

# Cossayuna Lake

## WINTER NEWSLETTER

# 2021

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### A Message From the President

*Evelyn Costello, CLIA President*

Dear Members and Friends of the Lake,

Happy New Year! I am sure we are all delighted to ring in 2021!

Although the calendar year of 2020 was met with unexpected challenges, I'm so proud to say that our community pulled together and made the best of it! We proved that when we come together as a community, we can get things done. I can say with confidence that we will experience a post Covid world; we will once again enjoy our lake without the guidelines of social distancing and separation. However, it would be naive to believe that we do not face challenges this upcoming season. This post Covid world has left our community, county and state in financial difficulty. We have been told by local officials that we will not receive the same level of contributions as in the past. As a result, that leaves the growing financial burden to maintain the health of our lake on us.

The activity on the lake increased dramatically during the pandemic with more boats and visitors. So, whether you have enjoyed boating, fishing, swimming, kayaking, canoeing, jet skiing or water skiing on Cossayuna, I encourage you to contribute to our Cossayuna Lake Management. Please take time to read our plea letter on page 8 written by our Lake Management Taskforce Chair Lynn Wilbur for a detailed explanation of our needs. Our responsibility is to keep up the health of the lake not only for today, but for future generations.

Wishing you and your families a healthy and happy new year! Evelyn

### Free Wi-Fi at the Cossayuna Fire Station

*Faith St. John, Director Argyle Free Library*

Installation of the free wireless Wi-Fi at the Cossayuna Fire Station was completed on 11/20/20. Many thanks to Dave Wever, John Solan and Chief Pat Donahue of the Cossayuna Volunteer Fire Department who did the installation, and to Nancy Skirkarich who designed and tested the system and assisted with the installation.

The Wi-Fi network is called "RuralLibraryWiFi". It is available to anyone who needs internet access and can go to the Cossayuna Volunteer Fire Department at 21 Bunker Hill Road in Cossayuna. The Fire Chief has asked the Wi-Fi users to park on the right side of the building to use the network. That is also the location where users will get the strongest signal. Users will be prompted to login to the network and accept the terms and conditions of use. This free Wi-Fi service is provided for your use by the Argyle Free Library, the Greenwich Free Library, and the Cossayuna Volunteer Fire Company. If you have any issues or comments about this service, or about the terms and conditions of use typical of free Wi-Fi networks, please email the library director at the Argyle Free Library at [arg-director@sals.edu](mailto:arg-director@sals.edu) or call 518-638-8911.

## LETTER OF NOTIFICATION

Date: January 14, 2021

Re: Proposed Lake Management Program – Cossayuna Lake

**The Cossayuna Lake Improvement Association** is applying for NYSDEC permits to use the aquatic herbicides Navigate (2-4 D) and Aquathol K (Endothol) in the spring of 2021 to control Eurasian Watermilfoil and Curlyleaf Pondweed in areas of the lake, thus improving water quality conditions as well as recreational and aesthetic values. Early season treatments with these herbicides have demonstrated good selectivity for the targeted plants. Non-target native plants are expected to remain to provide a habitat for fish and other aquatic life. The Program will be conducted under the supervision of certified pesticide applicators with the lake management firm SOLITUDE LAKE MANAGEMENT, NYSDEC Pesticide Business Registration No.16505. The Navigate and Aquathol K labels may be viewed on the Solitude Lake Management website at:

<https://www.solitudelakemanagement.com/product-labels-new-york-updates>

It is anticipated that treatment applications of up to 75 acres will take place sometime between May 1<sup>st</sup> and May 30<sup>th</sup>, with a target date of May 5<sup>th</sup>. Notification of the actual date of the treatment will be posted along the shoreline on the day of the application. The roads along the lakeshore will be posted at the time of the treatment indicating applicable water use restrictions. The water use restrictions will be in effect for the duration of the treatment PLUS the timeframes indicated in the table below. The timeframes start as soon as the treatment has ended.

