

Network

It takes a Network to protect a watershed.

News



We Live at the Top of a Water-Rich Region **Stewardship needed for both the Great Lakes and Chesapeake Bay**

by Hilary Lambert, Steward

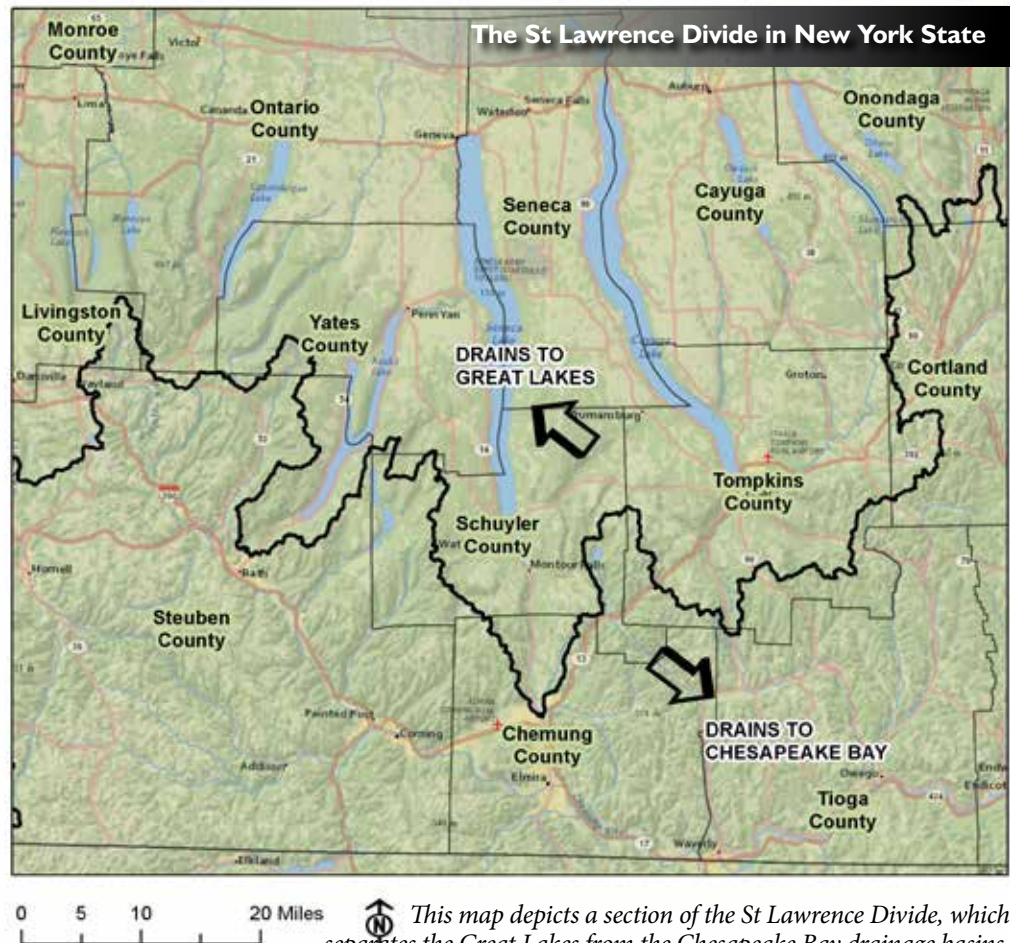
People who live and work in the hills south and east of Ithaca, Dryden, Caroline, Danby and Virgil often traverse a major drainage divide of the North American continent. The locally important Cayuga Lake watershed boundary is part of the longer, continentally-significant St Lawrence Divide (see map, The St Lawrence Divide in New York State).

On the north side of that line, rainfall and snowmelt drain to creeks that flow into Cayuga Lake's southern end. Cayuga's waters move slowly northward, into the canal at Mud Lock, eventually reaching Lake Ontario, then flowing onwards to the North Atlantic Ocean via the St Lawrence Seaway.

On the south side of that line, precipitation drains to creeks that feed the small rivers that are tributaries to the massive Susquehanna River system, which drains south to the Atlantic Ocean via Chesapeake Bay (see map, The Cayuga Lake Watershed in a Wider Context).

Our towns and neighborhoods, roads, journeys to work, school, and play straddle this upland region with its wealth of wetlands, rivulets, streams, ponds, creeks and famous waterfalls. While the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network is focused on the waters that flow to the lake down the north side of the divide, our community awareness and responsibility for headwaters protection needs to include the streams

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Our New Website is Launched!

Thanks to funding from the Park Foundation, the Network's new website was launched in January, still at www.cayugalake.org. We now have a flexible, easily-updated website with informational tools that are useful and informative for our members and visitors to the site.

Please have a look, and be patient as we add more information and links to keep you in touch around Cayuga Lake, across the Finger Lakes and throughout the Great Lakes Basin. To learn more, go to www.cayugalake.org and click on each heading across the top of the home page (click on the Network logo at the center top, to return to the home page):

About: Learn about our Board of Directors, our organizational history, and how to contact us.

Get Involved: Find out about joining, donating and volunteering for the Network.

