

Register through 9/1 for this great 9/6 event! CanYou Canoe Cayuga?

Yes you can!

ON Saturday September 6, join us in the challenge to paddle in a kayak, canoe, outrigger, paddle board, or dragon boat the whole 35 miles of Cayuga Lake, on your own or as part of a relay team with each of you taking a leg. Or you



Can You Canoe Cayuga? Of course you can! September 6—register now!

can start at one of several intermediate starting points, if you prefer a shorter distance. Safety boats will be patrolling throughout. You will end your day on the lake with a great party in Cass Park in Ithaca with good food and live music. We will even help you get back to your cars! The rain date is September 7.

Registrations are accepted through September 1, online or via snail mail. Read on for details on how to register, how to train and where to find equipment.

CanYou Canoe Cayuga was originated by the Network's own John Mawdsley (Board member and past Chair) with a lot of help from wife Sharon Mier; and is supported by Tompkins County tourism grants, Tompkins Trust, Cayuga Medical Center, and our paddling partners, Puddledockers (Ithaca) and Paddle-n-More (Lansing). If you would like to support this great event with a donation, look for the CYCC14 link at www.cayugalake.org. Thanks!

Start locations, times, and distances from each to Ithaca's Cass Park

- The start points are all on the west side of the lake at
- Cayuga State Park (7 am start) in the north—35 miles.
- Dean's Cove Marine Park (10 am start)—24 miles.
- Sheldrake Winery (12 noon start)—18 miles.
- Taughannock State Park (3 pm start)—8 miles.

Please contribute! 2014 Annual Fundraising Appeal

The Network asks you—our members and supporters—twice a year for funding support. You hear from us during the summer when we ask for a contribution to our Annual Fundraising Appeal, and again from October to year's end, when we ask that you renew your membership for another year.

We are grateful to anyone who can give twice, but you remain a member and supporter no matter how often or what amount you give. You always have our gratitude for choosing us to support, out of so many good causes.

This year, we have a \$5,000 challenge grant from the Park Foundation, so contributions to our annual appeal will be doubled, up to that amount. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to make your donations count double! THANK YOU to Park for helping us amplify your contributions!

grant!

Why we need your support

We are asking you to help us build a stable, dependable funding base, so that we are less reliant on the grants cycle rollercoaster ride. Many nonprofits offer services for pay, and sell merchandise, but the Network is focused on educating—for free or to just cover costs—to strengthen and inform community and municipal actions that improve watershed and water quality protection. Experts say that a financially healthy, stable nonprofit organization receives 70% of total funding via donors and members.

It makes sense for the watershed's communities continued on page 7

Right of Towns to Ban Fracking Upheld by Highest NYS Court

A stirring op-ed piece from our neighbors on Keuka Lake

by Joe Hoff, Chairman, Keuka Citizens Against Hydrofracking

Recent Independence Day Celebrations reaffirmed for many that ours is a beautiful country with a rich heritage of highly patriotic citizens... citizens who both at the inception of our nation's birth and today still stand tall for what they believe.

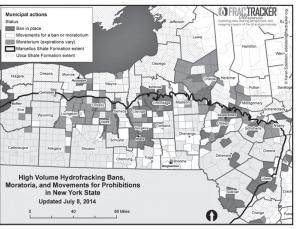
Here in the Empire State of New York a resounding call for strong local municipal home rule was reinforced on June 30th 2014, when NY's highest court decided once and for all that it is legal for NY towns to ban fracking inside their borders through well-constructed zoning ordinances. The decision affirmed the rulings of the lower courts, which had ruled in favor of the towns. The New York State Constitution established the right to home rule more than 120 years ago.

In this precedent-setting ruling

that could have wide implications on the future of shale-gas drilling in New York, the state Court of Appeals ruled 5-2 in favor of the towns of Dryden, Tompkins County, and Middlefield, Otsego County. The two towns had been embroiled in separate, three-year-long legal disputes over the validity of their local fracking bans. An out of state oil-and-gas company and a Middlefield dairy farm had challenged the bans, contending that New York law gives full power to the state to regulate the industry. Their view did not prevail!!

It is now incumbent on those towns who awaited the decision... those towns who used their rightful prerogative of home rule to enact a moratorium against natural gas and oil hydrofrack drilling... and those towns who cautiously viewed the legal happenings of the past three years... to take action to protect the health, welfare and safety of their municipalities' citizens by enacting a BAN against said practices.

