

Grand Opening Of Salomon Family Nature Preserve

The Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy recently held a grand opening, sign dedication, and preserve hike at its new 52-acre Salomon Family Nature Preserve, located on Morris Road in the Town of Chautauqua.

The site was donated by Rada Salomon and Steve Hirschberg in memory of Lester, Hart, and Mark Salomon. This site is mostly forested, with areas of abandoned apple orchards that are reverting to woodlands and an open field that will be kept as meadow habitat for pollinators and other meadow species. A 2017 botanical inventory resulted on over 130 species of plant, some of which are rare. A storm blowdown from the 1980s has left an



extensive stilted root forest, which occurs when a tree falls over yet re-sprouts. This blowdown limited the movement of deer which has helped this unique plant community avoid getting overgrazed. Vernal pools, capillary streams, and springs dot the property and offer special breeding habitat for many species of amphibians such as frogs, toads, and salamanders. The variety of habitat also supports many species of birds and bats. Additionally, the forest on this site helps feed clean water to Prendergast Creek and Chautauqua Lake.



CWC Executive Director John Jablonski with land donors Steve Hirschberg & Rada Salomon

Helping The Hemlocks

The CWC will once again be teaming up with the Roger Tory Peterson Institute and Jamestown Community College this winter to survey a number of sites within the area (including several CWC preserves) for the presence or absence of the hemlock woolly adelgid, an invasive insect that is threatening the continued existence of hemlock trees in the eastern United States.

To start the season, RTPI will host a Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Citizen Scientist Training session at the Roger Tory Peterson Institute on Wednesday, November 1st from 6:00 to 7:00 PM. During this training, RTPI Conservation Technician Elyse Henshaw will present information on the impact HWA is having on forests throughout the eastern United States, identify signs and symptoms of an infestation, and describe what to do if in fact they are found within the region. This training session will also introduce attendees to both traditional and novel methods of surveying and reporting results through a variety of avenues. Once equipped with knowledge, citizens are invited to assist in field surveys and work alongside RTPI, JCC, and CWC conservationists, researchers, and professors in search of gauging the health of our local forests. Survey dates will be announced later this year. Any questions about the training session or survey efforts can be directed to Elyse Henshaw at ehenshaw@rtpi.org or 716-665-2473, ext. 231.



The presence of HWA can be identified by its egg sacs, which resemble tiny white tufts of cotton attached to the underside of hemlock branches. (photo by: Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station Archive via wikimedia.org)



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.



Message From The Leadership

As we write this message at the beginning of autumn, we want you to know that the CWC board and staff are very concerned with the condition of Chautauqua Lake and are working diligently to identify and foster the delivery of preventive actions that will result in fewer algae blooms, less invasive plant growth, and cleaner, better shore and near-shore conditions for lake users and lakeshore owners. We want our lakes, streams, and preserves to be healthy and enjoyable retreats for you and thriving habitats for fish and wildlife. CWC will continue to work for a cleaner, healthier Chautauqua Lake as a priority for 2018 as it seeks to inspire and engage landowners to be better stewards of our surface and ground waters and habitats county-wide.

CWC ended its 2017 fiscal year on September 30th. As we begin the next, we are pleased to report to you, our members, donors and the public, that CWC has the largest, strongest team ever working to deliver clean waters and healthy, enjoyable habitats for your sustenance and enjoyment! Not only do we have very active and engaged directors working on various initiatives, but also more volunteers maintaining and stewarding our preserves and more community partners than ever before!

Your donations are being leveraged for impact with countless hours of volunteer time by preserve stewards, work crews, and directors each delivering complementary parts of our mission. Your Conservancy board of directors is committed to strengthening and growing the effectiveness of the organization. It is more invested than ever before in CWC activities, including: 1) completing a strategic plan to most effectively and efficiently focus our actions, 2) engaging professional marketing and development assistance to help us inspire the community support and actions necessary to strengthen our funding to succeed in conserving and enhancing our priceless water resources and fisheries and wildlife resources, and 3) investing in state-of-art database software to efficiently and effectively communicate through various media with our members and with landowners whose activities affect the quality of the habitats, waterways, and drinking waters of each of us.