The Watershed: This section is growing to include information about sister organizations like the Community Science Institute; the City of Ithaca Water Plant project; the Cayuga County groundwater contamination site; and the growing number of reports on groundwater resources across the watershed. We'll be adding information from around the lake, to help you link into what is happening regarding water quality in Seneca, Cayuga and Tompkins counties.

Resources: Here you can find in-depth information about Issues; Watershed information for kids; Hydraulic fracturing and gas drilling information and links; Videos and photo galleries; Recreation information—and more.

Events/News: Register for CanYou Canoe Cayuga 2013; Learn about upcoming and recent events around the lake; read past newsletters and other documents.

Networking: Link to the groups and organizations working to take care of the lake and creeks; Find out how Cayuga Lake relates to the wider Finger Lakes and Great Lakes basin; Find out where to get your questions answered or concerns addressed; Link to information about our sustainability-minded business members. ➤

Please get in touch via the contact link at the website or directly to steward@cayugalake.org to make suggestions and share helpful links.



VISIT US AT www.cayugalake.org

Cayuga Lake Watershed Network

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The Cayuga Lake Watershed Network thanks Leigh Dezelan of Ithaca and Pioneer Printing of Lodi for their support and excellence.

Embrace the Lake 2013 a Success!

by Ashley Benning

Our annual clean-up event, Embrace the Lake, was once again a great success.

Each year, wonderful volunteers from around the lake host clean-up events to remove trash from the lakeshore, from one of the 35 major creeks that drain to Cayuga Lake, or from along one of the many hundreds of smaller creeklets and streams that give their waters to Cayuga Lake.

The Cayuga Lake Watershed Network provides groups with signs, gloves, trash bags, and internet outreach. Every year dozens of bags of trash are removed from the watershed.

Ithaca's Cayuga Lake Waterfront area and Cayuga Inlet

This year, the Cayuga Waterfront Trail Initiative and the City of Ithaca worked together with a variety of community organizations to pick up litter and tidy up our waterfront parks and trails at eight different locations, including the Ithaca Waterfront Trail and the Fuertes Bird Sanctuary and Lighthouse Woods. The Ithaca Dragon Boat Club and Cayuga Outrigger Canoe Club also held a Cayuga Inlet cleanup for paddlers, and collected trash by boat.

Ithaca's Neighborhood Pride Grocery and friends: Cascadilla Creek

With the help of CLWN Board member Patricia Haines, the Petito family and Neighborhood Pride grocery store in Ithaca led a group of friends, neighbors, and Cornell students on a cleanup of Cascadilla Creek, enjoying an active role in the community, as well as coffee and snacks!



Ithaca's Neighborhood Pride grocery is on the banks of Cascadilla Creek, just off Route 13 downtown. They sponsored a great little cleanup in April 2013.



Paul Closs prepares for a cleanup along the Cayuga Inlet with Dragon Boat and other paddleboat club volunteers. Thanks to American Rivers for the excellent bags!

Ithaca Farmers Market on Earth Day

On Earth Day in Ithaca, visitors of the Earth Day celebration were invited to grab gloves and trash bags at the Farmers Market Pavilion to do some waterfront cleaning. Young persons were seen dragging loaded bags and weird waterlogged objects toward the recycling containers.

Aurora: Wells College Campus Greens, Aurora Ridge Dairy, Poplar Ridge Meeting

Once again, the active Campus Greens group of Wells College along with Peachtown School held a campus cleanup, removing trash from campus and the shoreline before it could enter the lake. The waterfront of Aurora was covered by the Poplar Ridge Meeting group, and the Aurora Ridge Dairy held its own cleanup of the gully on Black Rock Rd in April, helping to keep the farm and watershed clean!

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The Poplar Ridge meeting group had a beautiful day for it! Organizer Eric Devin reports: "Couldn't ask for a nicer day. We had 8 people and Hannah the dog picking up stuff today. We got 3 tires, about 8 bags of garbage and assorted other junk. I'm happy to report that each year we've been picking up the area, there is definitely less and less trash to be picked."



Thank you to participants, the Stroks family and American Rivers

Thank you to everyone who participated this year, we hope you had lots of fun at your cleanup! Your work helps to keep the watershed clean, happy, and healthy. A big thank you also to American Rivers for providing trash bags, and to Mike Strok and the Strok family for their long-time support of the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network and for the gloves they send each year for cleanups! Thank you!

If you have any pictures from your cleanup that you would like to share, send them to Ashley at ambismb@gmail.com, or message them to us on Facebook. We would love to hear your stories! Contact us if you, your family and friends or community group would like to do one next spring. **Let's see a few cleanups on the north and west shore in 2014!** Keep an eye out on www.cayugalake.org and our Facebook page for next year's Embrace the Lake events, and other great events like it. 🐾



Mike Strok donates gloves from Shamrock Manufacturing, www.smcgloves.com, for Embrace the Lake cleanups.

Seeking Network News Assistance for 2014

by Hilary Lambert, Steward

Dear Readers:

You will only see two issues of *Network News* during 2013. Each will be 12-16 pages long instead of the quarterly 8 pages. A full-color poster of our beautiful watershed will be inserted in the year-end issue for each of you to enjoy.

