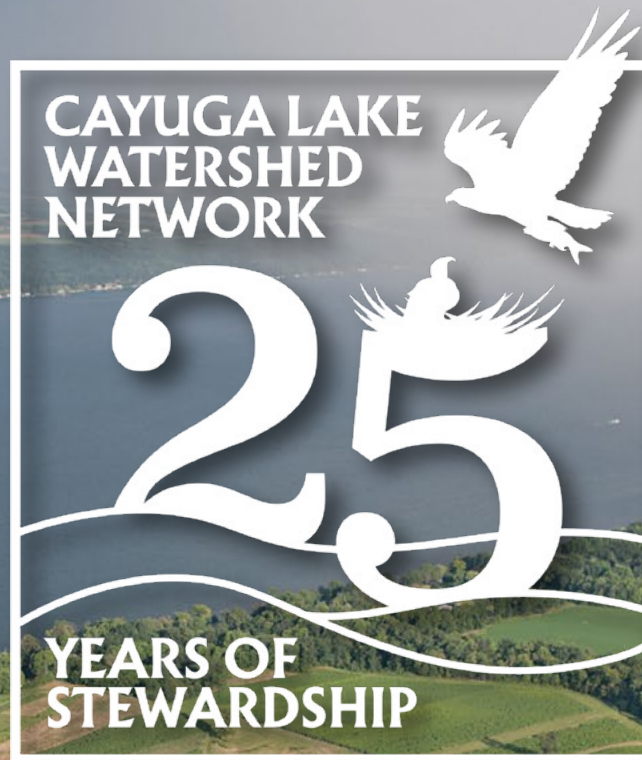


SPECIAL EDITION CAYUGA LAKE WATERSHED

NetworkNews

2023 i3 & 4



*It takes a
Network to protect
a watershed*

*Rainbow over Cayuga
Lake from Sheldrake
Point, 2014*

BILL HECHT

Who We Are | 25th Anniversary Celebration | Congratulations Dr. Liz Thorndike! | Welcome New Board Members | Advocacy Action Updates | Timeline | The Network At Work! | Building Strong Partnerships for Watershed Protection | Membership Appeal | Strategic Plan Goals 2021-24

Cayuga Lake Watershed Network

WHO WE ARE

This summer the Network celebrated 25 years of stewardship for Cayuga Lake and its Watershed. Over the past quarter-century, our dedicated volunteers, members, and staff have been at the forefront of protecting the ecological integrity of our home for people and nature.

It all began with community members like you with the vision of fostering a sustainable future for our watershed. Since then, we have embarked on an impactful journey, working to advocate for our lake, its creeks, wetlands, and surrounding landscape. Our organization has become a trusted leader in community engagement and advocacy and we work tirelessly keeping our community informed and engaged in the complex process of protecting Cayuga Lake and its creeks. Members, volunteers, community partners, and supporters fuel our work and make it all possible.

As informed stewards of our watershed, we both celebrate the successes and know that our work is far from finished. Pollution, excess nutrients and invasive species threaten the delicate balance of our ecosystem, and climate change is rapidly amplifying these challenges. We all must work together to develop resilient and sustainable ways of protecting our water resources. Watershed stewardship is more important now than ever as we tackle these pressing issues through creative and courageous approaches and partnerships. With your continued support, we can advance our efforts on multiple fronts:

Enhancing Water Quality:

We will continue to invest in research, monitoring programs, and collaborations to protect our lake and creeks from pollutants using science-based approaches.

Educating and Engaging the Community: Our educational



*2019 Surveying
from the Boat*



outreach programs will inspire and empower individuals to take action and make sustainable choices that contribute to the long-term health of the Cayuga Lake Watershed.

Advocacy and Policy

Development: We will continue to advocate for robust environmental policies, collaborating with government agencies and engaging with the wide range of stakeholders in our community to develop well-balanced science-based solutions to environmental challenges in the watershed.

Thank you to all our members, volunteers, community partners and supporters for being stewards of our lake, and an integral part of our journey. We also extend an invitation and welcome to new faces and perspectives as we look forward. Together, we will continue to protect Cayuga Lake and its watershed for generations to come.

