

# Cossayuna Lake

## WINTER NEWSLETTER

# 2025

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*Photo courtesy of Jack Newton*

## A Message from the President

*Lynn LeCours, CLIA President*

As we wrap up another great year, we're excited to welcome the 2025 season at the lake. Here's to fresh opportunities, growth, new ideas, and continuing to make our lake community even better!

Looking back, our elected board together with volunteers from the community, has accomplished so much over the past few years. This year alone, we've made many much-needed updates and repairs around the clubhouse and grounds, met with elected officials to increase contributions and pursue available grants, added a new truck to our fleet, and updated a beautiful new beach area for all members to enjoy. This current board of directors works well together and gets things done! Thank you to all who have contributed!

Looking ahead, we welcome new volunteers and fresh ideas. If you've ever thought, "I have a better way," we'd love to hear it. Come to a meeting, meet with your neighbors, ask questions, share your thoughts and have a say in what happens next. Change is a natural part of growth. New faces bring new perspectives, and that's how we keep improving while honoring the great things we've done in the past. Get involved and see what we'll accomplish together.

At the heart of everything we do is our beautiful lake, our home, our community. As we approach the new year with unity, fellowship and friendship, we'll make 2025 one to remember!

Happy New Year!

Your Friends at the CLIA



## 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 also want to try to work with DEC to include in our permit application some limited small potential areas for treatment of 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. We have not been able to treat for Naiad, as DEC limits treatments to prior to June 15th, because it is concerned that later treatments would impact the fish habitat. We want to see if DEC would allow some limited small areas to be treated which would only be a small fraction of lake area. However, treating a second time later in the summer also presents other problems, such as additional costs, and the impact of possibly having to impose water use restrictions again in the season.

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 518-429-8312 or email at [sarappazzo@yahoo.com](mailto:sarappazzo@yahoo.com).

**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 Dues Increase

Price increases are always hard to announce, but as we are all aware, the cost of everything has risen in the past few years. Unfortunately, operating and maintaining our Association building and organizing activities are not exceptions to cost increases. Please note that as of the 2025 season, Membership dues are now \$100 for a single membership and \$120 for a household membership.

This is only a \$20 increase, and will help with the rising cost of insurance and maintenance. Other than a \$5 increase in 2020, the cost of membership has not increased at all in the past 20 years. We make every effort to keep our costs in check, but have finally had to adjust our membership dues. We hope you will understand.



## Accessibility Ramp Upgrade

Thanks to a very generous donation from an anonymous community member, Mike Mound and his wonderful crew were able to rebuild the accessibility ramp to the CLIA clubhouse. It is now much safer and sturdier! The ramp will be stained in the Spring to match the existing decking.



## Membership Update

*Bob Reilly, Membership Chair*

Raise your hand if you are tired of winter. Me too! It's time to think about summer at our beautiful lake. It's also time for current members to renew your membership for 2025. If you are not a member or if you let your membership lapse, welcome back. The earlier you sign up, the better we can plan and fund our activities and programs.

Our All in One membership form (on page 11 of the newsletter or online at <https://cossayunalake.com/forms-and-applications/>) allows you to sign up for everything on one form: membership, harvesting and making donations for whole lake management or for the harvest program. Please clearly fill all the boxes. If you prefer the convenience of online, you can select the options you'd like at <https://cossayunalake.com/online-sign-up/>. Online registration is faster and gives you the convenience of paying by credit or debit card or through PayPal.

Your modest one-time yearly membership dues help us keep the lake clean and supports the many social events at the clubhouse. Bingo, the Lakesiders, food trucks, the chicken BBQ, and this year, our "Happy Days" 50's/60'S dance party are just a few of the events we have on tap.

Membership is available to anyone living within one mile of our beautiful lake. Membership in the CLIA also allows you to have a voice in the future of our lake, to use our new beach and dock area, to rent our pavilion and clubhouse for your events, and to rent tables and chairs for your own hosted events. If you have any questions do not hesitate to call Bob Reilly (631.897.4811).



**CLIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS:** We welcome Tom Atkin to the Board for the upcoming year and we thank Tim Hopkins for his hard work and dedicated service to our lake.

