

# Network News

*It takes a  
Network to protect  
a watershed.*



## 2017 Hydrilla Outreach Around Cayuga Lake

**Hilary Lambert** *Steward/Executive Director, CLWN*

### Dave's Team: Hydrilla I.D. Kit Dispensers

One day in late August, I spent four hours driving between King Ferry and Mud Lock on the east shore of Cayuga Lake to replenish the Hydrilla I.D. kits in ten of the thirty-one info dispensers that Dave Heck and wife Joyce have installed around the lake since 2012. Dave is a longtime Lansing resident, boater, Network member and water quality monitoring volunteer with the Community Science Institute. He spotted the big gaps in our sharing of hydrilla identification materials around the lake, and took on the personal responsibility of filling those gaps.

He and Joyce began driving down all the roads to Cayuga Lake, and found that we were missing the opportunity to share hydrilla information at many marinas and other places, like bait shops and municipal offices, where boaters convene. So, Dave methodically introduced himself to private and public employees and talked them into being willing to have a hydrilla i.d. kit dispenser at or near the water. He also understood that once a season was not often enough to visit these places, so he and Joyce have sacrificed many summer and fall weekends since 2012 to driving around the lake, replenishing the information dispensers. Dave has a sunny demeanor combined with a no-nonsense, businesslike attitude, so he made friends and also made it clear that he would be back soon. The people he worked with came to look forward to his visits, and kept an eye on the information dispensers.

For all his longtime friends, I was an apologetic counterfeit of Dave on my recent drive, and exhausted at the end of it, amazed that the Hecks could maintain the pace. And I was only doing part of the lake. We have now established Dave's Team, with each volunteer taking responsibility for five or more of the sites. We want to give Dave and Joyce a rest. John and Bill Abel are covering the southwest shoreline; Mel Russo has the Sheldrake area; Tom Casella has the northwest and north end; I am doing the northeast half; Susan



*Three of Dave Heck's 31 hydrilla i.d. kit dispensers are located at, from top, Mud Lock, Long Point State Park, and Cayuga Village.*

Lesser and husband are informing Honoco Road; the Hecks continue with the sites near their Lansing home; Bill Foster and Lynn Leopold of the Floating Classroom are focused on the Ithaca area.

We will be doing this until the weather and lake water turns colder, probably in mid-October. Hydrilla is at its peak extent during September. We hope that these educational efforts will pay off when someone—probably a ten year old child—compares the identification sheets to an aquatic plant he or she has found on a stretch of Cayuga Lake beach, and asks a grownup to submit a report, as instructed. We want to control hydrilla outbreaks before they become big and costly. Hope YOU are doing this. Don't let those i.d. sheets gather dust! Want to join Dave's Team, next year? Let me know at [steward@cayugalake.org](mailto:steward@cayugalake.org).

### Using Weed Rakes to Check for Hydrilla

Weed rakes are a great way to sample off your dock or from a boat for the presence of hydrilla. We are providing weed rakes to several lakefront residents and municipalities around the lake, with a big thank you to the Finger Lakes Institute and Finger Lakes PRISM (Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management) in Geneva for providing them to us free of charge.

Chuck Tauck and staff at Sheldrake Point Winery are sampling from their dock twice a week into mid-October. We have asked Liz Thomas, Ulysses Supervisor, if her town or lake neighbors can do the same. Across the lake, Penney M. Cook of Aurora and family are checking around their dock and offshore. Bill Ebert of the Canoga Shoreliners, in Fayette,

samples regularly off his dock and, with neighbor Tom Casella, monitors a several-mile stretch of the lake's northwest shoreline for hydrilla and other invasives. Lynn Leopold and neighbors are sampling the waters along East Shore Drive in Ithaca/Lansing. The illustration on page 7 shows how to make a weed rake. Be sure you have secured the bitter end before you throw! 🐾

## Tales from the Littoral Zone

The littoral zone is that three dimensional outer, shallower region of a body of water, including the shore, where most of the life activities take place. These writings originate from the “Littoral Zone”.

# Fall Migration

**Mel Russo** *Finger Lakes area naturalist and life-long resident*

**I**N August millions of birds, some insects, fish, and a few mammals begin their journey to alternative places. By the date of this publication, large masses of birds have already been discretely on the move during the day and also at night. This migration is thought to be triggered by day length, temperature changes, and food availability. Genetic imprints are also involved. Even when caged, small migratory birds will continually try to hop south in the fall.