Liz Kreitinger

Liz Kreitinger

Steward & Executive Director

David Wolfe

David Wolfe

Chair, Board of Directors

Our Mission

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

Our Vision

To build a Network united in the protection of our region's water resources for people and nature.

Our 25th at Interlaken's Cayuga Shoreline

ON August 24th, over 100 Network members and supporters came together at the Cayuga Shoreline event center for dinner and to celebrate a quarter century of education, engagement, and advocacy for Cayuga Lake and its watershed.

During this special Annual Meeting, members voted on the slate of Directors up for renewal as well as four new candidates. Congratulations to returning Directors David Wolfe, Keith Batman, Mark Benjamin, Patricia Haines-Gooding, John Abel, George Adams, David Brown, Ed Currier, Eric Devin, and Bill Ebert; and welcome to our new Directors, Charlie Cappellino, Heidi Lott, Dolly Donnelly, and Louise Buck! Our deep gratitude goes to outgoing members Norman Porticella, Deb Grantham, Mark Sarvary, and Neil Schwartzbach, for your years and decades of service to Cayuga Lake.

To commemorate the anniversary milestone, Board Chair David Wolfe and Watershed Steward Liz Kreitinger shared reflections on the Network's current and future work. Dr. Liz Thorndike, a founding member of the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network, shared stories from the early days when



NYS Senator Rachel May presents her proclamation recognizing the Network's quarter century of leadership for Cayuga Lake to Steward Liz Kreitinger.

the need for collective watershed-wide outreach and education was first being recognized and the Network was founded. For her leadership in this effort, Dr. Thorndike was recognized with the David Morehouse Award.

Special thanks to NYS Senator Rachel May for joining in our celebration and presenting a proclamation in recognition of our 25 years of service to watershed communities, and thank you to our event sponsors, Cayuga Lake National Bank and Lansing Harbor for supporting this event!



CLWN Board members & volunteers celebrate our first 25 years.



Welcome New Board Members

The Network's Board of Directors is an incredibly dedicated group of volunteers who gather monthly to provide the Network with the strategic guidance and governance needed to sustain our organization and serve our mission. They are not only big thinkers, they also participate in committees to track details on emerging watershed issues, promote community outreach, and deliver our climate change, water quality, lake friendly living programs and more. We welcome four new Board members, elected by our membership in August. For more information about our organization, go to [About > Organization](#) at our website.



Louise Buck (Tompkins County):

Raised in the Finger Lakes, Ithaca resident since 1989, lake-shore owner, I am home here, committed to the area's protection and well-being. My passion to ensure a healthy future for Cayuga fuels my desire to serve as a dedicated CLWN Board member. Living and working in the global south for 10 years deepened my appreciation of our Cayuga Basin's

unique qualities while affording experience facilitating the coordinated action needed to conserve and boost productive landscapes in diverse contexts. As a Natural Resources Extension professional at Cornell and Program Director in Collaborative Landscape Management at EcoAgriculture Partners, I am thrilled to apply what I've learned to the challenges and opportunities our watershed faces.



Charlie Cappellino (Seneca County):

Upon retirement from Goulds Pumps in Seneca Falls as Vice President of R&D and Engineering, I made a decision to give back on both a local and national basis. I have always had a keen interest in preserving the environment and supporting the local community. I am a Cayuga Lake HABS Harrier volunteer,

the past president of the United Way of Seneca County, an active volunteer for Habitat for Humanity, the Seneca Falls Historical Society, and the Adirondack Mountain Club. Over the last year, I have participated in a number of CLWN programs, developed relationships with other CLWN members, reviewed the DEC report on Cayuga Lake and also worked with Seneca County Soil and Water Conservation District to accelerate their important work in reducing agricultural runoff. Now is the time to participate more deeply in the improvement of Cayuga Lake's water quality.



Dolly Donnelly (Cayuga County):

Cayuga Lake is very important to me, as well as my community, and I look forward to advancing the Network's mission while also ensuring that my community is represented in our work. I believe that my familiarity with issues of concern for the Lake, including by previously volunteering as a HABS Harrier (in

a quadrant with some of the most frequent blooms over the past few years) and currently serving as a Village of Cayuga Trustee, provide a solid foundation for service on the Board. Additionally, I believe that my background as an attorney provides me with an analytical and a strategic outlook that is valuable both in working as part of committees and on boards. Specifically, in past board/committee roles, I've found myself successful in the role of a facilitator who can help groups move to a consensus.



