

Waterworks

New York State Federation of Lake Associations, Inc.

December 2016

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Masthead photo credit-

"Foggy Morning" by Tarki
Heath, COFOKLA

Hydrilla verticillata Confirmed in Tioga County

Story and photographs submitted by Hilary Mosher, Program Coordinator, Finger Lakes PRISM.

Hydrilla verticillata, a highly invasive aquatic plant, was confirmed last month in a small, dammed pond off the Little Nanticoke Creek in Owego, NY. The plant is characterized by its ability to dominate a waterbody and alter the physical and chemical features. The plant blocks sunlight due to the growth of thick mats which displace native vegetation (www.nyis.info). The Finger Lakes region has just four other confirmed sightings of Hydrilla - the first is located in an isolated pond in Broome County; two managed populations occur in Cayuga Lake (Tompkins and Cayuga County); and finally, a



managed infestation is located in a small pond in Monroe County.



Native to Korea, Hydrilla can be found invading freshwater lakes, ponds, rivers, and canals. It has pointed, bright green leaves that grown in a whorl along the stem. Typically in New York, there are five leaves per whorl. The margins of the leaf are serrated, and at the base of the stem is a small, potato-like tuber which grows in the sediment. The tubers allow Hydrilla to overwinter in our NY climate. According to the Chesapeake Bay Program, Hydrilla is common in the upper Chesapeake Bay and most freshwater tributaries, although this is the first observation in the Upper Susquehanna watershed in NY. The infestation in Owego, NY is located 1/2 mile north of the Susquehanna River where Hydrilla has great potential to spread downstream. Further survey work is needed in this area. The Finger Lakes - Partnership for Regional Invasive

(Continued on page 3)



This article is reprinted with permission from, and thanks to, Hilary R. Mosher, Coordinator, Finger Lakes - Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (315)781-4385. Photo credits: Dylan Hurd

NYSFOLA's mission is to protect the water resources of New York State by assisting local organizations and individuals through public dialogue, education, information exchange and collaborative efforts.

Waterworks

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P.O. Box 84

LaFayette, NY 13084-0084

Phone: (800)796-3652

e-mail: fola@nysfola.org

www.nysfola.org



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All letters to the editor represent the viewpoints of the author and may or may not reflect the opinion of the NYSFOLA membership or Board of Directors.

From the President - Richard Henderson

Greetings!

Another warm weather season has passed and for many of us, so have the balmy days spent relaxing lakeside with friends and family. It was an unusual year in that the drought we experienced caused a lot of stress on our freshwater ecosystems. Harmful algal blooms were more widespread this year than I recall in prior years. On Black Lake, we experienced a persistent bloom that covered nearly one quarter of the lake's surface, moving from one shoreline to the opposite over more than six weeks. Lower water levels in many New York lakes led to greater prevalence of macrophyte vegetation, further limiting aquatic recreational pursuits. Exposed rocks led to some severe accidents on some of our lakes.

But we recognize that this is part of the ever-changing watery ecosystems to which most of us gravitate. The battle with aquatic invasive species goes on. Hydrilla is making inroads in our state's waterways to the detriment of us all. Clean, Drain, Dry is now the law of our state and boat launch monitoring efforts are increasing all across the state. Yet it is obvious that a new law and scores of watchful lake stewards will not stem the invasions. While these two initiatives are vital, we need even more. We need an even better informed boating and fishing public. We need lakeshore residents who are aware that the majority of invasives have been introduced through human actions. While vigilance is important and necessary, education is the key! Recognize that there are no magic bullets to cure these ecological 'ills'. Prevention is the most cost effective way to slow the overrun of indigenous populations by opportunistic invaders.

Since the 1980's NYSFOLA has been at the forefront of recognizing, charac-

terizing, and learning about approaches to enhance the environmental health of New York lakes, ponds and reservoirs. As a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) environmental organization, we share our knowledge, explore new ideas and work to protect the water resources of our state. Our members make these endeavors possible. Without member support, we could not have done what we do for all those years.

In last fall's Waterworks we issued an appeal to 'Give a Gift to NY Lakes'. Many responded with generous gifts that arrived at a good time for the organization. To the extent permitted by law, many of your gifts are tax deductible; year-end giving may reduce your tax liability. NYSFOLA remains financially challenged to continue many of the initiatives that serve our customers. Increasing costs

as well as steady or declining revenue streams led to this situation. We will continue our appeal for year-end giving this year as well. Dues are not sufficient to continue our educational efforts at a sustained level, nor will they allow us to increase our outreach. To educate (the key) we need to expand our outreach, grow our membership, and increase citizen involvement and understanding of lake science.

Many assume that if someone doesn't ask for help, that individual doesn't need help. Working as the NYSFOLA president, I'm asking for your help. Year-end giving helped us greatly last year. I'm hopeful that your commitment and generosity will motivate you to give a gift to New York Lakes. In this season of Thanksgiving and the subsequent Holidays, I am optimistic that with your financial help, NYSFOLA will be increasingly successful and dynamic in fulfilling our customers' needs throughout 2017.



Species Management (PRISM) and partners are working together to develop a rapid response implementation plan



for control, outreach, and coordination of this newly discovered infestation in an important watershed.