Some waterfowl such as scaup, buffleheads, Canada geese, and mergansers migrate to the Finger Lakes area from the north to utilize, weather permitting, the year-round presence of liquid water and the availability of food. Millions of song birds such as the warblers and members of the swallow family will fly all the way to Colombia, Brazil, and even as far south as Argentina in the fall.

Migrations can occur during the day at which time the angle of the sun is thought to be used as a guide. At night, it is theorized that birds may use the position of the stars as well as the magnetism of the earth as a guide.

A once common migratory animal has been conspicuously absent in the Finger Lakes area in recent years. Usually at this time of year, millions of monarch butterflies (*Danaus plexippus*) make their way from the northeast to Mexico. In observing them one may think they mull around rather aimlessly but in the “long run,” they’re headed to Mexico. In the past, there were so many monarchs in Mexico that the branches of trees would bend from the sheer weight of the insects where they came to rest. Clouds of monarchs were so dense that visibility was near zero.

In February and March, these deep orange and black, beautiful winged creatures again start to make their way



**UPPER L-R:** <https://digitalcollections.nypl.org/items/510d47da-63ec-a3d9-e040-e00a18064a99/book?parent=2ffdbff0-c6f4-012f-6c96-58d385a7bc34#page/58/mode/1up> • <http://umedia.lib.umn.edu/zoom/zoom.php> • <http://umedia.lib.umn.edu/zoom/zoom.php>

back to the northeast. They do so in distance increments, each adult generation breeding in an areal event, with females depositing their fertilized eggs exclusively on the leaves of the common milkweed plant (*Asclepias syriaca*).\* It takes about

*On pp 6-7 learn how to obtain a packet of common milkweed seeds with growing instructions. Help restore monarch butterfly habitat around Cayuga Lake!*

four generations to make the entire journey to New York State, each larva feeding and pupating on the milkweed with the resulting light green chrysalis decorated with a golden band hanging by a thread from a leaf. The adults emerge from the chrysalis and fly northeast to another patch of milkweed to repeat the cycle with the fourth generation reaching their final destination in the same northeast direction, once more using the milkweed to help produce the one and final generation. This final, single generation goes all the way back to Mexico. Behavioral psychologists wonder how this generation “knows” how to get home when they’ve never made the entire trip before in their individual existence.

Milkweed is important to a watershed because the hardy, long underground stems (rhizomes) from which the plant can propagate help to hold soil in place. Prior to the mid-1990’s, farmers used a “pre-emergent” herbicide on freshly planted fields which selectively inhibited the germination of weed seeds. Although milkweed can reproduce by the familiar

pod containing parachuting seeds, it survived pre-emergent herbicides because it could reproduce by vegetative propagation from the rhizomes. Prior to the mid-1990’s the monarchs were thriving well, along with the milkweed.

After the mid-1990’s “Roundup” (Glyphosate) made its advent as a popular “no till” herbicide sprayed on field grasses before direct seed drilling. In addition, this herbicide is now commonly used as a post-emergent crop herbicide on new, Roundup-resistant varieties of soybeans and cotton. In this way, all of the weeds in a field crop—including milkweed and its rhizomes—were destroyed. Although this was a very successful mode of weed control and significantly improved yields in field crops, it was not very good for the milkweed nor soil erosion control nor the monarch butterfly.

The monarch butterfly is obviously not very tasty as it has few, if any predators. However, monarchs are important pollinators of many species of flowering plants. Milkweed seeds can be obtained from your local farm and garden supply stores and online. Planting patches of the “pesky” plant can produce some beautiful flowering plants and hopefully save our beautiful lepidopteran friends from extinction.

