

Network News

*It takes a
Network to protect
a watershed.*



Liz Kreitinger on her new role as CLWN's Steward

It is an honor to be stepping into the role of Steward/Executive Director for CLWN. As someone who grew up in the fields, forests, and tributaries of the Cayuga Lake watershed, I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to serve our communities in this capacity and continue the very important work being done here.

I take this moment to briefly introduce myself. I am a watershed ecologist with technical training in environmental sampling and research, currently completing my PhD at Cornell University in the Department of Natural Resources and Environment. Before returning to school, I spent several years working for the U.S.

Geological Survey and in environmental consulting. During graduate school, I dedicated myself to studying watersheds from top to bottom—that is, how landscapes, ecosystems, and people affect what stays on land, moves into water, or the atmosphere. Recently, I've been fortunate to conduct field work at U.S. Forest Service research sites in New Hampshire and Southeast Alaska.

The wonderful thing about studying watershed science in these different contexts, is that no matter where you go, the fundamentals apply: start with bedrock, add climate, plants, animals, microbes, and time, and you get something complex and beautiful that we depend on for clean water, fertile soil, and sustenance. I look forward to getting to know you in the coming

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The NYS Soil Health & Climate Resiliency Act

Water quality, climate change, & the agriculture community

David Wolfe *Chair, CLWN Board of Directors*



Healthy soils support healthy water. View of Cayuga Lake looking northwest from Lansing.

What is “soil health”? Twenty years ago, few understood the term. Today, a carefully defined set of effective farming practices are the basis for the “Soil Health and Climate Resiliency Act,” recently signed by NY Governor Kathy Hochul, which will carry farming forward into a more sustainable and resilient future.

This is deeply relevant to the Network’s new focus on water quality as it is affected by climate change in the Cayuga Lake watershed. It also points the way for our organization to work more closely with area farmers, working together to better protect our water resources.

The new law will help ensure a healthy food system for New York, increase community resilience to extreme weather, protect our water resources, and help meet the state’s climate goals by storing more carbon in soil.

Especially compelling has been the non-partisan, broad support for this initiative, from Democrat to Republican state politicians, and from farmers to environmental groups such as The Nature Conservancy. The law is backed up by solid research and experimentation in the field by innovative farmers with whom researchers from CALS (Cornell’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences) have collaborated for 20-30 years.

Here’s the new law: The New York “Soil Health & Climate Resiliency Act” <https://www.nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2021/s4722>

Two brief sections follow to introduce how the law came about, and how farmers in NYS will use and benefit from it.

The New York Soil Health Roadmap, 2019

From the preface:

“As a key objective of the New York State Soil Health Initiative (NYSH), we have brought the many interested stakeholders together to produce a soil health roadmap for New York. The core of the Roadmap is a section that includes a vision statement, and key goals—outlining specific research, outreach, and policy priorities for pursuing those goals. The final document is presented here, and will also be made available in an interactive format at our

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“What the Warming World Needs Now is Art, Sweet Art...”

—Statement by climate change activist Bill McKibben

Patricia Haines-Gooding CLWN Board member

What do the arts have to do with climate change? Come to Ithaca’s Stewart Park on June 18 and 19 for “The Art of Climate Change,” to experience a taste of kite-making and flying on the lakefront; how to deal with climate anxiety from an art therapist perspective; what Lake Friendly Living looks like, with rain barrels and rain gardens; expressing connection with nature through collage; guided walks through the Fuertes Bird Sanctuary; improvisational cello and dance by the sparkling water, native flute through the forest.

Learn about native plants, seed banks, fiber art. And more.

For years school districts have advocated for larger arts budgets on the basis that engagement with the arts fosters creative and analytical thinking: “Creative learners,” argues the National Association for Gifted Children, “are big-picture global thinkers with a willingness to take risks. This in turn “can lead to a lifetime of creative thinking and future problem solving” (2017). Forbes Magazine endorses this position, noting that “art helps leaders shift thinking in a rapidly changing world” (2005).