While I hope to be back to four quarterly issues in 2014, I can't promise that will happen. The future has caught up with us, so that more of our information and communications are taking place online via our flexible new website, our email listserv that goes out to over 600 people, and our Facebook page.

With limited staff and intern time and a rising tide of activities, issues and education that need to be quickly responsive to today's news, we are unable to give the newsletter the time and attention it deserves. If you are like me, you still prefer the printed page to a glowing screen. Nonetheless, for most of us, more and more time is spent "interacting" with screens of all sizes.

As a result of our time and technology crunch during 2013, I am seeking volunteers to help me ensure a continued print presence for our beautiful newsletter next year. Our new Board member Mike Duttweiler has already signed on to assist. Do you have the editing and or writing interest, skills and time to help with our 2014 issues? I seek a small group who can help me decide on topics to cover and do quick professional write-ups to deadline, and research when needed.

Once articles are written and approved (by me) and photos and maps selected and developed, the contents are sent for layout to Leigh Dezelan of Ithaca. Once I approve the layout, she sends the issue to Joe Sepi at Pioneer Printing in Lodi, who prints and mails each issue.

I would need quick, responsive work from several qualified people interacting via email. Let me know if you are interested, via an email message to steward@cayugalake.org. Thank you!

Meanwhile, embrace the future:

- CLWN website: www.cayugalake.org
- Archive of past newsletter issues: <http://www.cayugalake.org/archives.html>
- To be added to our listserv, please send your email address to: steward@cayugalake.org
- "Like" us on Facebook at Cayuga Lake Watershed Network: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Cayuga-Lake-Watershed-Network/101436081850> 🐾

We Live at the Top of a Water-Rich Region

Stewardship needed for both the Great Lakes and Chesapeake Bay *continued from cover*

and creeks that flow southwards (see map, Where the Waters Divide, In Our Own Backyards). The concept of a “divide” forces us to artificially separate, into “one side or the other,” a regional water resource that in fact should be protected in a unified way.

We live among infant rivers

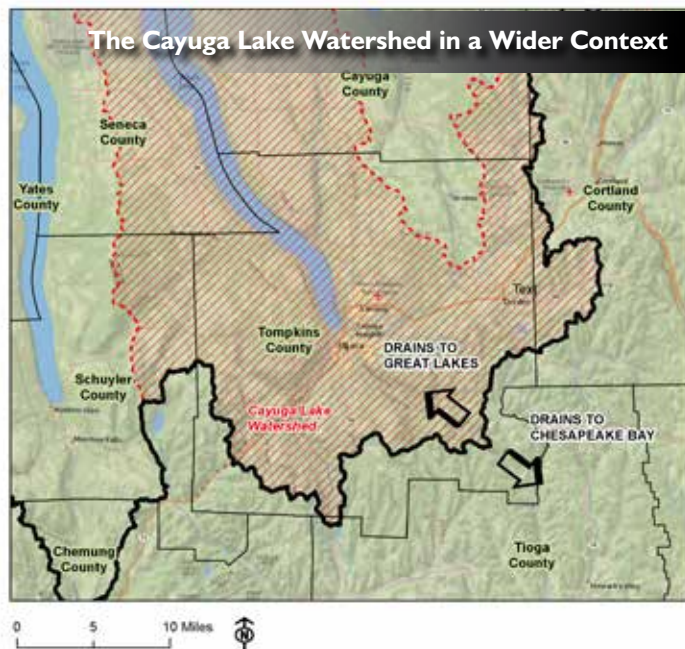
Another way to look at it is that we live among infant rivers. We are the first to encounter the young waters as they gather in our upland wetland woods, in our ditches and backyard streams, massing and spilling their clean abundance downhill, both to the north and to the south. And we bear responsibility for the downstream health of all these waters. We protect them locally for future generations and ecosystem functions of which we are not fully aware, ensuring that our downstream neighbors—all the way to the Atlantic Ocean—may also enjoy clean, abundant, healthful water.

Stewardship efforts

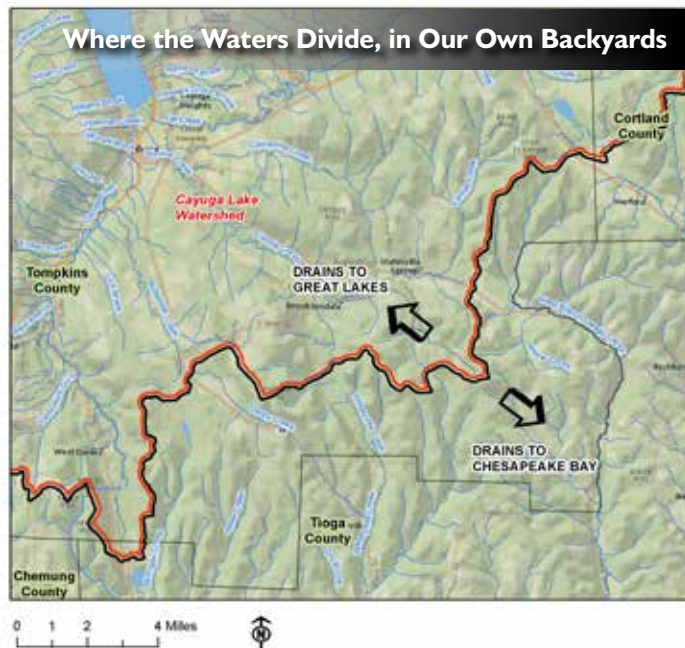
Several towns in Tompkins County are working on surface and groundwater studies, in cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey and other agencies, to help inform protective planning and town-level ordinances. Creeks on both sides of the St. Lawrence Divide are regularly monitored by citizen volunteers, thanks to the Community Science Institute and the wisdom of cooperating townships. Public agencies around Cayuga Lake are supportive of clean-water initiatives.

