

November 2017 Finger Lake Association Reports:

Canandaigua - no written report

Hemlock and Candice:
Submitted Nov 20 2017, John Meier

Hemlock and Canadice Lakes – City of Rochester
Watershed Production- Year to Date
J. Maier – City of Rochester Water Quality Laboratory November 2017

Project Updates:

The aquatic plant bed density and bathymetric survey of Hemlock Lake employing Lowrance and BioBase mapping technologies for the 2017 season concluded on November 3, 2017. Approximately 967 acres have been surveyed this season (45.3%). Survey activities will begin again in April 2018.

Seasonal lake sampling activities concluded on October 30th, 2017.

Cayuga - no report

Conesus - no report

Honeoye

Honeoye Lake Watershed Task Force November 2017 Update
Water Quality Update

The summer of 2017 was very typical of the summers over the last 10 years in terms of water quality as measured by water clarity, amount of algae (Chl-a) in the water column, and Total Phosphorus.

NYS DEC Honeoye Lake Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) analysis project
DEC has completed and approved the Honeoye Lake TMDL report.

Now the Governor's office must review and approve our TMDL report.

Once it is approved by the Governor's office, our TMDL report will be released for a 30-day public review and comment period. Time TBD.

DEC plans to schedule a public information meeting to review their findings and recommendations.

Climate change on shallow NYS lakes research grant project (Cornell/FLCC)

Analyzing the water quality data collected last summer.

Finger Lakes Institute (FLI) Nitrogen & Fluoroprobe Research Studies

Plans to run lab tests and analyze all the weekly nitrogen samples collected last summer over the winter.

Inlet Restoration Project

Enhancements for the inlet restoration project have been completed.

More ditch plugs, vernal pools, and enhanced berms....

submitted 11.18.17

Don Cook

Keuka Lake Association Report

November 2017

submitted by Emily Staychock

2017 KLA Watercraft steward program

March—May: one steward covered launches during fishing tournaments March-May

Memorial Day weekend – Labor Day weekend: 3 stewards worked full-time Fri-Mon at the following launches: Penn Yan Village, Keuka Lake State Park, Town of Urbana, Finger Lakes Museum and Aquarium, and Severne Point (Seneca). A fourth staff worked half-time as the program coordinator and half-time as a steward. Volunteer stewards supplemented shifts. The Town of Wayne provided its own stewards during select weekends to a small launch in Wayne. September: two stewards worked full-time at the Penn Yan village and Keuka Lake State Park launches, as well as 3 shifts at Severne Point.

October: two stewards worked 20 hours Sat/Sun at Penn Yan and the State Park

November: one steward working during fishing tournaments

AIS Monitoring:

KLA participated in FLI's AIS monitoring program in addition to the program managed by CCE Yates since 2014. Two volunteers contributed to FLI's program, and an additional 4 continued with CCE Yates' program.

No new AIS detected

A new infestation of starry stonewort was identified in Keuka Lake, where it spread from the mouth of Sugar Creek

Starry stonewort management:

The Keuka Watershed Improvement Cooperative (KWIC), in partnership with the KLA and CCE Yates, was awarded a DEC Invasive Species Rapid Response and Control grant for \$35,800 to manage the highly invasive infestation of starry stonewort in the Keuka Lake Outlet, from the Penn Yan village launch to the Penn Yan marshlands. KWIC hired CNY Mechanical Harvesting to cut the infestation at the end of August. The contractor did a great job, it was quiet and clean, and fishing and boating activities were not interrupted. Downstream monitoring showed that starry stonewort fragments do not freely escape and float away; the organism is 92% water and will sink rather than float.

The Town of Jerusalem, KLA, CCE Yates, Finger Lakes Museum and Aquarium (FLM&A), and Keuka College partnered to control the starry stonewort infestation in Sugar Creek at the mouth of Keuka Lake. Keuka College students volunteered to wade into the shallow creek bank waters and remove SSW with garden rakes. The FLM&A provided kayaks and canoes and two staff provided assistance during the event. Town of Jerusalem supervisor Pat Killen directed the event. The KLA and CCE Yates provided technical assistance in planning and implementing.

Otisco Lake

submitted by Margie Creamer

OLPA has been involved in the FLLT presentations for fundraising with attention to our watershed. The community is looking forward to the July 2018 opening of the Willowdale property of 1300 ft of waterfront with trails and attention to the nesting of resident bald eagles. In December the FLLT is planning a community presentation at a local restaurant.

Owasco

Submitted by Peter Rogers

FLRWA report for Owasco Lake 11/20/17

1. Bob Brower illness and resignation as President of OWLA. Bob's home address 40 Grover Street Auburn NY 13021

2. The new President of the Owasco Watershed Lake Association (OWLA) is Ken Kudla. Ken has been a Board Member for about 4 years and held the position of President Elect. Ken is originally from Auburn and has lived on Owasco Lake for about 10 years. He is a retired Marketing executive from Xerox in Rochester. He has been coordinating the citizen scientist sampling program.

3. OWLA has completed the sampling and testing program for 2017. The results can be found at the Owasco Lake Watershed Inspection Program website at: Owascoinspection.org. We are starting to move our sampling up stream.

4. The September 23 bloom on Owasco Lake was captured by satellite imagery and shows the bloom on the East side of the entire lake. The picture was color enhanced to show the green color.