About milkweed: Milkweed is a flowering plant that can reproduce by both seeds and underground stems. The plant is a constant and superior soil anchor, its

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# Harmful Algal Blooms and Cayuga Lake

**Hilary Lambert** *Steward/Executive Director, CLWN*

The summer of 2017 saw the emergence of Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) as a problem on Cayuga Lake. Here is a definition of HABs from the Community Science Institute:

“Harmful algal blooms (HABs) are concentrated growths of cyanobacteria. They are commonly called blue-green algae, but they are really bacteria, a more primitive life form than algae. Blue-green algae are one of the earliest forms of life on earth. They have been around for about 500 million years. They are a very diverse group of organisms, and there are many different species. They are present in water everywhere, both fresh water and sea water, but usually in low concentrations. Some species produce toxins and some do not. The toxins themselves are very diverse and can have a variety of health effects. Depending on the species of blue-green algae and the type of toxin it produces, contact could result in skin rashes while ingestion could result in fatal liver or nervous system toxicity.” Learn more: <http://www.communityscience.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/2017-HABs-Info-Flyer.pdf>

Thanks to advance planning by the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC), a group of volunteers was trained in July to respond quickly to HABs reports submitted to DEC, by taking samples and shipping them to DEC for analysis. Almost immediately, the first reports came in along the Cayuga Lake shoreline and out across the open lake, most notably in June and July during and after the repeated heavy rainfall events.

## Algal blooms reporting and response

Dozens of paddlers, boaters and swimmers submitted reports about possible HABs to DEC, and each was followed up on. The DEC-trained volunteers from the Network and the Community Science Institute include Don Sargent, Shannon Barrett, David Wolfe, Michelle Henry, Bill Ebert and Tom Casella. This group will be expanded next year. When a “Suspicious Algal Bloom Report” is submitted to DEC, experts review it and a call goes out asking who can follow up at that site. Either a trained volunteer or a DEC staffperson responds, travels to the site, and takes a sample for analysis by DEC. Each county’s Department of Health is also involved, to protectively close bathing beaches and other water uses as needed until tests come back.

During the widest extent of the summer’s HABs outbreak, the teams were out doing regular monitoring and testing. When it seemed that the entire southern half of Cayuga Lake was covered by bright green, with additional outbreaks along the shorelines to the north, the Sargent-Barrett team at the south end of the lake and the Ebert-Casella north-end team were sampling, monitoring, and reporting. Several volunteers helped survey the route for Ithaca’s Women Swimmin’ event before and on August 12, to make sure it was HABs-free. Many thanks for their volunteer time and expertise.



SHANNON BARRETT

*Don Sargent takes a sample from a HABs outbreak near the south end of Cayuga Lake, summer 2017.*

## How we are responding to this new challenge

DEC trained teams were previously active on Seneca and Owasco lakes, to our west and east. Both these lakes had already experienced HABs outbreaks, as have many other waterbodies statewide—and globally. If HABs have appeared on Cayuga Lake in previous years, they were not reported, or described anecdotally. We all now know what to look for, and as a lakewide community must decide how best to respond. To determine the HABs triggers specific to Cayuga Lake, and work together to reduce their likelihood, we need to support research by DEC and the NYS Department of Health, the Finger Lakes Institute, individual researchers, and locally the Community Science Institute.

Then we need to review land-use ordinances and regulations to strengthen clean water protections. The communities around Owasco Lake in Cayuga County have been working on this for several years in cooperation with county, state and federal agencies, and we can learn from them. A new factor is the emergence of extreme weather events, such as this past summer’s frequent heavy rainfalls accompanied by warm air and water, all of which undoubtedly played a role in the emergence of HABs as a new challenge to our watershed’s health.

## HABs science speakers at CSI’s HABs Forum & next steps

Key factors for HABs are excess nutrients in runoff during those massive storms, such as phosphorus and nitrogen, along with other bloom-triggering factors. The Finger Lakes Institute in Geneva held its fourth annual HABs conference this summer, and many Cayuga Lake residents attended. The Community Science Institute’s September 30, 2017 HABs Forum in Ithaca leads the way for us locally to understand the state of the science about HABs. Speakers and topics:

- “The Ecology of Cyanobacteria”—Dr. Lisa Cleckner, Director, Finger Lakes Institute
- “The Toxicology of Cyanobacteria”—Dr. Steve Penningroth, Director, CSI
- “Monitoring Drinking Water and Swimming Areas for Potential HABs Toxins”—Mr. Adriel Shea, Senior Public Health Sanitarian, Tompkins County Department of Health
- “Volunteer HABs Surveillance Program”—Mr. Tony Prestigiacomo, NYSDEC Finger Lakes Hub

After September 30, check CSI’s website [www.communityscience.org](http://www.communityscience.org) for a link to the forum presentations.

