

Cossayuna Lake

SPRING NEWSLETTER

2021

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A note about the COVID-19 pandemic... After a year of living in unprecedented times, we are slowly returning to “normal”, or at least to a new normal. We are hopeful that as the warmer months are upon us, we will be able to schedule and hold more events. Circumstances may change, of course, and we will let everyone know as soon as possible if events and activities must be modified or cancelled. Be safe, take all needed precautions, and we hope to see you at our happy place, our lovely lake.

In Memory of Sue

Someone once wrote that “Grief is just love with no place to go.” And as we go to our happy places this summer, we are keenly aware of the loss of a beloved member of our community. Sue Roach passed away earlier this year. She leaves her husband Mike, daughters Michelle Mannion (Tony) and Tara Fleming (Jim), 5 grandchildren, and countless friends, CLIA Board colleagues and fellow gardening and nature enthusiasts. Sue’s passing leaves an empty place in our hearts that we hope to fill with memories of her energy, her laughter and her commitment to her beloved lake. But as we miss our friend, our grief does indeed have a place to go; every time we walk to the water’s edge we see the sunshine dancing lightly over the surface. Shimmering, twinkling and yes, laughing - much like our friend Sue. She is there for us, at water’s edge.



2021 Herbicide Treatment Update

Sheila Rappazzo, Herbicide Chair

An application with the DEC was filed on March 12th for a permit to treat up to 75 acres with herbicides for Curlyleaf Pondweed and Milfoil. Unlike prior years, we do not have set treatment areas identified at this point so total acres (and therefore cost to do so) that will need to be treated are undetermined currently. A total of 150 acres has been identified as potential treatment areas, with our application requesting to treat up to half of that, 75 acres maximum.

Solitude will be doing a pretreatment survey, tentatively scheduled for April 20 or 21, at which time the company will identify areas that have weed beds of Milfoil and/or Curlyleaf Pondweed growing that should be treated. We, along with Solitude, will have to prioritize what areas to treat. So it depends on what they identify in that survey, coupled with available funds. If we treated the full 75 acres maximum, cost would be in the roughly \$37,000 range. The cost will vary depending how many acres are for Curlyleaf Pondweed treatment vs. Milfoil treatment. We hope to get approval for the permit in early May in order to treat prior to when the Curlyleaf seeds mature and drop.

Your generous support for treatment of these non-native invasive weeds 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 quick to reemerge also.

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

Donate to Support Lake Management

This past year has been a very stressful time and many people have experienced financial uncertainty. Some people may be unable financially to participate fully. So, we ask that people who are able, to please donate generously to support the Lake Management program for herbicide treatment. If everyone contributed, we would have adequate funds. Donations of \$100, \$200, \$300, will be greatly appreciated.

For those that are able to give more, please consider making a significant donation to help cover for many families and friends around the lake that will not be able to. If we are not able to raise enough funds, we will be unable to treat all the non-native invasive weed beds that are identified.

Please make the choice to 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, click on the "Online Sign-up" page and click on the Lake Management projects link.

LOVE OUR LAKE! THANK YOU!!!

Event Calendar *(Please check cossayunalake.com for updates during the season)*

May 17: Hula Hoop Fitness Class w/ Lynn Jackson! **9 - 9:40 am.** \$3 + a canned good for the food pantry.

May 18: 1st session of **Boating Safely** online course! **6:30 - 8:30 pm.** See page 4 for registration details.

May 24: Hula Hoop Fitness Class w/ Lynn Jackson! **9 - 9:40 am.** \$3 + a canned good for the food pantry.

May 29: Online 50/50 Raffle ends! Go to the Online Sign-up page on our website to get in on the action!

May 30: Breakfast! **9 - 11 am.** Curvy Girls Food Cart. Raffle Winner announced!

May 31: Hula Hoop Fitness Class w/ Lynn Jackson! **9 - 9:40 am.** \$3 + a canned good for the food pantry.

July 3: Boat Parade! **2 pm.** Meet at CLIA Dock. Rain date is July 4 @ 2 pm.

July 16: Music w/ Jeff Williams! **7 - 10 pm.** \$6 + a canned good for the food pantry.

