



## LakeScapes to Continue in 2021



Last year, CWC launched *LakeScapes*, a new lake-friendly landscaping and lawn care program aimed at educating property owners on how their yard care maintenance and landscaping choices can impact water quality, regardless of where they live or what size property they own. The program provided free one-on-one yard care consultations and technical assistance, including native plant and landscape design recommendations. The program was a huge success, with Conservationist Carol Markham making almost 100 consultations between May and October!

CWC is thrilled to be able to offer our *LakeScapes* program again in 2021 and has set a goal to make another 100+ consultations this year and also to expand the program by partnering with local businesses, landscaping companies and nurseries to increase the impact of this already successful program. Together, we can create a healthy community . . . one yard at a time!

If you are interested in more information and/or a free consultation, reach out to Carol by email at [carol@chautauquawatershed.org](mailto:carol@chautauquawatershed.org) or by phone at 716-664-2166.

The 2021 *LakeScapes* program is funded in part with a grant from the Chautauqua Lake and Watershed Management Alliance.

---

## CWC Has A New Home!

After 25 years as a tenant on the third floor of Tew Mansion in downtown Jamestown, CWC is excited to announce it has made a permanent move to 71 East Fairmount Avenue in Lakewood!

Our new location (next to Lakewood Furniture Galleries) is more spacious, fully accessible, highly visible and welcoming to visitors. The 2,200 sq. ft. office building is more accommodating to our growing staff and program needs and includes 7 offices, 2 bathrooms, a large meeting/board room and a reception area. There is off-street parking in the back of the building as well as an 1,100 sq. ft. storage garage where we can now consolidate our preserve maintenance equipment in a central and secure location.

Many, *many thanks* go out to CWC's amazing board of directors, who volunteered countless hours to make this move possible! We also extend a heartfelt thank you to all who donated toward CWC's purchase of the building and/or volunteered time or services to help make our move easier and smoother. We are truly grateful to have such wonderful friends and supporters!



As COVID-19 becomes better controlled and gathering restrictions are eased, CWC plans to celebrate our move with an open house sometime this summer. We hope you will be able to attend and see our beautiful new home in person!

---



CHAUTAUQUA  
WATERSHED  
CONSERVANCY

PO Box 45

71 East Fairmount Avenue  
Lakewood, NY 14750

716-664-2166

info@chautauquawatershed.org

www.chautauquawatershed.org

### **Board of Directors**

Dennis H. Collins  
Christine C. Flanders  
Michael E. Jabot  
William R. Locke, *Treasurer*  
Cheryl E. Mawhinney, *Secretary*  
Deborah E. Moore  
Richard J. Morrisroe  
Rebecca L. Nystrom, *President*  
Lisa M. Schmidtfrerick-Miller  
Craig A. Seger, *Co-Vice President*  
Greg G. Swan  
Deborah C. Trefts  
Ruth T. Wahl  
Kaitlyn L. Whalen  
Jeanne Wiebenga, *Co-Vice President*

### **Directors Emeriti**

Donald F. Kimmel, *Past Treasurer*  
Michael K. Lyons, *Past President*  
Thomas A. Small, *Past Vice President*  
Arthur D. Webster, *Past President*

### **Staff**

John Jablonski III, *Executive Director*  
Jill R. Eklund, *Director of Operations*  
Jeremy R. Woolson, *Lands Manager*  
Whitney A. Gleason, *Water Quality Program Manager*  
Carol A. Markham, *Conservationist*  
Tracy L. Carlson, *Outreach Assistant*

*CWC is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization with a mission to preserve and enhance the water quality, scenic beauty and ecological health of the lakes, streams, wetlands and watersheds of the Chautauqua, NY, region.*



## Message From The Executive Director

As spring arrives, it's great to see nature starting anew around us. This spring, CWC is beginning anew as well! We have moved from our home of 25 years on the 3rd floor of Tew Mansion in Jamestown to 71 East Fairmount Avenue in Lakewood, which CWC has purchased for its new home. CWC's board determined that we needed to operate from a location that would be fully handicapped accessible, accessible to our members and donors and meet the growing space and operational needs of the organization. A special thank you goes out to directors Craig Seger, Bill Locke and Greg Swan for their many hours of labor to get the building painted, recarpeted, cleaned up, etc. and ready for staff to move in. We also thank each of you who generously contributed to this building purchase!



