



**WINTER
2008-09**

THE 'SHED SHEET



Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy

NEW LEADERSHIP FOR CLMC

With the resignation of Chautauqua Lake Management Commission Chairman Bill Evans, the Chautauqua County Legislature has appointed **Lyle Hajdu as the new CLMC Chairman**, and the CWC would like to congratulate him on his new position. Hajdu offered the following message to our 'Shed Sheet readers: "Effective January of 2009, the Chautauqua County Legislature appointed me as chairman of the Chautauqua Lake Management Commission. The Chautauqua Lake Management Commission is a collaborative partnership of diverse stakeholders dedicated to the proper management of Chautauqua Lake and its watershed. One of our partners is the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy, which is actively engaged in watershed education and conservation. My first act as chairman was to **appoint Art Webster, President of the CWC Board of Directors, as vice-chairman**. Art is well respected among the CLMC members and is a strong advocate for action.



Lyle Hajdu

The core mission of the CLMC is to create, implement and monitor a comprehensive lake and watershed management plan to protect the health, ecology and uses of Chautauqua Lake and its watershed. The development of a watershed management plan is presently underway and should be completed by early 2010. Specific management plans to address dredging or the control of submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV) will likely be developed separately, since they require extensive ecological and economical analysis.

I recognize that our best opportunity for success is through the collaborative effort of stakeholders, each with an ownership interest in both the process and the outcome. Successful lake and watershed collaborations take time and energy to develop, and ours is no exception. Despite the inherent challenges faced, the CLMC must continue to evolve into a more functional and productive forum that fulfills its core mission and produces discernable results in 2009. With so many talented and dedicated individuals willing to work together toward a common goal, I am confident that we will succeed."

NEW CWC DIRECTOR



P. Christian Yates

CWC is pleased to announce the **addition of P. Christian ("Chris") Yates** to its Board of Directors. Chris holds a B.A. Degree in biology/pre-med from Washington & Jefferson College with post-graduate studies at General Theological Seminary of the Episcopal Church. He has a 40-year career in banking and financial services and is presently a partner at Hutton Associates (an institutional, financial and management consulting firm) with his wife, Penelope Hutton. Chris also serves as

President of the Chautauqua Lake Association, President of the Chautauqua County Visitors Bureau, Director of the WCA Hospital Foundation, Chair of the Business Administration Team and Corporate Trustee of Lakewood Baptist Church and facilitator for the Chautauqua County Victim Impact Panel. Chris and his wife currently reside in Jamestown, NY. **Welcome Chris!**



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Chautauqua
Watershed
Conservancy

Board of Directors:

Arthur D. Webster, *President*
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Rebecca L. Nystrom, *Director Emeritus*

Staff:

John Jablonski III, *Executive Director*
Jill Desborough, *Director of Operations*
Priscilla Titus, *Ecologist*

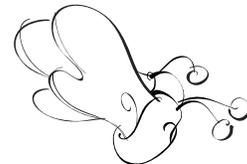
The 'Shed Sheet newsletter is a quarterly publication of the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy and is issued in January, April, July and October.

Founded in 1990, the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy is a non-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Federal Tax Code whose mission is to preserve and enhance the water quality, scenic beauty and ecological health of the lakes, streams and watersheds of the Chautauqua region by promoting best land management practices and conserving local, undeveloped shoreline and wetland areas.

The CWC relies on the support of generous individuals, businesses and civic organizations to achieve its mission. All donations to the CWC are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law and are greatly appreciated.

A Message from the President

by Arthur D. Webster



Dear Friends,

There is no doubt that our country's economy is in a difficult state.

There is also no doubt that just about everyone and every organization is feeling the effects of our current economy.

This includes the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy and every other organization around Chautauqua Lake focused on dealing with the many environmental issues facing the lake.

In the last issue of *The 'Shed Sheet*, I said, "The message of the CWC Board of Directors is simple and straightforward. If you are already a Conservancy member, we thank you and ask that you please continue your support. If you have not yet supported the work of the Conservancy with a financial contribution, we ask that you please do so soon."

Fact: CWC revenues are down about 16% over this time last year. This means that some important educational programs are in danger of being cut back or eliminated.

