Lake managers approved their Nine Element (9E) Plan, a clean water plan that provides a pathway to NYS funding for watershed protection measures.

OLWMC then formed the 9E Coordination Committee, tasked with implementing the various prioritized projects of the plan. One project proposal has secured nearly \$.5M of Federal funding for stream corridor restoration along the Owasco Inlet, and a second has secured NYS funding for further stream corridor assessments, leading to restoration funding for targeted locations.

Various organizations working on the ground find water quality improvement funding provided through NYS onerous to access and administer. Environmental nonprofits are commonly

understaffed and struggle to meet the administrative demands associated with accessing state resources and funding. Simply providing more funding within existing NYS programs may not be sufficient. NYS grant guidelines and criteria must be streamlined, and cover the indirect costs of organizational operations. NYS funding should become more accessible, especially to support capacity building for the organizations charged with protecting and restoring Finger Lakes watersheds.

*This article was first published in The Citizen, <https://auburnpub.com/> on June 28, 2024.*

- Learn more about Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council and Owasco Lake, Cayuga's sister Finger Lake to the east, at <https://www.olwmc.org/>.
- Learn more about the present status of proposed NYS Legislature bills listed in this article at <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation>.

TOGETHER WE RISE...

## Dear Network members & supporters of clean water and healthy watersheds:

Each year, we ask for your renewed support to protect **Cayuga Lake** and our region's invaluable water resources. Today, we need your help more than ever. Your **membership**, donations, and active participation as volunteers are vital to strengthening local and regional environmental progress—especially as we face uncertainty from the rapidly changing landscape in Washington, D.C.

### In 2025 and beyond, we must stand together to:

- **Respond locally** to changes at the federal agencies—EPA, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Department of Interior that could impact critical water-protective programs and funding here in New York.
- **Protect the progress we've made** in watershed programs, regulations, and partnerships.
- **Build resilience** for our climate, water, and vulnerable communities.

The **Cayuga Lake Watershed Network** is stepping up to meet these challenges head-on. We're expanding our leadership, strengthening partnerships, and advocating for **sustainable, locally-**

**driven solutions** across our 870-square-mile watershed. From wetlands, to the creeks and lake, we remain steadfast in our mission to protect this irreplaceable resource.

**Please support this critical, locally-driven progress by renewing your membership today and making a tax-deductible gift if you are able.**

Thank you for rising with us to protect Cayuga Lake—for today, and for future generations.

**Liz Kreitinger**, Steward/Executive Director, [steward@cayugalake.org](mailto:steward@cayugalake.org)  
**Molly Newman**, Program Associate, [programs@cayugalake.org](mailto:programs@cayugalake.org)



## How to join, renew, donate—today

### MAIL A CHECK

To us using the enclosed pre-addressed envelope or your own envelope addressed to Cayuga Lake Watershed Network  
P.O. Box 1033, Trumansburg NY 14886.

### GO TO OUR MEMBER/DONATE PAGE

Under Get Involved at [www.cayugalake.org](http://www.cayugalake.org)

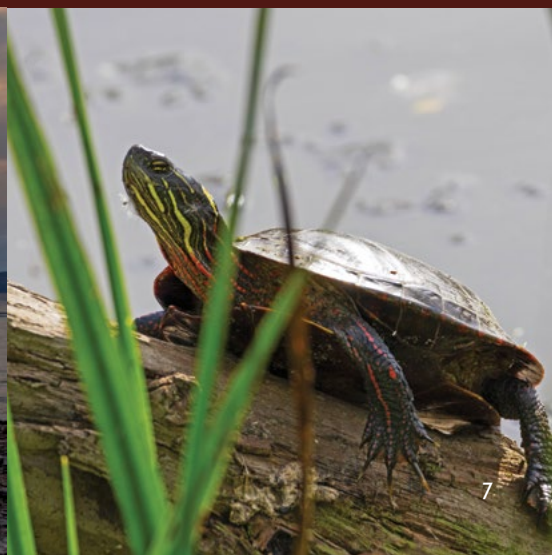
### CONTACT US

For information about other giving options including stocks, bequests, and IRA distributions  
[programs@cayugalake.org](mailto:programs@cayugalake.org) or 315-367-4805.



