

Cossayuna Lake

WINTER NEWSLETTER

2024

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Photo courtesy of Jack Newton

Board Recognizes Lynn Wilbur

A standing ovation occurred at our August General Meeting to recognize Lynn Wilbur's outstanding contributions to the CLIA for multiple decades. Past President, Education Chair, Lake Management Task Force Chair are just a few of the roles in which she has served. Lynn plans to continue to share her knowledge and time to support CSLAP testing and lake management initiatives. A HUGE thank you to this dedicated member of our lake community!



Pictured left to right: Board members Tom LeCours, Bob Reilly, President Lynn LeCours, Lynn Wilbur, Sheila Rappazzo, Gene Henry, JoAnne Bonacker, Lynn Jackson, Karen Ryan, Lisa Zibella. Not in photo: Vice President Peg Pahoulis, Treasurer Rick Ryan, Secretary Kathy Gaughran, Marie Dumas, Tim Hopkins, Star Schmaler, Cheryl Stanford-Smith.

Lake Management Appeal

Sheila Rappazzo, Lake Management Taskforce Chair

Please donate to support the Lake Management program for the treatment of invasive, non-native weeds. Part of life on our lovely lake is the yearly struggle to maintain water quality and overall health of the lake. We are grateful for both the generous donations we receive each year and for the efforts of dedicated volunteers who monitor water quality and levels, take water samples throughout the summer for testing, oversee the herbicide program and when necessary, get in the water and hand pull weeds. It is truly a labor of love, although the camaraderie and fellowship between this great group of folks are rewards in themselves.

Yearly herbicide treatment areas can range from 30 - 90 acres, based on what we find during our pre-treatment survey. We work with both our lake management service provider and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to design and implement the appropriate treatment plan each year. Frankly, it's a lot of work and it is expensive, but the alternative is to see a serious decline in the quality of our lake environment.

Once again, we expect to target and treat Curlyleaf Pondweed and Eurasian Milfoil, the 2 most prominent of the invasive non-native weed species on our lake. Treatment will be completed early enough in the season so that it should prevent the seeds from maturing. However, we need to stay on top of the situation because regardless of the success of any one year of treatment, the plant seeds on the lakebed from prior years are still viable to grow.

We are also planning to include in our permit application to DEC some potential areas for treatment of Southern Naiad, in order to give us options if we again have a heavy overgrowth of this weed. While Southern Naiad is a native weed and generally considered healthy for the lake, a massive overgrowth like we experienced in some areas this past summer can be problematic, as many people around the lake know.

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.

Won't you please consider contributing \$100 - \$200 or more if you can? All donations will be greatly appreciated. So, please, love our lake. Help protect it from these damaging invasive weeds. If you have questions, please call or text Sheila Rappazzo at sarappazzo@yahoo.com or 518-429-8312.

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, click on the "Online Sign-up" page and click on the Lake Management projects link. THANK YOU!

Membership Update

Bob Reilly, Membership Chair

I want to thank all the current members for joining the CLIA. Last year we had 401 paid members in 225 households. That's great news! The more you participate, the more you benefit from your membership.

Your modest one-time yearly dues help accomplish many worthwhile goals. Your membership dues and active participation helps to keep our beautiful lake clean, maintains our wonderful clubhouse and pavilion and allows us to offer many programs such as fitness classes and boating safety classes. Because of you, we're able to present many enjoyable events such as Bingo, our Annual Chicken BBQ, Trivia Night and music and dancing nights.

The clubhouse is available for rent for diverse member events. This year at the clubhouse there was an engagement party, a family reunion, memorial and celebration of life events and a wedding. Members have an opportunity to celebrate with old friends and make new ones, all for a modest rental fee.

Included in this newsletter is a membership form that you can complete and mail to the Association, or you can conveniently sign up online. If you have a friend or neighbor who is not yet a member, please encourage them to sign up. Also, please consider participating in harvesting as this helps to keep the lake clean all year long. Anyone living within one mile of the lake is eligible to join and remember, the CLIA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to call me or any board member.

Shoreline Beautification Projects

It may not take a village, but it certainly takes an Association to keep our buildings and grounds looking good. This past summer in particular saw some extraordinary efforts to improve our facilities. In addition to the usual painting and repairs to the building (thanks to Bob Reilly, Tom LeCours, Jeff Jackson, Gene Henry, Tim Hopkins, John Felicetti and others), this year we undertook some significant upgrades to our shoreline.