For climate change activist Bill McKibben, given the ubiquity of doom-and-gloom climate news, “The question is how to unsettle the audience” enough to take action. He asks:

“... What emotions should the playwright play with: fear? guilt? ... There also needs to be hope—visions of what it might



“Strewn—Forgotten—Gathered—ReImagined” trash art show, June 2019, Community School of Music and Arts, Ithaca.

feel like to live on a planet where somehow we begin the process of rebuilding community... An intellectual understanding of the facts is not enough... If we want to move forward and effect meaningful change, we need to engage the other side of our brains. We need to approach the problem with our imaginations” (McKibben in *Grist*, April 2005, online at grist.org).

This is particularly important for young people, who, research shows, are increasingly anxious and hopeless. Working with teens in Portugal, Dr. Julia Bentz finds

that working with and through art creates “avenues for greater depth of learning and transformative potential.” Links between science, humanities and the arts “support meaning-making, and create a wider solution space for climate change.”

Bentz maintains that “At school, teaching about climate change usually takes place in the natural science disciplines and often communicates ... messages of fear and contributes to feelings of denial, numbing, and apathy. The arts and humanities ... offer environments for creative imagination, experimentation, and perspective-taking... creating hope, responsibility, care and solidarity... empowering [students] to co-create new scenarios for transformative change.” (Bentz, J. *Learning about climate change in, with and through art. Climatic Change* 162, 1595–1612 (2020).

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Experience “Art of Climate Change” at Ithaca Reggae Fest’s 2022 Education Village. This photo of the event is from 2017.



Embrace the Lake cleanups for springtime

Thirteen years as lake huggers!

Hilary Lambert

It's been thirteen years since we kicked off the annual Embrace the Lake cleanup campaign, in which we encourage and assist communities, church, school and Scout groups to clean up trash from a stretch of creek or lake shoreline, and from roadside ditches. Each coffee cup, snack bag and plastic straw that we remove and dispose of properly makes life easier and cleaner for small critters, and protects water quality.

During the years since the first lake-hugger events in 2009, we have helped with somewhere from three to fifteen each spring! In addition, many community groups and neighborhoods around Cayuga Lake have their own spring cleanups, which they announce locally.

Some of the Embrace the Lake spirit faded away during the pandemic. People retreated into themselves, indoors, and away from others. In 2022, let's get outdoors again and pick up the trash! The best time period is mid-March to early May, after which growing plants cover up trash. Of course gloves are needed, and mask-wearing is up to you.

The Cayuga Lake Watershed Network can provide gloves, trash bags, and beautiful posters, for free.



June 2, 2018: Neighbors clean up along the creek that drains from Coddington Road to Six Mile Creek, in the Ithaca-Caroline borderlands.

We also can loan some trash pickers, helmets, and reflective vests. Note that these events are carried out at your own risk. For some communities, we can request that your local highway department pick up the filled bags.

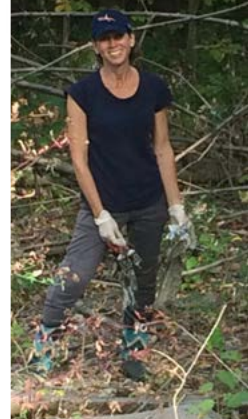
Please get in touch if you would like help organizing a cleanup, and/or some of the supplies listed above. Contact Jenn at programs@cayugalake.org or Patricia at levelgreen2010@gmail.com.

Following are photos from some of the Embrace the Lake cleanups over the years.

See Upcoming Events on the back cover for several already-scheduled cleanups you can volunteer for in spring 2022! Thank you! 🐾



October 7, 2027: Jenn and Hali clean up the roadside rest area on Route 89 in Covert.

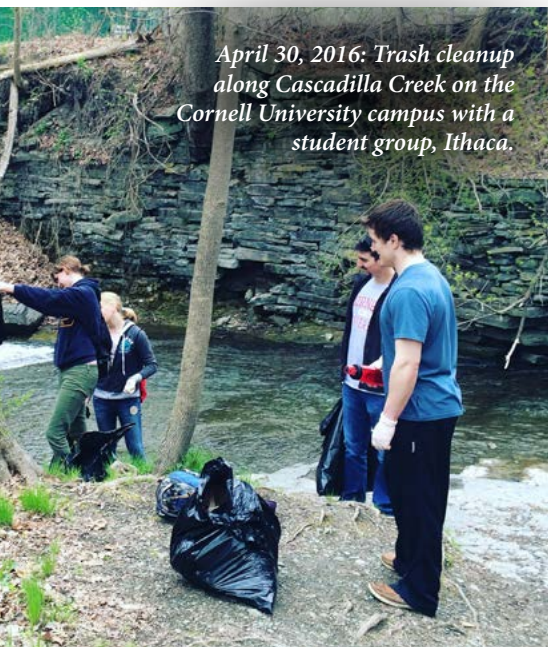


May 4, 2019: Ithaca church group cleans the stormwater runoff area next to WalMart, Ithaca. Drains to Cayuga Inlet and the lake via the adjacent flood control channel.



