FALL 2021

CHAUTAUQUA LAKE ASSOCIATION, INC.

429 EAST TERRACE AVE.
LAKEWOOD, NY 14750

(716) 763-8602

ChautauquaLakeAssociation.org

@CHAUTAUQUALAKEASSOCIATION

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UPCOMING EVENTS

2022 - ALL YEAR
50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE US CLEAN WATERS ACT
The CLA will be joining with organizations nationally in celebration of the anniversary.

WINTER 2022 - TBD
CHQ LAKE ICE PICK

SEPTEMBER 16 - 18, 2022
GREEN FONDO CLIMATE RIDE
Signup to show your support of TEAM CLA in this charity cycling event, visit Climateride.org/events/green-fondo-chautauqua/ for details!

Dear CLA Members,

I have been honored to serve as your President in 2021. This year was quite challenging in many ways and I believe the CLA did its best for Chautauqua Lake. Every CLA employee, Board and Association member wants Chautauqua Lake to be healthy and beautiful for the enjoyment of all, this year and for many decades to come.

In 2021 the CLA faced many obstacles including financial uncertainty, potential staffing shortages, and unpredictable weather. The COVID pandemic only made matters worse and I am grateful that everyone at the CLA worked together to produce positive results. I would like to thank the many elected officials, at all levels of government, who helped provide vital public tax dollars for the CLA, even in the midst of a pandemic. Thanks also goes to the Alliance, the Chautauqua Institution, a number of regional foundations as well as the many local businesses and individuals who provided crucial funds. This community-wide support enabled us to reach our targeted budget, thus ensuring CLA's work on the lake in 2021.

Even though the pandemic negatively impacted our staffing this year, CLA's leadership worked hard, adapted and delivered. We hired and trained enough seasonal crew members to work on the lake from early May through September, the longest CLA season on record! And then, there was the weather, producing low lake levels in the spring after a dry winter followed then by large storms with many days of rainfall and some flooding by mid-summer. CLA met the weather challenges by launching equipment earlier in the spring, where they cleaned up tons of debris left over from winter, and later tackled summer storms that made the lake safe for all to enjoy.

The 2022 year will soon be upon us and funding for our CLA operation will again be a major challenge. I do believe much more work needs to be done for Chautauqua Lake to be healthy and beautiful for many years to come. The CLA can help lead efforts to expand services on Chautauqua Lake by working closely with the DEC, Chautauqua County and surrounding towns. I envision us working together to implement a dredging program which would treat a minimum of one major outlet/creek per year. Shoreline clean-up should be also expanded — starting earlier in the spring and running later into the fall season, again by working closely with DEC, Chautauqua County leaders and townships. And, finally... the CLA has some very old equipment that will soon need to be replaced. I hope the CLA can help lead efforts to expand vital services for the lake in the near future.

May the CLA continue to rise to every challenge placed in front of it and provide for a continued safe and healthy Chautauqua Lake for all to use and enjoy. I look forward to working closely with all organizations and community leaders and your continued support.

