



# Brant Lake A 25 Year Journey in Lake Management

# Heintzelman Library on the Mill Pond, Brant Lake.



# Fun Question

- Starting in the 1880's, many famous and wealthy individuals started vacationing at Brant Lake.
- Can you name the US President that visited Brant *multiple times* for the wonderful fishing and hunting staying at the Sunset Mountain Lodge?






Teddy Roosevelt.

# Agenda

- About me
- What this presentation is, and what it is not.
- Brant Lake Fast Facts
- 25-year Journey:
  - Lake Management
  - Tipping Points
  - Partnerships-including community
  - Education and Outreach
  - 2024 Procella Treatment

# About me

- Introduced to Adirondacks in November 1954-took my first swim in Little Long Lake.
- 1970 REMFC Wilderness Program-10 weeks in Montana, Alberta and British Columbia. Base Camp at edge of Blackfeet Reservation and Glacier National Park
- 1976 met my future wife at HWS in Geneva, NY on Seneca Lake-first visit to Brant Lake was in 1982.
- Professionally spent 20 years in Digital Pathology including Danaher and currently as VP of Sales at Corista
- Joined and served in the Brant Lake Association since 2000.



# Leadership Team I work with.

*Corista's image-based  
workflow solution was  
designed **by pathologists**  
for pathologists total  
science solution.*



