

CLCA Lake Management Committee Reports

June 25, 2022 Director's Meeting

Mary Jablonski, VP

Environment and Ecology

Dave Graves - Chair

Minutes of July 2, 2022 Environment and Ecology Committee: Attendees (in person): Dave Graves, Marcus Harazin, Janice Corr, Maggie Newell, Doug Smith, Nancy Schreher, Carol Lernihan
Attendees (by Zoom): Allen Farber, Mike Hoffman, Randy Fredlund, Sandy Sheedy

WATER COLOR AND WATER QUALITY TESTING - The CLCA currently tests lake water samples in cooperation with both CSLAP (Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program) and ALAP (Adirondack Lake Assessment Program). Test results from both programs show our lake water quality to be generally good, but there has been a concern about a more noticeable tea color in lake water, particularly last year. Lake water samples provided to Brendan Wilse of the Adirondack Watershed Institute in 2021 indicated a decline in lake transparency that was not statistically significant, but close. Declining acid rain has resulted in a general decline in Adirondack lake clarity. Storms, flooding and wind also churn up lakes making comparisons from year to year sometimes difficult. Recent efforts by the Caroga golf course to increase course fertilization is a potential concern. At the end of last summer and at the June CLCA Directors meeting it was agreed to fund additional water testing of Canada Lake. Going forward it is proposed to expand ALAP testing to include 5 (rather than 3) monthly samples, as well including samples from Green Lake, West Lake and Irving Pond. Grab samples from the Irving Pond stream before and after the golf course are also anticipated, all in an effort to get additional baseline water quality data.

Runoff from winter road salting is a growing concern. At the June CLCA directors meeting it was agreed that John Byrnes will flesh out a more systematic program to collect and test well water samples. The State has kicked off a program to focus on salt runoff but this is just getting off the ground. We need to work with the town on best practices, and we need to track how the State program progresses. Nancy Muller from the CSLAP program will be a speaker at our CLCA annual meeting and should provide additional data on the road salt issue going 5 years back.

Marcus noted that the Adirondack Explorer (<https://www.adirondackexplorer.org>) is doing a good job covering environmental issues in the Adirondacks.

HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGID (HWA) - Two years ago the HWA was found about 10 miles south of the lake in the Rockwood State Forest. In 2020 the HWA was also found in the Lake George Region, in a roughly 250 acre area on the east side across from Bolton Landing. The infestations were large enough that they were suspected to have been there for at least 6 years when first found. They are being treated chemically and with natural predators from the US west coast. A consortium was formed (the "Save our Lake George Hemlocks Initiative") with the goal of identifying future infestations sooner. It is led by the Lake George Association and APIPP (Adirondack Invasive Plant Program) in cooperation with the DEC, Cornell and others. The website is: <https://lakegeorgeassociation.org/act-now/stop-invasive-species>. The initiative is "piloting the use of airplane and satellite-gathered near-infrared imaging and radar technologies that can help identify the distribution of hemlock trees and detect forest decline before it is visible to the naked eye so that on-the-ground field crews can then be strategically and efficiently deployed to access potential infestations and develop treatment plans". The initiative's experts are now reviewing five years of remote sensing imagery and data for an approximate 4,400

square mile region, extending from the northern portion of the Lake George Watershed south to Troy. Remote sensing from airplane and satellite platforms can capture near-infrared data that can help to identify the location of individual hemlock trees and reveal the photosynthetic capacity of a forest stand.

Dave and Marcus will try to stay aware of progress to help us with guidance on how to detect and deal with the HWA. The regional Cooperative Extension was a good source of information on the HWA in the Rockwood forest. It was mentioned that Balston Lake is reported to have HWA.

Maggie Newell will also be helping both our group, and the CLCA in general, to keep us linked in on what other Adirondack organizations are doing on a range of environmentally relevant topics.

MONARCH BUTTERFLY - There have been several efforts to plant milkweed to enhance local butterfly habitat with varying success. Milkweed does well on roadsides and cleared areas, such as around Irving Pond. It has done well by the roadside along Stewarts Landing. Any CLCA expenditures for milkweed planting would be agreed upon and come out of the Environment & Ecology budget.

LOONS - Loon nests have been spotted on West Lake, the Irving Pond inlet and Black Bay. Rosemary was not able to participate in our meeting but no doubt will have more information to share.

BEAVERS - Attendees were asked if they had seen beavers or felt that beavers were creating a problem. Beavers took down many many hardwood trees on Dolgeville point this year. Two years ago beavers under one residents dock on the main lake were a danger to children swimming and were trapped and removed. Beavers have again been sited on the inlet to Canada Lake from Irving Pond, and behind the old Robinson (now Akers) camp. Beavers are also reported to be active on the inlet from Pleasant Lake to West Lake. Beavers are native to the lake and unless there is a serious nuisance or safety issue we agree that co-existing with them is the goal. A permit to remove beavers can be obtained from the DEC if needed.

CANADA GEESE - There are reports of more Canada Geese in certain spots on the lake. Eggs can be addled, but this requires a permit and needs to be done around nesting which is in April when few people are around the lake. Geese return to the same nesting areas and some sites around Sawdust Creek have been identified. Caroga has an addling program and we could possibly link with their registration process. Marcus will explore options.

Water Level / Flood Control

Henry Eifert and Bill Fielding - Co-Chairs

The ice went out on the Canada Lakes on April 12, 2022.