DR. RUDY MUELLER, CLA President

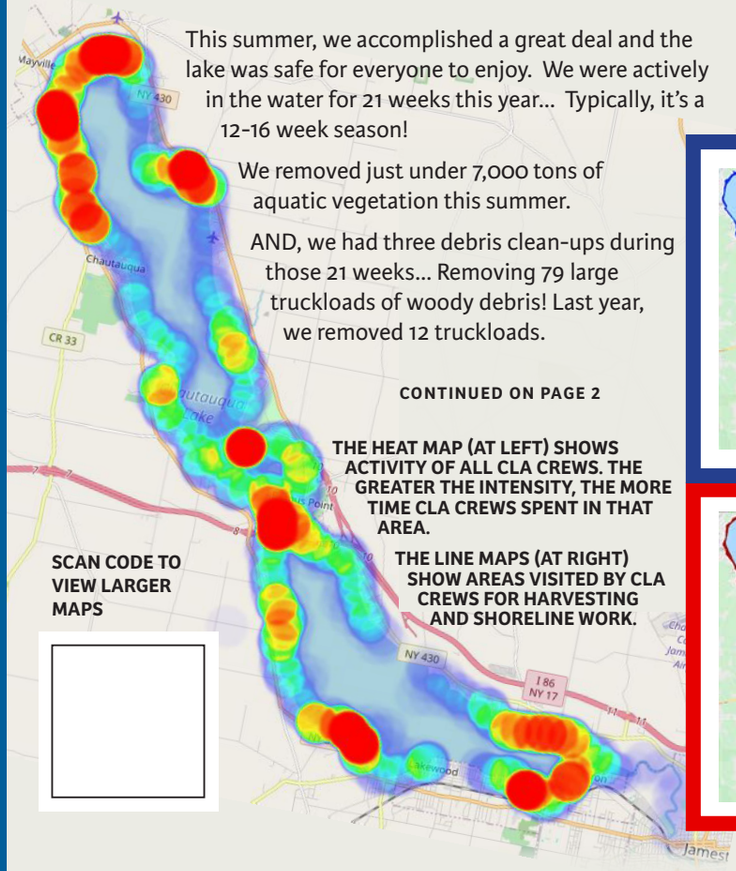
SUMMARY OF 2021 IN-LAKE ACTIVITIES

This summer, we accomplished a great deal and the lake was safe for everyone to enjoy. We were actively in the water for 21 weeks this year... Typically, it's a 12-16 week season!

We removed just under 7,000 tons of aquatic vegetation this summer.

AND, we had three debris clean-ups during those 21 weeks... Removing 79 large truckloads of woody debris! Last year, we removed 12 truckloads.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



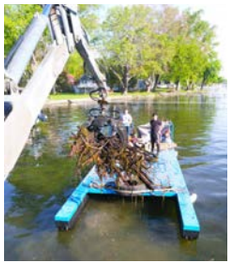
THE HEAT MAP (AT LEFT) SHOWS ACTIVITY OF ALL CLA CREWS. THE GREATER THE INTENSITY, THE MORE TIME CLA CREWS SPENT IN THAT AREA.

THE LINE MAPS (AT RIGHT) SHOW AREAS VISITED BY CLA CREWS FOR HARVESTING AND SHORELINE WORK.

SCAN CODE TO VIEW LARGER MAPS

MAY 10
LAKE WIDE DEBRIS CLEAN-UP BEGAN
Crews removed woody debris from spring storms.

MAY 24
PRE-SEASON CURLY-LEAF PROJECT BEGAN
Over 2 million pounds removed in 3 weeks!

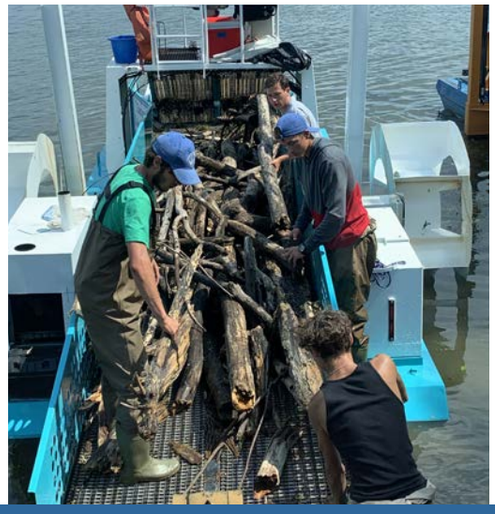


JUNE 14
CREWS BEGAN REGULAR SEASON ACTIVITIES
Harvesting and shore work throughout the lake continued through Labor Day.

JULY
STORM CLEANUP
Crews spent 2 weeks removing hazardous debris after the severe storms and flooding.

SEPT 7
POST-SEASON ACTIVITIES
Areas of extreme need were serviced as crews moved equipment south from Mayville and Long Point. CLA also ran another 2-week debris clean-up, collecting the large trees that crews were unable to handle during July storm cleanup.

OCT 1
IN-LAKE ACTIVITIES CONCLUDED
The latest CLA has worked in-lake in many years. 1.8 million pounds were removed during post-season.