Fact: One of those educational programs is *The 'Shed Sheet* you are reading right now. We mail out approximately 7,600 'Shed Sheets each quarter at a cost of about \$7,000 per issue. We have about 1,400 contributing members. *If you are one of the 6,200 people who receive The 'Shed Sheet but are not a contributing member, won't you consider becoming a contributing member?*

There is a form in this and every issue of *The 'Shed Sheet* that shows the various levels of commitment you can make. Working together, we can make a positive difference. And, remember, **every gift will make a difference.**

The Conservancy has a committed and energetic Board of Directors and a capable Executive Director and staff. All of the ingredients for the success of the mission of the CWC are in place. And we need each one of you to help. 

"The activist is not the man who says the river is dirty.
The activist is the man who cleans up the river."
~ Ross Perot

THANK YOU
CWC would like to express its sincerest thanks to outgoing board director **Edward "Tad" Wright** for his service to the board and support of CWC.

A Message from the Executive Director

by John Jablonski III



Dear Friends,

First, *I thank all of you who have chosen to generously renew your membership support or have joined the Conservancy for the first time through our annual membership campaign!* CWC can't keep up this work without your strong support. We have set an ambitious program for our 2008-2009 fiscal year, but one-third of the way through this fiscal year, the CWC, like many other organizations, is seeing a substantial decline in revenues. On September 30th, CWC ended its previous fiscal year with an operating deficit. We don't want to curtail important programs and projects, but unless we receive the support we need from loyal members, new members and grant sources to meet our budget, we will soon be forced to make serious cuts in our educational and land conservation activities.

County Funding and the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy

We are enthused to see Chautauqua County authorize the investment of over \$600,000 for 2009 in lake, stream and watershed protection and in maintenance and enhancement activities in the Chautauqua Lake watershed and across the County. Our County's exceptional water resources set it apart as an attractive place to live and recreate. Creating a County fund "dedicated solely to the enhancement and protection of the lakes and streams of Chautauqua County" and investing in several stream, lakeshore and road ditch erosion control, pollution control, and shoreline cleanup projects is great news! The CWC has advocated for real investment in these types of projects since its inception. *However, we would like you, the members of the CWC, to know that CWC continues to need your membership and project support!*

The CWC is thankful to have had support from the County at a rate of \$2,000 per year for the conservation of lands in the Chautauqua Lake watershed from 2003 through 2007. Our 2008 and 2009 grant awards for this activity were reduced to \$1,850 annually. In 2008, the County, pursuant to a recommendation from the CLMC, contracted with the CWC to deliver Chautauqua Lake watershed education services in the amount of \$72,500. To maximize use of these funds and gain the connection to the statewide resources of Cornell Cooperative Extension, the CWC subcontracted this project to Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chautauqua County. CCECC hired Betsy Hite to deliver a watershed stewardship video for property owners, train landscapers, and educate property owners on how to manage yards and grounds to avoid and minimize water pollution. As executive director of the CWC, I am participating in the supervision of the watershed steward and in the delivery of these watershed education activities. CWC is pleased to have the opportunity to partner with Extension and the County/CLMC to provide these watershed education services; however, of this \$72,500, the CWC stands to receive a net reimbursement of only \$5,500 for its role in the delivery of these activities. The CCECC will receive the remaining \$67,000 to undertake its share of the watershed activities.

Please note that this **County funding augments existing CWC watershed education programs**, so that, in partnership, we can reach substantially more landowners and landscaping-related service providers with information and resources to reduce the annual loads of nutrients and sediments fueling algae and plant growth to Chautauqua Lake. ***It does not replace the essential funding provided by you*** through memberships, honorariums, memorials, special gifts and grants to deliver our programs! To date, CWC has not received County/CLMC financial support for CWC's efforts to conserve our lake's last remaining natural lakeshore buffer/habitat sites at Sandy Bottom and elsewhere. **So I urge you to maintain or begin your generous membership support for these projects!**

Also, please be aware that, with the current economic crisis, New York State is diverting much of its dedicated Environmental Protection Fund into its general fund. That means there will be no State dollars for the foreseeable future for important shoreline conservation projects. ***If we want to save these irreplaceable sites, we need to raise the money ourselves***, as was done with the lakeshore forest at the Lutheran Center. With your help, we can do it again. But we expect that it will take patience and persistence on the part of all parties involved to bring these deals to completion over a much longer time period than anticipated. We hope that you will be as persistent in your dedication to see these projects completed as we are!