5. OWLA has started a comprehensive Messaging Project for communications, membership, fundraising. The process included interviewing stakeholders to get their view of Owla and the issues related to Owasco Lake water quality. The first article from this project can be found at http://auburnpub.com/lifestyles/owla-time-for-action-on-habs-is-now/article_4752557d-e8c7-5549-ac33-90abc55acb3d.html

6. Mitigation projects are continuing with funds with from the \$600,000 NYSDEC grant acquired in 2016 and a \$20,000 grant from the Fox Toyota Dealership and Toyota. OWLA has been working with the Cayuga County Soil & Water District, Cayuga County Planning Department, and landowners to select locations for remediation projects. These projects include agricultural "best management practices" (BMPs) and elements designed by CCSWD.

Seneca: no paper report

Skaneateles:

The focus for the SLA has been on the HAB from this past fall. Two well attended forums have been held. Representatives from the DEC, soil and water, the agriculture community, city of Syracuse, health department, and Dr. Greg Boyer from ESF were on the panels.

The SLA has now formed three committees:

1. Soil and Water

The goal will be to study our tributaries and institute appropriate remedies for soil erosion and nutrient loading to the lake.

2. Community Committee

It is hoped to better educate the public on steps they individually can take to reduce nutrients entering the watershed.

3. Watershed Committee

An attempt will once again be made to form a watershed council involving the five towns around the lake.

submitted 11/19/17

Buzz Roberts

Sodus Bay:

SOS - FLRWA November Report

November 17, 2017

Save Our Sodus continues its opposition to Plan 2014 as the plan for the control of Lake Ontario levels. We are seeking modifications to this international plan that was, at least in part, responsible for the sustained high water that caused so much damage to riparian properties in Lake Ontario coastal waters.

The major wetland restoration planed for Sodus Creek East at the south end of the bay is out for bid. This is our largest tributary contributing the greatest amount of pollutants to the bay.

Construction is planned for this winter's low water opportunities.

The dredging of the federal channel to the lake has been placed in the ACOE budget and we have been led to believe that the job is out for bid and will occur in 2018.

In related matters, SOS is exerting support to repair the failing east (Federal) break wall, the steel sheet pile wall protecting Charles Point, an island at this point, and the lake storm created breach in the barrier bar that separates the lake and the bay.

Weed harvesting was severely curtailed this year due to flooded launch sites and obscured, in water, hazards. 60% of boats stayed on the hard for the season. Others boated elsewhere.

Boats were limited to "No Wake" speeds for the entire season.

Dave Scudder, Director, SOS

Finger Lakes Institute:

Finger Lakes Institute Volunteer Pilot Program

The Finger Lakes Macrophyte Survey Pilot Program: “Exposing Invasive Species.....A Monitoring Program”, was a 3 month program that ran from July 1 to September 30. The purpose of the program was to get a baseline of the location and density of aquatic invasive species within each individual lake and to look for high priority species such as Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) and water chestnut (*Trapa natans*).

The survey noted the presence and absence of the priority plants or other invasive macrophytes. The sampling was conducted once a week, consisted of rake tosses at various locations such as nearshore, offshore, from a dock or from a watercraft, and were done at a time convenient to the volunteer.

Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) assists in finding new infestations so they can be contained and possibly eradicated and is one of the most effective ways to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS). Training volunteers such as community members, students and scouts in species identification, sampling and data protocols, and incorporating citizen science, helps to develop a sense of responsibility to the environment, promoting stewardship. The training was held at the Finger Lakes Institute and consisted of plant ID, review of sampling and data collection protocols and review of the supplied ‘toolkit’ that contained reference materials for plant ID, a rake and other tools to assist in the sampling. Volunteers must complete a refresher training session each year to be involved in the program.

The pilot program focused on three high priority invasive species that are of major concern in the Finger Lakes: Hydrilla, Water Chestnut and Starry Stonewort (*Nitellopsis obtusa*). Other invasive species were documented if found. Eleven volunteers and seven of the eleven Finger Lakes participated: Honeoye, Conesus, Canandaigua, Skaneateles, Keuka, Cayuga and Owasco Lakes.

Figure 1 Finger Lakes Macrophyte Survey Program Volunteers. From left to right: Margot Bliven, (Keuka Lake), Lynn Klotz(Canandaigua Lake), Nancy Feinstein(Keuka Lake), Saralinda Hooker(Canandaigua Lake), Tim McAuliffe(Honeoye Lake), Terry Smith(Canandaigua Lake) and Patty Wakefield-Brown(FLI). Missing: Scott Proctor, Chris Willoughby(Conesus Lake), Sam Clymer(Skaneateles Lake), Ari Hristodoulou(Owasco Lake) and Bill Ebert(Cayuga Lake). Photo Credit: Lindsay McMillan(Canandaigua Lake Watershed Alliance).

Figure 2 Map of Finger Lakes and Volunteers

The results of the sampling:

No water chestnut (*Trapa natans*) or Hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*) plants were identified

The most prominent invasive species was starry stonewort (*Nitellopsis obtusa*) in Canandaigua and Cayuga Lakes

Curly-leaf pondweed (*Potamogeton crispus*) and Eurasian water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) were found in Canandaigua, Conesus and Honeoye Lakes

Curly-leaf pondweed was found in Keuka Lake

Abundance of findings were trace to moderate in all surveys.

Figure 3 Starry Stonewort distribution

Overall, the pilot program was a success in that we have established a baseline of data and volunteers are excited to participate again next season. Feedback gained from the post-season

meeting will be implemented into the 2018 season. We look forward to engaging additional volunteers interested in understanding what lives outside their dock.

For more information on this program, or other invasive species events in the area, contact Patty Wakefield-Brown at wakefieldbrown@hws.edu or 315-781-4387.

submitted 11/7/17

Patricia Wakefield-Brown