

Network News

It takes a Network to protect a watershed.



Reflecting on a summer with the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network

Abbey Yatsko 2020 CLWN Intern

Many of you will find the view of Cayuga Lake, overlooking Cornell's west campus, to be all too familiar. Cayuga Lake is one of the hallmark treasures of Ithaca, and a gold-tinted summertime sunset reflecting over Cayuga's waters is unmatched, and more or less quintessential to the Cornell experience. Normally, the blustery winters of Ithaca catapult me back to these memories of warmer days, but recently my memories were called upon when I received a particular handbook in the mail.

The handbook, titled 'Lakeside Living in a Changing Climate', is a publication that I modestly claim as one of my own collaborations. This past summer, I was afforded the unique opportunity to work alongside the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network (CLWN) to create a guide to lake-friendly and climate-aware living practices for lakeside homeowners. The Cayuga Lake Watershed Network, as expressed in their mission statement, "identifies key threats to Cayuga Lake and its watershed and advocates for solutions that support a healthy environment and vibrant, sustainable communities." In working through this handbook project, I found every bit of the mission statement to come true through my work.

So why does the CLWN exist? Well, there is a similar story that follows many human-inhabited places: they start off as abundant in their resources and well-being, and then human intervention and activity alters the ecology, health, and prosperity of the land, oftentimes in a negative way. In the Cayuga Lake region, lakeside development has disturbed key shoreline habitat via higher rates of erosion. The surrounding land use change (such as clearing forests for agriculture and

development) has funneled excess nitrogen and phosphorus into the lake basin. Ultimately, human intervention in the region has changed the way water moves throughout the watershed.

While these perturbances represent only a handful of examples, the CLWN actively addresses these issues to protect the lake. Without proper protection and management (this word makes me wince a little, I'll get to that in a bit) of human activities and pursuits within the areas surrounding Cayuga Lake, many of the services of the lake or activities that we cherish will degrade through time.

A tourist economy based on the health and appearance of Cayuga will go bust if harmful algal blooms (HABs) run rampant each summer. Generally speaking, if the community as a whole fails to think in a climate-forward way, the dooms of global climate change will catch up and eventually begin to show their true colors in our little pocket of the world. So, the CLWN steps in to monitor changes in the lake and watershed

ecosystem, and acts to make the community aware when potential harm is on the horizon.

Back to the handbook project: in my time with the CLWN, I worked alongside Network Board member John Abel to investigate and compile resources to promote sustainable habits and best environmental practices for lakeside living. The project goal was to take this information, condense it into an attractive, readable form, and distribute the resource to lakeshore residents. In the process of writing the handbook, I engaged with numerous perspectives on grassroots-led environmental stewardship as well as local experts in fields such as home energy efficiency and wastewater treatment. From citizen science research on Harmful Algal Blooms with an ecological perspective, to looking at local land ordinances and building codes, it was further proved to me that no environmental



Abbey Yatsko's good dog Zoe brings a stick to shore.

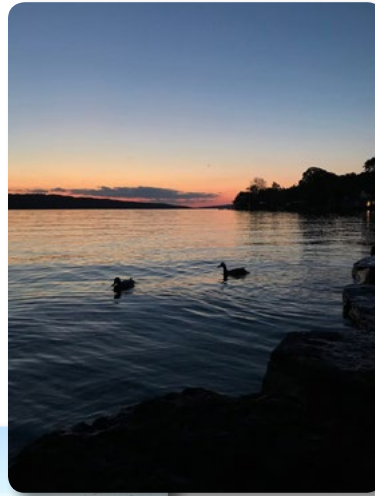
stewardship goal can be reached without an interdisciplinary mindset.

The handbook itself encourages practices within three main categories: reducing carbon emissions, lake-friendly living, and community engagement. We take a dive into numerous topics, spanning from home energy efficiency to shoreline protection to personal vehicle emissions. To be honest, the handbook covers an almost overwhelming wealth of information, yet the goal is not to have an individual take each action step that we suggest (although if we were all to embrace every last word of the handbook, that would really mobilize some change!). Rather, I see the handbook as more of a 'choose your own adventure' kind of deal, governed by personal financial constraints, individual time commitments, and the reality that some things are out of our individual control. Every one of us will have a separate sustainability 'journey' tailored to the logistics of our individual lives. Each route to more sustainable living will take a different form, just as the Lakeside Living handbook provides options as to where homeowners have the potential to make a difference.