Before...

Early in the season we rebuilt the staircase leading down to the water, and thanks to Peter and Karyn Moore's generous donation, towed a second dock across the lake and installed it at the CLIA waterfront. At the end of the season, Association volunteers, coupled with a generous donation of staff, equipment and materials from Mark Masseo and Masseo Landscape Inc. did a great job to improve the shoreline. We replaced wooden fencing, cleared brush, re-graded the slope to the waterfront, installed perennial plants, mulched and seeded.

Our shoreline is ready for 2024 water fun. Stay tuned - next year we'll need ongoing support to keep our new landscaping weed free!

Thanks to everyone who helped raise funds, carried lots of stuff, pulled weeds, planted, provided water and snacks and generally supported our efforts. Job well done!



CLIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS: We welcome some new faces to the Board for the upcoming year. Welcome to Star Schmaler and Lisa Zibella! We thank all former Board members for their hard work and dedicated service to our lake.

2023 – 2024 CLIA STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS

BYLAWS: OPEN

FINANCE: OPEN (Rick Ryan, Interim)

LAKE MANAGEMENT: Sheila Rappazzo 518.429.8312

NOMINATING: Joanne Bonacker 518.369.9889

2023 – 2024 CLIA OFFICERS

PRESIDENT Lynn LeCours 518.253.9377

VICE PRESIDENT Peggy Pahoulis 757.635.9891

TREASURER OPEN (Rick Ryan, Interim)

SECRETARY OPEN (Kathy Gaughran, Interim)

2023 – 2024 CLIA AD HOC COMMITTEE CHAIRS

MEMBERSHIP: Bob Reilly 631.897.4811

SPILLWAY: Gene Henry 518.744.4768

COMMUNICATIONS: John Felicetti 914.441.8266

BUILDING & GROUNDS: Jeff Jackson 518.878.9378, Tom LeCours 518.366.1151

RENTALS: Bob Reilly 631.897.4811

SOCIAL & FUNDRAISING: Marie Dumas 212.920.5511, Karen Ryan 413.281.2772

SIGNAGE: JoAnne Bonacker 518.369.9889, Marie Dumas 212.920.5511

DATA MANAGEMENT: John Felicetti 914.441.8266

EDUCATION: Lynn Jackson 518.878.9384

HARVESTING: Gene Henry 518.744.4768

HERBICIDE: Sheila Rappazzo 518.429.8312

CSLAP DATA COLLECTION: Lynn Clauer 631.335.4704

PROMOTION / MERCHANDISE: Tom LeCours 518.366.1151

INSURANCE: Tom LeCours 518.366.1151

WATER CHESTNUT REMOVAL: Gene Henry 518.744.4768

2023 – 2024 CLIA DIRECTORS

Joanne Bonacker

Marie Dumas

Gene Henry

Tim Hopkins

Lynn Jackson

Tom LeCours

Sheila Rappazzo

Bob Reilly

Karen Ryan

Star Schmaler

Cheryl Stanford-Smith

Lisa Zibella



Photo courtesy of Mark Samu

Social Committee Update

We had a jam-packed summer season! The season began with the Memorial Day Breakfast, hosted by Tim and Donna Hopkins, kicking off the summer with a great turn out. Our annual Chicken BBQ and Raffle Fundraiser was a huge success as well. Our events included an Acoustic Evening with the Lakesiders by the Fire Pit, the NY Lounge Lizards, Bingo!, Ice Cream Social, Grillin' & Chillin' with the Lakesiders, El Caro Del Taco Truck and an evening with the Everest Rising Band. We offered several educational programs such as Hula Hoop Fitness, Boat Safety Course offered by the US Coast Guard, a Water Safety Program in partnership with the Cossayuna Fire Department and Beginners Knitting classes. We ended the season with our Pizza Truck / Trivia Night and our Chili Cookoff and dancing to the Lakesiders.

Weather and timing were a huge factor for our events this summer from a lot of rain to a lot of heat and humidity. For instance, it was extremely hot for the NY Lounge Lizards debut here and it rained on our Boat Parade for two days! We have taken all of this into account to improve upon our calendar for next season. We've looked at what works and what doesn't and are open to any suggestions for events that you may have for next year as we begin to coordinate events with CLIA's 70th Birthday Celebration as our main theme.