Water use restrictions are as follows:

Product	Swimming/ Bathing	Fishing	Animal Consumption	Drinking, culinary or food processing purposes	Irrigation
<b>Navigate (2-4 D)</b>	24 Hours	none	none	< 50 ppb *	21 days or an assay indicating concentrations $\leq$ 100 ppb **
<b>Aquathol K</b>	Day after application in the treated area only	none	none	< 50 ppb *	No restriction

\* Potable uses will be restricted for at least ten days after the application, and will not be lifted until lab results indicate the concentration is less than 50 ppb at the water intake. For those residents who rely on lake water for drinking water and who need to be in residence during the water use restriction period (approximately 2 weeks), it is necessary to notify Sheila Rappazzo (518-429-8312 or sarappazzo@yahoo.com) between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm, Mon - Fri.

\*\* If treated water is intended to be used to irrigate or mix sprays for plants grown in commercial nurseries and greenhouses; and other plants or crops that are not labeled for direct treatment with 2,4-D, the water must not be used unless one of the following restrictions has been observed: i. A setback distance from functional water intake(s) of greater than or equal to 2400 feet was used for the application, or, ii. A waiting period of 21 days from the time of application has elapsed, or, iii. An approved assay indicates that the 2,4-D concentration is 100 ppb (0.1 ppm) or less at the water intake.

As an affected riparian owner/user you have the right to consent or object to the water use restrictions within **twenty-one days (21 days of this notice)**. Objections to the water use restrictions must be in writing and they must demonstrate that your use of water will be significantly adversely affected. **Lack of comment will be considered consent to the treatment and water use restrictions.** Send your written objections to:

Brian Primeau  
Bureau of Pesticides Management  
NYSDEC, Region 5  
232 Golf Course Road  
Warrensburg, NY 12885-0220  
518-623-1267

If you wish further information about the proposed management program or need hard copies of the Navigate label, please contact Sheila Rappazzo (518-429-8312 or sarappazzo@yahoo.com) or SOLitude Lake Management at 888-480-5253 between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm, Mon - Fri.

# 2021 Herbicide Treatment Plan

*Sheila Rappazzo, Herbicide Chair*

Last year we treated approximately 70 acres of the Lake with herbicides for Curlyleaf Pondweed. The treatment was done early enough in the season that it should have prevented the seeds from maturing. This year it is again our plan to treat a substantial acreage for Curlyleaf Pondweed. We should not have to treat as much as last year, but the seeds from prior years will still be viable to grow, so treatment will still be required. It is the plan to identify the specific areas in the assessment that will be done by the applicator (Solitude) in the Spring, a couple of weeks prior to the treatment.

We are also again planning to apply herbicides to continue our battle to keep the Milfoil in check. While areas treated last year (approximately 20 acres) showed very good results, it's important to keep vigilant in all areas to keep the Milfoil in check. Some areas that were not treated last year may need treatment this year. As with the Curlyleaf Pondweed, the Milfoil areas to be treated will be identified in the pre-treatment assessment.

We plan to identify a substantial area as potential treatment in our permit application to DEC, but request authorization to treat up to 75 acres. That is less than last year but still a substantial acreage. Your generous support for treatment of these non-native invasive weed beds is what has brought our lake back towards health. It is really important to be vigilant; if we don't keep it in check, the Milfoil will re-root all around the lake again, and as we've experienced, the Curlyleaf is also quick to re-emerge.

If you have questions, please contact Sheila Rappazzo at [sarappazzo@yahoo.com](mailto:sarappazzo@yahoo.com) or 518-429-8312 (call or text).