All municipalities are encouraged to follow the lead of the towns and cities on the latest map by Karen Edelstein of FrackTracker, which displays fracking bans, moratoria and community movements across NY State, in enacting a prohibition of the devastating practice of High Volume Hydraulic Fracturing and its related activities and infrastructure.



We are all downstream from tainted waters and downwind from toxic air. It is essential that a total ban be enacted in our state and in every municipality for the benefit of current residents and generations not yet born. A unified approach is in the best interests of all municipalities.

The advertising claims of oil and gas interests are fallaciously argued... without substance. The bubble of their false promises has been burst. Recent polls indicate that the majority of New Yorkers desire to

keep fracking and fracked gas infrastructure out of New York.

The Governor of New York and his minions in the DEC are well advised to heed the wishes of our citizens and the mounting scientific proof by vetted research that the destructive effects of HVHF drilling, transport and storage must be kept out of our borders. The quality of the pure water we drink, the air that we breathe and the sanctity of our economy are not political chips to be frivolously bartered for the incorrect notion of short-term benefits. **

Resources

- Online information about Dryden and this ruling are available at the EarthJustice website. EarthJustice's managing attorney Deborah Goldberg led the case pro bono: http://earthjustice.org/features/the-story-of-dryden-thetown-that-fought-fracking-and-is-winning
- Information about DRAC (Dryden Resource Awareness Coalition), the Dryden NY based community group who led the way locally starting in 2009. Dryden is home to the headwaters of three Cayuga Lake Watershed creeks, Cascadilla, Fall Creek, and Six Mile Creek: http://draconline.wordpress.com/

Cayuga Lake Watershed Network

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By appointment.
Please contact
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The Cayuga Lake Watershed Network thanks Leigh Dezelan of Dezelan Dezign and Pioneer Printing of Lodi for newsletter production excellence.

Wetlands mapping from the air Can It Be Done Accurately?

John Mawdsley, Issues Committee Chair

The Network, the Wetlands Committee of the Tompkins County (TC) Water Resources Council (WRC) and the Soil and Water Conservation District of TC are collaborating to answer this question. Wetlands are integral to the hydrologic cycle by limiting flooding, and increasing both groundwater recharge and evaporation. They also help control pollution: As surface water flows through, wetlands remove or transform pollutants via physical, chemical, and biological processes. Protecting them is vital to preserving a healthy watershed.

The Wetlands Committee of the WRC has developed a template ordinance for towns to adopt to protect their wetlands, but it requires an up-to-date map of a town's wetlands to be effectively enforced. There are currently two maps

available—one from NYS DEC and one from the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI): the two do not always agree, and do not include smaller wetlands.

A new pilot project has been testing the potential for using LiDar data (elevation data created from aircraft overflying the land) and GIS software to inexpensively and accurately update wetlands maps. The traditional method of wetlands inventorying, via on-the-ground field surveys, is

inordinately expensive. This new method would enable updating at reasonable expense. But is it accurate?

A few years ago the Wetlands Committee carried out several walked transects of Dryden to see how well the existing two maps identified the wetlands found during the walks—the results were not encouraging. These transects are now being used to check how well identification from the air works.

Nick Hollingshead, a GIS expert, has been carrying out a pilot study of

wetlands in the Town of Dryden. He identified all wetlands that he could detect via LiDar, mapped their extent as accurately as possible, and then compared them to the transects. (We held them back from him, so no cheating

had identified 2720 acres of wetlands. This compares to the DEC's 983 and the NWI's 1709 acres in the same area. He had identified 400 complexes of wetlands, which compares with the DEC's 28 and the NWI's 181. Clearly there appear to

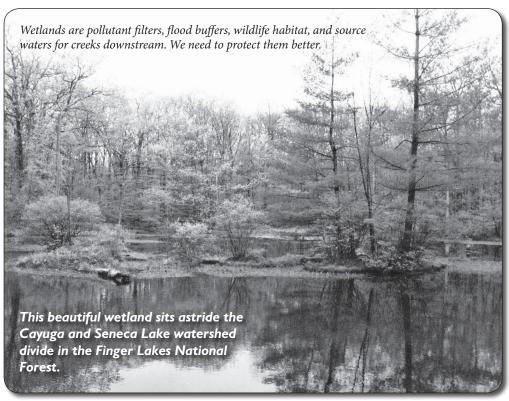
be many more wetlands than the existing maps identify.