We will be adding events as the season nears and COVID restrictions ease.

Lake Observations by Citizen Scientists and Satellites NY Lakes Needed



What is this project?

LOCSS is a NASA-funded project which combines citizen science with satellite data to understand how the volume of water in lakes is changing over time.

The project is a partnership between the University of North Carolina, University of Washington, and Tennessee Technological University working with local partners to study lakes. By the end of 2021, LOCSS will be studying more than 100 lakes in the United States, Europe, and Asia.

Why is it important?

There are hundreds of thousands of natural lakes in the world, but probably only a few thousand of those are moni-

tored. This project presents an opportunity to harness the power of volunteers and satellites to gather data that a single research team would be unable to obtain.

In particular, we want to know whether the lakes are all changing together on a regional scale — so if the water volume in one lake goes up, the volume in another lake goes up — or are they being controlled

by more local factors. NYSFOLA has been asked to help!

How does it work?

The LOCSS team provides a lake gauge, which is similar to a ruler, which can be installed in a lake along with a sign inviting people to participate. A citizen scientist or passerby can read the level of the water against the gauge

and report it by text message to a phone number posted on the sign. That measurement is then added to the LOCSS database and displayed publicly on the project website, www.locss.org.

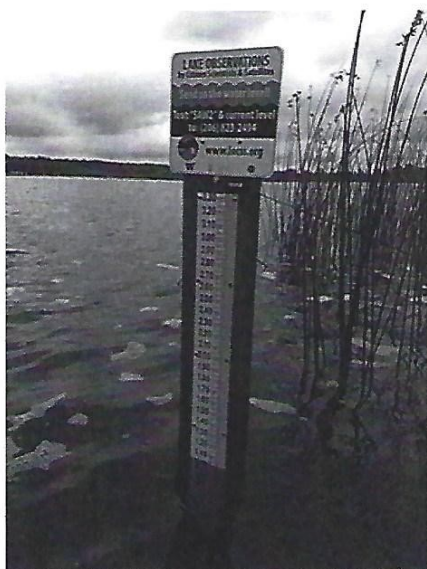
The LOCSS team then pairs those lake height measurements with lake surface area measurements calculated using satellite imagery to determine if the volume of water in the lake is changing..

How can I get involved?

In 2021, we hope to begin studying lakes in New York, and we are looking for local partners and citizen scientists. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer citizen scientist, or are a lake manager and would like more information, please contact Grant Parkins at parkins@unc.edu.

In 2021, the satellite will be passing over the central NY area, with one “blind spot” area. Lakes in (Eastern) Broome, Cayuga, Chenango, Madison, (Western) Onondaga (including Otisco and Skaneateles Lakes), and (Eastern) Wayne Counties would be particularly useful for the upcoming season. However, anyone interested in helping out can contact the NYSFOLA office for more information. (Contact the NYSFOLA office for a map of the satellite path.)

LOCSS will provide the gauge. Due to COVID, they cannot install the gauge themselves but will provide directions.



DID YOU KNOW?



The etymology behind the word “**April**” comes from the Latin verb “aperire”, which means “to open”. It is commonly believed that the word refers to the season of trees and flowers beginning to “open” or bloom.



Spring is here....please mind the posted speed limits around the lake and slow down! It will not only make it safer for all, but it's easier on the roads!

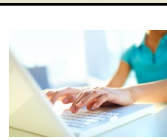


This year's winner of the Ice Out Contest is Sharon Mclelland!

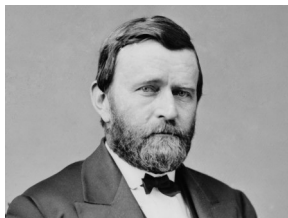


Congratulations - you are the 2021 Cossayuna Lake Ice Queen!

Ice Out occurred on **March 27th** this year. Thanks to Tim Hopkins for keeping watch and providing the official announcement. Thanks also to David Smith for tracking the entrants.



As of **April 1st**, over 25% of CLIA members have renewed their memberships online.



No U.S. president has ever died in the month of **May**.

In every other month of the year, at least one U.S. president has died.