Your commitment to our mission is what fuels our success! With your generosity, CWC has been able to conserve over 1,000 acres of special sites across Chautauqua County! We have an ambitious year ahead! You make these pollution prevention and habitat conservation efforts possible! Thank you for entrusting us with your financial support!

Please come out and explore CWC's nature preserves this fall on a guided tour or by yourselves – your Gateway to Nature is waiting for you to enter and enjoy!

Sincerely,



Lyle Hajdu, CWC Board President
John Jablonski, CWC Executive Director



Preserve Improvements

Bentley Preserve



The Bentley Nature Preserve, located on Bentley Avenue in Jamestown, is one of CWC's 21 public nature preserves. This special place was donated to the Jamestown Audubon Society (now the Audubon Community Nature Center) in the 1960s and has remained a nature sanctuary ever since. In 2016, the CWC acquired and expanded the property in memory of Pamela Westrom.

Since our acquisition, a lot of work has gone into this 40-acre preserve, including the construction of an information kiosk and the installation of more than 300 feet of foot bridges, in addition to regular trail maintenance. We have been able to achieve this with the generous help of multiple volunteer groups from

Cummins Jamestown Engine Plant as well as hundreds of volunteer hours from Bentley's Preserve Steward John Antonevich, CWC Board Director and Preserve Foreman Craig Seger, and other regular CWC volunteers. Come see this gem of Chautauqua County for yourself when we hold our next tour of this site on November 18th at 10 AM! If you can't make the date or prefer a self-guided tour, the public is welcome to visit this preserve any-time from dawn until dusk. *(Please note that hunting is not permitted on this preserve.)*

David & Margaret Naetzker Preserve

In the last issue of *The 'Shed Sheet*, we announced that CWC had been awarded \$23,000 from the New York State Conservation Partnership Program for conservation and access improvements at our David & Margaret Naetzker Preserve. Since then, the installation of a parking area, a wetland pond, and erosion controls has been completed!



Straw mulch was laid out across the soil at the Naetzker Preserve to prevent erosion during recent improvement work at the site.

In early October, the Chautauqua County Soil & Water Conservation District provided funding and materials to have straw mulch placed on site to help control erosion on the earth that had been disturbed. This also provided a substrate for the grass seeds that were broadcast next. We used a variety of native wildflower and grass seeds, as well as an annual rye seed. In total, we broadcast 30 pounds of seed that contained more than 30 species of native plants!

Next we installed live native plants, the majority of which were purchased from local nurseries, with more than 100 plants donated by local plant ecologist Priscilla Titus and her husband Dr. Jonathan Titus of SUNY Fredonia. In total, more than 1,200 individual plants from 55 species were planted on site! We wish to thank the local Master Gardeners and other volunteers for their help with these plantings and the Town of North Harmony, who generously lent us a 250-gallon water tank so that we had an ample supply of water on site to care for the new transplants. This project will provide an aesthetically pleasing hiking trail freely accessible to all who wish to visit, but it also has a more serious goal of establishing native plants and reducing erosion to ensure that the local ecosystem is healthy and that we limit the amount of sediment entering Chautauqua Lake.

Want to know more about native plants? There are several local native plant lists available on the CWC website, and our conservationists can provide additional information (at no cost to you) either by phone or in person on how you can establish healthy and beautiful yards and gardens while at the same time helping to improve the area's natural watershed storage and filtration functions.



An informational kiosk and 300 feet of foot bridges have been added to the Bentley Preserve this past year.

Fall: A Great Time To Plant Trees & Shrubs!



Planting trees adds value to our lives,
our homes, and our waterways.
(photo courtesy Arbor Day Foundation)

At this time of year, we both admire trees for the spectacularly colorful show they provide to our landscape and curse them for the constant supply of leaves they drop on our lawns. But trees add value to our lives, to our homes, and to our waterways that we may not always appreciate.