But how accurate is this aerial approach? Of the 29 Nick was given for comparison to the walked transects in the field survey, he matched 18 or 62%. He missed the others primarily because they were very small. Also, the field survey identified wetlands based on vegetation and soil as well

assessment points

as just the wet appearance, with a few on hillsides that did not show the usual flat wet characteristics that is needed to identify them from the air.

We are encouraged by these results and are actively seeking funds to complete the aerial mapping of the whole of Tompkins County. Accurate mapping of our extensive headwater wetlands for better protection will help the Cayuga Lake watershed and region remain healthy and resilient in future.



was possible!) This initial study started in December 2013 and was completed in July 2014. Nick's work has been overseen by advisors John Mawdsley, hydrologist and the Network's Issues Committee chair; and Darby Kiley, Ulysses Town Planner and long-time leader for wetlands protection in Tompkins County.

The Town of Dryden, situated on uplands and hills just east of Ithaca, contains several creeks that drain to the lake, and is home to many wetlands. With 75% of the town mapped, Nick

Smart Steps for Clean Water: Clean Boating

by Michael Duttweiler, CLWN Board of Directors

Clean Boater programs are popping up across the country in recognition that responsible boating practices are important for water resources protection. There are many aspects of clean boating that apply to motor boaters and sail boaters, with some applying even to paddlers. One of the most fully developed clean boater initiatives in New York is that of the Lake George Association. Much of the information below is adapted from their online resources cited at the end of the article.

Keep Your Bilge Clean

- Keep engines properly tuned and operating at peak efficiency.
- Transfer and remove fluids with care, using funnels, pumps, and oil-absorbent pads to catch drips and clean up spills.
- Never discharge or pump any bilge water that is oily or has sheen into or near the water—it is against the law.
- Place oil absorbent pads in the bilge to catch oil. These products absorb petroleum products but not water.
- Recycle used oil, filters, and absorbent pads as per product instruction.
- Trailer your boat to an area that provides containment before draining bilge water or removing boat plugs.

Monitor Fueling

- Never smoke while approaching the fuel dock or while fueling.
- Secure boat to dock. Stop all engines and turn off all electrical switches.
 Close all doors, windows, and hatches.
- Use an absorbent pad or fuel bib around the nozzle and fill spout and attach a container or bib to the external vent to catch any splashbacks, drips, or overflows. Clean up any spilled fuel with absorbent cloths.
- Fuel slowly and carefully. Never prop a fuel trigger or leave unattended when filling your gasoline tank.
- Know your fuel tank capacity and allow 5 to 10 percent for fuel expansion.

 Listen to hear when the tank is getting full and slow the fuel delivery rate as it nears capacity. If a marina attendant is filling up your tank, let them know how



There are many straightforward steps that contribute to protecting our exceptional water resources. In this series of articles, we replay and expand upon suggestions that were presented in our 2006 publication "Smart Steps for Clean Water" available in full at: http://www.cayugalake.org/files/all/smrtstps06.pdf

Boating on Cayuga Lake—please help keep our lake clean by using clean boating practices.

much your tank holds.

- Ventilate engine compartment before starting engine.
- Fill portable gas tanks on shore where spills are less likely to occur and easier to clean up.
- Inspect fuel lines regularly. Replace those with dry, cracked or soft spots.

Take Action if a Fuel or Oil Spill

- Stop the source.
- Notify the marina office. If you believe a large spill has occurred, call the NYS Spill Hotline: 1-800-457-7362
- Clean up the spill with absorbent pads or contain with booms.
- Never use soap to disperse a fuel or oil spill. It is harmful to the environment and against the law.

Reduce Fuel Consumption

- Keep the engine tuned to assure better gas mileage. Change the fuel and oil filters on a regular basis.
- Balance your load. A balanced boat can get on plane quickly, reaching the desired speed with less plowing.
- Slow down. Operating at wide-open throttle can increase fuel consumption by 50% or more over mid-range speeds. "Trimming" the boat reduces the amount of wetted surface while maintaining speed at reduced RPMs thereby saving fuel.
- Watch your weight. The lighter the boat and its load, the less horsepower required to propel it, allowing greater fuel economy.
- Avoid excess idling. Whenever you have to stop, turn off the ignition.
- Check your propeller. A damaged prop will waste fuel. Keep propeller blades clean; replace or repair props that have damaged blades.