Organizations such as the CLWN are so critical in communicating this message of sustainable living. All of the CLWN staff that I met through this project were perfect examples of community members that simply want the best for their human and ecological communities. I was lucky enough to spend some socially distant time with John Abel (Project Director and CLWN Board Member), Hilary Lambert (Executive Director), and Jennifer Tufano (Program Associate), each possessing a strong connection to the lake and an even stronger sense of dedication to their work.

John was kind enough to show me the Cayuga shoreline from the perspective of his boat, pointing out new developments and clear-cut plots as we cruised northward on a sunny July morning. Over the course of decades living on the west side of the lake, John notices these changes within the context of time and the health of the lake. From Hilary, I took away a passion for her work and a fiery, can-do attitude when it comes to addressing outdated practices and conventions that put the environment on the back-burner. Hilary, a long-time Cayuga Lake resident as well, has watched the ecosystem grow and change through time. She has personal accounts of how things were, way back when, and what they are changing into, oftentimes at the expense of the lake. These are the people that we should be listening to and learning from when it comes to monitoring our ecosystems and organizing collective action for their betterment. Recognizing environmental harms must be followed by a change in our actions, for the betterment of us all, but more importantly the lake itself.

I mentioned before that I do not quite agree with the term 'management' when it comes to a discussion of our natural resources and landscapes. However, this term dominates our everyday speech and government mind-set. When you think about it, nature has been managing itself with high levels of



Abbey, Zoe, and Cayuga Lake at dusk:
"The lake, in some poetic way, is a lifeline, something we all share in common..."

perfection for millennia, and will certainly continue to do so with or without humans, as the millennia draw on. If anything, 'people-management' is more necessary than 'environmental management' will ever be!

This differentiation was part of my vision for the handbook, and I hope that readers find that is stimulates considerations of where people-management can step in to favor the lake. There are many behavioral changes that we can take up that will help to prevent nutrient runoff (lay off on the excessive chemical garden fertilizer), aquatic invasive arrivals (wash off boats when transporting between bodies of water), and wastewater treatment mistakes (regular septic system servicing). After

all, our sustainability journey is marked by our actions, not our management ideas or eventual plans.

In summary, working with the CLWN made me fall in love with the message that our work continually spread: when your community cares about their natural resources, it makes sense to take action and revise the conventional practices that brought about harm. The lake, in some poetic way, is a lifeline, something we all share in common, whether we depend on its waters for fishing, recreation, or something as quaint and simple as a sunset overlooking Cayuga.

You can find the handbook on the Network website alongside more about the organization's message and initiatives in the Cayuga Lake community. It is my pride and joy to have produced the content and designed the handbook alongside John, so call this shameless self-promotion if you must! I can attest to the fact that the CLWN is quite a fine group of lovely, sustainable-minded humans.

Thank you, Abbey for this generous (and unexpected!) essay. And for your wonderful work on Lakeside Living in a Changing Climate, which can be viewed and downloaded at our website under the Resources heading. Contact us if you would like a print copy. Abbey Yatsko graduated from Cornell in 2020 and is a Ph.D. student, Biological Sciences, at The George Washington University. Her blog is "a crumb: zero-waste-living and climate crisis commentary from two enthusiastic environmentalists" <https://www.acrumb.com/>. 🐾

Six Mile Creek

State Water Quality Improvement Program Funding Helps Protect 190 Acres and City of Ithaca's Water Supply

NYS Department of Environmental Conservation *"Making Waves"*

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Finger Lakes Land Trust (FLLT) announced on February 10, 2021 that it has established a perpetual conservation easement on a priority parcel in the Six Mile Creek watershed in the town of Dryden, Tompkins County. The easement will help protect public water supplies in the city of Ithaca and was funded in part through the State's Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) Program.

"Protecting our drinking water is one of Governor Andrew Cuomo's top priorities because he recognizes access to clean water is essential to the well-being of New York's communities," DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos said. "Through successful programs that protect watersheds and working with partners like the Finger Lakes Land Trust

in Dryden and throughout the Finger Lakes, New York State is maximizing our investments to provide clean water for generations to come."

"We are grateful for the State's commitment to this project through the WQIP Program," said Finger Lakes Land Trust Executive Director Andrew Zepp. "This project is the Land Trust's 20th conservation easement within the Six Mile Creek watershed, and the State's funding will build upon other conservation investments made by the Land Trust, the City of Ithaca, and Tompkins County."