In this era of rapid climate change and with the looming potential of large-scale rural industrial development via gas drilling and fracking, we need to be thinking in terms of protecting the entirety of this wonderful headwaters area. Since April, the NY Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has new regulations in place that make it easier for business interests to obtain permits for withdrawal of creek and lake water for commercial and industrial use. We need to work together to ensure that our creeks, streams, pond and lake waters are not negatively impacted by outside, water-hungry interests.

The Cayuga Lake Watershed Network's new website is developing pages to provide maps and links to information on these topics. Especially note the Watershed, Resources, and Networking pages at www.cayugalake.org. To learn more about the legal and legislative challenges to effective water resources protection across New York State, visit environmental writer and attorney Rachel Treichler's water law blog: <http://nywaterlaw.com/index.html>. ↗



This map illustrates how the Cayuga Lake watershed's southern boundary is part of the regional St Lawrence Divide, and shows that precipitation on the south side of the divide drains to Chesapeake Bay via the Susquehanna River system.



Local residents in Dryden, Slaterville Springs, Brooktondale, Danby, Richford and other communities can see where the waters divide – often in their own backyards and neighborhoods – draining north to the Great Lakes and south to Chesapeake Bay.

View Maps Online for Greater Detail

Thanks to cartographer Karen Edelstein, the beautiful maps in this article can be enlarged to reveal a lot of local detail, when viewed online.

Please go to our website www.cayugalake.org, click on the 'Networking' heading, and then click on 'the Finger Lakes & Great Lakes Basin.'

You can then enlarge and zoom in on these maps, to see exactly where waters drain north to Cayuga Lake and south to the Susquehanna River.

You can also view a map of the North American Continent displaying all of the significant drainage divides.

Lively & Informative

Our 2013 Spring Conference and Annual Meeting

Big thanks go to Board member Patricia Haines, Network member David Gooding, Friends of Montezuma, and the IO (Cayuga Lake Intermunicipal Organization), who worked together to create a fun setting for our April 2013 spring conference, featuring speaker Dr. Kim Bostwick. Held at the Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge Visitors Center just off Route 20 at the north end of Cayuga Lake in Seneca Falls, our semi-annual community conference attracted an audience of 25 who listened to Dr. Bostwick's learned and passionate presentation, "Birds and Climate Change: Developing Your Own Simple 5 Point Plan to Solve the Climate Crisis."

As a researcher and museum curator at Cornell University and its Lab of Ornithology, as well as a teacher and parent, Kim Bostwick is devastated at the looming massive bird species extinctions that will unarguably happen due to climate change in the near future. She gave listeners very bad news, and a useful short list of what we should be doing, every day, to lessen the losses. For example—find out what is going on in your community, and send letters to local newspapers—get involved locally.

This discussion of climate change, adaptation and response will be continued at our fall conference, scheduled for November 8-9 in the Six Mile Creek Watershed at the south end of the lake, in cooperation with Freshwater Future, Sustainable Tompkins, and the IO. Details soon!

In mid-August, our Annual Members meeting was held at a lakeside picnic pavilion in Lansing's beautiful Myers Park. Thanks go to Steve Smith for being a willing and talented grillmeister, and to everyone who brought dishes to pass and

share. Board chair Deb Grantham's annual report summarized the Network's activities as science-based advocacy and focused on truly helping watershed communities protect and enjoy our incomparable Cayuga Lake watershed. Thanks to Sharon Anderson of Tompkins County CCE for her update on the hydrilla situation, and to John Mawdsley and Ed Harwood for their reports on upcoming events CanYouCanoe Cayuga (September 14) and Sunset Dinner on Cayuga (October 12). 🐦

Extinct and flourishing: Passenger Pigeon and Ivory-Billed Woodpecker held by speaker Dr. Kim Bostwick, flanked by Betsy Herrington and David Craig, at our spring conference held at the Montezuma NWR Visitors Center.



CLWN Board director Deb Grantham listens to Board member Patricia Haines during our 2013 Annual Meeting in mid-August, at beautiful Myers Park in Lansing



Cornell University's Lake Source Cooling & Cayuga Lake Modeling Projects

by Hilary Lambert, Steward

IN 2000, Cornell University inaugurated the innovative Lake Source Cooling (LSC) system, using Cayuga Lake's cold water to cool its Ithaca campus. LSC has worked well for Cornell. There has been some controversy over the possibility, raised by some, that the project is having adverse impacts on the lake. In 2012-2013, Cornell and NY DEC came to an agreement that allows LSC to continue operations while Cornell conducts a several-year lakewide water monitoring/modeling project, among other conditions placed on renewal of their LSC permit.