• Keep your boat bottom clean. Growth on your hull increases drag.

Reduce Emissions

- Keep the engine well-tuned and maintained.
- Use the gas to oil ratio recommended by the engine manufacturer. Too much oil can foul spark plugs and too little can lead to increased engine wear or even failure.
- Use premium two-cycle engine oil. Premium oils improve engine performance and reduce pollution because they burn cleaner, contain more detergents, and prevent formation of carbon deposits.
- Use gasoline with the octane level recommended by the engine manufacturer.
- When it is time to buy a new engine, select a fuel efficient, low emission model.
- Install a fuel/air separator along your vent line. These devices allow air, but not fuel, to escape through a vent opening.

Keep Boating Waters Free of Litter and Fish Waste

- Repackage food and supplies in reusable containers at home.
- Bring back what you take out.
- Stow loose paper, plastics, and other items to prevent blowing out.
- Keep trash containers handy. Dispose of trash properly.
- Purchase products in recyclable packaging, like aluminum, and recycle.
- It's your responsibility to inform all visitors on your boat where to put trash.
- Retrieve trash floating in the water and dispose of it at the marina.
- Clean fish at home or use a cleaning station. Wrap fish waste before placing in a trash container.

Manage Sewage Waste Properly

- Plan ahead: use onshore restrooms when possible.
- Keep your marine toilet properly maintained.
- Always use a marina pump-out service.
- Empty portable toilets at dump stations or in bathrooms or at home.
- Establish a regular maintenance schedule for your Marine Sanitation Device based on manufacturer's recommendations.
- Use safer enzyme-based products to control odor and reduce solids in your tanks.
- Dispose of your pet's waste properly.

Remove Boat from Water for Repairs and Cleaning

- Do boat repairs and cleaning at the boat yard or at home where wastewater and refuse can be collected and disposed of properly.
- Rinse your boat with fresh water after each use to minimize the need for soaps and scrubbing.
- Use phosphate-free, chlorine-free, and nontoxic cleaning products.
- Wax your boat—a good coat of wax prevents surface dirt from becoming ingrained.

Prevent the Spread of Aquatic Invasive Species When Boating

- This critical aspect of clean boating has been addressed in other articles in our newsletter. For a good summary: http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/48221. html
- NY Department of Environmental Conservation has adopted new regulations requiring removal of all animal and plant matter and draining

boats, holding wells, and equipment before launch and after launch that took effect Wed. June 4 and apply to all DEC boat launches, fishing access sites, and any other DEC lands where watercraft such as boats, kayaks, and canoes can be launched. Here is the link to the regulations: http://www.dec.ny.gov/regulations/ propregulations.html

Clean Marinas

• An important companion to efforts by boaters themselves is environmentally responsible management by marinas. New York Sea Grant Extension offers a Marina Best Environmental Management Practices website aimed at minimizing sources of pollution (see link below). As a consumer, you can expect the facilities you patronize to be part of protecting our great resources.

Sources:

- Lake George Association (undated) Lake George Clean Boater Program. http://www.lakegeorgeassociation. org/what-we-do/Education/ cleanboaterprogram.asp
- Tennessee Valley Authority (undated)
 Tips for Clean Boating. http://www.
 tva.gov/environment/water/boating_
 tips.htm
- Boat U. S. Foundation for Boating Safety and Clean Water (undated) Clean Water. http://www.boatus.org/ clean-boating.asp
- New York Sea Grant (undated)

 Marina Best Environmental

 Management Practices. http://www.
 seagrant.sunysb.edu/marinabmp/

Your Cayuga Lake Clean Boater Pledge (adapted from Lake George Clean Boater Pledge) Do your part! Seal your commitment by taking the Cayuga Lake Clean Boater pledge. Pledge to:

- Identify opportunities and implement practices to prevent pollution associated with your boating activities such as: fueling, cleaning and washing, sewage handling and maintenance.
- Ensure that all passengers aboard your vessel follow the guidelines and maintain a clean boating environment.
- Keep fuel, sewage, plastic, trash, fishing line, and invasive species out of the water
- Clean your boat responsibly
- Dispose of all wastes properly
- Promote clean boating habits to fellow boaters
- Take satisfaction in knowing that you are doing your part to keep Cayuga clean

Register through 9/1 for this great 9/6 event! CanYou Canoe Cayuga?