Our committee works very well together, and we would welcome anyone to volunteer to help at an event, help with the planning, or take the lead on an event. Feel free to contact any one of us with your suggestions. We take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone who played a part in our events this season, no matter what you did to help out, we appreciate each and every one of you.

Your Social Committee: Karen Ryan, Co-Chair, Board Member
Marie Dumas, Co-Chair, Board Member
JoAnne Bonacker, Board Member & Nominating Chair
Lynn Jackson, Ad Hoc Member, Board Member & Education Chair
Bob Reilly, Board Member, CLIA Rentals Chair & Membership Chair
Star Schmaler, Board Member



Save the date: Saturday, June 29
Get your *Groove On*
as we celebrate the 70th anniversary of the CLIA!

Don your finest polyester and platforms or 70's prom attire
and dance the night away to classics rock and roll.
Look for an invitation with details in the spring.

Harvesting Update

Gene Henry, Harvesting Committee Chair

Greetings to all our Cossayuna friends. This is just a brief note about our harvesting work. Your participation in the harvesting and herbicide programs are vital to the continued improvement in our lake. We had some breakdowns to our truck and the harvester last season, and our plan is to replace the tired old truck this year. In addition, several board members met with Assemblywoman Carrie Woerner about the possibility of a grant for a new harvester. No firm dates were discussed, but we remain hopeful. Our plan is always to do a better job than the last season and your participation is greatly appreciated. We have a great lake community and we work hard to keep it that way.

Thanks, and see you in the spring. Gene

Proposed Changes to CLIA By-Laws

During the August 29th, 2023 CLIA Board of Directors Meeting, the Board approved the following additions to the By-Laws, subject to approval of the membership. A copy of the complete By-Laws document is located on www.cossayunalake.com/by-laws.

Proposed Addition to Article VI - Voting:

In the event the election for Officers and Directors is uncontested, the Secretary will cast a single ballot to confirm the election of the slate of candidates. If the Secretary is not present, the Chair of the Nominating Committee will cast the ballot. Any Absentee ballots received will not be recorded or archived.

Proposed Addition to Article XV – General Provisions:

Written Communication: As referenced in the By-Laws, Written Notices, Requests or Proxies shall include both physical and electronic forms of communication, including, but not limited to, postal delivery, website publication and electronic mail (email).

These changes will be submitted to the membership for approval and adoption at the 2024 Membership Meeting.

Holiday Cheer & Gratitude from Comfort Food Community

Alyssa Place, Communications Coordinator, Comfort Food Community

Greetings and a happy new year! It's a season of sharing joy and gratitude, and CFC wanted to take the opportunity to say a big thank you to the Cossayuna Lake Improvement Association (CLIA) and all that make our Cossayuna Food Pantry thrive.

Comfort Food Community (CFC) was established in 2014 with the mission of providing convenient access to fresh, whole-some food to the Greenwich, NY community. We expanded our pantry services to Cossayuna in 2015, and they now run each Tuesday at the Cossayuna Fire Department. The Cossayuna Fire Department donates use of the Cossayuna Food Pantry space every week! We couldn't work to make a dent in rural hunger without the dedication and hard work of our volunteers that show up week after week.

Donna Morrison (pictured), a long-time volunteer says she enjoys her time volunteering at the pantry. "It is wonderful to meet so many of my neighbors and to know that they are getting the good food that they need to care for themselves and their families. I especially like the focus on fresh, locally sourced fruits and vegetables."

To Donna, Ray Sans, and the numerous other folks that help run the pantry, we say thank you! Jeffrey Bowers, CFC's Food Center Manager, commends their work saying "Our committed and hard-working volunteers are key to CFC's ability to provide a friendly, welcoming environment for the approximately 30 families we see each week."



Pat Donahue, a past Cossayuna fire chief, shares his thoughts on the power of the community's efforts, saying "The food pantry is about more than just providing food to those who need it, it's about caring for one another." Pat is responsible for making a space at the firehouse for community programs such as the food pantry. "During many of our emergency calls, we would meet people living with limited access to food. It was important to include a space for the food pantry when we designed the new firehouse. We are so grateful to CFC and the many volunteers who donate their time to serve others."