May 6, 2016: Dave Sprout helping with a cleanup of Virgil Creek wetlands in Dryden, NY.





April 30, 2016: Trash cleanup along Cascadilla Creek on the Cornell University campus with a student group, Ithaca.



February 2016: digging out tires, shopping carts and junk from the wetlands behind the big box stores off Meadow Street/Route 13 in Ithaca.

The NYS Soil Health & Climate Resiliency Act

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www.newyorksoilhealth.org website (along with a shorter executive summary). The Roadmap includes a background section briefly reviewing the state of knowledge on soil health, historical and current soil health efforts within and beyond New York, and key stakeholders and organizations involved.”

—New York Soil Health roadmap, 2019 https://cpb-us-e1.wpmucdn.com/blogs.cornell.edu/dist/6/7573/files/2019/02/NYSH_roadmap_2019feb15_web-23n3qcx.pdf

The New York Soil Health Initiative & Hub, 2022

Goals and mission:

The New York State Soil Health Initiative seeks to build on the current strengths and momentum of key stakeholders and coordinate a network for information exchange, prioritization, and identification of barriers and opportunities in order to facilitate farmer adoption of soil health practices.

The mission of the New York State Soil Health Initiative is to:

- Recruit a network of farmer collaborators for sharing innovation, and for monitoring and documenting soil health benefits.
- Evaluate soil health economic benefits such as reduced input costs and capital investments, improved resiliency to extreme weather, and new market opportunities.
- Provide fresh outreach materials and support practitioner training, field days, and soil health assessments on collaborating farms from all types of systems.
- Develop a soil health “road map” and coordinate a NYS “Soil Health Summit” that will include presentations and panels composed of farmers, researchers, government and non-government organization representatives, policy-makers and other stake-holders.

—New York Soil Health Hub, 2022 <https://www.newyorksoilhealth.org/>

Specific to the concerns of the Cayuga Lake Watershed Network, this new initiative and law will assist farmers and communities in responding resiliently to climate change. The Network will be sharing and discussing next steps with our members and the public. 🐾

“What the Warming World Needs Now is Art, Sweet Art...”

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The June “Art of Climate Change” gathering is an outgrowth of the Climate Steward Training Program, sponsored by Tompkins County Cornell Cooperative Extension. The basic idea is to encourage folks of all ages to consider the arts as an avenue for climate adaptation. The event is concurrent with the annual Ithaca Reggae Fest and its Education Village, highlighting the Festival’s commitment to protecting Cayuga Lake and water everywhere.

We are still looking for volunteers to develop displays and demonstrations. Please contact Patricia Haines-Gooding at levelgreen2010@gmail.com if you would like to take part. Check out the Ithaca Reggae Fest website and the Education Village at ithacareggae.org. The Network will provide updates at our website and Facebook page. 🐾

“Take care of the land, and the land will take care of you.”

—Soil conservation pioneer Hugh Hammond Bennett, 1947

Liz Kreitinger on her new role as CLWN's Steward

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weeks and months, and to learning about your perspectives and values related to watershed health so that we can effectively and inclusively do the necessary work to protect Cayuga Lake from headwater to shoreline.

I also want to recognize the tremendous work done by outgoing Steward Hilary Lambert, Program Associate Jenn Tufano, the Board of Directors, and volunteers.

I have now gotten a glimpse into the nuts and bolts of this organization and can clearly see that its effectiveness is the product of incredibly dedicated individuals who contribute their time and talents to further the mission. They have built a strong foundation through the strategic planning process, and I look forward to leading the organization forward on the path they've outlined as we adapt and build resilience in this ever-changing world. It is my priority that the Network will continue to provide critical information, resources and inspiration to the community and our partners, and serve as a leader at the intersection of watershed education, management, science, and advocacy. Onward! 🐾



Donor Corner

Change to donation acknowledgement procedure

Long-time Network donors may be aware that historically, tax acknowledgement letters were sent out immediately upon receiving a donation (check, cash, or credit card online). In an effort to streamline processes, donors will now receive a single, year-end tax statement showing all donations made that year.