**USE THIS QR CODE**  
to donate online

**THANK YOU** – your generosity inspires our work for Cayuga Lake every day.



# The 2024 Cayuga Lake Summit

## Speakers Present on Oversalting, PFAS

**Lauren Stavros** *Communications Intern, Sustainable Finger Lakes*

**ON** July 16, 2024, CLEAN (Cayuga Lake Environmental Action Now) and CLWN (Cayuga Lake Watershed Network) hosted the 2024 Cayuga Lake Summit at the Large Pavilion in Ithaca's Stewart Park. A large turnout of environmental leaders and active community members learned from presentations at the two sessions.

The keynote speaker was Phil Sexton, founder of the WIT Collaborative, a

companies to develop salt-use plans that are both cost-beneficial and a sign of sustainable management practices.

Following Sexton's talk, a panel of speakers focused on the tracing and treating of PFAS (Per- and Poly-fluoroalkyl Substances) in the Finger Lakes. PFAS are "forever chemicals," synthetic substances found in cookware, cleaning products, firefighting foam, and other types of human-made consumer

PFAS in landfills and how to mitigate this problem. Landfill leachate accumulates PFAS, which can reach the environment if untreated. Ganzon and Pannucci discussed current and emerging treatment technologies to remove PFAS from leachate.

Panelist Bill Mattingly, Chair of the Sierra Club Finger Lakes Chapter, focused on Sierra Club water quality testing of private drinking water wells in the towns of Thurston, Bath, and Cameron, where landspreading of biosolids has resulted in PFAS contamination of agricultural soil and surrounding water.

The final panelist was Dr. Murray McBride, Professor at Cornell's School of Integrated Plant Science. His talk, "Risks of Sewage Sludge Disposal on Farmland: The Case for Caution," dove into the history of environmental policy regarding PFAS, also explaining the risks of using biosolids from wastewater treatment as soil agricultural soil amendments.

*Lauren Stavros' article is lightly edited and reprinted from Tompkins Weekly 7-24-24. "Signs of Sustainability" is a regular column in Tompkins Weekly, an Ithaca NY-based publication. Check out the SOS archives:*

*<https://sustainabletompskins.org/signs-of-sustainability/tompkins-weekly-series/>*

Signs of Sustainability is organized by Sustainable Finger Lakes (formerly "Sustainable Tompkins"), a community-based organization whose mission is to promote the long-term well-being of our region by integrating social equity, economic vitality, ecological stewardship, and shared responsibility. Learn more at their website <https://sustainablefingerlakes.org/>.

CLEAN (Cayuga Lake Environmental Action Now), CLWN's co-host for the Summit, is a group of concerned citizens working to protect Cayuga Lake. Learn more at their website <https://cleancayugalake.org/>.

All presentations are online at [cayugalake.org > resources > conference presentations](https://cayugalake.org/resources/conference-presentations).



cooperative of landscape and winter management companies throughout North America. WIT focuses on supporting and educating businesses on sustainable solutions and environmental impact. "A Sustainability Analysis of the Commercial Winter Industry's Use of Salt" was the focus of Sexton's presentation. Salt is a force to be reckoned with. Runoff from rain, salt and other materials can pollute the lake, alter ecosystems, and contribute to Harmful Algal Blooms.

Why is there an oversalting problem across the United States? Salt is an accessible and simple material. Salt prevents the sliding of vehicles and nasty falls during flurries and snowstorms. Companies may oversalt their parking lots and pavement to reduce the chance of someone falling. However, oversalting costs more and is harmful to the environment. Sexton meets with

products. These chemicals are linked to kidney problems, liver inflammation, and an increased risk of certain cancers. As of April 2024, the US EPA is regulating maximum levels of certain PFAS chemicals in our drinking water.