**John Jablonski III,**  
**Executive Director**

There is a lot happening in the Chautauqua region this spring, especially with activities affecting Chautauqua Lake. CWC has been actively undertaking pollution prevention, water quality and habitat conservation activities. We've met with municipal and county leaders to advocate for policies and activities that result in preventive action and protect the ecology, fisheries, wildlife and water quality we need to maintain in our region. CWC helped North Harmony and Lakewood obtain grants for the engineering and implementation of stream bank erosion and stormwater projects in 2021 and will also assist in the delivery of those projects. CWC is also pursuing several land conservation projects on Chautauqua Lake tributaries, on the tributaries and shore of Lake Erie and in the Cassadaga-Conewango watershed.

Despite COVID-19 restrictions, CWC carefully engaged with over 100 landowners last year to plan for and begin implementing *LakeScapes* landscaping for water quality and wildlife practices or plantings on their lakeshores and in their yards. We hope to engage even more of you in 2021 to plant buffers, create rain gardens and re-wild parts of your yards for wildlife and clean waters. Conservationist Carol has already visited several lakeshore and watershed properties for *LakeScapes* consultations in March!

You may have heard that Chautauqua County is proposing a geographically narrowly-defined "lake district" to create a new and stable funding source for lake maintenance activities. CWC concurs that more funding and stable annual funding needs to be raised for in-lake maintenance and for watershed land conservation, pollution prevention and restoration activities. CWC is one of the largest landowners in the proposed district, with sixteen parcels totaling 100 acres. CWC is advocating for the creation of a *watershed-wide district* for annual funding for these activities at a nominal cost to any one landowner in the watershed. We are optimistic that a watershed district can be enacted that equitably and affordably spreads the cost of district-funded activities to all taxpayers in the watershed. Ideally, those landowners whose lands generate excessive stormwater runoff and pollution should pay proportionally more to fund lake and watershed improvement activities.

Healthy lakes and streams require healthy, natural watersheds. A water body is like a human body – its health depends on what you feed it. Chautauqua Lake is an overfed lake. We can't change what previous generations have done to it, but going forward and working together, each landowner in the lake's watershed can reduce the pollution and stormwater load from the land each owns.

*(continued next page)*

## CWC to Undertake Chautauqua Lake Watershed Forest, Wetland and Tributary Conservation and Enhancement Program

Chautauqua Lake continues to be impaired by excessive sedimentation and nutrient enrichment, both of which drive excessive plant growth and algal blooms that damage ecological function, recreational and household/municipal uses of lake waters. Agricultural and developed areas are major sources of phosphorus non-point source pollution identified for substantial reductions through activities intended for the lake to meet its NYS-prescribed Total Maximum Daily Load for phosphorus to reduce future algae blooms.



*Forested tributary stream corridors help protect the water quality feeding Chautauqua Lake. (CWC photo)*

CWC is undertaking the Chautauqua Lake Watershed Forest, Wetland and Tributary Conservation and Enhancement Program to conserve intact healthy, forested stream buffers and to restore and conserve stream corridors on agricultural lands. CWC is working in collaboration with the Chautauqua County Soil & Water Conservation District to fund farmers to: 1) exclude cattle from streams and riparian zones, 2) permanently stop tilling to the edge of streambanks, 3) restore and conserve buffer zones of effective widths to intercept nutrients and sediments from adjacent pastures and croplands, 4) identify intermittent streams and flow courses running through croplands and pasturelands and establish filter strips/buffers with conservation easements to ensure their protection and 5) establish stream corridor easements to prevent future encroachment and pollution from incompatible uses. CWC has received a \$20,000 grant from the Chautauqua Lake and Watershed Management Alliance as partial funding to implement this program in 2021. NYS Agriculture and Market funds have been awarded to SWCD to implement this at one farm to date, with the intent of expanding this program to several farms in this and future years. CWC has also applied for County 2% Waterways funding to implement this program.

---

## Herbicide Application Permits Requested for 2021



The Towns of Ellery, Ellicott and Busti and Villages of Bemus Point, Celoron and Lakewood, as guided by their consulting firm Solitude and the Chautauqua Lake Partnership, have submitted applications to the NYSDEC for permits to apply the herbicides ProcellaCOR EC and Aquathol K on up to 529.4 acres and 345.5 acres respectively in 2021. Once again and in contravention to the County's Chautauqua Lake Consensus Strategy (MOA), Ellery has proposed treating plant beds well north of Long Point State Park, according to the February Letter of Notification received by the CWC as an affected lakeshore landowner.