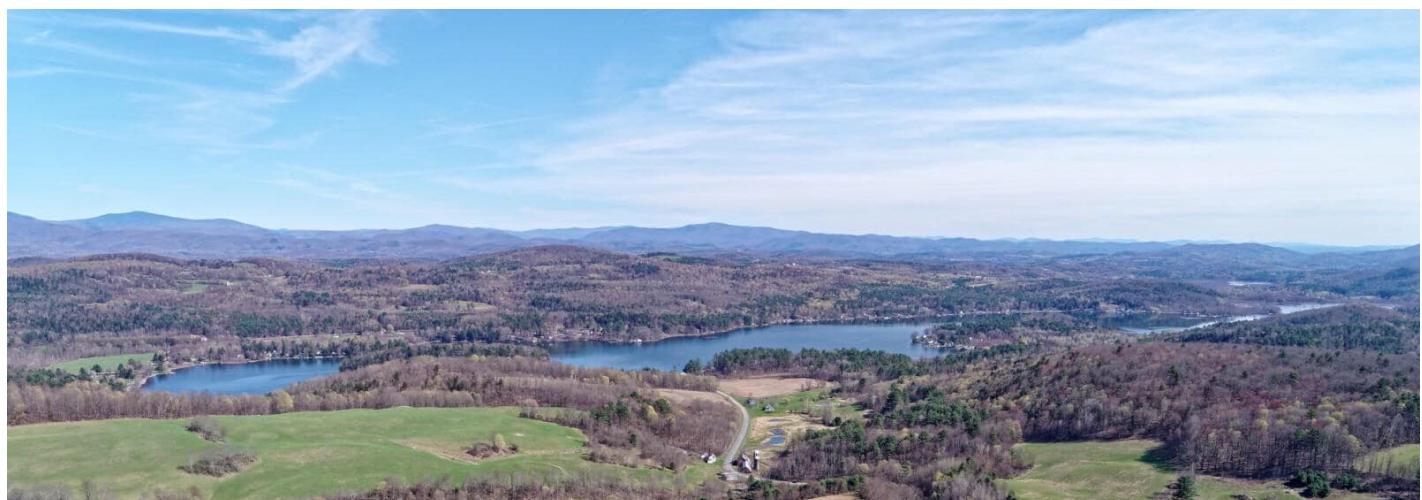
## Donate to Support Lake Management

Please donate to support the Lake Management program for herbicide treatment. Funds will be used to employ the most strategic method possible. We have identified a need for a substantial treatment, up to 75 acres, this year. If everyone contributed, we would have adequate funds. All donations would be greatly appreciated. So, please, love our lake. Help protect it from these damaging invasive weeds.

**Please make the choice, donate, and help keep Cossayuna Lake healthy.**

**Please donate generously to the Lake Management fund found on the Membership form. You can also donate online by going to our website: [cossayunalake.com](http://cossayunalake.com), click on the “Online Sign-up” page and click on the Lake Management projects link.**

**THANK YOU!!!**



*Photo Courtesy of Abbey McCormick*

# 2021 Cossayuna Lake Management Plan

## 1. Spillway:

- To maintain the integrity of the spillway structure
- Regularly survey the spillway to assess maintenance needs
- To manage the water level
  - The water level reduction of the lake has a maximum of 20 inches. The water level will be lowered before the lake freezes. This water level adjustment is just enough to provide shoreline protection from erosion and ice scouring.
  - Begin monitoring the water level in the spring as soon as the ice goes out.
  - Establish / maintain the summer level at 6 in. above the bottom of the notch in the top of the spillway via the 6 in. board.

## 2. Maintain/improve the water quality in Cossayuna Lake at a level that supports such activities as fishing, swimming, & boating.

### Management of non-native invasive weeds

- Through data collection and at least two lake surveys annually, the board of directors will seek to implement the most effective and targeted herbicide program.
- All proper herbicide permitting through DEC, notification and signage will be implemented in accordance with all laws.
- Identification of weeds in front of private property will be made available upon request to help educate riparian owners.
- Harvesting of curlyleaf pondweed in open waters will be done whenever and wherever possible depending on time and need throughout the growing season, as this non-native invasive weed is an annual seed dropper.
- Harvesting of milfoil in open waters will be done if we determine that the weed bed is in a high boat traffic area, and to keep the outlet flowing.
- Funding from the towns, county and state will be sought annually for open water harvesting

### Management of native weeds

- The dock harvesting will run from mid May until the beginning of September with a paid work crew, depending upon funds received from individual property owners. A minimum of three cuts will be offered per season.
- Coontail will be harvested in open waters whenever and wherever masses of this native weed are found.

### Wetlands

- Only 50% of any given NYS identified wetland area in the lake will be harvested and/or treated annually.

