



## A Banner Year for Watershed Conservation CWC reaches 1,000 acres conserved mark!

This past year has been a year of tremendous success in watershed land conservation for the CWC – 5 parcels totaling 194 acres were donated to the Conservancy in 2016, and another 15 acres has been donated to date in 2017! We say **THANK YOU** to the land donors and our members who helped make this possible. New CWC preserves include:

- ◆ Naetzker Family Forest Preserve – 73 acres of beautifully forested, steeply sloping land on Route 474 west of Ashville, with tributary streams that feed clean water to Goose Creek; donated by Mrs. Margaret Naetzker.
- ◆ Salomon Family Nature Preserve – 52 acres of forest on Morris Road in the Town of Chautauqua with four tributaries of Prendergast Creek; donated by Rada Salomon.
- ◆ Brown Creek Tributary Forest Preserve – 31 acres of forest and wetlands on Walker Road in Bemus Point on a branch of Brown's Creek, a tributary to Bemus Creek; donated by Dan and Shauna Anderson.
- ◆ Bentley Preserve and adjacent Wright Family Wetland – 38 acres of wetlands and forest on Bentley Avenue in Ellicott; transferred to CWC from the Audubon Community Nature Center and Wright Family with the assistance of a donation by Curt Westrom in memory of his sister, Pamela A. Westrom. This gift allowed for several interpretive and access improvements to be made, and the trail at the site has been named the Pamela A. Westrom Wildflower Trail.
- ◆ Fletcher Family Preserve – 15 acres of steeply sloped forest, floodplain and 800 feet of stream on Sunset Drive in Busti; donated by William Wendell Fletcher.



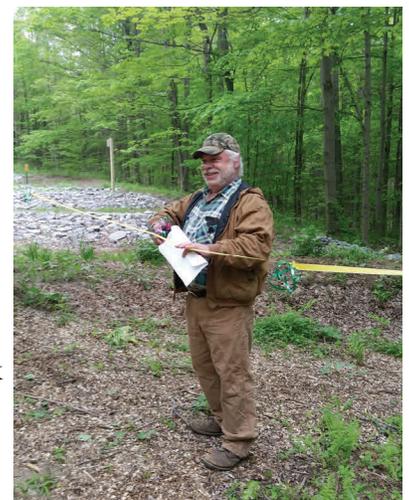
Salomon Family Nature Preserve, Town of Chautauqua

These new preserves have an impressive variety of beautiful native species that are best appreciated in person. Watch our Facebook page, website, and emails for opportunities to explore these incredible forests and wetlands with a CWC guide. The CWC is pursuing the conservation of 4 additional sites, which would add over 150 acres to our 1,000+ acre Chautauqua Watersheds Tributary Preserve system over the next year!

## Grand Opening of Oxbow Forest Preserve

The Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy recently held a grand opening for its 21-acre Chautauqua Creek Oxbow Forest Preserve on Lyons Road in the Town of Chautauqua. The opening included a spring wildflower walk, which was led by preserve steward Jay Stratton (pictured at right), JCC Biology Professor and CWC co-founder Becky Nystrom, and CWC Conservation Lands Manager Jonathan Townsend.

The property was donated to the CWC by Jay Stratton in 2014, and many capital improvements followed, including the installation of a large rain garden, erosion controls, walking trails, bridge, preserve and trail signage, and interpretive kiosk. The New York State Department of Conservation acquired a public fishing rights easement from the CWC on the part of Chautauqua Creek that flows through the preserve, opening up 2,200 feet of the creek for legal, publically accessible trout fishing. *(continued on page 13)*





# CHAUTAUQUA WATERSHED CONSERVANCY

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**Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit 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 region.**

Member of



## CWC 2017-18 Action Plan - Your \$\$ At Work!

CWC has set an ambitious *Healthy Landscapes for Healthy Waters* program for 2017 and 2018. Some of the preventive and restorative activities that your membership contributions and grants will be promoting are:

- ◆ Providing educational and technical assistance outreach to lakefront and watershed landowners to implement lake-friendly landscaping with lakeshore and streamside vegetative buffers of native trees, shrubs, and herbaceous plants to control shoreline erosion, intercept pollutants, and provide habitat for birds, beneficial insects, fish, and wildlife
- ◆ Informing landowners that fertilizing lawns and grounds in the spring and summer may promote harmful algae blooms that can make waters unsafe for consumption, swimming, and other activities
- ◆ Providing publicity and outreach on six WQIP Program stream bank erosion control projects on which CWC is a partnering agency
- ◆ Continuing to engage landowners to reduce/prevent streambank erosion
- ◆ Continuing to work with landowners and seek funding to conserve landscape features important to collecting, storing, filtering, and delivering clean waters to our streams, lakes, and water supplies including:
  - Approximately 30 acres of forest, fields, wetlands, and floodplain with nearly 0.5-mile of the west bank of Goose Creek to expand the Goose Creek Greenway
  - 49 acres of forest land containing two branches of Cheney Creek with 0.75-mile of stream
  - Additional wetlands on Chautauqua Lake to expand the CWC's Prendergast Creek Wetland Preserve
  - 77 acres of land on Cassadaga Lakes containing 26 acres of wetlands with 1,100 feet of shoreline, filtering water from 1,800 acres above – proposed as the Cassadaga Lake Nature Park
  - 82 acres of wetlands and upland near Cassadaga Creek, in partnership with Ducks Unlimited
- ◆ Developing ecologically-based preserve management plans and implementing our new *Gateways to Nature* program to make our 1,000+ acres nature preserve system more enjoyable and accessible
- ◆ Working with the Chautauqua Lake & Watershed Management Alliance organizations, Cassadaga Lake Association, and others to implement clean water/clean lakes actions
- ◆ Continuing preserve improvements; completing boundary surveys and placing boundary signs; completing management plans for all preserves
- ◆ Evaluating and improving our operating practices and fundraising capacity and building our preserve endowment and legal defense funds to ensure that we can responsibly steward our preserve system in perpetuity



Wetlands to be added to CWC's Prendergast Creek Wetland Preserve



## Message from the President

Dear Friends,

2017 is shaping up to be one of the most exciting and important years in the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy's 27-year history. Earlier this year, the CWC achieved a historic milestone by obtaining its 1,000<sup>th</sup> acre of land to preserve and protect in Chautauqua County. More good news rolled in when The Cummins Foundation awarded the Conservancy a \$27,000 grant to pursue our new *Gateways to Nature* initiative, a project that aims to increase awareness of and access to CWC's 1,000+ acres of nature preserves.