Help #StoptheInvasion! **Know what to look for**. Check out the fingerlakesinvasives.org website or <http://nyis.info> for more information on this organism or other invasive species. **Document** any suspicious invasive species by taking multiple pictures and marking the area with GPS points. **Report** your finding to NYSFOLA or to the coordinator of your regional PRISM.

Get Involved with your PRISM!

There are eight Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management in New York. Join the listserv. Find out what's happening in your area!

http://www.nyis.info/?action=prism_partners

Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP)

<http://adkinvasives.com/>

PO Box 65

Keene Valley, NY 12943

(518)576-2082

Brendan Quirion, Program Coordinator

Capital-Mohawk PRISM

<http://www.capitalmohawkprism.org/>

Saratoga County Municipal Offices

50 W High ST #1

Ballston Spa, NY 12020

(518)885-8995

Laurel Gailor, Program Coordinator

Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership

<http://catskillinvasives.com/>

<http://catskillcenter.org/crisp/>

Catskill Center

43355 State Highway 28 - PO Box 504

Arkville, NY 12406

(845)586-2611

Finger Lakes - PRISM

<http://fingerlakesinvasives.org/>

The Finger Lakes Institute at

Hobart & William Smith Colleges

601 S. Main ST

Geneva, NY 14456

(315)781-4385

Hilary R. Mosher, Program Coordinator

Long Island Invasive Species Management Area

http://www.nyis.info/?action=liisma_pages

c/o NY Natural Heritage Program

625 Broadway, 5th Floor

Albany, NY 12233

(631)339-0987

liismaprism@gmail.com

Present Coordinator: Steve Young, Chief Botanist

(search for coordinator is in progress)

Lower Hudson PRISM

<http://www.lhprism.org/>

NY-NJ Trail Conference

600 Ramapo Valley RD

Mahwah, NJ 07430-1199

Linda Rohleder, Program Coordinator

(201) 512-9348 x821

Saint Lawrence - Eastern Lake Ontario PRISM

<http://www.sleloinvasives.org/>

1048 University Avenue

Rochester, NY 14607

Robert Williams, Program Coordinator

(315)387-3600 x7725 (Northern NY Project Office)

Western NY PRISM

<http://www.wnyprism.org/>

Great Lakes Center at SUNY Buffalo State

1300 Elmwood Avenue

Buffalo, NY 14222

Andrea Locke, Program Coordinator

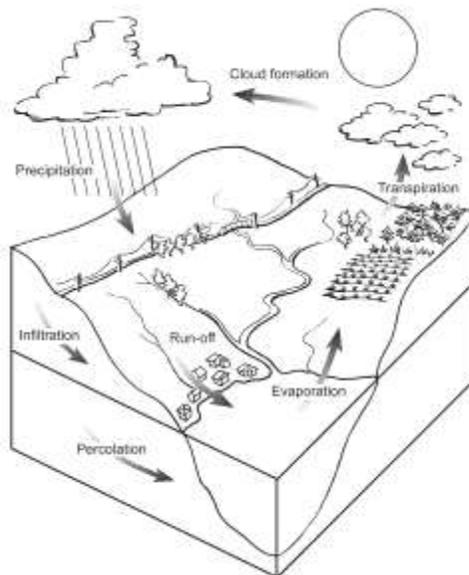
(716)878-4708

Lessons Learned from the Drought of 2016

By Rebecca Schneider

Now that it's autumn, we are all feeling some relieve from the drought. There has been a little more rain, and the reduced temperatures mean less evaporation, and leaf fall means less transpiration - overall, more water. This year's drought was the worst in more than three decades. Lake levels remain low, and ponds have dried out, in many parts of the State. This also means many of the tributary streams that supply our lakes also went dry, which had associated impacts on lake ecosystem health, including less cooling inflows to buffer the summer heating, and less dilution of the contaminants that made their way into the lakes. Swimming was less appealing, and water quality deteriorated. However, of greater concern was the increase in occurrence of toxic algal blooms, ~150 documented statewide, although the linkage to increasing temperatures and runoff is still not well understood.

California has been hit with extreme, continuous drought for almost a decade, and the rest of the country faced the warmest overall temperatures in historical record, however New York hasn't thus far really had to deal with this aspect



The hydrologic cycle shows that precipitation may seep into the soil as infiltration, move over land as runoff, and then move back into the atmosphere as evaporation or due to the transpiration or respiration activity of plants and animals.
- Credit: Wendy Skinner in *Diet for a Small Lake*, NYS-FOLA, 2009.

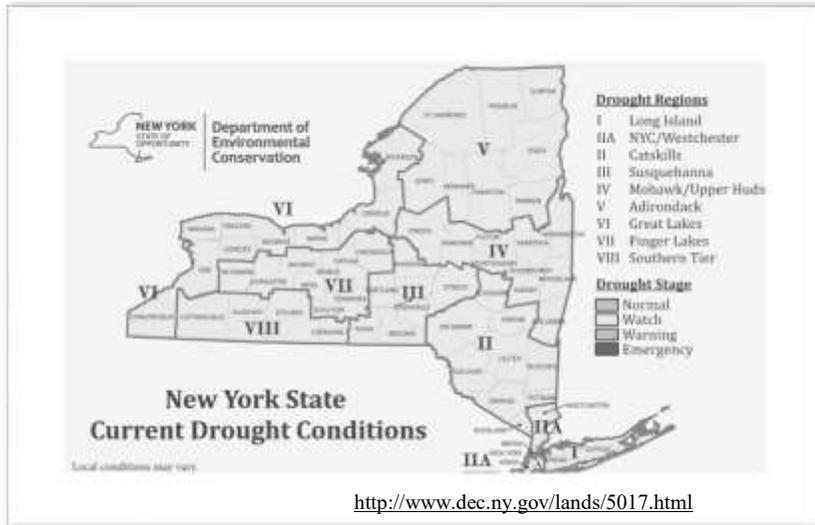
of climate change. We have strategies to address flooding and winter snows, but arguably only New York City worries about water conservation. New Yorkers have benefited from living in one of the wettest parts of the country.