Heidi Lott (Seneca County): I am a multi-generational farmer that cares for the quality of crops being grown, soil health, making sure that the nutrients that we put on the crops stays in the field, as well as making sure that our lakes and streams have clean water running through them. I have an AAS in Biotechnology, BT in Plant Science, and MS in Agronomy. I stay up to

date on new technology that can help us on the farm with making sure every decision is beneficial to land and water as well as doing continuous education. It is vital to our environment that we have good practices that we are using so that our land and bodies of water do not get destroyed. I look forward to serving as a CLWN Board member as a representative from the agricultural community and to be involved in the watershed.

Congratulations Dr. Liz Thorndike!

Recipient of the 2023 David Morehouse Award

In 2003, the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network and Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization created the David Morehouse Award to honor an individual or group who has exemplified leadership in an endeavor with long-lasting benefit for the Cayuga Lake Watershed.

Along with the original steering committee members, in the late 1990s, Dr. Thorndike was a co-founder of the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network. Her previous work informed her strong, action-oriented approach to environmental and water resource issues: realizing that water protection and sustainable development required a strong bottom-up, community-centered approach.

With the steering committee and infant organization, Liz was not only a leader but a record-keeper, minutes-

taker, meeting organizer, and fundraiser for the emerging organization.

Her actions were foundational building blocks of the Network. Looking back at early meeting minutes, she was always present and active, ensuring that the group moved forward and grew from informal gatherings into a truly watershed-wide, effective organization for watershed protection and education.

In 2018, with the death of the Network's co-founder Jim White, Dr. Thorndike and her family worked with our treasurer and Board to establish the James C. White Memorial Prize to recognize science and conservation leaders in the Cayuga Lake Watershed.

We were honored to celebrate her many contributions to the watershed on this special occasion!

*Liz Thorndike says
THANK YOU!*

CLWN Steward Liz Kreitinger presents the Morehouse Award to Liz Thorndike.



PHOTOS BY DAVID O. BROWN



Advocacy Action Updates

Liz Kreitinger Steward and CLWN Executive Director

During 2023, CLWN provided public comments on issues from the regional to national scale that align with our mission to advocate for the health of Cayuga Lake and its watershed. These positions are developed by our Board Members, staff, and external technical advisors who participate in our Issues Committee. You can find full position statements posted on our website, under About and Where We Stand. Below are brief summaries of each.

Response to DEC Request for Comment on the New York State Solid Waste Management Plan, June 2023

The Network welcomed many provisions of the Solid Waste Management Plan which moves NYS toward a sustainable, circular economy including opportunities to reduce, reuse, recycle and to safely extract value from the waste stream. However, the provision regarding the expansion of biosolid land application has the potential to dangerously contaminate farmland soils and waterways. We emphatically disagree with the goal of increasing the sewage sludge “biosolids” recycling rate from 22% to 57% through land application. It is counterproductive with serious risks of long-term health and economic consequences. We commented that the state should initiate the following actions prior to continuation or expansion of land application of biosolids, since they are a known source of toxins which accumulate from our wastewater stream, particularly perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) “forever chemicals”: 1) Identify the originating sources of PFAS contamination and stop that input, 2) Pass legislation banning the use of PFAS in manufacturing and in products sold in NYS, 3) Develop treatment technologies that are economically viable to remove PFAS from our drinking water systems and wastewater discharges, 4) Develop a state rapid response program that includes financial and technical support for water and wastewater utilities who discover PFAS in their effluent.

Support for restricting the use of neonicotinoid pesticides as outlined in the Birds and Bees Protection Act, May 2023

The Finger Lakes Regional Watershed Alliance (FLRWA) Board of Directors, including the Cayuga Lake Watershed Steward, approved a letter to State Senator Rachel May and others in support of banning neonicotinoid seed coatings as outlined in the Birds and Bees Protection Act.