Online donors will receive an immediate e-notice acknowledging their contribution. Those mailing donation checks will receive an acknowledgement postcard (so you know your generous contribution was received—thank you!). The actual tax document will now come at the end of the year.

We are grateful for your support! 🐾

The Network's 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.

**They also
make great
gifts!**

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. 🐾



May is Lake Friendly Living Awareness Month

Jenn Tufano CLWN Programs & Memberships



In 2021, the Lake Friendly Living Coalition of the Finger Lakes hosted a week-long series of webinars showcasing the myriad ways homeowners can make water-smart improvements on their properties. Those webinar recordings can be found on the FLRWA webpage here: www.flrwa.org/.

Coalition members include: Canandaigua, Cayuga, Keuka, Otisco, Owasco, Seneca, and Skaneateles Lakes. We welcomed Conesus Lake to the coalition in 2022!

For May 2022, we are back together planning more live and recorded presentations. Lake Friendly Living Awareness Month will offer free, virtual education sessions and resources to all who live in the Finger Lakes Region. Experts will present throughout the week on topics that resonate with our goals. These educational lunch-and-learn sessions and live demonstrations will be designed to inform and empower watershed residents to make changes to help protect the lake.

The CLWN's 2022 theme is "Rain Gardens, Rain Barrels, and Runoff." Each lake group will have a different theme. Please watch for more information and opportunities to sign up for any of the FREE sessions (both virtual and in-person) as we get closer to May.

More information on the Network's Lake Friendly Living program can be found at our website here: www.cayugalake.org/lake-friendly-living. Think SPRING! 🐸



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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PO Box 348
Aurora, NY 13026

- Educate
- Advocate
- Protect

Current Resident

Upcoming Events

in the Cayuga Lake Watershed

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 & SPRING

CLEANUPS—Public Participation Welcome!

March 26—1-3 p.m. at the roadside rest area on NY 89, 4-5 miles north of Taughannock Falls State Park.

We provide gloves, bags, snacks. Dress appropriately! Sponsored by CLWN. Contact programs@cayugalake.org or hlambert0@gmail.com for information.

Late March—Stewart Park spring cleanup, Ithaca.

Details will be provided via Friends of Stewart Park, and on CLWN's Facebook page & website.

April 23—9-12 noon, Ithaca Noon & Ithaca Sunrise Rotary Groups—Spring Highway Cleanup!

(**Rain Date: Friday, May 6th**) Meet: Tops Market, 2300 N. Triphammer Road—look for the people with hard hats and vests! Provided: Personal safety equipment (vests, hard hats, gloves) and supplies for trash pickup. Volunteers bring: sturdy shoes, water bottle, mask if desired. Volunteers may bring their own large bags. Registration and questions: Mary-Lynn Cummings, mlcummings101@gmail.com, 607-227-5790. There are roles for volunteers who may not want to be involved in direct trash pickup.

Primitive Pursuits, Aurora Ridge Dairy, and others will have public-invited cleanups. Watch our website & Facebook page for more information. See page 4 for information on doing your own Embrace the Lake cleanup.

APRIL 16, MAY 21, JULY 16—three of six

2022 dates to **Drop-Off Household Hazardous Wastes at the Tompkins County Recycling & Solid Waste Center**. Pre-registration & permit required. Go to <https://recyclecomptons.org/other-programs-and-services/household-hazardous-waste/> to sign up.

APRIL 22 IS EARTH DAY. We will share events information. Celebrate our planet! Go outdoors.

LATE APRIL—CLWN's Spring Community Conference—to be arranged!

THE MONTH OF MAY—Lake Friendly Living

Awareness Month. Take part in the LFL Coalition's all-May celebration, with numerous workshops and presentations about making changes around our residences to better protect our Finger Lakes. See page 7 for more information & watch social media for details.

JUNE 18-19—Attend the Art of Climate Change event at the Education Village, Ithaca Reggae Fest. Learn more on page 3. ➤