For example, less than 2% of New York agriculture is irrigated. In contrast, 100% of agriculture is irrigated in the Southwestern United States.

However, what we experienced this summer, may become more of the norm in the future. Models of future precipitation patterns show that New York straddles the transition zone between wetter northern regions and drier climates to the south.

Warmer springs and longer growing seasons are already happening. An increase in the frequency, duration and magnitude of droughts is likely. This summer may have been a wake-up call to get better organized and prepared.

There is a lot that we should do, starting now, especially if the winter of 2-16-17 has sparse snowfall. This combined with the accumulated deficit of about a foot of rain, then summer 2017 could again be a dry one. (The winter snow is like a storage bank that helps maintain higher groundwater tables in the late spring and early summer.) Towns can set up drought preparedness plans, a public warning communications system, and con-



According to the NYS DEC website, <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5011.html>:

Although recent rains have helped to improve drought conditions, especially in Western New York State, all of New York State remains under a drought watch. Portions of New York State have a long term precipitation deficit of up to 16" since November 1, 2015. A sustained period of near-normal precipitation will be necessary to return to normal levels of water availability. For the latest updates on drought conditions, go to the current conditions page <http://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/5017.html>

Columbia Greene Lakes Coalition

August 12 Meeting Highlights

By Theresa C. Mayhew, NYSFOLA Board of Directors

The Columbia Greene Lakes Coalition held its annual summer meeting August 12 at Sleepy Hollow Lake in Athens, NY. The meeting was hosted by the Association of Property Owners of Sleepy Hollow Lake, Inc. and took place in their spacious Community Lodge that overlooks their picturesque 2200-acre lake. NYSFOLA Board Member Theresa Mayhew, Resource Educator with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Columbia and Greene Counties and Columbia-Greene Lakes Coalition coordinator, facilitated the meeting and, along with Sleepy Hollow Association Manager Laurel Mann -- also a NYSFOLA Board Member, welcomed the 70 folks in attendance before launching into the day's program offerings.



Photo Credit: Theresa Mayhew

Speakers included Senior Scientist Michael Martin from Princeton Hydro; Aquatic Biologist Brad Bowers from Solitude Lake Management; AIS Coordinator Cathy McGlynn from NYSDEC's Invasive Species Coordination Unit; GIS Specialist Brent Kinal and Summer Intern Sundas Rehman from the New York Natural Heritage Program's iMapInvasives group; and Capital/Mohawk Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM) coordinator Laurel Gailor. A Lakes Roundtable followed a delicious lunch

(Continued on page 6)

ervation steps associated with increasing levels of drought. It's also time to revisit our approach to storm events. The other aspect of climate change that we have been facing is an increase in high intensity rain events, or downpours. More of us are experiencing what it means to get 4 inches of rain in just a couple of hours. In an extreme case, Islip, Long Island received 13" of rain in just one day in August 2014. Stormwater is traditionally raced off the landscape via the network of roadside ditches, to straightened and channelized rivers in order to get it to the ocean as quickly as possible. The recent US EPA Phase II Stormwater Regulations were one effort to reduce this runoff, largely to help control pollution. However, as water becomes more precious, it also gives us a different approach to deal with future droughts. Capturing rainfall when plentiful and storing it for drought times will be the key.

Surface reservoirs are one solution. However, they are afflicted with the same issues of warming wa-



Rebecca Schneider is an Associate Professor in the Department of Natural Resources at Cornell University. Rebecca Schneider's program focuses on integrated, watershed-based, and sustainable water resource management in the face of climate change. She is also a long time member of the NYSFOLA Board of Directors. Photo Credit: <https://blogs.cornell.edu/naturalresources/tag/rebecca-schneider/>

ters, pollution, and algal blooms that are impacting our lakes. Instead, more focus should be placed on aquifer recharge and protection. Water stored underground has the benefits of being cooler and cleaner - many contaminants are naturally filtered out by soil processes. Higher groundwater tables help to maintain stream flow and keep wells filled during dry periods. Strategies to increase groundwater recharge during rain events include maintaining forested lands, increasing the organic matter content of fields, and maintaining cover crops through fall and winter. And there's more. Disconnecting roadside ditches from streams and redirecting their flow to infiltration basins can capture as much as 20% of runoff, storing it underground, and also reducing flooding in streams. "Save the rain for a droughty day!"

(thank you Sleepy Hollow BOD) and featured individual reports from the following lake associations -- Copake Lake, Lake Barbara, Long Lake, Queechy Lake, and Robinson Pond. As Michael Martin had focused on his work on Sleepy Hollow Lake during his presentation, they deferred their reporting time to the other lakes present. Lake representatives discussed lake management activity that's taken place at their lakes so far this summer as well as upcoming actions and events. We also had several environmental/water quality professionals from biological engineering firms in attendance.