DEC awarded FLLT a \$641,250 WQIP grant to help protect the Six Mile Creek Watershed. The Trust's overall project will result in at least 190 acres of permanently protected lands, including stream banks on Six Mile Creek and its tributaries,

and help preserve water quality in the region. Erosion rates, sediment load, and the high flow velocities of Six Mile Creek continue to threaten water quality, making the drinking water supply vulnerable to contamination.

The Boris Conservation Easement was acquired using a portion of the State's WQIP grant to FLLT. This 13.5-acre easement in the town of Dryden includes a seven-acre environmental protection zone that will preserve the riparian buffer and 1,100 feet of frontage on Six Mile Creek. FLLT, working with Tompkins County Soil and Water Conservation District, will be restoring the riparian buffer to prevent potential contaminants from entering the creek. Permanently conserving watershed lands through legal easement is a cost-effective way to protect Ithaca's drinking water supply. ▶



Looking upstream from the German Cross Road bridge along Six Mile Creek toward the Boris Conservation Easement. Dryden NY.

The Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization

Liz Thomas *Chair, Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization*

A number of organizations are involved with the protection of Cayuga Lake and its watershed.

- **CLEAN, or Cayuga Lake Environmental Action Now**, focuses on concerns over the Cargill salt mine and runoff from the big coal contamination landfill at the former power plant in Lansing. They also do water quality research.
- **The Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization (CLWIO, or IO)** is a membership organization for municipalities, so that our counties, city, towns, villages, and hamlets can be informed about, protect, and work together to restore the health of the watershed.
- The **Cayuga Lake Watershed Network (Network)** is a membership organization for individuals,

families, businesses and organizations who want to be informed about and help protect the watershed.

- The **Community Science Institute (CSI)** has a huge role, monitoring and testing our creeks and lake for pollutants and Harmful Algal Blooms.
- **DiscoverCayugaLake** focuses on lake and water quality education for kids via school programs, and provides public tours and events on board the *Teal*.
- The **Finger Lakes Land Trust (FLLT)** works to preserve acreage in key areas of the watershed to protect water.

The IO and Network were established at around the same time in the late '90s, so that both people and their governments could have a say in taking care of our lake and the lands draining to it. A huge community effort at that time brought everyone together to develop the first Restoration & Protection Plan (RPP), updated in 2017. The two RPPs and the massive Watershed Characterization can be viewed at the IO's website www.cayugawatershed.org at the Restoration and Protection Plan page.

The RPP points the way for restorative and protective actions, with data and specific recommendations. In both the original and the updated plan, a basic goal of the IO is to help municipalities to understand their role in protecting water, prioritize specific areas of concern, and get the funding they need to complete water quality improvement projects. Under the first plan, from 2005-2012, stream and habitat restoration, hydroseeding and other projects were funded and completed in Lansing, Interlaken, Dryden, Ovid, Genoa, Caroline, and watershed-wide. These can be viewed at the IO's website on the Projects page. The IO's education committee also helped to found and fund the Floating Classroom, today known as DiscoverCayugaLake, with its beautiful boat the *Teal*.

Currently the IO is working on several fronts to increase its effectiveness. It is undergoing an organizational assessment to understand how to better serve its member municipalities. This work is expected to be completed in spring of 2021. The Network is

one of several partners in this process.

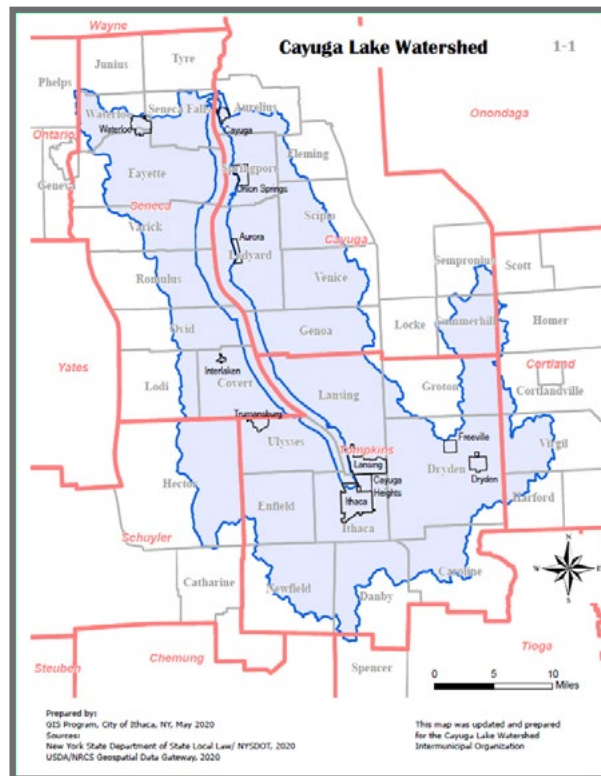
Also, through a grant from the NYS Department of State, the IO is identifying shovel-ready projects that, if funded, will help improve water quality within the watershed. The preliminary list of 29 potential projects, with a map of where they would be located, can be viewed at the IO's website on the Home page. Is your municipality involved?