John Jablonski III

Use of Your Membership Dollars

As the Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy is in a new fiscal year, it is a good time to reflect and report on the accomplishments of the CWC during its previous fiscal year. With the generous support of our membership, the CWC was able to accomplish the following activities between October 1, 2007 and September 30, 2008. These were accomplished with only two full-time staffers and part-time/part-year consultants (totaling less than the equivalent of one full-time employee). CWC's board of directors and volunteers also helped to deliver these activities.

Land Conservation (Chautauqua Lake shore and watershed lands): Coordinated efforts with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to seek the conservation of lakeshore parcels in Chautauqua, North Harmony and Ellery in conjunction with the Chautauqua Lake Open Space Conservation Priority Project in the NYS Open Space Conservation Plan; made a \$105,000 payment to complete a conservation easement on 16 acres (including 900' of forested lakeshore) at the Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center and undertook baseline documentation of this land; conserved a wetland/forest parcel of 12 acres with 300' of lakefront for Chautauqua Lake Outlet Greenway; optioned a purchase of 3.5 acres of lakeshore (the "sandy bottom" wooded wetland lakeshore parcel); undertook appraisals and negotiated toward the conservation of another important Chautauqua lakeshore forest parcel; performed an environmental review and negotiated toward the conservation of 16 acres of a forested Burtis Bay tributary corridor and wetlands that has been threatened with commercial development; drafted management plans for the Cassadaga Creek and Elm Flats Wetlands Preserves; graded a future parking area and cleared and marked a trail at the Outlet Greenway Preserve; received assistance from BOCES students in the construction and pre-assembly of a kiosk for the trailhead at the Outlet Greenway Preserve; and received a donation of a one-acre wetland, stream and floodplain parcel.



Public Education/Pollution Prevention: Held three *Healthy Landscapes~ Healthy Waters* workshops, one focusing on yard and home maintenance to protect water quality and two focusing on the links between shore treatment and lake health, including research on lake plants, shorelines, fisheries, lawns, lakeshores, breakwalls, erosion, fish and plants (with more than 100 persons total attending these workshops). Held a presentation to discuss methods of controlling nuisance geese on lakeshore properties; held a presentation on a water quality and ecological assessment of Chautauqua Lake; published and distributed the educational newsletter *The 'Shed Sheet* to more than 7,600 persons quarterly, including municipal officials; provided a weekly "Watershed Notes" column to the regional newspaper; placed watershed education/pollution prevention messages on radio and in newspapers; organized numerous educational tours and presentations with lake and watershed stewardship messages; offered a lawn care soil nutrient and pH testing program with educational materials on the nutrient phosphorous to area watershed landowners; provided watershed education via guest spots on a local radio call-in program and displays/exhibits at Chautauqua Mall, at Jamestown Community College's "Earthfest" and at a weekend fly fishing exhibition; distributed more than 1,000 watershed stewardship brochures at area businesses; participated in the Watershed Education for Municipal Officials (WEMO) group planning education presentations for elected officials; and contracted with Chautauqua County and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Chautauqua County to deliver a lake and watershed education program in partnership with these organizations with funding through the Chautauqua Lake Management Commission.

Municipal Technical Assistance & Environmental Impact Review: Participated on the county-sponsored Chautauqua Lake Management Commission providing scientific technical assistance to develop and implement lake and watershed management recommendations, including the development of a submerged aquatic vegetation management plan; monitored the potential impacts of proposed development projects such as a large lakefront hotel/convention center in North Harmony; referred observed water quality concerns to the NYSDEC for sedimentation and pollution prevention/correction; participated on the County Water Quality Task Force; and identified potential storm water, sediment control and lakeshore buffer demonstration project locations in the Chautauqua Lake watershed. 