It is amidst this climate of growth and development that I have the honor of assuming presidential duties for the CWC. I look forward to working closely with members of the board of directors and staff, members of the Conservancy, and members of the public to promote the CWC's important mission to promote environmental stewardship throughout Chautauqua County.

One of the biggest ways we plan to do that this year is with the *Gateways to Nature* initiative. This project is a large and important undertaking on behalf of the CWC that will affect many of the Conservancy's 29 unique, natural sites. First and foremost, *Gateways to Nature* will improve these locations in terms of aesthetics and accessibility. We will install benches, kiosks, and maps at the sites, as well as better signage and CWC branding. These improvements will attract a greater number and variety of visitors, such as hikers, artists, educators, and sportsmen.

Secondly, *Gateways to Nature* strives to promote our natural environment by partnering with area schools and other nature organizations to develop a comprehensive educational program. Students will have the opportunity to explore forests, learn about plants and animals, and become actively engaged in preserve management. The CWC maintains the belief that if we foster the values of conservation and sustainability among our youth today, we will safeguard Chautauqua County's beautiful landscapes for tomorrow.

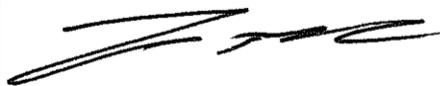
By combining these two main objectives of the *Gateways to Nature* initiative – improving site accessibility and expanding educational outreach – the CWC hopes to achieve a greater goal: to foster a simple love and respect for the natural world that surrounds us. After all, it is this profound admiration of nature that lies at the heart of the Conservancy. And if we can help achieve a better communion between earth and mankind, we will be better able to save, maintain, and enjoy CWC lands for many years to come.

Also for 2017, CWC staff and volunteers are continuing to partner with landowners and other stakeholders to conserve land and to implement landscaping practices that will reduce the inflow of nutrients and sedimentation into our lakes. As we all know, this inflow is directly responsible for the overpopulation of aquatic vegetation and algae during the summer months, and represents the root cause of the lake's declining health. CWC will continue to work with landowners and other organizations to explore new and better ways to address soil erosion, to reduce lake sedimentation, and to intercept nutrients before they lead to nuisance vegetation and harmful algae blooms.

In closing, I voice my gratitude to the CWC Board of Directors, Executive Director John Jablonski, Director of Operations Jill Eklund, Conservation Lands Manager Jonathan Townsend, and Conservationist Dave Anderson. And of course, a sincere thank you to you, all of our members and volunteers, whose belief in our mission has made the CWC what it is today.



Sincerely,



Lyle Hajdu  
CWC Board President



## CWC Awarded \$23,000 Acquisition & Access Grant for Naetzker Family Forest Preserve

The CWC has been awarded \$23,000 for the Goose Creek Tributary Forest Acquisition and Access Project for conservation and access improvements to the Naetzker Family Forest Preserve, with funding from the New York State Conservation Partnership Program and New York's Environmental Protection Fund. The NYSCPP is administered by



Hikers admire one of the many large, mature red oak trees at the CWC's new Naetzker Family Forest Preserve.

the Land Trust Alliance, in coordination with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Building upon the generous gift of 73 acres of forest land from Margaret Naetzker, the CWC will be investing nearly \$13,000 of member donations to leverage this state grant.

The CWC will install a gravel parking area for four to six vehicles, a main preserve sign, a map/interpretive kiosk, and a marked trail system at the preserve. A mini-wetlands will also be created to address gully erosion along an existing dirt driveway extending 1,000 feet up into the site, which will create additional aquatic insect and amphibian habitat and enhance the habitat value of the site for bats, birds, and other wildlife. It will also serve as a demonstration project for stormwater/ditch best management practices that can be shown to private landowners and public works staff as an example of what to implement at similar sites.

The erosion remediation, habitat enhancement, and access improvements at this preserve will make the site more attractive for public recreational use such as hiking, snowshoeing, and wildlife observation. The work is anticipated to be completed by the end of the year.

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## CWC Awarded \$27,310 Grant for Gateways to Nature Program

The Cummins Foundation recently awarded a \$27,310 grant to CWC to help launch our new *Gateways to Nature* program. This program will improve and promote 12 or more unique natural settings that are part of the 1,039 acres of nature preserves managed by the CWC county-wide.

The program's objective is to construct multiple gateways to natural preserves located throughout Chautauqua County. Each gateway will be unique, depending on the natural layout and resources of the land. Thus, some gateways may have kiosks, benches, parking, and picnic areas, while other access points may simply be marked by a trailhead sign. *Gateways to Nature* will also include an educational outreach component designed to bring greater awareness of and appreciation for our natural environment, particularly among our youth. This outreach will not only support science education but also promote physical fitness and social responsibility.

CWC is grateful to Cummins for this grant and to its Jamestown Engine Plant employees who championed the funding of this project and who have invested hundreds of hours working to improve and maintain trails and kiosks at several CWC preserves. We look forward to their continuation as an active partner in constructing these gateways to nature!