David C. Wilbur, MD

Co-founder, Chief Medical  
Scientist and Pathologist

#### AFFILIATIONS



JOHNS HOPKINS  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



J. Carl Barrett, PhD

Chief Life Sciences Officer,  
Pharma Executive, Professor

#### AFFILIATIONS



Keith Kaplan, MD

Chief Medical Officer, Ex-US  
Army and Pathologist

#### AFFILIATIONS

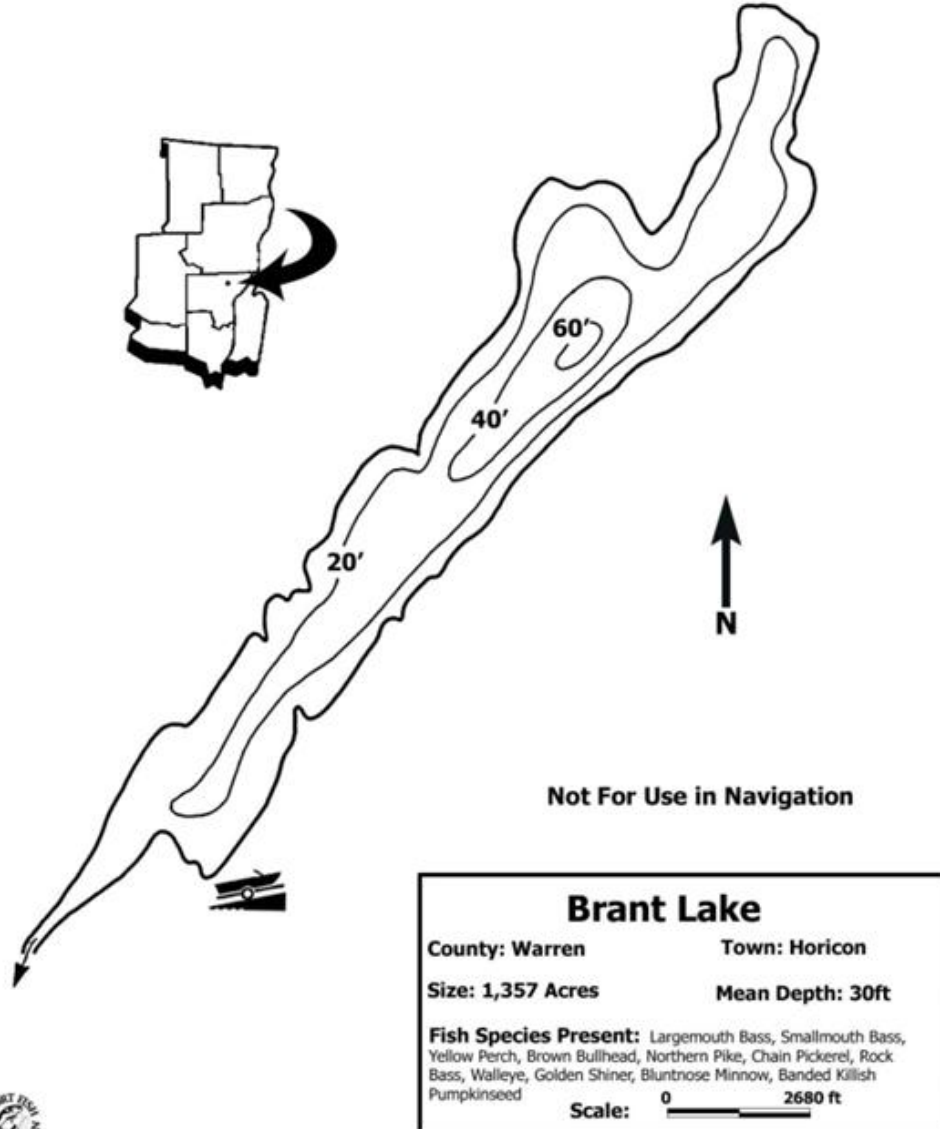






## Region 5

### Brant Lake



## Brant Lake Fast Facts

2 lake management plans (on website)

2 major Lake management Plans-  
2001-WCSWCD, Town of Horicon,  
2013-4 Suny Oneonta

LCLGRPB for 2026-7



# Brant Lake Fast Facts

- Brant Lake, in its current configuration, was created in 1907-1908 when the upper dam was built by the Town of Horicon and the Brant Lake Fishing association. (the Brant Lake Fishing Association was formed in August 1907 and Forerunner to the Brant Lake Association), flooding mostly farmland..
- Brant Lake is approximately 5.25 miles long, surface area of 1488 acres, 801 feet above sea level, with a shoreline of 15.3 miles, mean depth of 30 feet, 65 feet maximum.. Lake retention is 7 months, classification is AA special. Watershed of 25,000 acres (18% ratio of lake to watershed), classified as Mesotrophic (intermediate level of productivity, medium-level nutrients, clear water, with submerged aquatic plants).

# Brant Lake Fast Facts

- 650 lake and lake Access properties, NYS 8 and Palisades Road run east and west sides of Brant Lake
- Five Major Employers (3 Camps, 2 Marinas) with over **6 million in local annual payroll.**
- 1,512 in full time residents
- 66% of Property and School Tax revenue comes from Lake and Lake Access properties.
- Over **88** registered Short -Term Rentals, **now with Sales Tax Revenue Collection and Sharing with the Town of Horicon, now with a local STR law**
- Over 100 Contractors that have done business in Town of Horicon-**“trickle-down economics, and often first-time employment.”**
- **Bob Blais, former mayor of Lake George village for over 60 years said it best “you take care of the lake, you take care of the village”**

# NYSDEC “Best Use Assessment”

| Best Use                     | Use Assessment          | Use Assessment Confirmation | Pollutant(s) Cause(s) | 303(d) Year | Integrated Reporting Category |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|
| Fishing                      | Impaired                | Confirmed                   | Dissolved Oxygen      | 2022        | IR5                           |
| Secondary Contact Recreation | Fully Supported         | Confirmed                   | Total Phosphorus      | N/A         | IR1                           |
| Primary Contact Recreation   | Fully Supported         | Confirmed                   | Total Phosphorus      | N/A         | IR1                           |
| Source of Water Supply       | Impaired                | Unconfirmed                 | Iron                  | N/A         | IR3                           |
|                              |                         |                             | Manganese             |             |                               |
| Shellfishing                 | N/A for Waterbody Class | —                           | —                     | —           | —                             |