SUMMARY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

We continued with our circular routes to ensure all neighborhoods were visited and GPS was used for more accurate reporting.

Work plans, mid-week updates and detailed weekly activity reports were posted publicly on our website and shared to Facebook every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Water sampling resumed and weekly HAB monitoring. Results are submitted to the state. Our annual scientific studies continued. Reports can be found on our website.

A FEW CHALLENGES
Like all years, we had obstacles to overcome to improve our operations. The two big obstacles we faced this summer were manpower and Mother Nature.

Similar to many businesses, we experienced employee shortages. To overcome these challenges, all operators were cross-trained on machines. This allowed us to continue working even when employees were out for the day as we were able to move employees across many crews, rather than have idle equipment.

Another challenge this summer was the weather. We worked through freezing temps, high winds, thunderstorms, all-day rains, flooding and extreme heat. Some days included many of these conditions throughout the day!

Employee well-being is always a priority and

2021
BY THE TON

2020
LAKEWOOD CREW

2600
LONG POINT CREW

CAPITAL GRANT APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED FOR AGING EQUIPMENT

SCAN CODE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR EQUIPMENT

THE CLA PRIORITIZES LAKE SCIENCE

CLA staff connects annually with the NYS Federation of Lakes Association (NYSFOLA), its WNY Division and with the North American Lake Management Society.

Staff and volunteers are also involved with the NYSDEC-NYSFOLA Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP), with Harmful Algal Bloom sampling, reporting and with algal bloom screening programs sponsored by SUNY ESF and Cornell University.

Additionally, the CLA funds the independent Racine Johnson Aquatic Ecologists' Chautauqua Lake Macrophyte Monitoring Program that studies the lake's aquatic plant community, herbivore activity and mussel presence. These reports are available to the public on the CLA website.

LAKE TEMPERATURE
Reviewing CSLAP data, Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) personnel have observed that statistically "there is a significant ($p<0.05$) decadal trend of increasing and long-term (all data) trends of increasing surface water temperatures in the north basin, and highly significant ($p<0.01$) decadal and long-term trends of increasing surface temperatures in the south basin."

The impacts of these trends have yet to be learned. CSLAP reports for Chautauqua Lake and many other NYS lakes can be found at NYSFOLA.org.

The CLA is investigating the possibility of installing a thermometer in each lake basin. These would allow the public to observe current near-shore lake water temperatures. Stay connected on the CLA Facebook Page for further information.

advanced preparation was done to keep crews safe. At a moments notice, we were able to adapt to alternate work plans when necessary.

ALL NEIGHBORHOODS WERE VISITED BY CLA CREWS AT LEAST TWO TIMES DURING THE REGULAR SEASON

Despite these obstacles, our staff kept to their weekly goals and all neighborhoods were visited at least two times during the regular season.

WATERCRAFT STEWARDS

Eleven stewards were active this summer at Chautauqua Lake, Cassadaga Lake, and Dunkirk Harbor where over 8,000 boats were inspected. This is an important spread prevention program worthy of everyone's support.

A LOOK AHEAD

With hopes that funding requests will be met, we plan to continue similar operations in 2022 and that overall services can be enhanced to best fit the needs of Chautauqua Lake.

At the end of the season, CLA members and summer employees were sent a survey to help us better understand their wants and needs. We are reviewing the responses now to plan for next summer, improving maintenance and general operations, to be sure we are performing as efficiently as we can. Thank you to those that took the time to comment. Your ideas are important to us.

Additionally, we remind you, the CLA is here to assist you with your near shore needs. Between our visits, you can help by creating piles along your shoreline. Call our office to let us know and we will pick them up. A clean lake is everyone's business!

HEATHER NOLAN-CASKEY
Community Services Manager

DURING BURTIS BAY CLEANUP

PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING THE CLA BY MAKING A DONATION TODAY. YOUR SUPPORT DIRECTLY BENEFITS OUR LAKE MAINTENANCE PROGRAM.