Additional information is provided here from both the Lake Source Cooling and the Lake Monitoring/Modeling websites maintained by Cornell. Links to both archived and ongoing research and data are provided at these sites, along with Frequently Asked Questions and people to contact for more information (see below).

Lake Source Cooling at Cornell University

"Lake Source Cooling is one of the most significant environmental initiatives ever undertaken by an American university to promote a sustainable future. With its startup in July 2000, Lake Source Cooling (LSC) upgraded the central campus chilled water system to a more environmentally sound design that conserves energy and utilizes a renewable resource, the deep cold waters of nearby Cayuga Lake. With a price tag of \$58.5 million, a higher cost than simply replacing the existing chillers with new, LSC was a significant project. However, it provides the university with a method of cooling that eliminates refrigeration equipment and its associated energy use, impacts on the environment from energy use, and any future problems with the new generation of refrigerants that have been designed to replace CFC's.

"LSC was proposed in 1994 and approved by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in 1998. Nearly four years of environmental study and review resulted in a four volume, 1500 page Environmental Impact Statement that thoroughly described the potential impacts of the project on the lake. The DEC determined that LSC could provide the stated environmental benefits without harm to Cayuga Lake. Even so, the DEC has required Cornell to include many special features in the construction and operation of the project to further

minimize any impacts identified. In addition, they required the university to carry out a lake monitoring program that, through data and independent oversight, will verify its safe operation on the lake."

Cayuga Lake Monitoring/Modeling Project

"Cornell is required to fund a water quality model of Cayuga Lake as one of several conditions placed on the Lake Source Cooling (LSC) discharge permit renewal.

NYSDEC and Cornell agree that a water quality model of Cayuga Lake is needed to establish whether the return flow from the LSC facility has any negative impacts on Cayuga Lake.

"Once completed, the model will enable NYS DEC to determine how much phosphorus can be added to the southern basin of Cayuga Lake from all sources, while protecting the lake's water quality and aquatic habitat. This regulatory determination is

referred to as a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) allocation. Since 2002, the southern basin of Cayuga Lake has been on state and federal lists of impaired waters requiring a TMDL. NYSDEC has not been able to complete the phosphorus TMDL for southern Cayuga Lake due to limited funding resources.

"We welcome active community participation and hope you will return to this web site often to find meeting announcements, meeting summaries, and draft materials for your review. Throughout the project, there will be numerous opportunities for community members to provide their input in other ways as well—look for a schedule of events."

Official CU Lake Source Cooling website:

<http://energyandsustainability.fs.cornell.edu/util/cooling/production/lsc/>

This site provides information on "How it works," "Monitoring data," and "Environmental Impact Statement."

Official CU Cayuga Lake Monitoring/Modeling website:

<http://energyandsustainability.fs.cornell.edu/util/clmp/>

This site provides information on "Modeling Project FAQs," "Related documents," "Lake monitoring data," who to contact at either DEC or EcoLogic LLC, and includes a link to the final LSC permit at the NYSDEC website. ➤

...a water quality model of Cayuga Lake is needed to establish whether the return flow from the LSC facility has any negative impacts on Cayuga Lake.

Comments submitted to the Public Service Commission regarding Cayuga-AES

During the summer of 2013, debate erupted at the southern end of the Cayuga Lake watershed across Tompkins County over whether the aging coal-fired power plant on the lake shore in northern Lansing should be “repowered” with natural gas or other fuels, or shut down permanently, and regional transmission lines upgraded. The Network’s Issues Committee met, drafted and approved the following comments submitted on August 16 to Jeffrey Cohen, Secretary of the NYS Public Service Commission, as part of the public participation process.

Our comments hewed to the Network’s 2011 Position Statement on Hydraulic Fracturing, and to our mission statement: “The Cayuga Lake Watershed Network identifies key threats to Cayuga Lake and its watershed, and it advocates for solutions that support a healthy environment and vibrant communities.” It is not presently known when a decision will be reached about the future of the plant. To learn more, go to the Issues page at our website and click on “Cayuga-AES power plant.”

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on 12-02829/12-E-0577, “Proceeding on Motion of the Commission to Examine Repowering Alternatives to Utility Transmission Reinforcements,” regarding the Cayuga Generating Facility, located on the east shore of Cayuga Lake in Lansing NY.

Founded in the mid-1990s, the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network is a nonprofit organization with an active Board of Directors and membership of 500. The Network is focused on education, research and protection of our lake and the creeks that drain to it. Our mission statement: “The Cayuga Lake Watershed Network identifies key threats to Cayuga Lake and its watershed, and it advocates for solutions that support a healthy environment and vibrant communities.”

The Cayuga Lake Watershed Network’s 2012 position on gas drilling and fracking states that shale gas dependency and development would forestall the growth of the renewable energy sector that offers to bolster our economic vitality and curtail greenhouse gas emissions. We support an energy policy that promotes conservation and renewable energy sources.