This event will be followed by watershed-wide planning for policy change and action. Helping to coordinate will be the Network, the Cayuga Lake Intermunicipal Organization, The Community Science Institute, Sustainable Tompkins, and

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# 2017 Annual and August Meeting & Picnic

**Hilary Lambert** *Steward/Executive Director, CLWN*

**A**lively, warm wind was blowing across the water from the north end of Cayuga Lake on the sunny afternoon of August 16. We opened the doors to the beautiful old Lakeside picnic shelter in the North Point area of Taughannock Falls State Park and expert grillers got the fires going. Soon thirty-five people had arrived, bearing food and drink to share, including Board member Mel Russo's fabulous giant pizza and Board chair Patricia Haines-Gooding's signature Lake Cake. We all enjoyed the feast—thanks to everyone for your delicious contributions. Thank you Patricia and David for bringing re-usable plates, cups and cutlery.

The 2017 Annual Meeting included reports from Secretary Mike Duttweiler and Treasurer John Abel, and a review of the Network's past year by Steward Hilary Lambert and Board chair Patricia Haines-Gooding. Lambert emphasized the achievement of completing the updated Cayuga Lake Watershed Restoration & Protection Plan, resulting in a wider role for our organization in helping municipalities, counties and NYS take care of our watershed. Read the Plan at our website [www.cayugalake.org](http://www.cayugalake.org) under the "The Watershed" heading.

Mike Duttweiler led the Board and members through the process of electing new Board members and re-electing several returning members. Jenn Tufano, our Members & Programs staff, tallied votes submitted by mail ahead of time and at the meeting, and we were comfortably within the required percentage of our membership. THANKS TO ALL WHO MAILED IN YOUR BALLOTS! We also said goodbye to Dale Baker, who stepped down as Board member. Thank you Dale for your service to the lake and our organization as Board member and Chair.

The names and terms of our Board are provided in a separate article, and will be listed on our newsletter masthead in future issues. Learn more about our Board, Strategic Plan, and Goals at our website [www.cayugalake.org](http://www.cayugalake.org) under the "About" heading.

During the August 2017 Board meeting that followed, NYS Department of Conservation (DEC) research scientist Tony Prestigiacoamo gave a 20-minute presentation, peppered with audience questions and answers, about the Finger Lakes Watershed Hub. This is a new regional Department of Environmental Conservation office located in Syracuse, positioned to serve the water quality issues facing the Finger Lakes. With four staff, adequate funding, and instant communications capacity with DEC's central office in Albany, the HUB has been put in place to help us. This is a remarkable development and we are deeply appreciative! Contact information for Tony: Anthony R. Prestigiacoamo, Research Scientist, Division of Water, Finger Lakes Watershed Hub New

York State Department of Environmental Conservation 615 Erie Blvd West, Syracuse, NY, 13204 P: (315) 426-7452 | F: (315) 426-7459 | [anthony.prestigiacoamo@dec.ny.gov](mailto:anthony.prestigiacoamo@dec.ny.gov) [dwww.dec.ny.gov](http://dwww.dec.ny.gov)

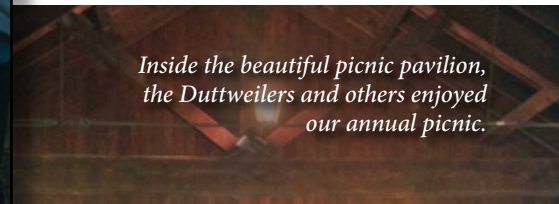
Following Tony's presentation, Bill Ebert demonstrated how to use a weed rake and sort the aquatic plants harvested off a dock or from a boat. Bill is leader of the Canoga Shoreliners, a water quality monitoring group trained by CSI (Community Science Institute) on the lake's northwest shore, who are also doing Harmful Algae Bloom surveillance and aquatic plants surveys for DEC. See page 7 for instructions on how to make your own weed rake. Please use it to check for hydrilla once or twice a week until the lake cools in mid-October.

To complete the August meeting, the Network's members & programs staff Jennifer Tufano summarized the success of our Annual Appeal and new members recruitment over the past few months. She asked everyone to keep up the good work that is helping us grow and become more effective protectors of our lake and watershed.

