Where is Owasco Lake in the Finger Lakes?
Owasco Lake:

- Sixth largest of the Finger Lakes
- The lake is 11.1 miles long
- Maximum width of 1.3 miles
- Maximum depth of 177 feet
- Surface elevation of 712 feet above sea level
- The lake has a volume of 212 billion US gallons
Owasco Lake:

- Drains a 208 square mile watershed
- The largest lake to watershed ratio (1:20) of all the Finger Lakes.
- This ratio means that for every one square mile of lake, there are 20 square miles of land in the watershed!
- This means that Owasco Lake's water quality is greatly impacted by the activities occurring on the land.
Make no mistake, what we do in the ‘shed, ends up in the lake.
OWLA Collaborates With These Stakeholder Organizations

Owasco Watershed Lake Association
Partners, Alliances and Advisors

- CC Environment al Health
- CC Board of Health
- Auburn Water Treatment Plant
- Auburn
- CC Dept. Planning and Economic Development
- NYS Dept. Environmental Conservation
- Save Owasco Now
- Finger Lakes Land Trust
- The Nature Conservancy
- Finger Lakes Water Hub
- Cayuga Lake Watershed Network
- Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association
- Cayuga Lake Preservation Association
- Skaneateles Lake Association
- Keuka Lake Association
- Finger Lakes Regional Watershed Alliance (FLRWA)
- Great Squaw Bay Association
- Seneca Lake Pure Waters Association
- Honeoye Valley Association
- Otisco Lake Preservation Association
- Finger Lakes Regional Watershed Alliance (FLRWA)
- Finger Lakes Regional Watershed Alliance (FLRWA)
- Cayuga Community College

Owasco Watershed Lake Management Council (OWLMC)

- OLM Inspection Committee
- OLM Inspection Program

Finger Lakes- Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance (FLOWPA)

- Cayuga County (DP&ED)
- Tompkins County (SWCD)
- 23 additional counties

Owasco Watershed Lake Association

Cayuga County Water Quality Mgmt. Agency (CCWQMA)

- CC Environment al Health
- Lake Como Association
- Cayuga Lake Watershed Network
- CC Dept. Planning and Economic Development (DP&ED)
- CC Association of Town Supervisors
- Cornell Cooperative Extension
- Skaneateles Lake Association
- 200 additional lake associations

NYS Federation of Lake Associations (NYSFOLA)

- Keuka Lake Association
- Finger Lakes Association
- Cayuga Lake Association
- Otisco Lake Association
- Lake Como Association

Revised 5/1/18
Concerned landowners and citizens

Advocates for policies, innovation, and best practices
Harmful Algal Bloom
October, 2017

Manure Spill
April, 2014
What’s happening to our Lake?

Harmful Algae Blooms (HABs)

Toxic levels 80x more than DEC limits

Negatively impacting our economy and quality of life

THIS CAN’T BE THE NEW NORMAL
OWLA Volunteers

Take water samples from April to November to support numerous research projects.

Walk the shoreline looking for HAB outbreaks and taking samples when found.

Support the DEC's Citizen Statewide Lake Assessment Program & Quagga Research.
In the Water

• Disrupt HAB Lifecycles – In lake mitigation/Research/Bubblers & Ultrasound
• Citizen Science Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP)
• Quagga Infestation – HAB Impact Research
• Lake Level Study – Update the Rule Curve
In the ‘Shed

• Identify & Mitigate Nutrient Hotspots – Move upstream
• Ag Nutrient/Sediment Reduction – Shovels in ground
• Update Watershed Rules and Regulations
• Education & Outreach
  – ‘Be Watershed Aware’ Campaign
  – March to Lake Day Symposium
In the Water

- HAB Monitoring Program
- Citizen Science Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP)
- In-lake near shore and in-tributary monitoring devices
- Weed Harvester
In the ‘Shed
- Identify & Mitigate Nutrient Hotspots – Move upstream
- Ditch Improvement Program – Hydroseeding and rip rap installation
- Continue to participate in updating Watershed Rules and Regulations
- Education & Outreach
  - ‘Be Watershed Aware’ Campaign
  - Bob Brower Symposium
What it takes...

- Volunteers, volunteers, volunteers!!!!
- Closely collaborate with numerous stakeholders to ensure shared visions and plans – no wasted or duplicative efforts
- Identify what’s best, what’s next and who is doing what
- Find the funding
- Communicate, communicate, communicate
- Keep the faith!!
It’s time for everyone to become WATERSHED AWARE and be part of the solution

www.owla.org