Permit applications for Aquathol K have been requested to control curly-leaf pondweed between 4/19 and 5/19 and for ProcellaCOR EC to control Eurasian watermilfoil between 5/17 and 6/18. Both proposed chemicals kill beneficial and native aquatic plants in addition to the targeted "nuisance" plants. CWC has submitted a letter of concern to the NYSDEC urging careful protection of the ecology of our preserves, fisheries and wildlife and the ecology of the lake and

its outlet. CWC is the shoreline owner with the longest length of waterfront (0.75 mile) in Ellicott and Celoron whose waterfront habitats may be directly impacted by herbicide treatments by these municipalities. Our letter of concern can be viewed on the CWC website.

---

## *Executive Director Message continued . . .*

Make no mistake about it – **every land parcel in a watershed contributes water and potentially pollutants to the stream or lake below it.** We put your donations to work for water quality protection, habitat protection and carbon sequestration by conserving and restoring our region's streams, wetlands and forests! Your donations make it possible for CWC to directly conserve and enhance habitats and to engage private and public landowner partners to arrest soil erosion, intercept pollution and conserve habitat – and we thank each of you who contribute dollars or time and energy to this mission! Have a happy, healthy spring!

## Cassadaga Lakes Nature Park Improvement Grant Comes Through!

CWC has received a \$40,000 grant to construct selected improvements and facilities at our Cassadaga Lakes Nature Park! This grant will help fund trail improvements and trail markings as well as the construction of a welcome kiosk and a bird-blind looking out over the smaller Mud Lake that borders the 77-acre park.



*(photo by Jill Eklund)*

The grant was awarded through the NYS Conservation Partnership Program and New York's Environmental Protection Fund. The NYSCPP is administered by The Land Trust Alliance, in coordination with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. (The location was procured in January 2020 with support from the Environmental Protection Fund and the Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation.)

With various assessments and inspections completed and required permits in hand, including NYSDEC permits for work in or near a wetland, CWC is poised to undertake a small but vital construction project in the park. Material vendors, including Fredrickson's Builders Supply, are locating building materials, and volunteer and professional support has been contacted so that, as soon as weather permits, we can start building! These simple facilities and trails will allow for public enjoyment of a very special piece of woods and wetlands that perform some very specific tasks benefitting all of the residents in and around the Cassadaga Lakes whether they go about on no legs, two legs or four legs or they fly or swim!



The parking area and entrance of the park already has a bike rack to allow cyclists to secure their bikes while they hike the preserve, as well as a visitor sign-in box to allow visitors to let us know they were there. The blue sign-in box also has a QR code on the outside so visitors can link directly to CWC's website to make a donation to support the park just by pointing their smartphone's camera at the box and tapping the option to use the link that appears.



*(photos by Jeremy Woolson)*

Near the parking area, we plan to construct a simple kiosk and pavilion structure to give visitors a refuge from passing storms or for school or recreation program participants to pause in the shade to listen to a naturalist's or group leader's instructions. The kiosk will eventually have a large map posted that shows the trails that wind in two overlapping loops currently referred to as "Easy Loop" and "Center Loop." When combined, these loop trails provide just over 1.6 miles of trail that bring the walker through some moderate to hilly terrain and past a beaver pond and several seasonal pools that are home to frogs and salamanders. In the spring, the treetops are filled with bird songs and squirrel chatter, and at dusk, spring peepers fill the air with their cheery piping.

Included along the "easy trail" path will be a slightly elevated platform with three levels of open slots for eyes, binoculars or spotting scopes to peek out over Mud Lake and observe resident and migratory birds while limiting how much the observer disturbs the birds by their presence. Observers might also catch a glimpse of a muskrat or beaver in the waters of Mud Lake. The bird

blind will be accessible by a ramp, which will allow for a wide range of users of various ages and mobilities. Limited roof cover will allow for lake observation even in less-than-ideal weather.

Everyone at CWC is excited to start this work as soon as the weather permits! We hope to have a whole range of limited facilities constructed at the Cassadaga Lakes Nature Park before the end of Summer 2021. Trails are now open and accessible to the public from dawn to dusk year-round, so get out and explore this beautiful park!

## This Spring, Give Up The Green!

Can you hear spring?