Prophylactic seed and turf/ornamental plant treatments with neonicotinoid insecticides, in the absence of an integrated pest management strategy, is economically and environmentally unsound. A major report by Cornell University concluded that the most common uses of neonicotinoids in New York, which pose substantial risks to pollinators, provide little to no benefits to users and are replaced by safer alternatives. The New York landscape has become toxic to harmless and economically beneficial species of insects, including pollinators that contribute \$400 million to the NY economy. Neonicotinoid insecticides have entered the aquatic environment in high enough concentrations to threaten entire aquatic ecosystems as well as drinking water supplies. Due to their pervasiveness and high concentrations in food and water, neonicotinoids now broadly pose a risk to human health. Alternatives to the unnecessary use of neonicotinoids do exist, and they need to be employed to protect the ecology and the economy of the Finger Lakes region.

UPDATE as of November 2023: The Birds and Bees Protection Act (A7640/S1856A) has passed the State Assembly and the Senate and requires Governor Hochul's signature before the end of the year.

Joint Letter to the DEC requesting completion of the Cayuga Lake Clean Water Plan “TMDL” for Total Phosphorus, April 2023

The Network and the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal organization wrote a letter to DEC Commission Basil Seggos and others requesting finalization of the TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) for Phosphorus for Cayuga Lake. In July of 2021, Cayuga Lake stakeholders submitted comments on the draft Cayuga

1997

Community members form a Watershed Wide Steering Committee and organize first Lakefest celebration and meeting

1998

Cayuga Lake Watershed Network officially founded & first issue of Network News published

2002

The Network launches invasive Water Chestnut education and eradication program

2004

The Network publishes “Issues in the Cayuga Lake Watershed”

2000

The Network works with regional partners and community to create the first Cayuga Lake Watershed Restoration and Protection Plan

2006

Lake Friendly Farming Award established, 13 farms recognized for leadership in watershed protection practices

2011

The Network launches invasive hydrilla education and eradication program

2012

Staff and Board members serve as founding members of the Finger Lakes Regional Watershed Alliance

2014

Following 4 years of grassroots water education & advocacy, NY State passes natural gas “fracking” ban

Lake TMDL for Total Phosphorus. As of April 2023, there had been no updates on the status of this document, which should be serving as primary guidance for watershed management priorities and decision-making, given the addition of Cayuga Lake's south end segment to the State's 303(d) List of Impaired waterbodies in 2002 for Total Phosphorus. A finalized, state-approved Clean Water Plan for Cayuga Lake would be used to tackle phosphorus pollution in our lake, which compounds with other threats and degrades water quality. A Clean Water Plan also adds priority points to grant applications for water quality work, and provides additional guidance for local stakeholders implementing the DEC's Cayuga Lake Harmful Algal Bloom Action Plan (2017), which anticipates the then-pending TMDL as a source of detailed information on high priority locations for remediation action.

October, 2023 Update: The DEC sent a reply to a companion letter submitted by the Tompkins County Water Resources Council stating that the TMDL would be completed during the summer of 2024. To date, no finalized TMDL has been announced.

Statement in Support of US EPA Prioritizing Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR) as a National Enforcement and Compliance Initiative, March 2023

The Cayuga Lake Watershed Network undersigned the petition by EarthJustice urging the US Environmental Protection Agency to make coal ash a National Enforcement and Compliance Initiative (NECI) for 2024-2027. The Network supports stronger regulatory oversight and remediation for coal ash landfills both locally and nationally. For local context, see "CLWN Board Comments Submitted Regarding Repowering Future of Cayuga AES Power Plant" from 2013, also published on our Where We Stand webpage. The EPA must significantly increase federal enforcement of the 2015 CCR rule to stop coal ash pollution and address widespread noncompliance perpetrated by U.S. power plants. A CCR enforcement initiative will go far to help EPA realize the goals set forth in EPA's Strategic Plan, including tackling the climate crisis and addressing environmental justice.

October, 2023 Update: The EPA announced new Federal Enforcement Priorities. New priorities tackle modern challenges including climate change, coal ash, PFAS, air toxics, drinking water contamination, and chemical accidents.