Trees generate the oxygen we breathe, cleanse the air, and filter, detoxify, and recycle our water. They hold the earth in place and reduce storm water runoff and erosion. They provide nesting and resting sites, shelter, and food for wildlife, and they host countless life forms among their roots, trunk, branches, and leaves. Trees absorb carbon dioxide from the air, shade and cool our neighborhoods, buffer against the wind, save energy, reduce both cooling and heating costs, and reduce the impacts of climate change. Their presence enhances business and property values, cuts down on noise and light pollution in our neighborhoods, and even helps reduce stress and crime. Their quiet beauty and grace nourish our spirits and calm and restore the soul.

Within the Chautauqua watershed, trees provide an important job in protecting the water quality in our streams, ponds, and lakes. The leaves, branches, and deep root systems of a tree act as a natural sponge by intercepting rainfall and slowing the movement of rain water, which in turn reduces storm water runoff and flooding. They also act as a filter by removing excess nutrients, pollutants, and other harmful substances (such as pesticides and waste products) from water as it passes through them to downstream water bodies.

Trees also have the ability to reduce and prevent streambank and shoreline erosion and sedimentation. Their extensive root systems act like “fingers” gripping the ground. These fingers anchor not just the tree but also the soil in which it lives. Stable banks and shorelines have a much lower rate of erosion and, as a result, drastically reduce the amount of soil being washed away and re-deposited downstream. Streamside forests such as our many CWC wooded wetland preserves, including Dobbins Woods, Loomis Goose Creek, Elm Flats, Chautauqua Lake Outlet Greenway, and others, are crucial to the protection and enhancement of downstream water bodies, removing pollutants such as fertilizers and pesticides and reducing siltation and the potential for downstream algal blooms and problematic aquatic weed growth. If we care about our streams, ponds, and lakes, then we must also care about and conserve our upland watershed forests and greenways.

Ready to plant one or more of these beneficial beauties? Fall is a great time to do so! There is more moisture in the soil in the fall, and the ground is still warm from the heat of summer, both of which are favorable conditions for root growth. An increase in rainfall and cooler temperatures means less watering is needed. And, when air temperatures are cooler than soil temperatures, new root growth is encouraged without new top growth. This results in the tree having a stronger, better established root system to support it in the spring when warm weather stimulates top growth. By planting your new tree in the fall, it will be farther along in its growth cycle and better able to withstand summer’s heat.

When selecting your new tree, or trees, please remember to plant only native trees. They use less water and require less maintenance than non-native tree species, and only native trees provide food and habitat for our native wildlife, especially for the hundreds of species of insects which are nutritionally necessary to support abundant populations of our feathered friends!

You can find a list of native trees (and plants) for Chautauqua County on our website at www.chautauquawatershed.org and at the Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper website at <https://bnwaterkeeper.org/projects/nativeplantguide>.



Managing A Beautiful Resource - Fall Leaves!

Each fall, property owners repeat the cycle of managing the leaves that drop from the trees into their yards. What you do with these leaves can either benefit or harm your yard's environment – as well as that of the lake or other waterways downhill from your property. Why? Because leaves contain significant concentrations of phosphorus and other nutrients.

DO – MOW, MULCH & COMPOST

The best thing you can do with fallen leaves is to mow them right back into your yard. By mulching them into fine particles, the nutrients in the leaves will be released by decomposition back into the ground and then reused by trees and grass as nourishment. It's free fertilizer! Another bonus? Mulching is faster and easier on the back than raking.

If you can't mulch all of the leaves into your lawn, you can also use shredded leaves as mulch (and added insulation) in flower beds and vegetable gardens, under trees and shrubs, and in container gardens. It's an effective and simple way to build soil fertility. Fallen leaves are also a great nutrient-rich additive for your home compost pile.