One of the two birth flowers of **April** is the sweet pea.



The birthstone for **May** is the emerald.

The Empire State Building opened its doors on May 1, 1931.



At the point of its construction, it held the record for being the tallest building in the world.

May was once considered an incredibly unlucky time to get married. The old adage is: “*Marry in May and you'll rue the day.*”



The **About Boating Safely** Course will be offered online this season! The course is four evenings of 2 hours each on Tuesday May 18, Thursday May 20, Tuesday May 25 and Thursday May 27 from **6:30 - 8:30 pm**. Please contact Bob Shivokevich at 1508plattsburgh@gmail.com for details!



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!



- May is National Inventors Month!



- May 1: Batman Day



- May 6: No Diet Day



- May 8: Victory in Europe (VE) Day



- May 19: National Scooter Day



- May 22: World Goth Day



- May 24: Aviation Maintenance Tech Day

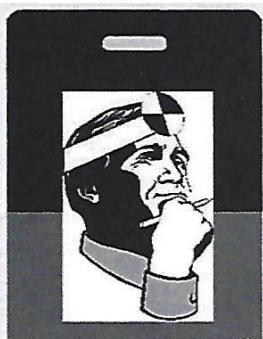


- May 29: Learn About Composting Day



- May 31: National Smile Day





Owen Zaengle
Assistant Program Manager

Back by Popular Demand!

Ask Dr. Lake

Dear Dr. Lake,

I accidentally dropped my favorite salt shaker into the lake. I had recently filled it with salt! Should I be worried?

Celine Waters, Potato Lake

Dear Celine,

Thanks for your letter! It is not clear from your letter whether you are concerned for your saltshaker or for the lake. I will assume you are concerned for both; and understandably so!

First, I will address your concern for the salt shaker itself. I am reasonably confident your salt shaker survived the incident. The difficulty in retrieving it is directly related to the depth of water it was dropped into and the composition of the sediment. Without knowing either, I cannot provide a more detailed answer. The salt it contained may be a different story.

Your concern for the lake is justified. Science has taught us quite a bit about how increased salt concentrations can impact a lake. Increased salt concentrations can alter the physical, chemical, and biological processes that occur within a lake. Salty water accumulates at the bottom of the lake because it is denser than freshwater. In lakes that stratify, this can cause the lake to form a deep salty layer that resists mixing. This can lead to the loss of oxygen within this layer and the release of phosphorus into the water column. Thus, salt can exacerbate existing nutrient issues and associated problems (algal blooms, excessive plant growth, and fish kills).

In addition to these indirect impacts increased salt concentrations can have on the biological community, it can also have a direct impact on the biota within the lake. It can reduce the growth and reproduction of algae, zooplankton, macroinvertebrates, amphibians, and fish. These changes can lead to the loss of sensitive species and reduce the overall diversity of plants and animals in the lake.

Over the past few decades, salt concentrations have been increasing in freshwater lakes, rivers, and wetlands around the world. Salt naturally exists at low concentrations in

freshwater lakes, though often in different forms than traditional table salt. Weathering of soil and rocks are natural processes that can increase the salt concentration of a lake. However, salt concentrations are increasing at a rate far greater than can be explained by these natural processes. Human interactions in watersheds have been identified as major sources of salt to lakes. Activities such as application of road de-icing salt, agricultural practices, mining, and clearing vegetation can all lead to increased salt concentrations in freshwater systems. As far as I know, the dropping of saltshakers is not (currently) identified as a major source of salt to our global freshwater systems. However, once salt gets into the lake there is not a simple way to remove it from the system. So, prevention is key!

The New York State legislature recently passed the "Randy Preston Road Salt Reduction Act" which creates a task force and a pilot program that aims to implement salt reduction tactics that will keep salt out of our lakes and maintain safe winter driving conditions in the Adirondacks. As a homeowner, you can also make a difference by reducing the amount of de-icing salt used on your driveway and walkways. You can also advocate for road salt reduction measures in your local government.

So, the answer to your question is yes - and no. The salinization of our freshwater lakes is a concerning global trend that impacts the lake ecosystem at many levels. Any salt added to the lake has a hard time leaving; however, the amount in your saltshaker is miniscule compared to other sources. That being said, I would not encourage you to make a habit of dropping saltshakers into the lake.