Statement in Support of the Cayuga County Board of Health Request that NYS Dept. of Health Complete Review of Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations, March 2023

The City of Auburn public water supply, drawn from Owasco Lake, serves residents within our watershed, and Cayuga Lake shares many of the same water quality issues that Owasco Lake is currently experiencing. The Network has followed the progress of the Owasco Lake Watershed efforts to revise their existing Watershed Rules and Regulations for the protection of public drinking water sources and other valuable uses of the lake and tributaries for years. In 2020, we passed a resolution endorsing the revised Owasco Watershed Rules and Regulations, and requested that the existing, outdated, 1984 Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations be replaced with the revised version, which was developed via a thorough, evidence-based process including significant stakeholder engagement. Increasing microcystin toxin levels from Harmful Algal Blooms measured in the Owasco Lake drinking water sources over the last 5 years threaten to exceed the removal capacity of the treatment system, and the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) exceedances of the disinfection by-product trihalomethanes (THMs) requires immediate action to protect the Owasco Lake from further pollution.

October, 2023 Update: We are incredibly disappointed to learn that after years of local collaborative work, the NYS Dept. of Health has completed their review of the Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations, removing substantial clauses agreed on by local stakeholders including those related to non-point source agricultural pollution, a known major contributor to degraded water quality. The revised document is less protective than the original 1984 Rules and Regulations. We will continue to work with Owasco Lake partners in support of their effort and work to understand the implications for Watershed Rules and Regulations for Cayuga Lake Watershed drinking water protections.

Call to action!

Network members or supporters who have expertise related to the environmental challenges our watershed faces and are interested in contributing to our mission-driven advocacy work by serving as an advisor to our Issues Committee are encouraged to reach out to us at steward@cayugalake.org.

2015

The Network coordinates wetlands mapping and study across Tompkins Co.

2018

The Network gets to work on updates for the Cayuga Lake Restoration and Protection Plan

2018

Establishment of Cayuga Lake Harmful Algal Bloom Monitoring Program with the Community Science Institute and Discover Cayuga Lake

2020

The Network approves new strategic plan, prioritizing work that centers water quality and climate change mitigation and resiliency

2020

Founding of the FLX Lake Friendly Living Coalition

2020-21

The Network produces first editions of "Homeowner's Guide to Lake Friendly Living", "Lakeside Living in a Changing Climate" and "Watershed Living in a Changing Climate" handbooks for residents

2023

Cayuga Lake Watershed Network Celebrates a quarter century of stewardship

The Network at Work!

Achievements & Program Highlights

Leadership in NYS 'Fracking' Fight

From 2009-2014, CLWN worked with people and groups to get the fracking ban passed for New York State, in order to protect groundwater, surface water, and our watershed communities. Area residents realized in 2008-09 that large percentages of private land had been leased to gas companies, for development as hydraulic fracturing sites to extract natural gas from the underlying Marcellus Shale. Our creeks and lakes were targeted to supply water for fracking, each gas well requiring tens of thousands of gallons; when returned to the surface following use, this water was unusably toxic. In a long and dramatic public process, the people of NY State said No to fracking. The Network provided facts about the potential for water pollution and destruction of healthy ecosystems and sustainable human communities via dozens of public presentations and newsletter articles, and public comment letters. In January 2012, Steward Lambert submitted to NYS DEC the Board-approved "Comments on the Revised Draft SGEIS on Well Permit Issuance for Horizontal Drilling and High Volume Hydraulic Fracturing, and the High Volume Hydraulic Fracturing Proposed Regulations." In May 2012 the CLWN Board voted to approve a "Position Statement on Hydraulic Fracturing." These documents are available at our website under About > Who We Are.

Founding Member, Finger Lakes Regional Watershed Alliance

In 2012, Board Chair John Mawdsley reported on plans to create the Finger Lakes Regional Watershed Alliance. Steward Lambert began attending meetings and subsequently was President for three years. The FLRWA was organized initially to prevent fracking from coming to the Finger Lakes. Once fracking was banned statewide in 2014, the FLRWA became an indispensable group for sharing information and resources about invasive species and water quality across the region, working closely with the Finger Lakes Institute in Geneva, and with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. Membership is made up of lake associations from each of the Finger Lakes and partnering groups.