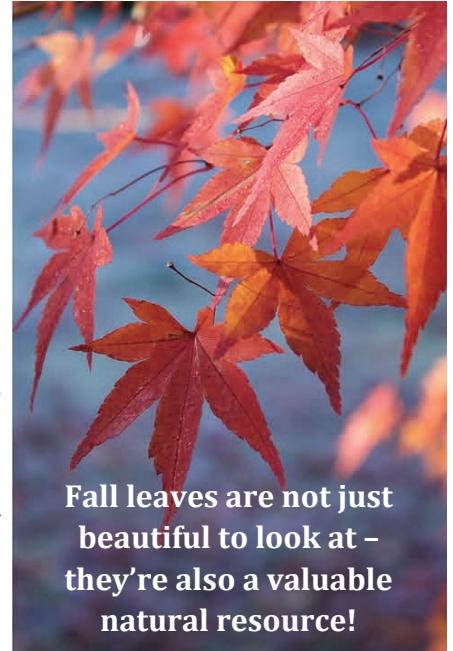
If you are a village or city resident, mulching or composting your leaves can also help keep municipal costs down since it reduces the amount of leaves your local public works department needs to haul away.

DON'T – DUMP OR BURN

Never rake, blow or dump your leaves into the street or a storm drain. The leaves will be swept away by storm waters into the nearest body of water, where their nutrients will end up fertilizing nuisance aquatic plants as well as accelerating sedimentation. Depositing your leaves into the street or storm drain can also clog storm drains, causing flooding during heavy rains and significant cost and time to municipalities to unclog them.

Leaf burning should also be avoided. It not only causes air pollution that adversely affects human health and poses a fire hazard, but it also water pollution as the phosphorus and nitrogen compounds in the leaves are released into the atmosphere and then fall back to earth with precipitation.

If you feel you must rake your leaves, please keep leaf piles on the edge of your lawn or on the grass terrace between the sidewalk and street and out of the road, roadside ditch and/or drain.



Fall leaves are not just beautiful to look at – they're also a valuable natural resource!

Meet Our New Conservationist - Claire Quadri



The CWC welcomes Claire Quadri to its staff! A resident of Westfield, Claire was previously an environmental engineer for the Niagara Frontier Transportation Authority. Before that, she worked as a consultant on environmental regulatory compliance and impact evaluations, storm water pollution prevention, brownfield investigation/remediation, and environmental risk management. She has a BA Degree in Environmental Conservation & Management from Barnard College and is a member of the Chautauqua County Environmental Management Council.

As conservationist, Claire will continue to build on the success of the *Healthy Landscapes for Healthy Waters* program through public outreach and education and working one-on-one with landowners to establish lake shore and riparian buffers. She will also be regularly updating the public on the progress on Water Quality Improvement Program stream erosion control projects.

WQIP Projects Update

Lower Bemus Creek Stabilization Project Construction Completed

Progress continues on the \$1.4 million Water Quality Improvement Program projects to control erosion on Chautauqua Lake tributary streams. The goal of this effort is to stabilize streambanks to limit erosion and, thus, substantially reduce the tonnage of soil transported to and deposited in Chautauqua Lake each year. This will reduce the inflow of sediments to the lake, slow the loss of lake depth, and improve water clarity and quality. Eurasian watermilfoil, the most problematic non-native aquatic plant species of this lake, grows best when it has freshly deposited fertile sediments in which to grow. A total of seven priority sections of six tributary streams are included in this program: Prendergast Creek, Upper Bemus Creek, Lower Bemus Creek, Dutch Hollow Creek, West (Branch) Dutch Hollow Creek, Ball Creek, and Goose Creek.

Earlier this year, we reported that improvements to the sections of Prendergast Creek and Upper Bemus Creek had been successfully completed. Since then, the lower section of Bemus Creek (closer to its outlet in Chautauqua Lake) has also been completed. The Lower Bemus Creek streambank stabilization project included:

- ◆ the installation of about 500 feet of large rock rip-rap toe protection,
- ◆ bank-slope grading,
- ◆ slope stabilization with vegetation including 1,500 willow shrubs,
- ◆ cross-channel grade stabilizers (engineered rock riffles), and
- ◆ the restoration of disturbed areas with seeding and mulching.



Newly-installed cross channel grade stabilizers and area of new seed/mulch. on lower Bemus Creek.