Sincerely (and without salt),

Dr. Lake

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Lynn Wilbur

Happy Spring Everyone!

Peggy Pahoulis, Membership Chair

With spring comes thoughts of summer on the lake and joining the Lake Association for the 2021 season. And many of you have opted to add your information to our Member Contact Directory! The first issue of the season will be published in early June. Watch our Facebook page and your email for that announcement.

If you're waiting for your stimulus payment so you can check all the boxes on your membership application, I urge you to take action on the lake management portion NOW. As explained elsewhere in this newsletter, our Lake Management Team will soon be making the decision on how much of the lake to treat, and that mostly depends on how much money has been donated by our members. Yes, your membership dues go toward lake management, but your DONATIONS make up the bulk of the funds we can spend on the process. So please be generous NOW.

CSLAPpenings



Here at NYSFOLA, we're still going through many of the comments and questions we received as part of the 2020 CSLAP Survey. Here are some answers to the most frequently asked questions:

Are the waiver forms really necessary?

Thanks to our volunteers, we have run the program safely for over 30 years. However, the waiver forms are a legal necessity in a litigious world. Neither NYSFOLA nor NYSDEC staff are able to supervise what our volunteers do in the field. While we know that most of you are very careful, we have some stories that we can (and sometimes do) share to emphasize the need for the waivers.

The waiver forms undergo periodic legal reviews, most recently in 2019. We understand that the need for original signatures makes things difficult, especially for Nancy, and have asked for another review of this requirement for the 2022 season.

Can we sample for bacteria as part of CSLAP?

It is generally recommended that bacterial samples be analyzed within 24 hours of collection. The "clock" starts as soon as the sample is collected and continues until the analysis is completed at the laboratory. Bacterial samples must also be kept cold, but not frozen, so it's best to deliver these samples right to the lab after collection to ensure sample integrity. Primarily because of the holding time constraints, bacteria samples are not part of CSLAP. We recommend that lake associations work with a laboratory within a reasonable driving distance of the lake.

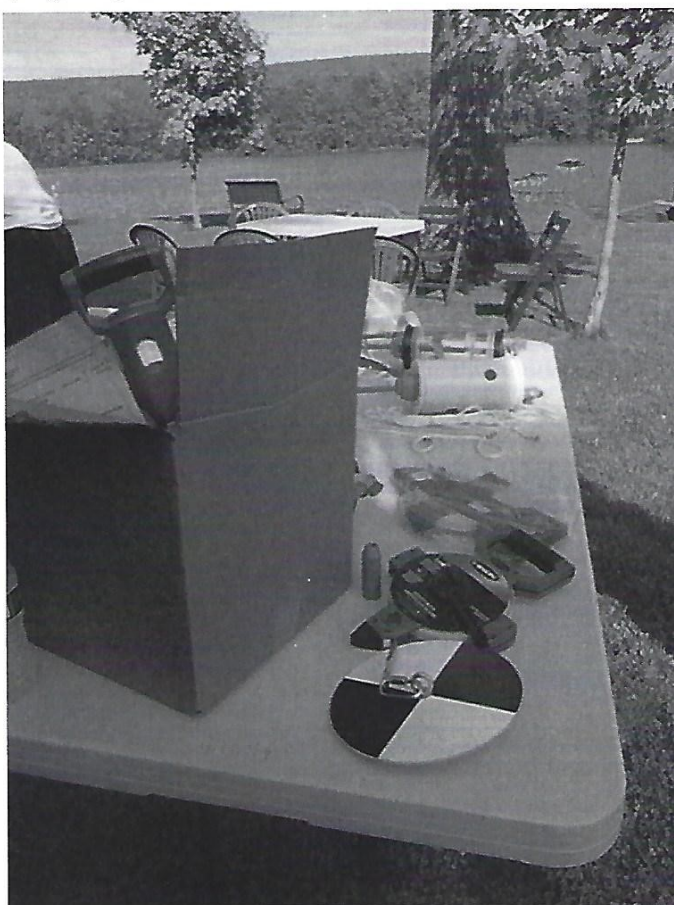
How do we find out the results of our harmful algal bloom sampling?