1. Water quality concerns

An important part of a forward-looking energy policy is the protection of our water resources, specifically Cayuga Lake and the waters that drain to it. A worrisome legacy at the Cayuga Generating Facility (formerly AES-Cayuga) is the coal waste combustion landfill on site and its impacts to adjacent

groundwater and lake water quality.

According to records kept by AES Cayuga, L.L.C (see: Conceptual Closure Plan, Cayuga Ash Disposal Facility, Fagan Engineers, September 2002; and Groundwater Contingency Monitoring Results as reported to AES Cayuga by AMEC on dates including November 12, 2010; records examined by the Network in January 2011), monitoring results from numerous groundwater monitoring wells installed downslope of the landfill revealed sulfates, barium, selenium, boron, ammonia, and sodium at levels above potable water standards for groundwater.

Also according to AMEC’s November 12, 2010 report, leachate from an on-site retention pond was found to be leaking into the soil adjacent to and underneath the pond. While this leak was repaired in 2010, the report indicated that the adjacent groundwater monitoring well test results during 2009 and 2010 included calcium, potassium, magnesium, sodium, sulfate and TDS “outside of historical ranges.” The report suggests that these elevated measures may persist.

Additionally, at two surface water sediment sampling points along a stream which discharges to Cayuga Lake downslope of and to the south of the landfill, 2010 test results by AMEC indicated elevated levels of chromium and zinc (AES Cayuga Contingency Monitoring Summary 2010, 3rd quarter).

A 2010 report from EarthJustice, Inc., states that “Contaminated leachate and runoff from an onsite coal combustion waste landfill discharged directly from a pond into Cayuga Lake. The

contaminated discharge contained grossly elevated levels of arsenic, cadmium and selenium. In addition, a partially unlined landfill contaminated groundwater and residential wells with elevated levels of lead.” (Environmental Integrity Project, Earthjustice, et al. In Harm’s Way: Lack of Federal Coal Ash Regulations Endangers Americans and Their Environment, August 2010 at pp. 112-118).

We urge that, prior to any decisions being made about future uses of the AES/Cayuga property, any and all groundwater, surface water and drinking well water problems must be fully assessed and mitigated. This landfill represents a neglected environmental and economic cost of coal combustion that has been building for more than 50 years. It must now be addressed.

2. Looking beyond natural gas

Repowering the Cayuga Power Plant to burn natural gas is inconsistent with the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network’s position that hydraulic fracturing of natural gas poses serious threats to the clean waters of the Cayuga Lake Watershed, as well as our rural lands and agrarian livelihoods (Cayuga Lake Watershed Network, 2012. Position Statement on Hydraulic Hydrofracturing http://www.cayugalake.org/files/all/clwn_position_statement_on_hydraulic_hydrofracturing_may_2012.pdf)

Further deepening our investment in natural gas will aggravate climate change when we urgently need to curtail greenhouse gas emissions. And repowering with natural gas would have a large monetary cost - as much as half a

Hydrilla Hunters can make all the difference

Hydrilla Update: In the Lake

by Hilary Lambert

billion dollars—in a counterproductive and unnecessary energy infrastructure. This is money that can be invested in development of a robust renewable energy sector.

Options outside the two offered by the PSC should be given consideration. The current repowering option is restricted to natural gas. In addition to renewables, waste-to-energy and other alternative technologies may deserve consideration. Waste-to-energy offers the intriguing advantages of a more responsible method of processing waste that would have the financial and environmental benefits of payment for fuel use (“tipping fees”) and curtailing landfill development.

Another interesting suggestion that addresses the issue of energy storage and reliability is a “pumped hydropower facility”—water could be pumped by renewable energy sources into a reservoir that could then produce hydropower when needed. This is crucial decision that merits a full evaluation of options and a vision to the future.

Another option is wood biomass as a fuel. Wood prepared for combustion in a plant has an energy density higher than waste and close to coal (22 gigajoules per metric tonne versus 25 for coal, depending on the source). With appropriate measures a sustainable regional supply chain could be developed using agroforestry to grow the wood and deliver it by rail to Cayuga. This would create and maintain jobs not only at the plant but also in the hinterland with the growing and processing of the wood.

Our point here is that there are creative, forward-looking, sustainable and renewable energy alternatives to natural gas that have not been considered. We ask that the PSC look beyond the two options it is presently mandating, i.e., to either repower with natural gas or to retire the plant.

3. We support the Lansing community

Our mission statement directs us to look beyond immediate water quality issues to

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During monitoring trips in early-to-mid August 2013, Bob Johnson of Racine-Johnson Aquatics found numerous hydrilla plants (*Hydrilla verticillata*) growing near the mouth of Fall Creek in Ithaca’s Stewart Park. Following the big storms of that week, several hydrilla fragments were found floating offshore in the lake. Three sparse, rooted plants were found growing in the shallow water offshore of the Ithaca/Tompkins Visitor Center at the foot of East Shore Drive. Hydrilla has been controlled effectively in Cayuga Inlet for two years, and monitoring for it there and in adjacent areas along the shoreline has been vigilant and continual.

Concerned that it may have taken root along this stretch of shoreline, four Hydrilla Hunters—Elaine Quaroni, Lynn Leopold and neighbor, and Hilary Lambert, have been going door to door along the southeast shoreline of Cayuga Lake to talk to residents and provide hydrilla identification materials.