Presenters Brune Boukobza and Laura Akey, research assistants at Cornell University, reported on sampling surface water in the Finger Lakes for PFAS chemicals. They have created an interactive map displaying where they collected samples, with context about the type and amount of PFAS chemical. Their research and interactive map can be found at <https://helbling.research.engineering.cornell.edu/pfas-monitoring-in-the-finger-lakes-region/>.

Presenters Nicholas Ganzon, P.E., President of the Water and Carbon Group, and David Pannucci, P.E., Regional Engineer, Waste Connections, focused on

# Hydrilla monitoring and treatment in Cayuga Lake 2024

Liz Kreitinger *Steward*

**I**N 2024, the NYS DEC, US Army Corps of Engineers, Finger Lakes Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM), and local Hydrilla Task Force Partners continued their coordinated hydrilla management in Cayuga Lake. Hydrilla is considered a high-risk aquatic invasive species and is notoriously challenging to eradicate. Local, state, and federal invasive species managers have evaluated, monitored, and supported this hydrilla program for over a decade. This year, their work included:

The NYS DEC Region 7 Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator and field staff monitored hydrilla at 12 locations from May to October. Data from 6,230 points across 1,000 surface acres showed hydrilla only near known infestation sites: Aurora, Sheldrake, Weyers Point, Ladoga Bay, Lansing Harbor, and Myers Park Marina. The Coordinator oversaw herbicide treatments in Aurora, Sheldrake, Myers Park, Lansing Harbor, and Ladoga Bay, while staff worked with USACE, USFWS, and FL PRISM on large-scale monitoring in Aurora and the lake's southern area.

The US Army Corps of Engineers Buffalo District continued herbicide treatments in the Aurora infestation area (99 acres) and Ithaca (51 acres). Surveys in the Aurora treatment area showed 1.3% detection of hydrilla, suggesting effective control overall, except in the area offshore of MacKenzie-Childs. Ithaca surveys showed hydrilla in 0.5% of samples. Both areas showed good presence of other aquatic plants. The areas near MacKenzie-Childs, Fall Creek, and portions of the Cayuga Lake



*Hydrilla sampling by NYS DEC.*

inlet remain as areas of concern for management in the south end.

The Finger Lakes PRISM completed over 3,600 rake toss surveys in Cayuga, finding no new hydrilla populations. However, hydrilla was observed growing in the Myers Park Marina in September. Don's Marina in King Ferry, last treated in 2019, showed no hydrilla for the fifth consecutive year—a promising sign of effective management.

Public transparency is a key part of the Cayuga Lake Hydrilla program. For years, the Hydrilla Task Force has issued pre- and post-treatment press releases and held public meetings. The Cayuga Lake Watershed Network leads information sharing and public engagement by providing updates at lakeshore locations, through newsletters and the website, and by hosting an end-of-season public

forum. These efforts allow the community to ask questions, voice concerns, and learn about the management plan and results from the agencies.

This year's public meeting was held on December 4th and included important questions that have been brought up by the community, including about the chemistry of the herbicides used, long-term impacts of hydrilla and its treatment, and the future of the program given reductions in Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding to the USACE for the program. The presentations can be found on our website under Resources>Hydrilla.

## Myers Park Boat Washing Station

**Y**ou can now help stop the spread of invasive species by making sure your boat is clean, drained, dry at the Myers Park boat cleaning station. Located conveniently in the parking lot of the public marina, you have plenty of space to make sure your boat is clean before moving on to your next adventure in the heart of Central New York. Thanks to the Tompkins County Soil and Water Conservation District for leading this project, NYS DEC for a grant to purchase the unit, Town of Lansing Parks & Rec. for hosting and maintaining the unit, and Finger Lakes PRISM for adding technical support. CLWN is providing outreach support.