In June of 2019, New York State launched a new online HABs map and reporting system for the public. Dubbed "NYHABS," the reporting system features an interactive map that is updated daily with reports of HABs, as well as a new public reporting form. The NYHABS reporting system <https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/83310.html> allows both the public and trained algal bloom samplers (CSLAP volunteers) to send reports of HABs to DEC electronically via a simple, user- and mobile phone-friendly form.

CSLAP volunteers are able to link directly to the NYHABS system at www.cslapdata.org where much of the information about the lake will already be filled in. After reports are evaluated by DEC and DOH, they are posted to the web page. If you submit a HABs sample, check the NYHABS website.

Can we get reports earlier?

CSLAP data is subject to extensive QA/QC (Quality Assurance/Quality Control) review. Unlike some other sampling programs, the review is not limited to individual samples.



Instead, the entire data set for the season is also reviewed at the end of the year. Results are compared to historical data, and some samples may even be rerun. The staff at Upstate Freshwater Institute completes this process after all of the samples have been analyzed. Since samples are still

being received through the end of September, DEC and NYSFOLA usually receive the final data set in November or December. After the data is received, DEC CSLAP Coordinator Stephanie June starts reviewing the data and generating reports (while also doing her other job related duties). With nearly 160 lakes in the program, it simply takes time.

CSLAP volunteers can always compare their current year field data (Secchi, temperature, etc.) to historical records by choosing "View In-Season Reports" at www.cslapdata.org.

As always, if you have questions about your lake's water quality during the season, we are happy to answer them.

Nancy Mueller - fola@nysfola.org

Stephanie June - stephanie.june@dec.ny.gov

How do we know what the aquatic plants are in our lake?

We always encourage CSLAP volunteers to do aquatic plant surveys - or to recruit other lake association members to do so. Directions are on our website: <https://nysfola.org/cslap-aquatic-plant-survey/>. You can also submit plant samples for identification. Keep them cool, but not in a bag of water, wrap them in a moist (but not wet) paper towel and ship them with your samples. Also, don't forget to contact your local Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM) <https://nysfola.org/prisms/>. They frequently conduct sampling during the field season and may be able to provide you with assistance.

How do we find out what's happening at other lakes?

We use the CSLAP field data, lake association newsletters, regional meetings (in person or virtual), phone calls and

Curly Leaf Pondweed found by CSLAP volunteers on Guilford Lake in 2020 - Photo by Tommy Shedd



emails to try to keep track of lake association happenings around the state. We're working on finding better ways to share that information. In the meantime, contact us! We'll be happy to answer your questions or put you in touch with other lake associations.

What happens if my kemmerer or filtration apparatus isn't working or I need some supplies? Contact Nancy Mueller directly at fola@nysfola.org (800)796-3652 or put a separate note on top of the cooler. Please don't write it on the field data sheets. That might not get seen until it's too late for the next round.

How can we get copies of our old reports or those of our neighboring lakes for comparison?

All of the reports are on the NYSFOLA website at <https://nysfola.org/cslap-report-search/>.

You can type in the name of any lake using the search feature to find them.

Website Provides AIS Toolkit for Local Governments

Thank you to NYSDEC Lake Champlain Basin Coordinator Erin Vennie-Vollrath, formerly with the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program, for sending us a link to an interesting new website. The *Local Government Aquatic Invasive Species Toolkit* website <https://www.localgovais.com/> provides a regulatory framework for aquatic invasive species (AIS) regulations, highlights high risk species, and gives examples of local efforts to combat invasive species. The fight to eradicate hydrilla from Cayuga Lake is highlighted.

Hydrilla photo by Jon Reis for NYSFOLA.



Cossayuna Lake

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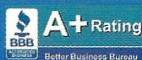
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Bob & Barbara L. Liebig, Jr.

**Go to cossayunalake.com/online-sign-up.html to renew your membership,
to sign up for lake harvesting or to make a donation online!**

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) 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.

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Photo courtesy of Susan Roach