Hilary Lambert and Patricia Haines spoke of the way forward into 2018 in this era of climate change, extreme weather events, extreme political shifts, and unsettling projects on our lake—such as the proposed new shaft that could lead to expanded salt mining under Cayuga Lake. The Cayuga Lake Watershed Network needs active members and donors so that we all are working together on behalf of the lake at the center of our lives. 🐾



*Steve Smith of Lansing joins forces with the west shore's Canoga Shoreliners to achieve grilling perfection.*



*Inside the beautiful picnic pavilion, the Duttweilers and others enjoyed our annual picnic.*



# CLWN's 2017-8 Board of Directors, Liaison Groups, & Staff

The Network's Board of Directors is a mixture of county-based and at-large members. The Board's officers include the Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and three Vice Chairs, one from each of the watershed's three main counties, Seneca, Cayuga, and Tompkins. The Network also has several committees. You do not have to be a Board member to serve on these committees. If you are a Network member and interested in serving on a committee or being considered for a Board position, please contact Patricia Haines-Gooding, Chair, at [levelgreen2010@gmail.com](mailto:levelgreen2010@gmail.com), or Hilary Lambert, Steward/Executive Director, at [steward@cayugalake.org](mailto:steward@cayugalake.org). Learn more about our Board, Strategic Plan, and Goals at our website [www.cayugalake.org](http://www.cayugalake.org) under the "About" heading.

The Network's Board of Directors meetings are held from 7-9 pm on the third Wednesdays of almost every month. Our office in Stratton Hall at Wells College in Aurora is the default location for meetings, but we hold them in several other places around the lake during the year so that only a few Board members are inconvenienced by a long drive at any one time! Some meetings are held via conference call in the wintry months. If you would like to attend, please contact Jenn Tufano for that month's location [programs@cayugalake.org](mailto:programs@cayugalake.org). 🐾

## 2017-8 CLWN Board of Directors and Officers

**John Abel** (2015-2018) Treasurer

**Paul Closs** (2017-2020)

**Penney Mapes Cook** (2017-2020) Vice Chair, Cayuga County

**Eric Devin** (2017-2020)

**Douglas Dixon** (2017-2020)

**Michael Duttweiler** (2016-2019) Secretary & VC,  
Tompkins County

**Bill Ebert** (2017-2020) VC, Seneca County

**Kate Graham** (2016-2019)

**Deb Grantham** (2017-2020)

**Patricia Haines-Gooding** (2017-2020), Chair

**John Mawdsley** (2015-2018)

**Mel Russo** (2016-2019)

**Neil Schwartzbach** (2016-2019)

**Mark Witmer** (2015-2018)

**David Wolfe** (2017-2020)

## Liaison group representatives, for information sharing

**Bill Foster**, Liaison, Floating Classroom/Trout in the Classroom

**Dan Hill**, Liaison, Cayuga Nation

**John Dennis**, Liaison, CLEAN-Cayuga Lake Environmental  
Action Now

## CLWN Staff

**Hilary Lambert**, Steward/Executive Director [steward@cayugalake.org](mailto:steward@cayugalake.org)

**Jenn Tufano**, Members & Programs Staff [programs@cayugalake.org](mailto:programs@cayugalake.org)

**Website:** [www.cayugalake.org](http://www.cayugalake.org)

**Facebook:** find us at Cayuga Lake Watershed Network

**Twitter:** @CayugaLakeWN

## Harmful Algal Blooms and Cayuga Lake

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other groups involved with clean water protections and policy innovations.

### HABs information: links and procedures

During the summer, the Network issued several "HABs updates" that were shared widely online and via our Facebook page. Here is some of the essential information from those updates.

**What is a Harmful Algal Bloom:** Click on link <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/77118.html> to learn what a Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) is, what causes it, and why you should STAY AWAY from them. Pets and kids too!!

**Why HABs are dangerous/what to do if you are in contact with one:** Click on link to the website [www.health.ny.gov/harmfulalgae](http://www.health.ny.gov/harmfulalgae). It provides advice to avoid contact with blue-green algae blooms and information for people who may have been exposed. If you experience health symptoms, it is recommended that you consider discussing these with your health care provider. If you believe your symptoms are associated with exposure to a HAB, please report them to your local health department ([www.health.ny.gov/EnvironmentalContacts](http://www.health.ny.gov/EnvironmentalContacts)) or NYS DOH ([harmfulalgae@health.ny.gov](mailto:harmfulalgae@health.ny.gov)).