*Look for this boat washing station next spring at Myers Park.*

ANDY STADLER

## CARE FOR CAYUGA

# CLWN to pilot community-driven sediment and nutrient reduction funding program for the Cayuga Lake Watershed

**Charles Cappellino** *Member, CLWN Board of Directors*

**W**ith the growth of Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) in Cayuga Lake, CLWN is constantly looking for new opportunities to make a difference. The Network is initiating a program to directly help reduce nutrient pollution flowing into Cayuga Lake and the occurrence of HABs. This new program, Care for Cayuga, will both offer financial support, and advocate for resources needed by the Soil and Water Districts and other key partners to accelerate important water quality projects. We are piloting this program with the Seneca County Soil and Water Conservation District in 2025, and plan to expand across our watershed in the future.

The nutrient phosphorus is a contributing cause of HABs, and the recently released Cayuga Lake TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) report by NYS DEC calls for a 30% reduction in the flow of phosphorus into Cayuga Lake. The majority of the phosphorus entering the lake is related to agricultural activity.

This program will raise funds and help accelerate projects that reduce field erosion, such as construction of

control basins, stabilization of drainage swales, stream bank stabilization, creation of riparian buffers, and making use of Best Management Practices on farms. It is being modeled after a successful program developed by our neighbors at the Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association, and will help move priority projects forward that may otherwise be delayed due to unmet need for local matching funds.

This pilot also builds on the CLWN Water Quality Committee's Northern Tributaries nutrient and microbial source tracking research study with SUNY-ESF,

aimed at identifying and informing mitigation actions for nutrient pollution in our creeks. Findings of that study are being prepared for peer review and publication, and we look forward to incorporating this new information into our strategy.

In early 2025 we will begin a fund-raising initiative that may include events featuring the sale of artwork, crowd source funding, and a traditional mail campaign. Keep an eye out for more news on this exciting project early next year!

**To learn more about the Care for Cayuga pilot project, view Charles Cappellino's November 2024 power point presentation linked in the right column at our webpage [www.cayugalake.org/resources/water-resource-committee/](http://www.cayugalake.org/resources/water-resource-committee/).**

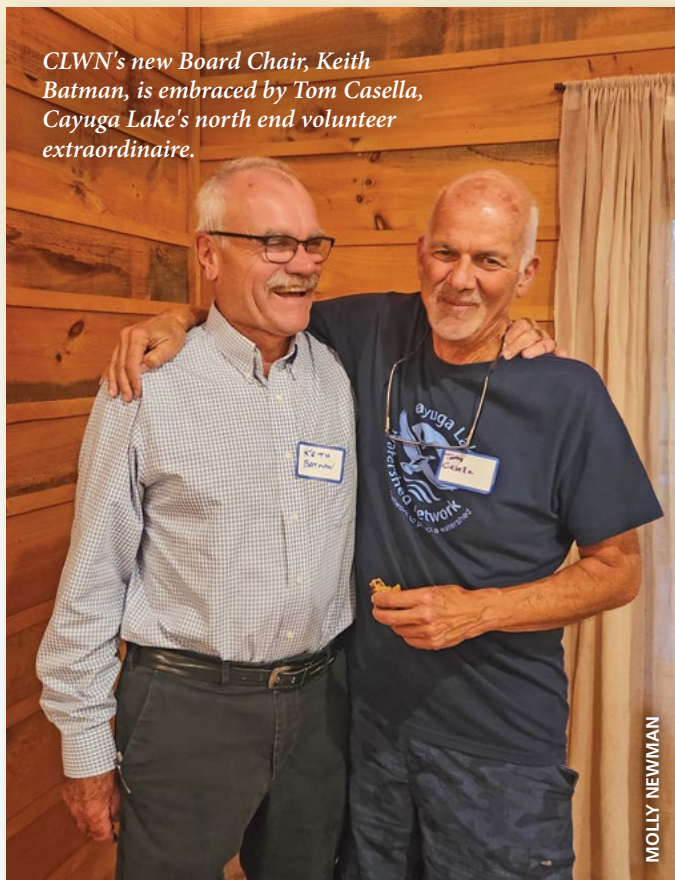


BILL HECHT

*The Seneca County pilot project can help fund reduction of runoff that causes lake pollution of this magnitude. This photo is of Cayuga County's Yawger Creek flowing into Cayuga Lake.*