Employees from Cummins Jamestown Engine Plant built a walking bridge at the new Brown's Creek Forest Preserve.

# Proposed Cassadaga Lake Nature Park

## *Property To Expand Public Access & Recreation Opportunities on Cassadaga Lake*

CWC is pursuing the conservation of 77 acres of forest and lakeshore wetlands on Upper Cassadaga Lake between Lily Dale and Camp Gross. This project would conserve approximately 26 acres of lakeshore wetlands and 1,100 feet of wild wetland shoreline with exceptionally high ecological value.

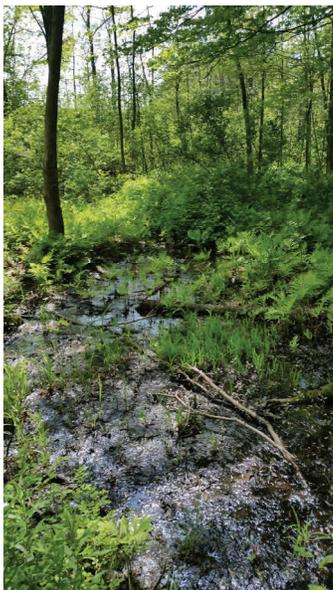


The wetlands and stream mouth on this site and adjacent Lily Dale are the conduit and filter for water draining from Route 60 and 1,800 acres of watershed above it. The site is home to many mature hemlock and white pine and provides excellent habitat for water-dependent species including waterfowl, salamanders, frogs, turtles, snakes, and birds. Recent acoustic surveys strongly indicate that little brown bats, which are listed as a Species of Greatest Conservation Need in New York's Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy Plan, are also present here.

Once conserved, the CWC intends to establish the site as the Cassadaga Lake Nature Park, which would be open to the public from sunrise to sunset for birdwatching, nature study and observation, nature photography, hiking, snowshoeing, cross-county skiing, family picnicking, and relaxation in nature. Improvements would include the installation of a looped trail system, wildlife observation blinds, lake observation platform, benches, picnic area, and small parking area. A fishing access point on the lake may also be possible.

Clearing and excavating this site for development would have a significant negative impact on local wildlife population as well as a negative impact on the quality of the water in Cassadaga Lakes. Conserving this property will ensure that the high ecological and wildlife habitat value of this site will remain protected, regardless of whether state or federal wetland regulations survive in the future.

To date, CWC has been awarded \$5,000 from the Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation for preliminary acquisition and campaign materials costs and \$30,000 from the Lenna Foundation toward acquisition costs. CWC is pursuing additional grants and tax deductible donations for the remaining \$115,000 needed for the acquisition, access, and long-term stewardship costs of this site. If you'd like to contribute toward this project, please contact Jonathan or John at the CWC. Various naming opportunities are available. *(photos by Jill Eklund)*



## Water Quality Improvement Projects (WQIP) Update

Chautauqua County received a grant in 2015 for \$1.1 million from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Water Quality Improvement Project Program to be used for erosion control on Chautauqua Lake tributary streams. Chautauqua County provided local match funds from the Occupancy Tax Program to seed the project, making the total budget \$1.4 million. On the county's behalf, the Chautauqua Lake and Watershed Management Alliance applied for the grants and is administering the funds, the Chautauqua County Soil and Water Conservation District and CLWMA are directing the stream restoration and stabilization efforts, and the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy is doing the publicity and public outreach for the projects.



Before & After WQIP Work on Prendergast Creek

The purpose of the WQIP program is to improve the water quality of Chautauqua Lake and its tributaries by arresting soil erosion and intercepting nutrient loading caused by streambank and channel instability. There are seven priority sections on six streams entering Chautauqua Lake that are funded by this program. Excess sediment transported into the lake via eroding, unstable stream banks is a significant source of nutrients, which can impair water quality by fueling the growth of algae blooms and excessive aquatic vegetation. Improvement work has already been completed on Prendergast Creek and one section of Bemus Creek, with more work on Bemus Creek underway this summer. The other projects will take place in Goose, Ball, Dutch Hollow, and West Dutch Hollow Creeks.

Prendergast Creek was the first local stream to benefit from WQIP funding. Construction started in August 2016, and by the time the work was finished in September, roughly 1,140 feet of total stream corridor had been restored and roughly 650 linear feet of stone toe protection had been installed, along with two cross-channel grade stabilizers (rock riffles). Willows were planted along the bank, where they rooted quickly to provide additional bank stabilization.

Construction on Bemus Creek began in October 2016 and focused on a section of stream near Bemus-Ellery Road in Ellery. At the conclusion of the fall construction season, restoration efforts had addressed approximately 830 feet of the creek. This project included the installation of about 500 linear feet of stone toe protection to help reduce erosion along the banks. This summer, construction continues in Bemus Creek closer to its outlet in Chautauqua Lake.



Before & After WQIP Construction:  
Former CWC Conservationist Jennifer Maguder standing in Bemus Creek

Planning for the Ball Creek project is underway with collaborative efforts by the Chautauqua County Soil and Water Conservation District, CLWMA, and CWC. Engineering for the construction is anticipated to be completed by the end of the year. These WQIP projects will continue through the summer of 2018.