CWC Priorities for 2009

A healthy lake depends upon the healthy functions of ecological and hydrological systems in the lake and watershed. CWC strives to conserve the important components of the water collection, storage, filtration and delivery systems that sustain a healthy lake. To accomplish this, the CWC has set the following priorities for 2009:

1. **Lakeshore conservation and enhancement:**

a. **Lakeshore buffer enhancement** – CWC, along with experts from other agencies, will provide technical assistance and targeted limited financial assistance to waterfront landowners to enhance the anchoring and filtration functions of shoreline buffer zones by undertaking plantings and other practices to arrest erosion.

b. **Conservation of threatened important natural shore lands** – CWC will continue efforts to conserve the last natural shoreline sites on Chautauqua Lake.

2. **Watershed education for pollution prevention** – CWC will use *The 'Shed Sheet*, presentations, website, radio ads, and other media to encourage watershed residents, businesses, organizations and governments to implement best management practices to increase the effectiveness of watershed functions.

3. **Watershed stream corridor, wetland and headwater forest conservation** – CWC will cultivate and pursue opportunities with landowners to conserve and enhance watershed sites providing important hydrological functions: water re-charge (headwater forests), storage (wetlands/floodplains), and filtration (streamside buffer strips, wetlands).

4. **Preserve access improvements** – CWC will continue developing management plans, identifying opportunities for public use and implementing signage, trail and parking improvements for *your* enjoyment of *your* CWC preserves.

5. **Collaboration** – CWC will, along with the Chautauqua Lake Association, Chautauqua Lake Management Commission and other organizations, develop a watershed management plan and other watershed initiatives.

For more information on these or other CWC projects and initiatives, call the CWC at 716-664-2166 or email us at info@chautauquawatershed.org. 

Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy

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

I would like to: become a new member of CWC renew my annual CWC membership

My check is enclosed Please charge \$ _____ to my Visa/MC/American Express/Discover:

 Card Number

 Expiration

 Signature

Name _____ Phone (____) _____

Address _____ Email _____

Individual/Family Memberships:

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend \$20 - \$49 | <input type="checkbox"/> Steward \$50 - \$199 | <input type="checkbox"/> Contributor \$200 - \$499 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter \$500 - \$999 | <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation Partner \$1,000 - \$4,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Legacy \$5,000+ |

Business/Corporate Memberships:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor \$100 - \$499 | <input type="checkbox"/> Leader \$500 - \$2,499 | <input type="checkbox"/> Partner \$2,500+ |
|--|---|---|

Please remit with your contribution to: Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy, 413 North Main Street, Jamestown, NY 14701

The Beautiful Benefits of Buffers

by Betsy Hite

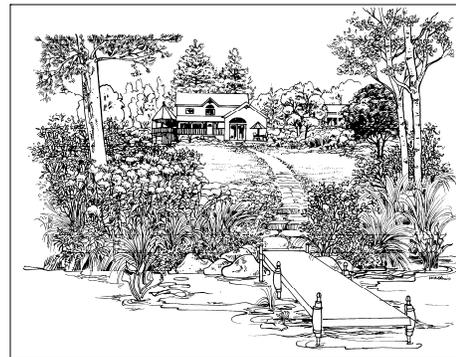
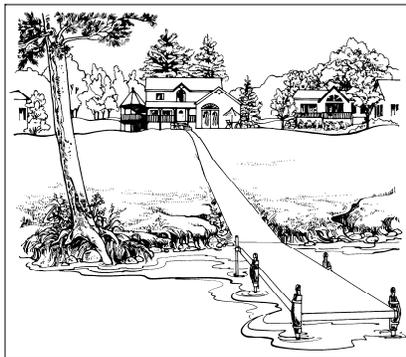
As part of its Watershed Management Plan, the Chautauqua Lake Management Commission hired Glenn Harbeck Associates, Inc. to evaluate zoning ordinances within the Chautauqua Lake Watershed and make land use recommendations to improve water quality. In their report entitled "Evaluation of Zoning Ordinances as to Water Quality Impacts," they made 14 recommendations, including the development of a "Chautauqua Lake Water Quality Restoration & Protection Overlay." In layman's terms, the overlay is a replacement set of regulations that would "apply to parcels with frontage on Chautauqua Lake or any perennial stream feeding the lake" falling within 300' of the lakeshore. One of the most important provisions of the overlay is "a requirement for naturally vegetated water quality buffers a minimum of 25' in width adjacent to the lakeshore and 10' to 25' in width adjacent to streams feeding the lake."