# Thank you to the 60+ members & friends of CLWN who joined us!

## CLWN 2024 Annual Meeting at the Apple Station Winery



CLWN's new Board Chair, Keith Batman, is embraced by Tom Casella, Cayuga Lake's north end volunteer extraordinaire.

*On August 29, the Network's Board of Directors and staff had a blast connecting with current and prospective members, celebrating our shared commitment to protecting the Cayuga Lake Watershed, and looking toward the future. Thank you to the Apple Station Winery in Cayuga for donating their beautiful venue for the evening, and thank you to our members for your amazing support!*

Going forward into 2025, our Executive Committee is comprised of Keith Batman, Chair; Louise Buck, Vice-Chair; Patricia Haines-Gooding, Secretary; and Mark Benjamin, Treasurer. We are forever grateful to the Network's Board members who have stepped down, and to our members who have elected capable new watershed leaders to lead the Network forward.

Farewell to Board member/officers John Abel, George Adams, and Bill Ebert. Please stay close by—we still need you! Welcome, Tim Martinson and David Weinstein. And thank you Dan Hill, continuing as liaison to the Cayuga Nation. A special heartfelt shout out to David Wolfe, who has stepped down as Board Chair. He shepherded the Board through the COVID pandemic, the Strategic Plan update, and transition to a new Steward! For more information about our entire Board of Directors and staff, check out their biographical statements at our website under the About > People header.

## Recipient of the 2024 David Morehouse Award Congratulations to Tee-Ann Hunter

The Network was proud to present the 2024 David Morehouse award to Tee-Ann Hunter during our Annual Meeting. Tee-Ann's outstanding leadership and dedication to protecting Cayuga Lake since the 1990s, through her work with the Network and the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (CWIO) and with municipalities around the lake, has had a lasting impact. Learn about her decades of hands-on work to unify the Cayuga Lake watershed's municipalities for more effective water quality protection at this link online at [cayugalake.org](http://cayugalake.org) > Where We Stand > David Morehouse Award.



Thank you to Tee-Ann Hunter, 2024 recipient of the 2024 David Morehouse Award.

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**Our Mission...**

To advocate for the health of Cayuga Lake and its watershed in a changing world.

**Our Vision...**

A network of individuals, institutions, and communities united in protecting our region's water resources for people and nature.

**Cayuga Lake Watershed Network**

POB 1033  
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www.cayugalake.org

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By appointment at our Cayuga Nature Center office or online by video conference.

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Newsletter Design:

**Leigh Dezelan**

Newsletter Printing:

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- Advocate**
- Protect**

*Current Resident*

# Upcoming Events

## in the Cayuga Lake Watershed & Neighboring Areas

### CSI Biomonitoring Lab Nights

*Ithaca, various dates*

Explore the extraordinary world of organisms that live in streams. Develop your skill in identifying benthic macroinvertebrates and help Community Science Institute staff assess the health of local streams. Contact [adrianna@communityscience.org](mailto:adrianna@communityscience.org) for details.

### Finger Lakes Institute Research Conference

*January 30, 2025, Geneva*

Details: <https://www.hws.edu/centers/finger-lakes-institute/finger-lakes-research-conference.aspx>

### Trade-a-Tree Program

*through January 17, 2025, Natural Resource Center, Sennett*

This Cayuga County program invites county residents to recycle holiday trees for a Balsam Fir seedling in the spring. Please check here for limited dates and times: <https://cayugacountywater.org/trade-a-tree-program>



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