*Funding for these projects was provided in part by the Environmental Protection Fund as administered by the NYSDEC. Chautauqua County and the 2% Occupancy Tax Program provided the local match funds for these projects.*

# DEC Acquires 10 Acres on Whitney Bay

## Property Expands Public Access & Recreation Opportunities on Chautauqua Lake

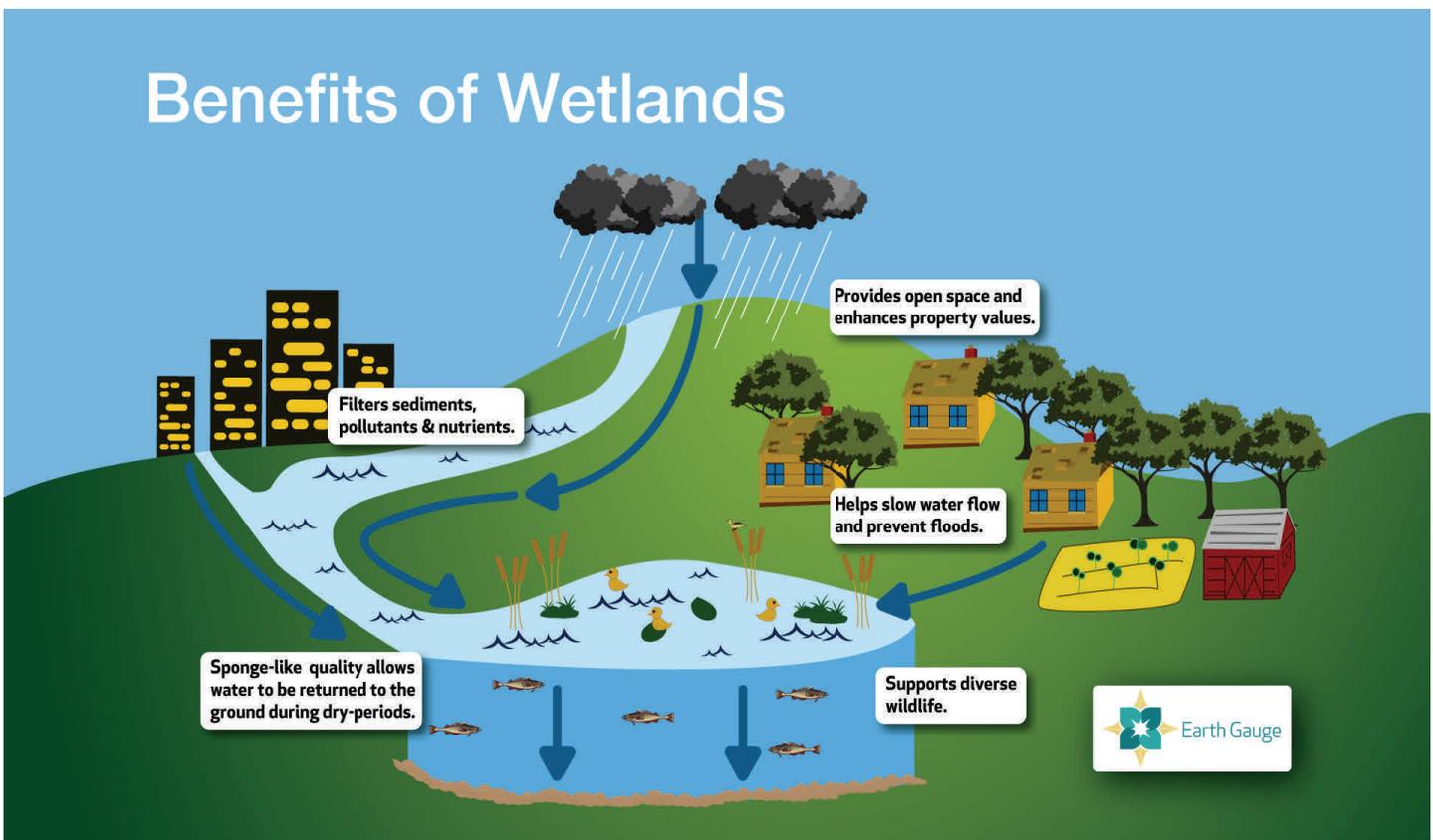
Through a partnership with the CWC, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation recently acquired 11 acres of land in the Town of Chautauqua along Whitney Bay on Chautauqua Lake. The newly acquired parcel, called the Whitney Bay Site, will become part of the NYSDEC's Chautauqua Lake Fish and Wildlife Management Area.

“Thanks to the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy, this new parcel will become a valuable addition to the Chautauqua Lake Fish and Wildlife Management Area,” said DEC Regional Director Abby Snyder. “Not only will it provide additional recreational opportunities and lake access for the public, but it will also help to protect valuable wetland habitat and 300 feet of lake shoreline.”

The Conservancy is very pleased that this wooded wetland lakeshore, with its valuable native emergent and aquatic vegetation important to the fisheries and waterfowl of the lake, has been permanently protected and will be available for public use. With less than 10% of the lake's shoreline in a natural condition, conserving these last remaining habitat sites is extremely important to the health of the lake and its fish and wildlife populations.



The Whitney Bay Site is the fourth parcel to be added to the DEC's Chautauqua Lake Fish and Wildlife Management area, which now comprises 134 total acres along Chautauqua Lake. Other sites include Tom's Point Site (72 acres), Cheney Farm Site (34 acres), and Stow Farm Site (17 acres). Over the past 20 years, the CWC and DEC have worked collaboratively to conserve over two miles of environmentally-sensitive shoreline and wetland areas along Chautauqua Lake and its outlet. The new site will provide access to the lake for waterfowl hunting, trapping, fishing, and wildlife viewing. Additional information about the Chautauqua Lake Fish and Wildlife Management Area can be found on the DEC's website at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/outdoor/82703.html>.



## Aquatic Herbicides Applied to 30 Acres in Bemus Bay

With funding from property owners in Bemus Bay, the Chautauqua Lake Partnership, Town of Ellery and Village of Bemus Point were permitted by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to use the herbicides Navigate (2,4-D) and Aquathol K (Endothall) on 30 acres of Bemus Bay on Chautauqua Lake in June of this year. The treatment covered the lake area within 200 feet of the shoreline over approximately 1.2 miles of the east and north sides of Bemus Bay. (Permit information is available at the Ellery Town Hall.) The intent was to control excessive plant growth and, thus, reduce the need for plant harvesting and the shoreline accumulations of plants and decaying organic matter. The herbicide treatment was requested for 1.5 miles of near-shore plant beds stretching from The Village Casino to Long Point State Park along the eastern shore of Chautauqua Lake in Bemus Bay. Residents there have stated that the accumulation of decaying aquatic plants and algae in the lake and along the shore last August and September produced unhealthy conditions and odors, making their lakefronts unusable.

