

Chautauqua Lake Association

A Clean Lake is Everyone's Business!

NYSFOLA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

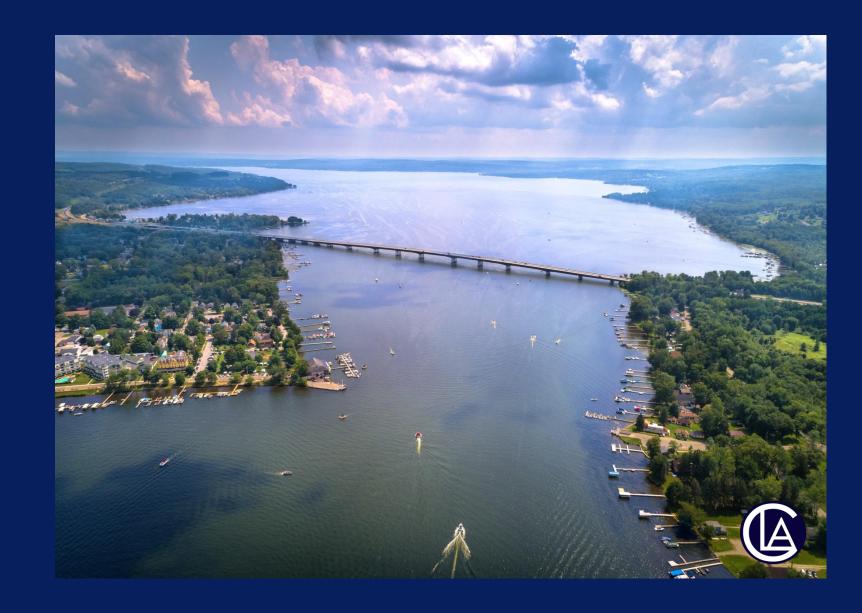
CHAUTAUQUA LAKE -- BUSY & ALIVE

MAY 3, 2025



CHAUTAUQUA LAKE

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







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-

Dean 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 Roonie Aquatic Biologists
- Macrophytes since 2002 with Racine-Johnson and <u>SUNY Oneonta</u>
- Harmful Algal Blooms since 2013 with SUNY ESF





Expert Advisors



Greg Boyer SUNY ESF







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 Dei

Denim and Diamonds Fundraisers

(A) 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





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

...for so many good reasons.





CLA Photo Contest submission



Informed Stewardship

- Safety and Science first
- Adapt to conditionsVegetation GrowthWeather

 - Manpower
- Be flexible and prepared
 Well-trained staff

 - Cross train operators
- Have Fun & Get The Job Done!





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