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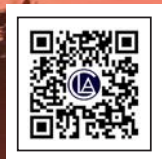
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VISIT CHAUTAUQUA LAKE (VIRTUALLY) ANYTIME!

To see current conditions in Lakewood, scan the code above or visit ChautauquaLakeAssociation.org/lake-cam/

"COTTON CANDY SKIES OVER CHQ."
— K. SKOREPA, Mayville

Celebrating CLA's Summer

Sharing a Note of Gratitude, 2024 Recap and a Look Ahead

This is such a beautiful time of year here in Chautauqua County. While it always makes me a little sad to see our season come to an end, it's a great time to reflect on our accomplishments and make adjustments to the things that we can do better as we plan for next year.

GIVING THANKS

Each summer we hire 40-50 seasonal workers. I cannot tell them enough how important and appreciated their efforts are. The work they do each day— on chilly mornings, scorching afternoons, through downpours or windstorms, is necessary for you to enjoy this beautiful lake we all love. Our boat stewards are active at the launches, protecting your waters. **Thank you all for your dedication to Chautauqua Lake.**



SUMMER ACTIVITIES

2024 was a great summer. Fishing tournaments every weekend and daily pleasure boat activity. The lake was busy.

Over 10 million pounds of aquatic vegetation was removed from Chautauqua Lake this summer! Yes, the rain and low lake level affected our performance at times, but weed growth was manageable. Crews were able to stay on top of problematic areas and offer service, lake wide. Though it is impossible to be everywhere, we do our best to service all developed lake areas on a regular basis.

CONTINUED ►

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

THERE'S A STRONG CONSENSUS in our community that the summer of 2024 was one of the finest on Chautauqua Lake. And, like the previous year, widely held expectations that the lack of winter ice would stimulate overwhelming weed growth proved to be inaccurate.

Your Chautauqua Lake Association was prepared to meet any challenge and our work this year was rewarded with many compliments.



At the request of the community and county government, we were ready to harvest almost two weeks earlier than usual this year.

If funding is available to cover the increased payroll, we're getting ready to begin even earlier in 2025! We also expect to have all three new pieces of equipment procured

through ARPA funding available from the start. The new harvester was delivered in August, and it provided a much-needed boost.

We've noticed that weed growth seems to be occurring earlier in the season, so we expect to start right around the beginning of May in 2025.

CONTINUED ►



SUMMER ACTIVITIES

■ CONTINUED

We often hear when something is wrong, not when something good happens. To those of you that sent a happy note on Facebook or made a happy call to the office, thank you. It is always nice to hear that we are doing something good.

This season, we had **4 weeks of early harvesting** which resulted in 167 truckloads being removed. Then with full crews and mobi support we removed another 326 truckloads.

**MAY
SPRING DEBRIS
CLEANUP**

7.5

TRUCKLOADS

**JUL - AUG
HARVESTING &
SHORE WORK**

326

TRUCKLOADS

**MAY - JUN
EARLY
HARVESTING**

167

TRUCKLOADS

**SEPT
3-WEEK FALL
CLEAN-UP**

45

TRUCKLOADS

538

**TOTAL TRUCKLOADS
APPROX. 10,760,000 POUNDS**

We wrapped the season up in late September with another 45 truckloads. That's a total of 538 truckloads equaling an approximate 10,760,000 pounds of nuisance plants removed this summer!

LOOKING AHEAD

We have so many exciting plans and ideas for next summer! All of our new equipment should arrive in time for the early season. This will increase our efficiency and boost our response

CLA Receives New Equipment

These new machines will increase our overall efficiency and ability to react to problematic areas.



Top: In August, a new ILH-1000 Stainless Steel Harvester was delivered to Chautauqua Lake.

Left: A new 2024 JCB-930 four wheel drive all weather forklift replaced the 1958 Pettibone forklift that has been in use since the 1970s.

Right: In-Land Lake Harvesters of Burlington, Wisconsin, tests CLA's new ILH11-1000 Transport. Delivery is expected mid-November of this year.



time, enhancing our productivity. The new harvester is here already. The new transport will be delivered in November, and the near shore support vessel is expected in early spring. Additionally, we plan to be in the water earlier than in past years. This will give us the ability to react to early growth before it reaches the water top and creates boating difficulties. This will also assist with early near shore cleanup challenges. We also plan to utilize additional offloading sites. Having additional sites will again increase our efficiency.

Many other ideas and plans are being discussed. If you have thoughts, ideas, or would like to join our team please contact our office. We welcome all comments.

Heather

**TEAM CLA,
2024 DRAGON
BOAT RACE**



2024 MARKS THE 9TH SEASON OF WATERCRAFT STEWARDS ON CHAUTAUQUA LAKE

Have you ever spoken to a boat steward at one of the Chautauqua Lake launches? How about Barcelona, Dunkirk Harbor or Cassadaga Lake? Do you wonder why they are there or what they do?