Additionally, John Abel and members of the West Shore Homeowners Association are ready to identify and report hydrilla and report it along the southwest shoreline, as are hydrilla hunters under the guidance of Dave Heck in Lansing on the east shore. Many more CLWN members and others have contacted us asking for our three-page identification and information packet so they can keep an eye out for this pernicious invader around the lake. The Floating Classroom is providing identification and training cruises from of their Old Taughannock Blvd. dock location in Ithaca.

Our urgent message to everyone in the watershed and region is: Help us locate and report any hydrilla growing offshore of the lakeshore house you reside in or visit, and of any other possible sightings when boating, growing off area docks, on boat trailers, and so on. Even if you are a temporary resident or visitor, we need your eyes on the lake from now to cold weather to find and report this pernicious plant. Do not remove it—experts will do that.

You do not have to be an “expert” to identify hydrilla. There are photos and identification at the website www.StopHydrilla.org. Contact Hilary Lambert at steward@cayugalake.org with your mailing address so that we can send you a three-page identification and information packet, and add you to our email list for Hydrilla Hunter newsletters and alerts.

If you even *think* you have it growing or floating offshore, contact Hilary Lambert, or Hydrilla Task Force coordinator James Balyszak at stophydrilla@gmail.com, or fill out a report form at www.stophydrilla.org. You will hear from the experts very quickly. Also, you can help prevent its further spread by cleaning all boats and trailers after use.

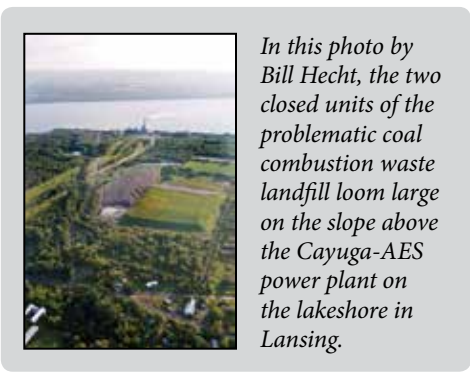
YES, it is that urgent! Why? If hydrilla grows unchecked, it could engulf the lake shoreline to a depth of 30 feet with a green thick mat, and also fill the shallow end of the lake, so that lanes would have to be mowed for boaters, and swimming would be at an end. We urgently need your help to find it and report it, so that it can be removed by experts while it is small, sparse and relatively easy to remove. ➤



Hydrilla Hunter Elaine Quaroni prepares information and identification packets for door-to-door distribution on Ithaca’s East Shore Drive, with affected area of Cayuga Lake behind her.

the wider context of community health, calling on the Network to advocate “for solutions that support a healthy environment and vibrant communities.” Thus we support an outcome that can protect the lake, points to a post-fossil fuel energy future for the region, and helps the Town of Lansing maintain and grow its revenue and services for its residents.

We urge that Governor Cuomo and other government leaders take action to buffer the local job and tax losses that would come with closing of the Cayuga Power Plant. Opportunities for workforce training and local funding are available through NYSERDA’s Energy, Education, and Workforce Development programs, the Southern Tier Regional Economic Development Council, and from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. The transition poses immediate challenges for the Lansing community with the



In this photo by Bill Hecht, the two closed units of the problematic coal combustion waste landfill loom large on the slope above the Cayuga-AES power plant on the lakeshore in Lansing.

closing of the plant, but development of a renewable energy sector ultimately offers on the order of three times the job opportunities compared to fossil fuels per dollar invested (Pollin, R. 2012. *Back to Full Employment*. MIT Press. Cambridge, MA).

We urge our elected leaders to provide the training and financial support to assist Lansing through this crucial transition to a better energy future for all.

4. We support the NYSEG proposal to upgrade the electrical transmission system

We support the NYSEG proposal to upgrade the electrical transmission system as the most cost-effective and responsible option. NYSEG has determined that the transmission upgrade alone is sufficient to provide the needed energy and cost estimates are about one-fifth the cost of repowering proposals. Strengthening New York’s electrical transmission grid is called for in the Energy Highway Blueprint as necessary to enabling efficient energy distribution. Upgrading the transmission system will build a foundation for a timely transition to renewable sources of energy. Thank you very much for this opportunity to comment on this important issue. ➤

Please Renew Your Membership

Your active participation in volunteer efforts such as fracking meetings and hearings, stream clean ups, and monitoring aquatic weed threats to Cayuga Lake demonstrates the love we share for our lake and creeks.

MAIL: Fill out the information below, select a donation level, and mail the form with your check to Cayuga Lake Watershed Network, P.O. Box 348, Aurora, NY 13026

PAYPAL: Join or donate via your PayPal/credit card online at www.cayugalake.org.

AS A MEMBER, you’ll receive regular issues of *Network News*, information about upcoming events, trainings and volunteer opportunities, and the satisfaction of knowing that you are supporting a local organization that is making a real difference.