The remaining projects are currently in various stages of planning, permitting, engineering design, and contracting. Construction commencement for the Ball Creek and Goose Creek projects is anticipated later this year, and construction for the Dutch Hollow and West Dutch Hollow projects is expected in 2018. Partners on this program are Chautauqua County, Chautauqua Lake and Watershed Management Alliance, Chautauqua County Soil & Water Conservation District, and Chautauqua Watershed Conservancy. *(Funding for these projects was provided in part by the NYS Environmental Protection Fund as administered by the NYSDEC. Chautauqua County and the 2% Occupancy Tax Program provided the local match funds for these projects.)*



CWC & CLA Hold Educational Lake Tour

In late August, the CWC and the Chautauqua Lake Association jointly hosted an evening tour of Chautauqua Lake on the historic Chautauqua Belle steamboat. The CWC and CLA were joined by many supportive community members, with more than 110 people aboard.

The tour focused on the many naturally vegetated shorelines (or buffers) around the lake and the important role they play in contributing clean waters to Chautauqua Lake by capturing and filtering nutrients and pollutants from the waters that enter the Lake by land. The deeper root systems found in shoreline buffers also help to reduce and prevent shoreline erosion. Buffers can also provide habitat for birds, butterflies, turtles, and other wildlife; act as a deterrent to Canada geese; and save landowners time and money in lawn maintenance.

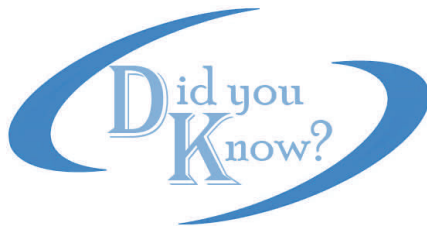
Many thanks to Paul Stage and the Chautauqua Belle staff for their help in putting on this educational event. Special thanks also go out to event sponsors Mazza Chautauqua Cellars, FIVE & 20 Spirits & Brewing, Arthur R. Gren Co., and Southern Tier Brewing Company.

Chautauqua Lake Wastewater Treatment & Sewer Extension Updates

Much activity is underway to improve wastewater treatment and extend public sewers to the remaining unsewered shore lands around Chautauqua Lake.



- The Chautauqua County Legislature is moving ahead with extending public sewer service up the west side of Chautauqua Lake along Route 394 to Stow. The legislature has scheduled a public hearing on Wednesday, October 25th (at the Gerace Office Building in Mayville) on establishing a sewer district for the extension. The sewer district must be established before the County can apply for state and federal funding to construct the sewers. The legislature may act to establish this new district after this hearing.
- Construction is expected to begin on the upgrades to the Northern Chautauqua Lake Sewer District Plant in Mayville this November, with construction projected to be completed and the plant operational by the end of June 2018. The NYSDEC will require the plant to be in full regulatory compliance by the end of the year. Construction of the 4-mile long sewer extension bringing wastewater from the Chautauqua Heights Sewer District (Chautauqua Lake Estates & Villas at Chautauqua Point) to the NCLSD plant in Mayville will start this spring with the system operational by the end of 2018. The present treatment plant serving that district will be decommissioned.
- Construction on the Chautauqua Utility District wastewater plant is continuing and is projected to be completed by June 1, 2018. The discharge limit for phosphorus for the CUD is presently 1.0 milligrams of phosphorus per liter of water. The new plant is designed to meet a new limit of 0.2 milligrams per liter.
- The CUD and NCLSD plant upgrades are projected to reduce the total external phosphorus loading to Chautauqua Lake by over 20% compared to conditions prior to the NYSDEC putting limits on phosphorus removal from these plants a few years ago.



Over the last 27 years, generous community members have donated 20 parcels of land to the CWC – for a total of 528 acres or just over 50% of CWC's nature preserve acreage!

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: _____

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

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

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.



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SAVE RESOURCES!

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, November 1 - 6:00 PM

Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Citizen Scientist Training
Roger Tory Peterson Institute, 311 Curtis Street, Jamestown

Saturday, November 18th - 10:00 AM

Fall Preserve Walk
CWC's Bentley Preserve, Bentley Avenue, Ellicott

January 2018 - Date & Time TBD

Preserve Ski/Snowshoe Tour

*(See the CWC website and Facebook page for
more details on these and other upcoming events!)*

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

Sign up for our free e-news! Visit 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.