The day was capped with a surprise presentation which was grounded in this year's Invasive Species Awareness Week (ISAW) which took place July 10-16. IASW featured a Water Chestnut Chasers Challenge which was the PRISM that had the most records entered would receive a trophy to mark their achievement. As fate would have it, the Capital/Mohawk PRISM emerged the winner and Brent presented a fitting



Capital-Mohawk PRISM Coordinator Laurel Gailor accepts the "Water Chestnut Chasers Challenge" Award from intern Molly Pokrzywka. Photo Credit: Theresa Mayhew

"trophy" made out of preserved water chestnuts to Laurel in front of the group. There was a touch of irony because Laurel's summer intern, Molly Pokrzywka, crafted the award and had carefully transported it to the meeting only to see her boss receive it. We were supposed to end the day with a boat tour of the lake but the oppressive heat and stifling humidity nipped that offering. A big thank you to all our speakers, to those that

SUNY Oneonta Biological Field Station Receives "Friend of NALMS" Award at 36th International Symposium



NYSFOLA members in attendance at the 36th North American Lake Management Society (NALMS) International Symposium in Banff, Alberta had much to cheer about at the annual awards banquet. Our friends and colleagues from the SUNY Oneonta Biological Field Station were presented the "Friend of NALMS" award which is given annually to recognize and honor individuals or corporations making major contributions to NALMS. Recipients do not have to be NALMS members, and "contributions" extend beyond monetary donations.

The SUNY Oneonta Biological Field Station (BFS), directed by NYSFOLA Vice President Dr. Willard Harman, was recognized for their long time support of NALMS, its committees and programs.

For over a decade, the SUNY Oneonta BFS has supported the nomination and subsequent election of its staff members to serve as NALMS Region 2 Directors. The position has now been held by three outstanding individuals: Matthew Albright, Holly Waterfield, and (currently) Kiyoko Yokota. Their support of NALMS, and particularly student activities, has been further manifested by the continued presence of many SUNY Oneonta students at NALMS conferences each year both as attendees and as presenters.

For the last few years, the SUNY Oneonta BFS has collaborated with NALMS and its leaders in the development of the first M.S. in Lake Management degree program in the country. These students have assisted several NYSFOLA lakes with the development of lake management plans. Graduates of the program have earned the NALMS Certified Lake Manager distinction and have become professional lake managers in their own right. We now find them in the exhibit area at NALMS conferences as well as on the program.

The continued commitment of the SUNY Oneonta BFS means that the future of NALMS, through the development of young lake management professionals, is in good hands.

Give a Gift to New York Lakes

Dear Members of NYSFOLA,

Imagine a world where nearly all lakes are overrun by aquatic invasive species or where swimming is impossible because of harmful algal blooms. Sadly, this is becoming more of a reality for many of our lakes, and those that have escaped degradation, struggle to ward off the ever increasing threats to water quality. ***We must have a stronger voice than ever before to protect our lakes!*** NYSFOLA can be that voice if we all work together. Won't you be a part of that voice and support NYSFOLA?

NYSFOLA has been a statewide voice for lakes since 1983, and we remain more committed to our membership than ever before, but dues alone do not cover our costs. Through this newsletter as well as our four conferences, you have learned what we've done and how we are doing it. We have submitted comments on proposed regulations, written letters to policy makers, supported our members and colleagues in the development of grant applications, provided answers to your lake related questions, and provided educational information to lakes in NY and around the world, through our affiliation with the North American Lake Management Society.

What do we want to do in 2017?

- Enhance CSLAP by eliminating the rotation system and providing more opportunity for aquatic invasive species surveys, data interpretation, and communication with volunteers. We continue to support DEC in the effort to detect, sample, and alert our members about Harmful Algal Blooms.
- Upgrade the NYSFOLA Annual Conference. We are working on a new format this year. We have moved the banquet to Friday night to increase attendance and will end the conference on Saturday afternoon to reduce costs and allow people to head home earlier. We hope that the new format will also allow us to look for other venues around the state to increase participation by new members.
- Continue to support the Oneonta Foundation to fund graduate students in their efforts to prepare lake management plans for lakes across the state. They have provided valuable assistance to many of our members, and they are the future of lake management.
- Develop better materials on how to form and manage lake associations, fundraising activities, membership recruitment, etc. In short, we need to do even more for our member lake associations!
- Continue to answer your questions and concerns even as more time constraints are put on our part-time manager, Nancy Mueller who is also charged with running the day-to-day CSLAP needs. She continues to be the day-to-day voice of NYSFOLA and provides immeasurable service to lake advocates around the state.
- Participate in regional activities and "be the voice for NY lakes" by having a greater statewide presence. Increasingly, NYSFOLA is being asked to enter in collaborative projects with colleges, regional lake groups, and the PRISM activities. This raises our profile and makes our "voice" louder than ever.
- Continue to impress upon elected officials the need to protect water resources. Continue dialogue with regulatory agencies about the need to prepare and implement thoughtful regulations and permit requirements.

This is a lot to do with an all-volunteer Board of Directors and one staff person. But we have the passion to serve you, our customers, and to fulfill our shared mission. Won't you help us? There are many worthy causes, but if we don't speak out for New York state lakes, who will? In your consideration of year end giving, please consider making a gift to New York lakes through a generous contribution to NYSFOLA. We are the statewide voice for New York lakes. We need to be heard louder than ever before.