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Basic CYCC information

Registration is \$35/person and includes a T-shirt, paddlers insurance, safety boat patrols, refreshments at each rest stop, information packet, and a big party with food and live band. Non-paddlers can pay a small fee to enjoy the meal and band, after greeting arriving paddlers at Cass Park. We can help you get back to your car, later.

Need a kayak, canoe, or stand-up paddleboard?

Rentals and event information are available from our partners:

- Paddle-n-More in Lansing http://paddlenmore.com/
 607-349-4767 jennifer@paddle-n-more.com
- Puddledockers in Ithaca http://www.puddledockers.com/
 607-273-0096 pdkayak@ puddledockers.com

Photos of CYCC 2013:

http://www.cayugalake.org/canyou-canoe-cayuga.html

Get the latest at our Facebook event page: https://www.facebook.com/events/673548762727017/

Registration is open through September I for this September 6 event (rain date 9/7).

Register here:

http://www.cayugalake.org/canyou-canoe-cayuga-sept-6-2014.html *Or contact:*

Tim Kraus tak56@cornell.edu
John Mawdsley johnmawdsley@
frontiernet.net





Hydrilla Hunter Happenings



July-August, 2014

Who We Are, Where to Get Information & Report Possible Hydrilla Infestations

The Hydrilla Hunters is an informal, trained group of Cayuga Lake watershed residents working together to prevent takeover of our lake and creeks by the aquatic invasive plant, *Hydrilla verticillata*. We are affiliated with the Hydrilla Task Force of the Cayuga Lake Watershed. This newsletter provides information about hydrilla and its eradication on Cayuga Lake. Information & report forms: www.StopHydrilla.org. On Facebook at Stophydrilla.org; Twitter: @Stophydrilla.



Seeking Seneca & Cayuga County Lakeshore Hydrilla Hunters & Paddlers

The Task Force needs the assistance of Hydrilla Hunters to watch for hydrilla along the lakefront and ask friends to check their boats, docks and shallow waters. Our 2014 focus is on CAYUGA AND SENECA COUNTY lakeshore towns, seeking hydrilla information coordinators for each. We provide handouts and do mailings, and are coordinating with free i.d. trainings on the M.V. *Haendel* (aka the Floating Classroom) being held around the lake's north end from late July – September.

What lakeshore coordinators do:

- Give handouts about hydrilla and clean boating practices to lakeshore neighbors.
- Watch for hydrilla, report it if you think you find it, and encourage others to do the same.
- Help with a display table at a summer or fall community event in your town.

Contact steward@cayugalake.org
to volunteer as a lakeshore town
hydrilla hunter coordinator.

Let's find hydrilla early, so that it can be removed (by experts) before it becomes a problem.



hydrilla hunting coordinator.

Please volunteer and help keep YOUR town's shoreline hydrilla-free.

Do you paddle a stretch of shoreline regularly in a canoe, kayak or on a stand up paddleboard?

Contact steward@cayugalake.org if you can commit to watching for hydrilla on a regular basis.

We need coordinators & paddlers in place & vigilant from late July to when it gets cold.

Join the Hydrilla Hunters: Contact Hilary Lambert steward@cayugalake.org
Cayuga Lake Watershed Network www.cayugalake.org

Please contribute! 2014 Annual Fundraising Appeal continued from cover

to be the funding force empowering watershed residents and visitors to more effectively protect our lake and creeks. A broad base of members and donors is essential for long-term stability, supplemented by grants. That is our goal.

What we do with your donations

The Network gets a lot done. Your donations plus grant support pay the salary of one full-time staff, the Steward/Executive Director, who oversees our annual program for the public while continuously fundraising via grant proposal writing and other funding sources. Thanks to our Board and volunteers, we amplify the Steward's time to publish four newsletters a year, support a website, Facebook, and listserv communications. The Network provides the public with two free community conferences each year. We are leaders in Hydrilla Hunter i.d. training around Cayuga Lake and across the Finger Lakes region.