And finally, the IO has partnered with the Seneca Watershed Intermunicipal Organization to share the work of its watershed manager, Ian Smith. Ian is looking into projects that would benefit both watersheds. He will also be assisting with outreach to Cayuga Lake watershed municipalities to help them understand the benefit of working as a united force.

Current IO chair, Liz Thomas, says "I'm excited about the direction of the CLWIO and the energy behind its members and stakeholders. Developing a closer relationship to other watershed group efforts, especially the CLWN, is a key goal to make the most efficient use of our joint

resources and skills." The IO is deeply grateful to outgoing Chair Tee-Ann Hunter, who has put several years of (unpaid) hard work into reviving and energizing the IO. Thank you Tee-Ann.

The Cayuga Lake Watershed Intermunicipal Organization meets every month, right now via Zoom. Please contact Liz Thomas liz.graepert.thomas@gmail.com or Roxy Johnston rjohnston@cityofithaca.org to learn more, find out if your municipality is a member, and who your municipality's representatives are. ➤



Map of the Cayuga Lake watershed depicting its municipalities—counties, city, towns, villages. For a full list of the watershed's municipalities, view the About page at www.cayugawatershed.org.

The Network partners with SUNY ESF for microbial source-tracking study

Hilary Lambert CLWN Steward/Executive Director



The mouth of Yawger Creek, late February 2021. Yawger Creek will be sampled for the microbial source-tracking study.

A small but potentially significant water quality study will be carried out by Network volunteers this year on seven creeks along the Seneca and Cayuga County shorelines of Cayuga Lake, thanks to a grant from the Fred L. Emerson Foundation with additional support from Seneca Meadows.

Leading the study are Dr. Michael Schummer, Senior Research Associate, and Dr. Hyatt Green, Assistant Professor, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF). The Network's volunteers are coordinated by Bill Ebert, member of the Network's Board of Directors and chair of our Water Quality Committee.

Trained volunteers from the Network's water quality monitoring team will collect samples at the mouths of these creeks during storms (high flow, run-off events), and periods of low creek flow and mean flow, to capture the potential seasonal variability in runoff of nutrients to the lake. Samples will be transported to the lab at Upstate Freshwater Institute (UFI) in Syracuse, to be analyzed for sediment and other water quality indicators. Microbial source-tracking to determine the sources of contaminants will be performed at the SUNY ESF labs.

The *E. coli* bacterium is part of a larger group, the coliform bacteria, found naturally and plentifully in the lower intestines and feces of all warm blooded animals. Coliforms are used as indicators of water quality because they are easy to detect and can be plentiful. The presence of *E. coli* in water indicates contamination by human or other animal waste, and signals the possible presence of illness-causing microbes. For drinking water, the US Environmental Protection Agency has established an *E. coli* concentration at less than one bacteria colony per 100 ml of water. For contact recreation, the acceptable limit is 235 colonies per 100 ml of water.

While *E. coli* indicate the magnitude of contamination, they thrive in the guts of a wide range of species and are poor tracers for contaminant sources. At the SUNY ESF labs, water samples will be analyzed for species-specific bacteria other than *E. coli* to indicate which animal species contaminants come from. New microbial source-tracking technology, using quantitative

polymerase chain reaction (qPCR) analysis, can determine if bacteria in water originates from humans, domestic animals, wildlife (e.g., birds), and/or other sources (Green et al. 2019).

Knowing which species is the dominant source of contaminants can help land managers decide how to reduce the sources of bacteria and nutrients at different locations. According to Mike Schummer, "ESF is excited to be collaborating with the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network towards improving the water quality of Cayuga Lake. Using novel microbial source-tracking, we aim to determine sources of nutrients entering the lake. Solving issues of leaky septic tanks differs greatly from methods to reduce manure run-off into the lake."