Thank you for your continued support.

The NYSFOLA Board of Directors

NYSFOLA is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation. Your contribution may be tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. NYSFOLA is registered with the NYS Attorney General Charities Bureau 120 Broadway, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10271. A copy of our latest annual financial report is available at www.nysfola.org or by contacting NYSFOLA P.O. Box 84 LaFayette, NY 13084.

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NYS DEC Announces Creation of Finger Lakes Water Quality Hub

NYS DEC Press Release dated October 19, 2016

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) today announced the establishment of the 'Finger Lakes Water Hub,' a multi-region watershed team to address Finger Lakes water quality issues, as well as a \$600,000 initiative with Cayuga Community College and others to study algal blooms and undertake pollution reduction projects in the Owasco Lake watershed, funded with support from the New York State Senate. These actions, in close cooperation with the NYS Departments of Health and Agriculture & Markets, further the efforts of the Governor's Water Quality Rapid Response Team, launched in February to address water quality issues statewide and develop new policies, programs, and technologies to ensure clean water for all New Yorkers.

"It is critical that New York study what is causing algal blooms in Owasco Lake and continue to take action to reduce pollution in order to safeguard water quality in the Finger Lakes and across New York State," DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos said. "Dozens of New York lakes, as well as waterbodies nationwide, are plagued with harmful algal blooms. As we continue the strong efforts of the Governor's Water Quality Rapid Response Team, the work of the Finger Lakes Wa-

ter Hub and the State's investments to study algal blooms will be valuable resources in helping New Yorkers understand and mitigate this emerging issue."

DOH Commissioner Dr. Howard Zucker said, "The Department of Health responded immediately when harmful algal blooms were found in Owasco Lake by ensuring the public was notified, testing the water for contamination at Wadsworth Center and working with local officials to mitigate the situation as quickly as possible. The research and implementation supported by this new funding will result in a long term plan to prevent these issues. DOH and DEC will continue to work together to better understand these types of problems in our continued efforts to ensure clean and safe drinking water for all New Yorkers."

Overseen by DEC, the Finger Lakes Water Hub is comprised of scientists and policy makers who will leverage the State's ongoing efforts to safeguard water quality with the expertise of research partners such as the Finger Lakes Institute at Hobart and William Smith Colleges, SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, and the Upstate Freshwater Institute.

There are several types of algal blooms with varying levels of toxicity, including Harmful Algal Blooms (HAB). Based on the water chemistry and



WHAT IS THE WATER QUALITY RAPID RESPONSE TEAM?

In February, Governor Cuomo created a Statewide Water Quality Rapid Response Team charged with identifying and developing plans to swiftly address drinking water contamination concerns, as well as related groundwater and surface water contamination problems. <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-launches-statewide-water-quality-initiatives>

low phosphorus in Owasco Lake, scientists did not anticipate the frequency or severity of recent blooms. The research study and associated pollution reduction projects, funded with \$600,000 from New York State, will help scientists understand the factors contributing to algal blooms and look at the frequency and extent of HABs in Owasco Lake. The recently announced projects are part of a series of initiatives undertaken by local partners, DEC and the Department of Agriculture & Markets to protect Owasco Lake water quality. The new research project is being undertaken in partnership with Cayuga County, the Upstate Freshwater Institute, Owasco Lake Watershed Association, and others.

The project includes:

- Funding to Cayuga County Soil and Water District to implement phosphorous reduction practices including agricultural and stormwater projects
- Funding to monitor Owasco Lake and its tributaries to determine sources of contaminant loading
- Funding for HAB sample analysis and food web monitoring
- Funding for open water monitoring buoy deployment and maintenance
- Funding for continued septic sampling

Senator James L. Seward said, "Owasco Lake provides drinking water to 50,000 residents. Additionally, it is the central feature of the local landscape and economy. We need to ensure its viability and vitality today and for generations to come. I was proud to work with Senator DeFrancisco to secure funding for this crucial project and applaud the DEC and DOH for their attentiveness to Owasco Lake."

Senator John A. DeFrancisco said, "This vital funding to improve the water quality in Owasco Lake reaffirms our strong commitment to protect this important natural resource. I was pleased to move this initiative forward and to work with the Senate team from Cayuga County to help secure this funding. I commend the DEC and DOH for facilitating these remediation efforts, which will help preserve the lake and safeguard our public drinking water."

The investments announced today to safeguard water quality are in addition to the more than \$7.5 million already being spent by the State to address and improve water quality in the Owasco Lake watershed through the Water Quality Improvement Project Program and the Agricultural Non-point Source Abatement and Control Grants. These programs provide New York State Environmental Protection Funds to municipalities and farmers in the Owasco Lake watershed to improve wastewater treatment facilities, stop erosion along roadsides and streambanks, and improve farm efficiencies.

Most algae are harmless and an important part of the food web. Certain types of algae can grow quickly and form algal blooms that cover large portions of a lake. However, some species of algae produce toxins harmful to people and animals. Blooms of algae species that produce, or have the potential to produce, toxins are referred to as harmful algal blooms or HAB. These blooms most often occur in nutrient-rich waters, particularly during hot, calm weather. Visit the Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) web page on DEC's website to learn more about HAB and New York's efforts to address this threat to water quality.