Early in 2017, Chautauqua County and representatives of member agencies of the Chautauqua Lake and Watershed Management Alliance completed the Chautauqua Lake Macrophyte [Aquatic Plant] Management Strategy plan as a guide for which plant management tools, including harvesting and herbicides, can be used in the lake. The plan took into account fish spawning areas, rare plant and animal species, intensity of shore use, and drinking water intakes, etc. This consensus document was drafted with thoughtful input and revision over several years, with the intent to balance lake ecology with demands for various lake uses. The completion of the CLMMS was previously required by the NYSDEC as a condition for the potential use of herbicides in the lake.



30 acres of Bemus Bay were treated with herbicides in June of this year.

The Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy and Chautauqua Lake Association, both active participants in the development of the CLMMS, formally commented to the NYSDEC with their concerns on the proposed herbicide application. (CWC's letter to the NYSDEC can be found on the CWC website.) While the CWC affirms that cyanobacteria blooms and conditions of decaying algae and plants in Bemus Bay seriously disrupted many homeowners' use and enjoyment of their properties last summer and fall, CWC is concerned that the herbicide treatment may not alleviate these problems and may inadvertently harm a variety of plant and animal species.

The CWC requested that the NYSDEC withhold approval of the requested permit, pending:

- ◆ Completion of an appropriate environmental impact statement with public participation
- ◆ Demonstration that the herbicide application will achieve the applicant's intended outcome, including algae and cyanobacteria reduction (*CWC was/is concerned that loss of plant nutrient uptake may promote harmful algae blooms and have detrimental impacts on beneficial plant and animal species.*)
- ◆ Demonstration of the necessity to use herbicides based upon lake plant density and community composition at the time of the proposed herbicide application (*Data from scientists not associated with the herbicide applicator may conflict with the project proponent's plant survey findings accepted by the NYSDEC.*)

CWC will continue to work with upland and lakefront property owners to help reduce the inflow of nutrients and sediments into Chautauqua Lake, which is necessary for effective long-term control of dense exotic vegetation and harmful algae blooms. CWC supports efforts by both the CLA and CLP to explore and experiment with new, improved techniques to more efficiently remove aquatic vegetation as it accumulates along the shoreline of the lake in Bemus Bay and at other sites. The CWC board of directors will continue to review scientific papers on potential human health threats of herbicides, the effectiveness of herbicides on targeted plant, and the impacts on non-target plant and animal species. It will continue to evaluate the proposed CLMMS as to whether its recommendations are protective of human health and ecological health of the lake. CWC will also continue to advocate for the completion of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement carried out by a public body with opportunity for public input addressing various potential human and ecological impacts for any proposed herbicide use on the lake.

## Are You Fertilizing the Lake?

Is lawn fertilization contributing to Chautauqua Lake's excessive algae blooms? Research indicates that it is!

Chautauqua Lake has experienced seasonal algae blooms for decades. It has always been a fertile lake, with abundant plant and algae communities contributing to very productive fisheries. Changes in the lake community after its invasion by zebra mussels and other contributing factors have caused blue-green algae (cyanobacteria) blooms to be documented at various locations in the lake over the last several years. Cyanobacteria sometimes produce toxins that can be poisonous to pets and humans. Blooms with the toxins present are called "harmful algae blooms" or HABs for short.

What does it take to produce a bloom? Cyanobacteria need to be present with warm water, sunshine and nutrients – especially phosphorus (P) and nitrogen (N) – in order to grow and reproduce rapidly, thus creating a bloom. In freshwater lakes, phosphorus is a main driver of

algae blooms. Phosphorus is naturally abundant in most soils in our region. P comes from treated wastewater, runoff from fertilized crop fields and pastures, and as part of soil eroded from yards, fields, stream banks, and construction sites. It falls from the sky as a pollutant in precipitation. Nitrogen is different. Many species of cyanobacteria can get their nitrogen directly from nitrogen gas dissolved in lake water. Our atmosphere is 78% nitrogen. Many cyanobacteria need abundant phosphorus to grow but don't need nitrogen in the "fixed" form of ammonia or nitrate to grow. However, nitrogen in the form of ammonia, urea, or nitrates is much more efficiently used than gaseous nitrogen.



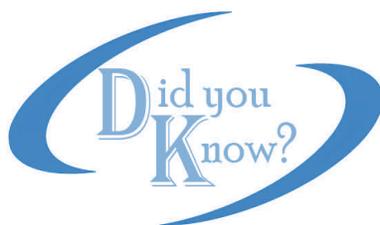
Jennifer Phillips Russo spoke about the causes of algae blooms in Chautauqua Lake at a CWC *Healthy Landscapes for Healthy Waters* presentation in July.



Remember, when you are fertilizing your lawn, you may not be fertilizing just your lawn.

Recent research on Chautauqua Lake by SUNY-Fredonia adjunct professor Jennifer Phillips Russo, working with Courtney Wigdahl-Perry, Ph.D., indicates that the growth of cyanobacteria implicated in blue-green algae blooms in Chautauqua Lake may be promoted by fixed nitrogen in the form of ammonia or nitrate. In Russo's experiments, cyanobacteria growth accelerated when abundant phosphorus and these nitrogen compounds were present. Other research has found that the abundant cyanobacteria in the lake is of the species that need nitrogen in the water in a form other than the gaseous form in order to grow abundantly to form blooms. The conclusion: multiple studies tell us that summer lawn fertilization is likely contributing to algae blooms! Therefore, if you choose to use fertilizer, please refrain from using any fertilizers on your lawn or grounds until after August.