Amie Collins, Executive Director of CFC, echoes the appreciation. "We owe our success in expanding food access to community support. Every year, the Cossayuna Fire Department helps lead our efforts in a Coin Drop fundraiser to support our work. We have a dedicated team of volunteers who facilitate the smooth operation of the Cossayuna Food Pantry. And the CLIA has made a huge impact through their food drives. Cossayuna community members are generous with their donations and their time, which is what makes the work we do possible."

Thank you from the bottom of our bellies, and we wish you all happy holidays and a wonderful new year!

DID YOU KNOW?



It's easy to reserve the CLIA Clubhouse for your next family reunion, wedding or private event.

Contact Bob Reilly @



631.897.4811 or go to the website for details.

On average, **February** is the United States' snowiest month, according to data from the National Weather Service.



March 29-31 are known as the **Borrowing Days**. According to lore, the last three days of March have a reputation for being stormy.



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

North Country Excavating 518.852.3588 comes to empty, clean & sanitize them on a weekly basis. It's a great deal and helps reduce stress on the lake!



- **January 5:** National Whipped Cream Day
- **January 8:** National Bubble Bath Day
- **January 13:** National Sticker Day
- **January 17:** Benjamin Franklin Day
- **January 22:** Hot Sauce Day
- **January 29:** National Puzzle Day
- **January 31:** National Hot Chocolate Day

The Cossayuna Lake Improvement Association (CLIA) was formed in 1954 by a group of residents of the vicinity surrounding Cossayuna Lake. The first meeting was held on August 22nd of that year.



Officers were elected, committees appointed, and various matters were discussed concerning the good and welfare of the community. Subsequently, a constitution and by-laws were adopted, and the Association was incorporated.

The main purpose of the early organization was to encourage social life among its members, promote social activities among the younger members of the community, and to promote the health and general welfare, improvement and advancement of the community. As the organization matured, the CLIA took a leading role in organizing sustained efforts to monitor and maintain the health of the lake. These efforts take the form of fundraising for annual invasive, non-native weed remediation as well as volunteer efforts to monitor water quality throughout the busy summer season.

Cossayuna Lake covers approximately 776 acres, is 3 miles long with a 7/10 mile maximum width, 8.6 miles of shoreline and a maximum depth of about 29 ft.

Online sign-up for membership, herbicide treatment harvesting or donations is fast and convenient! 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 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.

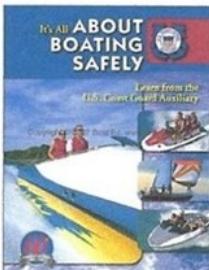
Old school? Sure, you can still write a check and mail it in with the **All-in-One** form included in this newsletter, or go to the **Forms & Applications** link on the website. Questions? Call or email John Felicetti (914.441.8266 or jsfelicetti@yahoo.com).

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. **All operators of motorized vessels, regardless of age, will need a boating safety certificate by January 1, 2025.** Fortunately, the US Coast Guard Auxiliary is holding a 1 day in person certification course at the CLIA clubhouse on **Saturday, June 1 2024!** See the flyer on page 8 of the newsletter. Contact Lynn Enny at 518.499.2883 with questions or to register. **The deadline for registration is Monday, May 6, 2024.**





Public Education Course Flyer: About Boating Safely



If you are interested in an exciting, in-depth boating safety course, check out the in classroom (seminar) version of our popular online boating course.

This beginner boating class will give you the knowledge needed to obtain a boat license or safety certification in many states. Many boat insurance companies will offer discounts on boating insurance to boaters who successfully complete *About Boating Safely*.

TOPICS INCLUDE:

Introduction to Boating - Types of power boats; sailboats; outboards; paddle boats; houseboats; different uses of boats; various power boating engines; jet drives; family boating basics.

Boating Law - Boat registration; boating regulation; hull identification number; required boat safety equipment; operating safely and reporting accidents; protecting the marine environment; Federal boat law; state boating laws; personal watercraft requirements.

Boat Safety Equipment - Personal flotation devices ("life jackets"); fire extinguishers; sound-producing devices; visual-distress signals; dock lines and rope; first aid kit; anchors and anchor lines; other boating safety equipment. *About Boating Safely*

Safe Boating - Bow riding; alcohol and drug abuse; entering, loading, and trimming a boat; fueling portable and permanent tanks; steering with a tiller and a wheel; docking, undocking and mooring; knots; filing a float plan; checking equipment, fuel, weather and tides; using charts; choosing and using an anchor; safe PWC handling; general water safety.