These stewards work for the CLA. Their job is to interact with the public, educate

boaters on ways to prevent the spread of aquatic species and record the information gathered

in a NYS database. They are bursting with information about aquatic invasive species,

preventive measures, water safety and the lake you are enjoying. If you have not spoken to one, we encourage you to visit our local launches and meet these amazing people.

In 2016, the CLA piloted the first program of this kind in our region, with 5 stewards working 3 days a week at Chautauqua Lake launches.

Since then, the CLA's AIS Spread Prevention program has expanded to 13 stewards working 4-5 days a week throughout the

county. Stewards could be found at 6 Chautauqua Lake launches, plus Cassadaga Lake, Dunkirk Harbor and Barcelona Harbor.

Annually, CLA Stewards see more than 10,000 boats and educate over 20,000 people.

NYS recently announced they have recorded over 200,000 interactions statewide in the past 6 years.

"MORNING LAUNCH"
— B. LABART, Prendergast Point



THE FIRST MUSKY HATCHERY ON CHAUTAUQUA LAKE WAS ESTABLISHED IN **1888**

81 SPECIES OF FISH HAVE BEEN CATALOGED IN CHAUTAUQUA LAKE SINCE 1902

FISH FACTS



2024 PHOTO CONTEST WINNER



"MISS BELLE"
— M. LAURY, Celoron

Positive Trends in CHQ Lake's Aquatic Plant Community

SUNY Oneonta's Summer Monitoring Program Shows Notable Habitat Recovery

This summer, the State University of New York Oneonta Biological Field Station continued monitoring and categorizing Chautauqua Lake's aquatic plant community. Sites throughout the entire lake were surveyed. The data will be entered into the CLA's twenty-two year profile of plant conditions and trends.

Initial findings indicate that the loss of plant habitat that occurred a few years ago is reversing and that plant communities are returning. For example, in 2023 sixty-three sites were found containing no vegetation while in 2024 that number reduced to twenty. Correspondingly, the number of sites with a plant presence of trace decreased, being replaced by a greater number of medium density sites. Only three densely populated sites were found this year. A final report is due to be received near year-end.





"PADDLE BREAK"
— E. SILDERS,
Chadakoin River



"WINTER
WARMTH"
— S. HAYLETT,
Dewittville

Continuing Education

Learning to Safeguard the Future of Our Lake

NALMS - In November 2023, CLA Community Services Manager Heather Nolan-Caskey had the privilege of serving on the planning committee for the North American Lakes Management Society's (NALMS) conference that took place in Erie, PA.

The CLA also had the opportunity to present on the versatility of the services our organization provides to the Chautauqua Lake community. A copy of this presentation is available at the office upon request.

CONFERENCE TAKEAWAYS

- \$1 towards prevention = \$100 in aquatic invasive species control methods once introduced. This confirms the value of our spread prevention program.
- Minnesota has a state Environmental Trust Fund set up from lottery proceeds. This funds all lake and watershed projects in the state. Something to consider for future NYS lake funding.
- In the Presque Isle Wetlands, herbicides are being used to remove invasive plants that have overrun some areas of the park. As areas are cleared of invasives,

native plants are re-introduced using cuttings taken from other areas within the wetlands. This has been a cost-effective endeavor with positive results.

We are looking forward to the learning more about "Managing lakes under changing climates" at the NALMS 2024 conference in Lake Tahoe this month.

NYSFOLA - In May 2024, CLA staff attended the 41st annual conference of the New York State Federation of Lake Associations (NYSFOLA) in Lake George, NY. The theme of the conference was, "It Takes a Community to Protect a Watershed."

SCAN CODE TO READ
KEY TAKEAWAYS
FROM NYSFOLA 2024



**\$1 towards
prevention =
\$100 in aquatic invasive
species control methods**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

■ CONTINUED

The CLA continues to work collaboratively with other lake organizations, including especially the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy with whom our operations are perfectly complementary. We are exploring ways to make our operations more efficient, and will keep you posted.

Meantime, it's no exaggeration to say that CLA needs your financial support more than ever at a time when government and foundation budgets are squeezed.

Please keep us afloat and serving the needs of both our beloved lake and our wonderful community!

Thank you so much for your consideration!