**2024 – 2025 CLIA STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

**BYLAWS:** John Felicetti 914.441.8266

**FINANCE:** OPEN

**LAKE MANAGEMENT:** Sheila Rappazzo 518.429.8312

**NOMINATING:** Joanne Bonacker 518.369.9889

**2024 – 2025 CLIA OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT** Lynn LeCours 518.253.9377

**VICE PRESIDENT** Peggy Pahoulis 757.635.9891

**TREASURER** Rick Ryan 518.860.2916

**SECRETARY** Kathy Gaughran 914.523.2977

**2024 – 2025 CLIA DIRECTORS**

Tom Atkin

Joanne Bonacker

Marie Dumas

Gene Henry

Lynn Jackson

Tom LeCours

Sheila Rappazzo

Bob Reilly

Karen Ryan

Star Schmalzer

Cheryl Stanford-Smith

Lisa Zibella

**2024 – 2025 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, Lynn LeCours 518.253.9377

**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



*Photo courtesy of Mark Samu*



## Social Committee Update

We enjoyed a great summer season packed with music, dancing, boating, and comradery. We began the season with another successful Memorial Day Breakfast hosted by Tim and Donna Hopkins and their crew and closed the season with a dance hosted by our very own Lakesiders. In between we offered a Boat Safety Course by the US Coast Guard, Hula Hoop classes, knitting and crocheting classes, Pizza/Trivia Night, Bingo!, our 4<sup>th</sup> of July Boat Parade, an amazing 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration, our annual Love our Lake Chicken BBQ fundraiser, and a Chili Cook Off.



We are considering new ideas for the upcoming season as well as our regular events. Your Social Committee will be working over the winter months to bring you another season of fun on Cossayuna Lake. We are open to any suggestions you may have for next year and we welcome you to join us in planning, organizing and hosting them.



**Save the date: Saturday, June 28th 7 - 10 pm**

### **Happy Days Dance Party!**

**Dust off your old saddle shoes and poodle skirts, your leather jackets and your blue jeans for a night of dancing to the oldies!**

**Look for an invitation with details in the spring.**

Your Social Committee:

Marie Dumas, Co-Chair, Board Member  
Karen Ryan, Co-Chair, Board Member  
JoAnne Bonacker, Board Member & Nominating Committee Chair  
Peggy Pahoulis, Ad Hoc Member, Board Vice President  
Bob Reilly, Board Member, CLIA Rentals Chair & Membership Chair  
Star Schmalzer, Board Member

*I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank each and every one who helped in any way this summer to make the season a success. I wasn't at the lake for the better part of the summer to help coordinate and host any events except for the 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration. Working behind the scenes isn't the same as being there with all of you. I missed you! So, thank you all and I look forward to seeing you this summer. Karen*

# Harvesting Program Updates

## Help Wanted

The CLIA is looking for a seasonal employee to join the Harvesting Team.

Do you know someone who is retired and looking to make some extra money this summer? Full time preferred but will consider a part time schedule. Experience in operating heavy machinery is required. Must be willing to operate the Harvester as well as drive the dump truck. \$20 per hour.

Please contact Gene Henry 518-744-4768 for details.

## A Change in the Harvesting Fee in 2025

Due to rising gas prices as well as operational costs and an increase in employee salaries, it has become necessary to raise the Harvesting fee by \$25, bringing the cost to \$150 for the 2025 Harvesting Season. The charge for additional hours will remain the same at \$75 per additional hour. Please note that this is the first increase in harvesting fees in more than 15 years.

The Harvesting Team asks that you please pay your fee by **May 1st**. This will assure that the Team has time to get the necessary preparations in place to provide for the cutting of individual dock spaces beginning in June. If your payment is not received by **May 1st**, you may miss out on the first cutting. You can follow the link on the website at <https://cossayunalake.com/online-sign-up/> or mail in the form attached in the newsletter. Please consider making your harvesting payment online as it is a much faster process than physically mailing in your form and payment.

## Harvesting Signs

Folks who sign up for harvesting have a number assigned to their lot for harvesting purposes. If you are a new property owner and the prior owners participated in the harvesting program, you already have a number assigned to you. Is your harvesting number legible and visible from the lake and is it positioned near or on your dock? That 1,2 or 3 digit number is the means for the crew to identify your lot and perform the harvesting for which you signed up. If your sign is not legible or visible to the crew, you may get skipped.

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As part of your "opening up the camp" routine each spring, locate your harvesting sign and make sure it is in good shape. If it's lost or needs spiffing up, please contact Gene Henry and the Harvesting Team will refurbish or replace your sign.