**What does a HAB look like?** Click on this link for a HABs photo gallery: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/81962.html>

**What to do if you think you have found a HAB outbreak:** If you suspect that you have seen a HAB, please report the bloom to the NYS DEC. Fill out and submit a Suspicious Algal Bloom Report Form, here: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/77118.html>. Email the completed form and, if possible, attach digital photos (close-up and landscape to show extent and location) of the suspected bloom, to [HABsInfo@dec.ny.gov](mailto:HABsInfo@dec.ny.gov).

**Health concerns and responses:** Please report any health symptoms to NYS Health Department at [harmfulalgae@health.ny.gov](mailto:harmfulalgae@health.ny.gov) and your local health department, and check with your doctor or (for pets) veterinarian.

**If you are not sure whether or not it is a HAB, follow this advice:**

- People, pets and livestock should avoid contact with any floating mats, scums, or discolored water. Colors can include shades of green, blue-green, yellow, brown or red.
- Never drink, prepare food, cook or make ice with untreated surface water, whether or not algae blooms are present. In addition to toxins, untreated surface water may contain bacteria, parasites or viruses that could cause illness if consumed.
- People not on public water supplies should not drink surface water during an algal bloom, even if it is treated, because in-home treatments such as boiling, disinfecting water with chlorine or ultraviolet (UV), and water filtration units do not protect people from HABs toxins.

**HABs FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions):** <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/91570.html>

**CSI's excellent compendium of HABs information:** <http://mailchi.mp/60bb15712896/harmful-algal-blooms-in-cayuga-lake?e=c06ad7e894>

*continued on page 7*

# Thank You for your generous response to our Annual Appeal!

Jenn Tufano *Members & Programs Staff*

**We asked; you answered.** This year's annual appeal solicitation is focused on raising funds to fight hydrilla—a real threat on the shores of beautiful Cayuga Lake. At a time when many are concerned about whether or not state and federal support will continue to protect our shared waterways, YOU all committed to helping us fight this invasive species right here at home. No waiting for a bailout on our shores! Because of your donations, we have been able to focus on lakewide public education and outreach about the need to stop hydrilla before it gets started. Please see our summer 2017 hydrilla report starting on page 1 of this issue.

Not only are our current members showing financial support in droves, our new member donations are higher than ever with 23 new, unique donors. Our annual appeal goal was \$10,000—we have exceeded that amount while donations continue to come in. THANK YOU!

What specifically are we doing with the appeal funds? The CLWN is leading the collaborative lakewide hydrilla team's public education and outreach efforts—thereby assuring that lake shore residents, boaters, and community members understand the issues and that they 'buy-in' to the implementation of the plan—supporting early detection to try to avoid using chemicals, informing the public about water treatment programs in Aurora and at the south end of the lake, and supporting monitoring so that any appearance of hydrilla is met with immediate containment.

## Seeking donors to help fund a year-end matching gifts event!

Last year we exceeded our \$5000 Park Foundation match (every new donor dollar raised was matched by Park up to \$5000). This year we do not have the same match award from Park BUT! Perhaps one or more current members would help sponsor a year-end, new money match? To do this, please contact us and say something like "I'd like to start a match campaign up to \$500" (or whatever amount). We will work hard to raise new funds up to that amount and you, kind donor, would donate up to the amount we raise (not to exceed your match amount).

## Watch for our membership renewal reminders in October

Our membership drive kicks off in October so please keep your eyes out to renew. Have a friend, colleague, or family member who should know about the CLWN's good work? Please send us the contact information and we will gladly get in touch.

The CLWN Board and staff strive to make the very best use of the dollars contributed by you, our treasured supporters. Please do get in touch if there are topics or issues to which you think we should be paying attention. We are YOUR watershed organization and it takes a Network to conduct this all-important work. Our sincere thanks go out to each one of you. 🐦

## Tales from the Littoral Zone—Fall Migration *continued from page 2*

underground rhizomes stretching as far as fifteen feet from the main stem. Historically, during wartimes, because of its thick sticky milky sap, the plant was considered as an alternative source of rubber. Additionally, the fluffy "parachutes" of the seeds were used in pillows and life jackets at one time.