THIS YEAR, I HEREBY PLEDGE A TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION OF: ○ $1000 ○ $500 ○ $250 ○ $100 ○ $50 ○ $25 ○ OTHER _____

SIGNATURE _____ **DATE** _____

MY EMAIL ADDRESS _____

○ **MY EMPLOYER WILL MATCH MY CONTRIBUTION**

SEND CHECKS BY MAIL TO:
Chautauqua Lake Association, Inc.,
429 East Terrace Ave.,
Lakewood, NY 14750

SECURE ONLINE DONATIONS CAN BE MADE USING ANY CREDIT CARD. TO VISIT OUR WEBSITE, SCAN THIS CODE OR TYPE CHAUTAUQUALAKEASSOCIATION.ORG/MEMBERSHIPS.
CLA is a 501(c)3 organization

AFTER BURTIS BAY CLEANUP

1450
MAYVILLE CREW

910
POST SEASON CREW

6980
TOTAL TONS REMOVED

CITIZENS SCIENCE VOLUNTEER, JANE CONROE

NY VOTERS ADOPTED the Green Amendment to the state constitution amending Article 1 to also read: "Each person shall have a right to clean air and water, and a healthful environment."

The CLA will continue to manage its operations in a manner that protects such rights and which will preserve the lake for future generations.

DID YOU KNOW?

THE CLA WEBSITE DISPLAYS A LAKE CAMERA AND REAL TIME DATA!

SCAN THE CODE BELOW FOR A VIRTUAL VISIT TO THE CLA FROM OUR WEBSITE

CLA Executive Director Doug Conroe and CLA Citizens Science Volunteer Jane Conroe have been collaborating with Greg Boyer, PhD, at SUNY ESF and Ruth Richardson, PhD, at Cornell University on pilot projects that will provide on-site screening tools to quickly identify the presence of harmful algae using low-cost hand-held microscopes.

Normally lab tests, that take several days to produce results, are required to confirm the existence of harmful conditions. These microscope images can be immediately obtained and transmitted digitally where they can be viewed by the universities and/or NYSDEC.

SUNY ESF is currently collaborating on developing an app that can be used to analyze the photo to immediately identify the species of algae. The image (top left) was taken with the SUNY ESF microscope. Drs. Boyer and Richardson recently reported on their programs during last month's Finger Lakes Institute HABS Webinar.

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MODERN DAY ADVENTURER VISITS CHAUTAUQUA LAKE ON 22 RIVERS TOUR

Canoeist Neal Moore recently passed through Chautauqua County on his "Sea-To-Shining Sea" trek on America's waterways.

His adventure started in February of 2020 in Astoria, Oregon, and is expected to conclude in New York City on December 14. There he will be joined by a grand paddle fest that will circle the Statue of Liberty.

While traversing the length of Chautauqua Lake, Neal landed at Chautauqua Institution. After spending an evening at the Athenaeum Hotel, Neal extended his stay on Chautauqua Lake for three additional nights.

Why did he chose to paddle instead of hiking or driving? He responded that the waterways are the great original connector of America. He felt that the network of rivers would be best pathway to achieve his goal of understanding America and its environment.

How did our area's rivers compare with the rivers that he had experienced throughout his trip? He responded that he found the "Allegany River to be a wild and scenic free-flowing river that is comparable with the best." A number of the rivers that he traversed felt more like lakes due to the pools that were established by their dams. They were generally calm although they did have strong currents. He considered the Allegany to be the "end of the challenge" of his upstream paddling. The upcoming waterways across New York State are expected to be calm in most cases. Stretches along the Erie Canal will require him to affix the wheel assembly for the canoe, while he dons a harness to pull it.

22 RIVERS, 22 STATES, 7,500 MILES BY CANOE — MOST BY PADDLING, OFTEN PORTAGING...

Early on, Neal was asked what if he decided to give up fighting the challenges of the trek. He responded "I can't stop. It's the people along the way... People are phenomenal."

Neal's trek can be followed on Instagram and on his website www.22rivers.com.

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To read the full story of the Conroes visit with Neal Moore, scan the QR above with your smart phone camera.