## 3. Minimize the introduction of nutrients and sediment into the lake.

### To education stakeholders regarding best practices.

- Seek to obtain free educational materials through State sponsored organizations.
- Provide a speaker for weed identification.
- Encourage stakeholders to use non-phosphorus products on their lawns and in their home.
- Encourage shoreline owners to implement a Shoreline Buffer Zone
- Provide information on permits needed for bank stabilization
- Encourage the involvement of the Argyle and Greenwich Town Boards
- Provide information on septic system care.
- Provide information on boat cleaning via newsletter and inspections at the launch

### To reduce nutrient loading via road runoff, terrain runoff and stream runoff.

- Continue to work with various highway departments and the county soil and water commission and DEC to encourage the best practices in road repairs and salt application.
- With the Upper Hudson Watershed Coalition develop a list and correction plan with the towns and Washington County Soil and Water Dept. of priority issues around the lake.
- Investigate grants to help pay for the needed work.

### To reduce contamination via septic systems around the lake.

- Continue to monitor the environment to ensure that building codes and sewer discharge regulations are observed.
- Work with the Towns and State to develop a long range plan to address septic concerns.

## 4. Monitor the water quality through research activities designed to assess such factors as lake usage, water clarity, oxygen saturation, bacterial contamination.

- Work to get a team of volunteers to test areas of concern for nitrates, phosphates, and bacterial contamination and utilize our testing equipment to assess oxygen and conductivity along with bottom sludge.
- Continue to collect lake water data via CSLAP (Citizens Statewide Lake Assessment Program) membership.
- Provide information on well water testing.

**Board of Directors:** We welcome some old and new faces to the Board for the upcoming year. Welcome to Joanne Bonacker, Anne Marie Marrone Caliendo, Charlie Cooke, Ed Costello, Mary Ferguson and Lynn Pollock! We also say farewell to Fran Buck, John Felicetti, Rayna Henry, Elisa Mussi and Sue Roach and we thank them for their service.

### 2020 – 2021 CLIA OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT** Evelyn Costello

**VICE PRESIDENT** Lynn LeCours

**TREASURER** Rick Ryan

**SECRETARY** Anne Marie Marrone Caliendo

### 2020 – 2021 CLIA STANDING COMMITTEES

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**NOMINATING** Chair: Joanne Bonacker 518.369.9889

**BYLAWS** Chair: Anne Marie Marrone Caliendo 516.315.3922

**FINANCE** Chair: Rick Ryan 518.692.9855

### 2020 – 2021 CLIA AD HOC COMMITTEES

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**SPILLWAY** Chair: Gene Henry 518.744.4768

**COMMUNICATIONS** Chair: John Felicetti 914.441.8266

**BUILDING & GROUNDS** Chair: Tom LeCours 518.366.1151

**RENTALS** Chair: Lynn LeCours 518.253.9377

**SOCIAL & FUNDRAISING** Chair: Lynn LeCours 518.253.9377

**SIGNAGE** Chair: Mary Ferguson 518.531.4157

**DATA MANAGEMENT** Chair: Nancy Hieber 518.692.9206

**EDUCATION** Chair: Lynn Wilbur 518.692.9770

**HARVESTING** Chairs: Tim Hopkins 518.466.8653 & Evelyn Costello 518.692.2039

**HERBICIDE** Chair: Sheila Rappazzo 518.429.8312

**CSLAP DATA COLLECTION** Chair: Lynn Clauer 631.335.4704

**PROMOTION / MERCHANDISE** Chair: Tom LeCours 518.366.1151

**INSURANCE** Chair: Ed Costello 518.692.2039

**WATER CHESTNUT REMOVAL** Chair: Gene Henry 518.744.4768

**FACEBOOK** Chairs: Sue Roach 518.445.5106 & Lynn LeCours 518.253.9377

### 2020 – 2021 CLIA DIRECTORS

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Charlie Cooke

Ed Costello

Mary Ferguson

Gene Henry

Nancy Hieber

Tim Hopkins

Tom LeCours

Peggy Pahoulis

Lynn Pollock

Sheila Rappazzo

Lynn Wilbur



*Late September catch!*  
*Photo Courtesy of Lynn LeCours*

## 2021 Events at the Lake

*Lynn LeCours, Social Chair*

Although this year's calendar of events was unusual, we did find some opportunities to have fun in spite of the masks and social distancing. We followed all the guidelines, and our efforts paid off.... we all stayed healthy!