Public Education about the Invasive Aquatic Species Hydrilla

In 2011, the invasive aquatic species *Hydrilla verticillata* was found in Ithaca's Cayuga Inlet by an alert intern aboard the Floating Classroom. Twelve years later, hydrilla has been mostly eradicated from the south end of the lake, but is popping up in Cayuga Lake marinas and launches as far north as Sheldrake on the west shore and Aurora on the east shore—and probably in unmonitored shoreline sites. The Network has provided

information for the public throughout this period, in the form of newsletter articles, radio interviews, and participation in the monitoring and treatment groups established by Tompkins County, the Finger Lakes Institute and Finger Lakes PRISM (Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management), and the US Army Corps of Engineers. We are especially grateful for the outreach efforts of legendary Hydrilla Heroes Dave and Joyce Heck of Lansing, who set up over 65 hydrilla information boxes around the lake to ensure that everyone enjoying our lake was well-informed about this problematic invasive. Watch CLWN's annual community conference sessions, the experts reporting on hydrilla monitoring and treatment, on our Youtube channel (via our website). This work continues.

Working with Agricultural Community Partners

Continuing the important work of working with our agricultural neighbors on healthy watershed solutions, in spring

2023 Board Member Bill Ebert and volunteer hero Tom Casella connected with the agricultural community for NY Soil Health Field Days at Rodman Lott & Sons Farm in Seneca Falls. They joined the many attendees who spent the morning learning the latest about how cover crops, reduced tillage, and other soil health practices can help reduce nutrient runoff to aquatic ecosystems, save money on fertilizer, AND increase crop resiliency to extreme weather. From the headwaters to the lakeshore, everyone has a role to play in protecting watershed health and it's more important than ever. Thank you to

the Seneca County Soil & Water Conservation District and to the local USDA-NRCS team for organizing!

Improved Wetlands Map of Tompkins County

This project was managed by CLWN in cooperation with the Tompkins County Water Resources Council. During 2014-5, GIS expert Nicholas Hollingshead re-mapped Tompkins County's wetlands using LiDAR data (elevation data collected via airplane overflight) and GIS software. This new map today remains a significant improvement over the wetland maps created decades earlier by NYC DEC and the federal US Fish and Wildlife Service. The state and federal maps significantly underestimate the number and extent of wetlands, often completely missing smaller wetlands. This work was supported by grants from the Park Foundation, Tompkins County Legislature, and the Tompkins County Soil and Water Conservation District via the Finger Lakes – Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance, with in-kind match from several sources. In 2023, these maps are in use county-wide. Learn more at our website under The Watershed > Wetlands Mapping Project.



Board Member Bill Ebert and volunteer hero Tom Casella connect with agricultural community partners for NY Soil Health Field Days at Rodman Lott & Sons Farm in Seneca Falls.

Cayuga Lake Restoration and Protection Plan

From 2015-2017, Network Steward Hilary Lambert focused on updating the original 1999-2000 Restoration & Protection Plan for the Cayuga Lake watershed. Significant new contributions included community engagement, toxic sites, and recognition of the Cayuga Nation. As editor, researcher and writer, Lambert recruited regional experts to update chapters in water quality, agriculture, silviculture, public outreach, and public policy. Public meetings were held to get input from area residents, along with an online questionnaire at our website. The completed 2017 Cayuga Lake Watershed Restoration & Protection Plan can be viewed at the Network's website and at the Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (CWIO)'s website. This updated Plan was the springboard for CWIO's subsequent expansion and reorganization. The two-year process helped bring a lot of new partners and friends into the Network. We are especially grateful for continued interaction with the Cayuga Nation, centered on their land at the SHARE Farm in Union Springs.

Cayuga Lake Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Monitoring

Since 2017 the Network has been working with partners and public agencies in response to the rise in Harmful Algal Blooms in Cayuga Lake and across the Finger Lakes region. With the leadership and expertise of the Community Science Institute, the Network helped develop a HABs monitoring program where trained volunteers check over 50% of the lake's shoreline and carry samples to CSI's lab. CSI's interactive map of lab results and CLWN's weekly HABs newsletters during the summer months together provide a lifeline for locals to know where HABs are, for their protection and safe lake enjoyment. Further public education is provided by DiscoverCayugaLake's eco-cruises aboard the *Teal*. Work toward a longer term solution will be integrated into our Climate Change initiatives. Learn more at our website's Algal Bloom webpages.