More information on how to avoid fertilizing lake algae and plants can be found in the Cornell Cooperative Extension's *Lawn Care Without Pesticides* publication at <https://ecommons.cornell.edu/handle/1813/43857>.



Did you know that just one pound of phosphorus can produce 1,100 pounds of algae in the lake?!

## 6th Annual Charity Golf Tournament A Success!



For the 6th year in a row, the CWC was the beneficiary of the Chautauqua Golf Club's annual Pro-Am Golf Tournament. The tournament, held on June 26th, featured WNY PGA professionals paired with amateurs in a team competition. A total of 112 golfers participated in the event. This year's tournament netted \$32,000 for the Conservancy, which will be used toward ongoing preventive and restorative efforts to improve lake and watershed conditions. Congratulations to this year's winning team, pictured at left: PGA pro J.A. Sutherland, Bill Bernard, Scott Crist, and Ann Kneppshield (photo by Terri & Kristin Johnson, Chautauqua County Camera Club). Congratulations also go out to this year's "Closest To The Pin" winners Scott Crist and Lisa Payne. Thank you to all tournament sponsors, players, and volunteers for making this a successful event! The 2018 tournament is scheduled for Monday, June 25th – mark your calendars!



### Thank you to our 2017 *Score One For The Lake!* Pro-Am Charity Golf Tournament Sponsors from the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy!

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# Chautauqua Lake Wastewater Treatment Update

*By Pierre Chagnon, County Legislator, Bemus Point*

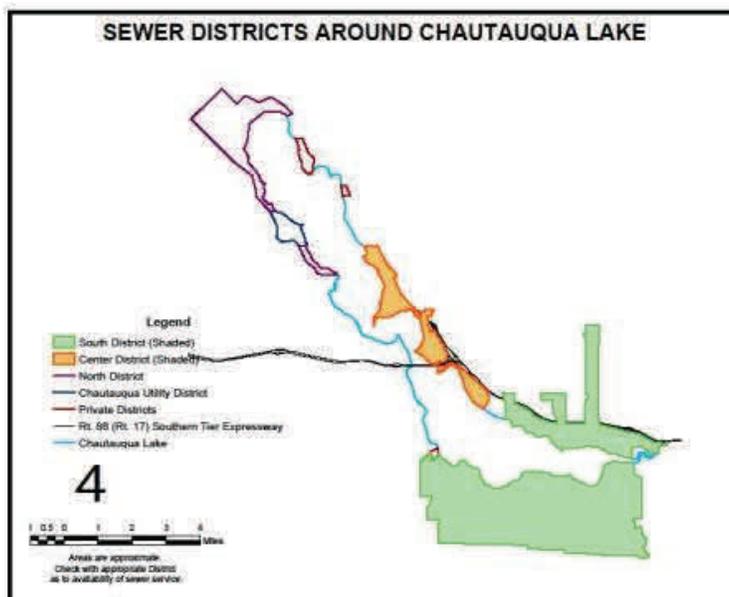
Wastewater treatment plant improvements and sewer district expansions for Chautauqua Lake are moving forward. The Chautauqua County Sewer Agency has been working with the sewer districts to achieve realistic schedules for implementation that meet regulatory requirements, including the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for phosphorus that has been established for Chautauqua Lake. Each sewer district is working to achieve compliance in a way that minimizes user costs, maximizes the amount of state and federal grant funding that is available, and has a measurable impact on the environmental health of Chautauqua Lake.

The North Chautauqua Lake Sewer District has completed final design and regulatory approval for phosphorus limit compliance upgrades at the wastewater treatment plant in Mayville. Bidding and contracting for construction are being done this summer, with construction commencement planned for the fall and completion by summer 2018. The feasibility of sewer district expansions and consolidations on the north side of Chautauqua Lake along with additional treatment capacity upgrades are still being evaluated.

The Town of Chautauqua Sewer District #1 is making progress with the elimination of the wastewater treatment plant at Chautauqua Lake Estates. The project to replace the current wastewater treatment plant with a pumping station that will convey the sewage to the North Chautauqua Lake Sewer District wastewater treatment plant in Mayville is currently in design, with fieldwork ongoing with surveys, soil borings, and wetland delineation. The Town is actively seeking grant funding through the New York State Clean Water Infrastructure Act of 2017 that will make the project more affordable. Additionally, the Town has undertaken preliminary engineering studies regarding the feasibility of extending public sewage collection beyond the current sewer district.



The South and Center Chautauqua Lake Sewer Districts are forging ahead with plans for sewer district expansion along the south side of Chautauqua Lake. The expansion of the South District is proceeding in a phased approach, with the first phase being pursued to extend the district up through the Stow area. Once grant funding is secured to make the costs to the users affordable, construction of the collection systems in the newly expanded district can be undertaken. Grant funding is being aggressively pursued through the Clean Water Infrastructure Act of 2017 and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Water Quality Improvement Project Program.



Map courtesy of Chautauqua County

<http://chautauqua.ny.us/DocumentCenter/Home/View/485>

The Chautauqua Utility District serves Chautauqua Institution and is currently implementing an \$8 million wastewater treatment plant upgrade. The project is on schedule and on budget, and is 75% complete with most of the treatment process to be on line in 2018. The forward-looking project involves the installation of a new process system, replacing the existing rotating biological contactors with new technology sequencing batch reactors that will provide for tertiary treatment of both phosphorus and ammonia.

This project will enable the Chautauqua Utility District to meet the current regulatory requirements and will position the District for compliance with more stringent nitrogen removal requirements that are anticipated in the future.