We made the most of our situation with Flotillas and Food Trucks, Concerts and BBQs, all with a healthy respect for each other and our community. I think our Fourth of July Boat Parade was one of the best ever. Our Cossayuna Spirit really shines bright!

None of this could have been done without the great group of people who volunteer their time and energy. I'd like to say THANK YOU to each and every one of you who made the season such a success, despite the obstacles with which we were faced.

2021 is on track to be a better year for gathering, and we hope to make this the best year ever! We have fresh faces on the Board, as well as many new residents on the lake. Your ideas and suggestions are needed and welcomed!

If you would like to volunteer, we would love to have you! I'll be holding a Zoom meeting for all volunteers on February 25th @7pm to brainstorm and start to fill our event calendar. Would you like to host a Trivia Night or an ice cream social? Perhaps you would like to put a team together to host a Friday Night Dinner or a movie night. How about leading a craft or starting a dart league? We have a beautiful clubhouse and a brand-new outdoor pavilion perfect for all kinds of events!

Give me a call, shoot me a text or send me an email if you'd like to join in the Zoom meeting. Don't worry if you can't make the meeting, please reach out to me any time.

Here's to a safe, healthy and very Happy New Year!

Lynn LeCours

518-253-9377

[Lynnlecoures@gmail.com](mailto:Lynnlecoures@gmail.com)



*Photos Courtesy of Lynn LeCours*

# DID YOU KNOW?



A New Zealand insect called the Weta freezes completely solid when temperatures drop during the winter. However, when temperatures warm back up, the insect unfreezes, thaws, and resumes its activities.



## GREAT IDEA

Rent a **porta potty** for a busy weekend, a party or all summer!



Stone Industries (800.446.6331) comes to empty, clean & sanitize them on a weekly basis. Great deal and it saves the lake!



March's birth flower is the Daffodil.

It's easy to reserve the CLIA Clubhouse for your next family reunion, wedding or private event. Contact Lynn LeCours @ 518.253.9377 for details.



The Japanese floral emblem of the month of January is the Camellia.



CLIA's Water Chestnut Removal Chair **Gene Henry** led a crack team in 2020 to harvest invasive water chestnuts from our beautiful lake. A big thank you & tip of the hat to Paula Barcher & friend Jen, Chris Cooke, Marie Dumas, John Felicetti, Steve Gaughran, Nadia Gonzales, Rayna Henry, Tim Hopkins, Donna Hopkins, Lynn Jackson, Frank Musso, John Ryan, Jim Stevens, Judy Stratton, Rick Stratton and Mike Yakush. Many hands make light (albeit dirty) work, and you folks are greatly appreciated!

Bismarck, North Dakota, holds the record for the most snow angels at one time. On February 17, 2007, several schools joined forces to create 8,962 snow angels.



• **February 2:** Groundhog Day



• **February 6:** Canadian Maple Syrup Day



• **February 12:** Paul Bunyan Day



• **February 14:** Valentine's Day



• **February 18:** Drink Wine Day



• **February 20:** Love Your Pet Day



• **February 25:** International Pancake Day



**Online sign-up for membership, herbicide treatment harvesting or donations** has been a great success! Yep, from the comfort of your home you can go online and donate by credit or debit card, or by PayPal. Just go to the CLIA website: [www.cossayunalake.com](http://www.cossayunalake.com) and click on the **Online Sign-up** link at the top of the page. You will need to click on a separate link for each item you wish to pay for online.

Old school? Sure, you can still write a check and mail it in with the **All-in-One** form included in this newsletter, or go to the **Forms & Applications** link on the website. Questions? Call or email me. John Felicetti 914.441.8266 or [jsfelicetti@yahoo.com](mailto:jsfelicetti@yahoo.com).

All individuals born on or after 5/1/96 are required to successfully complete an approved course in boater education to operate a motor boat or personal watercraft. Contact Lynn Enny at [glanenny@aol.com](mailto:glanenny@aol.com) or 518.499.2883 for info.