Citizens Statewide Lakes Assessment Program (CSLAP)

In our early years and steadily since 2017, CLWN has provided partial funding and dedicated volunteers to sample up to five sites for the CSLAP program. Volunteer teams annually are trained to carry out eight weeks of water quality tests at established points down the center of Cayuga Lake. Their water samples are shipped to a state-run lab for analysis, and these data are used by NYS DEC and its Finger Lakes Hub office in Syracuse to determine the status of lake water quality across



Emma Bland and Tom Casella doing water testing for the northern tributaries monitoring project. Emma is pursuing an MS degree with SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse.

New York State. Coordinated by the NY State Federation of Lake Associations, over 120 lakes participate—and Cayuga has the most sampling sites of any lake.

Northern Tributaries Water Quality Monitoring

Under the leadership of Board Member Bill Ebert, in 2019 a new water quality monitoring program began at the mouths of eight Seneca and Cayuga county creeks to better understand nutrient pollution to our lake. For 3 years we have partnered with SUNY ESF researchers to expand the study and link the nutrient concentration data with a method that uses DNA qPCR analysis for microbial source-tracking. The goal of this work is to focus on determining what type of source (e.g., residential sewer, animal waste/manure) abatement within the watershed is needed to have the greatest improvements in water quality. A final report will be prepared for watershed stakeholders once the analysis is completed for this important work in 2024. Learn more at our website under Resources > Water Quality Committee.

Lake Friendly Living and Watershed Living in a Changing Climate

With the leadership of Board Member Ed Currier, volunteer Nancy Currier, and our Program Associate, these initiatives provide information and positive actions for watershed residents who are concerned about the health of our water and watershed, and want to make a positive difference. With a group on each lake, the membership-based Lake Friendly Living Coalition Program stretches across the Finger Lakes region. LFL provides advice and guidance for healthy water and land-use practices, with an annual action and awareness event series each May. Additionally, under the leadership of our Board member John Abel, the Network has developed two documents that offer climate change information and advice: *Lakeside Living in a Changing Climate*, and *Watershed Living in a Changing Climate*. Learn more about these helpful, positive, science-based initiatives at our website under Resources.

BUILDING STRONG PARTNERSHIPS FOR WATERSHED PROTECTION

The Network has numerous partners, organizations also focused on Cayuga Lake, its watershed, water quality, and quality of life. We also work with groups and agencies with a wider view regionally. We are deeply grateful for their willingness to share the work toward a common purpose: protection of and education about our irreplaceable clean water resource, in a time of rapid climate change. Here are some of their views about the Network.

Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (CWIO)

"As the municipal arm of water quality protection CWIO relies on the strong scientific background and technical expertise provided by the Watershed Network to help understand and respond to threats to the lake and its tributaries. The Watershed Network plays a key role in outreach and education about issues affecting the lake and expands the reach of monitoring efforts to understand lake and watershed health. We are grateful for your partnership in watershed-wide protection."

—Elizabeth Thomas, Chairperson

Community Science Institute (CSI)

"We are fortunate to live in a watershed with so many organizations and individuals that are dedicated to its protection. The Cayuga Lake Watershed Network serves an important role in our community by bringing all of those parties together. We are proud to partner with the CLWN on a variety of projects that aim to protect our beautiful lake and its surrounding watershed."

—Dr. Grascen Shidemantle, Executive Director

Cayuga Lake Environmental Action Now (CLEAN)

"The Watershed Network plays such a valuable and unique role in raising awareness and dialogue about the Cayuga Lake watershed, it has been both a privilege and a pleasure for CLEAN to become a junior partner in this on-going endeavor."

—Dr. John Dennis, Co-Founder

Finger Lakes Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (FL-PRISM, Finger Lakes Institute)

"The relationship between our organizations has provided rich opportunities for better understanding and supporting the needs of Cayuga Lake. We look forward to furthering this relationship with the Network as we continue to address complex and unique invasive species challenges facing the watershed."

—Sam Beck-Andersen, Coordinator & Associate Director of Invasive Species Programs

Cayuga County Water Quality Management Agency (WQMA)

"The Cayuga Lake Watershed Network is a key partner to the Cayuga County WQMA by assisting the Agency in meeting its charge of providing an

effective public education program to develop public understanding and support for water quality management in Cayuga County."