You may be asking yourself, "What is a water quality buffer, and why is it one of the most important provisions? Luckily, Glenn Harbeck Associates included the reasoning behind their recommendations. In their report, they state, "**naturally vegetated buffers are among the most effective and least expensive methods of protecting water quality.** The natural mix of grasses, shrubs and trees work to absorb eroding soils and capture and filter pollutants from stormwater runoff. In rural areas, buffer strips along streams capture fertilizers, pesticides and siltation from croplands, as well as animal waste from pastures and livestock operations."

You may now be thinking, "WOW...plants can do all that?" Let me tell you, the list of benefits that buffer zones provide goes on and on and on. Instead of listing them all and risk losing your attention, here is a more thought-provoking way, adapted from the Blue Thumb Project, to demonstrate a few of these benefits:

Would You Rather.....

- | | | |
|---|-----------|---|
| Complain about mowing every week? | OR | Weed once a month? |
| Be a slave to your thirsty lawn every week? | OR | Clip flowers for vases? |
| Worry about weeds & the harmful effects of herbicides? | OR | Enjoy your free time with friends & family? |
| Chase Canada Geese out of your yard & clean up their droppings? | OR | Enjoy the birds, butterflies and dragonflies & watch your children be amazed by nature? |
| Worry about the amount of land you are losing to erosion? | OR | Watch frogs, crayfish and fish swimming amongst the aquatic plants in the clear water? |
| Spend time & money making sure your grass is the greenest? | OR | Relax. Breathe. Slow down. Enjoy life? |
| Complain about excessive algae? | OR | Feel great about your proactive role in protecting water quality & reducing the algae? |
| Maintain a Traditional Lawn? | OR | Maintain a Native Shoreline Buffer? |



For the full report by Glenn Harbeck Associates, Inc., click on "Chautauqua Lake Reports" at www.co.chautauqua.ny.us/health/healthframe.htm. For more information on buffers, contact Watershed Steward Betsy Hite at 716-664-9502 (x204) or visit one of the following websites: www.bluthumb.org; www.crjc.org/riparianbuffers.htm; clean-water.uwex.edu/pubs/shore.htm#series; www.dnr.state.mn.us/publications/waters/index.html.



~ Special Thank You Notes ~



Welcome New Members!

Richard Ahlgren
Susan Baker
William & Gerry Bair
Robert Brown
Christine Brueschke
Patrick & Bernadette Clark
Suzanne D'Amato
Russell Diethrick, Jr.
Brian & Cheryl Eckwahl
Susan Fiedler & Timothy Rudd
Mr. & Mrs. Everett Fitts
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Flint
George Fox & Ann McArdle
Neil & Nancy Frederick
Esther Goodell
James Gugino

Eugene & Mary Jane Ingersoll
Ann Knaak
Robert & Eileen Kovel
Paul & Marcia Kubiak
Marc London
Jack Marcinick
Henry Mauldin III
Jack & Mary McCall
Tracy & Justin McCarty
Harriet Minnich
John & Lori Nelan
John Newburger
Ellen Newman
Dave Olson
Brian & Colleen Orlando
Leslie Renjilian
Mr. & Mrs. William Robinson

Mike & Margaret Roder
Paul & Shirley Sandstrom
Christopher & Laura Scalzo
James & Martha Schnars
Edwin Seaton & Jane Currie
Jim & Joyce Simmelink
John & Winnie Sirianno
Charles Stafford
Lee & Jennifer Stein
Chris Stukel
Victor & Edna Tees
Peter Telkins
Susan Thomas
John Turney
Marlene Volpe
Barrie Yochim

Recent Support from Business & Club Members

394 Storage, Inc.
American Legion, Post #638
Anthony Joy & Associates
Bemus Bay Partnership
Camp Chautauqua
Cassadaga Lakes Association
Chautauqua Lake Fishing Assn.
Chautauqua Marina
Clark & Whipple, LLC
Cooper's Cyber Café & Deli
Corbin Companies
D&S Glass, Inc.