She is knocking on our door and begging to come in out of the cold!

Before we know it, she will be full of bright green grass, warm fragrant breezes and rainbows of color. And when she does arrive, let's all enjoy the changes she brings to our landscape and the birds and critters that return to our yards.

So many things are changing in our world . . . from the pandemic to the accelerating climate crisis and environmental threats to biodiversity and habitat. We owe it to ourselves, the land we live on and spring to start thinking outside the proverbial "spring yard clean-up and maintenance box." Instead of concentrating on yard maintenance and lawn care, let's look at spring differently this year . . . less green grass and ho-hum and more vibrant, purposeful, and beautiful! Let's have spring burst through the door with all the enthusiasm of ten hungry dogs at dinnertime!

Sometimes it is difficult to change because a uniform and manicured lawn is so pretty and pleasing to the eye. Since WWII, our society has bought into the idea of lawns being the epitome of home value. But it is time to re-train our eyes and minds and realize that the definition of pretty can come in many different packages.

Manicured and weed-free lawns come at what cost? An environmental and personal health cost? Absolutely! A hit to your wallet? Most definitely!

Let's try to live smarter, not harder, and open our hearts and minds to the benefits of change and a little "mess" in our yards. It is possible to keep our yards the way we like them and be environmentally friendly at the same time!

Lawn mowing can be very time consuming and costly, and plain green grass has very little wildlife habitat value. If you are tired of spending time and money mowing and maintaining your lawn, consider converting some of the areas you don't use for other activities into natural areas. Benefits from reduced lawn mowing include improved wildlife habitat through increased plant diversity, decreased reliance on and use of fertilizers and herbicides, reduced oil and gas consumption, reduced air and noise pollution and saved money and time.

The out-of-the-box idea is to create outdoor space that is purposeful, more self-sufficient and less reliant on water and chemicals. And we can do this by starting small and creating a simple, beautiful, healthy environment that we all can benefit from by merely giving up a small part of our lawn. This small conversion creates a "less thirsty and hungry" landscape. It can be as simple as just not mowing a section of your yard and then seeing what naturally grows there. Remove a corner of your mowed grass and plant edible berry bushes, or add a few raised beds full of fresh vegetables and herbs. Or convert a section of your yard into a native wildflower garden to feed local bees, insects and other beneficial pollinators.

So let's embrace a new and different spring! Be creative, be inventive and inspire each other to change the way we feel about our perfect lawns. Agree to give up just a small piece of your mowed grass. Improve water quality, create wildlife habitat, reduce noise and air pollution and give yourself more time and money to enjoy something new and exciting!

What a wonderful gift to give yourself and your community!



*This spring, instead of concentrating on yard maintenance and lawn care, embrace "giving up the green" to help improve water quality, create wildlife habitat, reduce noise and air pollution, and give yourself more time and money!  
(photo by Carol Markham)*

*If you need help coming up with these or other simple and easy ways to "Give Up The Green," contact CWC Conservationist Carol Markham at [carol@chautauquawatershed.org](mailto:carol@chautauquawatershed.org) for help!*

## Dobbins Woods Preserve Loop Trail Named in Memory of Jean Reycroft Summerville



*Jean Reycroft Summerville  
(photo courtesy of Jay Summerville)*

In January, CWC received a very generous \$50,000 gift in memory of Jean Reycroft Summerville, who died in 2020 at age 94. Jean was a biologist, teacher and dedicated promoter of ecology who loved nature and the outdoors her whole life.

Jean was born in the steel mill town of Monessen, PA, south of Pittsburgh, but spent her summers at Chautauqua Institution from earliest childhood. She loved Chautauqua Lake and looked forward to regular early morning canoe excursions with a fellow enthusiast into her 90s.

For 40 years, Jean lived and taught biology in Punta Gorda, FL, where she advised the student ecology club and spent much of her free time exploring the Gulf of Mexico, the Charlotte Harbor estuary and all the tributary creeks and rivers in her beloved fishing boat. During a sabbatical year, Jean studied at the University of Montana Flathead Lake Nature Station and then worked as a volunteer for the San Diego Zoo, hatching Condor eggs and preparing the fledglings for release in the wild. She was an avid

bird watcher, biker and hiker but loved nothing more than “messaging about in boats,” especially in her little fishing boat, her classical wooden kayak or a canoe in both Florida and Chautauqua Lake.