—Michele Wunderlich, Associate Planner, Cayuga Co. Dept. of Planning & Economic Development

Seneca County Soil & Water Conservation District

"Our organizations share the goal of protecting Cayuga Lake's water quality. It takes a community to achieve this goal. While our services may vary, we have aligned our talents to partner with the Network on numerous occasions to provide programing and events to carry out that objective. These partnerships are vital."

—Erin Peruzzini, District Manager

Discover Cayuga Lake (DCL)

"As our watershed organizations conduct works of research, education, advocacy, mitigation and conservation, the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network maintains the connectivity and broad vision that will ultimately make our combined efforts successful. We view the CLWN staff, board and membership as vital partners in DCL's education and outreach efforts!"

—Bill Foster, Executive Director

Awards and Recognition

2023

Leadership Recognition to Steward Hilary Lambert for service to the Finger Lakes Regional Watershed Alliance

2020

Lake Steward Award to Hilary Lambert. Award from NYS Federation of Lake Associations.

2018

Newsletter Excellence Recognition, Third Place to CLWN's quarterly Newsletter "Network News," from NYS Federation of Lake Associations. The honors go to our layout designer, Leigh Dezelan of Dezelan DeZign, Ithaca NY.

2011

Signs of Sustainability Award, to the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network. Award from Sustainable Tompkins.

2010

Watershed Group Award for Anti-Fracking Efforts, to the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network. Award from Freshwater Future, Petoskey MI.

2008

Merit Award for Outstanding Education and Outreach, to the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network. Award from the NYS Soil and Water Conservation Society.



December 2023

Dear Cayuga Lake Watershed Network Members and Supporters...

Throughout this special 25th anniversary issue of the Network News, we provide ample evidence of our effective, long-term work on behalf of Cayuga Lake and its 860-square mile watershed.

For the past 25 years, the Network has been central to water quality protection and community engagement for lake and watershed protection, in cooperation with like-minded organizations and public agencies.

Our 2021-4 Strategic Plan focuses on developing a resilient response to climate change, in order to ensure a healthy future for the lake at the center of our lives.

With scientific knowledge, community outreach, responsive programs, and effective partnerships, we are leading our watershed forward in challenging times.

Your support is necessary for us to continue this challenging work. Thank you!

Liz Kreitinger, Steward/Executive Director
Molly Newman, Program Associate



Your renewed membership, annual giving, and active involvement strengthen our organization and protect the Cayuga Lake Watershed.

Please send your membership renewal check to:

CLWN, POB 348, Aurora NY 13026

Membership Levels:

Student/Senior \$10, Individual \$25, Family \$35, Business/Organization \$50. Larger amounts welcome!

Your membership and gifts are tax deductible and a receipt will be sent.

All membership and giving options are available online at www.cayugalake.org. Click on the "Join or Renew" link on the homepage.

**Please show
YOUR
support by
renewing
your CLWN
membership
for 2024!**



Board of Directors OFFICERS

David Wolfe, *Chair*
Keith Batman, *Vice Chair*
Mark Benjamin, *Treasurer*
Patricia Haines-Gooding,
Secretary

MEMBERS

John Abel
George Adams
David O. Brown
Louise Buck
Charlie Cappellino
Ed Currier
Eric Devin
Dolly Donnelly
Bill Ebert
Heidi Lott

STAFF

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Associate*
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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

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CLWN Strategic Plan: Goals 2021-2024

Programmatic Goals

1 Monitor the impacts of climate change on the watershed and lead the effort to engage the community and organize mitigation efforts.

2 Educate youth and adults on detrimental impacts to water quality and encourage implementation of best management practices.

3 Serve as a leader and connector to help community members, conservation partners, businesses, and local governments work collaboratively to understand best management practices, address and prioritize threats, and pursue joint projects to improve the health of the lake and watershed.

Organizational Goals

1 Strengthen the Network by focusing on organizational development to ensure efficiency, accountability, engagement and growth.

2 Raise awareness of the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network through strong communications, fundraising, partnerships, and community outreach to ensure the organization has the resources necessary to carry out its mission.

For complete text of the Network's strategic plan adopted in 2020, at our website go to About > Priorities.