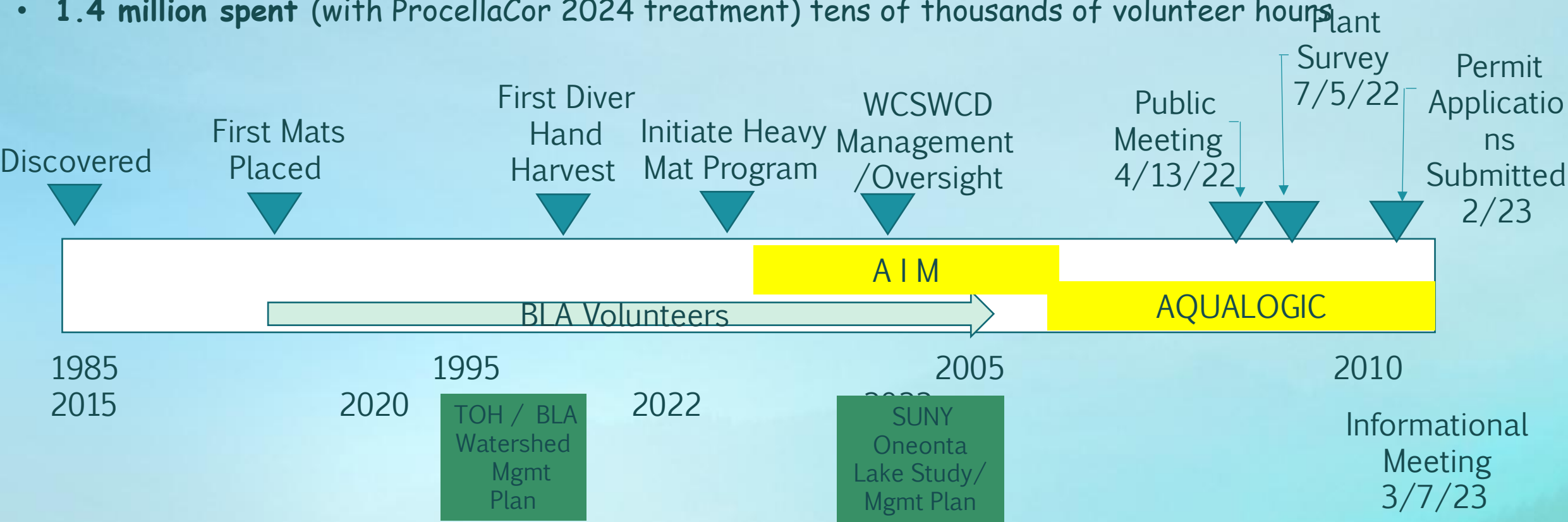
# The Journey 3 Guiding principles

- Total available science drive our decision making
- Always Open –Members, Community, Local Businesses, The Town of Horicon and our Partnerships-No hidden agendas
- WIIFM- ‘What's in it for me’-Deliver Value back

# EWM History in Brant Lake

## The BLA Recognized the Threat in the 1980's

- Discovered in Brant in 1985.
- The BLA initiated control with placement of several mats over EWM beds.
- During the 2000's volunteer divers continued hand harvesting and increased the matting.
- The Town of Horicon & and the BLA joined forces in 2007. Professional harvesting was initiated in 2008.
- Professional services costs ranged from \$35K to \$97K per season.
- **1.4 million spent** (with ProcellaCor 2024 treatment) tens of thousands of volunteer hours



# Tipping Points

- +2001-First Lake Plan with Warren County Soil and Water Conservation district, Town of Horicon and other stakeholders.
- + 2004- Brant Lake Membership opened to anyone-eliminated lakefront requirement.
- +2007-Town of Horicon joins financially in Harvest cost, and the Brant Lake Association, Town of Horicon and WCSWCD enter 3-way agreement for lake management.
- + 2011 Town of Horicon Supervisor Ralph Bently sponsors and passes Warren County NY law prohibiting transport of Invasive Species.



# Tipping Points

- +2013-4 Suny Oneonta Lake Management Plan
- + 2 years of science, fishery, and data compilation.
- +-Suny Oneonta Bathymetric Mapping of Brant Lake.
- -50% Surface area of Brant lake can support EWM growth.
- In contrast Lake George and Schroon lake have 12% and 13% surface area respectively.