- ☐ I am joining the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network with the enclosed contribution.
- ☐ I am renewing my membership with the enclosed contribution.
- ☐ Please accept the enclosed donation to support lake and watershed protection.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ May we add you to our listserv? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please Select the Support Level You Prefer:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> \$500 Watershed Benefactor | <input type="radio"/> \$250 Lake Sponsor |
| <input type="radio"/> \$100 Headwater Donor | <input type="radio"/> \$50 Farm/Small Business |
| <input type="radio"/> \$50 Organization or Agency | <input type="radio"/> \$35 Family |
| <input type="radio"/> \$25 Individual | <input type="radio"/> \$10 Student/Senior |
| <input type="radio"/> Other _____ | |

Your Contributions to the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network are Tax Deductible.



Wells College Watershed Photo Contest Winners

Thanks to the efforts of spring semester intern Brittany Toledo, a large number of Wells College students entered our second annual Wells Watershed Photo Contest. We gave entrants six weeks to submit photos of the incomparable Cayuga Lake across the road from their campus, and/or of waters elsewhere that had taken their fancy.

The four thematic categories were Wildlife, Seasonal, Architecture, and Sunset. Prizes included a small cash award, a watershed poster, and framed copies of the first place winners' photos. Thank you to all who participated, and congratulations to this year's winners. The first place photos are reproduced here for your viewing pleasure! And now the winners:

ARCHITECTURE

First Place - Stephen Armstrong
Second Place - Katie Curtin
Third Place - Costa Frangeskides

SEASONAL

First Place - TBA
Second Place - Timothy Frazier
Third Place - Jillian Fields

SUNSET

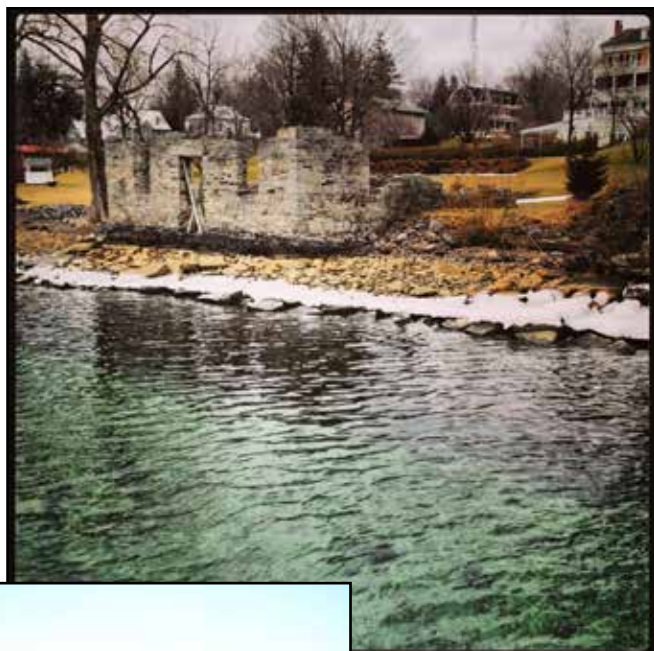
First Place - Leilani Yasutake
Second Place - Joslyn Ceroalo
Third Place - Amanda Gillete

WILDLIFE

First Place - Chelsea Carlin
Second Place - Alaina Kelahan
Third Place - Annalise Vanvranken

All the winning photographs can be viewed on our website here: <http://www.cayugalake.org/gallery.html>, and in the April 7 post on our Facebook page.

Thanks so much to Brittany for her hard work, and for the assistance from our long-term intern and part-time staffer, Ashley Benning. Both Brittany and Ashley graduated from Wells this May and are heading out into the wide world with newly-minted degrees in environmental science. We'll miss their dependable hard work and up-to-date knowledge about our lake and watershed. And they are funny and nice! 🐸



Stephen Armstrong
First Place
Architecture



Leilani Yasutake
First Place
Sunset



Chelsea Carlin
First Place
Wildlife

The mission...

The Cayuga Lake Watershed Network identifies key threats to Cayuga Lake and its watershed, and it advocates for solutions that support a healthy environment and vibrant communities.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Please renew your membership for 2014—renewal notices have been mailed.

Sunset Dinner on Cayuga

October 12th
at Beautiful Wells College in Aurora, NY

Event Tickets \$75 per Person

Good Food, Good Wine, Good Music, Good Cause!

6pm Cocktails and Silent Auction
7pm Dinner Prepared by Aurora Inn
8pm Remarks and Awards
8:30pm Live Music and Dancing

OCTOBER 12: Sunset Dinner on Cayuga, our dinner dance at Wells College, 6 – 10 pm on Saturday, October 12. Tickets are \$75 each, and shared table requests will be accommodated. Local wines on every table and a fabulous raffle and silent auction will be on offer, with BackTalk to dance to after dinner by the Aurora Inn and presentation of the David Morehouse Award. Contact Hilary steward@cayugalake.org or go to the “Sunset” page at our website to order tickets!

NOVEMBER 8-9: Our autumn community conference is about Six Mile Creek and Climate Change this year. Watch for a schedule of indoor lectures and outdoor events and workshops, soon at our Facebook page and website.

NOVEMBER: Watch for a hydrilla public meeting and volunteer appreciation evening event.

DECEMBER: The Ithaca Alternative Gift Fair is December 7!