## By the Numbers

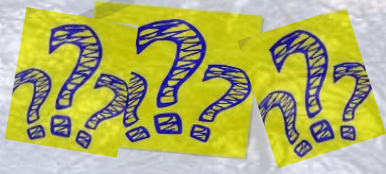
During this past season, harvesting began May 28th and lasted through September 6th. During that time, the crew collected 231 truckloads of weeds, totaling over **2.4 MILLION** pounds of the green stuff. And, many thanks to the Campbell family for providing a place to dispose of the weeds.

## Oh Give Me a Home...



...where the harvester roams. No, seriously we are looking for lakefront owners with shoreline space sufficient to park the harvester on a rotating basis throughout the harvesting season. We currently have a couple of locations on the lake, but are looking for additional sites. Being able to park the harvester at different locations on the lake cuts down on travel time and fuel costs, and allows us to be more efficient in providing service to harvesting customers. What's in it for you? Discounted or free harvesting services and the satisfying knowledge that you are helping out the community. If you are interested, please contact Gene Henry to discuss a possible arrangement.

# 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.



Did you know that our members donated over 480 pounds of food and necessities to the Cossayuna Food Pantry this year? Thanks to all who donated during our events and classes at the clubhouse.



Your donations are always greatly appreciated! If you'd like to continue to donate throughout the winter months, the Food Pantry is located in the back of the Cossayuna Fire Department. You may drop off donations after 12 noon on Tuesdays.

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!



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.



- **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



**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](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 John Felicetti (914.441.8266 or [jfelicetti@yahoo.com](mailto:jfelicetti@yahoo.com)).

**All operators of motorized vessels, regardless of age, will need a boating safety certificate as of 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 7, 2025!** 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 12, 2025.**



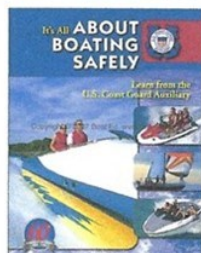




U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
**United States Coast Guard Auxiliary**



## 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.

**Trailing, 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

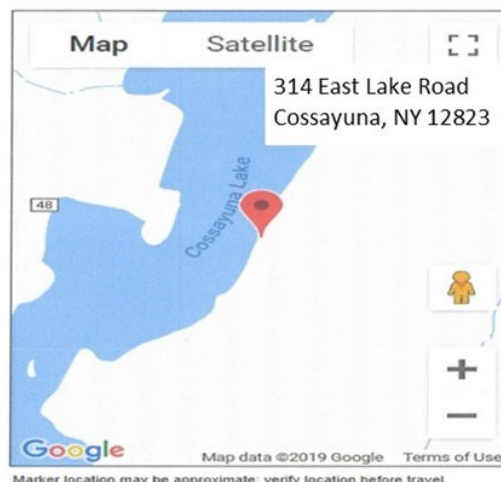
**Course:** About Boating Safely  
**Date:** Saturday, June 7, 2025  
**Hours:** 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM  
**Location:** Cossayuna Lake Improvement Assn  
314 East Lake Road  
Cossayuna, NY 12823

**Contacts:** Lynn Enny glanenny@aol.com  
518.499.2883

Charlie Pound  
518.361.2530

**Course Cost:** \$20  
**Register by:** Monday, May 12, 2025  
Call Lynn Enny to register  
(leave your name to confirm your attendance on June 7, 2025).

**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.





# Cossayuna Lake

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Sun Noon-8pm



Lake Nights starting in July  
Call or check Facebook for updates and details



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/](http://cossayunalake.com/online-sign-up/)

## COSSAYUNA LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

### Participation Form for the period January 1 – December 31, 2025

*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 \_\_\_\_\_

*Personal email addresses preferred; 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.

\$100 HOUSEHOLD – 1 vote: 1 or 2 names

(example: Mary Smith OR Mary & John Smith)

\$120 INDIVIDUAL – 2 votes: 2 names

(example: Mary Smith AND John Smith)

Enclosed are my membership dues \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Harvesting Participant

\$150 per lot

*If you have questions about your property Harvesting sign, please contact Gene Henry or Tom LeCours.*

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](mailto:dakotabr@optonline.net)

Lake Management – contact Sheila Rappazzo – 518.429.8312 / [sarappazzo@yahoo.com](mailto:sarappazzo@yahoo.com)

Harvesting – contact Gene Henry – 518.744.4768 / [newpilotg@roadrunner.com](mailto: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](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.*

# 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/](http://cossayunalake.com/contact-us/) and let us know.

CLIA  
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*Photo Courtesy of John Felicetti*