# Tipping Points 2019

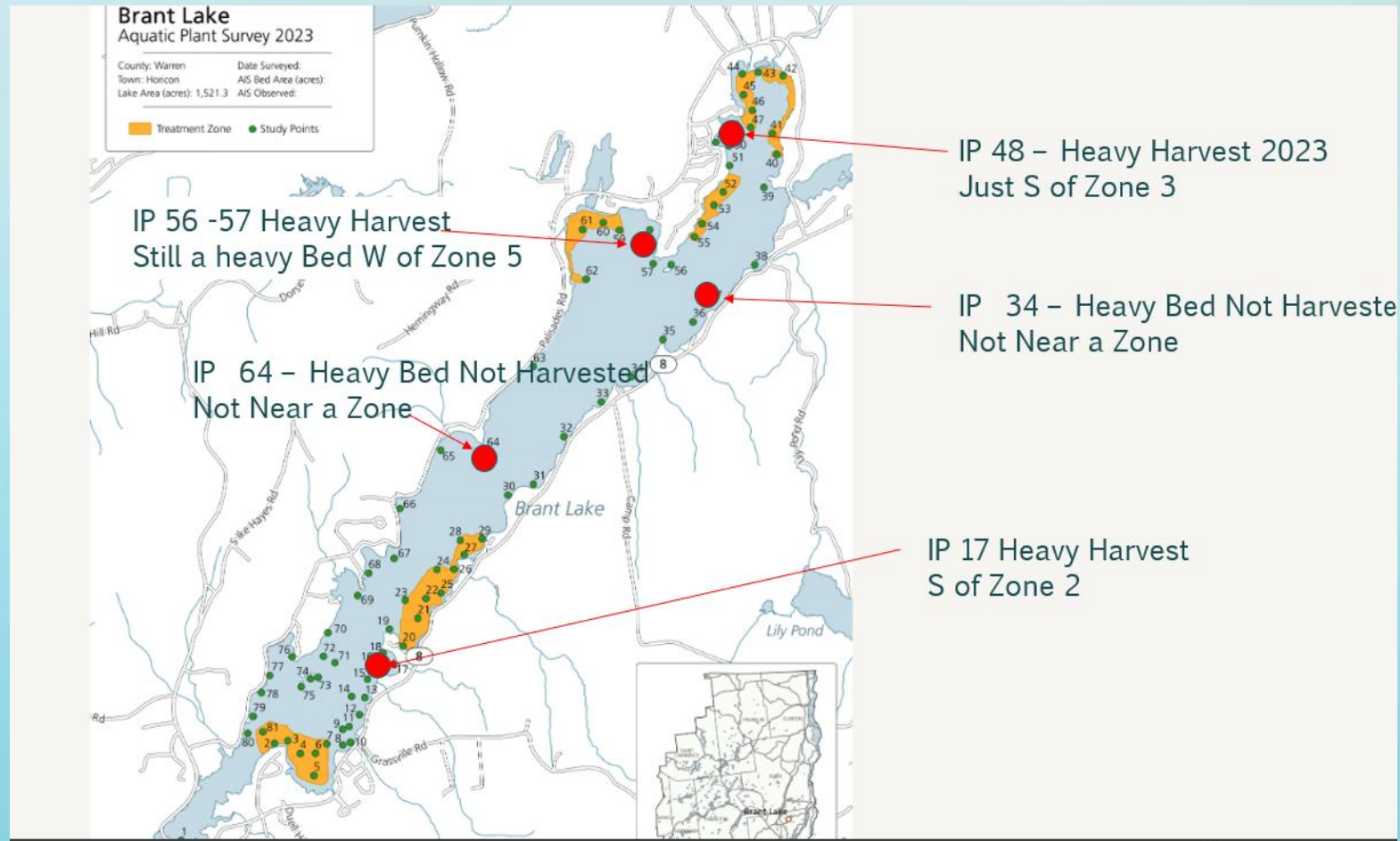
- -Brant lake water quality reached a tipping point in 2019 when our Eurasian Milfoil Contractor, Aqualogic informed us that they were not able to control Eurasian Milfoil growth in Brant Lake, even if we doubled hand harvesting efforts from 12 to 24 weeks. (120K to 240 K). Aqualogic recommended investigating herbicides.
- + BLA had 20+ years of harvest data including location
- +Started ProcellaCor Investigation Committee including Town of Horicon and Scientific Partners

# Tipping Points-2021-2023

- -+2021 NYSDEC Downgrade of Brant Lake “impaired waterway”
- +2021 “Total Community Stakeholder approach”
- + 2022 Upgraded Brant Lake newsletter to Community 6 pages to 45+.
- +-2022 BLA Board with the Town of Horicon voted to move forward with ProcellaCor treatment after 3 years of public review
  - 6 Brantlaker’s, Website and FB-all open-
- +2022-2023 ProcellaCor communication 4 open meetings, and 2 complete (all Horicon) mailings, cross posted on Town of Horicon website & met with anyone who had a concern.



# 2023 Tipping Point 5 new heavy EWM beds (in red, orange is 5 planned treatment areas)





# 2024-Successful ProcellaCor treatment

- 
- Lake Management-Community approach & WIIFM & Economic Impact
  - Partnerships- Lake Associations, Scientific, Town, County and State
  - Community Involvement – All are stakeholders.

Education and Outreach –Food Truck Friday, High School and Town – entire association.



# 25 years-Lessons learned

- Lake Management-Community approach, Economic Impact & WIIFM (what's in it for me)
- Partnerships- Lake Associations, Scientific, Town, County and State
- Community Involvement – All are stakeholders.
- Education and Outreach-Food Truck Friday, High School, Town, Historical Society, visitors, and of course, your entire association.