# A Plea For Funds

*Lynn Wilbur, Lake Management Taskforce Chair*

Cossayuna Lake was our new home in November of 1985. Our property was exceptionally affordable and we were surprised, but delighted. We found out why the property value was so modest the next summer, when the lake was thick with weeds, often with dead fish in the mix. Two-thirds of the lake was socked in with weeds. The harvester cut a path to our dock from the middle of the lake so we could swim where the lake was too deep for the weeds to flourish.

Upon joining the lake association, I started to learn from a wise man, Bob Baldwin. (Yes, Baldwin's Cove was named for his family. Bob married into the Pratt family who, at one time owned the entire east side of the lake. Yikes, I digress!)

I learned that the lake had been crystal clear up until the middle part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, supporting trout fishing and many boarding houses. It was a real summer destination, complete with a paddle wheel boat. Many small camps were then built around the lake. These camps often used buried fifty-gallon barrels with holes drilled in them as septic tanks if the occupants didn't use an outhouse. Also, several dairy farms started up on the hillsides surrounding the lake, which really increased the nutrient load going into the lake! By 1985 we had a gross, smelly lake with inexpensive houses.

Another change occurred when the NYS Department of Conservation (DEC) decided to put in public access, primarily for fishing. DEC purchased an inexpensive parcel of swampy land, filled it in and built the concrete ramp. An unintended consequence of this action was the destruction of a major spawning ground of the lake's native fish. As DEC began stocking the lake with bass, area fishermen responded in greater numbers. DEC received increased revenue from fishing permits, but another unintended consequence was the increase in aggressive non-native weeds (in particular, Asian Curly-Leaf Pondweed and Eurasian Milfoil) brought in from the greater boat traffic. High nutrient loads and aggressive weeds can quickly kill a lake. Soon, Cossayuna was labeled "eutrophic" and placed on the state watch list.

Bob Baldwin worked to get a harvester to start to work on the lake, cutting weeds so people could use their lake frontage. He also worked with the Washington County Soil and Water Department to find ways to address farm run-off and helped draft the Washington County Septic Code. Most importantly, he got us involved with the new Citizen's Statewide Lake Assessment Program (CSLAP). As CSLAP participants, we take bi-weekly water samples each year during May-September. We have been able to document the slow but steady progress we have made in reducing the nutrient load in Cossayuna Lake and improving the water quality, while pushing back the non-native invasive weeds, helping the healthy native weeds rebound.

We have tried twice to get a Lake District created (similar to a Home Owners Association) so that everyone who lives around the lake pays a fair share for its care. Although we had enough signatures on the required petition, we were unable to get Washington County to put it up for a vote among the people who would need to be involved.

We have explored dredging, drawdowns, aeration, sonar, and biologicals but have found that our present approach of harvesting and herbicide treatments appears to be very effective while keeping cost as low as possible. Our harvesting program is generally self-supporting, because each property owner pays for his/her own lake frontage and we receive approximately \$10k - \$12k annually from the towns of Greenwich and Argyle for harvesting. The herbicide program, on the other hand, is not self-supporting. It costs about \$30k per year, and we rely on the generous donations of folks who love to swim, fish, kayak, ski or just float in Cossayuna Lake, whether property owners or not.

The herbicide program requires constant monitoring. Surveys are done each fall and spring to identify the areas that need to be treated. The milfoil or curly-leaf bed locations change from year to year. This year I could have a bed in front of my house but next year it might be in front of your house or the boat launch. Please join us in our "Whole Lake" approach to non-native invasive weed management; you will be helping us to bring Cossayuna Lake back to health.

As noted in our 2019 CSLAP report: Since 1992, water clarity has increased significantly, surface water temperatures have increased slightly, deep phosphorus and pH have decreased significantly, and surface phosphorus has decreased slightly. In 2016 Cossayuna was taken off the state watch list. We now swim off our dock and enjoy boating even in the south end. Unfortunately, it is impossible to completely eliminate the invasive weeds; we hope our treatments will decline over time as long as we remain vigilant. Please be generous and donate yearly to Cossayuna Lake Management.

