

## FLRWA REPORT: Conesus Lake Assn

20 July, 2020

### --RESEARCH/PROGRAMS.

1. Mussel monitoring is a continuation project where 26 families have each placed 8 tethered mussels "traps" in the Lake. Two of these masonry bricks will be retrieved each month where counts and samples will be taken and added to a data base established and coordinated through SUNY ESF.
2. Macrophyte survey, is a continuation project where nearly a dozen volunteers rake-toss sample from established site around Conesus Lake every four weeks. They gather photographic, density and voucher data from each site and report those data to Nicole Smeenck at FLPRISM.
3. CSLAP monitoring continues on the Lake with two teams
4. HABs monitoring continues via volunteer monitoring of potential "bloom" activity, scrutiny by the Livingston Co. Sheriff's Marine Patrol, and activity by the Livingston Co. Dept of Health. Faculty at SUNY Brockport and Geneseo continue to research and monitor cyanobacterial activity
5. Watercraft Steward Program, commenced on 23 May, 2020 under the direction of Office of New York State Parks. Conesus Lake has two full time stewards and NYS Parks worked with the CLA to schedule the stewards to cover the launch during heavy fishing tournament competition times. In addition to watercraft inspections the State Launch is using the watercraft decontamination station program started by the CLA several years ago.
6. Watershed invasive species detection continues with active volunteer monitoring and identification of terrestrial non-native organisms. Emphasis currently is on *Ailanthus*, *Vincetoxicum*, *Butomus*, *Celastris*, *Lonicera*, and others. Of course, we also continue to monitor for the aquatic invasives.
7. HOBO Weather stations: continue to monitor, collect and report data from both ends of Conesus Lake. Even though there have been a few issues with loss of communication from the instruments, data has been stored and subsequently retrieved. Karl Hanafin maintains the latest iteration of the thermocline arrays in the Lake. These sensors transmit real time data 24-7-365.

### --ACTIVITIES

1. Livingston Co. Environmental Management Council awarded Brian Sheldon with their 2020 Earth Day Award. Mr. Sheldon is an Environmental Science teacher with the Livonia CSD and has engaged his advanced studies students (SUNY ESF program) in original research projects in the School's experimental forest/ demonstration site. These students have presented their work in seminars held at the Conesus Lake Watershed Education Center.
2. Livingston County Comprehensive Water Supply Study: draft report is scheduled to be released soon for public review and comment and urged that before any alternatives are started that a "Safe Yield" study be performed regarding the Conesus Lake public water supply
3. "Welcome to the Lake" is an historical and continuing initiative of the CLA where new home/cottage owners are contacted by the CLA regarding lake friendly best practices. In the past members of this volunteer committee have visited newcomers to the Lake to answer

questions, distribute lake friendly literature and have provided “Welcome to the Lake” kits. Due to the pandemic, face-to-face visits are now virtual.

4. Conesus Lake Safety committee has repowered its “work boat/tug/research vessel” with a new motor. The committee has insured the deployment, repair and monitoring of the CLA’s 63 “no wake zone” buoys surrounding the Lake. These safety markers coupled with active monitoring by the Sheriff’s Marine Patrol and lake user education serves to protect shoreline ecosystems and provide a safe zone for swimmers, kayakers and other slow vessel operators.
5. July 4<sup>th</sup> activities: for only the second time since 1932, the CLA suspended its endorsement and distribution of “lake of fire” flares. Towns surrounding the Lake, the CLA and the Sheriff suggested that physical distancing and safe activity dictated that holiday festivities be limited. Still, there was significant shoreline illumination and fewer but still abundant skyrocket launches. On the plus side post 10:30 pm traffic on the highways surrounding the Lake was sparse.

--EDUCATION: Watershed Education Center/Laker News

1. 17 June, 2020: Laura Bailey, Yates Co. CCE, presented “Lake Friendly Living”
2. 15 July, 2020: Eric Randall, Botanist, SUNY BuffaloState, emeritus: presented “What’s in your back yard”
3. 29 July, 2020: Lore DiSalvo: “Trains, Planes, and Boats—1874-1970”
4. *Laker News* edited by John Connelly, published the most extensive newsletter in its history. There were 29 contributed articles gracing the 28 pages of this edition of a well-done documentary. The *Laker News* is a benefit of membership and enjoyed by the 1200 members of the Conesus Lake Association.

--GOING FORWARD:

1. The CLA continues to meet virtually for all its meetings and educational programming. ZOOM technology has served the Association well, but the Directors look forward to resumption of activities in their WEC once conditions are deemed safe.
2. Conesus Lake Annual Report Card has been released and may be accessed here:  
<https://www.livingstoncounty.us/conesus.htm>
3. <https://livingstoncounty.us/DocumentCenter/View/11262/2019-Annual-Report-Card>

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