The water levels are taken by Bill at the Green Lake Bridge each morning at 7:00 AM, for Canada Lake and Henry tracks the levels for the Stewarts Landing Channel. Bill posts daily information on the water level, including rain in a 24 hr. period, inches above or below the standard 1543.1 feet, the

number of inches of water above or below 1543.1 feet, inlet flow, and bottom gate openings on the Stewart Lake Dam. He includes comments, relating to the lake level, when appropriate. As of 6/08/22, the level was 1543.25 feet, which is 1.8 inches above the standard level. This information can be found by going to: canadalakesconservationassociation.com. Click on 'Lake Issues' to find water level info.

Fire Safety

Rick Fink - Chair

Water Purity

Merryn Byrnes and John Byrnes - Co-Chairs

Reports from CSLAP taken last year will be forwarded to members when available. Sampling for the 2022 season has begun with 2/8 samples taken.

Invasive Species

Lorrie Mott - Lake Steward, ISC Co-Chair

Randy Fredlund - Lake Inspector, ISC Co-Chair

Report at the meeting

Lake Safety

Bob Baker and Brian Franz - Co-Chairs

Important information for all boaters: This information is Brianna's Law, the name of the NYS law signed into effect by Andrew Cuomo, in 2019, is a comprehensive boater education law, requiring ALL operators of motorized watercraft, to obtain a boating safety certificate. The requirements of the law are phased in, over several years, depending on one's age. However, by January 1, 2025, the law applies to everyone using a power craft, regardless of age.

- All Jet ski/PWC operators must be currently certified regardless of age.
- For this summer, the law applies to everyone born after January 1, 1988. If you are 34 years of age or younger, this law applies to you. The certificate is required for NYS as well as out of state residents. There is a potential fine of \$250.00, if found operating without one.

Update information by Brian and Bob, for the 2022 summer season: The Fulton County Sheriff's Department has offered to present a free Boater's Safety Course for the CLCA members, to obtain a boating safety certificate, on July 9, 2022, from 8:00am - 4:00pm. The Caroga Lake Volunteer Fire Company has graciously offered the use of their building for this course. Call the Sheriff's Department, non emergency number, 518-736-2100, to register for the course. Additionally, on line courses can be found at: www.safeboatingamerica.com. Most of these courses require a fee.

Brian Franz has done research regarding "no wake" zones to address the concerns many share regarding boat safety on Canada Lake. After speaking with the Fulton County Sheriff, EnCon, DEC and NYS Parks & Recreation, Brian recommends the following: ...that the CLCA consider purchasing official lighted orange and white regulation buoys that say, "NO WAKE" and "5 MPH" to deploy at the entrance to Lily Lake and the London Bridge channel. The CLCA will be required to obtain annual permits and be responsible for their maintenance. At about \$1,500. each, they are not cheap, but they are effective at slowing people down and they are enforceable by all the above agencies. Brian recently visited friends on one of the Finger Lakes where their lake assoc. has purchased well over a hundred of these to ring the entire shoreline. Individuals volunteer as stewards to place and remove each year.

Additionally, Bob expresses concern for the infrequent patrols made on the Canada Lakes, by the Fulton County Sheriff's Department. The limited available sheriffs to patrol the many lakes, as well as the other lakes' larger sizes, understandably reduces the enforcement of boating safety on Canada Lake. However, the lack of noticeable visible patrols and lack of enforcement of boating safety laws, continue to leave our Lakes in nearly constant danger of the possibility for serious accidents to occur.

Fishing

Tom Lyons - Chair

Fall 2021, CLCA fish stocking: \$500.00

Spring 2022 CLCA fish stocking: 5/15/22, 200 rainbow trout

Spring 2022 DEC fish stocking: 1,795 brown trout

Tom Lyons arranged for Avery's Fish Hatchery to stock Green Lake with 200 rainbow trout, for \$1,000. Tom, Bruce Bush, and Joe Jablonski, of the

CLCA fishing committee assisted with the stocking.

Stewardships

Adopt A Highway - Bob Baker, Chair

On May 7th, 2022, 6 people did a pick-up, finding a lot of trash, including diapers, vaping instruments, a can of beans, a \$5 bill, and 5 full bags of bottles and cans to be returned with the funds being given too the CLCA. The overlook parking site area, in the rock cut between Canada and Caroga Lake is again inundated with garbage, that has been thrown over the bank, there. There will be another pick-up near the end on the summer.

Adopt A Shoreline - Brian Franz, Chair.

Campsites - Betsy Cannon - Chair

Fire Tower - Open position, Chair

The NY State FFLA (Forest Fire Lookout Association) and the state DEC (Department of Environmental Conservation) have worked together to replace the roof and repair the porch of the ranger's cabin, adjacent to the Kane Mt. Tower, last fall. The building has been boarded up to prevent future vandalism. Members of the FFLA and CLCA stained the cabin exterior, and removed graffiti.

On 6/05/22, Laurie Rankin, Director of the NYS Chapter, Forest Fire Assoc. held a Kane Mountain Stewardship Training Program with 10 volunteers, including 5 members of the CLCA, atop Kane Mountain. A schedule of Stewardship presence on the mountain, was made to cover five weekends from 6/11 - 10/09/22. Stewards will be available to share information on the Kane Mountain Tower and Trail history, as well as to be available to answer questions, and assist as needed.

Island - Rick Fink, Chair

Mary Jablonski