## OUR APPRECIATION FOR GIFTS IN MEMORY OF . . .

### **Robert G. Allison**

from  
*Anthony & Laura Calanni*  
*Ron & Sue Calanni*  
*Ken & Linda Day*  
*Patricia King*  
*Cynthia Reindl*  
*Gary & Betty Schnoebelen*  
*Jim Schnoebelen*  
*Tim & Karen Schnoebelen*  
*Joan A. Smith*  
*Liane Starns*  
*Paul & Linnel Sullivan*

### **Victor Banacki, Sr.**

from  
*Christie Herbst*

### **Thomas H. Cable, Jr.**

from  
*Thomas G. Cable*  
*Viginia Crawford*  
*Darrell & Judith Daugherty*  
*Mr. & Mrs. Foster*  
*Anne Gershon*  
*Jeff Kolodnet*  
*Gren & Joanne Schoch*  
*John & Patricia Switzer*  
*Henry J. Wallace, Jr.*

### **Margaret Miller**

from  
*Patricia King*

### **Timothy A. Rocco**

from  
*Binnie Kurtzner*

### **Dr. Donald M. Zarou**

from  
*Christie Herbst*

### **Anne C. ("Penny") Small**

from  
*Thomas & Martha Ginzl*  
*Dianne K. Martin*  
*James & Katherine Pender*  
*Dr. G. James Sammarco*  
*Tyler & Carolyn Swanson*  
*Art & Carol Webster*  
*Dr. Jeanne Wiebenga*  
*Caroline P. Young*

### **Maxwell W. Somers**

from  
*Jonathan & Sumi Barry*  
*Iris Braunstein*  
*Norman & Helene Braunstein*  
*Howard & Kristi Hirsch*  
*Hilary Inwood & Cam Bramwell*  
*Lois Gaynor*  
*Robin Glenn*  
*Maxine Karns*  
*Audrey Kekst*  
*Nancy Liberman*  
*Larry & Evelyn London*  
*James & Betsy Sampliner*  
*Tony Zucker*

### **Richard F. Siefert**

from  
*Christie Herbst*

### **Robert A. Sundell**

from  
*Leonard & Kimberly Snyder*

### **Garnet J. ("Woody") Wood**

from  
*Binnie Kurtzner*

## OUR APPRECIATION FOR GIFTS IN HONOR OF . . .

### **Cynthia Bracken's Birthday**

from  
*Ben & Sarah Bracken*

### **Jim & Mimi Gallo's 50th Wedding Anniversary**

from  
*Maurice & Pearl Emerling*

### **The Marriage of Jeffrey Johnston & Michelle Farr**

from  
*Tom & Lisa Courtice*

### **The Marriage of Steve Johnston & Holly Carlson**

from  
*Tom & Lisa Courtice*

### **Douglas M. Larson**

### **Richard B. Rose**

### **Craig A. Seger**

from  
*John & Carol Jablonski*

### **Stephen & Patricia**

### **Telkins**

from  
*Peter & Susan Weaver*

### **Eileen Weinberg**

from  
*Jamestown  
 Garden Club*

**A special THANK YOU to  
 Samuel P. Price and his wife  
 Petey (Martha Jones) who both  
 made a provision for the  
 CWC in their wills.**

Memorial and honorarium gifts provide a special opportunity to let family and friends know they are in your thoughts.

- Express your sympathy or honor the memory of a loved one.
- Celebrate a birthday, marriage, anniversary, or other important occasion.
- Honor someone for their thoughtfulness, good deed, or special achievement.

Make your special gift online at [www.chautauquawatershed.org](http://www.chautauquawatershed.org) or by phone at 716.664.2166.



## Community Foundation & County Fund CWC's 2017-18 Chautauqua Lakes & Streams Watershed Stewardship Program

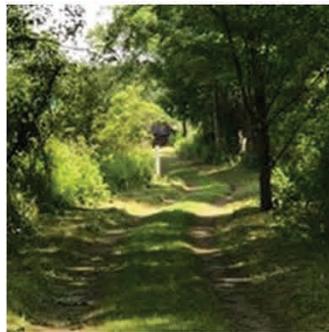
CWC has been awarded \$8,000 from the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, \$3,666 from the Chautauqua County 2% Occupancy Tax Waterways Protection Fund, and \$10,000 from an anonymous donor to help fund its Chautauqua Lakes & Streams Watershed Conservation Stewardship Program for 2017-18. These grants will be used for the *Healthy Landscapes for Healthy Waters* program which provides watershed education and technical assistance, such as lakeshore buffer work, stream management, erosion control, and landscaping for wildlife and water quality. Want a conservationist to speak to your group or to assess your yard or neighborhood for opportunities to improve practices for protecting water quality? Contact us at 716.664.2166 or [info@chautauquawatershed.org](mailto:info@chautauquawatershed.org).



### Cummins Day of Caring took place July 26th 2017

We are so thankful for Cummins for providing many helping hands to build more bridges, platforms, foot bridges, and trail maintenance so the public can enjoy our preserves and the beauty they have to offer!

We had a wonderfully productive day with 50 volunteers at 4 different preserves!



### Oxbow Forest Preserve Opening *(continued from front page)*

The preserve is open for public use year-round from dawn until dusk. It is part of the CWC's Chautauqua Watersheds Tributary Preserves System, with the purposes of protecting drinking water supplies and conserving important fish and wildlife habitats. This Preserves System consists of more than 1,000 acres of land at 29 sites across the county.

Improvements to the Oxbow Forest Preserve were supported with funding from the New York State Conservation Partnership Program and the New York State Environmental Protection Fund. The NYSCPP is administered by the Land Trust Alliance, in coordination with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. Additional support was provided by members of the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy, Northern Chautauqua Community Foundation, Holt Associates, NYSDEC Public Fishing Rights Program, and Andy Johnson of EcoStrategies, with in-kind support from the Town of Chautauqua and many volunteers.