Three samples per creek will be collected once every two months, beginning in March. In Seneca County the creeks are Sheldrake, Burroughs, S. Canoga and N. Canoga; and in Cayuga County there are two sampling sites on Yawger Creek, and one each on Great Gully and Paines Creek.

Bill Ebert, head of the sampling team, says, "We are excited to have this additional information providing information about the source of nutrients flowing into the lake. We are ready to work with SUNY ESF to make this happen."

Background and goals

Water quality data collected by citizen-scientists and analyzed at the Community Science Institute's lab in Ithaca indicate that creeks along the Seneca and Cayuga County shorelines of Cayuga Lake are adding more nutrient pollution for their size than those along the southern Tompkins County shoreline. The results of three seasons of Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) testing by the Community Science Institute indicate that more highly toxic HABs appear along these northern shorelines (Community Science Institute, 2020).

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The Network partners with SUNY ESF for microbial source-tracking study

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Future actions to heal impaired waters requires distinction of the contribution of nutrients among various potential sources. And there may be more than one source along a creek, far upstream of the lake.

Across the Finger Lakes region, nutrient loading and resulting HABs problems in recent summers threaten access to clean water, and impact the multi-billion-dollar recreation and tourism industry. General degradation of water quality in the Finger Lakes region is ongoing with nutrients, pathogens, and sediments often exceeding acceptable levels. Levels are exceeded during storm and season runoff events. Chronic inputs occur throughout the year from unabated pollutant sources (Halfman, 2017).

The goal of this study is to link ongoing efforts to monitor nutrient loading in streams in the northern half of Cayuga Lake with information from microbial source-tracking. Meeting this goal will not only focus actionable science at the watershed level, but also determine what type of source (e.g., residential sewer, animal waste/manure) abatement within the watershed is needed to have the greatest impact on water quality. This project also will serve as a model for future efforts throughout the Finger Lakes region to better focus conservation and management actions aimed at reducing harmful nutrient inputs into our lakes.

A longer term goal is to export this project on northern Cayuga Lake as an example of how nutrients and pollution

sources can be linked using microbial source-tracking. This initial project can spur collaboration across lakes and organizations to build out a larger project, bringing these diverse entities together in support of clean water and healthy watersheds. Research results will be shared via publications, presentations and in these pages. A technical report will be prepared for regional decision-makers and land conservation organizations, and public health water use implications will be shared locally.

The full research proposal for this project may be viewed at the Network's website on the Water Quality Committee page under the Resources heading. Thank you to the Fred L. Emerson Foundation and Seneca Meadows for their support.

References

- Community Science Institute (2020). Three years of monitoring Harmful Algal Blooms. *The Water Bulletin*. Fall.
- Green, H. C., Wiedmann, M., and Weller, D. L. (2019). Microbial source-tracking reveals origins of fecal contamination in a recovering watershed. *Water* 11:2162. doi: 10.3390/w11102162
- Halfman, J. D. (2017). Decade-Scale Water Quality Variability in the Eastern Finger Lakes, New York. NYWEA. *Clearwaters*, 47, 20-33. 🐾

The Network's New Spring and Summer Lakewear!

The Network has new hats and shirts available for purchase!

All proceeds benefit the Network, and a portion of our earnings will be used to purchase future gear. Hats and shirts feature "AIS" (Aquatic Invasive Species), and logos from CLWN and our partners at the Finger Lakes Institute and Finger Lakes PRISM (Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management) in Geneva.

We encourage anyone working with, volunteering to protect, or simply enjoying our lake and creeks, to purchase and proudly wear these items. They also make great gifts!

Hat or Shirt: \$25/each

Two of any combination

(two hats, or two shirts, or hat/shirt): \$40 total

Shirts are unisex, sized from adult Small to XXL.

Caps are adjustable, for adult head sizes.

There's one color selection for caps and

shirts—blue shirts, and cream caps with matching blue piping.

How to order

Please contact us at programs@cayugalake.org to place an order.

- Provide your name, mailing address, and number of items to be ordered, including shirt sizes.
- To calculate shipping costs, please provide your mailing address, so that we can calculate cost of shipping to your location, based on the number of items you order. We'll add that to the cost of the items, and provide you with a total amount for payment.
- Items will be shipped upon cleared payment. 🐾

They also
make great
gifts!



May 2-8 Region-wide online events

The Lake Friendly Living Program Spreads its Wings!