There are only three organisms that feed on milkweed, all of which are insects: these are the monarch butterfly (*Lepidoptera*), the milkweed bug (*Hemiptera*), and the milkweed beetle (*Coloptera*). All three insects are varying shades of red and black and all are not tasty or favorably odiferous to predators. The viceroy butterfly is smaller than the monarch and has evolved a mimicry to avoid predation.

The pinkish flowers of the plant are frequented by many bees, flies, and butterflies. The plant is not insectivorous but occasionally an insect may be captured by the flowers of milkweed. The immobilized insect is not digested by the plant as

**In return for a \$10 gift to the Network when you renew your membership or donate, we will mail you a packet of common milkweed seeds with planting instructions. See the member renewal box on page 7. Help restore monarch butterfly habitat around Cayuga Lake!**

food; rather, the captured insect may serve to attract other pollinators to the flower.

The deforestation of the upland woods in Mexico has destroyed a high percentage of the wintering habitat of the monarch. This, along with the nearly total eradication milkweed, has reduced the populations of the monarch butterfly to about 10% of former levels, prompting conservation groups to classify the species as "threatened." While

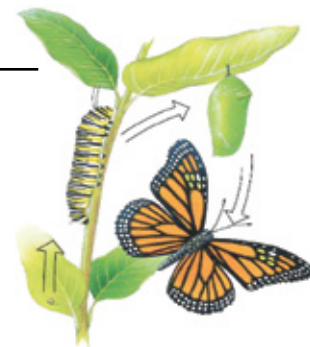
most New Yorkers can't directly do much about the deforestation in Mexico, we *can* purchase milkweed / monarch packets for fall dispersal to help preserve the life of the magnificent monarch butterfly. 🐦

### Source

Palmer, E. Laurence and H. Seymour Fowler. Fieldbook of Natural History: Second Edition. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1975.

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*Edited by Susan Backlund.*



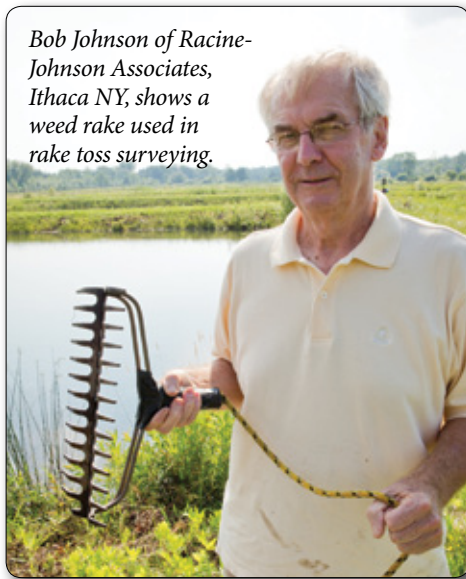
\* **Common** milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) is the **only** substrate capable of supporting the monarch's reproductive cycle. Other "kinds" of milkweed are actually different species and are not capable of supporting the monarch.

[HTTP://SPARHAWKS.INFO/QUEBINFO-BUTTERFLY-METAMORPHOSIS.HTML](http://sparhawks.info/quebinfo-butterfly-metamorphosis.html)

# Make Your Own Weed Rake

Obtain two standard metal garden rakes—recycle old ones with broken handles, if available!

- 1 Saw/cut off the wooden handles.
- 2 Line up the two rake heads back-to-back and secure together with a hose clamp at each end.
- 3 Tape together the cut-off handles.
- 4 Tie strong, thin rope to the cutoff handles and wrap the entire end in tape.
- 5 The rope should be 5/16 inch thick (clothesline) and about 35 feet (ten m) long.
- 6 Keep one end of the weed rake tied to the boat or dock at all times!!!!



Bob Johnson of Racine-Johnson Associates, Ithaca NY, shows a weed rake used in rake toss surveying.



