

FLRWA September 2017 Lake Association Reports

Canandaigua

Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association Activity Report – September 2017

Watercraft Stewards Program

CLWA will support the watercraft stewards program at the two sites on Canandaigua Lake on weekends thru October.

Best Practices Workshop

CLWA will partner with the Ontario County and the Yates County Soil and Water Districts to present our second Best Practices Workshop for the agricultural community. Date is to be decided (early spring).

Sucker Brook Routes 5 & 20 Wetlands restoration Project

Sucker Brook is a heavily contaminated stream that flows into the northern end of Canandaigua Lake. CLWA is partnering with the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council to provide support for the Sucker Brook Wetlands Restoration Project on Routes 5&20. The project is designed to divert about 20% of the Sucker Brook flow into a constructed wetland that will allow contaminants that were accumulated upland to filter out. A secondary area will accommodate any overflow in periods of heavy rain and then, allow it to rejoin the stream. Grading is complete; planting will begin over the next month.

CSLAP Data collection continues at two sampling sites. Looking at restructuring the way we report water quality data to our members to include secchi disk readings (17 sites), water temp and CSLAP data.

HWA

CLWA is looking at continuing the HWA monitoring and outreach program for 2017-2018. A CLWA member is installing a hemlock hedge that will be used as an insectary to rear predator insects with the assistance of the NYS Hemlock Initiative.

Viewpoints Presentations

A quarterly speaker series on watershed related issues. Fall presentation to focus on wetland restoration initiatives within the watershed and how they will impact water quality (5&20 wetland project, Parish Flats project in Naples, FLCC campus wetland project).

Water Quality Update

We began getting reports of isolated pockets of BGA on the east side of the lake starting Tuesday September 12th. Lots of “dots” in the water column and on the surface and some mild streaking. So far, conditions are not at bloom levels. Secchi Disk volunteers have been reporting a decrease in clarity over the last several weeks. We expect more algae reports with the forecast of hot and dry weather over the next 7 days.

Cayuga

A HABS presence was discovered at the north end of the lake and a sampling sent to DEC on September 14.

Hemlock and Canadice

Honeoye Lake Watershed Task Force September 2017 Update

Water Quality Update September 11th

The lake had a mixing event around August 28th. We have been experiencing a whole lake blue-green algae bloom since due to the legacy phosphorus that this brought to the surface water.

Weed Harvesting Program

Week of September 11th was the last week of weed harvesting for this season.

Week of October 9th will be the last week of shoreline weed fragment pick-up service.

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

Detected lake mixing event around August 28th.

TP jumped to ~60 ug/l after mixing event.

Finger Lakes Institute (FLI) Nitrogen & Fluoroprobe Research Studies

Continuing to collect weekly Nitrogen samples.

Collected a second set of bottom core samples on Tuesday September 12th.

Inlet Restoration Project

Enhancements for the inlet restoration project have been completed.

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

NYS DEC Honeoye Lake Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) analysis project

DEC target for releasing a draft TMDL Analysis Report for a 30-day public review and comment period is by the end of September.

DEC will then respond to the comments and expects to get EPA approval by the end of 2017.

Submitted by Don Cook, September 17, 2017

Keuka

Otisco Lake

Otisco Lake is working with its 3 year grant of \$94,259 to identify the existing vegetation and its eradication. With ESF and Dr. Kim Schultz this has begun. Together with ESF areas have been identified needing attention. Currently late season cleanup is going on and planned events carried out including suction control areas and additional harvesting at Dr. Schultz suggestion.

Mats were continued to be offered this summer season at a discounted price to those who have made a donation to OLPA. No signs of HAB have been spotted this season. We are on heightened alert and concern with the new findings in Skaneateles.

The 8th annual Watershed Shuffle was again a success with a glorious summer day and 120 participants. Also held were two Dumpster Day's which were also successful in that home owners bring, free of charge, household items to be disposed off such as furniture etc. No

hazardous wastes or tires. Although not intended, participants also leave a donation as a thank you.

Several HABS samples have been sent to DEC with no report of toxicity.

Planned for December 9th is a fundraising bus trip to New York City, \$75 per person, to take in Christmas shopping, shows, or visiting of grandchildren :) The bus leaves a local restaurant at 6 AM, arriving in NYC, stays 9 hours and returns between Midnight and 1am leaving near 8 pm.

Submitted by Margie Creamer, September 17, 2017

Owasco

The following were some of our summer activities for your Sept report:

1. The Owasco Lake Day Festival was held on August 6th at Deauville Island in Emerson Park at the north end of Owasco Lake. The theme this year was a celebration of the lake for the public. The activities included over 20 exhibitors (including the DEC, DOH, Dairy Association), children activities, two music venues, food, and education exhibits. There were over 1000 attendees & approximately 700 free pontoon boat rides given.
2. Citizen HAB sampling was started for the summer season. There are 24 sites around Owasco Lake were monitored. This will continued until mid October. Results can be seen at owascoinspection.org.
3. OWLA is progressing with the NYS \$600,000 water quality grant activities. This includes sampling/testing, education and remediation projects. We are working with the Owasco Lake Water Inspection Program and the Cayuga County Soil & Water District to identify and initiate remediation projects.
4. OWLA is continuing our outreach program to educate the public and increase our membership. We have volunteers set up a display at public activities in the Auburn area.

submitted 11/14/17

Peter Rogers

Skaneateles

Skaneateles Lake is experiencing a diffuse green blue algal bloom involving the whole lake. It is dense along the shorelines, but extends in particulate form throughout much of the lake. The

wet June with saturated soils and then a huge rain event on July 1 turned the lake brown. It is felt the nutrients brought into the lake at that time coupled with unseasonably warm September weather and calm waters were major factors.

Submitted by Buzz Roberts, 10-4-2017

SOS

FLRWA - SOS

September 2017 report

The water level has dropped from the late May high of 248.96' to 246.39' (-2.57') as of 9/13/17. It is still 1.18' above the long-term average for this time of year. The bay was almost devoid of boat traffic until the bay-wide wake restriction was lifted in mid-August. A majority of the resident boats are not being put in the water this season. We resorted to borrowing a boat to obtain our CSLAP samples. Marina business is way off. Boat rentals, cottage rentals and restaurant businesses have also suffered.

The good news is that we have not had any significant HAB outbreaks again this year. We have been very lucky in that regard since the numerous outbreaks we experienced in 2010 that basically shut down the bay for the last two weeks of the summer.

Weed harvesting started a month later than usual. Weeds were present on time and were at the surface on schedule but were not as thick as usual. The county harvesters (3) spent the first three weeks in August harvesting invasive species (water chestnut) in the wetlands south of Bay Bridge. This was done with the assistance of the DEC. The county harvesters spent the past three weeks attempting to control starry stonewort on the southeast side of Leroy Island. Water chestnut hand pulls were conducted and we continue to make inroads in the open waters of the bay. Hydrilla hunts were not conducted. Boat launch traffic was way down throughout the season.

The approximately \$400,000 wetland restoration project on Sodus Creek East at the south end of the bay, our major tributary, is progressing. The Nature Conservancy, the lead agency in this project, is out for quotes to qualified contractors in the hope that weather and water levels cooperate to allow the project to move forward this winter. Save Our Sodus has committed both monetary and in-kind support to this project and its many partners.

Dave Scudder, SOS Director