John

TO MAKE A DONATION
ONLINE, PLEASE SCAN QR
CODE OR VISIT



HERBIVORE MONITORING REVEALS DECLINE IN EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL

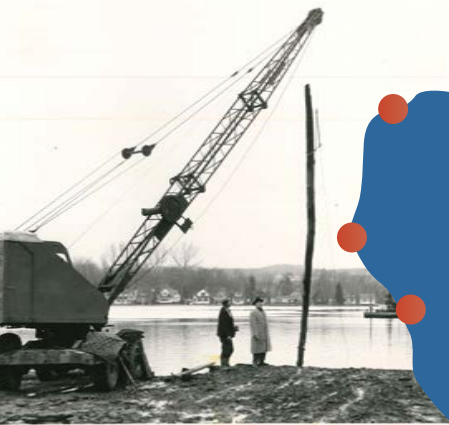
This summer, Rooney's Aquatic Biologists continued the herbivore monitoring on Chautauqua Lake, a program that has been in place for the past 20 years. Herbivore activity serves as a natural biological control, helping to prevent Eurasian watermilfoil plants from growing to nuisance levels. The impact of herbivores is assessed by



**WEEVIL
DESTROYS
EURASIAN
MILFOIL BY
CAUSING
DAMAGE TO THE
PLANT STEM**

analyzing plant stems. **In 2024 workers could only collect 53.07% of plant stems, the smallest percentage of all the years of monitoring** due

to the elimination of plants that has occurred. The crew had to throw more rake tosses and spent more time finding plants than is usual in most locations.



Did you know that there are 11 major streams, along with many more smaller tributaries, that flow into Chautauqua Lake to form its watershed?

THE MAJOR STREAMS ARE:

- | | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| ● Goose Creek | ● Mud Creek | ● Maple Springs Creek |
| ● Ball Creek | ● Little Inlet | ● Bemus Creek |
| ● Prendergast Creek | ● Big Inlet | ● Dutch Hollow Creek |
| ● Lighthouse Creek | ● Dewittville Creek | |

After reaching the lake, the water flows south where it enters the Chadakoin River at the end of the lake below Celoron. From there the long journey begins, finally ending near New Orleans at the mouth of the Mississippi River and the Gulf of Mexico.

History of the CLA

The Chautauqua Lake Association traces its beginnings back to 1946 when a special committee of the Jamestown Chamber of Commerce was established to study deteriorating conditions in the lake and to seek the means to improve lake quality.

Following an exhaustive study and report of the findings, but lacking the funds necessary for corrective action, the Chautauqua Lake Association was created in 1953.

The original objectives centered around the issues of weed, pollution and pest control; dredging and pile removal; soil conservation and lake safety.

As the science of lake management has expanded over the years, so too has the CLA's mission to include best practices of environmentally sound plant control, scientific monitoring and research, healthy shoreline management and public education in furtherance of the philosophy "A Clean Lake is Everyone's Business."

UNDERWATER SPILES ARE BOATING HAZARD

Attention officers of Villages and Towns bordering on Chautauqua Lake.

The dredging committee of the Chautauqua Lake Association stand ready to help you with the removal of abandoned pilings, which it feels are a navigational hazard and obstruction to the free flow of water in the lake.

For example, the committee estimated, there are between 300 and 400 pilings alone at Celoron and another 100 at Greenhurst. The latter were reported underwater, posing a special boating threat.

So if you have any problems involving pilings contact the dredging committee. Roger Chagnon is its chairman.

Dec. 8, 1954

Sunspot

SEND ONE DOLLAR,
OR MORE TO CHAUTAUQUA
LAKE ASSOCIATION FOR PILING
REMOVAL!



**HELP US CONTINUE OUR
DECADES LONG MISSION TO
KEEP THE LAKE SAFE!**

Your contribution directly supports
our lake maintenance programs.

■ ChautauquaLakeAssociation.org/donate/





FALL 2024

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The CLA is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

NON PROFIT
Us Postage
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Upcoming Events

DECEMBER 3

GIVING TUESDAY

Support the CLA
with a year-end
donation on this
national day of
giving.



FIND US ON
FACEBOOK for a
behind-the-scenes
look at the work
happening in the
CLA Shop.

SPRING 2025

PHOTO CONTEST

Snap and share your
favorite pictures of
Chautauqua Lake
for a chance to WIN
tickets to Denim &
Diamonds.

ANNUAL MEETING

An evening of dinner
and discussion on
Chautauqua Lake.

GIVEBIG CHQ

Spend the day with
the CLA for a virtual
tour of our in-lake
operations.

SUMMER 2025

FLARE SALE

An annual July
4th tradition with
proceeds to benefit
the CLA.

GIVE 716

An online fundraising
event hosted by the
Buffalo Bills & Sabres
Foundations.

DENIM & DIAMONDS

The CLA's social
event of the summer!

DRAGON BOAT RACE

Paddles up at
Celoron Park!

**"BEACON OF LIGHT MIRRORED
IN TRANQUIL WATERS."**

— A. WILSON, Celoron