The main loop trail at CWC’s Dobbins Woods Preserve in Ashville, NY, will be named in Jean’s memory as an inspiration to learn, teach about and protect the wildlife and ecology of our world – as Jean did throughout her life. The funds from this memorial gift will be invested to support the CWC’s education, conservation and preserve stewardship work benefiting future generations and for seeding important land conservation projects.

---

## Jack Bailey Bequest Received by CWC

With much gratitude, CWC recently received a \$75,000 bequest from the estate of John “Jack” T. Bailey, who passed away on June 29, 2020 at age 93. Jack was a life-long Chautauquan and an avid sailor who raced Lightnings and then C-Scows for decades on Chautauqua Lake.

After raising his family in Cleveland, OH, Jack and his wife Katherine (Kay), also a life-long Chautauquan, moved to Sanibel, FL then to the Shell Point Retirement Community in Fort Myers, FL. Jack and Kay were long-time, active members of the CWC and held several house parties at their Chautauqua home to support the CWC’s conservation of the Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center Forest, Stow Farm Lakeshore and other projects as part of CWC’s *Forever Bountiful*, *Forever Beautiful* and *Last Mile Shoreline Conservation* land campaigns. Jack participated in multiple civic organizations and served as chairman of the Nature Center of Shaker Lakes in Cleveland. The Chautauqua Lake community has benefited substantially from Jack’s work on CWC’s fundraising efforts to preserve the health and beauty of the lake.



*John T. “Jack” Bailey  
(photo courtesy of the Bailey Family)*

CWC will utilize the funds from Jack’s generous bequest to care for its many nature preserves in perpetuity and to seed or finance important watershed land conservation projects. We at CWC truly appreciate of Jack’s strong commitment to our work through this bequest. His contribution will assist CWC to effectively deliver its mission for decades to come!

# Creating Healthy Yards with a Purpose

Webinar Series Co-Sponsored by  
CWC & Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association

**Healthy Lawns, Healthy Lake with Dr. Frank Rossi**  
**Tuesday, April 20th at 10AM - Earth Day Celebration**

This FREE webinar is open to lawn care professionals and home owners alike, and will provide practical strategies professionals can offer their customers that will reduce the amount of pesticides and fertilizers needed while maintaining a high-quality lawn. Due to the heightened concern regarding harmful algae blooms each summer, there is an increasing demand from customers for this type of service.



Dr. Frank Rossi is an associate professor at Cornell University in the School of Integrative Plant Science and is an Extension Turfgrass specialist.

Dr. Rossi will speak about practical solutions lawn care companies can use for their customers that balance lawn and lake health.

**Nature's Best Hope with Dr. Doug Tallamy**  
**Monday, May 3rd at 10AM - Celebrate NYS Water Week**

Recent headlines about global insect declines and three billion fewer birds in North America are a bleak reality check. Our current landscape designs are ineffective at sustaining the plants and animals that sustain us.



Dr. Doug Tallamy is a professor and author in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware.

Dr. Tallamy will discuss simple steps that each of us can- and must- take to reverse declining biodiversity, and will explain why we are nature's best hope.

**Head over to [chautauquawatershed.org](http://chautauquawatershed.org) or [canandaigualakeassoc.org](http://canandaigualakeassoc.org) for the free zoom links to join!**



CHAUTAUQUA  
WATERSHED  
CONSERVANCY





PO Box 45  
71 East Fairmount Avenue  
Lakewood, NY 14750



NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
JAMESTOWN, NY  
PERMIT NO. 20

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

## UPCOMING EVENTS

April 8th / The Importance of Forests to Watersheds (webinar),  
with Bryan Swistock

April 20th / Healthy Lawns = Healthy Lakes (webinar),  
with Dr. Frank Rossi, aka "The Grass Guy"

May 3rd / Nature's Best Hope (webinar), with Dr. Doug Tallamy

June 19th / Summer Sailstice Sailing Rallye (to benefit CWC)

June 28th / Charity Pro-Am Golf Tournament (to benefit CWC)

August 21st / Native Plant Buffer Bonanza, with Chautauqua Marina

Date TBD / CWC New Office Open House

~ Visit [www.chautauquawatershed.org](http://www.chautauquawatershed.org) for more details! ~

### ***Stay Connected!***

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube,  
Pinterest and Instagram, and sign up to receive  
our e-news at [www.chautauquawatershed.org](http://www.chautauquawatershed.org)!