Diane R. Bailey Interiors
Evergreen Outfitters
Fessenden, Laumer & DeAngelo
Food Is Good, Inc.
Four Seasons Nursery/Garden Center
Frewsburg Rod & Gun Club
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Hollyloft Ski & Bike
James Lakefront Camping
Jamestown Garden Club
JCC Earth Awareness Club

Johnny's Lunch
Lind Funeral Home, Inc.
Native Roots
Northern Chaut. Conservation Club
Prendergast Pt. Property Owners
Quality Mechanical, LLC
Rhoe B. Henderson Insurance
Scorse-Loomis Bay Properties, LLC
State Farm Insurance Companies
Steel-Art Incorporated
Sugar Pine Farms
Tolman Engineering, PLLC

Honorariums & Memorials

In memory of Harold R. Anderson from Deborah Anderson
In memory of Renan Beckman from Peter & Kendall Beckman
As a Christmas gift to Philip Brunskill from Gordon Brunskill
As a birthday gift to Mary Cogliano from Diana Schlichter, Anna Schlichter & Heather Stevens
In memory of Floyd Cross from Lynn Cross
As a Christmas gift to the D.F. Grotton Family from Peter & Meg Flinn
In memory of Joseph & Ellen Jacobs from Stephen & Jane Paskuly
In memory of Marjorie Kochersberger from John Jablonski, Bob Lannon, Bill Locke & Mike Lyons
In honor of Bob & Pat Sundell from Jacob & Anne Palomaki
In honor of Stephen & Patricia Telkins from Sarah Hoff, Peter Weaver & William Weaver

IS THIS YOUR LAST 'SHED SHEET?'

Due to rising costs, CWC will soon be cutting back its mailing list for *The 'Shed Sheet* in paper form. If you have not made a membership contribution to the CWC during the past year, **THIS MAY BE YOUR LAST ISSUE OF THE 'SHED SHEET!** Not sure if your membership is up to date? Contact the CWC office. CWC will continue to offer *The 'Shed Sheet* in electronic form for members or any other interested party. If you would like to sign-up for our "e-newsletter," simply e-mail us your request at info@chautauquawatershed.org.

SAVE THE DATE!



Jamestown Community College will celebrate Earth Day 2009 with its annual **Earthfest celebration on Wednesday, April 22, 2009, from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm**. The event is sponsored by the JCC Earth Awareness Club and will feature a number of earth-friendly vendors and environmental educators as well as a live webcast ("Sustain 2009") from the NYSDEC Office of Climate Change. There will also be music, live animals and food! The event will be held outside along the pond-side walkways in the center of the JCC campus (525 Falconer Street in Jamestown, NY) if weather permits or within and around the Student Union.

FREE DVD RENTALS

The CWC has, on DVD, the following 2008 CWC presentations available to borrow at no cost at its offices at 413 North Main Street in Jamestown, NY:

- ***Goose Management*** (learn about controlling geese on waterfront properties — featuring Dr. Paul Curtis, Cornell University Wildlife Science Professor)
- ***Healthy Landscapes ~ Healthy Waters Workshop I*** (learn lakescaping, streamscaping and watershed lawn care — featuring watershed steward Sharon Anderson, Cayuga Lake Watershed Network)
- ***Healthy Landscapes ~ Healthy Waters Workshop II*** (learn about lakeshore lawns, breakwalls and natural shorelines and their influence on lake plants, insects and fish populations — featuring John Hiebert of Minnesota's Dept. of Natural Resources, Robert Johnson of Cornell University Research Ponds, and Janis Bowman and Chris Ecker of Jamestown Community College)
- ***A Water Quality & Ecological Assessment of Chautauqua Lake*** (learn about water quality in and management solutions for Chautauqua Lake — featuring Dr. Fred Lubnow, Aquatics Program Director for Princeton Hydro)



Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy



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Preserving and enhancing the water quality, scenic beauty and ecological health of the lakes, streams and watersheds of the Chautauqua region.