More information about doing Rake Toss Aquatic Vegetation Surveys is online at the NYS Federation of Lake Associations website: [http://nysfola.mylaketown.com/uploads/tiny\\_mce/nysfola/Rake%20Toss%20NYSFOLA2010%20\(2\).pdf](http://nysfola.mylaketown.com/uploads/tiny_mce/nysfola/Rake%20Toss%20NYSFOLA2010%20(2).pdf)

## Harmful Algal Blooms and Cayuga Lake *continued from page 5*

### HABs on Cayuga Lake in 2017 and in the future

Since mid-July, HABs were reported at the Village of Aurora swimming beach, Frontenac Park in Union Springs, Taughannock Falls State Park, Myers Park, several other locations on both the east and west shorelines, and across the lake's open water. Reported and tested HABs sites are all posted with warning signs by the county health departments until tests indicate if the bloom is harmful, and when it has subsided. The NYS DEC updates their statewide list of HABs each week, but these lists are not detailed: <http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/83310.html>

We—the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network, Community Science Institute, NYS DEC, Floating Classroom, county health departments, municipalities—tried to provide the public with an updated list once or twice a week during the worst of the 2017 outbreaks. People were advised to call their local township or village office in advance of going swimming, boating, or fishing at a favorite spot. As of mid-September, occasional HABs reports were still being submitted to DEC, and this problem may re-emerge in 2018. Let's try to get ahead of it, to protect the lake at the center of our lives. 🐾

## Become a Member of the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network!

**IN 2017, FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR CLEAN WATER PROTECTION IS IN DOUBT**, so our locally-focused work is more important than ever. Your membership adds to the clout we need to protect our lake.

**PLEASE JOIN CLWN**, your lake's watershed protection organization. Your membership strengthens our ability to protect the lake at the center of our lives.

**ENCOURAGE FRIENDS, FAMILY, GROUPS AND BUSINESSES TO JOIN.** You can use the form below to join or renew. Mail completed form with check to CLWN, PO Box 348, Aurora NY 13026. *Thank you.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email \_\_\_\_\_ May we add you to our listserv?  Yes  No

**We have membership levels to suit everyone's needs. Please check one of the levels below.**

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

**We are growing and expanding our effective programs. Would you like to make an extra donation to support this work?**

- \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Unrestricted – for general operations.  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ To support water quality tests on Canoga, Burroughs, Yawger and Milliken Creeks.  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ To expand our springtime Embrace the Lake creek, lakefront & ditches cleanups.  
 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Donate \$10 for a packet of common milkweed seeds with planting instructions, to help monarch butterflies.

**TOTAL ENCLOSED:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ (payable to Cayuga Lake Watershed Network please)  
 Payment can also be made via Paypal/credit card at our website [www.cayugalake.org](http://www.cayugalake.org)

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

Would you like  1 or  2 full-color CLWN logo window stickies (4 x 6')



## 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, sustainable communities.



### Cayuga Lake Watershed Network

170 Main St., PO Box 348  
Aurora, NY 13026  
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Office: 607-319-0475

#### OFFICE HOURS:

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



PO Box 348  
Aurora, NY 13026

- Educate
- Advocate
- Protect

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## Upcoming Events in the Cayuga Lake Watershed

**SEPTEMBER 30, ITHACA: Harmful Algal Bloom Forum.** 9 am-noon at the Space at Greenstar, 700 West Buffalo St, Ithaca NY. Co-sponsored by the Community Science Institute, Cayuga Lake Watershed Network, and the Cayuga Lake Floating Classroom. View meeting agenda and forum presentations at [www.communityscience.org](http://www.communityscience.org)

**OCTOBER 7 (rain date October 8): Embrace the Lake Cleanup & Fall Get-Together.** 2-5 pm at the roadside rest area on Route 89 in Covert, 4-5 miles north of Taughannock Falls State Park. The Network has adopted this rest area for regular cleanups. Come to help & stay for the donuts and cider! Consider a visit afterwards to one of the numerous nearby ciders and wineries!

**DATE & LOCATION TBA (mid October-early November, Ithaca): The Network's Fall Community Conference:** Three presentations about the past, present and future of our lake's aquatic plant life, fisheries and birds. Free for the public, with refreshments. Watch Facebook, Twitter and our listserv for the specifics.

**OCTOBER 28, ITHACA: Wizzarding Weekend, Ithaca:** The Network will have a magical presence at this Harry Potter-themed Hallowe'en event. Watch for our tent with the Golden Eggs! Bring kids & grandkids to cast spells protecting our lake & waters! More information here: [www.wizzardingweekend.com](http://www.wizzardingweekend.com) and on Facebook at Ithaca's Wizzarding Weekend.