In 2019, the CLWN joined other Finger Lakes lake associations and watershed groups in developing and launching a program called Lake Friendly Living (LFL). LFL outlines simple steps every homeowner (whether a lakeshore owner or not) can take to help protect and improve water quality and create sustainable watershed living environments. The partner lakes include Canandaigua, Cayuga, Honeoye, Keuka, Otisco, Owasco, Seneca, and Skaneateles.

This year, from May 2-8, the LFL coalition is planning a series of public events—held virtually and free, of course! During this week, lake groups will be holding webinars, Facebook Live events, and demonstrations that explain and exemplify some of the 12 simple strategies outlined in the LFL program. You can find all 12 strategies outlined here: <https://www.cayugalake.org/lake-friendly-living/>

The CLWN will focus our presentation on native plans

and shoreline naturalization! We will offer two informational webinars, including practical steps for making beneficial changes to your landscape. Dan Segal, owner of The Plantsmen, and Camille Marcotte, Water and Ecology Educator, Cornell Cooperative Extension, will present separate webinars on Native Plantings and Shorescaping. We will also provide local resources where you can purchase native plants for your property.

Please keep in mind that anyone will be able to attend any program offered by any of these lake groups. We look forward to sharing specific program dates and times as they become available.

In the meantime, we would love for you to check out the LFL page on our website (under the Resource heading), and learn more about how you can get involved and implement some of these strategies today (or at least begin planning for when the snow melts!). 🐦

Donor Corner

Thank you for your donations & member renewals!

Do you know the CLWN is able to accept your stock donations?

Stock donations are a quick and easy way to help sustain the Network now and into the future. Please contact Hilary or Jenn for more details. We can help you navigate the process!

We would love your updates!

Have you moved, taken on (or changed) a second home, or changed your email? We want to make sure you receive your membership benefits, such as our quarterly newsletter (like this one!). Keeping our records up to date helps tremendously. Please let us know!

2020 brought a number of unexpected delights!

A few anonymous donations arrived at our office and, because they were anonymous, we have no place to send a tax receipt letter. We certainly respect the privacy of our donors and take your wishes very seriously. We would also love to know who finds the Network worthy of these valuable donations. Please just keep in mind that even if you choose to share your donor identity with the Network, we will never share your name with the public if you make that request. So if you made a 2020 donation anonymously and would like us to know who you are, please email Jenn at programs@cayugalake.org. *Thank you!* 🐦

Become a Member of the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network!

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.

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

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")

If you are interested in learning about donating stocks to CLWN, please contact Jenn at programs@cayugalake.org.

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.



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- Educate
- Advocate
- Protect

Current Resident

Upcoming Events

Check our website, listserv and Facebook page for announcements about events, and contact steward@cayugalake.org or programs@cayugalake.org for the latest information.

Embrace the Lake! Would your community group, church, school or troop like to do a springtime trash cleanup along a creek or the lakeshore? Contact us for help – we can suggest good spots if you don't have one in mind, send posters, trash bags, gloves; lend trash grabbers and safety vests, and help you publicize (if desired). We'll provide suggestions for socially distanced, masked events. March – mid-May is the best time, before the grass grows high.

Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Events **Tompkins County: April 17 & May 15 (with more dates throughout the year). Must pre-register.** Wear masks! Go here for information: www.recycletompkins.org - scroll down to event announcements. Cayuga and Seneca counties have not yet announced their spring dates. Check their Department of Water and Department of Health websites for updates.

Lake Friendly Living Awareness Week: May 2-8, join the online celebration across the Finger Lakes. Webinars, Facebook Live, how-to demonstrations of ways in which you can help

protect our lakes and waterways right in your own yard. See page 7 for details.

CLWN's Springtime Community Conference: May 13 and TBA. On May 13, join us online at 7 p.m. for a presentation by Professor David Wolfe, Cornell University. He will speak about our new strategic plan's climate change focus; how climate change is already affecting the area, and how to educate ourselves to be resilient and to reduce our climate impacts. Read our 2021-4 strategic plan at our website under About > Priorities.

Kristen Moore is the Environmental Educator at the Seneca Meadows Education Center in Seneca Falls. She is planning a series of online seminars titled **W.O.W— Women on Water: A flowing series of women working on water—Explore the fascinating careers and discoveries of these modern day leaders advocating for water.** Contact her at kristen.moore@audubon.org. ➤