New York's Finger Lakes Region is a 9,000-square mile area home to 11 lakes. From East to West, the Finger Lakes are: Otisco, Skaneateles, Owasco, Cayuga, Seneca, Keuka, Canandaigua, Honeoye, Canadice, Hemlock, and Conesus.

SAVE THE DATES!

34th Annual Conference - New Format! Friday May 5-Saturday May 6, 2016

White Eagle Conference Center, Hamilton, NY

We are putting together the 2017 conference program with a NEW FORMAT. Sessions will start on Friday at 9AM and will end on Saturday afternoon allowing people who wish to drive home to do so. There will be lodging available on Saturday night with a continental breakfast on Sunday morning for those who desire to stay. Our banquet will be held on Friday night instead of Saturday.

NYSFOLA's 22nd Annual Western Regional Conference Draws Another Big Crowd!

By Donald Cook, NYSFOLA Board of Directors

NYSFOLA held its Western Regional Conference at Moonwinks Restaurant on October 15, 2016. Representatives from 12 Western NY and Finger Lakes lake associations were in attendance..

The first presentation was by Charlie Knauf, retired head of the Monroe County Health Department laboratory. Charlie focused on the work that has been done on reducing algal blooms in Irondequoit Bay, a four mile long (north to south) bay of Lake Ontario with a maximum depth of 70 feet. Projects described were designed to reduce storm water runoff sediment loading in the watershed that includes Irondequoit Creek. He further described alum application that had success for about 5 years . He noted that alum is not currently an accepted lake management tool in New York due to its categorization as an "unregistered pesticide" by NYSDEC. At present Monroe County is pumping oxygen into the bottom to prevent it from going anoxic. He feels that the oxygen system would not work for shallower water bodies.

The next speaker of the morning was graduate student Michael Owens of the State University of NY College at Brockport. One of his goals is to use biotic assessments of water quality to determine a relationship between watershed land use and water quality. Mike reviewed the land use, geology and water chemistry of the four lakes: Canadice, Conesus, Hemlock and Honeoye. As a result of his survey of invasive macroinvertebrates he found that Honeoye, Conesus, Hemlock and Canadice had quagga and zebra mussels. Conesus and Honeoye also had banded mystery snail and Chinese mystery snail. Honeoye was the only lake to have the faucet snail. He went over the major concerns for each invasive. For instance, the faucet snail could



Charlie Knauf describes lake management tools on Irondequoit Bay, NY.

Photo by Don Cook

increase the mortality rate for native waterfowl. He is in the process of doing further analysis with a Biologic Assessment Profile of each lake and multivariate statistical tests aimed at determining whether these watersheds and lakes group in any recognizable patterns.

The last speaker of the morning was Mark Emmerson who is the President of the Silver Lake Association in Wyoming County. The title of his presentation was Effective Ways to Increase Association Membership. Some of the successful tools used to draw and keep members has been giving a discount card for local businesses, a membership plaque, and the signing of the Silver Lake Pledge (follow best practices in the watershed) by members who then receive a refrigerator magnet. He also feels that dividing the lakeshore into tracts of 27 with a director for each tract has helped a great deal to attract and keep membership. These directors distribute a fantastic directory with names and addresses of lake residents and a variety of articles related to lake ecology, history and social events. The directors sell membership and flares for the 4th of July Ring of Fire as well as represent and inform tract members.

The first speaker of the afternoon was Dr. Roxanne Razavi, a postgraduate student at the Finger Lakes Institute. Dr. Razavi is leading a study of mercury in fish that is being caught in the Finger Lakes, Canandaigua, Owasco, Keuka, Seneca, Honeoye and Cayuga. She pointed out the health problems of mercury for animals and humans. Early life exposure is especially damaging. As animals and humans age, progressive degeneration of tissue and possible loss of organ function and structural integrity takes place. The study continues to explore the source of the mercury.

The last speaker of the afternoon was Dr. Bruce Gilman, a professor at Finger Lakes Community College and director of the Muller Field Station. Dr. Gilman talked about the 3 year study being conducted by Cornell University and Finger Lakes Community College into the "Climate Change and its Impact on Algal Blooms" in Honeoye and Oneida lakes. The research study is led by Dr. Nelson Hairston Jr.

of Cornell University and Dr. Bruce Gilman of Finger Lakes Community College. The study will take place over a 3 year period with the first year's data being reviewed this fall and winter. The research is being funded by grants from US Department of Agriculture and Cornell's Atkinson



Dr. Bruce Gilman - Photo by Don Cook

Center for a Sustainable Future. The research is looking at the following hypothesis. Climate warming is causing the surface water to be warmer creating stronger and longer time periods of stratification in the water column. This causes the water near the lake bottom to be anoxic (no oxygen) for longer periods of time increasing the amount of legacy phosphorus being released from bottom sediments. Dr. Gilman review the physical and chemical properties of shallow lakes.

He described how Cornell University is recording water temperatures every minute during the summer using buoys at depths of 9 meters and 4 meters in Honeoye Lake. There is a weather station on a dock at mid-lake recording relevant climatic data. Each week, Dr. Hairston and 2 students take samples of water around the lakes for analysis. Dr. Gilman reviewed a wind-generated mixing event on August 22, 2016, with an algal bloom event on August 24, 2016 which was also reported by Chautauqua Lake. Preliminary result show a correlation between phosphorus upwelling and wind generated mixing.