Navigation - The U.S. Aids to Navigation system; types of buoys and beacons; navigation rules (sometimes referred to as right-of-way rules); avoiding collisions; sound signals; PWC "tunnel vision."

Boating Problems - Hypothermia; boating accidents and rescues; man overboard recovery; capsizing; running aground; river hazards; strainers; emergency radio calls; engine problems; equipment failures; carbon monoxide (CO); other boating and PWC problems.

Trailering, Storing and Protecting Your Boat - Types of trailers; trailer brakes, lights, hitches, tires, and bearings; loading, balancing, and towing a trailer; towing (and backing) a trailer; boat launching and retrieving; boat storage and theft protection; launching, retrieving and storing a PWC.

Hunting and Fishing, Water-skiing and River Boating - Carrying hunting gear and weapons in a boat; fishing from a boat; water-skiing safety guidelines and hand signals; water-skiing with a PWC; navigating rivers, and other boating tips.

Presented by Flotilla 014-15-10 Lake George, NY

Course: About Boating Safely
Date: Saturday, June 1, 2024
Hours: 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
Location: Cossayuna Lake Improvement Assn
314 East Lake Road
Cossayuna, NY 12823

Contacts: Lynn Enny glanenny@aol.com
518.499.2883

Charlie Pound
518.361.2530

Course Cost: \$20
Register by: Monday, May 6, 2024
Call Lynn Enny to register
(leave your name to confirm your attendance on June 1, 2024).

Comments: Students to report at 8:30 with class to start soon after. Age 10 or older. Under 14 must be accompanied by an adult. Must attend all 8 hours to obtain certificate; certificate is recognized by NYS Parks & Recreation as meeting state boating education requirement. Students should bring their own lunch.



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2024

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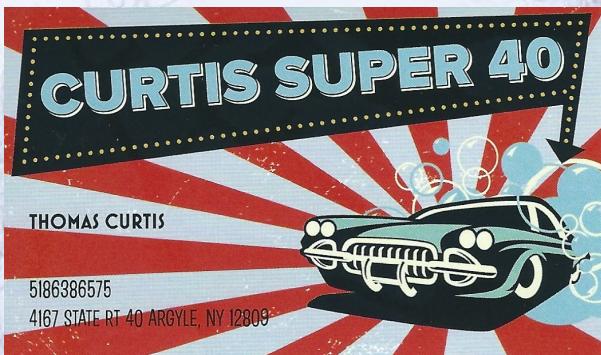
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Cossayuna Lake

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and click on
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Sarah & Matt Puhl Owners / Brewmasters
518.638.6066 www.scotlanderbc.com

Want to skip the paperwork? You can sign up for CLIA membership or harvesting, make a donation to support lake management or rent the Clubhouse for your hosted events online! Go to cossayunalake.com/online-sign-up/

COSSAYUNA LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

Participation Form for the period January 1 – December 31, 2024

In order to receive harvesting and pavilion rental options, membership is required.

Name _____

Address of lake property _____

Primary mailing address _____

Seasonal mailing address _____

Email / Alt 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 HOUSEHOLD – 1 vote: 1 or 2 names

(example: Mary Smith OR Mary & John Smith)

\$100 INDIVIDUAL – 2 votes: 2 names

(example: Mary Smith AND John Smith)

Enclosed are my membership dues

\$ _____

Harvesting Participant

\$125 per lot

I would like the standard harvesting program.

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 indicate how you would like to receive the CLIA Newsletter (select ONE option; if no selection is made, newsletter will be emailed):

Electronic – sent to me via email Paper – mailed to me

Questions can be directed to the following:

Membership – contact Bob Reilly – 631.897.4811 / dakotabr@optonline.net

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

Harvesting – contact Gene Henry – 518.744.4768 / newpilotg@roadrunner.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.

JOIN YOUR LAKE ASSOCIATION TODAY!

Benefits of being a member of the CLIA include: Pavilion rental at a very reasonable price. Table and chair rentals for parties. Use of the CLIA beach and dock and a voice in the future of our lake.

Anyone who lives within one mile of the lake can be a member.

Please join us!

If you would like to receive this newsletter by email instead of paper, go to cossayunalake.com/contact-us/ and let us know.

CLIA
PO BOX 81
Cossayuna, NY 12823-0081



Photo Courtesy of John Felicetti