The Network has had a major role in educating community groups, town boards and public agencies about the importance

of clean water in deciding contentious issues about gas drilling and fracking, waste handling and housing development sites, lakeshore zoning protections, and public lands protections. We pioneered a paddling event, Can You Canoe Cayuga, in its third year in 2014 (September 6!) that has inspired numerous other events to get families and friends out onto Cayuga Lake.

This is a partial list of what we do, why we are effective, and why your gift is important.

Please donate, if you can, and your gift will be doubled, thanks to the Park challenge grant.

You can cut out and mail us this donation form with a check, or donate online at www.cayugalake.org via PayPal or credit card. The Network is a 501 c 3 nonprofit, and your donations are fully tax-deductible.

Thank you! Hilary Lambert
Hilary Lambert Steward/Executive Director



Embrace the Lake

Thank you to four groups who braved the polar vortex!

Springtime 2014 was a cold one for cleanups, but several tough groups got out there!

- Thanks to Rick Manning of the Cayuga Waterfront Trail
 Initiative for organizing the annual cleanup that brings together Ithaca-area civic groups and businesses to pick up along the entire south end of Cayuga Lake—April 29 was beyond chilly this year!
- Thanks to the Poplar Ridge Friends for their annual cleanup along the lake near Paines Creek and Wells College in Aurora.
- Thanks to Paul Closs, Ithaca paddleboater extraordinaire, who called out his army of kindred spirits to clean up around the waterways on Ithaca's south west side.
- Thanks to the Biology Service Leaders, an undergraduate group at Cornell led by Aaron Bholé, who took time off from final papers and studying (probably a good thing!) to clean up along Fall Creek upstream of the Cornell Plantations Visitors Center. They collected one bagful each, along this popular hiking and jogging stretch of the Cayuga Trail.

Please Donate!

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.

- O I am joining the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network with the enclosed contribution.
- O I am renewing my membership with the enclosed contribution.

O Please accept the enclosed donation to support lake and watershed protection.	
Name	
Address	
City	
State	Zip
Email	
May we add you to our listserv? O Yes O No	
Please Select the Support Level You Prefer:	
○ \$500 Watershed Benefactor	○ \$250 Lake Sponsor
O \$100 Headwater Donor	O \$50 Farm/Small Business
O \$50 Organization or Agency	○ \$35 Family
O \$25 Individual	O \$10 Student/Senior
O Other	

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

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.



PO Box 348 Aurora, NY 13026

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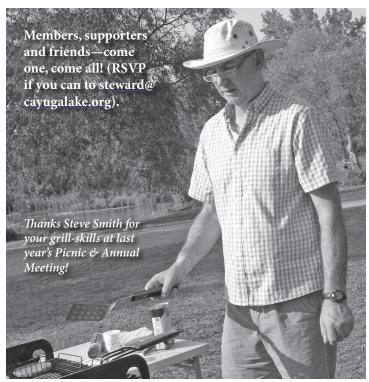
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- TEducation
- Advocacy
- Protection

Upcoming Events

Join Us for our Picnic and Annual Meeting at Myers Park on August 20th!



Wednesday August 20th: Picnic at 5 pm; Annual Meeting at 6 pm; August Board meeting at 7 pm. Join us! Members are urged to attend and vote—everyone is welcome to attend and enjoy! For the picnic, we'll provide meat and nonmeat grillables, side-dishes, beverages, cups, plates and cutlery. Your potluck contributions welcome but not necessary—this event is free, and our members and supporters are welcome. Check our website and Facebook page for the specific picnic pavilion! New this year: A nature and water photography show by Frank Muller of Frank Muller Photography, www.facebook. com/frankfoto. Arrive early, if the weather allows, to wander the beach and enjoy Frank's glorious photos of local woods, hills and waters. Directions: From 34B in Lansing, take Myers Road west and downhill to the park entrance, and look for the lakeside picnic pavilion with a sign bearing the Network's logo.

September 6: CanYou Canoe Cayuga—see article page 1!

The Network's Autumn Community Conference: TBA, October, south end of the lake. Free.

Hydrilla Hunter Volunteer Appreciation Events:

TBA – north and south ends of the lake, late autumn. Free.