Thank you to the Cuba Lake Cottage Owners Association, especially Barbara Utter, for hosting us again this year. The conference attendees have already decided that next year's regional NYSFOLA conference will be at Silver Lake Golf Club on October 21st and will be hosted by the Silver Lake Association. We hope to see many members of NYSFOLA there.

Calling All Citizen Scientists!

We Want Your Lake's Ice On / Ice Off Data!

The information on ice on and ice off dates can be useful as an indicator of the current climatic conditions, and over time it can be used to help monitor indications of climate change. We hope at some point in the future to be able to provide capability for upload and visualization of data. For not, if you start keeping track of the ice on and ice off data, NYSFOLA can start to build a set of data that can be used for trend analysis.



Hockey on Robinson Pond by Gary Menchen

Some lake associations have existing definitions of ice-on and ice-off dates. If there's a tradition on your lake, certainly use that and gather any historical records you can find. Just tell us what defines "ice on" and "ice off" for your lake. If you don't have a tradition, one that is widely used is to declare "ice on" when the ice prevents someone from boating to the deepest part of the lake from all the points on shore. Ice off is when you can boat to the deepest part of the lake from some point along the shoreline.

After it's collected in the winter and spring, send an email to Nancy Mueller at foia@nysfola.org with the following information:

Lake Name _____ County _____

2016/17 Ice On Date _____

2017 Ice Off Date _____

Let's start a long term data set for as many lakes as possible. It's valuable data that takes little time to collect.

CSLAPpenings



Dear CSLAP Volunteers,

We have wrapped up another season, and we can't begin to thank you all enough for your time and dedication to the program.

We have some great news for you. Additional grant funds have recently been received for the upcoming year. As such, **WE ARE ELIMINATING THE ROTATION SYSTEM FOR THE 2017 SEASON.** While we hope to make this permanent once again, we can't be sure that this will be the case. However, any lake that was scheduled to rotate out this season, can stay in! Forms will go out soon.

The reports will also have a new look this year in an effort to streamline the report writing process at DEC. The individual lake reports will be shorter, and they will be accompanied by larger regional reports. We think you'll like the new format and find the documents easier to read.

2017 CSLAP Lakes

Anawanda Lake, Augur Lake, Baboock Lake, Ballson Lake, Barrett Pond, Beaver Dam Lake, Beaver Lake, Bedford Lake, Big Bowman Pond, Big Fresh Pond, Black Lake, Blue Heron Lake, Lake Bonaparte, Bradley Brook Reservoir, Brantingham Lake, Burden Lake III, Butterfield Lake, Canada Lake, Canadarago Lake, Lake Carmel, Cazenovia Lake, Chautauqua Lake, Chenango Lake, China Pond, Lake Como, Cossayuna Lake, Lake Craine, Crooked Lake, Cuba Lake, Deans Pond, Deer Lake, DeRuyter Reservoir, Lake Demmon, Lake DeVenoge, Duane Lake, Duck Lake, Eagle Lake, Eagle Pond, East Caroga Lake, Eatonbrook Reservoir, Echo Lake, Efner Lake, Forest Lake - Rensselaer, Forest Lake - Warren, Friends Lake, Galway

Lake, Geneganslet Lake, Glen Lake, Goodnow Flow, Grass Lake, Guilford Lake, Lake Hadlock, Hatch Lake, Horseshoe Pond, Hunt Lake, Indian Lake, Jamesville Reservoir, Java Lake, Jenny Lake, Kasoag Lake, Lake Katonah, Kirk Lake, Lake Lacoma, Laurel Lake, Lebanon Reservoir, Lime Lake, Lake Lincolndale, Lincoln Pond, Little Fresh Pond, Little Long Pond, Little Wee Wah Lake, Little York Lake, Long Pond - Columbia, Long Pond - Suffolk, Loon Lake, Lorton Lake, Lake Lucille, Lower Rhoda Lake, Mariaville Lake, Melody Lake, Millsite Lake, Mirror Lake, Mohegan Lake, Montgomery Lake, Lake Moraine, Oquaga Lake, Orange Lake, Lake Oscaleta, Otter Lake, Palmer Lake, Panther Lake, Peach Lake, Peck Lake, Lake Peek-

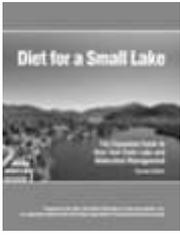


Lake Lincolndale CSLAP Volunteer Mike O'Keefe

skill, Petonia Lake, Lake Placid, Pleasant Lake - Fulton, Pleasant Lake - Hamilton, Pleasant Lake - Oswego, Lake Pleasure, Plymouth Reservoir, Putnam Lake, Queechy Lake, Lake Rippowam, Roaring Brook Lake, Robinson Pond, Round Pond, Rushford Lake, Lake Salubria, Saratoga Lake, Schroon Lake, Sepasco Bay, Seventh Lake, Silver Lake - St. Lawrence, Silver Lake - Wyoming, Sodus Bay, Sixberry Lake, Sleepy Hollow Lake, Smith Pond, Somerset Lake, Song Lake, Spring Lake, Stissing Lake, Summit Lake, Lake Sunnyside, Taconic Pond, Timber Lake, Tuscarora Lake, Tully Lake, Tuxedo Lake, Ulster Heights Lake, Lake, Unnamed Pond - Ulster, Waccabuc, Lake Warn, Wee Wah Lake, Weiden Lake, Wolf Lake, Lake of the Woods, Yankee Lake

There are a few other lake associations that have expressed interest. If you are one of them, or if you think we missed you on this list, please contact Nancy Mueller at fo-la@nysfoia.org as soon as possible.