## Fall Lawn Care Tips for Water Quality

After the heat and activity of summer, fall's cooler temperatures and warm soils provide an ideal time for planting, weeding, aerating and getting your lawn ready for a healthy comeback in the spring. Doing it the right way can also prevent pollution and protect our water quality.

**PLANT.** Weeds are less competitive in the fall, and cooler temperatures help with germination, making it a good time to plant new grass, lay sod and patch bare spots. It will help plants develop strong roots, which in turn will help reduce erosion and runoff. Many types of trees and most deciduous shrubs can easily be planted in the fall as well. Remember to always choose native varieties of anything you plant.

**MULCH & COMPOST.** Leaves are a good source of nutrients. Mulch them into smaller bits with your lawnmower and leave them in your yard where they will act as natural fertilizer. **NEVER** rake or sweep leaves into the street or storm drain – they discharge directly into the closest waterway and, in the same way they will fertilize your lawn, they will fertilize the plants in streams and lakes as well as contribute to algae blooms. Likewise, never sweep grass clippings into the street or storm drains – they can carry pesticides and other chemicals with them which can harm fish and other aquatic life. Sweeping leaves and grass into storm drains can also lead to clogged storm drains and cause flooding.

**MOW.** Mow your lawn to a height of three inches. This is short enough to prevent matting but long enough to support a healthy root structure. Thick grass prevents soil erosion and absorbs rainwater. By soaking up rainwater, lawns decrease the amount of stormwater runoff funneling pollutants into lakes and streams.

**AERATE.** Core aerating your lawn punches small holes in the lawn to circulate air, water, and nutrients into the soil. This will allow more oxygen and moisture to reach the roots of plants, which will in turn reduce the need for watering your lawn. Aerated lawns also require less fertilizer.

**FERTILIZE.** Fall is when plants are eagerly soaking up and storing any nutrients they can find, making it a good time to fertilize (if you must). Get a soil test beforehand to know exactly what your lawn's particular nutritional needs are.



# WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?

Make a difference in the lives that follow with a planned gift to the CWC by naming the CWC in your will or designating the CWC as a beneficiary of your bank account, 401(k), or life insurance policy. Contact the CWC for more information.

## WAYS TO DONATE

Your support makes our conservation and education work possible. No matter your level of giving, your generosity makes a difference! How can you help?

### Donate

Fill out the membership form below and mail it to the CWC with your check or credit card information, or donate safely and securely on our website via PayPal.

### Become a Monthly Donor

Join the Watershed Partners Circle with a monthly donation and support CWC all year long.

### Shop

Use Amazon Smile to donate a percentage of your Amazon purchases to the CWC. Or purchase an item from our Amazon "Wish List."

### Securities

Talk to your financial advisor about a making a charitable contribution of appreciated securities such as stocks, bonds and /or mutual funds.

### Real Estate

Donate land to CWC or place a conservation easement on your property

### Planned Giving

Include CWC as a beneficiary in your will, retirement plan or insurance policy.

*Visit [www.chautauquawatershed.org](http://www.chautauquawatershed.org) or call 716.664.2166 for more information!*

## WAYS TO VOLUNTEER

Looking for ways you can help in addition to your membership? Here are just a few ideas:

### Become a Preserve Steward

and help to annually monitor one of our preserves.

### Become a Watershed Steward

by adopting watershed-friendly landscaping and gardening practices on your property.

### Join our Invasive Species Action Team

and help look for and control invasive insects and plants on our preserves.

### Hold A House Party

for your family and friends and help spread the word about our work and mission.

### Join our Operations Team

and help us with our "behind the scenes" work in the CWC office.

### Join our Outreach Team

and represent the CWC at local fairs and other events.

### Become a Social Media Ambassador

and help get our message out there with a like, share, retweet, favorite or re-pin on your favorite social media site.

### Become an Intern

and gain valuable work experience while helping the environment at the same time!

**YES!** *I want to help conserve the lakes, streams, wetlands and watersheds of the Chautauqua region!*

Name/s: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Seasonal Address (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_ Dates: \_\_\_\_\_

Seasonal Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Friend \$20 - \$49    Steward \$50 - \$199    Contributor \$200 - \$499

Supporter \$500 - \$999    Partner \$1,000 - \$2,499    Leader \$2,500+

My check is enclosed (made out to CWC)    Please charge \$\_\_\_\_\_ to my Visa/MC/American Express/Discover:

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card Number                      Expiration                      Sec. Code                      Signature

*Please remit with your contribution to the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy, 413 North Main Street, Jamestown, NY, 14701 or donate online via PayPal at [www.chautauquawatershed.org](http://www.chautauquawatershed.org).*



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WATERSHED  
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Get *The 'Shed Sheet*  
electronically - email us at  
[info@chautauquawatershed.org](mailto:info@chautauquawatershed.org).



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Saturday, September 9th - 9:00 AM - Botany & Birds Discovery**  
CWC's Bentley Preserve, Bentley Avenue, Ellicott

**Saturday, September 9th - 10:00 AM - Paddles Across the Lakes**  
Cassadaga Lakes, DEC Boat Launch, Dale Drive, Cassadaga

**Saturday, October 14th - 2:00 PM - Fall Foliage Tour**  
CWC's Salomon Family Preserve, Morris Road, Chautauqua

**October - Date & Time TBD - Proposed Preserve Tour**  
(Proposed) Cassadaga Lake Nature Park, Route 60, Cassadaga

*(see the CWC website for more details)*

## Stay up-to-date with the latest Conservancy news!

Sign up for our free e-news! Visit [www.chautauquawatershed.org](http://www.chautauquawatershed.org) to register for emails about upcoming Conservancy programs and events and conservation news. You can also stay connected with us on social media: Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Pinterest and Instagram.