# Cossayuna Lake

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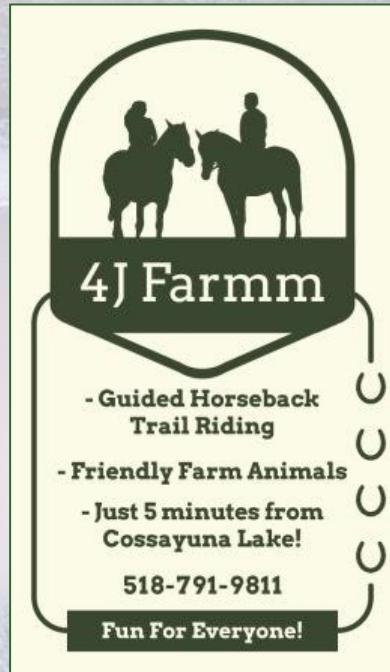
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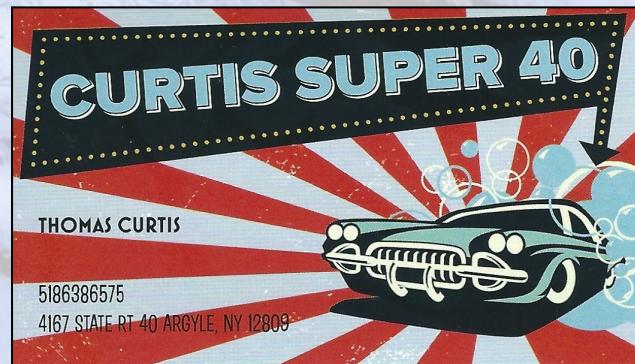
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**COSSAYUNA LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION**  
**Participation Form for the period January 1 – December 31, 2021**  
**In order to receive harvesting and pavilion rental options, membership is required.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address of lake property \_\_\_\_\_  
Primary mailing address \_\_\_\_\_  
Seasonal mailing address \_\_\_\_\_  
Email address \_\_\_\_\_

*Email addresses will only be used for CLIA news and alerts.*

Contact phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate contact # \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Level**

Members must own property within one mile of the lake.

**\$80 SINGLE – 1 vote / membership – 1 or 2 names**

**\$100 JOINT – 2 votes / memberships – 2 names**

Enclosed are my membership dues

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Harvesting Participant**

**\$125 per lot**

I would like to be harvested each time the crew circles the lake.

Enclosed are my harvesting dues

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like additional harvesting @ \$75 an hour.

Enclosed is my additional hours fee

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to make an unrestricted harvesting donation.

Enclosed is my harvesting donation

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Whole Lake Management**

Herbicide treatment of invasive weed beds wherever they are found.

Donation of \$100, \$250, \$500 or more

Enclosed is my Lake donation

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

All money can be submitted with ONE check    **GRAND TOTAL**    Check # \_\_\_\_\_    **TOTAL \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form with payment to CLIA PO Box 81 Cossayuna, NY 12823-0081

Would you like your name and contact information to appear in an upcoming Contact Directory listing?  YES  NO

Please use last year's information  Please use my/our revised or new contact information

Please indicate how you would like to receive the CLIA Newsletter:

Online – posted on website  Online – sent to me via email  Paper – mailed to me

Questions can be directed to the following:

Membership – contact Peggy Pahoulis – 757.635.9891 / pegP413@gmail.com

Lake Management – contact Sheila Rappazzo – 518.429.8312 / sarappazzo@yahoo.com

Harvesting – contact Tim Hopkins – 518.466.8653 / thop920@gmail.com

*CLIA is a 501 c 3 nonprofit organization. Donations are tax-exempt to the extent of the law. A copy of our most recently filed financial report is available from the Charities Registry on the New York State Attorney General's website ([www.charitiesnyc.gov](http://www.charitiesnyc.gov)) or, upon request, by contacting the New York State Attorney General, Charities Bureau, 28 Liberty Street, New York, NY 10005 or the CLIA at PO Box 81, Cossayuna, NY 12823-0081.*

## INSIDE

### **Riparian Notification for Cossayuna Lake and Downstream Outlets for the May, 2021 Herbicide Treatment**

If you would like to receive this newsletter by email instead of paper, contact Nancy Hieber at 518.692.9206.

CLIA  
PO BOX 81  
Cossayuna, NY 12823-0081

Return Service  
Requested