Available from NYSFOLA



Diet for a Small Lake: The Expanded Guide to New York State Lake & Watershed Management

A “must have” publication for anyone who cares about New York State lakes. This publication offers an introduction to lake ecology, descriptions of lake restoration and watershed management techniques and relevant New York State laws and regulations plus guidance for preparing a watershed management plan.

New Price! Get them while they last! \$15.00

Hardcover: \$25.00



Lakescaping for Wildlife and Water Quality

This book is a great resource for those who want to be lake friendly property owners. The book includes chapters about lake ecosystems, designing lakeshore landscaping and selecting the right plants. The book has a bit of an upper-midwestern slant, but it is very applicable to New York lakes.

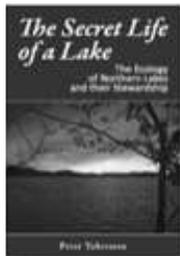
Spiral Bound Paperback: \$20.00



Life on the Edge: Owning Waterfront Property

Published by the Wisconsin Lakes Partnership, this lakefront friendly living guide is useful for New Yorkers, too. In it's 7th edition, *Life on the Edge... Owning Waterfront Property* is considered one of the nations best guides for potential and new water front property owners. This refreshingly practical and easily understood publication will pay back sizable dividends in matching expectations to the realities of water front living.

Paperback: \$10.00



The Secret Life of a Lake: The Ecology of Northern Lakes and their Stewardship

We are very pleased to offer this new publication written by NYSFOLA member and CSLAP volunteer Peter Toblessen from the Lake Pleasant-Sacandaga Association. Peter has taught aquatic biology for many years at

Union College. By letting readers in on a lake's “secret life,” the author hopes to give them a deeper understanding of these complex and dynamic ecosystems, and perhaps even motivate some to become more active in a lake's preservation. Paperback: \$19.00



Through the Looking Glass: A Field Guide to Aquatic Plants - NEW EDITION!!

A Wisconsin Lake Partnership publication containing wonderful line drawings and descriptions of the most common freshwater plants. Paperback: \$30.00

Shipping and Handling: Books will ship via U.S. Postal Service Media Rate.

1 copy \$5.50
2 copies \$6.50
3 copies \$7.50
4 copies \$8.50



Please make check payable to NYSFOLA and mail to:

**New York State Federation of Lake Associations, Inc.
P.O. Box 84
LaFayette, NY 13084**

TITLE	PRICE	QUANTITY	SUBTOTAL
DIET FOR A SMALL LAKE (pap)	\$15.00		
DIET FOR A SMALL LAKE - (hdc)	\$25.00		
LAKESCAPING ...	\$20.00		
LIFE ON THE EDGE	\$10.00		
THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS	\$30.00		
THE SECRET LIFE OF A LAKE	\$19.00		
Shipping & Handling	see	chart	
TOTAL			

2017 Membership Form
New York State Federation of Lake Associations, Inc.

Lake, Watershed and other Associations:

Small Association (10-74 members)	\$ 50.00
Medium Association (75-149 members)	\$ 100.00
Large Association (150 or more members)	\$175.00
Foundation (Affiliated with NYSFOLA member lake association)	\$100.00

Individual Memberships:

Individual Membership (not a member of a NYSFOLA member lake association)	\$ 25.00
Individual member of a NYSFOLA member lake association in good standing	\$ 15.00

Corporate Membership: \$250.00

Student Membership (with copy of valid student ID) \$15.00

Name of Lake Association or Individual _____

Location (County) _____ **Sponsor (if any)** _____

Contact Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____

E-Mail _____

Web site _____

Amount Remitted _____ Check # _____ Date _____

Any Additional Donation? _____



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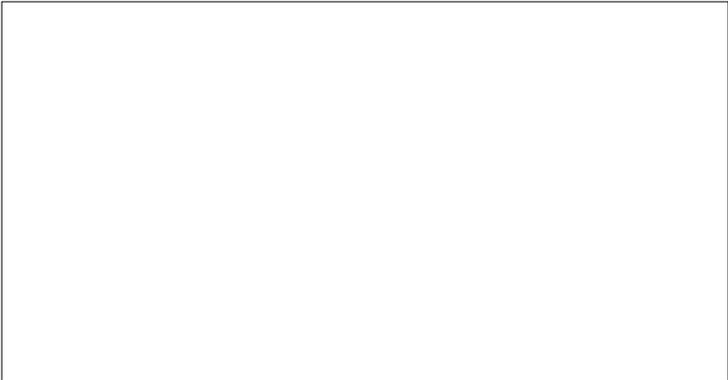
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New York State Federation of Lake Associations, Inc. (NYSFOLA) P.O. Box 84 LaFayette, NY 13084

IS YOUR NEIGHBORING LAKE ASSOCIATION A MEMBER OF NYSFOLA? IF NOT, REACH OUT TO THEM, AND INVITE THEM TO JOIN US! (OR SEND US THEIR CONTACT INFORMATION)

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Kinderhook Lake - Photo by Mary Howard