



Chautauqua Lake Association

A Clean Lake is Everyone's Business!

NYSFOLA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

CHAUTAUQUA LAKE -- BUSY & ALIVE

MAY 3, 2025



Steward of Chautauqua Lake

CHAUTAUQUA LAKE

- Tourist destination
- 13,000 acres
- 42 miles of shoreline
- 2 basins
- 11 streams
- World-class fishing
- Diverse underwater plants



A scenic view of Chautauqua Lake. In the background, a dense forest of green trees covers a hillside. Several houses are visible along the shoreline, including a prominent one with a yellow and white striped awning. In the middle ground, several boats are docked at a pier. Some boats are covered with blue tarps, while others are white. A flagpole with an American flag and another flag is visible near the boats. The water in the foreground is dark blue with gentle ripples.

CLA Mission

The Chautauqua Lake Association's mission is to provide effective and cost efficient, science-based, in-lake maintenance along with plant and water quality monitoring for the health of Chautauqua Lake and the benefit of its users.



In-lake Maintenance - Why?

Operating since the early 1950's

- Addresses nuisance plant growth
- Supports the fishery
- Improves water circulation
- Supports navigation
- Assists contact recreation
- Removes nutrients



How? Informed stewardship.

Our Fleet:



Harvesters



Barges and transports



Hydromate Dredge

and

Skimmers





Plus
land support equipment



Maintenance Action

Harvesting

- Cutter bar lowers from 2 to 6 feet deep
- No undeveloped land is serviced
- Allows plant habitat to remain supporting the fishery & lake bottom stabilization
- Reduces nutrients
 - For every ton of vegetation removed, 1 pound of phosphorus is also removed





Maintenance Action

Shoreline Clean- up

Clean lakes need healthy shores

- Increases water flow
- Minimizes unwanted smells
- Reduces floating vegetation and
near shore build-up of plants & scum
- Assists homeowners



Maintenance Action

Storm and debris removal

- Allows safe navigation
- Opens creek mouths
- Assists homeowners
- Assists municipal governments



2023 Removal Results

436 Truckloads of aquatic vegetation was removed from Chautauqua Lake in 2023 (approx. 4,360 Tons) plus 10 tons of woody debris

2024 Removal Results

538 Truckloads of aquatic vegetation was removed from Chautauqua Lake in 2024 (approx. 5,380 Tons) plus 7.5 tons of woody debris





Informed by Science

- Foundation for actions
- Established programs
- Monitoring
- Professional advisors





Watercraft Stewards



- County-wide program
- Beginning our 10th season
- Over 10,000 boats are seen annually
- 7 Chautauqua Lake launches
- Cassadaga Lake
- 2 Lake Erie launches





New York State



- Beginning our 38th season
- Samples from 2 basins 8 times/year
- 3 volunteers





Monitoring



- Herbivores since 2002 with Racine-Johnson and Rooney Aquatic Biologists
- Macrophytes since 2002 with Racine-Johnson and SUNY Oneonta
- Harmful Algal Blooms since 2013 with SUNY ESF



Expert Advisors



Greg Boyer
SUNY ESF

Bob Johnson
Racine-Johnson



Scott Kishbaugh
NYSDEC



Paul Lord
SUNY Oneonta



Community Outreach



Dragon Boat Festival



Community Outreach

Photo Contest, Educational and Tabling Events



PLUS Ice Pic Light the Lake and Denim and Diamonds Fundraisers

Memberships and Collaborations

- NYSFOLA
- NALMS
- WNYPRISM
- NYSDEC
- Chautauqua County
- Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy
- Chautauqua-Conewango Consortium,
A Waterkeeper Alliance Affiliate
- Soil & Water Conservation District
- Town of Chautauqua MobiTrac Program
- Chautauqua Lake and Watershed Management
Alliance
- Conewango Creek Watershed Association

Starry Stonewort Removal Pilot Project September 2023



18 skimmer loads removed in 1.5 days



Crews are busy throughout
May, June, July, August &
September...

...for so many good reasons.



CLA Photo Contest submission



Message:

Informed Stewardship

- Safety and Science first
- Adapt to conditions
 - Vegetation Growth
 - Weather
 - Manpower
- Be flexible and prepared
 - Well-trained staff
 - Cross train operators
- Have Fun & Get The Job Done!





CHAUTAUQUA LAKE ASSOCIATION, INC.

429 East Terrace
Lakewood, NY 14750

Connect on Facebook / Instagram
ChautauquaLakeAssociation.org

Douglas Conroe
doug@chautauqualakeassociation.org

Heather Nolan-Caskey
heather@chautauqualakeassociation.org